

CITY 2
UP GOVT TO PROVIDE JOBS
TO 26K YOUTHS IN A WEEK**OPINION 6**
ALBANESE WILL FOSTER
INDIA ENGAGEMENT**WORLD 10**
WAR RAGES IN EAST, 200 BODIES
FOUND IN MARIUPOL

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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SPINAZZOLA
BACK FOR
FINALISSIMA
11 SPORT

Quad agenda aids peace in Indo-Pacific, says PM

Bloc opposes unilateral actions that seek to change status quo in region

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Quad combine is following a constructive agenda for the Indo-Pacific and its image as a force "for the good" will be strengthened even more. Underlining this salient take-away from the Quad summit in Tokyo, he also said "in such a short time, the Quad has made an important place on the world stage. Today, the scope of Quad has become wider and the forum has become effective."

The Prime Minister made these assertions in the second in-person conclave in the presence of US President Joe Biden, Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and newly elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Against the backdrop of China's aggressive posturing in the strategically important Indo-Pacific, the four leaders of the Quad strongly opposed any coercive, provocative, or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the region.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida, US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese and other dignitaries at the venue of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo on Tuesday

PTI

They also reaffirmed their resolve to uphold the international rules-based order.

In his address, Modi said the mutual trust and determination among the Quad member countries is giving new energy to democratic forces and the work of the grouping is encouraging a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

China has all along criti-

cised this bloc and claims the Quad will lead to militarisation of the Indo-Pacific region.

"Quad is pursuing a constructive agenda for the Indo-Pacific region. With this, the image of Quad as a 'force for good' will be strengthened even more," Modi said.

The summit took place against the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

Though Biden and Kishida spoke strongly against the Russian military action, Modi refrained from touching upon the issue.

"In such a short time, the Quad has made an important place on the world stage. Today the scope of Quad has become wider and the form has become effective," Modi said.

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Biden vows to make India-US relations among world's closest

US President praises Modi for Covid handling democratically

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

US President Joe Biden praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handling of the Covid crisis as India and US on Tuesday resolved to strengthen their robust ties and vowed to work together for a more prosperous, free, and secure world. President Biden said he is committed to making the US-India partnership "among the closest we have on earth," while Prime Minister Modi termed the relations as "a partnership of trust."

The two leaders held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Quad summit and also committed to bilateral defence and economic engagements. Modi also held a bilateral meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. Three former Japanese Prime Ministers --- Yoshihide Suga, Yoshiro Mori, and Shinzo Abe --- called on Modi.

Biden praised Modi for handling the Covid pandemic successfully in a democratic manner. He contrasted India's success with China's failure to handle the pandemic, though both countries are of comparable size, sources said. These



US President Joe Biden meets with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Quad leaders summit at Kantei Palace in Tokyo on Tuesday

AP | PTI

remarks by the US President were made during the closed-door Quad summit, they said.

Biden also told Modi that he is committed to making the US partnership with India "among the closest on earth," saying there is so much that the two countries can and will do together. After meeting with Biden, Modi tweeted, "Today's discussions were wide-ranging and covered multiple aspects of India-USA ties, including trade, investment, defence as well as people-to-people link-

ages." In his opening remarks at the meeting, the Prime Minister said the strategic relationship between India and the US is truly a "partnership of trust" and the friendship will continue to be a "force for good" for global peace and stability. Modi invited the US industries to partner with India to manufacture in the defence sector under the Make in India and self-reliant India programmes.

Following the talks between the two leaders in

Tokyo, the Ministry of External Affairs said both sides launched an India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) to facilitate outcome-oriented cooperation in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G, and 6G, biotech, space, and semi-conductors. The new mechanism under the iCET will be co-led by India's National Security Council Secretariat and the US National Security Council.

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Yogi, Akhilesh face-off over crime against women

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Assembly was witness to a bitter face-off between Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav over the issue of law and order in the House on Tuesday, wherein Yogi slammed the former Uttar Pradesh CM over the remark, 'Ladke hai, galti ho jaati hai'.

Replying to adjournment notice over law and order moved by Leader of Opposition Akhilesh Yadav during Zero Hour in the Assembly, the chief minister said, "This is a BJP government and here it is not said that 'boys will be boys' and 'mistakes happen sometimes'. Such a comment is inexcusable. The BJP government is sensitive and committed to providing security and protecting the honour of women and strict

action is being taken against offenders targeting women/girls as per the government's 'Zero Tolerance Policy' against crime."

Yogi referred to SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav's infamous speech in Moradabad while campaigning for 2014 Lok Sabha polls wherein he had said, "Ladke hain, galti ho jaati hai." Yadav's outrageous remark was in reference to death sentence awarded to three gang rape accused by a court in Mumbai.

The CM further said, "Any kind of crime is unforgivable and the government is taking strict action against criminals, especially those committing crimes against women."

In the adjournment notice, Akhilesh Yadav referred to crimes against women in Prayagraj, Chandauli, Siddharthnagar and Lalitpur, claiming that maximum crime

against women were committed in UP. Referring to a rape allegedly by an SHO in Lalitpur, the SP chief said that the case was registered only after the Chief Minister visited the district. Akhilesh reminded Yogi that at a meeting in Lalitpur he had said, "He will set officers 'right' and asked local BJP leaders to stop acting as power brokers. Yogi ji was not aware of corruption in bureaucracy in the past five years."

Yogi Adityanath retorted saying, "You support every criminal who spreads anarchy in the state and indulges in hooliganism."

Appreciating the government, Yogi said, "In the past five years, better law and order has prevailed. We got wide public support. To stop harassment of girls/ women, our government set up anti-Romeo squads in 2017 and 218 Fast

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Azad, Anand, PC in Cong Task Force to take on BJP in 2024

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Based on the resolution of "Udaipur Chintan Shivir", the Congress on Tuesday formed a political affairs group and a task force to formulate a strategy to take on the might of the BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha elections and in between crucial Assembly elections including that of Gujarat.

Prominent members of the G-23 group --- Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma --- who sought organisational reforms in the party and also questioned the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have got roles in these crucial committees.

Congress president Sonia formed three groups --- on political affairs for guidance on key issues, Task Force-2024 to implement the Udaipur "Nav



AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with senior Congress leader P Chidambaram during the first meeting of 'Task Force 2024' at AICC HQ in New Delhi

PTI

Sankalp" declaration and evolve the party's strategy for 2024 elections, and the third one to coordinate the October 2 "Bharat Jodo Yatra".

The Congress leaders from across the country held a three-day brainstorming session at

Udaipur called as Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir mid-May to bring about structural changes in the organisation and pave the way for the young to take a Central role in the grand old party.

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Punjab Minister sacked, held for 1% cut demand

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday sacked Health and Family Welfare Minister Vijay Singla over graft charges. Soon after his dismissal from the Cabinet, Singla was arrested.

Mann said his Health and Family Welfare Minister was seeking "one per cent commission" in all departmental projects. On the other hand, Singla alleged a "conspiracy" to defame the Mann Government and the AAP.

Singla's arrest was ordered by Mann after he called the Minister to his residence before playing an audio recording of his alleged demand for "shukrana" in his nephew's name. Punjab Police's Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested Singla, who was later produced before the Mohali court which remanded him in three-day

police custody till May 27.

Late in the evening, Singla's OSD Pardeep Kumar, who was named in the FIR filed by supervising engineer Rajinder Singh working on deputation in Punjab Health System Corporation (PHSC), too was arrested in the matter.

A case, under Sections 7 and 8 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, has been registered against Singla, and his OSD in Mohali's Phase VII police station.

AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday praised Mann for sacking Singla. "Proud of you Bhagwant. Your action has brought tears to my eyes. Whole nation today feels proud of AAP" said Kejriwal.

Announcing the decision through a video message, the Punjab CM said he had

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CAPSULE

RENAMING AP DIST: MOB TORCHES MIN'S HOUSE

Amaravati: Arson broke out in Amalapuram town in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday when police resorted to lathi-charge at people who staged a protest against the proposed renaming of the newly-created Konaseema district as B R Ambedkar Konaseema district, with a number of police personnel left injured and the protestors opposed to the name change allegedly setting the houses of State Minister P Viswarupu and a ruling YSR Congress MLA P Satish on fire.

LASHKAR OPERATIVE HELD FOR TERROR FUNDING

Mumbai: Maharashtra's Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Tuesday arrested a suspected Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) operative from Dapodi area of Pune. Identifying the arrest LeT suspect as Junaid Mohammed, the ATS officials that Junaid had been touch with a Kashmir-based terrorist outfit "Gajvate Al Hind", owing allegiance to LeT, through social media. He was receiving funds from the terrorist outfit.

J&K cop martyred, daughter injured as terrorist opens fire

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In another targeted strike on Jammu & Kashmir policeman, an "unidentified" terrorist on Tuesday killed a selection grade constable while he was passing through a lane near his home along with his minor daughter in Malik Saab area of Soura in Srinagar.

The seven-year-old child too received injuries in the attack and was rushed to a nearby hospital where her condition was stated to be stable.

According to reports, a lone terrorist fired at the policeman from a close range possibly using a pistol just as policeman Saifullah Qadri stepped out of his home. Bleeding profusely, he fell on the ground along with his daughter. Local residents in the area rushed him to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The police recovered empty cartridges from the site of terror attack. So far 15 security personnel and 14 civilians



Locals gather at the spot of a terrorist attack on police constable Saifullah Qadri at Soura area in Srinagar on Tuesday

PTI

have been killed in different incidents of targeted killings in Kashmir valley this year while security forces have eliminated around 80 terrorists belonging to different terrorist outfits.

Condemning the terror attack Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said, "I assure the people that those behind this despicable attack will not go

unpunished.

I salute the martyr Policeman SgCt Saifullah Qadri. His service to the nation and supreme sacrifice will always be remembered."

Former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah also condemned the attack on a policeman.

Decide on validity of pleas for mining probe against CM Soren: SC to HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Jharkhand High Court to first hear preliminary objections on the maintainability of a public interest litigation seeking probe against Chief Minister Hemant Soren for alleged irregularities in the grant of mining leases.

The vacation bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Bela M Trivedi noted that the High Court had itself in its order of May 13 said it would first decide the maintainability of the PIL filed by one Shiv Kumar Sharma and then it will go into the merit of the allegations levelled in the petition.

"We are of the considered view that the high court would first deal with the preliminary objections on the maintainability of the writ petition and based on the outcome it would then proceed further in accordance with law," said the apex court.

ASI opposes plea for restoration of Hindu, Jain deities at Qutub

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Tuesday opposed a plea for restoration of Hindu and Jain deities inside the Qutub Minar complex, saying it is not a place of worship and the existing status of the monument cannot be altered. The ASI submitted in the Saket Court here that it would be contrary to the law to agree to the contention of any person claiming a fundamental right to worship in this "centrally protected" monument.

The ASI, however, said the architectural materials and images of Hindu and Jain deities were re-used in the construction of the Qutab complex.

"Fundamental rights cannot be availed in violation of any status of the land. The basic principle of protection conservation is not to allow starting of any new practice in a monument declared and notified as a protected one under the Act," the ASI said.

The ASI said revival of worship was not allowed wherever it was not practiced at the time of protection of a monument. "Qutub Minar is not a place of worship and since the time of its protection by the Central Government, Qutub Minar or any part of Qutub Minar was not under worship by any community," it said.

The counsel for the ASI further said it was very clear from the Persian inscription at the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque, that the cloisters were



erected with carved columns and other architectural members from 27 temples.

"Inscription is clear that the mosque was built with the remains of these temples. But nowhere it's mentioned that the materials were retrieved by demolishing temples. Also, it is not clear if they were retrieved from the site or brought from outside... Not demolished but remains of temples used for construction," the counsel said.

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Govt to provide jobs to 26k youths in a week

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As a part of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's initiative to provide employment or self-employment opportunities to at least one person in each family, the state government will provide employment to over 26,000 youths in a week through 'mega job fairs'.

Under Mission Rozgar, 'mega job fairs' are being held in 14 divisional headquarters of Uttar Pradesh from May 23 and will continue till next week. "In Rozgar Melas organised in urban and rural areas, the youth with technical education

and otherwise would be provided job placements. More than 315 companies have been invited to the Melas and representatives of various companies will employ jobless youth," a government official said in Lucknow on Tuesday.

The official said that in one such Mela at Gorakhpur, as many as 1,406 candidates were provided employment through about 24 companies including prominent ones like L&T and Ashok Leyland on Monday. The Rozgar Melas at Azamgarh, Saharanpur, Aligarh were organised on Tuesday, while similar Melas will be



organised at Ayodhya and Basti on Wednesday and in Lucknow, Ghaziabad and Jhansi on Thursday. These Melas will be held at various locations in the state till May 30.

"The objective of such employment fairs is to provide a platform to communicate between the employers and employable or job-seeking

youth. Through such Melas, skilled youth and local youth will get employment in a hassle-free manner," the official said.

The state government is also mulling to make a 'family card' for every family in the state to fulfil its commitment of providing employment or self-employment opportunities to at least one member in the next five years.

Under various schemes of self-employment during the first term of the Yogi government, work has been done to connect about three crore people with employment.

Varanasi court to hear Gyanvapi mosque case tomorrow

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After reserving its order in the Gyanvapi mosque case on Monday, the Varanasi district court on Tuesday posted the matter for hearing on May 26. The court will hear on May 26 the maintainability of the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi mosque complex lawsuit. It has invited objections from both Hindu and Muslim sides to the report submitted by the commission within a week.

District judge Dr Ajay Kumar Vishvesha had on Monday conducted a hearing on the 'Order 7, Rule 11 CPC application filed by the defendants, including the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which looks after the management of Gyanvapi mosque,

raising question on the maintainability of the suit filed by five women (plaintiffs).

On Tuesday afternoon, Dr Vishvesha heard both the sides — plaintiff and defendants — and posted the matter for hearing on May 26. The court also ordered for providing the copies of commission report, video and photographs captured during the survey.

During the hearing, the counsels of both the parties put forth their arguments. Heavy security arrangements were made in the court premises.

Five women, including one Rakhi Singh of Delhi and four belonging to Varanasi, had filed a petition in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar seeking permission to worship at

Shringar Gauri temple and for preservation of other idols located in Gyanvapi mosque complex. The court had ordered a commission survey of the complex and appointed Ajay Kumar Mishra as court commissioner for videographic survey of the inside of the complex on May 6 and 7. Later, the court commissioner was removed and Vishal Singh and Ajay Pratap Singh were appointed special court commissioner and assistant court commissioner respectively and they conducted the survey on May 14, 15 and 16. The reports were submitted to the civil judge (senior division) separately. Later, both reports were transferred to the court of the district judge on the directive of the Supreme Court.

Maya questions governor over clean chit to govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati questioned Governor Anandiben Patel over her giving a clean chit to the state government during her address in the assembly on Monday.

Objecting to the governor's claim, the former UP chief minister said that the tall claims of development or launching public welfare programmes should only be made when some of them are also visible on ground. She accused the BJP government of making propaganda of their achievements when there was nothing

on ground and all sections of the society were facing hardship, due to inflation, lawlessness etc. She claimed that the governor's address failed to fulfill the expectations of the people.

Mayawati said that had the governor's address included some problems faced by common man then one would have been hopeful of witnessing some 'achhe din' in the days ahead but no mention of any relevant issues made it clear that the government was not serious on taking up issues related to public interest.

The BSP chief further said that for some, 'achhe din' had

already come as they were free to engage in illegal mining, openly barge inside police stations and assault the men in uniform or indulged in any other kind of unlawful activities. Maywati also said that the slogan of opposition leaders 'Rajyapal wapas jao' (Governor go back) was also not acceptable as the governor reads what was given to her by the state government.

"Instead of attacking the governor, the opposition parties should directly corner the BJP government on issues of inflation, poverty, lawlessness etc in the House," the former UP chief minister said.

65-year-old priest bludgeoned to death during robbery

Lucknow (PNS): A 65-year-old priest was bludgeoned to death during a robbery at a temple in Barabanki late on Monday night. The incident came to light when locals went to the temple for darshan on Tuesday morning and found the priest's body lying in a pool of blood on the floor of the temple.

As per reports, Ram Yadav of Babupur village was the priest at the Brahma Dev temple outside Babupur village for some years. On Tuesday, When worshippers found him dead, they informed the local police after which a team led by senior officers rushed there and started an investigation. The police later claimed that around 20 kg of brass metal, including the main temple bell, were missing from the premises pointing towards a possible robbery.

The police said that the priest might have challenged the robbers after which they hit him on his head and other body parts with some blunt object and absconded with the booty. A case was registered and investigations were underway to track down the assailants.

Meanwhile, in Sultanpur, a 50-year-old woman was beaten to death by her son on Tuesday after which the accused was detained. As per reports, Shani (22) beat his mother Asha Devi with a wooden club during an argument, after which she died on the spot.

The woman had suffered severe injuries on the head and leg. The father of the accused informed the police that his son was mentally unstable and was undergoing treatment. A case was registered and the body was sent for autopsy.



NOTICE

I have change my daughter's name from Shubhra Verma to Pranshi Soni daughter of Vinod Kumar Verma. Now, she will be know as (Pranshi Soni) her new name. Address- 18C Basant Kunj, Khadakpur Sector-14, Indra Nagar Lucknow.

NOTICE

My plat No- 40 MIG Maharsih Dayanand Vihar Phase-2 Kanpur Which Original Allotment Letter Some Where Loss Use will be illegal, Kusum Lata Shukla W/O Late Om Prakash Shukla R/O 3/6 Sewa Gram Colony Dada Nagar Kanpur

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I Manju Lata States That The Original Possession Letter Of My House No.440 Block-F Scheme No-40 At Mohalla Panki S/S Kanpur Nagar Has Been Misplaced, Hence Its Use By Any Third Party For Any Purpose Should be Considered Illegal & void

NOTICE

I, Mohd Alim Siddiqui S/o Mohd Sabir Siddiqui, 538KH/337 Shiv Nagar Khadra Near Arvind School, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow declare that my father and mother name were wrongly written in 10th certificates as my father name M Sabir Siddiqui while my father's real name is Mohd Sabir Siddiqui and mother name is Saeeda Siddiqui while my mother's real name is Saeeda Khatoun. So the real name must be used for all purposes.

NOTICE

My self Nitesh Kumar, Army No-15712279P Rank Hav., address- village and post - Kamalpur P/s- Rajpur, distt-Kanpur Dehat. Name of my daughter is Vaishnavi, her old name was Nyra Kulshreshtha. new name of my daughter is Vaishnavi. In future this name should be use in all documents.

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(Syed Naved Ahmad)
Manager

Five of a family dead as car rams into truck

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Five of a family, including two children, died while six others were injured when their speeding car rammed into a stationary truck on Bulandshahr-Meerut highway on Tuesday morning.

The family members were en route to Kedarnath shrine in Uttarakhand when the accident took place in Gulawathi area of Bulandshahr around 4.30 am.

Eleven members of the family were travelling in a Mahindra Scorpio MUV that hit the truck, leading to the death of two children, a woman and two men on the spot. Three of the injured were referred to a medical college in Meerut.

DM of Bulandshahr Chandra Prakash and SSP Santosh Kumar later rushed to the accident site and supervised relief measures. The deceased were identified as Hardik (6), Vansh (5), Shalu (21), Himanshu (25) and

Paras (22). Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the loss of lives in the accident and directed officials to ensure the best treatment for the injured.

Elsewhere in Unnao, a speeding double-decker bus suddenly overturned on Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Auras police circle, in which more than 10 passengers were injured early on Tuesday morning.

Of the 10 injured, the condition of three was stated to be critical while one succumbed to his injuries. The injured were shifted to the Trauma Centre of KGMU in Lucknow.

Meanwhile in Firozabad, a 14-year-old boy died after the wall of a house collapsed when strong winds and rains lashed Chitrai village in Auras police circle on Monday.

The teenager identified as Yash Choudhary was leaning against the wall of a house which collapsed upon him

due to the impact of strong winds. Yash sustained a head injury and was rushed to Trauma Centre of Firozabad Medical College in critical condition, where he succumbed later.

Similarly, two children and a woman were killed and three others injured in two incidents of wall collapse due to heavy rains in Sitapur on Monday night.

The first incident took place at Amtamau village in Misrikh area, where two children — Sudama (1) and Keshakali (3) — were killed when a wall collapsed due to heavy rains.

The children's mother and elder sister were also injured in the incident and were admitted to a hospital in Misrikh.

The second incident was reported from the Hargaoon police station area, where Phoolmati (66) died and her granddaughter was injured after the wall of her house collapsed.

39 killed due to heavy rains, storm in Uttar Pradesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

At least 39 people died due to heavy rains and storm that lashed a large swathe of Uttar Pradesh in the last two days. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed officials to provide assistance to the families affected by the natural calamity.

A UP government spokesman said in Lucknow on Tuesday, "A total of 22 people lost their lives due to the rains and storm across the state in the last 24 hours. Of the deceased, 12 died of drowning, five due to lightning strike and the rest in building collapse triggered by rains. Besides, three persons were injured by lightning and losses of livestock were reported from Shahjahanpur and Banda. Earlier, 17 people had died due to rains."

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to provide ex gratia assistance to the affected families within 24 hours. Ex-gratia assistance is given from State Disaster Response Fund in case of damages caused by notified calamities such as storm, lightning and drowning by Government of India and state government. Under this, in case of



Denizens enjoying boating at Buddha Park in Lucknow on Tuesday

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death due to notified calamities, Rs 4 lakh per person, Rs 59,100 per person in case of physical disability from 40 per cent to 60 per cent, Rs 2 lakh per person in case of more than 60 per cent physical disability.

Meanwhile, Met officials predicted cloudy weather in the next 24 hours with possibility of thunderstorms in eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh.

CPI delegation meets farmers of Rasoolpur

Lucknow (PNS): A delegation of the Communist Party of India (CPI), led by state secretary Dr Girish, on Tuesday met the farmers of Rasoolpur village of Badaun district where a marginal farmer, Krishna Pal, had immolated himself to death on May 18 following the atrocities by goons and criminal negligence by police in looking into his case.

The delegation consisted of left leaders Arvind Raj Swaroop, Raguraj, Prem Pal Singh, Rakesh Singh, Rajendra Singh and Rajesh Kumar Saxena. Girish said a talk with the farmers and family members of the deceased brought to the fore the pitiable condition of the poor and resource-less farmers and government and administration's insensitivity towards them even as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is being celebrated.

He said Krishna Pal was a marginal farmer who used to do farming on a share basis. On April 23, some goons set fire to his wheat crop. Krishna Pal had lodged a case against them but the police did not register a

case. "Krishna Pal was bullied and humiliated by the goons for pursuing his case. His sons were also thrashed by the goons. He kept running from one office to another to get his case heard, but to no avail. He finally ended his life by immolating himself, but the administration continued to be negligent," the CPI leader said.

He said the delegation came to know that the deceased farmer's family lives in a small room sans any facility.

"Krishna Pal's sons' are recovering at home as they did not get medical help. Only one of his sons could get a CT scan done for detection of head injuries. The goons had also lodged a cross-FIR in this connection," he pointed out.

He further said that the deceased farmer's family and other villagers were miffed with the parties that made tall promises at the time of election.

The CPI asked the state government to give Rs 50 lakh as compensation to the family of the deceased and Rs 10 lakh to his sons for medical treatment.

Ornaments worth lakhs, cash stolen from jeweller's shop

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Thieves made off with a huge quantity of ornaments and cash from a jeweller's store in Sarojininagar some time on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. They also damaged the CCTV camera in a bid to hide their identities. As per reports, the shop of Prateek Mishra of Nai Basti is situated in Ganga Nagar of Amausi area in the locality. "The thieves dismantled the shutter around 2 am and then damaged the CCTV camera. They later collected 8 kg silver ornaments, 200 gram gold ornaments, Rs 18,000 in cash, 600 gram of silver and 15 gram of gold from the shop. They also stole the documents related to the shop before leaving the scene," Mishra stated in the FIR. He said his shop is located in a commercial area and is guarded by policemen during the night hours. "It is strange that the thieves made off with ornaments and the police did not get a whiff even though they were patrolling there," he said.

In a CCTV footage, six suspects were spotted and all of them had covered their faces with scarves. They were seen attempting to break the lock and using a rod to jack up the shutter to gain access into the shop. It surfaced during the investigation that a police jeep has passed by the shop and the thieves were seen hiding in a

Mastermind of gang involved in fuel theft lands in STF net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of STF claimed to have nabbed the kingpin of the gang involved in theft of diesel/petrol and denatured spirit/ethanol. The arrest was made on Monday night. Three days ago, two of his aides were nabbed during a raid. The team also arrested another aide of the mastermind. Those arrested were identified as Arun Kumar Yadav of Moganlalganj (kingpin) and his aide Dheeraj Singh of Manak Nagar. Arun was said to be a leader of the Samajwadi Party and a zila panchayat member. He and his aide were arrested from Kamta crossing in Chinhat. On May 21, a team had conducted a raid on a tip-off. The gang members used to siphon off diesel/petrol and denatured spirit from tankers headed to oil depots without opening the digital lock. They would then put water into the

staircase. Initially, three of the thieves entered the shop while others stood guard outside. They were seen filling their

tankers. The gang used to mix ethanol/spirit in petrol/diesel and then sell it to gullible customers. The gang would also sell ethanol to distilleries.

The police said Arun grabbed a huge chunk of land and surrounded it with high walls to facilitate the entry of tankers. His men would steal the fuel from tankers which would then depart for the oil depots.

During the raid, Arun had fled the scene while attempting to crush the STF team and the police registered a case against him for attempt to murder, rioting while armed with weapons, restricting public servants from discharging their duty and also booked them under 7 Criminal Law Amendment Act. Arun and his aides were also booked under 60/62 Excise Act. The police said Arun has been named in as many as ten cases of crime as yet.

bags and pockets with the ornaments.

The theft left the traders enraged as they blamed it on

the police for failing to provide security to their business establishments. They said it was difficult to run a business under these conditions. Leaders of traders' association Manish Verma, Om Prakash Sharma and Shailendra Yadav reached the scene where he met the shopowner and other members of his family. The police claimed that they got some vital clues about the gang which executed the crime.

Meanwhile, thieves made off with bathroom accessories from the official residence of DIG (Registration)/Deputy Commissioner (Stamps), Lucknow Circle, in Rajkiya Colony Dilkusha under Cantonment police station area. The officer demanded security cover for him. In his complaint, Ajay Kumar Tripathi said he found the main door of his official residence open after he returned on Monday evening.

"The locks of the main gate were abandoned on the staircase. The thieves decamped with bathroom accessories and also damaged the wash basin. Other items in the house were untouched," he said.

Tripathi said he called the police control room and a team reached the scene. "The team videographed the crime scene and conducted an investigation. I also informed the junior engineer of PWD who looks after the maintenance work," he said.

50 LU students selected for welfare scholarships

Lucknow (PNS): Fifty students have been selected for student welfare scholarships in Lucknow University. Earlier, Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Rai had constituted a committee for this purpose and it has selected these students on the basis of merit after examining all the 245 applications submitted in the Student Welfare Office.

Special care was taken to ensure proper participation from all the faculties and departments of the university.

Rai said that in the direction of NEP implementation, LU has taken several steps for student welfare and their inclusive development in the last two years, and student welfare scholarship is one of them.

Under this scheme, a financial assistance of Rs 15,000 is provided in an academic session to those students whose annual family income is less than Rs 3 lakh and are not getting any scholarship from any other source. DSW Poonam Tandon said all the students have appreciated the student welfare scheme started by the vice-chancellor. He also said that the scholarship amount is being sent to all the selected students directly in their bank accounts through RTGS. Registrar Vinod Kumar Singh, proctor Rakesh Dwivedi, ADSW Alka Mishra, Amritanshu Shukla, Sangeeta Sahu and Jyotsana Singh were also present in the programme organised on this occasion and wished the students good luck for their academic development and bright future.



Devotees throng Hanuman Setu temple on the occasion of second Bada Mangal

Pioneer

All-women bhandaras offer healthy, nutritious items

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Scores of all-women *bhandaras* were organised across the city on the second Bada Mangal with special menu consisting of healthy, hygienic and nutritious food meant for devotees. The *bhandaras* also reflected the new trends as the organisers kept the weather conditions in mind and prepared food accordingly. An all-women *bhandara* set up by a non-political and unaided organisation at Vishwas Khand attracted a large number of devotees. Women of all age groups cutting across many professions collected after taking leave from their respective workplaces to serve the devotees.

Reena Saxena from the organisation was seen applying a *tilak* on the foreheads of all the visitors.

Kiran Upadhyay, Kalpana Mishra, Seema Agarwal, Priti Kirti, Archana Shukla and Sadhana Rastogi served the devotees with beaming faces.

Anjali Upadhyay said they decided on a menu consisting of energy drinks, fruits and *boondi* for the devotees.

Dr Gilada said monitoring of the situation is the need of the hour because everybody has seen how coronavirus brought the world to a halt for over two years.

"Besides being zoonotic, it can spread from many animals such as rats and squirrels. Screenings can be done through watching the fever and palms as well as lymph node enlargements in the neck," he added.



options such as bananas which are filling & high in nutrition, and litchis. We allowed the devotees to have as many fruits as they wanted," she said.

She said they made 'Tang' orange drink for the devotees as a kind of energy drink and the water was procured from a branded company. "The containers were cleaned properly and clean utensils were used at the *bhandara*. The garbage was dumped in separate containers kept outside," she said.

She added that all-women bhandaras are a way to highlight women empowerment and the sight of so many women together attracted a lot of devotees.

Kiran Upadhyay, who is a businesswoman, left her work to supervise the preparation of 7-kg *boondis* while Kavita Biseria, who is a lecturer at the

Sanskrit University, took leave to serve the devotees.

In Vivek Khand (Gomtinagar), businesswoman Anita Mishra combined with her neighbours to set up an all-women *bhandara*. Her partners included Smita Pandey, Puja Tewari and Lata Shukla.

Anita said they took special care to make sure that they had food items for those with different requirements in keeping with their age group, likings etc.

"We have also prepared *puri-sabzi* but we also know that people opt for lighter items and since *puri-sabzi* is heavy on the stomach, we have also prepared '*kadhi-chawal*'. We made it a point to serve the food themselves and water has directly from our homes. We will also be celebrating the *Bada Mangal* in the upcoming weeks," she added.

Lucknow on alert over monkeypox threat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow is already on the alert mode for monkeypox threat even as District Surveillance Officer Dr Milind Wardhan said they are waiting for guidelines by the Centre and the state government. "So far, there has been no case of monkeypox in the city or the country. We are aware of the situation and we are on the alert," he said. As per reports, organisations have been alerted with the WHO having confirmed 80 monkeypox cases in 11 countries.

Paediatrician Dr Priyali Bhattacharya said they are getting queries regarding monkeypox cases. "There have

been inquiries by doctors regarding monkeypox on how it is different from chickenpox. People do not know how to recognise monkeypox blisters," she said.

She further said that this is the season of viral fever and chickenpox. "Chickenpox should not be confused with monkeypox because both are similar and give blisters. However, the crust of monkeypox blisters is different from that of chickenpox blisters," she pointed out.

Dr Bhattacharya said it is advisable to carry out a telemedicine consultation for signs and symptoms in travellers, wherever possible.

She also said that there is

no need to be concerned as these cases can be isolated through contact tracing and newer vaccines have also been developed for the same.

Dr Nishant Verma from the Paediatric department of SGPGI said they are not checking out for monkeypox cases in particular since there has been no case reported. "However, we are getting one or two chickenpox cases a week. This is the season of chickenpox and the numbers will increase in the coming days," he added.

Secretary, Organised Medicine Academic Guild, Dr Ishwar Gilada said the cause of concern has increased because the cases are spreading even in

non-endemic countries.

"The Indian Council and Medical Research and National Centre for Disease Control have been asked to monitor the situation and will issue guidelines shortly," he said.

He added that monkeypox cases have not emerged in any of the Asian countries but in fairly large numbers in three countries — the UK, Spain and Portugal. "These countries have 20-30 cases each. Then there are countries like America, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Sweden with cases ranging from 1-5. The rest of the world has no cases but all the cases are in non-endemic

Anti-encroachment drive picks up pace

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The anti-encroachment drive by Lucknow Municipal Corporation has picked up pace following Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directions for better traffic movement. Vendors have been asked to remove encroachments on their own or the same would be removed by LMC authorities.

On Tuesday, the encroachments were removed in Zone-2 from Balagany temple to Cotton Mill crossing. Zonal incharge Arun Kumar Chaudhary said 35 vendors were evicted and various temporary structures were removed. The LMC team revisited Zone-7 and removed encroachments from some parts of Bhootnath while Zone-5 incharge said the drive was carried out at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, CNG road and around Hilton Hotel.

Municipal Commissioner Aditya Kumar Dwivedi said that under the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a special anti-encroachment drive is being carried out on all main roads, footpaths and public places.

"Shopkeepers are asked to remove encroachments on their own and we take action only if they fail to do as directed," Dwivedi said.

Encroachments have recently been removed from Kaiserbagh crossing to Burlington in Zone-1, from Gunga Mary's Hospital crossing to KGMU in Zone-2, and from Kapoorthala crossing and from both sides of Tedhpulia in Zone-3.

In Zone-4, the drive was held from Chinhat crossing to Kamta crossing while in Zone-5, a special anti-encroachment campaign was carried out from Scooter India to Darega Kheda under which mutton & chicken shops and temporary structures were removed.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash held an awareness meeting with all the principals and managers of city schools at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan. The principals, teachers and other staff members were administered a pledge and urged to follow traffic rules.

He said a Gyan Parivahan Suraksha Samiti would be formed in each district in which students can give their recommendations and suggestions. He said the committee would consist of the DM, police commissioner and all the officials from other departments and would meet twice a month. He said Vidyalyaya Parivahan Suraksha Samiti would also be formed.

CITYBRIEFS

CMS STUDENTS OFFERED SCHOLARSHIP BY COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Columbia College of the USA has offered a US\$ 30,000

scholarship to Vaibhavi Mittal, a student of Cambridge Section of City Montessori School, Gomtinagar Campus II, for pursuing higher education. This scholarship will be provided to her for a four-year undergraduate course. Vaibhavi credited her teachers at CMS and the educational environment in school for her achievement. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi congratulated this meritorious student and wished her success in future endeavours. This year, over 80 CMS students have secured admissions with scholarships in some of the best universities of the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Germany etc.



LDA gears up for rainwater harvesting facilities to come up in buildings

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Vice-Chairman of Lucknow Development Authority Akshay Tripathi on Tuesday presided over a meeting to review facilities of rainwater harvesting to be made available at the government and private buildings as well as in houses across the state capital.

Senior officers and engineers of LDA attended the meeting. The purpose was to chalk out a strategy to preserve and check the wastage of rainwater. It was resolved that the government and private buildings spread in 300 square metre area should have rainwater harvesting facility.

The LDA VC stressed on the need to promote rainwater

harvesting to tide over water shortage.

He said a team consisting of officers and engineers of LDA, Jal Sansthan and civic authorities would be constituted to carry out a survey in government as well as private buildings to get an idea of the existing storage system.

It is said that the rainwater storage system, which was about to come up in the LDA apartments and managed by Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), will be jointly funded by RWAs and LDA. This facility will be available before the onset of monsoon.

The VC said that the LDA administration would help individual house owner to install the storage system.

Cyber cell helps ret'd S-I get back ₹8.4 lakh



Lucknow (PNS): A team of cyber cell helped a retired sub-inspector, Rama Nand Rai, in getting back the money (Rs 8.4 lakh) which he had lost at the hands of cyber thugs.

On May 22, Rai got a call from an unidentified man who introduced himself as the staffer of the pension department and told him that his pension account would be

closed if he did not opt for a KYC update. The caller asked Rai to install an application and then fraudulently withdrew the money from his account. After Rai got the message of deduction of money from his bank account, he was shocked. He contacted the cyber cell. A team worked on the case and helped him get back the money.

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का सार्वजनिक उपक्रम)
CIN : U15209UP1975SG0004285
कार्यालय महाराष्ट्रमार्ग, जेठ-3, गोमती बैराज बाई नगर, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-226010
दूरभाष : 09454419107 ई-मेल : gm3upproj394@gmail.com, gm_3@upprojects.org

पत्रांक : 124/पीसीएल/महाप्रब/जोन-3/लखनऊ/ई-टेंडर दिनांक : 20.05.2022

अल्प कालीन निविदा सूचना

जनपद महाराजगंज के मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी एवं अधीनस्थ कार्यालय मवन के अवशेष निर्माण कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय के नोटिस सं० 05/GM-3/UPPCL/2022-23 दिनांक 20.05.2022 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है। यह निविदा <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 25.05.2022 से उपलब्ध रहेगी, जिसको दिनांक 25.05.2022 से 14.06.2022 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण व शर्तें कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर देखी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक, जे०-३

UCO BANK

ZONAL OFFICE : DHANSHREE COMPLEX, 1st FLOOR, D-63/8-1M, TULSI PUR, MAHMOORGANJ, VARANASI

Demand Notice

Notice Issued Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The undermentioned Borrowers have availed the facilities from our Branch from Time to Time As per RBI Norms and Guidelines. The following borrowers have defaulted to repayment of overdue liabilities so that the Account has already been transferred to NPA categories & demand for full liabilities.

Borrower Name And Address- Sachin Kumar Kaushal S/o- Raj Kumar Kaushal, babuganj, Antu, Sadar Pratapgarh Pin-230503. **Gaurantor Name And Address-** Makkhan Lal Umarvaishya S/o Swami Nath Umarvaishya, 65, Birahampur, Nagar Panchayat, Antu, Sandwa Chandikaa, Pratapgarh-230503. **Cc-Rs. 25,15,837.21/- , Liabilities As On Dates(in Rs.)-** 25,15,837.21/- With Interest Up To 28.03.2022.

Description of Mortgaged Immovable Property- All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Consisting Of Land And Building Measuring 0.016 Hect In The Name Of Sachin Kumar Kaushal S/o Raj Kumar Kaushal Registered At Sub-registrar- First Pratapgarh As Per Book No. 1, Jild N 5865, Page No. 361 To 384, Deed No. 5865, Registered On 19.11.2016 Situated At Vill- Chaturpur, Tehsil- Sadar, Pratapgarh, 230503 . **Boundaries : North :** Land Of Sarwati in Present Time Sumitra Devi W/o Raj Narayan; **South :** Raj Marg Chhibila to Amethi Highway; **East :** Link Marg Chaturpur To Umarli; **West :** House of Ram Milan.

The above said loans are duly secured by way of mortgages charges and hypothecation etc., for the amount specifically described in the schedule above and the relevant documents executed by the borrower in our favour. The repayments in the accounts are not regular as per the repayment condition stipulated and the overdue persist in the accounts. In this regard we draw your attention to our notice dated mentioned in schedule. Where in we have called upon you to clear the entire liability together with interest from the date mentioned in schedule at the applicable rates.

Hence, we are here by issuing notice to you under section 13(2) of the subject Act to discharge your above mentioned liabilities with interest **"within sixty days from the date of notice falling which"** as a secured creditor, we shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the subject Act. Without further notice, Moreover you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior written consent as per Section 13(13) of the subject Act.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and/or any other law in force.

Date : 24-05-2022

Authorised Officer - UCO Bank

Preparations for Prez visit in full swing

PNS ■ KANPUR

Preparations are in full swing for the two-day visit of President Ram Nath Kovind to Kanpur Nagar and his native village Paraunkh (Kanpur Dehat) on June 3 and 4. He is likely to be accompanied by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The President will address a public meeting in his village and will meet his old friends and family members during his stay for about one hour and 40 minutes. This will be the second visit of the President to his native village in Derapur tehsil after assuming the highest office. Earlier, he had come to the district on June 27, 2021 when he had also attended a programme in Punkhayan and could not give much time to his village. In order to take stock of the



Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra and DGP Devendra Singh Chauhan taking stock of preparations in Paraunkh (Kanpur Dehat) on Tuesday.

preparations, Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra and DGP Devendra Singh Chauhan reached Paraunkh village of Kanpur Dehat on Tuesday. Earlier, police and district administration officers

of Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat had already reviewed the security arrangements there a few days ago. On reaching Paraunkh, Chief Secretary DS Mishra and DGP DS Chauhan held a meeting with senior

officials of police and district administration and took stock of the preparations and security arrangements. All the officers of Kanpur Dehat district, including District Magistrate, were present at the meeting. Meanwhile, Commissioner of Police, Vijay Singh Meena said according to the proposed schedule so far the President will leave Lucknow for Paraunkh by helicopter at 2.30 pm on June 3. At 3 pm, he will address a public meeting there till 4 pm. Thereafter, he will visit the Pathri Mata temple, garland the statue of Bhimrao Ambedkar and visit the 'Milan Kendra' of the village. He will also meet his old friends and family members in the village. After overnight stay at the Circuit House, he will take part in a programme at Merchants Chamber Hall, Kanpur, on June 4, said the Police Commissioner.

2 wagons of goods train derail

PNS ■ KANPUR

A big accident was averted near Chaubepur railway station when the two wagons of a goods train going to Mathura derailed on Tuesday morning. A cattle that came in the way of the train and got stuck in the engine of the goods train is stated to be the cause behind the incident. Due to powerful jerk, two wagons of the goods train derailed from the track. This disrupted the Kanpur-Farrukhabad rail route for about 2.20 hrs. Due to disruption of the rail route, Kanpur-Kasganj Passenger and Loknayak Chhapra Express were stopped at Barrajpur and Chaubepur stations respectively. Assistant Superintendent, Chaubepur Station, Bhaskar Gangwar said the route remained disrupted for about 2.20 hours. Due to derailment of wagons brake shoes of some of the coaches were also damaged. Section Engineer Zaheer Khan along with other staff members rushed to the spot and launched a massive exercise to restore the route. Trains were stopped by caution on both sides. After carrying out the repair



Two wagons of a goods train derailed near Chaubepur station on Tuesday morning.

work on a war footing, the rail route was restored.

In a bid to safely drive the train up to around 500 metres, sleepers of the

track also got damaged. Section Engineer Vikas Kumar said after the repair of the track, the movement of trains was restored.

Special session on recent amendments to fiscal laws

PNS ■ KANPUR

Noted Chartered Accountant (CA) Anil Kumar Saxena while addressing the special session on 'Recent Amendments to Fiscal Laws' at Merchants Chamber Auditorium on Tuesday said Company Auditor's Report Order (CARO 2020) was a new format for issue of audit reports in case of statutory audits of companies under Companies Act, 2013. He said it had included additional reporting requirements after consultations and the aim

of CARO 2020 was to enhance the overall quality of reporting by the company auditors. He said each report made by the auditor on the accounts of every company audited by them to which this order applied for the financial years shall in addition, contain the matters specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 as may be applicable.

He said National Financial Reporting Authority was an independent regulatory body for regulating the audit and accounting profession in India. He said Applicability of CARO

2020 was applicable on all. Addressing the second session noted Chartered Accountant Mahendra Nath said the New Rule 11UAA prescribes that for the purposes of section 50CA, the Fair Market Value (FMV) company other than a quoted share, shall be determined as provided in Rule 11UA (1)(c)(b)/(c) and that the reference to valuation date in the rule 11U and rule 11UA shall mean the date on which such shares are transferred. He said the fair market value of jewellery shall be estimated to be the price which such jewellery

would fetch if sold in the open market on the valuation date. He said in case the jewellery was received by the way of purchase on the valuation date, from a registered dealer, the invoice value of the jewellery shall be the fair market value.

He added that in case the jewellery was received by any other mode and the value of the jewellery exceeded Rs 50,000 then assessee may obtain the report of registered valuer in respect of the price it would fetch if sold in the open market on the valuation date.

World Thyroid Day aims at raising public awareness

PNS ■ KANPUR

World Thyroid Day (WTD) is held on May 25 and aimed at increasing public awareness of thyroid diseases, namely the importance of their timely diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Thyroid disorders were very common worldwide, they affected people of all ages and had a large range of symptoms. Thyroid affected women and was a well-known thyroid disorders in India. The most recent nationwide study showed that hypothyroidism was common in India and was linked to menstrual irregularities, polycystic ovaries and infertility.

This was stated by noted endocrinologist, Dr Rishi Shukla while addressing presspersons on the eve of World Thyroid Day. He said women today were facing a plethora of health issues usually related to an imbalance of thyroid hormones, which were becoming increasingly common. He said scientists have not been able to understand why women were more prone than men to thyroid problems but it was suspected that the development of thyroidism and its variants was linked to autoimmunity which was more commonly found in women than men.

He said autoimmune diseases were those in which the body interprets a normal body part or its secretions as a threat and produces antibodies to target them.



U.P. PROJECTS CORPORATION LTD.
(ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company)
UNIT-22, 200 (N-11) Raipur Raja, Civil Lines, Distt. Bahraich (U.P.)-271801

Notice No.:09/PCL/PM/BAHRAICH/2022-23 Dated: 24.05.2022
VERY SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
U.P. Projects Corporation Limited. (A U.P. Government Undertaking) invites E-Tender (two bid system) for **Construction of Community Cocoon Building For Rajkiya Resham Farm At Tulsipur Distt. Gonda And Reeling Shed Building At Rajkiya Resham Farm At Karanpur Distt. Gonda** details can be downloaded & bid can be submitted from e-tendering website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from **25.05.2022 to 31.05.2022 upto 03:00 P.M.** The technical bid will be opened on **31.05.2022 at 4:00 P.M.** Prospective bidders are advised to regularly check through U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Web site for all other terms and conditions, qualifying criteria, corrigendum/amendments etc., if any, will be notified on U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Web site www.upprojects.org and e-tendering website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

PROJECT MANAGER
U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Unit-22, Bahraich


FORM NO. INC-26
[Pursuant to Rule 30 of Companies (Incorporation) Rules 2014]
Advertisement to be published in Newspaper for the change of Registered Office of the Company from one state to another
Before the Central Government
Northern Region Bench, Delhi

In the matter of sub-section 4 of section 13 of the Companies Act 2013 and clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules 2014
AND
In the matter of **ASTROTEL PRIVATE LIMITED** having its Registered Office at 8/220 F-308 Anand Keshav Apartment Arya Nagar Kanpur UP 208002 IN Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to General Public that the company proposes to make the application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act 2013, seeking confirmation of alteration of Memorandum of Association of the Company in term of the special resolution passed at Extra ordinary General Meeting held on Wednesday, 18th DAY OF MAY, 2022 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH" to the "STATE OF MAHARASHTRA".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of registered office of the Company, may deliver either on the MCA portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or sent by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and ground of opposition to the Regional Director at the Address B-2 WING, 2nd FLOOR, PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, CGO COMPLEX, NEW DELHI - 110003, within 14 Days of date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
Registered Office: 8/220 F-308 Anand Keshav Apartment Arya Nagar Kanpur UP 208002 IN
For and on behalf of applicant, Sd/-
DEEPIKA AWASTHI
(DIN: 08624842)
Director

Place: Kanpur
Date : 24.05.2022

COURT NOTICE
CITATION (BY ADVERTISEMENT)
(Chapter XXX, Rule-21)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY
CASE NO. 50 OF 2022
IN THE MATTER OF
THE GOODS OF
Late Mohammad Yaseen Son of Late Mohammad Hanif Resident of Mohalla Kajiyana Tehsil and Kasba Mariyahu District Jaunpur.....Deceased.
Mohammad Ahmad.....Petitioner.
WHEREAS an application has been made by Mohammad Ahmad S/o Mohammad Yaseen R/o Mohalla Kajiyana, Tehsil and Kasba Mariyahu District Jaunpur, for the probate of the will (or Letters of Administration to the estate) of Late Mohammad Yaseen deceased, who died at Kajiyana Mariyahu, Jaunpur Uttar Pradesh, 22161 on 25.01.2018 AND WHEREAS, the 07th day of July, 2022 has been fixed for hearing of the said application. THIS CITATION is issued calling upon all persons claiming to have any interest to come and see the proceedings if they think fit before the grant of probate (or Letters of Administration).
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 13th day of May, 2022.
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT, ALLAHABAD
Shri Ashish Jaiswal,
Advocate
Counsel for the Petitioner.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR.
Email: -eerrwss_rai@nic.in, eerrwss_rai@gmail.com

Corrigendum Notice No. 1 to Bid Identification No.03 of 2022 -23
Following modification have been made in Bid Identification No. 03 of 2022-23 due to some unavoidable reasons:
1. The **Clause 4.6, 28.3 & 36.2 of the DTCN** for the work serial no. 1 to 03 which was earlier "Only those Bidders who meet the eligibility criteria as specified in Clause 3.1, test of responsiveness specified in Clause 4.1, evaluation criteria as per clause 4.4(A) and if their available bid capacity is more than the total bid value shall be shortlisted for financial opening", "Applicants who meet the minimum qualification criteria will be qualified only if their available bid capacity at the expected time of bidding is more than the total estimated cost of the works" & "In no case, the contract shall be awarded to any bidder whose available bid capacity is less than the evaluated bid price, even if the said bid is the lowest evaluated bid. The contract will in such cases be awarded to the next lowest bidder at his evaluated bid price" respectively are now modified as "**Out of Number of projects in particular Notice Inviting Bid, a bidder can only participate for projects of value equals to or less than 3 times of its Bid Capacity. In case of participation in projects more than the above limits, the Authority reserves the right to cancel any bid which exceeds the prescribed limit as mentioned above before opening of the Financial Bid without any further clarification to the bidder.**" as per the instruction of Govt vide Letter No. 8675 /13.05.2022 of Special Secretary to Govt. PR & DW Department, Govt of Odisha.

Sd/-20.05.22
Superintending Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Rairangpur

OIPR-25010/11/0012/2223

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-8, जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ

पत्र सं० : 97 / EE-8 / 2022-23 दिनांक : 23.05.2022

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना
निम्नलिखित कार्य/आपूर्ति हेतु अनुमती केकेदारों से मोहरबन्द निविदा दिनोंक 31/05/2022 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन सायं काल 4.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। सन्दर्भित कार्य हेतु निविदा किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनोंक 31/05/2022 को समय 02.00 बजे तक कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। अर्नेस्टमनी एफ. डी.आर./सी.डी.आर./एन.एस.सी. के रूप में "अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-8" के पद नाम से बन्धक होना अनिवार्य है। बिना अर्नेस्टमनी के प्राप्त निविदाओं पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। एक या समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये महाप्रबन्धक, जलकल विभाग में निहित होगा। पूर्ण विवरण कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में देखा जा सकता है। कार्यालय में अवकाश होने की दशा में निविदाये उसी क्रम में समयानुसार अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर राशि	निविदा मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	टिप्पणी
1	Laying & Interconnection of 250 mm dia Sewer line from H.No. 2/229 to H. No 2/243 Ruchikhanda-I, Sharda Nagar, Lko	7000.00	Rs.350	07 दिवस	

निविदा प्राप्त करने की शर्त :- 1. निविदादाता का सेल्स टैक्स एवं आयकर तथा जी0एस0टी0 में रजिस्ट्रेशन होना चाहिए।
अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-8, जलकल विभाग, लखनऊ

'STTAR Future Learning Systems heralds a new chapter'

PNS ■ KANPUR

STTAR Future Learning Systems, a flagship professional development programme of Saamarthya Teachers Training Academy of Research (STTAR) programme was inaugurated with a welcome address by Shishir Jaipuria, Chairman of Seth Anandram Jaipuria Group of Educational Institutions and also Chairman of FICCI Arise. Addressing the audience, he said STTAR Future Learning Systems heralded a new chapter wherein one sought to explore what the future of education held for the present and coming generations. He said it will turn a new page, make a new beginning to redefine teaching and learning experiences through new-age pedagogy, smart tech-integration, innovative practices and



Dr Pavel Luksha, Founder and Director of Global Education Futures addressing the virtual session of STTAR Future Learning Systems.

transfer of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that shall go on to shape the 21st century.

The inaugural session was on 'Education 2030: Trends Shaping Future Learning Systems' and the

speaker was Dr Pavel Luksha, Founder and Director of Global Education Futures. He said that the programme was "an opportunity to create a new paradigm in Indian education." The second session was on 'Education Transitions For Societal Transformations' by Professor Alexander Laszlo, President of International Society for the Systems Sciences (ISSS).

Another highlight of the day was a case study presentation on 'Principles of Horizontal Connections among People, Ideas and Resources' by Prof Alexey Fedoseev, President of Kruzok Movement, which was a community of technology innovators developing new tech to find solutions to 21st century problems.

The entire programme will feature Live Groups to make the new

learning practical, actionable and implementable for all participants. Saamarthya Teachers Training Academy of Research (STTAR) was an initiative of Jaipuria School of Business under the aegis of Seth Anandram Jaipuria Group of Educational Institutions which had a legacy of 76 years in the field of education. The academy had expertise in developing latest pedagogical competencies in five-day programme aimed to cover pertinent topics about new age pedagogy and how it will shape the future of education.

The programme was designed to empower school teachers, principals, academics, researchers, college directors and heads of departments with knowledge and competencies to confidently make a progressive transition into the future.

will appear in the fair. Meanwhile, for helping the unemployed youths / girls of backward classes to get jobs, 'O' level and CCC computer training scheme will be run online by the Backward Classes Welfare department.

Giving this information, the District Backward Classes Welfare Officer (DBCWO) said that in the year 2022-23, under the scheme, the youths of backward classes of Varanasi district can apply on the websites of backwardwelfareup.in or obccomputer-training.upsc.gov.in to get the 'O' level and CCC computer training at the recognised institutions of NIELIT from May 23 to 28.

Road safety audit needs to be done on priority: DC

PNS ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar, while addressing a meeting at the Commissionerate said the Uttar Pradesh Government was more concerned about road safety so as to provide better facilities and safety. He said road safety audit needs to be carried out on priority. He said the pressure on the roads can only be decreased if metro rail was further expanded and its reach was further increased so as to form a mass public transport. He said the traffic snarls

were especially due to the entry of heavy vehicular traffic in Kanpur. He said it had been decided to develop bus stations at the meeting points of the highways and also to develop logistic parks. He said it had also been planned to prevent the entry of heavy vehicles for loading and unloading in the city limits and thus on the outskirts parking for trucks, loading and unloading facilities will be set up soon. He said these facilities will exactly be on the principle of 'Pay and Use'. He said a proposal was also under study to link Lucknow Airport and Kanpur Airport

with Rapid Rail Metro. He said it was also decided to develop the religious places around Kanpur and link them to the main highways as well. Spokesperson for Smart City Neeraj Srivastava said traffic congestion was primarily a problem as many people wanted to move at the same time everyday. The basic requirement cannot be altered without crippling the economy and society.

He said there was a need to build enough road capacity to handle all drivers who wanted to travel in peak hours at the same time without delays.

Big job fair on May 28

Varanasi (PNS): A huge employment fair will be organised by the Regional Employment Office on May 28 at 10 am in the Government ITI (Women) Chowkaghat campus. UP Minister of Labour and Employment Anil Rajbhar will be the chief guest. More than 25 reputed private sector companies are participating in the job fair.

The candidates who are 18 to 40 years of age and from high school to post graduation, ITI, poly-technique diploma, MVA, B Tech and skill development mission programme can participate in the job fair. It is expected that more than 3,000 candidates

FIR lodged against builder, others

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

An FIR has been lodged against four people including the builder at Sigra police station in connection with the death of a young woman due to the collapse of the wall of an under-construction commercial building in Sonia area on Monday evening. Baby Sonkar (22), a resident of Chaubeypur area, was killed. Her marriage was scheduled to be solemnised next month and she visited the house of a relative of Chanda Devi in Sonia area to do some shopping for her wedding.

However, in the evening when a thunderstorm hit the city, a wall from the third floor of the adjoining under-construction commercial building collapsed in which Baby Sonkar and Sitara Devi (60) sustained serious injuries. They were rushed to the Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Divisional Hospital, where the doctors declared Baby Sonkar as brought dead, while the other seriously injured elderly woman Sitara Devi was referred to BHU Trauma Centre.

In connection with the incident, Sigra police registered an FIR against four including the builder. The police will also seek the details



Bereaved family of a young girl killed when part of an under-construction building collapsed in Sonia area in Varanasi on Monday night.

Pioneer

in connection with the under-construction commercial building from the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA). After the incident, in the late evening hours, the local residents blocked the road, demanding demolition of an under-construction building. They said that inside the under-construction building there is a temple as well as a

well where the local people used to worship but since the work of building started, they were denied entry to the temple there.

Meanwhile, in connection with the boat tragedy, the body of the fourth victim who was drowned with other three when a boat capsized in the river Ganga near Prabhu Ghat was found near Kedarghat on

Tuesday as despite all attempts and due to bad weather conditions, the body could not be searched a day ago. After receiving the news about the recovery of the body, the Bhelupur police reached there and the body was identified as of Sanjay (36) and it was identified by Pawan who was one of two who were rescued in the incident.

Prepare micro plan for immunisation: CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary stressed the need for preparing a micro plan for conducting immunisation sessions successfully so that 100 per cent achievement of routine vaccination of children and pregnant women can be achieved in the district. 'For this, it is necessary to survey the concerned areas according to the population and prepare the lists by conducting head count survey by the ASHA workers apart from checking the arrangement of cold chain points, ensuring the availability of sufficient quantity of vaccine, mobilising the community and conducting vaccination sessions,' he said while addressing a training workshop on renewal of micro plan for routine immunisation held at Indian Medical Association (IMA) auditorium here on Monday.

The CMO said that all the problems related to micro plan should be sorted out and the medical officer in-charges of all rural and urban community/primary health centres



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary addressing a workshop on regular immunisation in Varanasi on Monday.

Pioneer

(CHCs/PHCs) should discuss in detail with all the staff. The CMO asked all the block level medical officers (MOICs), health education officers (HEOs), block programme managers (BPMs), block community process managers (BCPMs) and block immunisation officers present in the training to properly follow the information given in the workshop. Along with this, he asked the officers that by June 2, make sure to send a new and updated micro plan.

District Immunisation

Officer (DIO) Dr VS Rai has trained all the MOICs, HEOs, BPMs, BCPMs and others of the district and explained to them in detail about the renewal of the micro plan of routine immunisation for the year 2022-23. He also provided detailed information about routine immunisation, cold chain point maintenance, adequate availability of vaccine, regularly updating vaccine information on e-win portal, adverse effects of vaccination etc. He said that under the routine immunisation programme,

a target of 100 per cent achievement has been set for the year 2022-23, for which a plan has been prepared and its monitoring would be done by WHO and UNICEF. ACO Dr AK Maurya said that under the routine vaccination programme, all the five UCHCs would be made cold chain points to strengthen the cold chain point system in the urban areas. "Five to six UPHCs will be connected to a cold chain point so that the availability of vaccine remains constant and the vaccine can be delivered to the session sites and ASHA workers at the earliest," he said, asking the health officers that vaccination sessions should be organised at public places or Anganwadi centres so that children and pregnant women can easily reach there for vaccination. WHO SMO Dr Jayashilan and Dr Satrupa gave detailed information about how to develop the micro plan and how to organise the vaccination sessions. UNICEF regional coordinator Pradeep Vishwakarma and DMC Dr Shahid also gave detailed information about community mobilisation and participation.

Annual prize distribution function held at NCR HQ

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Officers and employees who have done excellent work in the construction department of North Central Railway were awarded during a felicitation ceremony held at its headquarters here on Tuesday.

The annual prize distribution function was organized under the chairmanship of Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) North Central Railway, Sharad Mehta at North Central Railway Headquarters. Sharad Mehta, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) was welcomed by Mukesh Kumar Kulshrestha, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer, Construction and Industrial Relations.

The programme was inaugurated by Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) North Central Railway Sharad Mehta with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. On this occasion, 57 railwaymen who excelled were awarded and citations were given to them simultaneously. Under this, 01 officers and 56 employees were honored. Chief Administrative Officer/Construction, in his address, first of all warmly welcomed and greeted everyone and said that it is worth mentioning here that this year the officers and employees of the construction organization who have helped in achieving the goals of the organization or through their innovative ideas or system improvement. They have made significant contributions to the organization and have received awards at Railway Board and General



Employee of construction department of NCR being awarded for doing excellent work at its Headquarters.

Manager level for their achievements.

The last financial year was full of challenges, despite the long period of covid pandemic, monsoon, the construction organization of North Central Railway has registered many achievements with the collective efforts of all. We have achieved the best ever doubling and commissioning of sections of third and fourth lines, we have also completed electrification of Barhan-Ata section, and several important rail over bridge and under bridge and yard remodeling works have been done.

In the month of April-May this year, the construction department has succeeded in doing two important commissioning and remodeling of one major yard. Construction Organization of North Central Railway has done an NI working umbrella on the Bhuteshwar section on the fourth line at 30 kmph for the first time last year in the direction of system improvement. The GM, NCR congratulates all for these achievements. He

hoped that the rest of the team members would also be inspired and would be honored with the awards soon.

Chief Administrative Officer/Construction further said in his address that "It has been my experience of the last one and half year in the construction organization of North Central Railway that you all have a lot of potential and all of you are fighting to achieve the goals. But in many areas we all need to increase our capacity". During the award distribution ceremony, A.P. Sharma Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), Santosh Shukla, Narendra Singh, A.K. Singh, Saurabh Singh Patel All Chief Engineers (Construction), N.K. Verma Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Construction) D.V. Singh, Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction) Chandan Verma, Chief Financial Advisor and other officials of the construction organization were present.

DEVOTEES THROGH HANUMAN TEMPLE: Huge crowd of devotees made a bee-

line outside the Lete Hanuman temple also known as Bade Hanuman Ji on the second Tuesday of Jeshtha month. Since morning there was an influx of devotees in the temples. Devotees placed a bundle of vows at the feet of Hanuman ji.

To please him, they worshipped by offering flowers, sweets, basil leaves, red vermilion and flag. A crowd gathered to offer a mark to the Bade Hanuman ji at Bundhwa across the Sangam. The devotees reached the temple while dancing with the music system.

Tuesday of Jyeshtha month is considered extremely virtuous. It is believed that by praising Hanuman ji in this, one gets rid of physical, divine and material troubles soon. For this reason, a huge crowd of devotees gathered in all the temples of Hanuman ji including Bade Hanuman ji, Hanumant Niketan, Rambagh Hanuman Mandir, Sankatmochan Darbar, Shri Ram Darbar. Mass Hanuman Chalisa and Sundarkand were recited in the temples.

In the Bade Hanuman temple, on Tuesday morning, lord Hanuman was consecrated and worshipped amidst chanting of mantras. In the evening, aarti was performed under the leadership of Shri Mahant Balveer Giri, the Peethadheeshwar of Shrimath Baghambari Gaddi, adorned with gem-studded ornaments. Saints and devotees praised Hanuman ji in conjunction with Amar Giri, the administrator of the temple. He said that Hanuman ji is soon pleased by being praised on Tuesday of Jeshtha month.

HC issues notice to BJP MLA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The High Court has issued a notice to BJP MLA Harshvardhan Vajpayee on the election petition filed by former MLA Anugrah Narayan Singh, who was the Congress candidate from the city North Prayagraj in the UP assembly elections. The hearing of the petition will take place on July 18. This order has been given by Justice Rajveer Singh. Senior advocate Shailendra argued the petition. The court has directed to publish the notice in the newspapers marked by the Registrar General including registered post. In this petition, MLA Vajpayee has been accused of filing a false affidavit to the Election Commission regarding his educational qualification, assets, bank loan. Petitioner Anugrah Narayan Singh said that the opposition Harsh Vardhan has declared the government property as his property and has shown the property worth Rs 22 crores as 3.5 crores. It is also alleged that this year's election he has given different information from the last 2017 assembly election. The loan is outstanding but with the connivance of the bank officials, the due certi-

cate has been obtained. Also, he has got two degrees in the same year which comes under the category of Corrupt Practice. The petition has sought cancellation of the election for filing a false affidavit. Now the election petition will be heard on July 18. Those interested in politics will have an eye on this hearing to see what comes after the court's decision. It is noteworthy that in 2017, Harshvardhan Vajpayee, who was elected MLA from City North on a BJP ticket, was given the ticket at the last moment.

TB PATIENTS ADOPTED: As many as 2,100 out of 3,400 Tuberculosis patients have been adopted by various agencies like government departments, nationalized banks, Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) and Allahabad Chemist & Druggist Association in the district till now. Officials of the health department interacted with as many as 50 TB patients at New Primary Health Centre (Ariah) and Community Health Centre (Chaka) and asked about their queries and complaints. On the occasion, Chief Medical Officer (Prayagraj) Dr Nanak Saran said, "Patients

should not leave their treatment midway in any circumstances and claim that the complete treatment can cure TB'. He further appealed to other organisations and units to come forward and adopt TB patients. Ashish Singh, coordinator said, "Under the Prime

Minister's TB free India campaign to eradicate the disease by 2025, the health department is taking effective measures and as many as 2,100 out of 3,400 TB patients have already been adopted by various agencies and organisations."

FORM NO. 5	
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL	
600/1, University Road, Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow (Area of Jurisdiction, Part of Uttar Pradesh)	
SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION	
Dated: 25.02.2022	
Summons to defendants under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to banks and financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.	
Original Application No. 460 of 2020	
INDIAN BANK	VS. MANOJ KUMAR & ORS.
To,	
1. [MANOJ KUMAR, S/O Late Kanhai Lal, R/O 1/153 P & T Colony, Aliganj, Lucknow, U.P.	
2. [ANURAG SINGH, S/O Late Suresh Chandra Singh, R/O E-3/558, Sector-J Aliganj, Lucknow, U.P.	
3. [MOHD. WASIM, S/O Mohd. Salim Beg, R/O 1/157, P & T Colony, Aliganj, Lucknow, U.P.	
.....DEFENDANTS	
In the above noted Original application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 27.05.2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.	
Registrar	
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow	



U.P. PROJECTS CORPORATION LTD.
(ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company)
UNIT-22, 200 (N-11) Raipur Raja, Civil Lines, Distt. Bahraich (U.P.)-271801

Notice No.:06/PCM/PM/BAHRAICH/2022-23 Dated: 24.05.2022

VERY SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE

U.P. Projects Corporation Limited. (A U.P. Government Undertaking) invites E-Tender (two bid system) for **Construction of Community Cocoon Building For Rajkiya Resham Farm At Rehuwa Mansur Distt. Bahraich And Chaki Keetpalan Building At Rajkiya Resham Farm At Kemichak, Mahdev And Gajpatipur Distt. Bahraich** details can be downloaded & bid can be submitted from e-tendering website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from **25.05.2022 to 31.05.2022 upto 03:00 P.M.** The technical bid will be opened on **31.05.2022 at 4:00 P.M.** Prospective bidders are advised to regularly check through U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Web site for all other terms and conditions, qualifying criteria, corrigendum/amendments etc., if any, will be notified on U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Web site www.upprojects.org and e-tendering website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

PROJECT MANAGER
U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Unit-22, Bahraich



Baroda U.P. Bank
Regional Office: Pakka Bagh Tiraha, Etawah - 206001

Premises Required for Narayanganj (Bharathana) Etawah

The Baroda U.P. Bank invites offers from the owners/power of attorney holders of premises on ground floor with the area of 1500 sq.ft. for housing its branch at Narayanganj (Bharathana) Etawah with all its facilities including adequate power. The premises shall be ready for occupation or likely to be ready for occupation within a period of 3-6 months. The intending offerers shall submit their offers in sealed cover mentioning description of the premises, quoted rent, period of lease, rental deposit etc. To the Regional Manager, Baroda U.P. Bank, Regional Office Pakka Bagh Tiraha, Etawah-206001, or The Branch Manager, Baroda U.P. Bank, Branch Narayanganj (Bharathana) Etawah on or **before 14.06.2022, 04:00 PM** priority would be given to the premises belonging to Public Sector Units/Govt. Departments. For details please login on tender section of our website www.barodagraminbank.com or at our office/branch address.

The Bank reserves its right to accept or reject any offer without assigning reasons thereof. **Contact : 7524842538**

Date: 24.05.2022 Regional Manger



State Bank of India
RACPC- Sector B, Near Ram Ram Bank Chauraha, Aliganj, Lucknow


POSSESSION NOTICE {for movable property under Rule 6(1)}

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the **State Bank of India, RACPC** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a 13(2). The Bank issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount, within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the Property/ Vehicle described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rule on the date mentioned against the account.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **State Bank of India, RACPC** for the amounts and interest thereon. **The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. Details of properties where symbolic possession had been taken is as follows:**

Name & Address of the Borrower/ A/c No./Branch	Description of the Movable Property Mortgaged	Amt o/s (as per u/s 13(2))	Date of Demand Notice/ Possession Date
Borrower:- Shri Rahul Kumar Valmiki, Mohan Meakins, Daliganj Valmiki Puri, Iradatganj, Lucknow A/c No.- 36782607858 (Car Loan) Branch- Kaiserbagh, Lucknow	Vehicle Regn. No.- UP32 HV 5836 Asset/Vehicle Make- MAHINDRA XUV 500 Engine No.- HHF4C13312 Chasis No.- MA1YU2HHUH6C16837	Rs. 8,68,778/- as on 28.05.2021 +Interest & other expenses	06.09.2019 20.05.2022

Date: 25.05.2022 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer, State Bank of India



Indian Bank

Indian Bank
Zonal Office : S 19/33, Ekram Khan Building, Nadesar, Varanasi. Ph.: 0542-2505443, Email : zovaranasi@indianbank.co.in

इंडियन बैंक ALLAHABAD Demand Notice

This demand Notice is hereby given under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 hereinafter calling upon the under mentioned borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount outstanding for the credit facilities granted to them/on their guarantee within 60 days from the date of this notice if you fail to repay to the bank the below mentioned amount, with further interest and incidental expenses, costs etc. In terms of the notice u/s 13(2) of the act. The bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub - section (4) of the section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section (13) of section (13) you shall not transfer by sale, lease or other wise the said secured assets detailed below of this notice without obtaining written consent of the bank, the details of the accounts and secured assets along with amount outstanding with interest and other charges and expenses thereon are given below.

S. No.	Name of Borrowers/Guarantors /Property Owners	Details of Mortgage Property	Demand Notice Date & Amount
Branch : Shivpurwa			
1.	Borrower : M/s. S M Sales Proprietor: Mr. Masroor Ali Add : SA 4/67, B-1A, Daulatpur, Paharia, Pandeypur, Varanasi- 221002 Proprietor/Mortgagor : Mr. Masroor Ali S/o Mr. Vazir Ali Add : S-4/42B-2, Orderly Bazaar, Ulfat Bibi Hata Varanasi- 221002 Guarantor: Mr. Zenith Rizvi Add : S-3/107-5, Paharpur, Orderly Bazaar, Varanasi- 221002	All that part and parcel of the Property at House No. S-4/42B, Area 198 sqft, at Mohalla - Tajpur, Ulfat Bibi Ka Hata, Orderly Bazar, Varanasi, in the name of Mr. Masroor Ali S/o Mr. Vazir Ali. Bounded by : East- House of Gulam Mohd. Siddhiki alias Ajahar, West - Rest portion of said House of Mohd. Sattar alias bittan, North - Home Dharanraj Singh thereafter gali 4 ft., South - House of Vakkar Haidar	22.04.2022 Sent via Regd. Post on 23.04.2022 Rs.:7,21,990/- (+Intt. & Other legal & banking expenses at applicable rate)

Date : 25.05.2022 Place : Varanasi For Commission & Omission in Publication, Please contact with the branch or Zonal Office, Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

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FIRST COLUMN

INDIA MUST STABILISE THE VALUE OF RUPEE

Steep falls reveal that rupee's value is vulnerable to net forex outflow



RP GUPTA

In Maysecond week, the forex reserve of India has reduced to \$595 billion from \$635 billion in September 2021. Existing reserves are about 18% of nominal GDP which is a comfort zone. Despite this, the value of rupee against US dollar fell almost by 6% to ₹77.4 in May, 2022 from ₹73 in September 2021. Such steep fall reveals that the value of the rupee is vulnerable to the net outflow of forex. Historically, India has been in the trade deficit (goods & services) and therefore, the forex reserves are generally built from the "capital receipts" in shape of debt and equity. Net "inward remittance" in the current account is about \$60-65 billion which is consumed in the part financing of trade deficit and mostly, India had been in "current account deficit". Trade deficit is somewhat similar to "operating loss" and the current account deficit is similar to "net loss" of Nation in the international trade. This is not a good scenario for the stability of rupee. Ideally, India should be in "trade surplus" for a stable rupee. For appreciation of rupee value, India should have "current account surplus" on consistent basis. Import of energy (Petroleum & Coal) must be partially replaced with domestic production. India is having enough reserves of coal and its production must be increased through mineral and coal sector reforms. India has also good reserves of oil and gas, as quoted by ex-petroleum Minister Veerappa Moily and also by Vedanta's Anil Agrawal. However, this needs huge spending in prospecting. For replacing imports of electronics and defence items, Government has taken good steps; that may be pushed. Similar steps are also needed for other



major imports. Government should bring a white paper for boosting exports and replacing imports with domestic production. Besides this, there is a vast scope of export of services in the field of tourism, consultancy (legal, accounting and engineering), shipping, education and health sector; that also needs a separate white paper.

The financial savings of India are not adequate for financing the investment needs and therefore, the dependency upon the inflow of global funds shall continue for few more years. As an interim measure, the physical savings in gold must be reduced to almost nil through financial innovation, as suggested by author in his Book 'Turn Around India'. Huge import of gold is indeed a drag on the trade balance. In 1992, the regime of fixed exchange rate was ended. Thereafter, the value of rupee was almost stable from the year 2000 to 2010, as evident from the table below. It means that; it is feasible to maintain stability of rupee. Simultaneously, the reasons for subsequent fall in rupee value must be analysed and resolved. Total financial assets in the world are exceeding \$200 trillion. Global investors are in search of such destinations which provide them a high return in terms of US dollars. In case, India succeeds in achieving stability of Rupee, the global funds shall rush in. In such case, it is imperative that global funds are mostly used for the investment in productive assets and not for consumption. Failing which, the inflation might aggravate and the servicing of global funds might pose problem. For boosting investment in productive assets, the regulatory easement and the simplification of Tax laws are the prerequisites. The external risks, if any, arising due to outflow of forex and depreciation of rupee shall be totally eliminated. Rather, due to surplus forex reserves, the diplomatic relation of India shall improve, particularly with neighbouring nations. And thus, India shall command high respect in the global fraternity.

(The writer is an economist and author. The views expressed are personal.)

Mahaprabhuji's vision of universal peace



PRASHANT TEWARI

A Vaishnav does not harbour negative feelings of hatred, jealousy, envy, and so on, and treats everyone with respect, equanimity and equality

Vaishnavism is one of the major forms of modern Hinduism, characterised by devotion to Vishnu and his incarnations. A devotee of Vishnu is called a Vaishnava. The Vaishnavite tradition is known for the loving devotion to an avatar of Vishnu, and as such was key to the spread of the Bhakti movement in South Asia in the 2nd millennium CE. For Vaishnavas, absolute reality is manifested in Vishnu, who in turn is incarnated in Rama, Krishna, and other avatars. Through his avatars, Vishnu defends traditional righteousness in keeping with the moral law.

Vaishnavism is the worship and acceptance of Vishnu. The various sects of worshippers of Vishnu pray to him in different ways. For some, the goal of religious devotion to Vishnu is liberation from the cycle of birth and death. For others, it is health and prosperity in this life, good crops, success in business, or thriving children. Vaishnavism comprises many sects and groups that differ in their interpretation of the relationship between the individual and God. It has four main categories of sub-schools: the medieval-era Vishishtadvaita school of Ramanuja, the Dvaita school of Madhvacharya, the Dvaitadvaita school of Nimbarkacharya, and the Pushtimarg of Vallabhacharya. The Srivaishnava sect, for example, emphasises the doctrine of qualified non-dualism of Ramanuja, according to which, although the differentiated phenomenal world is illusory, it is nevertheless the medium through which devotees may gain access to God. Another group professes the dualism of the philosopher Madhva, the belief that God and the soul are separate entities and that the soul's existence is dependent on God. The Pushtimarg sect maintains the pure non-dualism doctrine of the theologian Vallabhacharya, which does not declare the phenomenal world to be an illusion. The Gaudiya sect, founded by Chaitanya, teaches inconceivable duality and non-duality, the belief that the relation between God and the world is beyond the scope of human comprehension.

HDH Shashth Pithadishwar Puja Pad Goswami 108 Shree Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree is the chief patron - managing trustee of Vaishnav Innerfaith Pushtimargiya Organisation (VIVO-Global). His Divine Holiness hails from the Pushtimarg tradition of Vaishnavism as the direct descendant of Jagadguru Shrimad Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji, the founder of Pushti Bhakti Marg and one of the five great Acharyas in Hinduism. His Divine Holiness is enthroned as the 14th Gadipathi of Shashthpeeth at Vadodara, one of the seven thrones of Shri Vitthalnathji Gusainji, the son of Shri Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji. He is not only the head at Kalyanraiji Mandir, Vadodara but also at several temples/Havelis in India, the UK, the USA, and Canada. The first supreme omnipresent Jagad Guru Shrimad Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji established the Vaishnav religious system to grace upon



INNER FAITH IS THE DIVINE LOVE ONE EXPERIENCES AFTER REALISING KRISHNA'S TRUE NATURE. IT IS THE RECOGNITION OF THE ALL-PERVADING NATURE OR BRAHMAVAD ESSENCE OF GOD WITHIN OURSELVES AND IN THE WORLD THAT GIVES A POSITIVE OUTLOOK AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE

(The writer is Editor-in-Chief of Opinion Express. The views expressed are personal.)



the Universe, the Divine Grace, also known as Pushtimarg. Jagad Guru Vallabhacharya had two Divine Sons - Shri Gopinathji & Shri Vitthalnathji-Gosainji. Shri Vitthalnathji-Gosainji had seven sons. His sixth son was Shri Yadunathji. Shashth pithadishwar Param Puja Goswami 108 Shree Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree is the 14th Generation of Shri Yadunathji. For the past 13 generations based on the traditions of Shashth pithadishwar, he resides on every Gaadi-Pati (Throne) as Raj-Tilak. He is presently residing in Vadodara as Raj-Tilak in Seva of Mohini Swarup Shri Kalyanrayji. This is the same Swarup that Beloved Vallabhacharya ji served (Sevya). Pujyapad Goswami 108 Shree Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree is presently the Raj-Tilak Gaadi-Pati of Vadodara, Ahmedabad-Naroda (Shri Mahaprabhaji's Bethakji), Gondal, Baria, (Gujarat), Gokul (Uttar Pradesh), Dhanpur, Shergad (Rajasthan), Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh), Sikandarabad (Telangana). Likewise, in Atlanta-Gokuldharm, Ocala-Pushtidham, Connecticut-Vallabhddham (All-USA) & Leicester-Shreeji Dham (UK). Moreover, he is serving various

other religious establishments around the world as an advisory. From a very young age, Puja Maharajshree has been an inspirational religious, social and cultural leader as well as a guiding force for the young and old alike and strong support for the disadvantaged members of society. He has motivated thousands of youngsters to embrace Pushtimarg through various religious, cultural, educational, and charitable institutions throughout India and the world. Over the years, HDH has been honored for His profound philosophical and poetic writings as well as for His religious, social, and humanitarian work. He is a renowned Pushti Margiya Propagator, Philosopher and Teacher. He appreciates antique collections and art & artistry. He is very proficient in playing Mrudang (Pakhawaj) in Music Area. He is articulate in preparing and adorning jewelry for Shree Thakorjee. He has written several ongoing poetries in Gujarati, Hindi & Vraj Bhasha. He is the author of various religious and philosophical articles and texts. He has an interest in ancient & modern, known-unknown Gazals' collections. He displays a keen interest in national geographic and

current affairs of past and present times...

He has received several accolades and awards including the prestigious "Glory of Gujarat" award in 2015 for promoting social well-being, Indian culture, and religion as well as for His valuable contributions to economics and religious research. Most recently in August 2021, His Divine Holiness was awarded an honorary doctorate by North American University, USA.

Puja Maharajshree continues to travel tirelessly throughout the world. HDH Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree enlightens the world on the specifics of terminology commonly used by followers of the Vaishnav cult.

Who is a Vaishnav? Anyone offering divine loving services to Lord Shree Krishna by dedicating and finding refuge in Him is called a Vaishnav. A Vaishnav does not harbor negative feelings of hatred, jealousy, envy, etc., and treats everyone with respect, equanimity, and equality.

What is Inner Faith? Inner faith is the divine love one experiences after realising Shri Krishna's true nature. It is the recognition of the all-pervading nature or Brahmad essence of God within ourselves and in the world that gives a positive outlook and attitude towards life and creates respect, understanding, and awareness of oneself as well as others. Unyielding faith originating from one's experiences of God's omnipotent presence can lead to extraordinary experiences which are practical and liberating. In this state of liberation, one merges into Shri Krishna's blissful form and no caste, creed, color, sex, or age prevents one from attaining Shri Krishna's grace. It transcends all boundaries of identity, time, space, and place.

What does Pushtimargiya mean? Pushtimarg also known as "The Path of Grace" is a Vaishnav sect of Hinduism established by Jagadguru Shrimad Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji, one of the great Acharyas of Hinduism. "Pushtimargiya" is spontaneous, selfless, motiveless love for Lord Vaishnavism theology, descend to empower the good and fight evil, thereby restoring Dharma. This is reflected in the passages of the ancient Bhagavad Gita as: Whenever righteousness wanes and unrighteousness increases, I send myself forth.

For the protection of the good and for the destruction of evil, and for the establishment of righteousness, I come into being age after age.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THIS IS A GOVERNMENT WORSE THAN THAT OF HITLER, MUSSOLINI OR EVEN STALIN. THEY ARE BULLDOZING THE NATION'S FEDERAL STRUCTURE.

— WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

MAMATA BANERJEE



IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS, WE HAVE MADE OUR DEMOCRACY STRONG AND RESILIENT... ONE OF THE STRONGEST PILLARS OF PROGRESS.

— PRIME MINISTER

NARENDRA MODI

Rajya Sabha elections will give BJP numerical edge

The regional parties may gain more than the two national parties, the ruling BJP and the Congress, in elections to the Upper House

The composition of Rajya Sabha will soon mirror Lok Sabha giving an advantage to the ruling BJP. But it will not gain the majority yet. Stakes are high for the BJP and the opposition parties because of the upcoming Presidential and vice-presidential polls in June-July. Any changes in the composition of state assemblies will impact the Rajya Sabha, the House of Elders.

The House will witness several changes after the upcoming biennial elections for 57 Rajya Sabha seats and two bye-elections on June 10. Some retiring members might come back, and others may not. The regional parties may gain more than the two national parties - the ruling BJP and the Congress - after the biennial polls.

The regional satraps rule



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

several states like West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu. The last three states are coalition governments. The young Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ruling Delhi and Punjab has been the biggest gainer in the Rajya Sabha biennial elections. It won five seats, with which its strength in the House has gone up to eight. The regional parties might increase their tally to 27 from 25 seats out of the 57.

Secondly, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first term (2014-2019), the Congress-led opposition was strong and created hurdles for most bills. The BJP, which had just 47 members in 2012, has touched three digits. The numbers changed in Modi-2.0, enabling the Government to



push through many contentious bills, including the abrogation of Article 370 and the trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Of the 59 members retiring, 25 belong to the BJP, while its allies, the Janata Dal (United) two and AIADMK, three. The shrinking National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has 31 seats out of the 59. It will be challenging for the NDA as it will likely lose 7 to 9. As far as other parties are

concerned, the Samajwadi Party has three, the Biju Janata Dal four, the Bahujan Samaj Party two, and the Telangana Rashtra Samiti three. In contrast, the YSR Congress, the Akali Dal, and the Rashtriya Janata Dal have one each.

In Andhra Pradesh, the BJP will lose the three it currently holds out of the four seats going to the polls. The YSRCP's sweeping victory in 2019 means

it will gain all four seats. Similarly, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) will gain both seats going to the polls. Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will continue to hold all three seats. In Bihar, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) will improve its tally from one seat to two, and AAP will win both the seats in Punjab that Congress and Akali Dal previously held. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has offered one seat to Congress, held by the BJP.

Thirdly, the Congress Party, the main opposition since 2014, could shrink further. Electorally, the Congress Party has not recovered from the jolt it received in 2014 and 2019 and has lost one state after the other since then. Its tally in Rajya Sabha will dip further after the forthcoming biennial elections

to the Upper House. The party will get zero seats in Andhra Pradesh, come down in Rajasthan from 4 to 2, and lose one seat each from Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. Moreover, between now and 2024, there will be elections for 65 seats, but Congress's chances are bleak and its strength will decrease further.

Fourthly, some senior Congress leaders might not get a Rajya Sabha berth due to the recent Udaipur resolution giving a 50 percent share to the youth in all positions. The tenure of senior Congress leaders, like P Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal, Jairam Ramesh and Ambika Soni, are set to end. Some Union ministers including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, and

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi will also retire. However, they are all likely to come back. The party will be able to accommodate almost all of them after its recent massive win in four of the five state Assembly elections.

On the contrary, Congress's footprint has shrunk geographically. The party is ruling in only four states in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh on its own and in Maharashtra and Jharkhand as a junior partner in the ruling alliance. The party will have zero representation in the Rajya Sabha from 17 states and Union Territories.

Above all, the Rajya Sabha is likely to have a new Chairman if the incumbent, M. Venkaiah Naidu, is either elevated as President or does not get a second term.

Quad signal to China: Don't change Indo-Pacific status

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Sending a clear signal to China for its aggressive stance in the Indo-Pacific region, the Quad Summit on Tuesday opposed any coercive, provocative or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the region.

The leaders of the four countries including India, US, Japan and Australia also reaffirmed their resolve to uphold the international rules-based order, amidst China's growing assertiveness in the region.

The resolve to uphold rule of law in the Indo-Pacific was one of the main focus points during the Quad Summit attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

During the second in-person meeting of Quad leaders in Tokyo, the four leaders exchanged views about developments in the Indo-Pacific region and global issues of mutual interest.

"We strongly oppose any coercive, provocative or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the area, such as the militarisation of disputed features, the dangerous use of coast guard vessels and

maritime militia, and efforts to disrupt other countries' off-shore resource exploitation activities," said a joint statement issued after the meeting.

It said the Quad is committed to cooperation with partners in the region who share the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. "We will champion adherence to international law, particularly as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the maintenance of freedom of navigation and overflight, to meet challenges to the maritime rules-based order, including in the East and South China Seas," the statement said.

The summit took place at a time when the relations between China and the Quad member countries have become tense, with Beijing increasingly challenging democratic values and resorting to coercive trade practices.

The relations between India and China turned sour after the stand offs in Eastern Ladakh in 2020. At present, more than 50,000 soldiers each from both the sides are facing each other at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at some friction points.

Moreover, China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial



islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

India, the US and several other world powers have often stressed the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region.

"We strongly support the principles of freedom, rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes without resorting to threat or use of force, any unilateral attempt to change the status quo, and freedom of navigation and overflight, all of which are essential to the peace, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and to the world," the joint statement said.

The Quad will continue to act decisively together to advance these principles in the

region and beyond, the statement said as it reaffirmed the four-nation grouping's resolve to uphold the international rules-based order where countries are free from all forms of military, economic and political coercion, the statement said. The Quad combine also condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated that there can be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever.

"We reiterate our condemnation of terrorist attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attacks. We also reaffirm UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021), which demands that Afghan territory must never again be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or finance terrorist attacks" the statement said.

Quad launches package to address climate change

Quad Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP) unveiled at summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

As the entire world is grappling with climate change and environment issues, the Quad summit on Tuesday in Tokyo launched the "Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)" with "mitigation" and "adaptation" as its two themes.

This announcement was made after the second in-person Quad summit attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

A joint statement by the four leaders said they have decided to individually and collectively further strengthen their cooperation to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, which poses especially serious challenges for the Indo-Pacific region.

"Recognising the urgent need to address climate change as emphasised in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



reports, we will steadfastly implement the Paris Agreement and deliver on the outcomes of COP26," according to the joint statement.

The four leaders also vowed to accelerate their efforts to raise global ambition, including reaching out to key stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region and supporting, strengthening, and enhancing climate actions by partners in the region including through mobilising climate finance, both public and private, and facilitating the research, development, and deployment of innovative technology.

"Today, we launch the "Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)" with "mitigation" and "adaptation" as its two themes," the statement

said. Q-CHAMP includes ongoing activities under the Quad Climate Working Group on: green shipping and ports aiming for a shared green corridor framework building on each Quad country's input; clean energy cooperation in clean hydrogen and methane emissions from the natural gas sector.

It also includes strengthening clean energy supply chains, welcoming the contribution of the Sydney Energy Forum; climate information services for developing an engagement strategy with Pacific island countries; and disaster risk reduction, including disaster and climate resilient infrastructure such as the efforts through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient

Infrastructure (CDRI). Its coverage includes new cooperation in clean fuel ammonia, CCUS/Carbon Recycling, cooperation and capacity building support to advance high integrity carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, climate-smart agriculture, knowledge sharing on subnational climate actions, and ecosystem-based adaptation.

"To make Q-CHAMP tangible, we are committed to expanding our programmes, in support of climate actions between our four countries as well as in the Indo-Pacific region. We recognise the immense challenges posed by climate change to the island nations of the Pacific," the statement said.

"We welcome the new Australian Government's commitment to stronger action on climate change, including through passing legislation to achieve net zero by 2050 and lodging a new, ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution," the joint statement added.

In March last year, President Biden hosted the first-ever summit of the Quad leaders in the virtual format that was followed by an in-person summit in Washington in September. The Quad leaders also held a virtual meeting in March. Australia will host the next Quad summit in 2023.

Monkeypox containable, spreading through sex among men: WHO

With virus found in 11 countries, TN on alert

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO), has for the first time since the current outbreak of the monkeypox in around 11 countries, said the virus is primarily spreading through sex among men.

Warning that the virus might take in its grip more nations, the WHO, however, maintained that the disease is "containable". Meanwhile in India, Tamil Nadu has gone in an alert mode and directed the district Collectors and Commissioners of corporations to monitor and identify suspected cases of monkeypox, if any, and isolate them at healthcare facilities for appropriate treatment.

First reported on May 7 in the UK, monkeypox has rapidly spread to over a



dozen countries, where the virus is typically not found unlike some countries in Central and West Africa, with about 200 confirmed and suspected cases. So far no associated deaths have been reported.

The WHO has warned that the infection is likely to spread to more nations even

as it expands surveillance. It further said that the identification of confirmed and suspected cases of monkeypox with no direct travel links to an endemic area "represents a highly unusual event".

"We've seen a few cases in Europe over the last five years, just in travellers, but this is the first time we're seeing cases across many countries at the same time in people who have not travelled to the endemic regions in Africa," Rosamund Lewis, who runs the WHO's smallpox research, said in a Q&A live streamed on the health body's social media channels.

"Many diseases can be spread through sexual contact. You could get a cough or a cold through sexual contact, but it doesn't mean that it's a sexually transmitted disease," Andy Seale, who advises the WHO on HIV, hepatitis and other sexually

transmitted infections, told a news channel. Monkeypox has not previously been described as a sexually transmitted infection, but it can be passed on by direct contact during sex.

The WHO also noted that monkeypox can be contained in countries outside of Africa where the virus is not usually detected. "This is a containable situation," the WHO's emerging disease lead Maria Van Kerkhove said at a news conference on Monday. "We want to stop human-to-human transmission. We can do this in non-endemic countries," she added, referring to recent cases in Europe and North America.

Experts have suggested that countries should review the availability of the smallpox vaccine which is also effective against monkeypox.

Health Secy named WHA key panel chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed the chairperson of a key committee at the 75th World Health Assembly (WHA), which primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the global health body.

Convened by 194 member states, the annual WHO assembly is being held from May 22 to 28 in Geneva, Switzerland. Each year, the World Health Assembly reviews a long and complex list of health challenges and responses.

The WHA functions through two types of committees — Committee A

and Committee B, an official said. Bhushan has been appointed the Chairperson of Committee B. "Bhushan from India has been appointed as the Chairperson of Committee B of the 75th World Health Assembly," the WHO said in a tweet.

The Committee A meets to debate technical and health matters. It has listed critical issues to discuss during the 75th WHA including Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Amendment in International Health Regulations 2005, WHO work in health emergency, Global Strategy for HIV, TB, Viral hepatitis and eradication of polio, immunisation agenda-

2030, infection prevention and control and Human resources for health etc, the official said.

The Committee B primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the World Health Organisation, the official said.

The Committee B will this year discuss and prepare a report on many important issues including health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory including east Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan, Budget for WHO for year 2022-2023, prevention of sexual exploitation, WHO reforms, global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property.

Modi to lay foundation stone of projects worth ₹31,400 cr in Chennai on May 26

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on May 26 lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation 11 projects worth over Rs 31,400 crore in Chennai. He will also participate in an event to celebrate 20 years of the Indian School of Business (ISB) in Hyderabad.

The projects that he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of in Chennai will help significantly improve socio-economic prosperity in the region, have a transformative impact on several sectors and also help create employment opportunities, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Modi will visit Hyderabad and Chennai on May 26 and around 2 PM, will participate

in the celebration of completion of 20 years of ISB Hyderabad and address the graduation ceremony of Post Graduate Programme class of 2022, the PMO said. The ISB was inaugurated on December 2, 2001 by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Around 5:45 PM, the prime minister will dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of 11 projects worth over Rs 31,400 crore at JLN Indoor Stadium in Chennai. These projects are seen as a step towards boosting infrastructure development, enhancing connectivity and giving an impetus to ease of living in the region.

In Chennai, Modi will dedicate to the nation five projects worth over Rs 2,900 crore, the statement said

adding the 75 km-long Madurai-Teni (Railway Gauge Conversion Project), built at a project cost of over Rs. 500 crore, will facilitate access and give a boost to tourism in the region. The programme will also witness inauguration of 1,152 houses constructed as part of Light House Project -- Chennai, built at a cost of Rs 116 crore under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, the statement said. Modi will also lay the foundation stone of six projects, being built at a cost of over Rs. 28,500 crore, it said.

Modi will lay the foundation stone of a multi-modal logistic park at Chennai worth over Rs. 1,400 crore. It will provide seamless intermodal freight movement and also offer multiple functionalities.

BJP raps Rahul over meet with 'anti-India' British leader

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A fresh round of war of words erupted between the BJP and the Congress following the latter's former president Rahul Gandhi's meeting with British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn in London. The BJP asked Rahul whether the Congress endorsed the UK Opposition leader's "anti-India" views, while the Congress justified its leader's meeting and shared pictures of Corbyn with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ask whether he too endorsed the "anti-India" views of the UK Labour leader and MP.

Rahul had recently accused the BJP of sprinkling "kerosene" all over India. The BJP's ire with Jeremy Corbyn is on account of the MP's tweets

on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, which India has maintained is an internal matter.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju shared a picture of Rahul Gandhi's meeting with the British leader on Twitter and attacked the former Congress chief, saying for how long can one go on against one's own country?

"Again.. Rahul Gandhi meets UK MP and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn who is known for his hatred and dislike for India, advocates Kashmir's secession. For how long and how much one can go on against one's own country," Rijiju asked in a tweet.

Hitting back, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "Am amazed as to how dearest friends in TV

Media have to bend over backwards to serve the idiotic agenda of Government and ilk of Kapil Mishra." He said political leaders have met in the past and will meet in future other leaders having divergent and opposite views.

"Hope the media friends will ask the BJP as to what did PM discuss in this meeting and whether PM endorsed those views," he said sharing a picture of Corbyn with PM Modi. "Finally, May I also ask our Media Friends to identify the two men in picture below and ask the same questions? Does it mean PM has endorsed Jeremy Corbyn's views on India," he asked.

He also cited examples of PM Modi's public interactions with economic fugitives Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi and



asked whether he endorsed them. "Rahul Gandhi taking a picture with a person with whom we hold divergent views is neither a crime nor an act of terror as is being made out. If this is the criteria, our media friends should also debate - Why did PM take Nirav Modi to Davos and about their common photos? What about video of PM addressing Mehul Choksi as "Hamare Mehul

Bhai" in a public function," he asked.

"Why does PM meet President Xi Jinping, when China has occupied our territory? Why did PM go to Pakistan to meet the then PM, Nawaz Sharif? Will the Government promise it'll never ever meet anyone having divergent views from us? Time to debate real issues, not BJP propaganda," the Congress said.

National Medical body seeks public view before finalising conduct regulations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to address various issues of professional conduct of registered medical practitioners (RMP), the National Medical Commission (NMC) has prepared Draft Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2022 and has sought comments from the

public before finalising it. The last date to send the comments is June 22.

The proposed new regulations aim to address issues including their duties and responsibilities, continuing professional development programs, prescribing generic medicine, prohibition of commission, restriction on advertisement, responsibilities regarding drugs and medical reports among others.

Swachh Survekshan 2023 launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Tuesday launched the Swachh Survekshan 2023 -- the eight edition of the annual cleanliness survey -- with the theme of "Waste to Wealth" for garbage-free cities.

In a statement, the Ministry said the survey would give priority to the principle of "3Rs" -- 'Reduce, Recycle and Reuse' -- under

the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0.

Speaking at the launch event, HUA Secretary Manoj Joshi said the "Swachh Survekshan" has evolved into an inspirational tool rather than being just an assessment tool, according to the statement.

It stated the largest survey undertaken anywhere has brought about substantive changes at the ground level, with cities performing well and having a sense of pride.

Airlines banned from selling unserviceable seats to fliers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Airlines have been barred from selling unserviceable seats to passengers. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday warned airlines against offering unserviceable seats to passengers on their domestic and international flights.

In a communique sent to all Indian carriers on Tuesday, the DGCA said that it has come to notice of it that some of the carriers are offering unserviceable seats

to passengers on their scheduled international and domestic operations. "This practice is not only causing inconvenience to the travellers but also inviting a serious safety concern as well," it mentioned.

As per Rule 53 of The Aircraft Rule, 1937, all materials including the aircraft seat shall conform to approved design specifications, the DGCA noted. The installation of any part failing to meet the intended design requirements, degrades the requirements of airworthiness, it said.

Unique programme on climate smart agriculture launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PUNE

Aligned with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who recently called for alliance of scientists and farmers to deal with climate change, and ensure a green future, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) in collaboration with Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) has launched a unique programme on climate smart agriculture (CSA) which was hosted by ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress

Management (NIASM), Baramati Maharashtra-India.

A week-long training was recently conducted by EDF to educate and build capacity of leadership team of SFI. SFI through its network of over 8000 agri-entrepreneurs across 18 states reach out to over 7 lakh small-holder farmers, helping them with end-to-end value chain services and providing financial linkages. The objective is to train 100,000 AEs who will connect with 1 crore farmers over the next six years.

There may be more exits from Bengal BJP: Singh

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Two days after leaving the BJP, Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh on Tuesday said that there were more leaders waiting to switch sides. Singh on Monday had staged a ghar-wapsi rejoining the Trinamool Congress three hours after he left the party.

"I would not take the names immediately but there are people who are eager to stage a homecoming or for that matter join the TMC," Singh said when asked to comment about his "excellent" chemistry with Bishnupur BJP MP Saumitra Khan.

Soon after joining the TMC the Barrackpore MP has been entrusted with the supervision of organizational works of Bongaon area bordering Bangladesh. Bongaon has a sizeable number of BJP MLAs who enjoy good chemistry with Singh.

"Saumitra Khan is like my younger brother and has his own political discretion ... but his younger brother is in touch with me," Singh said adding



many leaders were in contact with him and things would unfold with time.

When contacted Khan too would not refute reports of his changing the party at once even as he said that he would consider returning to theTMC should its general secretary and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Abhishek Banerjee nephew left that party.

"I will rejoin the TMC but for that to happen Abhishek Banerjee who is as cunning as a jackal must leave that party," Khan who too had left the TMC to join the saffron outfit

several years ago said.

Another saffron leader and former MP Anupam Hazra too sounded rebellious even as he attacked his own party men for criticizing those who were leaving the party but not doing any introspection. "It is important to do some self-introspection instead of always attacking the leaders who are leaving the party like Arjun Singh ... there must have been some lapses which is why these people are leaving," he said in an apparent reference to recent exodus in the saffron party.

When contacted about the

recent spate of exodus, BJP MP Locket Chatterjee said that the BJP would be strengthened if the traitors left the party. "Those who want to leave should do so immediately ... the doors are open for them to go ... the BJP will be stronger if they leave," she said.

Meanwhile, even as the senior State BJP leaders went into a huddle apparently to take stock of the situation at least 20 district level leaders from Jalpaiguri in North Bengal on Tuesday left resigned posts expressing discontent against the way the party was functioning.

Similar rebellion was seen in BJP's Nandigram block in East Midnapore, a stronghold of Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari. Local BJP leaders on Wednesday rebelled against the party's new Mandal president saying the district leadership was acting arbitrarily by appointing inefficient leaders. "If he is not removed then the whole batch of block level leaders would resign their posts," said the rebel functionaries.

Malayalam actress sexual assault case

Victim approaches Kerala High Court, accuses trial judge of subverting case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The 2017 sexual assault on a leading Malayalam film actress took a shocking turn on Tuesday with the victim approaching the Kerala High Court raising allegations of foul play in investigation. In a writ petition moved through Advocate T B Mini, the victim, has challenged the professional integrity and honesty of the trial court judge, whose acts were highly suspicious.

Though the case was being heard by the same judge since the filing of the charge sheet, the truth remains that it has not progressed beyond a particular stage. Things took a turn for the worst when the additional director general of police R Sreejith who was supervising

the investigation was moved out all of a sudden after the reconstitution of the ruling CPI(M)'s State Committee and the appointment of P Sasi as the political secretary to the Chief Minister.

The vernacular media had reported that with Sasi making a return to the Chief Minister's Office the investigation and trial of the case would come to a halt. Malayalam cinema's popular actor Dileep (also known by his original name Gopalakrishnan) is one of the prime accused in the case.

The charge against Dileep is that he had hired the services of a petty thief (Pulsar Suni) for kidnapping the actress and molesting her sexually as an act of vengeance as the former had suspected her of passing on

details of his extra curricular activities to his wife Manju Warrior. Manju and Dileep had annulled their marital ties and the actor had married a much younger Kavya Madhavan.

The police ordered a further investigation into the case following some startling disclosures made by a former associate of Dileep to the investigators. Even the lawyers representing Dileep were under the shadows of doubt with the police announcing its intentions to interrogate them.

The victim raises questions on the action of the judge whom she accuses of playing havoc with the digital records (mobile phone calls, WhatsApp messages, voice clips etc) which would have established the

role of the prime accused in the crime.

"The conduct of the presiding officer in obstructing the investigation in this matter clearly shows that she wants to illegally help the culprits. Her conducts in this regard if condoned or tolerated will be a disgrace to the judicial system which assures equal protection under the law," says the petition moved by the victim.

Legal experts in Kerala expressed their shock over the way the chief IO was shunted out and the delay caused in the trial proceedings. "Something is wrong somewhere in this trial. There is no justification for this kind of delay in an open and shut case like this," said a widely respected legal academician in Kochi.

MAHA RS POLL CANDIDATES

Shivaji scion refuses to join party, Sena picks Sanjay Pawar

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Ignoring the reported claims by Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji's direct descendant Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati, the ruling Shiv Sena on Tuesday decided to nominate its Kolhapur district party chief Sanjay Pawar for the biennial RS polls scheduled for June 10.

Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray decided to nominate his party loyalist Pawar for the RS polls, after Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati refused to join the Sena to contest the biennial polls.

Speculation is rife in the state political circles that Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati might contest the RS polls with the support of the Opposition BJP.

Announcing Pawar's nomination for the RS polls, Sena's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut

said: "We have full respect for Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati... Sambhaji Pawar's name was cleared by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. We will make a formal announcement in this regard in the coming days".

The RS polls from Maharashtra have been necessitated by the impending retirement of six sitting MPs --Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, former Union Finance Minister and senior Congress Minister P Chidambaram, Shiv Sena chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut, former Union Minister and NCP leader Praful Patel, Vinay Sahasrabudde and Vikas Mahatme, both from the BJP, on July 4, 2022. They are among the 57 RS members whose terms will end on different dates in the coming weeks.

The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has a strength of

170 MLAs — Shiv Sena 55 (one MLA Ramesh Latke, died in Dubai last week), NCP 53, Congress 44, smaller parties/groups 10 and 8 Independents. The Opposition BJP has 106 and it enjoys the support of five Independent MLAs and two MLAs from smaller parties.

As per the understanding reached among them on the basis of their respective strengths in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the ruling Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress will get to contest one seat each. For winning a RS seat, the approximate number of votes required is 42. After winning one seat each, the MVA will still have additional 44 MLAs with whose support it can win one more RS seat. In the normal course, the additional RS seat was allotted to the NCP. However, NVP chief Sharad Pawar has chosen to set aside the

seat for the ruling Shiv Sena as a gesture of good will.

On its part, the BJP — given its strength — can win two RS seats comfortably. If it is contest for the third seat, the BJP will have to engineer cross-voting in the polls. It remains to be seen if the BJP will put up its third candidate in the RS polls, despite the fact that it does not have the strength.

For the six seats, the outgoing RS members Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena) Goyal, (BJP), Praful Patel (NCP) will in all likelihood be re-nominated, while Chidambaram stands a strong chance of being re-nominated. The Shiv Sena is putting up Sanjay Pawar as its second candidate. It remains to be seen if the BJP re-nominate its two sitting RS members Vinay Sahasrabudde and Vikas Mahatme or replace them with others.

Maha ATS arrests LeT operative

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Tuesday arrested a suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative from Dapodi area of Pune.

Identifying the arrest LeT suspect as Junaid Mohammed, the ATS officials that Junaid had been touch with a Kashmir-based terrorist outfit "Gajvate Al Hind", owing allegiance to LeT, through social media. He was receiving funds from the terrorist outfit.

A resident of Khamgaon town in Buldhana district,



Junaid (28) had been living in Pune for the past one and a half years. He was on the ATS' radar

for the past eight days. After establishing that he was reportedly active and linked to the LeT's terror networks in Jammu & Kashmir and abroad, through certain social media platforms, the ATS sleuths arrested Junaid from Dapodi locality in Pune in the early hours of Tuesday.

Junaid was to be produced by the ATS before a designated Special Court in Pune later in the afternoon.

Junaid's name had cropped during the investigations in a terror funding case by the ATS. The ATS took Junaid into custody after after it found evi-

dence to suggest that he had received Rs 10,000 for his alleged terrorist activities from a terrorist outfit in Jammu and Kashmir

The investigations have revealed that Junaid had changed his mobile phones on several occasions to remain undetected on social media platforms by the probe agencies. He had reportedly participated in several terror-related discussions on social media, official sources said.

Junaid is also alleged to be in touch with some extremists in Pakistan. The ATS is investigating the allegation.

FROM PAGE 1

QUAD AGENDA AIDS PEACE IN INDO-PACIFIC, SAYS PM

"Our mutual trust, our determination, is giving new energy and enthusiasm to the democratic forces. Our cooperation at the level of Quad is promoting a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, which is a common objective of all of us," he added.

The Prime Minister also referred to increasing cooperation among the Quad nations notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic. "Despite the adverse conditions of Covid-19, we have increased mutual coordination in many areas like vaccine delivery, climate action, supply chain resilience, disaster response, and economic cooperation. This is ensuring peace, prosperity, and stability in the Indo-Pacific," he said.

Modi also complimented newly elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and said his presence at the summit after 24 hours of taking the oath showed his commitment to Quad.

Biden spoke about the importance of the Quad in responding to Covid-19, partnering on supply chains among others, But much of his remarks focused on the war in Ukraine. "We are navigating a dark hour in our shared history," Biden said.

"Russia's brutal and unprovoked war against Ukraine has triggered a humanitarian catastrophe. And innocent civilians are put into the streets and millions of refugees are internally displaced as well as exiled."

The US President said the situation in Ukraine is more than just a European issue. "It's a global issue. The fact is that when you turn on the television and see what Russia's doing now, it appears to me that (President Vladimir) Putin is trying to extinguish a culture. He is not trying to hit military targets anymore, he is taking out every school, every culture, every natural history museum," Biden said.

"As long as Russia continues this war we are going to be partners and lead a global response," he added.

Kishida said it was important for the Quad leaders to get together to make a "firm commitment" to "a free and open Indo-Pacific". Albanese said it was an honor that one of his first acts as prime minister was to attend the Quad meetings.

The Quad has been focusing primarily on ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific against the backdrop of China's increasing muscle-flexing in the region. In line with its long-term vision for the region, Biden on Monday launched the ambitious Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), which is an initiative aimed at deeper cooperation among like-minded countries in areas like clean energy, supply-chain resilience, and digital trade.

Modi said the announcement of IPEF is a declaration of a collective desire to make the Indo-Pacific region an engine of global economic growth. The Prime Minister also called for finding common

and creative solutions to tackle the economic challenges of the Indo-Pacific region.

BIDEN VOWS TO MAKE INDIA-US RELATIONS AMONG WORLD'S CLOSEST

It said India and the US also extended the longstanding Vaccine Action Programme (VAP) until 2027 to continue joint biomedical research which had resulted in the development of vaccines and related technologies.

A White House readout said Biden condemned Russia's "unjustifiable war" against Ukraine and that the leaders discussed how to cooperate to manage disruptions caused by the war, especially the rise in energy and food prices to protect their respective citizens and the world.

It said the two leaders committed to deepening the "major defence partnership", encouraging economic engagement that benefits both countries, and expanding the partnership on global health, pandemic preparedness, and critical and emerging technologies.

It said they looked forward to enhancing the partnership to accelerate India's just energy transition, including through the US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership, especially in the areas of renewables deployment, decarbonizing the energy and industrial sectors, zero-emissions vehicles and mobilizing related investment in India.

The leaders committed to continue providing humanitarian assistance, and discussed how to cooperate to manage disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine, in particular the rise in energy and food prices, to protect their respective citizens and the world," the White House said.

It said the two sides announced India's joining the Combined Military Forces-Bahrain as an associate member. In his televised remarks, Modi said the two countries have shared values and common interests in many areas, including security, and they have strengthened the bonds of trust. "I am sure that the India-USA Investment Incentive Agreement between us will see concrete progress in the direction of investment. We are increasing our bilateral cooperation in the field of technology, and also strengthening mutual coordination on global issues," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said both the US and India share the same vision about the Indo-Pacific region and are working to safeguard the shared values and common interests not only at the bilateral level but also with other like-minded countries.

"Quad and IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) announced yesterday are active examples of this. Today our discussion will give more momentum to this positive momentum," he said.

"I am confident that the friendship of India and America will continue to be a force for good for global peace and stability,

for the sustainability of the planet, and for the well-being of mankind," Modi said.

Modi held "fruitful" discussions with his Australian counterpart and reviewed the multifaceted bilateral cooperation and reaffirmed their desire to deepen it. Both leaders reviewed the multi-faceted cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including in trade and investment, defence manufacturing, renewable energy including green hydrogen, education, science and technology, agricultural research, sports, and people-to-people ties, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday met his US and Japanese counterparts on the sidelines of the Quad summit here and discussed regional and global issues. Jaishankar, who is here as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's delegation, met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and held talks with him on several important issues, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Jaishankar also exchanged views on regional and global issues with his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi.

YOGI, AKHILESH FACE-OFF OVER CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Track Courts and separate POCOS courts were established in 2018."

Claiming a reduction in crime under his government, Yogi said that had the Opposition members listened to the governor's address, things would have been clearer to them. "When I reply to the governor's address, you will clearly know how much crime has come down. There was no riot in the past five years. Between 2012 and 2017, there were more than 700 incidents of riots but between 2017 and 2022, there was no riot, no curfew," the chief minister asserted.

Yogi highlighted that properties of criminals worth more than Rs 2,000 crore were confiscated across Uttar Pradesh. "So, whether it is a matter of women's safety or the safety of 25 crore citizens, all these are top priorities for the BJP government," he said. Citing the BJP numbers in the assembly as direct evidence, the chief minister said, "Overwhelming public support during the recent UP Assembly elections was due to better law and order in the state in the last five years. I laud the spirit with which people and half of the population have supported us. We are saying with full commitment that strict action against crime and criminals will continue without any bias." Referring to removal of loudspeakers from the mosques, Yogi said, "Over lakh loudspeakers were removed. This could have been done by the previous Samajwadi party government also, they lacked will power." Moreover every decision of the Samajwadi Party is guided by vote bank politics."

"For the first time in many years, Alvida namaz in the month of Ramzan were not held on the streets in Uttar Pradesh. There was no chaos on streets on the occasion of Eid. and festivals were cel-

ebrated in a peaceful manner. There were riots during Hanuman Janmotsav celebration in other states, but Uttar Pradesh remained incident free," the chief minister said.

AZAD, ANAND, PC IN CONG TASK FORCE TO TAKE ON BJP IN 2024

While Rahul, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Anand Sharma are part of the political affairs group, senior leaders P Chidambaram and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are in the Task Force-2024.

An interesting addition to the list of Task Force-2024 is election strategist Sunil Kanugolu, a former associate of Prashant Kishor.

Kanugolu has been mandated to chalk out the party's future poll strategy and implement the decisions of the Udaipur conclave. While Kishor had refused to join the Congress after he was offered to do so, Kanugolu became a member of the party.

Sonia also set up a group to coordinate the "Bharat Jodo Yatra" planned from Kanyakumari to Kashmir from Gandhi Jayanti. "Following the Udaipur Nav Sankalp Shivir, the Congress president has constituted a Political Affairs Group that will be presided over by her, a Task-Force-2024 and a Central Planning Group for the coordination of the "Bharat Jodo Yatra", an AICC Press statement said.

The Political Affairs Group, headed by Sonia, comprises Rahul, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ambika Soni, Digvijaya Singh, Anand Sharma, KC Venugopal, and Jitendra Singh.

The members of the Task Force-2024 are Chidambaram, Mukul Wasnik, Jairam Ramesh, KC Venugopal, Ajay Maken, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Randeep Singh Surjewala and Sunil Kanugolu.

"Each member of the task force shall be assigned specific tasks related to organisation, communications and media, outreach, finance, and election management. They shall have designated teams which will be notified subsequently," the AICC statement said.

The members of the task force also met at the AICC headquarters and held its first meeting on Tuesday to chalk out its course and are scheduled to meet once every 72 hours. The task force will be the body that will bring about organisational changes as decided at the three-day brainstorming session of the Congress in Rajasthan's Udaipur.

Priyanka, P Chidambaram, Ajay Maken, Surjewala, Ramesh, and Venugopal were among those who attended the first meeting of the group.

"An informal meeting of the newly constituted Task Force - 2024 was held today at AICC HQ. It is our Nav Sankalp to ensure that the rejuvenated spirit of reformed politics takes our nation further on the path to progress," Venugopal said after the first meeting Tuesday.

The party's Udaipur resolution mentioned that it will reconnect with the people and provide 50 per cent representations

to youth at all levels in the Congress, besides also enforcing the one-family-one-ticket formula, with some exceptions.

The Central Planning Group for the coordination of the "Bharat Jodo Yatra" includes Digvijaya Singh, Sachin Pilot, Shashi Tharoor, Ravneet Singh Bittu, KJ George, Jothi Mani, Pradyut Bordoloi, Jitu Patwari and Saleem Ahmed.

All members of the task force and all heads of the Congress' frontal organisations will be ex-officio members of the central group, the statement said.

Briefing media after the first meeting, AICC chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala said in pursuance of the Udaipur declaration the Congress president has taken extremely important decisions and has constituted a committee of seniors to advise her on various political issues facing the party and the nation.

"She has also constituted a 'Task Force-2024' to look at the various elections as also our preparedness in the run-up to the 2024 Parliamentary elections and also a group to look at the various grassroots programs as also how to reach to the last person in the line, as also to common people, both in cities as also in the villages," Surjewala said.

"These are issues that we need to address, not only for the revival of the Congress party and re-building the connect to the grassroots as Rahul has said, but also to ensure that the politics of hate and division, hatred and manufactured agendas that is being propagated by the BJP is countered effectively by the historical responsibility, bestowed upon the Indian National Congress by the people as also by our legacy of the freedom movement," he said. "We have decided, we will continue to meet every 72 hours or more and we will prepare a detailed plan on each of the subjects: Organisation, finances, media communication, and strategy, grassroots connect, election management, and other issues, that come up for our consideration," he said.

ASI OPPOSES PLEA FOR RESTORATION OF HINDU, JAIN DEITIES AT QUTUB

He said there is no provision under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act under which worship could be started at any living monument.

"The intention of the statute is clear that the monument should be protected and preserved in its original condition for posterity. Therefore, changing and alteration of the existing structure would be a clear violation of the AMASR Act and thus should not be allowed," the ASI counsel said. He said as per the petitioner's submissions, for 800 years the monument was in the same condition.

During the hearing, the court observed that in south-India, many monuments are not being used and prayers are not being offered.

"Now you want the monument to be turned into a temple. My question is how

you claim a legal right for restoration for something which happened 800 years ago," the judge asked. At this, the petitioner said, "Once deity property, always deity property. It is never lost", adding that it was his "fundamental right to worship."

PUNJAB MINISTER SACKED, HELD FOR 1% CUT DEMAND

received complaints about "one of my ministers".

"A case was brought to my notice that a Minister in my Cabinet was seeking one per cent commission for each tender and purchase-related to his department. Only I knew about this case, neither the media nor the Opposition had an idea about it. Had I wanted I would have covered it up. And had I done so, I would have not only failed my conscience but also the lakhs of people who trusted me. I am taking strong action against him. I am sacking him from my Cabinet and directing the police to take action against him. He has confessed to this crime," said Mann.

Sources informed The Pioneer that a Government officer had approached the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) to complain against Dr Singla over a week back. As the Chief Minister took serious note of the allegations, a sting operation was launched, and incriminating evidences were created.

Mann added, "AAP has a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption. This (removing a sitting Cabinet Minister) is happening for the second time in the country. In 2015, Arvind Kejriwal had sacked one of his Ministers on corruption charges." Notably, Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal, in 2015, had sacked then Forest and Environment and Food and Civil Supplies Minister Asim Ahmad Khan accusing him of corruption, and forwarded the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a probe. CBI, after probing the allegations, exonerated Khan, following which he was rehabilitated in the party in 2019, and appointed chairman of the Delhi State Haj Committee.

Mann, in his video message, said: "As you all know, we are an honest government. We will not tolerate corruption of even Re one. Whenever I used to go to people in villages, towns and cities, I saw hope in their eyes. I saw that they had a hope that there would be someone who would pull them out of corruption. When I was to be announced the chief ministerial face, AAP's revolutionary chief Arvind Kejriwal had said that he would not tolerate bribery and corruption. I had promised him that we will run this government the same way. I assured him that we will not spare anyone involved in corruption."

Adding, he said, "I want to tell everyone that I would not tolerate corruption of even Re one. So, straighten yourself. We had taken an oath at martyr Bhagat Singh's Khatak Kalan village, we had promised that we would run a corruption-free government. This is a historic decision by AAP"

Quad condemns terrorism, denounces 26/11, Pathankot attacks

PTI ■ TOKYO

The leaders of India, Australia, Japan and the United States on Tuesday unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, and reiterated their condemnation of terrorist attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attacks perpetrated by Pakistan-based terror groups. In a Quad Joint Leaders' Statement issued after the second in-person meeting of Quad leaders here, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australia's newly-elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese reiterated that there

can be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever. "We condemn unequivocally terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations," the statement said.

The four leaders denounced use of terrorist proxies and emphasised importance of denying any logistical, financial or military support to terrorist groups which could be used to launch or plan terror attacks, including cross-border attacks, it said, without naming any country. "We reiterate our condemnation of terrorist attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attacks," the leaders said in the joint statement. "Terrorists of Pakistan-based



outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) had carried out the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack and the January 2016 Pathankot airstrike.

JuD, led by Hafiz Saeed, is the front organisation for LeT which is responsible for carrying out 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people, including six Americans. Saeed, a Pakistani national, is a UN-designated terrorist on whom US has placed a USD 10 million bounty. Last month, the Indian government designated as a terrorist Ali Kashif Jan, the Pakistani handler of the 2016 terror attack on Pathankot air base in which six terrorists and seven Indian soldiers were killed.

India has been asking Pakistan to take credible, verifiable and irreversible actions against terrorist networks and proxies operating from its soil and bring the perpetrators of 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attack to justice.

In their joint statement, the Quad leaders also reaffirmed the UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021), which demands that the Afghan territory must never again be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or finance terrorist attacks. "We emphasise importance of upholding international standards on anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism by all countries, consistent with FATF recommen-

dations. "We reaffirm that in our fight against terrorism, we will take concerted action against all terrorist groups, including those individuals and entities designated pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1267(1999)," it said.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to integrity of international financial system.

The Paris-based FATF has placed Pakistan on its grey list since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing, and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019.

Biden says no change in US policy towards Taiwan

PTI ■ TOKYO

President Joe Biden on Tuesday said his country's policy towards Taiwan remained unchanged, a day after his comments raised questions about whether Washington was shifting from its long-standing policy of maintaining an ambiguous stance on self-ruled island claimed by China as a renegade province.

When asked at sidelines of QUAD summit hosted by Japan as to whether policy of strategic ambiguity towards Taiwan was changed, Biden replied: "No."

"The policy has not changed at all. I stated that when I made my statement yesterday," Japan's Kyodo news agency quoted Biden as saying in a response to another question about whether or not US troops would be sent to Taiwan if China invaded island. Biden on Monday said United States



was committed to defending Taiwan if China attempted to seize self-ruled island by force. Asked if US is willing to get involved militarily in a Taiwan contingency, Biden told media after a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida here: "Yes. That's commitment we made."

Biden also said burden to protect Taiwan was "even stronger" after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The White House insists that Biden's unusually forceful comments about Taiwan did not amount to a shift in US policy towards self-ruled island that China claims as its own.

China goes on offensive against IPEF, projects it as 'economic NATO' to blunt its dominance

PTI ■ BEIJING

As US President Joe Biden launched a new trade deal with 12 Indo-Pacific nations, including India, to enhance trade, economic and investment opportunities, China, which sees the pact as a threat to its dominance in the region, went on the offensive against it, promising more opening up, while the official media here termed it as "economic NATO".

On the eve of the Quad summit in Tokyo, Biden on Monday launched the ambitious Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), which is an initiative aimed at deeper cooperation among like-minded countries in areas such as clean energy, supply-chain resilience and digital trade.

The IPEF is expected to send across a signal that the US is focused on pushing forward

a strong economic policy for the region to counter China's aggressive strategy on trade in region.

The countries joining at launch of US-led initiative are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The US-led trade deal has already caused consternation in Beijing as its Foreign Minister Wang Yi on same day offered more higher cooperation to the Indo-Pacific region with better Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects and investments.

Addressing the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) through a video link around same time IPEF was launched on Monday, Wang said "the Asia-Pacific region is where China lives and thrives".

Lanka arrests 67 suspected to be heading to Australia

AP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's navy said Tuesday that it has arrested 67 people who it believes were trying to travel by sea to Australia illegally. The navy said in a statement that 12 men were arrested first near port town of Trincomalee, 260 kilometers (160 miles) northeast of capital Colombo on Monday and, upon questioning them, intercepted 55 more people travelling in a fishing vessel.

It said persons were aged between 3 and 53, and that five of them are suspected be part of a human smuggling ring. Navy spokesperson Indika de Silva said while their destination is still not clear it is suspected that they were headed to Australia. Police were still determining the motivation for illegal voyage, de Silva said, but Sri Lankans over years have travelled to Australia and other developed nations illegally for economic and political reasons.

Australian media reported Tuesday that officials sent 15 people back to Sri Lanka on Saturday after they were found travelling in a boat near Christmas Island. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis in recent memory facing heavy shortages of essentials from food, cooking gas, medicine and fuel to toilet paper and matchsticks.

Chinese FM to visit Solomon Islands amid security pact worry

AP ■ BANGKOK

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will visit Solomon Islands this week in what the South Pacific nation's leader said was a "milestone" in his country's relationship with China, amid concerns that their new security pact could allow Chinese military personnel on the islands.

But Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare insisted in a statement posted on his government's website Tuesday that the partnership with Beijing does not come at the expense of ties with Australia, the United States and others.

The visit of Wang at the head of a 20-person delegation on Thursday and Friday comes amid growing concerns about China's influence in the strategically important Solomon Islands.

Wang will be the highest-ranking Chinese representative to visit the country since the two nations formalised diplomatic relations 32 months ago, the Solomon Islands Foreign Affairs Ministry said, after Sogavare switched recognition from Taiwan to Beijing. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said later that Wang would also visit



Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and East Timor in a 10-day trip. While in Fiji he will host a meeting with the foreign ministers of Pacific Island nations, it said.

"It is believed that the meeting will play an important role in promoting solidarity and cooperation between China and the Pacific island countries and in advancing the development of our relations," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in Beijing.

The security agreement, signed in April, would allow Beijing to send police and military personnel to Solomon Islands "to assist in maintaining social order" and let Chinese warships make port calls for "logistical replenishment." That has raised fears of a possible Chinese naval base on doorstep of Australia and New Zealand.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine direct attack on EU: Spain PM

Over one lakh Ukrainian refugees in Spain: PM Sanchez

PTI ■ DAVOS

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Tuesday said Russia's invasion of Ukraine is also a direct attack on the European Union (EU) and Europe must walk together going ahead.

He also said that Spain is now hosting more than 100,000 Ukrainian refugees.

In a special address at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2022, the Spanish leader said he was still a teenager when the Berlin wall fell and the Soviet Union collapsed. "The decade that followed was defined by Francis Fukuyama's thesis on the end of history: liberal democracy and the market economy had prevailed, and there was no way back.

That's how my generation grew up: thinking that economic growth, interconnectedness, freedom of thought and speech and human progress were just as predictable as they were inevitable," he said.

Now, in 2022, we know

well that liberal democracy does not come naturally and it requires considerable effort and nurturing, he noted.

"As I speak here to you today, Ukrainians are fighting for freedom and democracy - not just theirs, but also ours. We never thought that we would see again such horrifying images of bombings and massacres on European soil. Names like Bucha or Mariupol have become synonyms of barbarity and war crimes that cannot go unpunished," Sanchez said.

He said "this illegal, irrational and unjust war" is causing suffering and despair in Ukraine and beyond.

"We are witnessing the largest human exodus since World War II, with over 6 million people fleeing the country and a further 8 million internally displaced. But this is not just a local, or even a European conflict: this is a major international crisis, with consequences for all of us, regardless of where we come from," he added. He also said that the Russian invasion of Ukraine



has triggered an unprecedented global food crisis with dramatic consequences for the most vulnerable countries, individuals and families.

He said Spain is committed to do its part and assured his country's support for Ukraine and its resolve in helping ensure that Putin does not achieve his goals.

"Spain has once again set an example of solidarity. Ukraine can be rest assured that we will welcome Ukrainian refugees in our country, now totalling well over 100,000, for as long as needed.

"We will also continue to back, as we have done so far, the toughest sanctions against the Putin regime, and providing humanitarian aid and assistance to Ukraine," he said.

"Make no mistake: Putin's brutal aggression against Ukraine is also a direct attack on the European Union (EU) and all it represents. By responding with unity and determination, the EU is not only defending the basic principles of the international order: it is preserving the very values that underpin it since its foundation," Sanchez said.

After 3 months of war, life in Russia has profoundly changed

AP ■ BERLIN

When Vladimir Putin announced the invasion of Ukraine, war seemed far away from Russian territory. Yet within days the conflict came home - not with cruise missiles and mortars but in the form of unprecedented and unexpectedly extensive volleys of sanctions by Western governments and economic punishment by corporations.

Three months after the Feb. 24 invasion, many ordinary Russians are reeling from those blows to their livelihoods and emotions. Moscow's vast shopping malls have turned into eerie expanses of shuttered storefronts once occupied by Western retailers.

McDonald's - whose opening in Russia in 1990 was a cultural phenomenon, a shiny modern convenience coming to a dreary country ground down by limited choices - pulled out of Russia entirely in response to its invasion of Ukraine. IKEA, the epitome of affordable modern comforts, suspended operations. Tens of thousands of once-secure jobs are now suddenly in question



in a very short time.

Major industrial players including oil giants BP and Shell and automaker Renault walked away, despite their huge investments in Russia. Shell has estimated it will lose about \$5 billion by trying to unload its Russian assets.

While the multinationals were leaving, thousands of Russians who had the economic means to do so were also fleeing, frightened by harsh new government moves connected to the war that they saw

as a plunge into full totalitarianism. Some young men may have also fled in fear that the Kremlin would impose a mandatory draft to feed its war machine.

But fleeing had become much harder than it once was - the European Union's 27 nations, along with the United States and Canada had banned flights to and from Russia. The Estonian capital of Tallinn, once an easy long-weekend destination 90 minutes by air from Moscow, suddenly took at

least 12 hours to reach on a route through Istanbul.

Even vicarious travel via the Internet and social media has narrowed for Russians. Russia in March banned Facebook and Instagram - although that can be circumvented by using VPNs - and shut access to foreign media websites, including the BBC, the U.S. Government-funded Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the German broadcaster Deutsche Welle.

War rages in east, 200 bodies found in Mariupol

AP ■ KYIV

Workers digging through rubble found 200 bodies in Mariupol, Ukrainian authorities said Tuesday, another grim discovery in the ruined port city that has seen some of the worst suffering of the 3-month-old war.

The bodies found in the basement of a collapsed apartment building were in a state of decomposition and a stench permeated the neighbourhood, said Petro Andriyushchenko, an adviser to the city's mayor.

Mariupol, which the Russians recently claimed full control over, has endured some of the worst suffering of the war and became a worldwide symbol of defiance for the diehard defense put up for months by fighters at a steelworks.

The announcement of the discovery of the bodies came shortly after Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of waging "total war," seeking to inflict as much death and destruction as possible on his country.

"Indeed, there has not been such a war on the European continent for 77 years," Zelenskyy told Ukrainians Monday night, on the eve of the three-month anniversary of the start of the war.

He pointed to a missile attack that killed 87 people last week in the town of Desna, 55 kilometers north of Kyiv, one of the deadliest single strikes in the war.

"And it was only four missiles," he said, noting the many hundreds of such strikes since the beginning of the war on Feb. 24.

The conflict began with expectations that Russia might overtake the country in a blitz lasting only days or a few



weeks. But stiff Ukrainian resistance, bolstered by Western

weapons, has bogged down Moscow's troops, forcing them

to pursue more a limited objective.

The Kremlin is now focused on the eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas, where Russian forces have intensified efforts to encircle and capture Sievierodonetsk and neighboring cities, British military authorities said Tuesday. That's the only part of the Donbas' Luhansk region that remains under Ukrainian government control.

Russian forces have achieved "some localized successes" despite strong Ukrainian resistance along dug-in positions, the U.K. Defense Ministry said, but the fall of Sievierodonetsk and the area around it may cause logistical problems for the Russians.

"If the Donbas front line moves further west, this will extend Russian lines of communication and likely see its forces face further logistic resupply difficulties," the ministry said.

In its effort to secure a victory in the Donbas, Moscow has withdrawn some forces from around Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv.

There, residents lined up for rations of tea, sugar, pasta and cereal, holding out plastic bags to receive cups of flour and other supplies.

Meanwhile, a Russian-installed official in Ukraine's Kherson region said the pro-Kremlin administration will ask Moscow to set up a military base there.

"It is vitally important and will become a security guarantee for the region and its residents," said Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the administration. Ukrainian officials have speculated Russia plans to stage a referendum in the region to declare its independence, similar to ones held years ago in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of the Donbas.

Moscow recognised the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk republics two days before invading Ukraine, using that as a pretext to send troops to its ex-Soviet neighbor.

Instead, Stremousov said the region would ask the Kremlin to make it part of Russia. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said it is up to the people of Kherson to decide how and where they want to live.

Meeting in Tokyo with fellow leaders in the Indo-Pacific security coalition known as the Quad, President Joe Biden said Tuesday that Russia's war in Ukraine had brought a "dark hour in our shared history."

Global defense leaders on Monday agreed to send more advanced weapons to Ukraine, including a Harpoon launcher and missiles to protect its coast, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told reporters.

Medvedev wins, Shapovalov exits

AP ■ PARIS

World number two Daniil Medvedev eased into the French Open second round on Tuesday as Denmark's Holger Rune reminded Roland Garros that Carlos Alcaraz is not the only teenager dreaming of the title.

Medvedev, who came into Paris with just one match on clay this year following hernia surgery, routed Argentina's 103rd-ranked Facundo Bagnis 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 on the back of 35 winners and eight breaks of serve.

"I love Roland Garros, especially since last year," said Medvedev, who had lost in the opening round on his first four trips to Paris before reaching the quarter-finals in 2021. "I hope this year I can go further."

Rune, 19 and just a week older than the highly-rated Alcaraz, marked his main draw debut with a 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) dismissal of 14th-seeded Canadian Denis Shapovalov.

Rune, the boys champion in 2019 and a former world junior number one, entered Paris at a career-high 40 having started 2021 outside of the top 400.

In the current clay season, he won his first title in Munich, beating world number three Alexander Zverev on the way.

Shapovalov committed 53 unforced errors in a tie played at breakneck speed.

"I didn't really show up today but Holger played great tennis," said Shapovalov, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 2021.

Later Tuesday, fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who lost last year's final to Novak Djokovic after leading two sets to love, has a dangerous assignment against Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in the night session on Court Philippe Chatrier.

The 20-year-old, ranked 66, also led Djokovic by two sets in the last 16 in 2021 before injury curtailed his



challenge.

This year on clay he made the quarter-finals in Marrakech and third round at Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid where he was forced to retire against world num-

ber three Alexander Zverev.

However, Tsitsipas is enjoying an impressive clay court season in which he has successfully defended his Monte Carlo title, was runner-up in Rome and made the semi-finals in

Madrid.

The Greek also enjoys a season-leading 31 wins on the tour this year.

OSTAPENKO IN DOUBT

Two former women's champions

were also in action.

Simona Halep, the 2018 champion, who is working with Serena Williams's coach Patrick Mouratoglou, faces Nastasia Schunk, an 18-year-old lucky loser from qualifying, ranked at 165 in the world.

Jelena Ostapenko, who was a shock Roland Garros winner in 2017, defeated Italy's Lucia Bronzetti 6-1, 6-4 to end a five-match losing streak having started the year winning 14 of 18.

Ostapenko became the latest player to cast doubt on her appearance at Wimbledon after the tournament was stripped of ranking points in response to its banning of Russian and Belarusian players.

"If there are no points, I'm not really sure what I'm going to," said the Latvian.

"I think maybe they are going to change their mind. I'm not sure about points. But I think a lot of things may happen within the next week or two weeks."

BOPANNA-MIDDELKOOP WIN

Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwe Middelkoop progressed to the men's doubles second round of the French Open with an easy straight-set win over local wild cards Sascha Gueymard Wayenburg and Luca Van Assche.

The experienced 16th seeded Indo-Dutch pair had no trouble in dispatching the lower-ranked home combo 6-4, 6-1 in the opening round.

Ramkumar Ramanathan is also in the fray, having teamed up with American Hunter Reese. They are up against the German team of Daniel Altmaier and Oscar Otto.

In the women's doubles, Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka have been seeded 10th and they open their campaign against Italy's Jasmine Paolini and Martina Trevisan.

All three Indians will feature in the mixed



Djoker intends to go to Wimbledon

AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic on Monday said he "intends to go to Wimbledon" to defend his title despite the controversy over the tournament being stripped of ranking points. "Yes, I intend to go to Wimbledon," said Djokovic after overcoming Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in the French Open first round. However, he added that the initial decision of the tournament to ban Russian and Belarusian players following the invasion of Ukraine was a "mistake".

The 35-year-old Djokovic stands to lose 2,000 points due to the decision by the ATP and WTA tours to remove ranking points from Wimbledon in response to the player ban. "On a personal, individual level, I have been very negatively affected by that," said Djokovic. He has already lost 2,000 points by not being able to defend his Australian Open title. "Collectively I'm glad that players got together with ATP and showed to the Grand Slam that when there is a mistake happening, and there was from the Wimbledon side, then we have to show that there is going to be some consequences." Earlier Monday, former world number one Naomi Osaka said she is "leaning towards not playing" Wimbledon.

Xavi says Barca need rebuild but silent on Lewandowski



AP ■ BARCELONA

Coach Xavi Hernandez on Tuesday said his Barcelona team must be rebuilt after a turbulent season but refused to be drawn on whether Robert Lewandowski was a transfer target.

The Catalan giants finished 13 points behind La Liga champions Real Madrid, their campaign ending in a whimper on Sunday with a 2-0 home defeat to Villarreal.

Barcelona were beaten in four of their last nine games in all competitions.

They were on a plane the next morning for their first-ever match in Australia, a friendly against an A-League All-Star team coached by former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke and captained by former Manchester City defender Jack Rodwell.

Xavi has brought 20 players to Sydney, including captain Sergio Busquets, Dani Alves,

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Frenkie de Jong, Memphis Depay and teenage sensation Ansu Fati.

Gerard Pique and teenage forward Pedri were among those missing. "Next season we need to improve a lot, we improved a lot since November," said Barcelona midfielder legend Xavi, who was appointed in November with the team lying ninth.

While he helped revive them and they achieved the most important objective of qualifying for the Champions League, they went out to Frankfurt in the Europa League quarter-finals and in the last 16 of the Copa del Rey.

"I think we are in a good way, we have to be positive. But next season, at least, we need to compete and win the Champions League, why not," said Xavi.

"We are rebuilding the team. We have a plan, of course, and we need to be competitive

next season. We cannot permit another season without winning titles."

Prolific Bayern Munich forward Lewandowski, who was top-scorer in the Bundesliga last season for the fifth year running, has been heavily linked with Barcelona.

Xavi refused to confirm his interest. "I cannot confirm Lewandowski or any other names," he said. "Of course we are working hard and it is obvious that we need to improve."

"It's a matter of time," he added of unveiling new players. "If we have to announce something we will announce it, but it is not the moment right now."

Man Utd need 'major surgery' under Ten Hag: Yorke

AP ■ SYDNEY

Former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke on Tuesday said that new coach Erik ten Hag must perform "major surgery" at the club to get them back to the top.

Yorke, who won three Premier League titles, the Champions League and the FA Cup with United, spent the last fortnight around Old Trafford and saw for himself what needed to be done.

"We (Man Utd) are nowhere near where we are supposed to be, especially with the players that we have in the squad at the moment," he said.

"I spent the last two weeks there and had some more insight into looking where the club is and why we are in that position. He's (Ten Hag) got some major surgery to



repair there, there's work that needs to be done."

United finished a massive 35 points behind Premier League champions Manchester City, who pipped Liverpool to the title by a point, with the Red Devils registering their lowest-ever points tally.

"I'm not sure what his first step needs to be but he must stamp his authority on the team in terms of getting the players united together. That seems to be a bit of a challenge at the moment," added Yorke.

"When you look at our squad we have some fantastic players but the achievement doesn't add up to it. There's some major ground work that needs to be done."

Former Ajax coach Ten Hag is United's fifth permanent manager since the club last won a league title in Alex Ferguson's farewell season in 2013.

Spinazzola back for Finalissima and Nations League

AP ■ MILAN

Leonardo Spinazzola will make his return to the Italy squad after Roberto Mancini named him among 39 players for the European champions' 'Finalissima' clash with Argentina and the Nations League.

Roma full-back Spinazzola was one of the stars of Italy's charge to Euro 2020 glory but ruptured his Achilles tendon during his side's 2-1 quarter-final win over Belgium.

The injury left the 29-year-old out for almost the entire season, only returning to action for Roma earlier this month, and will join the squad after the Conference League final



on Wednesday.

He features in the squad alongside Giorgio Chiellini who will play his final game for the national team when they face Copa America winners Argentina at Wembley on June 1.

Three days after captain Chiellini waves goodbye Italy will then begin their Nations League campaign with the visit of Germany to Bologna, before they host Hungary in Cesena on June 7. Italy then take on

beaten Euro finalists England in Wolverhampton on June 11 and travel to Moenchengladbach to play Germany three days later.

Coach Mancini has given Sassuolo's promising midfielder

Hertha Berlin keep Bundesliga status

AP ■ BERLIN

Hertha Berlin secured their place in the Bundesliga for next season with a 2-0 away win at Hamburg on Monday to take the promotion/relegation play-off 2-1 on aggregate.

An early headed goal by Hertha captain Dedryck Boyata and a speculative second-half free-kick from Marvin Plattenhardt saw Hertha turn their fortunes around in Monday's return leg.

Hertha had lost the first leg 1-0 in Berlin last Thursday, but the visitors flew out of the traps in Hamburg when Boyata



smashed in a header after just four minutes.

Falling behind subdued the hosts, who lacked the composure of the first leg.

After nine straight seasons in the Bundesliga, Hertha

avoided their first relegation since 2011/12.

The aggregate defeat denied Hamburg a return to Germany's top flight after four seasons since their 2018 relegation.

Daive Frattesi and Empoli attacker Andrea Pinamonti their first senior call-ups for the run of fixtures. He selected every player from the Euro-

winning squad apart from the injured Federico Chiesa, Gaetano Castrovilli, Rafael Toloi and Ciro Immobile.



Japan crush India 5-2 in Asia Cup hockey

PTI ■ JAKARTA

A new-look Indian team paid for its inexperience and profligacy with Asian champions Japan soundly thrashing them 5-2 in a group A league match of the men's Asia Cup hockey championship here on Tuesday.

Having drawn against Pakistan in the opening game, India's chances after this defeat will be badly dented as even a big win against Indonesia in the last game might not be enough for qualification to the knock-out stages.

Ken Nagayoshi, Kosei Kawabe (twice), Ryomi Ooka and Koji Yamasaki scored for Japan while Pawan Rajbhar and Uttam Singh found the target for the Indians.

However, the younger crop of players didn't measure up against the Japanese, who looked more organised and hit India repeatedly on the counters.

India fizzled out in the sec-

ond quarter after that initial spark, in the 24th minute, Ken Nagayoshi converted the penalty corner with a powerful angular drive that beat a diving Suraj all ends up.

It was in the 40th minute Japan made it 2-0 in a counter-attack with Kosei Kawabi snatching the ball from the Indian midfield and sprinting down the right wing running left-back Dipsan Turkey ragged with his speed.

India found something going their way in the dying moments of the third quarter when veteran Birendra Lakra kept a powerful assist inside the striking circle meeleo and the big-bodied centre forward Pawan Rajbhar was in the right place to lay his stick for a perfect deflection that found the top corner of the net.

The final quarter once again saw the Indians going all out and conceding a goal against the run of play in the 48th minute.

Miller takes GT to final

RCB vs LSG in eliminator

Former Royals star hits three back-to-back sixes to seal Titans 7-wicket win



PTI ■ KOLKATA

David Miller hit three effortless sixes which looked like action replays as Gujarat Titans, under their inspirational skipper Hardik Pandya, made a mockery of all the odds to reach the final of IPL-15 with a seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals on Tuesday. On a track that was two-paced, Royals rode on Jos Buttler's 56-ball-89 to post 188 for six in 20 overs, which seemed like a winning total considering the pressure of the occasion.

But Pandya (40 no off 27 balls) and Miller (68 off 38 balls) added 101 runs in exactly 10 overs to seal the deal with three balls to spare.

For a team which many tipped to finish last because of some out-of-the-box picks, turned out to be the most consistent and will now play the final in front of its home crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium, with more than 100,000 people cheering them on. No praise is enough for new 'Captain Cool' Pandya, who always looked in control even when things didn't seem to go his team's way.

One of the cleanest hitters, Pandya took the game deep with some well-placed boundaries which allowed Miller to take his time before unleashing five huge sixes - three off the last over from Prasidh Krishna, when the bowler completely lost his nerve.

The best part about Panya's captaincy was not taking any risks against the opposition's best bowler Yuzvendra Chahal (0/32 in 4 overs) but left it to his partner, who hit two huge sixes to ease the pressure. Once Trent Boult (1/38 in 4 overs)

and Chahal were done, it was left to the day's worst performer, Obed McCoy (1/40 in 4 overs), to bowl a good 19th over with Titans requiring 23 off 12 balls.

McCoy used his back of the hand slower balls to perfection as only seven came off the over, leaving Krishna with 16 runs to defend but it took Miller three balls to nail it, all in the length slots.

At the start of chase, Wriddhiman Saha (0) was all at sea against Boult and edged one that moved in and then straightened after pitching. Matthew Wade (35 off 30 balls) and Shubman Gill (35 off 21 balls) didn't let it affect their batting as they added 72 for the second wicket to keep the chase on course. Gill started slowly but then launched into Ravichandran Ashwin with a six over long-off followed by two boundaries on both sides of the square.

Wade also carried on briskly before a big mix-up ended in Gill's run-out. Skipper Pandya started with a square cut off McCoy before the bowler got Wade in the same over when Buttler took a well-judged catch at deep mid-wicket.

Earlier, Buttler enjoyed copious amount of luck and displayed a fair bit of pluck during an innings of 89, which took Rajasthan Royals to a challenging total after being put into bat. The Orange Cap-holder Buttler, who had failed to get his act together in the second half of the season, got off to a slow start but made full use of a couple of dropped catches during his knock, which was studied with 12 fours and two sixes.

Buttler, who now has 718 runs in 15 games, scored 39 off his first 38 balls and then smashed another 50 off his next 18 deliveries.

Buttler was also fortunate to get two reprieves -- first on 43 -- when Hardik Pandya slipped to miss a sitter, and then Rashid Khan grassed him on 69. He then took on Alzarri Joseph, smashing three boundaries in an over to accelerate his scoring before getting run-out in the final over.

First up, it was Sanju Samson's swagger that was on full display as the Royals skipper, seemingly hurt by the latest India selection snub, responded in style with a 26-ball 47 (5x4, 3x6). At a time when Buttler struggled to get going, the wicket-keeper-batter dealt in boundaries in his entertaining powerplay display.

Samson shared 68-run stand with Buttler, of which 47 came off the former's blade that summed up the domination from the Royals skipper after they were put in.

He looked ominous from the first ball itself, when he lofted Dayal over long-on for an effortless six.

Titans pace duo of Mohammed Shami and Alzarri Joseph struggled with their line and lengths as Sanju made full use of that to take the score to 55/1 in six overs.

Just when they were looking to go out of control, none other than the wily Afghan spinner put on the brakes, coming into bowl after the power-play. With the ball gripping on the dry surface, Rashid cleverly used his variations against his 'bunny' Buttler as the Englishman struggled to rotate the strike. He conceded just two runs from the second over that seemingly put pressure on Sanju to take on Sai Kishore in the next over as he perished to a flighted delivery.

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Virat Kohli's return to form and a rather dramatic entry into the IPL play-offs will make Royal Challengers Bangalore a more confident unit when they meet a top-heavy Lucknow Super Giants in the Eliminator here on Wednesday.

After a string of low scores, Kohli found his rhythm enroute to a scintillating 54-ball 73 in their last match against Gujarat Titans. This was his only second fifty this season.

Kohli's return to form will be a big plus to their top-order which often has struggled to get going in the power-play.

Add Dinesh Karthik's new-found finishing exploits, a quality pace trio in Josh Hazlewood, Wanindu Hasaranga and Harshal Patel who would look to embrace the seam-friendly Eden conditions, and Faf du Plessis's calm and astute captaincy, RCB will be upbeat in their quest of an elusive IPL title.

Having featured in three IPL finals, RCB are one star-studded outfit which has failed to live up to its fans' expectations time and again. But this time under a three-time IPL winner in du Plessis, RCB look more balanced especially on the pace bowling front.

RCB's experience in batting certainly will weigh heavily against the young LSG pace attack of Avesh Khan and Mohsin Khan.

Lucknow also have the experienced duo of Jason Holder and Dushmanta Chameera but they have been inconsistent this season, something that can be a cause of concern for the KL Rahul-led outfit. A key battle for RCB would be against the Lucknow Super Giants opening duo of K L Rahul and Quinton de Kock — by far the best opening pair of this IPL — sitting pretty on second and third places in the top run getters' list.

But this also will be the team's weakness as the Lucknow franchise lacks a quality middle and lower order, barring Deepak Hooda who has four half-centuries this season.

The likes of Marcus Stoinis, Krunal Pandya, Ayush Badoni and Holder have failed to impress and it's high time that they get into their acts in a virtual quarter-final.

Lucknow vs Bangalore

Live from 7:30pm IST

STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Velocity beat Supernovas by 7 wkts

Ganguly not worried about Rohit, Kohli's form



PTI ■ PUNE

The swashbuckling Shafali Verma blazed away at the top before Laura Wolvaardt's unbeaten half century as Velocity overhauled a stiff target to get the better of Supernovas by seven wickets in the Women's T20 Challenge

Chasing a challenging target, Velocity lost Natthakan Chantham (1) early but the big-hitting Shafali decided to go all guns blazing as the team raced to 60 for the loss of only one wicket by the time the six power plays came to an end.

Shafali reached her half century in quick time, needing only 28 runs to get to the landmark. She did so in style, pulling Deandra Dottin for a boundary over midwicket.

Though she managed to score only 17 off 13 balls, Yastika Bhatia gave Shafali company when the team needed it the most, having suffered an early blow.

Shafali got out after scoring an aggressive 51 off 33 balls, the successful bowler being Dottin, but the experienced duo of Wolvaardt and Sharma ensured the Velocity were home without much difficulty.

Earlier, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur top-scored with a blistering 51-ball 71 as Supernovas posted 150 for five.

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma's abysmal form in the IPL is not a matter of concern as he will be back among the runs soon, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said on Tuesday.

The record five-time IPL winning Mumbai Indians skipper had a woeful season finishing with 268 runs from 14 innings at an average of 19.14 with a modest strike-rate 120.17 as their team finished at the bottom of the standings this season.

"Everybody is human. There will be mistakes but Rohit's record as captain is outstanding. Five IPL titles, Asia Cup winner, he has won whatever he has captained, so his record as captain is outstanding. Mistakes will happen

‘Umran’s future in his own hands’

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer Umran Malik has been one of the finds of the IPL with his raw pace, clocking consistently over 150 kmph to get a maiden India call-up for the T20 series. "His future is in hands. If he stays fit and bowls at this pace, I'm sure he will be around for a long time."

"Many have played well in this IPL. Tilak (Varma) has done well for MI. Rahul (Tripathi) for Sunrisers, Tewatia for GT.

"We have seen many

because they are all human," Ganguly said. Before the last match where he scored a fiery

fifty against Kolkata Knight Riders, former India captain Kohli also endured his worst-

Vettori named Oz assistant coach

Phoenix in England's The Hundred.

"It's a very strong and unified group which has the potential to have a very rewarding and hopefully successful period ahead," Vettori said of the Australian squad.

Andre Borovec of Victoria, who has worked with the squad on select tours for the past year, was also made an assistant and will coach Australia A in Sri Lanka next month prior to the national team's two-Test series there.

Their appointments follow the elevation of McDonald to head coach in April after Justin Langer quit, and the departure of Jeff Vaughan to coach Tasmania.

"I have worked with Daniel previously and could not speak more highly of his approach, work ethic and rapport he brings," he added.

"His experience and balanced style are well documented. He is a great fit and will bring an enormous amount of knowledge to the team."

McDonald's team already boasts batting coach Michael Di Venuto, spin coach Sri Sriram and former Test seam bowler Clint McKay.

AP ■ SYDNEY

Daniel Vettori on Tuesday was named as an assistant to Australian cricket coach Andrew McDonald, who said the former New Zealand captain's knowledge and experience would be invaluable.

All-rounder Vettori played 113 Tests and 295 One-Day Internationals for the Black Caps and worked alongside McDonald with Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League.

He will continue as head coach of the Birmingham

How Arshdeep Singh ‘yorked’ his way into Indian team

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young-left arm pacer Arshdeep Singh says clarity of mind, attained through yoga and meditation, has helped him perfect the art of bowling yorkers, a rare ability that has pushed him into the Indian T20 side for the South Africa series.

The 23-year-old from Kharar humbly accepts the success that has come his way in the IPL but says he really had to "earn everything".

It may seem that landing yorkers, at will, comes naturally to the lanky fast bowler but he put in the extra work with his personal coach Jaswant Rai ahead of the IPL to hone his coveted skill.

Yoga and meditation has also helped him stay calm in high-pressure scenarios.

"It (meditation) clears the mind. When there is pressure, there is no substitute to clarity. Being able to stay calm surely helps in a big way," Arshdeep said.

Back at home after a gruelling couple of months in the IPL, Arshdeep is getting some much-needed rest at home but it won't be long before he joins the Indian squad for the South Africa series beginning in Delhi on June 9.

He bowled more with the old ball than new ball this IPL season with Punjab relying on him heavily in the slog overs.

Only one of the two players to be retained by the franchise, Arshdeep repaid the faith by ending up with an economy rate of 7.31 in the death overs, the best among



bowlers who bowled more than 10 overs in that critical phase.

"My role depended on team combination, match ups are a big thing in T20 cricket. I bowled with the new ball, in the middle as well as death.

"Whatever the team combination for a particular game was, the role changed accordingly. You have to be adaptable in this format."

He ended with 10 wickets with an economy rate of 7.70 but it was his death over game that earned plaudits from the experts.

The internet too raved as he got his yorkers right ball after all.

‘DON'T RATE MY PERFORMANCE’

"Expecting nothing and be ready for everything," Arshdeep swears by these words and that is how he is approaching his first series as a India cricketer.

He got the taste of life as an India cricketer when he travelled to Sri Lanka as a net bowler last year. That was the time he also got to work with Paras Mhambrey who straightened his run up so that he could swing the ball better.

He had burst on the scene in 2018 U-19 World Cup in New Zealand, where India won, but he did not get to play in all the games.

Talking about the rapid strides he has made in the last five years, he said, "The journey has been satisfying. There were struggles."

"Whenever I get the opportunity I try to enjoy and make the most of it. Whether I play or not, it is a team game. The team has to win. My focus is on giving my 100% before I go off to sleep every day."

"I am just happy to be in the Indian team. I don't rate my performance at all. I am just doing my job. If I think about all those things then thoughts will come up and mind will get blurred."

"I feel I don't need to change anything for the highest level. I just want to maintain my consistency," Arshdeep signed off.

This is my most special comeback because...: DK

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik feels his latest recall to the Indian team is his "most special comeback" of a rollercoaster international career that began way back in 2004.

Karthik made the squad for India's home T20 series against South Africa beginning June 9.

"This is my most special comeback because a lot of people had given up on me. For me to comeback and do what I did, practice the way I did, so many special things have happened in the lead up to the rock-shell and how I practiced post that," the 36-year-old told the RCB

website.

Karthik forced the selectors to pick him after displaying exemplary finishing skills in the IPL. He had last played for India in the 2019 ODI World Cup.

He praised the Royal Challengers Bangalore team management for backing him strongly for the finisher's role.

"I think the clarity that they gave me for me to execute the role that I wanted to do, in many ways I am indebted to RCB for picking me and giving me that role, believing in me and then me coming out here and trying to do my best for team RCB. So, it's all and all a very very happy feeling."

The main goal for Karthik is to play the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year.

"There are so many young boys who would be putting up their name for selection, to see the skillset that is out there and believe that this is the guy we need for the World Cup. I think it is a very very humbling feeling. I know that journey is still there to the World Cup but being a part of the scheme of things and getting the opportunity to showcase my skills, I am very proud of it," he added.