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ALBANESE WILL FOSTER
INDIA ENGAGEMENT

WORLD 8

WAR RAGES IN EAST, 200
BODIES FOUND IN MARIUPOL

MONEY 10

'INDIAN FIRMS SHOW RESILIENCE
DESPITE COVID DISRUPTION'

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SPINAZZOLA
BACK FOR
FINALISSIMA
12 SPORTQuad agenda aids peace
in Indo-Pacific, says PMBloc opposes
unilateral actions
that seek to change
status quo in regionPNS/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

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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.

Biden vows to make India-US
relations among world's closestUS President
praises Modi for
Covid handling
democraticallyPNS /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 peo-

ple-to-people linkages." 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 semiconductors. The new mechanism under the iCET will be co-led by India's National Security Council Secretariat and the US National Security Council.

Punjab Minister sacked,
held for 1% cut demandProud of you Bhagwant.
Your action has brought
tears to my eyes, says
Delhi CM Kejriwal

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



File Photo

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 superintending engineer Rajinder Singh working on deputation in Punjab Health System Corporation (PHSC), too was arrested in the matter.

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



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

to implement the Udaipur "Nav 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.

Court to hear Gyanvapi
case tomorrow, invites
objections to panel report

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 the maintainability of the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi mosque lawsuit on May 26. It has invited objections from both Hindu and Muslim sides to the report submitted by a civil court-appointed commission within a week. District judge 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. The committee has raised questions on the maintainability of

the suit filed by five women (plaintiffs).

On Tuesday afternoon, 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 on 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 Ravi Kumar Diwakar seeking permission to worship at Shringar Gauri temple and for preservation of other idols located in Gyanvapi mosque complex.

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.

In Ganjam

Girl hangs self after lover ends life

As families reject their relationship
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ BRAHMAPUR

A young girl hanged self after her lover also died by suicide over rejection of their relationship by their families

at Samantarapur village under the Jarada police station in Ganjam district on Tuesday. The deceased duo was identified as Sonu Behera and Sunita Pradhan.

According to reports, Sonu took the extreme step by hanging himself from a tree after his family did not agree

for his marriage with Sunita. When the girl found him hanging from a tree near his house, she rushed to the suicide spot. But the family members of Sonu blamed Sunita for his death and abused her. Unable to bear the shock of losing her lover, she also ended her life

shortly later by hanging self with her dupatta (a long scarf) from another tree about half a kilometer from the Sonu's suicide site. On receiving information about suicides of the lovers, the Jarada police reached the spots and began a probe into the incidents.

In Sundargarh

Student dies during +2 exam

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

A student died during the ongoing Plus Two examination at the Bonaigarh College in Sundargarh district on Tuesday. He was identified as Md Arbaj, a resident of Juniani village under the Lahunipara police station. Arbaj, a Plus II Science student, fell unconscious while appearing in the annual examination in the college, following which he was rushed to the Sub-Divisional Hospital

in Bonai, where he was declared dead. "Arbaj suddenly fell down just 30 minutes before completion of the examination. We took him to the hospital where the doctors declared him dead," said a classmate of Arbaj. On receiving the information, his family members rushed to the hospital. The cause of death was yet to be ascertained. A pall of gloom descended on the college following the incident.

INBRIEF

NO DARSHAN AT SHREEMANDIR FOR 4 HRS TODAY

Puri: Darshan at the Jagannath Temple here will be suspended for devotees for a period of four hours on Wednesday due to a special ritual of the deities to be held on auspicious Krushna Paksha Dasami Tithi in the month of Jyestha. "After completion of second Bhogamandap rituals, public darshan will remain suspended from 4 pm to 8 pm for Banaklaji Niti (makeup ritual) of deities," informed the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) on Tuesday.



LADU BABA CHANDAN YATRA BOAT OVERTURNS

Nayagarh: A boat carrying as many as 27 persons overturned in a pond during the Chandan Yatra of Lord Ladu Baba at Sarankul in Nayagarh district on Monday evening. The mishap took place when the Chapa Khela ritual of the deity was underway on the decorated boat in the Chandan Pokhari near the temple. The boat was also carrying the idol of the deity. People who were watching the ritual jumped into the pond and saved the victims and recovered the idol.

OSL DONATES RS 10L TO MANAM FOUNDATION

Cuttack: The Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) has donated Rs 10 lakh to the Manam Foundation, an NGO engaged in improving, developing, and sustaining mental health of various target groups that need special attention and efforts for their mental wellness. The cheque was handed over to the foundation's founder Dr Anuradha Mahapatra. OSL Group CMD Mahimananda Mishra said, "We firmly believe there is not only an opportunity but an obligation for the private sector to play a critical role in addressing problems."

4 CHILDREN HURT IN CRACKER BLAST IN JSPUR

Jagatsinghpur: Four minor children were injured in a firecracker explosion at Kanakpur village under Tirtol block on Sunday evening. They were admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital here. The children, all below 10 years old, were playing in the street when they found a cracker. They collected the cracker and set it on fire. The cracker burst in their close proximity.

EX-RAILWAY EMPLOYEE DIES IN ROAD MISHAP

Jagatsinghpur: A retired railway employee, Chaitanya Patra, died in a road mishap at Kania Chhak on the Jagatsinghpur-Balikuda road on Sunday. Patra used to go for morning near Kania Chhak road every day. His body was lying on the road on the fateful morning. A helmet and a few accessories of a motorbike were spotted on the site. A preliminary police investigation revealed that an unknown bike hit Patra; and after the accident the biker fled.

PADDY PROCUREMENT BEGINS IN BALANGIR

Balangir: District Collector Chanchal Rana on Tuesday flagged off the procurement of Rabi paddy at the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS) here. In the first phase, 1.50 lakh quintals of paddy are to be purchased. Six SHGs and 100 PACS have been involved and 50 millers have been tagged in this process. A total of 6,124 farmers have been registered and 4,900 tokens have been issued in the first phase. "Keeping in view reports of early arrival of monsoon, we have instructed the PACS to purchase paddy on all days except Sunday," said District Civil Supplies Officer MA Ali.

HUMAN SKELETON FOUND IN BUSH IN BARGARH

Bargarh: Fishermen of Garvana village under the Sohela police limits found a human skeleton in a bush while they were fishing at the Bhangakata pond on Tuesday. Being informed, police came and seized the skeleton. The skeleton had flesh and a woman inner wear with it. So, it was assumed that it was a woman's skeleton, which was four to five months old. Police registered a case, began investigation into the case and sent the skeleton for a DNA test.



GAJAPATI TEACHER GETS B'PUR SAMMAN

Paralakhemundi: Gajapati district Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya teacher and writer Dambarudhara Behera was felicitated at the Mahanagar Mahotsav in Brahmapur for his contribution in the field of literature. He received citation of "Brahmapur Mahanagar Mahotsav Sahitya Samman-2022" from Brahmapur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu and MLA Bikram Panda.



ROAD SAFETY SUPPORT BY JSWBPSL

Bhubaneswar: The JSWBPSL has taken several initiatives under the leadership of its director Anil Kumar Singh to promote road safety. In furtherance to this cause, VP (administration) DK Sinha has handed over 20 mobile road barriers to Thelkoloi police station IIC Bindu Bhushan Mishra in the presence of AVP security & vigilance MK Singh.



PARÉE SANITARY PADS INITIATIVE

Bhubaneswar: Parée Sanitary Pads, a homegrown brand by Soothe the Healthcare, has been actively working towards pedestalising the issue of menstrual health of women in India.



Civic body chief discloses Phulbani dev plan

Rues dist admn apathy
PNS ■ PHULBANI

The District Press Club, Phulbani welcomed Phulbani Municipality Chairperson Smitarani Mohanty after she assumed office for the first time. Press Club president Sunil Pattnaik welcome her. Secretary Prasant Behera and working president Ashok Kumar Parida approached her for the development of the town.

The Chairperson put forth before the Press about her vision for the Phulbani



Municipality. She said her priority is restoration of three ponds, a bus stop for school children, CCTV installation, RO water, construction of vending zone, illumination of street lights with tricolour strips, development of Narayani hill top as a tourist spot, construction of market complex, upgraded public toilets, proper parking place,

a decomposed state. Locals, who had experienced foul smell emanating from the house, informed the Uditnagar police as they suspected foul play. Police reached the spot, entered the house by breaking open the door and recovered the body. The cops also rescued the mentally-challenged

woman and admitted her to the Rourkela Government Hospital. The body was sent for postmortem. Police said the cause of the death can be ascertained after submission of the autopsy report.

Notably, the deceased woman's husband Narottam Puri had died of Covid-19 last year.

In Balangir

Dead lizard in food; 20 ITI students sick

PNS ■ BALANGIR

As many as 20 students of the Larkipali Government ITI hostel in Balangir district fell sick after consuming meals in which a dead lizard had fallen on Tuesday.

All the sick students were admitted to the Bhima Bhoi Medical College Hospital.

As per reports, several

students of the hostel consumed the meal on Monday night. Later, a student found a lizard in the meal.

Getting information, the hostel in-charge directed to dispose of the rest food items.

However, several students complained of severe stomach pain at late night following which they were admitted to

the hospital immediately. The conditions of all the students are stated to be stable.

The hostel in-charge has ordered a probe into the incident.

"The unfortunate incident happened due to the negligence of the cooks and their associates. Strong action would be taken against them," the hostel in-charge said.

'Resume Sub-Collector camp court'

Demand Umarkote lawyers
PNS ■ UMARKOTE

The members of the Umarmkote Bar Association have demanded regular Sub-Collector camps here.

In a Press meet held on Monday the bar members argued that the people under Umarmkote, Raigarh, Jharigam and Chandahandi tehsil, who have cases pending in the Court of the Sub-Collector, Nabarangpur, are facing difficulties due to non-

functioning of the camp court here. Earlier, the Sub-Collector was conducting hearing of the cases pertaining to OLR, OSATIP and allied appeal cases for one day every month here but it was stopped since the outbreak of Covid pandemic.

"But after the normalisation no camp courts are held here as a result of which the local litigants are undergoing a harrowing time. Particularly, people from the SC and ST communities deprived of their rightful ownership to the land are at the receiving end," alleged the lawyers.

Despite several petitions to the district administration, people continue to be deprived of justice as cases linger for years, at times even without trial, they added.

Umarkote Municipality is a commercial hub of Nabarangpur district bordering Maoist-infested Chhattisgarh to its west. It is 60 km from the district headquarters. A proposal for creation of another new Sub Division was put forth by the district administration in 1990, but that is yet to be realized, the lawyers further added.

Social media brings saviour to donate blood



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

While social media is known sometimes for all bad reasons, on a few occasions it comes out as saviour of the distressed also.

In a strange but real instance, one Balaram Mahini of Chakapad village in Kalahandi district was undergoing treatment in the MKCG Medical College Hospital here. He was critically ill suffering from piles and doctors said he badly needed

blood to save his life. Balaram's family members made all-out efforts to get A+ (positive) blood but in vain.

In view of the family's anxiety, some social activists posted Balaram's case in social media; and seeing this, one Siva Gantagharia came to a hospital as an angel and donated blood for Balaram. Balaram got a second life; and he and his family conveyed their gratefulness to Siva and the social activists for this noble gesture.

AP officials visit Ganjam cyclone shelter



Get firsthand info on Odisha disaster mgmt
PNS ■ CHHATRAPUR

A team of Andhra Pradesh disaster management officials on Monday visited a multipurpose cyclone shelter at Prayagi village of Ramagada panchayat under Ganjam block. The team consisting of Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Director Dr BR

Ambedkar, Executive Director Dr E Nagaraju, Meteorologist Dr MM Ali and Project Coordinator B Prasad interacted with the members of shelter management committee, block and district administration officials.

The team was apprised on systematic management of multipurpose cyclone shelter centers, security of locals during cyclone, early forecast of all types of natural calamities, loss and damage assessment and estimation,

relief distribution and resettlement, etc. Ganjam ADM Priyaranjan Prusti, BDO Biswajit Rai, District Emergency Officer Sukanta Chandra Mishra, Ramagad Sarapanch Santosini Behera and shelter committee secretary Satyanarayan Gouda were present during the visit of AP team. The members of Swayamsidha group staged various rescue operation methods and first aid techniques before the visiting team.

Cancer diagnosis camp held in Bargarh

PNS ■ BARGARH

The Marwari Yuba Manch and Jagruti Sakha, Bargarh, organised a two-day free cancer detection camp here. The camp was inaugurated by Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari.

A van equipped with a mobile laboratory and doctors and paramedical staff held diagnosis of the nearby residents on the inaugural day. Rajya Sabha MP Prasanna Acharya, MLA Debesh Acharya and Chairman Bargarh Municipality Kalpana Majhi were present as distinguished guests on the second day. The camp was run



by the doctors and staff of Vikash Multi Specialist Hospital, Bargarh.

Advocate Mahesh Agrawal, the project director of the camp, said that the coverage of people would be more in such camps in coming days. Among others, Yuba Manch president Giridhari Agrawal,

general secretary Sunil Agrawal, treasurer Pankaj Agrawal, Jagruti Sakha president Nisha Goel, general secretary Priyanka Sharma, treasurer Poonam Agrawal, project coordinator Sumit Sawadia, Sandip Gupta, Jaya Prakash Lath and Giridhar Agrawal were present.

Denial of facilities

Port workers to launch stir from tomorrow

PNS ■ PARADIP

The Paradip Port and Dock Workers' Union (PWDU) will launch a stir from May 26 demanding various facilities for General Proposed Majdoo (GPM) workers who have been working in the port for last 30 years. It is worth noting that these workers have been working as part-time workers since the 1980s. There is no vacation for them and still the payment basis is 'no work no pay.' There is no accommodation or medical facilities for them.



Despite repeated appeals to the port authorities and the Stevedores Association, no action has been taken under the Government's labor law, alleged the union.

The Press conference was attended by Union vice-presidents Akshay Kumar Patnaik and Dhaneshwar Jena and general secretary Sanatan Behera.

Naxals on backfoot, peace restored in Bastar: Baghel

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said that Naxalites were now on the backfoot and that peace has been restored in Bastar.

Talking to reporters in Dantewada, he said people of Bastar were now coming back to the mainstream as they were fed up with bloodshed.

The scenario in Bastar, once considered a bastion of Maoists, was fast changing and people in the region were moving ahead shoulder to shoulder with the government, he said.

The Chhattisgarh government was acting on building trust, development and security and winning the hearts in Bastar, he said.



Citing that the numbers of minor forest produce had been increased from 7 to 65,

the Chief Minister said value addition of amchur and mahua had increased the

income of tribal populace. The mahua of Bastar was now exported and home-

“The scenario in Bastar, once considered a bastion of Maoists, was fast changing and people in the region were moving ahead shoulder to shoulder with the government”

grown clothing brand Dannex was all set to do business globally, he said.

Polling for two Rajya Sabha seats on June 10



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Election Commission on Tuesday issued a notification for the election of two Rajya Sabha seats falling vacant in Chhattisgarh.

The last date for filing nominations is May 31 (Tuesday). Their scrutiny will take place on June 1. The last date for withdrawal of names is June 3. Voting will be held on June 10 and the counting of votes will happen after polling gets over at 5 pm.

The notification said that candidates can



present nomination papers to the Returning Officer, Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha, till May 31.

Of the 90 members of the Chhattisgarh assembly, 71 of the Congress, 14 of the Bharatiya Janata Party, 3 of the Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) and 2 members of the Bahujan Samaj Party will exercise their franchise.

Chhattisgarh has five Rajya Sabha seats. The tenure of two Rajya Sabha members, Ramvihar Netam (BJP) and Chhaya Verma (Congress), will end on June 29.

C'garh to observe Jheeram Shradhanjali Diwas today

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

This year too, the Chhattisgarh government will observe May 25 as 'Jheeram Shradhanjali Diwas' in memory of all those killed in Naxalite violence.

All government and semi-government offices will observe a two-minute silence on Wednesday and pay tributes to those who have died.

They will take a pledge to make the state again an island of peace, an official statement said on Tuesday.

On May 25, 2013, senior Congress leaders in the state as well as security personnel were martyred by Maoists in Jheeram Valley.

On May 25, 2013, senior Congress leaders in the state as well as security personnel were martyred by Maoists in Jheeram Valley.

Similarly, many persons have been killed in Naxalite incidents in recent years, the statement added.

Four held for killing man

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Tuesday arrested four persons including two minors for killing a man a few days ago in Raipur city.

Raipur Additional Superintendent of Police (Urban) Tarkeshwar Patel identified them as Jeetu Mahanand (22), Daulat Nirmalkar (20) and two minor boys, all from Raipur.

A mutilated body of the victim, identified as Vishek Sendre, was found on a railway track near the DRM Office in Raipur on Saturday.

The post mortem revealed that Sendre was attacked with sharp weapons.

The police learnt that Sendre was last spotted with one of the minors. He was detained.

He confessed his involvement in the crime and named the three others.

The minor boy told the police he had a heated argument with Sendre after handing over his mobile phone to him (Sendre) to sell it.

They took the victim on a motorcycle on Saturday, killed him and threw his body on a railway track to portray it as accidental death.

Crop insurance benefit extended to C'garh farmers

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday launched and extended the benefit of the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance and weather-based insurance claim amount for horticulture crops to farmers from Dantewada.

Under the insurance scheme for Rabi and Horticulture crops, as many as 1.5 lakh farmers of 17 districts of the state received the claim amount of total Rs 307 crore.



An official communication said Chhattisgarh was the leading state in the country in terms of payment of insurance claims to farmers for Rabi crops.

Baghel extended the

benefit to farmers from Dantewada during his tour to Bastar region under the Bhent-Mulaqat Abhiyan.

To ensure the timely distribution of crop insurance claim amount to

farmers, the Chief Minister did an online launch of the distribution process.

Addressing the launch function, he said that under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana, about 1.45 lakh farmers of 17 districts were to be paid Rs 297.09 crore as insurance claim.

Chhattisgarh is running the highest number of farmer welfare schemes in the country. It is also leading in terms of implementing the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana and providing its benefits to the farmers of the state, he said.

C'garh urban bodies financially empowered

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government has financially empowered urban local bodies across the state.

By notifying the amendment in the Municipal Act of 1998, the Municipal Commissioners of Municipal Corporations with more than 10 lakh people will now have financial power of Rs 1.5 crore.

The corporation will have a financial power of Rs



6-10 crore.

Similarly, the Municipal Commissioners of municipalities having a population 3-10 lakhs will have a finan-

cial power of Rs 1 crore while the municipality will have a power of Rs 10 crore.

Following this, the Urban Administration and Development Department has provided ward wise amount to all the municipal corporations.

The department has asked the commissioners of all municipal corporations to send proposals for infrastructure development works, giving information about the approval of the amount.

The Urban Administration and

Development Department has sanctioned Rs 10.50 crore for wards in Raipur Municipal Corporation at the rate of Rs 15 lakh per ward.

For Bhilai and Bilaspur Municipal Corporations, a total of Rs 7 crore each has been approved at the rate of Rs 10 lakh per ward.

An amount of Rs 8 lakh has been sanctioned for Korba, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Jagdalpur, Raigarh, Ambikapur, Birgaon, Dhamtari, Bhilai-Charoda, Risali and Chirmiri Municipal Corporations.



The Regional Science Centre in Raipur will reopen from May 29. Shut during the Covid pandemic, it showcases science models and helps develop student interest in science, explaining the subject in a simple way.

Pioneer Photo

Glazing unit will boost income of potters: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Inaugurating a glazing unit at Kumharras in Dantewada district on Tuesday, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said it will help in enhancing skills and boost the income of potters. It will also provide them with better market opportunities.

“There is a huge potential in our folk art and for their full exploitation, the Matikala Board is working to encourage the establishment of glazing units,” he said.

Baghel said the potters will be able to prepare attractive clay products in less time with the help of



modern machines in the glazing unit. The potters will have a display unit in one place which will also help them tap a wider market.

The Chief Minister inspected the premises and took a glimpse at the machines at the unit. He saw the products prepared by the

potters. The potters presented him a statue of ‘Gajraj’ made by them, an official communication said.

Baghel emphasized the importance of training saying it will help to enhance the skills and increase the business prospects.

CM promises hostel, bus for school children

STAFF REPORTER ■ BASTAR

After hearing the concerns of a mother, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday promised to build hostels along with schools and operate bus services so that students can easily commute.

Baghel not only thanked the woman, Chandrika Thakur, for her practical suggestion but announced that monetary provision will be made for this in the next budget.

During the interaction with people in Bade Kilpal village in Chitrakot assembly constituency, Chandrika Thakur said that both her children study in a Swami Atmanand English

Medium School.

But she said that she faces the problem of dropping them off to the school as it is situated far away. As her husband has to remain away from the family on a regular basis due to work pressure, at times the children are unable to attend the school.

She suggested that the government should build hostels along with the Swami Atmanand Schools so that children coming from far off places get a place to stay and study.

If the construction of a hostel is not feasible, then school bus services can be started for the Atmanand School so that the children can regularly attend the school with ease, she said.

CM opens Eco-Resort, to employ ex-Naxalites

STAFF REPORTER ■ CHITRAKOT

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday inaugurated an Eco Tourism Resort in village Chitrakot during his visit to Dantewada district.

The site was a Special Task Force Camp, which has been renovated as a resort. It will employ 10 mainly surrendered Maoists and family members of Naxalite victims.

The resort has been built at a cost of Rs 2.90 crores, an official communication said.

It has dormitories for children coming for studies from the interior areas. It has a roof top restaurant. River rafting will be made available



for tourists.

The resort has been constructed by the district

administration. It will be operated by the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board.

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 reiterate 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.

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

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

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

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju 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," Rijju 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

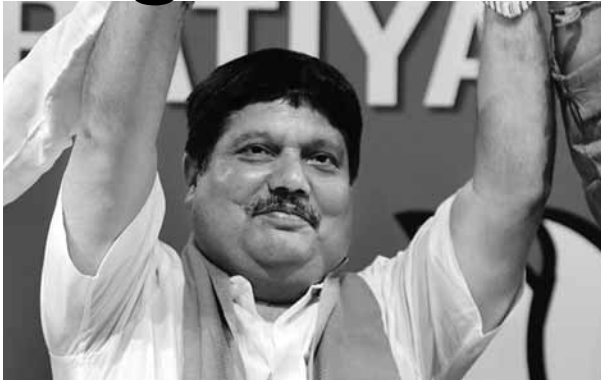
SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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 gharwapsi 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 the TMC 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.

Yogi, Akhilesh face-off over crimes 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 crimes 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 hoodliganism.”

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 Track Courts and separate POCSO 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.”

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 inten-

tions 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 ATS arrests LeT operative from Pune

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

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

Sahasrabuddhe 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 Sahasrabuddhe and Vikas Mahatme or replace them with others.

The nominations for the June 10 RS polls began on Tuesday, while the last date for nominations is May 31. The nominations will be scrutinised on June 1, while the deadline for withdrawals is June 3.



People use a boat to move from a flood-affected village to a safer place after heavy rain, in Morigaon district of Assam on, Tuesday PTI

UP Govt to give jobs to 26,000 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.

UP Govt generates revenue of ₹400 cr through ‘Mine Mitra’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government has raised a revenue of Rs 400 crore from mining business through its portal ‘Mine Mitra’, which is used to issue transit passes through its Mineral Management Services.

A Government official said, “A total of 2.16 crore transit passes were provided under EMM-11, 9.22 lakh under E-Farm C and 38.87 lakh under ISTP of Mineral Management Services since 2017. Besides, online payment was made to 506 leasees and 2,154 brick kilns since July 2020.”

The ‘Mine Mitra’ portal was developed by the Yogi government to bring transparency into mining business, check ille-

gal activities and provide accountable e-services to common people, farmers, leasees and transporters.

The portal also aimed at ending monopolies in the mining industry, encouraging legal mining and providing a level playing field for new entrepreneurs to ensure transparency in the business and increase the state’s revenue.

The portal has been developed in consultation with the Directorate of Geology & Mining and is currently providing several services like online mineral management for the leasees, stockists and transporters, services for citizens and farmers, Integrated Mining Surveillance System and e-commerce platform ‘Mineral Mart’ for consumers

and suppliers. For common people and farmers, the state government has disposed off 1155 applications for stock licences, issued 1279 permits for agricultural land with mineral deposits, 435 for minerals in private land, 9697 permits for mining on common soil and 1031 for buildings where minerals were discovered during construction since July, 2020.

Under Integrated Mining Surveillance System service of the portal, the Yogi government has done geo-fencing of 466 areas, installed PTZ cameras & weigh bridge in mines in 330 areas, put RFID-based mining tag on over 80,000 heavy vehicles and set up automated check gates of which 16 are currently operational while work is underway on seven others.

Maya slams Guv over praise of UP Govt as people suffer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party Chief Mayawati questioned Governor Anandiben Patel over her giving a clean chit to the State Government on welfare and development and ignoring the hardship of the people during her address in the Assembly. 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.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

All heart

Delhi is taking notable steps in public health care by planning to instal AEDs in public spaces

In a commendable move to reduce fatalities caused by sudden cardiac arrest, the Delhi Government proposes to place heart care devices in public places across the city. Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are to be placed in crowded areas like railway stations, bus stations and markets. These portable AEDs are easy to handle even by the general public with minimal training. The idea is to stabilise the heart of the person suffering a cardiac arrest till the ambulance arrives. In a sudden cardiac arrest, the heart's electrical system fails, and it unexpectedly stops pumping blood. This produces abnormal heart rhythms and the pulse rate increases rapidly. If an AED is immediately available, it can deliver electrical shocks and restore the heart's normal rhythm. This is called defibrillation. But time is of the essence. A cardiac arrest can degenerate into death within seven to 10 minutes. An AED must therefore be used in time, and effectively. In India, 10 per cent of all deaths are caused by sudden cardiac arrests as patients await ambulances or reach late to hospitals. In this context, the Delhi Government's move is path-breaking. In the United States and Europe, the policies allowing AEDs in public places were implemented only after the turn of the century. Today, millions of these devices exist in these countries. All ambulances have them. So do most public transport systems. Having AEDs in the homes of high-risk cardiac

patients is now being considered.



patients is now being considered.

The Delhi Government must note that software developers abroad have developed apps that help people locate these devices. Access to such a database is a necessity if the AEDs are to be of help in emergencies. Once this programme extends beyond Delhi, we will also need people trained in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) to sign up as medical volunteers who can be located on apps. The key element of the proposal is training people to use the AEDs. Even before placing the devices, the Delhi Government's health department and city hospitals must team up to carry out large-scale awareness campaigns and organise training camps for the general public. The ambulance services spread across the national Capital should be linked to a common database. The Government must be sensitive to some of the issues involved in placing the AEDs in public places. The first one is easy. They should be placed in crowded areas that have a high chance of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. The AEDs are needed in large residential areas as well, especially those far away from health centres. These are of critical importance in slums and unauthorised colonies where the poor live and where cardiovascular disease causes the maximum number of premature deaths. Finding locations in such slums will be a challenge unless Government schools or police stations are chosen to host these devices. The proposal needs a lot of coordination between the Government and the public to be a success.

PICTALK



Devotees at the Kedarnath temple after it experienced fresh snowfall

PTI

Heavy weather

The Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand has been halted in view of the inclement weather

Snowfall and heavy bouts of rain are pummelling the Char Dham Yatra pilgrims in the upper reaches of Uttarakhand. Thousands of pilgrims have been told to break their journey en route the holy temples of Kedarnath and Yamunotri in the Garhwal Himalayas as a precautionary measure. The peaks around the famous Badrinath shrine have also received fresh snowfall. Kedarnath has been receiving snowfall for nearly 48 hours now, and its impact was experienced in the faraway Delhi-NCR as well where the temperatures fell nearly eight degrees Celsius and the weather turned quite pleasant as compared to the previous fortnight which was nothing less than a scorcher. While Garhwal's upper regions have been receiving snowfall, the lower areas are being lashed by incessant rains, prompting the authorities to halt the travel by devotees. The pilgrims and tourists were directed at Gaurikund and Sonprayag not to proceed any further in view of the impending inclement weather. The devotees proceeding towards Yamunotri were also halted at Janakichatti, virtually the last stopover point on way to the famous shrine that makes part of the State's Char Dham circuit also comprising Gangotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath, as the weather started playing truant in the afternoon.



According to the local administration at Badkot and Rudraprayag, the pilgrims have been told not to proceed any higher as a precautionary measure as it wasn't safe for pilgrims to travel beyond these points "for the time being". They shall be allowed to continue their ascent as soon as the weather clears. With the COVID-induced restrictions having been eased after almost two years, a record number of pilgrims this year are visiting the holiest of the four Himalayan temples in Uttarakhand. More than nine lakh pilgrims have already paid obeisance at these temples in the Garhwal region since the Char Dham Yatra got underway on May 3. Meanwhile, the Hemkund Sahib Yatra also began on Sunday with 5,000 pilgrims allowed to visit the shrine daily. The peaks surrounding Hemkund Sahib experienced light snow on the day the portals of the shrine were opened "but it has not affected the yatra", according to an official of the Hemkund Sahib Management Trust. The need of the hour is for the authorities to limit the number of pilgrims per day each season so as not to put pressure on the region's fragile ecology.

Albanese will foster India engagement

The new Australian Prime Minister has consolidated his position within the Labour Party over years, and he well understands India's relevance



ASHUTOSH MISRA



Australia has voted for change and elected a new Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, Member for Grayndler in New South Wales since 1996. Nicknamed 'Albo', his substantial rise in the party eventuated under Kevin Rudd's Kevin07 dispensation in which he was given a ministerial position. In the 2010 hung Parliament, Albanese was also instrumental in securing the support of independent members when the Government was shy of the majority mark. After the drubbing in the 2013 elections, when the Australia Labour Party chose Bill Shorten over him as the leader, he secured the Deputy Prime Minister's position.

Subsequently, following the shock defeat of the ALP in 2019 when Shorten resigned from leadership, Albanese became the party leader. There is no denying that Albanese took charge of the party in very challenging times and needed to unite its factions, restore public and business confidence in Labour's policies and values and, most of all, consolidate his own authority as a leader — and he has done fairly well on all counts. The jury may differ over his leadership style, articulation and capabilities, but his political resume certainly testifies his credentials as a peace/deal-maker within the Labor caucus and in Parliament. Above all, he possesses a key virtue to be a successful political leader — patience.

Come 2022, bidding his time, he backed his political convictions and after the initial gaffes in the media, brick-by-brick built his prime ministerial image in the public. He championed change in the way politics was conducted, inclusiveness in decision-making, compassion for the indigenous Australians and hope for the jobless. His promise to create a national anti-corruption commission is a big tick with the teals and also the Australian public.

His win was also aided by a strong anti-incumbency over rape and sexual misconduct; rising cost of living, fuel, electricity and essential commodities; stagnating wages, waning climate commitments and Scott

Morrison's delayed response in securing COVID vaccines and handling natural disasters. Most recently, ScoMo's flip-flop response in dealing with the Queensland floods gave the ALP leadership in Queensland the much-needed ammunition to target the federal Government. Morrison's mishandling of the Brittany Higgins' rape allegations and assault allegations against his two parliamentary colleagues, Christian Porter and Alan Tudge, especially inflicted a severe beating to the party's and his own public image, and last-ditch effort to announce Marise Payne as the 'Prime Minister for Women' proved futile in winning back women voters.

Albanese is likely to get a majority reaching 76, and thus escape teals (climate change activists) and the Greens breathing down his neck. He will have more space to manage the expectations of the resource industry and instil some moderation in climate policy and pursuit of "renewable energy superpower" status for Australia. In the post-pandemic recovery, the flagship resource sector is the key for GDP growth which the IMF has raised to 4.2 per cent in its latest forecast. The resource industry contends that more

mines, minerals and metals are needed to build a modern society and boost economic growth and decoding this remains a challenging conundrum for the Albanese Government.

For New Delhi, bipartisan in Australia's India policy means the regime change would not disrupt policy continuity. In the wake of the Pulwama attack, new Foreign Minister Penelope Wong, then the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, had condemned the "atrocious terrorist attack against security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir". In April, Anthony Albanese, as the Leader of the Opposition, had also welcomed the "deepening of ties" and signing of the Australia India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA). In 2017, Albanese had led a parliamentary delegation to India to deepen parliamentary ties, people-to-people relations and understand the social, economic, governance and political issues. He concluded his visit brief by writing: "...it is important that the parliamentary officers work closely to ensure that Australian parliamentary visitations don't wait some 17 years before the next visit." The insights gained will prove useful now.

THE JURY MAY DIFFER OVER HIS LEADERSHIP STYLE, ARTICULATION AND CAPABILITIES, BUT HIS POLITICAL RESUME CERTAINLY TESTIFIES HIS CREDENTIALS AS A PEACE/DEAL-MAKER WITHIN THE LABOUR CAUCUS AND IN PARLIAMENT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COURTS MUST PRIORITISE HEARINGS

Sir — It is a matter of great concern that the precious time of courts, including the Supreme Court, is wasted on adjudication of cases pertaining to disputes over whether certain deities were worshipped in places where some mosques exist now. It is worrisome that the courts are forced to deal with such unimportant cases when they have to deal with huge backlog of cases related to the lives of the common people. Some Hindus believe that several mosques, the Gyanvapi mosque, for example, were built by demolishing temples. Muslims, on the other hand, believe that no such temples existed in these places.

It may be recollected that similar arguments had led to the demolition of Babri Masjid. The Places of Worship Act, 1991, was legislated by Parliament to prevent religious organisations from making claims on other mosques and shrines. For a long time the courts refused to hear cases questioning the legality of mosques. However, when the courts showed willingness to hear such cases, many litigants started filing petitions on flimsy grounds. In fact, the courts need to reject such cases as they violate the Places of Worship Act.

Venu GS | Kollam

STATES CAN DO WITH MORE REVENUE

Sir — The Opposition-ruled States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Kerala have decreased VAT on petrol and diesel after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's call to provide further relief to consumers following a cut in excise duty by the Centre, though some other States appear reluctant citing their inability to take more strain on revenue. It is debatable whether States can afford to give up revenue from the Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel unless the Centre devolves more funds or gives them more grants. The Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra Government slashed the VAT on petrol by ₹2.08 per litre and diesel by ₹1.44 per litre.

A statement by the Government said

The Gyanvapi mosque row



The Varanasi district court's decision on the maintainability of the suit will be keenly watched for its legal, political and social significance. It will reveal how the court looks at the import and applicability of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. Lawyers can and will argue over technical details, but judges cannot waver in their determination to go strictly by the express provisions of the law. The wisdom of drawing a distinction between 'determining' the

character of a place of worship and 'changing' it and of arguing that 'ascertainment' of the character of a place of worship is not barred under the Act in the present context could defeat the whole object of this crucial piece of legislation.

The intention behind seeking 'to determine' the character of Gyanvapi mosque is 'to change' it. The present litigation is not for any academic interest, but for carrying out the Hindu right's agenda of converting certain mosques into temples in the name of 'correcting historical wrongs' and as part of Hindu revivalism. We are a secular democracy; we don't wish to see the sad events that happened in late 1980s and early 1990s reenacted in the 2020s. Disputes over places of worship cannot substitute efforts needed to be made to improve the quality of life of aam aadmi.

G David Milton | Kanyakumari

The State exchequer will have to bear an annual loss of ₹2,500 crore as a result of this decision. Despite the tax reduction announced by the Centre, the rates are still high compared to 2013 when the Congress (UPA) ruled the country. The Union Government's levies on petrol have gone up substantially in the last seven years. Though the revenue to the Union Government has increased manifold, there has not been a matching increase in the revenues to States. It means that the Centre's excise duty cut on petrol and diesel is eyewash.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS LOOMING

Sir — As per the World Food Programme, the world's largest humanitarian organisation focusing on food security and hunger, a crisis is looming. WFP has recently made a painful revelation that worldwide, up to 811 million people go to bed hungry every night, and the number of those facing acute food insecurity has

more than doubled — from 135 million to 276 million in the last three years. The hunger crisis has been caused by various factors like conflicts, climate shocks and the economic consequences in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WFP says that 'conflict' is the biggest driver of hunger, with 60 per cent of the world's hungry living in areas affected by war and violence. Also, the events unfolding in Ukraine are proof of how conflicts feed hunger. The pandemic has only exacerbated the problem, driving hunger to unprecedented levels. Putting an end to hunger and malnutrition is a moral obligation of humankind, and it is not just the duty of the Governments. Ordinary citizens, high net-worth individuals, youth influencers and celebrities can all play their part and raise their voice against the injustice of global hunger.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Mujhe makkhan par lakeer kheenchne mein maza nahi aata; main patthar par lakeer kheenchta hoon.

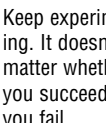


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



The US will intervene militarily if China were to invade Taiwan. This burden is bigger than Ukraine (invasion).

US President — Joe Biden



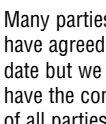
Keep experimenting. It doesn't matter whether you succeed or you fail.

Actor — Madhuri Dixit



I'm the type of player who gets motivated by the idea of rising in the rankings.

Former world No. 1 — Naomi Osaka



Many parties have agreed to the date but we must have the consent of all parties.

Bihar Chief Minister — Nitish Kumar

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 acomfort zone. Despite this, the value of rupee against US dollarfell 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 ofrupee 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. Indiahasalso good reserves of oil and gas, as quoted by ex-petroleum Minister VeerappaMoily and also by Vedanta’s Anil Agrawal. However, thisneeds 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 almostnil 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 inrupee 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. Theexternal risks, if any, arising due to outflow of forex anddepreciation 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

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 VitthalnathjiGosainji, 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 Vallabhacharyaji had two Divine Sons - Shri Gopinathji& Shri Vitthalnathji- Gosainji. Shri Vitthalnathji-Gosainji had seven sons. His sixth son was Shri Yadunathji. Shashtha pithadhishwar Param Puja Goswami 108 Shree DwarkeshlaljiMaharajshri is the 14th Generation of Shri Yadunathji. For the past 13 generations based on the traditions of Shashtha pithadhishwar, 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 Kalyanrajji. This is the same Swarup that Beloved Vallabhacharya ji served (Sevya). Pujyapad Goswami 108 Shree DwarkeshlaljiMaharajshri is presently the Raj-Tilak Gaadi-Pati of Vadodara, Ahmedabad-Naroda (Shri Mahaprabhaji’sBethakji), Gondal, Baria, (Gujarat), Gokul (Uttar Pradesh), Dhanpur, Shergad (Rajasthan), Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh), Sikandarabad (Telangana). Likewise, in Atlanta-Gokuldharm, Ocala-Pushtidham, Connecticut-Vallabhdham (All-USA) &Leicester-Shreeji Dham (UK). Moreover, he is serving var-

ious 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



PRASHANT TEWARI

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 Brahmavad 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 LordVaishnavism 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.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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 Chhattisgarh. 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 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," 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 attack.

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.

"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.

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."

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".

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

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.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Jagmohan Singh, Kalpana Singh, Qtr No 53/1 Dholadhar Officer Enclave Mamun Cantt Gurdaspur Punjab. A/c No. LBPTK00004903142	Flat No. A- 801, 8th Floor Block No. A Satellite Soham Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd, Scheme Known As Rudra Prayag Tower A Situated At Land Bearing Survey No.981 (Final Plot No. 133 Of Tps 6) Of Mouje Vejalpur Ahmedabad Gujarat	07/04/2022 Rs. 51,58,450/-	30/12/ 2021

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

Date : May 25, 2022

Place: Gurgaon

Authorized Officer

ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mudit Agarwal (Borrower), Varsha Agarwal, Bharti Agarwal (Co-Borrower) LBLUC00002367082	Flat No 1704, Floor- 17 Tower T1, Sunworld Arista Sector-168, Noida, Noida 201301. area 2100 Sq Ft	Rs.1,55,74, 105,71/- as on May 9, 2022	Rs.68,00, 000/-	June 4, 2022 From 11 AM to 1:00 PM	June 16, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
2.	Amit Kumar Agarwal (Borrower), Bharti Agarwal (Co-Borrower) LBLUC00002367083	1703 17th Floor, Tower- 1 Sunworld Arista, Sector- 168, Noida, Noida 201301 area- 2100 Sq. Ft.	Rs.1,56,07, 845,57/- as on May 9, 2022	Rs.68,00, 000/-	June 4, 2022 From 11 AM to 1:00 PM	June 16, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
3.	Esha Laxman (Borrower), Divay Mehta (Guarantor) LBDEL00002430981	Flat No 504, 5th Floor Tower 1, Plot No Gh 01/C, Sunworld Arista Sec 168, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301. area 2100 Sq Ft	Rs.1,48,64, 723,90/- as on May 9, 2022	Rs.65,00, 000/-	June 4, 2022 From 11 AM to 1:00 PM	June 16, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
4.	Nishant Dalmia (Borrower), Vasudha Dalmia (Guarantor) LBGHZ00002422226	Flat No.1606, 16th Floor Tower T6 Plot No Gh 01/C, Sunworld Arista Sector 168, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301 area 2100 Sq ft.	Rs.1,54,98, 845,90/- as on May 9, 2022	Rs.72,00, 000/-	June 4, 2022 From 11 AM to 1:00 PM	June 16, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
5.	Jitender Kumar Chhabra (Borrower)/ Ram Devi (Co Borrower) LBNOD00002116807	Flat No A-2002, Tower A, Springview Floors, Crescent Parc Township, NH-24, Ghaziabad, UP area: 1243 Sq. Fts	Rs. 6,215,162/- as on May 17, 2022	Rs.41,80, 000/-	May 30, 2022, From 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	June 16, 2022, From 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM
6.	Sanjeev Chandel (Borrower)/ Pallavi Chandel (Co Borrower) LBNOD00002114485	Flat No A-2103, 2nd Floor Tower A, Springview Floors, Crescent Parc Township, NH-24, Ghaziabad, UP Area: 1243 Sq. fts	Rs. 6,463,977/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs.41,80, 000/-	May 30, 2022, From 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	June 16, 2022, From 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **June 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **June 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005** on or before **June 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Delhi**.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8126013708** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt.Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: May 25, 2022

Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer

ICICI Bank Limited

Iran building collapse kills 11 as Mayor and others detained

Tehran: Rescuers dug through debris on Tuesday of a building collapse in southwestern Iran that killed at least 11 people, fearful that many more could still be trapped beneath the rubble as authorities arrested the city's mayor in a widening probe of the disaster.

Iranian construction projects that has seen other disasters in this earthquake-prone nation. Video from the initial collapse showed thick dust rise over Abadan, a crucial oil-producing city in Khuzestan province, near Iran's border with Iraq.

ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED				
Regd. Off.: OSE Commercial Block, Asset 5B, Aerocity, Hospitality, District, IGI Airport, New Delhi-110037, Tel: 91-11-46044604, Email: spv.osel@gmail.com CIN: U45400DL2010PLC203649				
FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022				
(Amount in Rs in Lakhs)				
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2021 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2021 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	86,368.55	13,908.65	55,600.53
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	6,039.88	5,558.61	24,860.21
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	6,039.88	5,558.61	24,860.21
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	698.82	5,526.30	21,608.65
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	698.82	5,526.30	21,608.65
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,813.45	1,813.45	1,813.45
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	121,721.60	121,266.58	121,266.58
8	Securities Premium	34,436.55	34,436.55	34,436.55
9	Net Worth	123,535.05	123,080.03	123,080.03
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	242,424.23	251,872.64	251,872.64
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Debt Equity Ratio	2.11:1	2.05:1	2.05:1
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)			
	1. Basic:	3.85	30.47	119.16
	2. Diluted:	3.85	30.47	119.16
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	19,231.40	0.00	0.00
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.30:1	1.36:1	1.36:1
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.06:1	1.98:1	1.98:1
18	Asset Coverage Ratio:	1.61:1	1.80:1	1.80:1
19	Current Ratio	4.01:1	5.47:1	5.47:1
20	Debtor Turnover Ratio	0.15:1	0.17:1	0.17:1
21	Inventory Turnover Ratio	NA	NA	NA
22	Long Term Debt to Working Capital	2.43:1	2.17:1	2.17:1
23	Bad Debts to Accounts Receivable	NA	NA	NA
24	Current Liabilities Ratio	0.11:1	0.09:1	0.09:1
25	Total Debts to Total Assets	0.68:1	0.66:1	0.66:1
26	Operating Margin	0.07:1	1.06:1	1.06:1
27	Net Profit Margin	0.01:1	0.45:1	0.45:1
Note:				
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly audited financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the quarterly audited financial results are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity (http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in).				
b) For the other line items referred to in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity (http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in).				
c) These quarterly audited financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on May 24, 2022. The Statutory Auditors have carried out limited review of the aforesaid results.				
d) The financial results of the company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting standards prescribed under sec 133 of companies Act 2013.				
For and on behalf of Board of Directors of Oriental Nagpur Betul Highway Limited				
Sd/-				
Nikhil Dhingra				
Director				
DIN - 07835556				
Place: New Delhi				
Date : 24.05.2022				

RATHI STEEL AND POWER LIMITED

CIN: L27109DL1971PLC005905

Regd. Off.: 24/1, Block A, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi- 110044

Email ID: investors@rathisteelndpower.com, Website: www.rathisteelndpower.com

This is to inform you that pursuant to the Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations And Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors of M/s Rathi Steel and Power Limited is to be held on Monday the 30th Day of May, 2022 at the Registered office of the Company at 04:00 PM to consider and approve following businesses as under:-

ITEM NO.	AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION
Take note and confirm the following:-	
1.	To appoint Chairman of the meeting to call the meeting to order.
2.	To Ensure Quorum of the Meeting
3.	To grant leave of absence, if any.
4.	To take note and confirm the minutes of previous meeting of board of directors of the Company.
Consider and Approve following:-	
5.	To consider and approve Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended on March 31, 2022
6.	Any other businesses with permission of the Chair.

For and on behalf of Board

Sd/-

(PREM NARAIN VARSHNEY)

MANAGING DIRECTOR

DIN: 00012709

Place: New Delhi

Date: 20-05-2022

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar,(U.P)

Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

(A) 1.	04/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23- M/o UGR STP (Cleaning and removal of existing Desilting/Debris/Silt rubbish/Bio mass/Grit & Sediment Material from Open / Covered UGR including Cleaning of all wall/floor/ Ceiling by Super Suker Machine/Mechanical Cleaning Machine/Chemical Cleaner in STP Compound 35 MLD UGR at Sector-123) NOIDA. Cost. 47.60 Lac
2.	05/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23- M/O of STP (Repairing of Internal CC Road, Replacing of Damage Drain CC covers & Construction of UGR Operator Room Civil work in Compound of STP Sec-168) Noida. Cost. 41.71 Lac
3.	06/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23- O/M of Sewer line and MSPS/IPS at Expressway (Two Year Repairing of 400 KVA and 630 KVA Transformer and Related Electrical works at IPS - 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and MSPS-1 and 2) Noida. Cost. 47.68 Lac
4.	07/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23- M/O of Sewer line and MSPS/SPS at Expressway (Repairing of MSPS-1 at Sec-136, Civil work Boundary wall, Darin, and Other Related miscellaneous work along Noida Gr. Noida Expressway) Noida. Cost. 47.63 Lac
5.	08/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23- M/O STP (S/F 500 KVA DG Set with shed & Platform for 50 MLD UGR Compound, Sector-168) Noida. Cost. 48.84 Lac

Which can be uploaded by date **08.06.2022 upto 5.00 P.M**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **09.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M**.

Principal General Manager

NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

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.

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.

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.

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LTD.
CIN: L15136UP1988PLC010084
Email id: info@rampurfert.com
Regd. Off.: Judges Bareilly Road,
Rampur-244901 U.P.
NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING
In pursuance of Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Monday, the 30th Day of May 2022, at 4:00 P.M. at: Judges Bareilly Road, Rampur-244901 U.P., inter alia, to consider, approve and adopt audited standalone and consolidated Financial Results/Statements for the quarter/and year ended on 31st March, 2022 pursuant to Regulation 33 of (LODR) 2015. The said information is also available on the Company's website at www.rampurfert.com and the same has been also sent to CSE to upload on its website i.e. www.cse-india.com and MSE on its website i.e. www.mse.in.
By order of Board
Sd/-
Place: New Delhi Anshuman Khaitan
Date: 24.05.2022 (Managing Director)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company. That Mrs. Poonam Bishi is claiming owner/attorney holder of Built up flat on Second floor, part of Property bearing No. A-893, area measuring 50 Sq.Yds., Out of Khazra No. 1621, Situated in the area of Village Kichei Pur, in the abadi of East Vinod Nagar Delhi. (the said property), by virtue of GPA, Agreement and will all dated 04.08.2010, executed by Mr. Munni Sain. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owner/attorney holder want to sell the said property to Mr. Naveen Chandra who is taking Loan from Fullerton for purchase of the said flat, if anybody has any objection upon the ownership of above owner/attorney holder over the said property, its sale/Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 1st Floor, 23, Shweta Marg, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 41111257-26 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. That Mrs. Dr. Neena Goel is the owner of Apartment No. 1425, (previously numbered as V-04-J-1401) on 14th Floor, Super area measuring 1930.21 sq.ft. in Block No.5, in Ixla Residential complex known as 'Ixla City' in Sector 48, Situated at Gurgaon, Haryana (the said property), by virtue of Transfer Deed dated 30.08.2016, executed by Mr. Anand Goel, on the basis of registered will of his mother Late Mrs. Leelawati Goel, who was the owner of the said property by virtue of conveyance deed dated 19.05.2011, executed by Mrs. Vaishali (Sd/-). All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Tanvir Singh Bhatia & his wife Karanpreet Bhatia who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection upon the ownership of above owner's Sale/Mortgage/Litigation, & any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 1st Floor, 23, Shweta Marg, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 41111257-26 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

Public Notice
My Clients Anil Gupta S/o Late Sh. Kishan Sraoop Gupta & his wife Poonam Gupta W/o Anil Gupta R/o J-153,2nd Floor,Vikas Puri,ND-18 have debarred & disowned their Son Ashish Gupta & his wife Namrata Jain from their movable & immovable properties due to their misbehavior to my clients. My Clients have also severed all their relation with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk & responsibility
Ramesh Anand (Adv.) C-26, Western Wing, Tri Nagar Court

PUBLIC NOTICE
We, Giriraj Singh Chauhan S/o Sh. Lajje Singh and Smt. Rajesh Chauhan W/o Giriraj Singh Chauhan R/o Nangli Bajipur, Sector-135, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. have dis-owned our son Kapil Chauhan and his wife Sakshi Chauhan from our all assets. We and our family members will not be responsible for their any dispute/ misconduct.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is known to all men that the owner/allottee of Flat No. N-440, Sector-25, Jalayu Vihar, Noida, MWO Anandi Lal Bhaty S/o Late Shri L.R. Bhaty R/o Noida (M.P.) Air Sqn. N.C.C. Nehru Stadium, Indore-452001 through GPA holder Gautam Ghosh S/o Late Shri Amrendra Ghosh R/o N-337, Sector-25, Noida, is transferring the above said property in favour of Mrs. Upasana Ghosh W/o Prakul Rajvanshi and Prakul Rajvanshi S/o Pankaj Rajvanshi both R/o N-440, Sector-25, Noida, and Agreement to Sell was not registered. If anyone has any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection with documentary evidence in the Group Housing Department of Noida Authority, Sector-6, Noida within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Gautam Ghosh S/o Late Shri Amrendra Ghosh, R/o N-337, Sector-25, Noida, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Amit Choudhary, Priyanka.. W 12 R- 87 D D A Market, Camp No 5 Jawalapur, West Delhi, New Delhi. A/C No. LBHIS00005229885	House No.80, Ppid No.152 C 793 U 620, Khazra No.558/1, 562/1, 568 To 574 Situated At Gali No.11 Jawahar Nagar Hisar Haryana	07/04/2022 Rs. 25,58,545.29/-	27/12/ 2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
Date : May 25, 2022
Place: Delhi NCR (Gurgaon) Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ramesh Chand/ Prem Vati (24900001106 & QZJNK00005004144)	Plot No.-106, 3rd Floor With Roof Rights, Pocket-8, Sector-23, Rohini, Delhi/ May 20, 2022.	September 27, 2021 Rs. 17,97,586/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: May 25, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Dhananjay Kumar Sinha/ Nivedita Sinha/ LBDEL00004033759	Flat No 518, Block B- 5, 5th Floor, SIIDCO Shivallik Apartment, GH-2, IMT Manesar, Tehsil Manesar, Sector 1, Gurgaon, Haryana/ May 21, 2022	January 18, 2022/ Rs. 41,21,704/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Akhlesh Kapoor/ Tact India Pvt Ltd/ Neeru Kapoor/ LBDEL00004898451	Flat No 1004, 10th Floor, Blk A, Sispal Vihar, AWHQ, Sector 49, Sohna Road, In And Around Village Ghasaula & Tikri Gurgaon 122001/ May 21, 2022	December 06, 2021/ Rs. 13,350,347/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: May 25, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

CAPRI GLOBAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Registered & Corporate Office :- 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013
Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 38 Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005
APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Capri Global Housing Finance Limited Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on dates below mentioned, for recovery of amount mentioned below due to the Capri Global Housing Finance Limited Secured Creditor from Borrower mentioned below. The reserve price, EMD amount and property details mentioned below.

SR.	1.BORROWER(S) NAME	DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY	1. DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION	1. RESERVE PRICE
1.	1. Mrs. Sushila Devi ("Borrower") 2. Mr. Prashant Kumar (Co-borrower) LOAN ACCOUNT No. LNCGHJHNNL0000001442 Rupees 28,86,584/-/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lacs Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four Only) along with applicable future interest from 23.05.2022.	All Piece and Parcel of LHS, Rear Side Flat no. GF-04 MIG, Ground floor, Built up on Plot No. B-76, Khazra No. 410, SLF Ved Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Along with Construction Thereon present and future Both.	2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD 3. DATE & TIME OF THE PROPERTY INSPECTION 1. E-AUCTION DATE: 28.06.2022 (Between 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.) 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD WITH KYC: 27.06.2022 3. DATE OF INSPECTION: 25.06.2022 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	2. EMD OF THE PROPERTY 3. INCREMENTAL VALUE RESERVE PRICE: Rs. 12,21,000/- Rupees Twelve Lacs Twenty One Thousand Only). EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: Rs. 1,22,100/- (Rupees One Lac Twenty Two Thousand One Hundred Only) INCREMENTAL VALUE: Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Capri Global Housing Finance Limited Secured Creditor's website i.e. www. Capriglobal.in/auction/
TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E-AUCTION SALE:-
1. The Property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE & WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS". As such sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities.
2. Particulars of the property / assets (viz. extent & measurements specified in the E-Auction Sale Notice has been stated to the best of information of the Secured Creditor and Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission. Actual extent & dimensions may differ.
3. E-Auction Sale Notice issued by the Secured Creditor is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids and the same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or nay representation on the part of the Secured Creditor. Interested bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the Secured Creditor and to conduct own independent enquiries /due diligence about the title & present condition of the property / assets and claims / dues affecting the property before submission of bids.
4. Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net Or Auction Tiger Mobile APP provided by the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad which shall arrange & coordinate the entire process of auction through the e-auction platform.
5. The bidders may participate in e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Secured Creditor /service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash, power failure etc.
6. For details, help, procedure and online bidding on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger, Ahmedabad (Contact no. 079-68136880/68136837), Mr. Ramprasad Sharma Mob. 800-002-3297/79-6120 0559. Email: ramprasad@auctiontiger.net.
7. For participating in the e-auction sale the intending bidders should register their name at https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net well in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider.
8. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% OF RESERVE PRICE (as mentioned above) shall be payable by interested bidders through Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS in favor of "Capri Global Housing Finance Limited" on or before 27-June-2022.
9. The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (format available at https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) along with the Demand Draft remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorized Officer, Capri Global Housing Finance Limited Regional Office Plot no. 38, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110 005 latest by 03.00 PM on 27-June-2022. The sealed cover should be super scribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale, -in the Loan Account No. _____ (as mentioned above) for property of 'Borrower Name'.
10. After expiry of the last date of submission of bids with EMD, Authorized Officer shall examine the bids received by him and confirm the details of the qualified bidders (who have quoted their bids over and above the reserve price and paid the specified EMD with the Secured Creditor) to the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited to enable them to allow only those bidders to participate in the online inter-se bidding /auction proceedings at the date and time mentioned in E-Auction Sale Notice.
11. Inter-se bidding among the qualified bidders shall start from the highest bid quoted by the qualified bidders. During the process of inter-se bidding, there will be unlimited extension of "10" minutes each, i.e. the end time of e-auction shall be automatically extended by 10 Minutes each time if bid is made within 10 minutes from the last extension.
12. Bids once made shall not be cancelled or withdrawn. All bids made from the user id given to bidder will be deemed to have been made by him alone.
13. Immediately upon closure of E-Auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall confirm the final amount of bid quoted by him BY E-Mail both to the Authorised Officer, Capri Global Housing Finance Limited, Regional Office/Plot no. 38, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110 005 and the Service Provider for getting declared as successful bidder in the E-Auction Sale proceedings.
14. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount (including EMD) within 24 hour of the sale, being knocked down in his favour and balance 75% of bid amount within 15 days from the date of sale by DD/Pay order/NEFT/RTGS/Chq favouring Capri Global Housing Finance Limited.
15. In case of default in payment of above stipulated amounts by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid (including EMD) will be forfeited and the property will be again put to sale.
16. At the request of the successful bidder, the Authorised Officer in his absolute discretion may grant further time in writing, for depositing the balance of the bid amount.
17. The Successful Bidder shall pay 1% of Sale price towards TDS (out of Sale proceeds) (if applicable) and submit TDS certificate to the Authorised officer and the deposit the entire amount of sale price (after deduction of 1% towards TDS), adjusting the EMD within 15 working days of the acceptance of the offer by the authorized officer, or within such other extended time as deemed fit by the Authorised Officer, failing which the earnest deposit will be forfeited.
18. Municipal / Panchayat Taxes, Electricity dues (if any) and any other authorities dues (if any) has to be paid by the successful bidder before issuance of the sale certificate. Bids shall be made taking into consideration of all the statutory dues pertaining to the property.
19. Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful bidder only upon deposit of entire purchase price / bid amount and furnishing the necessary proof in respect of payment of all taxes / charges.
20. Applicable legal charges for conveyance, stamp duty, registration charges and other incidental charges shall be borne by the auction purchaser.
21. The Authorized officer may postpone / cancel the E-Auction Sale proceedings without assigning any reason whatsoever. In case the E-Auction Sale scheduled is postponed to a later date before 30 days from the scheduled date of sale, it will be displayed on the website of the service provider.
22. The decision of the Authorised Officer is final, binding and unquestionable.
23. All bidders who submitted the bids, shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the E-Auction Sale and be bound by them.
24. For further details and queries, contact Authorised Officer, Capri Global Housing Finance Limited: Ms. Prarthana Sampath Mo. No. 7400445137/9990275365.
25. This publication is also 30 (Thirty) days notice to the Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantors of the above said loan account pursuant to rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, about holding of auction sale on the above mentioned date / place.
Special Instructions / Caution: Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Capri Global Housing Finance Limited nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements / alternatives such as back-up power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.
Place: Delhi/NCR Date : 25-05-2022 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Capri Global Housing Finance Limited

‘Indian firms show resilience despite Covid disruption’

New Delhi: As many as 50 per cent of Indian CEOs acknowledge that Covid pandemic has caused short-term disruption to their industry, but Indian companies have continued to demonstrate resilience as economy rebounds, a survey said on Tuesday.

The EY India CEO Survey 2022 has found that merger and acquisitions (M&A) is a key strategic lever for Indian CEOs as they look to buy versus build to achieve their transformation ambitions.



“Today, amidst challenges of inflationary pressures, supply chain issues, and increasing geopolitical conflicts, CEOs in India are resetting their risk radar and reframing their investment strategy for reshaped future, with transformation and sustainability increasingly driving the M&A agenda,” the survey said.

According to the EY 2022 CEO Outlook Survey, 50 per cent of Indian CEOs acknowledge the pandemic caused

short-term disruption to their industry.

Geopolitical challenges have further exacerbated a tumultuous period and created additional risks to business operations.

“However, Indian companies have continued to demonstrate resilience, on Indian economic rebound,” it added.

As many as 80 per cent of Indian CEOs also acknowledge making adjustments to their global operations and supply chains. For 63 per cent, the purpose has been to reduce logistics costs and increase resilience.

“This said, Indian CEOs recognize that increasing geopolitical tensions, trade conflicts and protectionism, along with increasing competition from non-traditional competitors and the acceleration of climate change impacts will pose the greatest risks to their future growth strategy,” the survey said.

EY India Chairman Rajiv Memani said, “There is no doubt that Indian CEOs are leading from the front to combat the challenges emanating from the pandemic and geopolitical tensions ... They are increasingly looking at M&As as a lever for accelerating business transformation and long-term value creation.” **PTI**

Markets reverse early gains in volatile trade, Sensex falls 236 pts



Mumbai: Equity indices failed to hold on to morning gains on Tuesday, with the Sensex falling 236 points amid a sell-off in IT stocks and weak trends from global markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark opened higher but could not carry forward the momentum and declined 236 points or 0.43 per cent to settle at 54,052.61. During the day, it hit a low of 53,886.28 and a high of 54,524.37.

The broader NSE Nifty dropped 89.55 points or 0.55 per cent to end at 16,125.15.

In the Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, NTPC, Tata Steel, Infosys, Axis Bank and Bajaj Finserv were among the biggest

laggards.

In contrast, Dr Reddy's, HDFC, PowerGrid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank and Nestle were among the major gainers.

“Nifty faced selling pressure in the post noon session once again today. It opened flat and rose in the morning. It later came under selling pressure and closed lower for the second consecutive session,” said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Asian markets in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. Exchanges in Europe were also trading lower in the afternoon trade. Stock markets in the US had ended higher on Monday. **PTI**

Rupee slips 4 paise to close at 77.59 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee slipped by 4 paise to close at 77.59 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a negative trend in domestic equities and unabated foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 77.56 against the greenback, and finally settled at 77.59, down 4 paise over its previous close.

During the trading session, the rupee touched an intra-day low of 77.67 and a high of 77.51.

On Monday, the rupee recovered from record lows and settled 15 paise higher at 77.55 against the US currency. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.07 per cent lower at 102.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.37 per cent to USD 113 per barrel.

“The Indian rupee drifted lower after two days of consolidation on the back of the risk-averse sentiment and foreign fund outflows. The rupee has been underperforming among Asian currencies amid a weaker macro environment and foreign fund outflows,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

While the dollar index has



fallen further to the downside and eying the psychological level of 100, the local unit is weakening along with other emerging market currencies on growth and inflation worries.

“So far this month, the rupee has been the worst-performing currency among Asian currencies with a loss of 1.6 per cent after the RBI joined the global central banks in raising interest rates to curb inflation,” Parmar said.

In the current calendar year, foreign institutional investors sold equities worth USD 21.25 billion and USD 1.82 billion of debt.

Near-term outlook for USDINR remains bullish as long as it trades above 76.70, while on the higher side it faces strong resistance in the area of 77.80 to 78, Parmar noted. **PTI**

India's crude oil production falls 1% in April

New Delhi: India's crude oil production fell 1 per cent in April after lower output from fields operated by the private sector wiped away gains by state-owned firms such as ONGC, official data showed Tuesday. India produced 2.47 million tonnes of crude oil in April, down from 2.5 million tonnes in the same month last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) produced 1.65 million tonnes of crude oil in April, which was nearly 5 per cent more than the target set for it and 0.86 per cent high than the 1.63 million tonnes produced last year.

Oil India Ltd (OIL) produced 3.6 per cent more crude at 2,51,460 tonnes but fields operated by the private sector produced 7.5 per cent less crude oil at 5,67,570 tonnes.

The government has been focused on raising domestic production of oil and gas to cut reliance on imports. India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and about half of its natural gas requirement.

Natural gas output rose 6.6 per cent to 2.82 billion cubic meters on the back of higher output from eastern offshore - home to the KG-D6 block of Reliance Industries Ltd and BP plc. **PTI**

Gold gains marginally by ₹25, silver tumbles ₹428

New Delhi: Gold in the national Capital on Tuesday gained marginally by ₹25 to ₹51,027 per 10 grams in line with firm trend in international precious metal prices along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.



In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹51,002 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, tumbled ₹428 to ₹61,557 per kg from ₹61,985 per kg in the previous trade.

Meanwhile, the rupee slipped by 4 paise to close at 77.59 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a negative trend in domestic equities and unabated foreign fund outflows. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,859 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 21.89 per ounce.

“Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.38 per cent up at USD 1,859 per ounce on Tuesday,” said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. **PTI**

Sebi allowing MFs to launch passive ELSS will provide cost-effective, tax saving alternative to investors

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi's move to allow mutual funds to launch passively managed Equity-Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS) will provide a cost-effective and tax-saving alternative to individual investors, experts said on Tuesday.

Apart from these, Sebi has put in place a framework for managing passive funds -- Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and Index Funds -- amid growing popularity of such funds as an investment product for retail investors.

Sebi, in its circular, on Monday said mutual funds can either launch an actively-managed ELSS scheme or a passively-managed one but not in both categories.

The passive ELSS scheme should be based on one of the indices comprising equity shares from top 250 companies in terms of market capitalisation.

Piyush Gupta, Director - Funds Research, Crisil Ltd, said that Sebi's move to push passive debt funds is doubly beneficial.

One, it will offer a low-cost option to those seeking to invest in actively managed fixed-income-oriented funds.

Two, it will engender liquidity for such products that, in turn, would deepen India's corporate bond market, he added. “The advent of passively managed ELSS provides a cost and tax-saving alternative to individual investors,” he said. **PTI**

Commerce Ministry tightens norms to check wheat export by corrupt traders

New Delhi: The Commerce Ministry has imposed a new condition for the grant of registration certificates for wheat exports as it looks to curb shipments by unscrupulous traders.

The government is allowing wheat shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit (LoC) were issued on or before May 13, when the ban of the export of the foodgrain was imposed.

According to the new condition notified by the DGFT, the message exchange date between the Indian and foreign bank/swift date for the issue of an LoC should be on or prior to May 13, 2022.

Exporters will have to submit the message exchange date with foreign banks along with a valid LoC, issued on or before May 13, to obtain registration of contracts (RC) to ship their consignments, according to a notice by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

The DGFT issued the notice to prevent unscrupulous



traders from exporting wheat on the basis of fraudulent backdated letter of credits (L/C).

The notice stated that exporters having valid L/Cs would have to register with the regional authorities (RAs) of the DGFT to obtain registration of contracts (RC) to ship their consignments.

“Information has been received from sources that fraudulent back dated L/C showing date of issuance as on or prior to May 13, 2022, are being submitted by some

unscrupulous exporters for issue of RCs, but as per the L/C, message exchange date between foreign and the Indian bank/swift message is after May 13, 2022,” the DGFT said.

The matter, it said “has been considered and it is clarified that for registration of L/C with the RAs of DGFT, apart from the L/C date, the message exchange date between the Indian and foreign bank/swift date should be on or prior to May 13, 2022.”

Rising fuel costs, expensive EVs making CNG a welcome relief

New Delhi: Rising fuel costs and prohibitively expensive electric vehicles are making compressed natural gas (CNG) “a welcome relief and alternate fuel” for mobility for Indian consumers, according to a report by NRI (Nomura Research Institute) Consulting & Solutions.

CNG vehicle sales continued to grow in FY22, rising by 55 per cent to 2,65,383 units in FY22 compared to 1,71,288 units in FY21, as per NRI's report titled “Path to clean mobility: Increasing penetration of NGVs in India.”

In the last five years, the penetration of CNG vehicles has also increased, and its parc has grown at a CAGR of 5.3 per

cent to 37.97 lakh units as of March 2022 from 30.90 lakh units in March 2018, the report said. “With increased differential TCO (total cost of ownership) benefits compared to other fuels, CNG is gaining more prominence among consumer preference post-BS-VI. The technology is now well established in India with major OEMs concentrating to bring in a range of cost-efficient and fuel-efficient CNG variants,” NRI said in a statement.

The report pointed out that favourable factors, such as improvement in CNG fuelling infrastructure and supporting regulatory environment, are helping the growth of CNG vehicles. “With fuel prices soar-

ing and electric vehicles becoming prohibitively expensive for most Indians, vehicles that run on compressed natural gas could be considered as a welcome relief and an alternative for mobility,” NRI said.

The expansion of the CGD (city gas distribution) network and an increasing number of CNG stations is expected to encourage the proliferation of NGVs (natural gas vehicles), it added. “The immense volume and favourable conditions of the Indian automobile market give an opportunity to promote widespread adoption of NGVs in India,” NRI Consulting & Solutions Senior Partner & Group Head Ashim Sharma said. **PTI**

DoT official: BSNL to migrate 30K Wifi hotspots to PM-WANI framework by June

New Delhi: State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam will migrate 30,000 of its wifi hotspots to the PM-WANI framework by June, a senior telecom department official on Tuesday said, adding Railways too has an ambitious blueprint for all its future hotspots to be under the framework.

Speaking at Broadband India Forum (BIF) event, Vivek Narayan, DDG (data services) in the Department of Telecom (DoT) mentioned the potential and impact of the PM-WANI wifi hotspots scheme across areas, such as tourism, smart cities and last-mile connectivity in villages.

In a bid to fuel broadband internet proliferation across the country, the government, in December 2020, approved the setting up of public wifi networks and access points by local Kirana and neighbourhood shops through public data offices that will not involve any licence, fee or registration.

The public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface, known as PM-WANI, hold the promise of unleashing a massive wifi revolution in the country. “BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd) would be migrating 30,000 of its hotspots into PM-WANI by June. Railways has already covered around 100 railway stations on PM WANI and is going to cover all its hotspots,” Narayan said. **PTI**

NIIT Q4 profit rises 45% to ₹67.4 cr

New Delhi: Skills and talent development company NIIT on Tuesday reported a 45 per cent jump in its consolidated profit after tax to ₹67.4 crore for the quarter ended in March 2022.

The company had posted a profit after tax of ₹46.5 crore in the same period a year ago.

The consolidated net revenue of NIIT increased by 35 per cent to ₹375 crore during the reported quarter from ₹278.8 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2020-21.

For the year ended in March 2022, NIIT posted a 58



per cent rise in its consolidated PAT to ₹226.2 crore from ₹143 crore in 2020-21.

The annual net revenue of the company increased by 44 per cent to ₹1,377.5 crore in 2021-22 from ₹959.7 crore a year ago. **PTI**

Olectra bags order of 2,100 electric buses from BEST

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Olectra Greentech Limited (OLECTRA) has bagged the biggest ever order in its history for 2,100 Electric buses from The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST).

The value of this order is ₹3675 crores. Evey Trans Private Limited (EVEY) has received the Letter of Award (LoA) from BEST. The buses will be delivered over a period of 12 months. Commenting on this occasion, KV Pradeep,



Chairman and Managing Director, Olectra Greentech Limited, said “We feel happy to receive this biggest order from BEST. Running the largest Electric Bus fleet in India's financial capital is a matter of

pride”.

The pioneer and leading Electric mobility player Olectra Greentech Limited manufactures 12 metre AC buses to meet this obligation. It is already operating 40 Electric buses for BEST in Mumbai. Currently, EVEY and Olectra Greentech Limited are operating electric buses in various State Transport Undertakings (STU) in the country, such as Pune (PMPML), Hyderabad, Goa, Deharadun, Surat, and Ahmedabad, Silvasa, and Nagpur.

Tender process for construction of HORC tunnel will be completed by Dec

New Delhi: The tender process for the construction of Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Tunnel (HORC Tunnel) will be completed by the month of December during the current financial year. Tenders will be invited during the month of July.

Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has discussed in depth with Companies from Tunnel Construction sector regarding HORC Tunnel of length 4.69 kms, a major part of Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor of length 121.742 km to be constructed parallel to Kundli Manesar Palwal Expressway (Western Peripheral Expressway). The representatives of 20 Companies from Tunnel Construction were present in the meeting held



at Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi on Tuesday. **PNS**



the pioneer

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

11

This is one very different year as far as I am concerned as a cricketer and a person. Truth be told, this has easily been one of the happiest years of my experience at the IPL

— R ASHWIN

Miller takes GT to final

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 Pandya'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 studded 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 wicketkeeper-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.

RCB vc LSG in eliminator

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



Lucknow vs Bangalore
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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.

I will definitely be around IPL next year: AB

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The legendary AB De Villiers said he will "definitely" return to the IPL next year as part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore squad, but he is not sure in what capacity. De Villiers had been a big part of RCB family

before he retired from all forms of cricket last year.

"I am glad to hear Virat confirmed it. To be honest, we haven't decided on anything yet. I will definitely be around IPL next year. I am not sure in what capacity but I am missing getting back there," De Villiers told VUSport.

"I have a heard a little bird tweeting, saying that there might be some games in Bangalore. So I would love to return to my second hometown and watch the full capacity stadium there at the Chinnaswamy again. I would love to return. I am looking forward to it."

Velocity beat Supernovas by 7 wkts



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

here on Tuesday.

Set a target of 151 after opting to field, Velocity completed the chase with 10 balls to spare.

After Shafali's breezy knock of 51 in 33 balls, Laura Wolvaardt (51 off 35 balls) and Deepti Sharma (24 not out) saw their side home comfortably.

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 play overs 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.

Ganguly not worried about Rohit, Kohli's form



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



emerging fast bowlers like Malik, Mohsin Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan... It's a place where talent gets exposure."

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-

ever IPL with 236 runs from 13 innings which included three golden ducks.

Backing the duo, Ganguly said: "They are very good players. I'm sure they will be back among runs. They play so much of cricket that at times they go out of form. Kohli played very well in the last game, especially when it was required for RCB."

"That's why he (Kohli) was so happy that RCB qualified. They are all great players, it's a matter of time they will be at their best," Ganguly added.

Rishabh Pant has failed to impress especially with his DRS making decisions but Ganguly feels with time he would improve.

"Don't compare Pant with MS Dhoni. Dhoni has so much experience, has captained in 500-plus games in IPL, Tests and ODIs. So it's not fair for Rishabh to be compared with Dhoni."

Vettori named Oz assistant coach



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

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.

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 Khara 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 an 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 percent before I go off to sleep everyday."

"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.



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 Otte.

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 doubles event as well.



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.



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 Tirkey 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 melee 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.

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



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

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

'Man City's miracle comeback all part of my plan'

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola joked it had been part of his plan for Manchester City to come from 2-0 down to beat Aston Villa 3-2 to claim the Premier League title as his side paraded the trophy through Manchester on Monday.

Needing to win to hold off Liverpool by a point to win the title, City were trailing 2-0 with 15 minutes remaining before three goals in five-and-a-half manic minutes at the Etihad.

Guardiola kept his post-match promise by puffing on a cigar as he took to the stage at the end of the parade. City have now four titles in the last five years under Guardiola and six in the last 11 seasons. "It was the plan, 0-2, calm, calm," Guardiola said with a laugh. "And after



we scored it was a great night.

"Everybody knows what has happened is an incredible achievement. This is the toughest league, in six years since we arrived we had four. "The happiness on all the faces is the greatest reward we can get."

Despite their domestic dominance, the Champions League has remained beyond City despite the billions spent amassing a stellar squad. Another heartbreaking exit to Real Madrid in the semi-finals earlier this month could have derailed their Premier League title charge, but they bounced back to take the necessary 10 points from the final four games.

"There was a lot of tension in the last month after (the defeat to Madrid) and a lot of difficult games.

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 midfield 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.

ORIX Leasing & Financial Services India Limited
(formerly known as OASIS Auto Financial Services Limited) (A Subsidiary of ORIX Auto Infrastructure Services Limited)
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(Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002)
The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from ORIX Leasing & Financial Services India Limited. The loans of the below mentioned borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loans were classified as NPA as per the RBI Guidelines. Amounts due by them to ORIX Leasing & Financial Services India Limited, are mentioned as per the respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates

Sr.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers	Outstanding as per 13(2) Notice	Notice Date	Details of Secured asset
1	LN17787 LN18613	SME Secured Loan	1. Jayesh Parmar 2. Neetu Jayesh Parmar 5. Harish Kumar Padiya	INR 1,21,11,022.93/-	17-May-2022	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Khasra No. 598/23, Admeasuring Area- 2000 Sq. Feet Situated At Ravindra Nath Tagore Ward No. 51, Village-Jalpur, P.H No. 114/45 Old (69/70 New), R.I.C. Raipur1, Tehsil & District- Raipur, Chattisgarh And Bounded By As Following: North : Open Land, South : Road, East : Road, West : Road

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts due to ORIX Leasing & Financial Services India Limited as per details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings U/s 13(4) and Sec. 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgage properties mentioned herein above to realize the amount due to ORIX Leasing & Financial Services India Limited. Further you are prohibited U/s 13(13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured asset either by way of sale / lease or otherwise.

Date : 25.05.2022
Place : Raipur

Sd/-
Authorised officer
ORIX Leasing & Financial Services India Limited

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank. Across India.

Head Office, Mangaluru – 575 002 **CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128**
Asset Recovery Management Branch Phone : 011-40591567 (Extn. 240)
8-B, First Floor, Rajendra Park, Pusa Road, E-Mail : delhiham@kbbank.com
New Delhi-110060. Mobile : 9319891680
Website : www.karnatakabank.com

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Karnataka Bank Ltd., the Secured creditor from on **05.12.2020** will be sold on **"As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is"** basis on **10.06.2022**, for recovery of **Rs. 27,87,341.80 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Forty One and Paise Eighty Only) under Term Loan Account No.1297001600035801 along with future interest from 10.05.2022**, plus costs due to the Karnataka Bank Ltd, Bilaspur Branch, Ground Floor, Mangalbhawan, Linkroad, Opp. Hotel Deep, Bilaspur-495001 (Chhattisgarh State), the Secured creditor from: (1) **Mrs. Anamika Bhadoriya** W/o Harish Singh Bhadoriya, (2) **Mr. Harish Singh Bhadoriya** S/o Jagdish Bhadoriya, both (1) and (2) are addressed at: Maharana Pratap Chowk, Ward No.11, Nigam Colony, Bilaspur-495001, being borrowers/ guarantors/ co- obligants.
Boundaries:
East : Land of Vendor **West** : House of Dilshad & Halimat
North : Land of Akbar **South** :Nistari Road
Reserve Price / Upset Price below which the property may not be sold: Rs.26,60,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Sixty Thousand only)
Earnest money to be deposited / tendered: Rs.2,66,000.00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Only)
(The borrower/s / mortgagor/s attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).
(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors)
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. www.karnatakabank.com under the head "Mega Auction on 10th June 2022".
The E-auction will be conducted through portal **https://bankauctions.in/** on **10.06.2022 from 11:30 A.M to 12:30 P.M** with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at **https://bankauctions.in/** and get the user Id and password free of cost and get online training on E-auction (tentatively on 09.06.2022) from M/s.4closure, 605A, 6th Floor, Maltrivanam, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038, **contact : No.040-23836405, mobile 814200062/63, E-mail: subbarao@bankauctions.in and info@bankauctions.in.**
Place: Bilaspur **For Karnataka Bank Ltd**
Date: 21.05.2022 **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**