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SC jails Sidhu for 1 yr in 34-yr-old road rage

Ex-cricketer can contest election despite conviction, say legal experts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The 1988 road rage case leading to murder of a senior citizen returned to haunt cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu on Thursday as the Supreme Court awarded him one-year rigorous imprisonment. The SC reviewed its earlier judgment on the petition filed by the victim's family.

Earlier, the SC had in May 2018 held Sidhu guilty of "voluntarily causing hurt" to a 65-year-old man. The court had spared him a jail term and imposed a fine of ₹1,000.

Despite his conviction, Sidhu can contest elections. Legal expert and former Lok Sabha secretary general PDT Achary told PTI: "If the sentence was two years or more, then he would have been disqualified from contesting elections for six years." He cited Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The bench comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and SK Kaul said any "undue sympathy" to impose an inadequate sentence would do more harm to the justice system and undermine the public confidence in the efficacy of law.

Reacting to his conviction, Sidhu said, "A life was lost and everybody will regret it. But the court says it was an accident. I have submitted to the majesty of the law and whatever the court says I abide by it".

He went on to add, "I have been a survivor all my life. It is the grace of God which always prevails and bails me through. Every adversity has made me bigger and hence my reputation. From the age of 7 till 53, there has been no defeat."

In its 24-page review judgment, the apex court said in the given circumstances, tempers may have been lost but then the consequences of the loss of temper must be borne.

It also said this is a case where some "germane facts for sentencing" appear to have been lost sight of while imposing only a fine on the Congress leader. Noting that the hand can also be a weapon by itself where a boxer, wrestler, cricketer, or an extremely physically fit person inflicts a blow, the SC said it did believe that indulgence was not required to be shown at the stage of sentence by only imposing fine and letting Sidhu go without any imposition of sentence.

Yasin Malik convicted for terror funding

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik was on Thursday convicted by a designated NIA court after he pleaded guilty in a case of terror funding and waging war against the country.

The special court directed the NIA to assess Malik's financial situation to determine the amount of fine to be imposed on him and posted the matter for arguments on quantum of punishment on May 25.

Malik had pleaded guilty to all charges, including those under stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act in a terror funding case.

Malik had told the court that he was not contesting the charges levelled against him that included Sections 17 (raising funds for terrorist act), 18 (recruitment terrorist act), 20 (punishment for being a member of a terrorist gang or organisation), 38 (membership of a terrorist gang or organisation), 39 (supporting a terrorist organization) of the UAPA, and Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (Waging, or attempting to wage war, or abetting waging of war, against the Government of India) and 121-A (Conspiracy to commit offences punishable by section 121) of the Indian Penal Code.

Stay Gyanvapi hearing, SC tells Varanasi court

SC hearing today; survey report says temple existed on premises

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed a Varanasi Civil court not to proceed with hearing the Gyanvapi case even as Special Court Commissioner Vishal Singh on Thursday submitted the report of the videography and survey of Gyanvapi mosque complex in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar. The SC will hear the matter on Friday.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and PS Narashima was informed by advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain that lead counsel Hari Shankar Jain for the Hindu devotees in the civil suit is indisposed for Thursday as he was discharged from hospital on Wednesday.

"We accordingly direct the trial court to strictly act in terms of the above arrangement and to desist from taking up further proceedings in the suit in view of the consensus which has been arrived at between the parties," the bench said in its order.

The bench directed for the listing of the matter before it on May 20 at 3 pm and said the Registry may seek the administrative directions of the Chief Justice of India so that the bench may be constituted.

Advocate Jain mentioned the matter and urged the court to hear it on Friday.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the Committee of Management Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, said several applications have been filed across the country to "seal" various mosques, and in the Gyanvapi case in Varanasi, the hearing is going on and an application has been filed to "demolish" a wall around the "wazukhana" (ablution room).

Ahmadi said he cannot oppose adjournment on the grounds of the health of a counsel but an undertaking should be given that Hindu devotees will not proceed with the civil court proceedings.

He said it is necessary that the trial court which is continuing to hear the proceedings today may desist from doing so until this court takes up the proceedings on Friday.

The report of the survey submitted in the civil court allegedly supports the claim of Hindu petitioners claiming the presence of Hindu idols and symbols inside the Gyanvapi mosque. *The Pioneer* could not independently verify the report which went viral in the media and claimed that the pillars in the basement of the mosque have engravings of flowers and a "kalash" (pitcher). The report also allegedly mentioned carvings in "ancient Hindi language" on a pillar in the basement besides the symbol of a "Trishul" on a wall of the basement.

Mathura court admits lawsuit to remove Shahi Idgah Masjid

Mathura: The Mathura district court on Thursday said a plea seeking to remove the Shahi Idgah Masjid from the complex it shares with the Katra Keshav Dev Temple here is admissible.

The lower court which had earlier dismissed the plea is now bound to hear it.

The petition was originally filed in the lower court — the court of civil judge senior division — on September 25, 2020 by Lucknow-resident Ranjana Agnihotri and six others as the "next friend of Bhagwan Sri Krishna Virajman".

CAPSULE

LPG CYLINDER PRICE HIKED TO OVER ₹1,000

New Delhi: LPG price was on Thursday hiked by ₹3.50 per cylinder, the second increase in rate this month following the firming of international energy rates. Non-subsidised LPG now costs ₹1,003 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, up from ₹999.50 previously, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

MODI TO ATTEND TOKYO QUAD MEET ON MAY 24

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join US President Joe Biden and Prime Ministers of Australia and Japan at a summit of the Quad leaders in Tokyo on May 24 which is taking place amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Making the announcement of Modi's participation at the summit, MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the PM will have bilateral talks with US President Joe Biden and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida.

SC REJECTS PLEA TO REVIEW CYRUS ORDER

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday dismissed a plea of the Sapoorji Pallonji group firms seeking a review of the 2021 verdict which had upheld the Tata group's decision to remove Cyrus Mistry as the executive chairman of the Tata Sons.

INDONESIA LIFTS BAN ON PALM OIL EXPORT

Jakarta: Indonesia said on Thursday it will lift a monthlong ban on palm oil export, citing improvements in the supply and domestic price of bulk cooking oil. President Joko Widodo said exports will resume on Monday.

SC grants bail to Azam Khan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim bail to Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan, saying it is a fit case to invoke its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution as facts in the present case are very peculiar.

Khan is currently lodged in Sitapur jail in connection with several cases, including that of land grabbing, against him in Rampur. The Uttar Pradesh Government had earlier opposed Khan's bail plea and termed him as a "land grabber" and a "habitual offender".

"The petitioner is directed to be released on interim bail in respect of FIR being Case Crime No 70 of 2020, registered with Police Station Kotwali, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh for the offences punishable under Sections 420 and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code on such terms and conditions as found appropriate by the trial court," a bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said.

HC annuls doorstep ration delivery scheme in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a jolt to Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi Government, the Delhi High Court on Thursday set aside the doorstep ration delivery scheme, "Mukhymantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojna".

Allowing two petitions filed by ration dealers challenging the doorstep delivery of ration scheme, a division bench of acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh said the Delhi Government is free to bring another doorstep delivery scheme but it cannot use grains provided by the Centre for this doorstep scheme.

The Delhi Government had defended the scheme on the ground that it was for the poor who were being threatened by fair price shop owners to opt-out of the home delivery mode otherwise they would not be given ration.

Reacting to the order, the Delhi Government sources said they would examine the order and after that take appropriate steps.

"In the facts of the present case, the impugned scheme for doorstep delivery of rations to the beneficiaries under the TPDS framed by the Cabinet Decision no. 2987 on 24.03.2021 has not been approved/ consented to by the Lieutenant Governor and, therefore, in any event of the matter, the same cannot be implemented in its present form," the court said in its 174-page judgment.

"The Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister is bound to communicate its decisions/resolutions, including any such scheme or proposal to the Lieutenant Governor, so as to enable him to examine the same and to take a call on whether, or not, he has a difference of opinion with any such scheme.

"When any decision of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister is placed before the Lieutenant Governor for his approval, he shall be mindful of the decision of the Supreme Court in State of (NCT of Delhi) (supra), and shall take his decision to express his difference of opinion, if any, in the light of the aforesaid Judgment," read the judgment.

In case the Lieutenant Governor expresses his disagreement with his Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister, he may either require the Chief Minister to refer the matter to the President for his decision, or he may, on his own, refer the matter to the President for his decision.

GST council suggestions not binding on Govts: SC

'Centre, State Govts both have powers to legislate on GST, Council must work harmoniously'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council's recommendations are not binding on Union and State but have a persuasive value as the country has a cooperative federal structure.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and Vikram Nath also held that the Centre and State Governments have simultaneous powers to legislate on GST but the council must work in a harmonious manner to achieve a workable solution. The bench said that as per Article 246A, both Parliament and the State legislature have equal power to legislate on matters of taxation.

"Article 246A treats Centre and State as equal and Article 279 of the Constitution says that Centre and State cannot act independent of each other", said the apex court. The top court said that recommendations of the GST council are a product of collaborative discussions between the Centre and States and it is not imperative that one of the federal units must possess a higher share. It said that Indian federalism is a dialogue between cooperative and non-cooperative federalism and the Centre and States always engage in dialogue.

The bench pointed out that there are no provisions in the GST Act of 2017 that deal with repugnancy between the laws drawn up by the Centre and the State and it is for the council to advise them suitably whenever such occasions come to fore.

The top court ruling came on a batch of pleas as it upheld a Gujarat High Court verdict to quash the levy of Integrated GST (IGST) on the importers on ocean freight under reverse charge.

Nikhat becomes World Champion, 5th Indian woman boxer to achieve feat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen lived up to the expectations as she clinched the coveted gold in flyweight (52kg) division with a facile 5-0 victory over Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the Women's World Championship final in Istanbul on Thursday.

Capping off a stupendous campaign that saw her dominate all her rivals, the Telangana boxer out-punched her Thai opponent to win via unanimous verdict with judges scoring the bout 30-27, 29-28, 29-28, 30-27, 29-28 in her favour.

With this win, Zareen, a 2019 Asian Championship bronze medallist, became only the fifth Indian boxer to be crowned world champion.

Second phase of Panchayat polls: Enthusiasm among women voters

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Defying Maoists boycott calls, rural voters including women in large numbers participated in the second phase of the panchayat polls in East Singhbhum. Despite the heavy heat, heavy enthusiasm has been seen among the voters during the voting especially among women voters.

In the district, polling started from Thursday morning in all the booths of three blocks Dhalbhumgarh, Chakulia and Baharagora. There was a lot of enthusiasm among the voters about the exercise of their franchise. Long queues of voters were seen at most of the polling stations since morning. At the same time, tight security arrangements were made at all polling stations and cluster points so that people could vote fearlessly. Vigilance is being maintained especially at polling stations adjoining Odisha and West Bengal.

ADM (Law and Order) Nandkishore Lal visited the polling stations of the border area and took stock of the security arrangements. During this, he appealed to the voters to vote fearlessly. He asked the voters to use the seal at the right place so that the vote does not go to waste during the counting.

Moreover, Anganwadi workers are cooperating in taking the differently-abled voters to the booths in the Panchayat elections. At the same time, this time there was a lot of interest in women in choosing the government of the village. Especially the first-time voters who came to the polling stations with their voter cards in their hands. Since the said area is an agricultural dominated area, so male voters go to the fields in the morning. Due to which women were seen at the booths in the morning more than men. About 45.86 percent voting took place in all three blocks.

In the Panchayat elections being held in the second phase, voters are showing more enthusiasm than the first phase. In the first two hours, about 20 percent or more voting was done in all the three blocks Dhalbhumgarh, Chakulia and Baharagora. Talking about the figures, 19.85 percent voting was done in Dhalbhumgarh, 20 percent in Chakulia and 20.42 percent in Baharagora.

District Election Officer (Panchayat) Vijaya Jadhav visited the election control room in the morning and took stock of the situation. He directed the officers to inform them immediately in case of any discrepancy. According to officials, polling is going smoothly in the Naxal-affected blocks of the district. Long queues of voters, especially women, were visible at every polling station amid Naxalites' call for boycott of elections. A large number of soldiers were also deployed at the polling stations.

DC holds review meeting for 3rd phase of polls

VINOD PRASAD ■ LOHARDAGA

Under the chairmanship of District Election Officer (Panchayat)-cum-Deputy Commissioner Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna, a review meeting was held on Thursday to review the preparations for the third phase of polling in Kudu and Senha blocks under the three-tier Panchayat (Common) Election, 2022.

Law and order related review was first done in the meeting. In this, the instructions were given to the Block Development Officers and Station House Officers to take appropriate action.

The personnel cell was directed to timely complete the training of all deputed polling personnel, deputation of appropriate number of polling and counting personnel for the third phase of polling. The personnel cell was directed to better train the counting personnel.

In the first phase, the Personnel Cell and Material Cell were praised by the Deputy Commissioner for doing better and the next phase was also directed to be completed in a better way.

In the meeting, all the cells including Election Cell, Accounts and Nazarat Cell, Counting Cell, Ballot Box Cell, Material Cell, Voter List Division Cell, Vehicle Cell, Media Cell were reviewed by the Deputy Commissioner.

In today's meeting, Superintendent of Police R Ram Kumar, Sub-Divisional Officer Arvind Kumar Lal, Sub-Divisional Police Officer BN Singh, all Block Development Officers, all Circle Officers, all station in-charges, senior/in-charge officers of all Cells and others were present.

Second phase of polling tense, exciting in Palamu

M FAIYAZ AHMAD ■ DALTONGANJ

The second phase of polling in Palamu was hectic today. It was a tense moment. It had racy moments. Even there was even a watch from the sky! The first episode was of anger and frustration. It was over the relocation of the booth.

Palamu administration had relocated 83 booths in the second phase, 23 booths more than the first phase relocation. Voters of Kokro village refrained from voting for one and a half hours today in the second phase of polling in Palamu at Akwaniya booth.

The villagers were upset over the relocation of their booth from Kokro to Akwaniya. They said it was a big bad deal for them.

They had only one demand. It was the restoration of their Kokro booth and only then they would opt to vote. Sources said the demand could not have been met at all. The polling party was at the Akwaniya booth. It was the most intricate situation for the Palamu administration. All pleas and exhortations by the administration for taking part in the voting were trashed by the voters there. They just wanted restoration of the Kokro booth. They refused to pay any heed to the block officials. Panic button was on. Everyone knew what consequences it would have if Kokro voters did not cast their votes.

Sources said the SP Palamu Chandan Kumar Sinha came to know about it. He rushed there and made a very smart psychological move.

"Voters are assured by me, your SP, from next time your Kokro booth will not be relocated. This booth will not be shifted at all," he said.The SP also said all of you would be voting at their village based booth Kokro in all the hustings that will come. Sources said the SP addressed the women voters first who were more vocal about not to vote at all. Their men were just nodding in their affirmation. It did wonders like anything. The voters who were sitting in anger and making faces just stood up and queued up to cast their votes. And they did cast their votes. The tension was gone. Everyone had a word of praise for SP Chandan kr Sinha who defused the crisis so smoothly. Sinha said he did not make any argument as to why this Kokro booth was relocated. It would not have broken the ice. Arguments would have boomeranged upon the officials. It could have led to a version and counter version.

The SP said he started with no relocation of this booth next time and it was cheered and hailed by the voters instantly. He said he made no mistake about reading the mood and mind of the angry voters. The voters wanted to be soothed with no further relocation assurance and as SP said he just played to their sentiments and they liked it.

In another major development Chhaterpur police in Palamu today recovered two loaded desi kattas, seized three four wheelers and arrested 4 persons. The SP said the kattas, the vehicles and the men all were for the polling today but their mission was foiled by our vigilant police force.

Sources said the men and machine were for two contestants, one a zila parishad candidate, the other a mukhiya candidate. There were drones too, first of its kind in the panchayat elections in Palamu. SP said the drones were flown over the most rough and tough terrain of Chhatarpur and Naudiha police stations today.

He said the drones were having sky watch of locations which are on the foothills and the look and the surroundings are eerie.

Huge turnout of voters during 2nd phase of polls in Dhanbad

PNS ■ DHANBAD

Heavy turnout of voters has been reported during the second phase of polls in Dhanbad despite heat wave conditions .According to district authorities 68.5 percent vote has been recorded in two blocks .While Dhanbad block witnessed 66.73 percent voter turnout , Baghmara had 70.28 percent turnout .The turnout was reported high since the voting started with Dhanbad witnessing 16.8%, 63.5% and 49.2% voters turnout at 9am, 11am and One pm respectively. Similarly Baghmara witnessesd18.7%,39.2% and 53.5% voters turnout during the same interval.There was no major incident baring few minor skirmishes among candidates and their supporters at two locations of Baghmara block.

According to police one incident has been reported in Muraidih in which it has been alleged that supporters of mukhiya candidate Anita Devi were thrashed by other candidate Naveen Singh.

In the second incident candidates including Vikash Agarwal , Mahesh and Santosh Mahto clashed over an alleged dispute of trying to lure voters outside the polling booth.Police have recorded complaints and are investigating it.

Two FIRs lodged for violation of model code

NITYANAND DUBEY ■ GARHWA

For violation of model code of conduct two separate FIRs have been registered against Madhya Mukhiya candidate Bindu Devi and her husband Sanjay Choubey and district council candidate, Dandai Sanjay Paswan A video of Mukhiya candidate Bindu Devi and Sanjay Choubey distributing money for chicken and liquor went viral on social media. Taking cognizance of this, the Sub-Divisional Officer Garhwa Raj Maheshwaram got him investigated which was found to be correct.The sub-divisional officer said that during the investigation, the viral video was found to be true, an FIR has been lodged against both of them in the Garhwa police station for violating the model code of conduct.Similarly, Danda Zilla Parishad member candidate Sanjay Paswan was campaigning by playing DJ in a voice exceeding the limit, taking cognizance of which a case of violation of the Model Code of Conduct has been registered against him.

Enthusiastic voters cast their votes in Bokaro blocks

SURESH NIKHAR ■ BERMO

Under the three-tier Panchayat Election 2022, in the second phase, the voting in Jaridih, Kasmar and Bermo blocks of the district was completed in a peaceful atmosphere on Thursday.

There is no report of any untoward incident from anywhere during the Panchayat election. In all three blocks till 3 pm, 72.27 percent voting was done in Jaridih block, 75.19 percent in Kasmar while 56.34 percent in Bermo block.

As per official sources voters were queuing at several polling stations till the time of filing of the report, they were exercising their franchise.

As the temperature of the season rose up to 42 degrees celsius, the voting percentage also increased in the same way. As a result, the vote percentage in the district increased as the day progressed. In the voting, great enthusiasm was seen among the elderly, disabled, male and female voters. District Election Officer (Panchayat) cum Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary said that 31 model polling stations were made in the elections held in all the three blocks. Voters were welcomed with flowers, garlands at Adarsh polling stations,added DEO cum DC.

However, fruity etc were distributed among them and voters were also welcomed by laying red, green carpets at the polling stations. Meanwhile Anganwadi workers were tagged to bring Divyang voters to the polling booth. Volunteers were assisted by the police personnel and anganwadi workers at the polling stations for the differently abled voters. DEO cum DC said that along with men, women, differently-abled, old age voters also cast their votes with enthusiasm. Due to the large number of preventive actions taken before the elections, the elections were conducted peacefully. Tight security arrangements were made at all the polling stations.The DC thanked all the voters, polling personnel and office bearers for the fair elections. He said that people have played their part on election day as per the dignity of Bokaro. The enthusiasm of the voters was visible in all the polling stations since morning.

It may be mentioned that for the successful conduct of polling, 593 polling teams were constituted for a total of 593 polling stations. There are a total 02 lakh 25 thousand 780 voters in Jaridih, Kasmar and Bermo blocks. In this, the total number of male voters is 1,15,932 and the total number of female voters is 1,09,848.

Coal mines water can quench thirst of Dhanbad: BIT Professor

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

The district requires about 270 million gallons of water per day but gets just 87 million gallons from different sources

The underground coal mines water can quench the thirst of Dhanbad, feels a professor of the lone government owned engineering college of state the Birsa Institute of Technology (BIT) - Sindri.

Professor Girjesh Kumar said ,"Despite plenty of water resources in the district trapped in underground mines, unfortunately it faces about 68 percent water scarcity to cater its different requirements including domestic, industrial,agriculture and other users."

While addressing a seminar on 'Water Conservation' organised at Sindri College he said, "The district requires about 270 million gallons of water per day but gets just 87 million gallons from different sources."

"Thus the district faces a deficit of 183.6 million gallons.of water per day," he said.

He said there is no dearth of ground water resources and if arrangements were made for purification of underground mines water in different sectors and its proper distribution , the water crisis may be solved to a large extent.

Explaining available water ratio, he said around 97 percent of available water in the world happens to be salted and only 03 percent water is fresh out of which more than half is in the form of glashier.. Thus we need to use water in the proper manner .

Prof Anil Kumar of Sindri College moderated the programme while principal Prof Nakul Prasad welcomed guests and students .

CTPS employees take oath of cleanliness

PNS ■ BOKARO

Chief Engineer and Project Head Ajay Kumar Dutta and Chief Engineer O&M Sunil Kumar Pandey of Chandrapur Thermal Power Station (CTPS) a unit of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) administered the oath of cleanliness to its employees on Thursday. CTPS is observing the Swachhta Pakhwada program, from May 16 to May 31.

Speaking on the occasion, Dutta said, Mahatma Gandhi had dreamed of not only having political freedom but had envisioned a clean and developed country. He freed our nation by breaking the chains of slavery. Now we have to remove the dirt and serve our country.

All the workers took an oath that they would be conscious of cleanliness and would give time for it. "We will fulfill this cleanliness resolution by doing one 100 hours every year, including two hours every week. We will not spread dirt and will not allow anyone to spread dirt." The employees also took the oath that first of all they will start it from their home, family and locality and village and workplace.

Few countries in this world that look clean, are that the citizens there do not litter and do not allow it to happen. With this thought, he took an oath to promote the Swachh Bharat Mission from village to village and street to street.

The employees also took a pledge to get this program done by one hundred people and they would try to get 100 hours for cleanliness from other people. This step towards cleanliness would help in making the entire India clean, he said.

On this occasion, Deputy General Manager Administration TT Das, Deputy Chief Engineer D Das, Additional Director Dilip Kumar, Joint Director Ajay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director Ravindra Kumar, Manager Anil Kumar Singh, Ashok Kumar, Akshay Kumar and other officials and employees were present.

Demand to issue Rs 20 coin in name of Lata Mangeshkar

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

City-based Pappu Sardar, famous fan of Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit,has sent letters addressed to the President, Prime Minister and Finance Minister through post demanding the release of Rs 20 coin in the name of Bharat Ratna Late Lata Mangeshkar.

Anjana Mitra, Senior Postmaster at Bistupur Main Post Office was handed over a demand letter for sending it to the President, Prime Minister and Finance Minister through speed post. On the occasion, Mitra said that it is the department's responsibility to make this demand letter reach at the right time and right address.

It may be mentioned that an artificial 20 rupee metal coin has been created by Pappu Sardar in collaboration with the artisans of Bengal, which he presented to the media on Madhuri Dixit's birthday on 15 May. In this regard Pappu Sardar said that the whole world knows Bharat Ratna late Lata Mangeshkar and her voice has brought fame to India in the field of music. Every music lover of India considers her as their role model. A letter has been sent to them sitting on the highest posts of the country demanding the release of a coin of 20 rupees from the Government of India.

Recruitment drive-2022 to be organized by BPITI

PNS ■ BOKARO

Under BSL CSR initiatives like every year, Bokaro private ITI (BPITI) will organize Recruitment Drive-2022 on May 25 this year by Bokaro (P) ITI, located at CISF Campus, run by Bokaro Steel Educational Trust under the aegis of Bokaro Steel Plant.

Famous companies like Bajaj Motors Limited, Spark Minda Limited, Caparo Engineering Private Limited, VG Industrial Enterprises Private Limited, Radiant Appliances & Electronics Private Limited will participate in the selection process. Also coordination is on with Tata Motors and TVS Motors to participate in the selection process. Bokaro (P) ITI is striving to get 100% placement of its trainees. COC BSL MK Dhan said that due to the Corona epidemic, Campus Recruitment Drive-2021 was organized in online mode in which 90 percent trainees were selected which in itself was commendable achievement during pandemics.

Veteran Congress leader Chabban passes away

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Veteran Congress leader from Kolhan Syed Raza Abbas Rizvi Chabban passed away on Thursday after a long battle against diabetes. With his death, an era of Congress politics of the city came to an end.

He breathed his last at his residence located in Kadma. Rizvi, who was the flag bearer of Congress throughout his life, never compromised on values.

He was 70 years old and was suffering from severe diabetes. In the presence of senior party leaders he was led to rest at Dhatkidih Kabristan.

He leaves behind a family full of grandchildren along with four sons Rais Rizvi, Anees Rizvi, Zafar Rizvi, Mazhar Rizvi and a daughter Kishwar Kazmi. After the news of Chhabban's death, there was a wave of mourning in the political corridor of Jamshedpur. There is an influx of acquaintances for the last darshan at Kadma's Shastrinagar block number two, road number two residence.

Chabban, served as vice chairman cum acting chairman of minority department of Jharkhand State Congress Party.

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Second phase peaceful, about 70 per cent voting registered

PANCHAYAT POLLS

A woman (Left)shows her finger marked with indelible ink after casting her vote. Voters wait in a queue to cast their votes during the 2nd phase of Jharkhand Panchayat election-2022, at Karra, Khunti district on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

PNS ■ RANCHI

Despite the heat wave engulfing the entire State, there was no loss of enthusiasm among voters for electing the rural government in the second phase of Panchayat polls. People turned up in large numbers to exercise their franchise with voter turnout registering more than 70 per cent in the second phase.

Polling for the second phase of Panchayat polls started at 7 am in 10,614 booths across 50 blocks in 16 districts. The State Election Commission has declared a total of 4,451 polling stations as sensitive while 3,700 booths as hyper sensitive. There was enthusiasm among voters even in Maoist hit districts including Karra, Torpa and Rania blocks of Khunti district despite Left Wing Extremist groups giving a poll boycott.

In Ranchi district polling was held in five blocks—Bero, Lapung, Itki, Nagri and Kanke.

The district administration has made elaborate arrangements for smooth polls with deployment of security forces in all booths including sensitive and hyper sensitive booths. Drones cameras were used to monitor the areas.

The district administration has also provided medical kits including medicines for fever, loose motion, gastric and vomiting to polling staff due to heat waves. Packets of ORS and other glucose powder were also provided to polling members.

In the second phase polling is in 872 panchayats to elect 5123 panchayat members, 866 mukhiyas, 939 committee members and 102 zila parishad members. In the second phase a total of 21,872 candidates' fate will be decided. However, like the first phase in the second phase too, 5,093 seats have been decided uncontested.

Meanwhile, the counting for the first phase of polling which started on Tuesday results is being declared. The first phase of four phase panchayat polls was held on May 14 and over 68 per cent of 52 lakh voters exercised their franchise. In the first phase elections were held for 9,819 posts which included 7,303 panchayat members, 1117 mukhiyas, 1256 panchayat committee members and 143 Zila parishad members.

Meanwhile, the state election commission has announced that out of 24 zila parishad seats, 13 seats will be reserved for women giving maximum representation to fair sex. Moreover, seats have been reserved for SC and ST. Ranchi Zila parishad seat has been reserved for women from ST category.

As the results of the first phase of polling are becoming clear many winning candidates are from political families. Congress MLA from Simdega Bhushan Bara's wife Josima Khakha has won Zila Parishad election from Pakartand block (Simdega).

Similarly, JMM MLA Nalin Soren's wife Jais Lupsi Besra has won Zila Parishad from Kathikund. Chief Minister Hemant Soren's cousin sister Rekha Soren has won the Zila Parishad seat from Gola East. In panchayat polls many MLAs have fielded their relatives for Zila parishad seats.

HC defers hearing of Singhal and related cases to May 24

ED PROBE

Have approached SC against previous order of the court: Sibal

PNS ■ RANCHI

Security personnel and media persons stand outside the Enforcement Directorate office during the ongoing investigation of suspended IAS officer Pooja Singhal case, in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

The bench of Chief Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan and Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad on Thursday deferred the hearing of PILs related to shell companies, allocation of mining lease to the Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Pooja Singhal Khunti district MGNREGA scam till Tuesday.

The court passed this order after Supreme Court lawyer Kabil Sibal who argued on behalf of the Jharkhand government said that they have filed a petition at the Supreme Court to challenge the previous order of the court in this matter passed on Tuesday.

Sibal said that the SC is likely to take up the petition of the state on May 20 hence the High Court should wait till an order is passed by the apex court.

He was assisted by Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan whereas Tushar Mehta represented the Enforcement Directorate.

During the hearing, the Chief Justice said that the court has received the investigation report from the Enforcement Directorate.

The Chief Justice said that the court is hearing an important and urgent matter and the report of the agency reveals that it is a matter of paramount public interest.

Sibal said that respondents should be given a copy of the investigation report of the ED to file a reply. Tushar Mehta opposed the plea of Sibal and said that in cases like these; documents, evidence, and reports can't be shared with anybody except the court till the charge sheet is filed. He referred to the case of P. Chidambaram.

On this Sibal said that in such a situation he may not be able to assist the court. The bench was not happy with such a remark made by Sibal. The court initially fixed Saturday for the hearing and rescheduled it to Monday at the request of the Advocate General.

But later on, he requested the court to fix a hearing on Tuesday as Sibal was not available on Monday. On this, the court asked him not to detect the court and said why the court should reschedule the hearing because of Sibal who has refused to assist the court.

HC objects Ranchi DC filing affidavit on behalf of State

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday sharply reacted to the government allowing Ranchi DC Chhavi Ranjan to file the affidavit on behalf of the State in the matter related to the allocation of stone mining lease to the Chief Minister Hemant Soren at Angara in Ranchi.

Chief Justice Dr. Ravi Ranjan who headed the division bench directed the Advocate General to explain why a person charge-sheeted in a case was allowed to be a deponent on the behalf of the State.

"How can you allow a charge-sheeted person to swear on the behalf of the state? He was charge-sheeted in a criminal case under section 13 (1) (D) of the Prevention of the Corruption. His passport was also confiscated. You must have to explain. This court still doesn't know how Ranchi DC has personal knowledge of the mining issue," the Chief Justice remarked.

Ranchi DC is facing charges for felling some trees at his official residence in Koderma in 2015, when he was the DC of the district. An FIR 18/2015 was lodged at Markaccho police station. Later on, the case was transferred to the Vigilance Bureau.

Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan said that Chhavi Ranjan was asked to file the affidavit in his capacity as Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi as he had allocated the mining lease to the CM. Rajiv Ranjan said that Ranchi DC is a competent official to file the affidavit. Besides, he has not been held guilty.

The court snubbed the Advocate General and said that Ranjan may be competent for the State but not for the court. "Make him secretary; make him the secretary of the Anti-Corruption Bureau. You can do it. But how can you allow a charge-sheeted accused to file the affidavit?" the Chief Justice said.

The Advocate General said that he has no information about Ranchi DC facing any criminal case and being Ranchi DC, he can file the affidavit on behalf of the State government.

The court directed him to verify from Ranchi DC whether he is facing any criminal case.

The court said that an accused has no right to sign an affidavit of his own bail petition. In such a situation how Ranchi DC is allowed who is facing prosecution and is on bail currently. The Chief Justice immediately summoned all documents related to the case against Ranchi DC as he had filed a petition before the High Court to seek relief.

Admin to tighten noose around illegal mining, transportation

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate, Chhavi Ranjan has issued directions to check prevention of illegal mining/storage/transportation in mission mode. The DC has issued necessary directions to District Transport Officer, District Mining Officer, Sub-Divisional Officer Sadar and Bundu, Deputy Superintendent of Police Bundu, Deputy Superintendent of Police Bero, Khalari and Silli in this regard.

The District Transport Officer has been asked by the Deputy Commissioner to ensure action in mission mode for the prevention of transportation of vehicles without number plates, unclear numbers, and unreadable numbers transporting mines.

The DC issued the directions after there was a report that transportation of coal and other minerals from big trucks is going on unabated during nights on Ranchi-Daltonganj main road and also on the roads of capital Ranchi. These trucks carry stone chips, sand, bricks etc.

The Ranchi DC has directed officials to constitute special teams to check on illegal transportation of mines on national highways and other roads in the State Capital. The DC in its directive has asked to set up check posts, conduct surprise inspections, raids and seize vehicles and plants used in illegal mining and take action as per rules.

The DC has also directed for strict action against illegal mining as per requirement. In order to take necessary action against illegal crusher operators under the Ormanjhi area, Sub-Divisional Officer Sadar, Assistant Mining Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police Silli, Circle Officer Ormanjhi and SHO Ormanjhi were instructed to form a team and take necessary action. Action was directed through a letter dated 13 January 2022 and the report has been asked to be submitted.

Deputy Commissioner Ranjan has once again sent a reminder letter to all the concerned officials to report the action taken against illegal mining and crusher operation.

State Congress in-charge meets CM over RS poll

PNS ■ RANCHI

State Congress in-charge Avinash Pandey, JPCC President Rajesh Thakur and Rural Development Minister Alamgir Alam meet Chief Minister Hemant Soren at CM's official residence in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

One of the partners in the ruling alliance in the State, the Congress party is in the race for the imminent Rajya Sabha elections which will be held for two seats. In this episode, on Thursday, under the leadership of State Congress in-Charge, Avinash Pandey a delegation of the party leaders met Chief Minister (CM), Hemant Soren and presented their claim for the Rajya Sabha seat.

During this, while the latest situation in the State was discussed among the leaders, the Rajya Sabha election was at the center of the discussion.

Talking to a media person after the meeting with CM, Pandey said that the Congress leaders put it before the CM that in the last elections, the Congress had supported JMM Supremo, Shibu Soren. In this election, the first seat should go to the Congress, the JMM should consider it seriously, he added.

The Congress State In-Charge further said that there were talks with the CM about the Rajya Sabha elections as well. He said that it is not a big issue. "There will be an opinion on this matter by sitting together. The CM has been informed of the party's claim and there is time the decision will be taken after completely considering the leaders of both the parties," he added.

In response to a question, Pandey said that a conspiracy is being hatched to defame the Government, which we will fight strongly. All the parties will go together for welfare schemes among the people, he added.

"In the year 2022, the party will organize many programs. Pad Yatra will be taken out at the district level on August 9. A 75 km padyatra will be taken out under the leadership of every district Congress president. On August 15, on the 75th anniversary of independence, Prabhat Pheri will be taken out at the district, block and booth level of the state. A program will be organized in the district headquarters throughout the day with the popular hymn named 'Raghupati Radhav Raja' in the ferry," said Pandey.

Talking to the media persons after the meeting Congress Legislature Party leader Almigir Alam in this regard, he said that there is still a lot of time in the Rajya Sabha elections. "Be sure that the candidate will be from the Grand Alliance, he added.

Alam said that the party had conveyed its sentiment to the CM only yesterday and the Congress party has also received positive assurance from the CM. "We hope that this time the Congress candidate will get the support of JMM," he added. Responding to a question, he said that the BJP will fight with lakhs of tricks, and the Government of Mahagathbandhan will complete its term with strength.

UD&HD Dept asks civic bodies to clean drains before monsoon

PNS ■ RANCHI

RMC workers clean a drainage ahead of monsoon. (File)

In a bid to provide a waterlogging free urban system for the people of the State, Urban Development and Housing Department (UD and HD) on Thursday instructed that before the monsoon, the small and big drains of all the municipal bodies of Jharkhand will be cleaned.

Regarding this, Secretary, UD and HD, Vinay Kumar Choubey has given strict instructions to all the Municipal Commissioners, Executive Officers in the review meeting organized through video conferencing. After reviewing the progress of the schemes related to sanitation in the meeting, the Chobey said that the problem of water logging in the cities would be reduced to a great extent due to the cleaning of drains before the onset of rains so complete it on time. He also said that if additional manpower and machines are required for this, then arrange for that too, but there will be no compromise on cleanliness.

The Secretary clearly instructed the officer during the meeting that before the rainy season, all small and big drains should be cleaned. "Start this work from May 21 and complete it by June 10. Issue all municipal body WhatsApp numbers among citizens. Water logging complaints will be received through WhatsApp. Work in coordination with citizens by forming a response team. Keep a standby team ready to resolve the complaint related to cleanliness in the municipal areas of the State," he added.

Choubey also instructed for construction of a sanitary landfill and accelerated the construction of the plant. Instructions were also given for the purchase of necessary equipment for cleanliness and instructions were also issued for land marking and boundary wall for the plant. He also directed for evaluation of projects of solid waste management that could be worked effectively. He instructed the officials during the meeting that to expedite door to door garbage collection work and where there are no consultants, the selection of consultants should be done on time.

For Godda, Pakur, Khunti, Chirkunda the Secretary directed to complete the solid waste management plant construction work by August 15. Mihijam and Madhupur municipal bodies were directed to expedite the construction of the plant. Chaibasa, Chakradharpur, Seraikela, Chas and Jamtara were directed to remove the hurdles in land acquisition.

In the meeting, Director, State Urban Development Agency, Amit Kumar said that additional efforts are needed for statutory certificates like consent to establishment, consent to operate and environmental clearance to start solid waste management plants. He urged the municipal bodies to send proposals for removal of legacy waste, so that its approval and amount could be obtained from the Center.

NEWS IN PIX

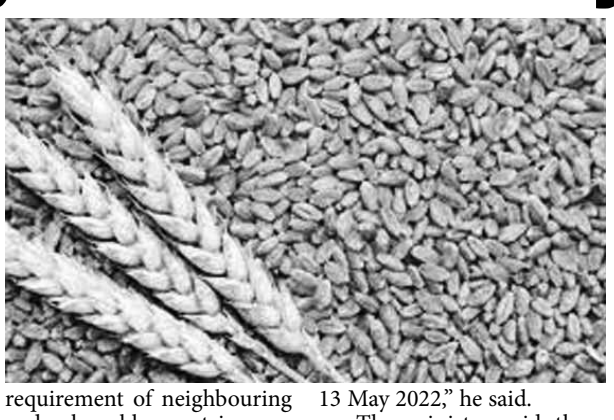
Bollywood actor Manoj Bajjpayee during 'Sainik Milan Samaroh'. IG CRPF Rajiv Singh presented a memento to him. PNS

SOF awards Best Intl Principal to Dr Ram Singh

Delhi Public School, Ranchi Principal Dr. Ram Singh, has been awarded the "Best International Principal Award 2021 - 2022" by the eminent Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF). He is among those 20 principals who earned this prestigious award across the globe and the only principal from the Eastern Region to get it. **PNS**

Wheat export ban will ensure delivery to most needy: India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE\AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI\UNITED NATIONS



In a strong counter to the G-7's criticism of its wheat export ban, India said its decision will ensure delivery to the most needy. At the same time, it also hit out at them for hoarding food items and "unjustified increase" of food prices.

It was the first time New Delhi explained its position in the United Nations since it imposed wheat export curbs on May 13. Enunciating the Government's stand on the issue, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said in the United Nations late Wednesday food grains should not go the way of the Covid-19 vaccines. He also expressed apprehensions over hoarding and discrimination amid the "unjustified increase" in food prices.

He was speaking at the ministerial meeting on 'Global Food Security Call to Action' chaired by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken under the US Presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of May.

The meeting and India's assertion at the UN came just days after India's last Friday decision to ban wheat exports in a bid to check high prices amid shortage of wheat due to scorching heat wave.

The decision is aimed at controlling the retail prices of wheat and wheat flour -- which have risen by an average 14-20 per cent in the last one year -- and meet the food grain requirement of neighbouring and vulnerable countries.

"A number of low income societies are today confronted with the twin challenges of rising costs and difficulty in access to food grains. Even those like India, who have adequate stocks, have seen an unjustified increase in food prices. It is clear that hoarding and speculation is at work. We cannot allow this to pass unchallenged," Muraleedharan said.

He said the Indian government has recognised the sudden spike in global prices of wheat which put "our food security and those of our neighbours and other vulnerable countries at risk."

He said India is committed to ensuring that such adverse impact on food security is effectively mitigated and the vulnerable cushioned against sudden changes in the global market."In order to manage our own overall food security and support the needs of neighbouring and other vulnerable developing countries, we have announced some measures regarding wheat exports on 13 May 2022," he said.

The minister said these measures allow for export on the basis of approvals to those countries which are required to meet their food security demands. This will be done on the request from the concerned governments. "Such a policy will ensure that we will truly respond to those who are most in need," he said.

The minister emphasised that India will play its due role in advancing global food security "and it will do so in a manner in which it upholds equity, display compassion, and promotes social justice."

India called out the West and cautioned that the issue of food grains should not go the way of Covid-19 vaccines, which were purchased by the rich nations in quantities excess of what they needed, leaving the poor and less developed nations scrambling to administer even the initial doses to their people.

He said it was important to have equity, affordability and accessibility when it comes to food grains. "We have already seen to our great cost how these principles were disregarded in the case of Covid-19 vaccines. Open markets must not become an argument to perpetuate inequity and promote discrimination," Muraleedharan said.

Ahead of Washington's signature events on food security, US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said "We have seen the report of India's decision. We're encouraging countries not to restrict exports because we think any restrictions on exports will exacerbate the food shortages. But you've – again, India will be one of the countries participating in our meeting at the Security Council, and we hope that they can, as they hear the concerns being raised by other countries, that they would reconsider that position."

Muraleedharan highlighted India's "track record" of helping its partners in distress, saying even in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts, India has never been found wanting.

He said India has provided food to Afghanistan, Africa, Sri Lanka and Myanmar "In keeping with our ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', (the world is one family) and our 'Neighbourhood First' policy."

India underlined that the global impact of Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts, including in Ukraine, has impacted lives of ordinary people adversely, particularly in the developing countries, with spiralling energy and commodity prices and disruptions in global logistical supply chains.

Congress has turned into a bhai-behen party, says Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Blaming the Congress for not giving space to "regional aspirations" and thus allowing the spawning of dynasty-run regional parties focused on only "family interests, BJP president J P Nadda on Thursday described the main Opposition party as neither national nor Indian and not a democratic either. He said, the Congress has turned into a "bhai-behen party" in an obvious reference to Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Nadda was addressing a seminar, organized by the Mumbai-based RSS-BJP-linked think tank 'Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP) at Nehru Memorial Auditorium here, to discuss the impact of "dynasty-based political parties" on the health of democratic process in the country and "ways and means to regulate" party formation.

The recommendations will be submitted to the Election Commission of India for its consideration.

In his speech, BJP MP Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, also the Vice Chairman of the RMP, said only eight of the 54 political parties recognized by the Election Commission are free of a dynastic rule which, he cautioned, was a frightening reality. Family-run parties are against the spirit of democracy, he said.

Interestingly, senior JD(U) leader and Union Minister R C P Singh, invited to the seminar , also made a no-holds-barred attack on the Congress' choice of Jawaharlal Nehru as the country's first Prime Minister and fully backed the BJP line saying Sardar Patel had everything but he did not get the top post after Independence.

Giving a tongue-lashing to the family-run parties , Nadda said in dynastic parties one person's interest reigns supreme and that such parties are a threat to democracy. These parties lack any ideology and their sole aim is to grab power, Nadda alleged.

Nadda blamed the Congress for the growth of regional parties, accusing the main opposition party of not giving space to regional aspirations during its dominance over national politics.

The BJP, he said, on the other hand believes in "unity among diversity" and gives space to regional aspirations while keeping the centre strong. He said personality cults have become "overbearing and overwhelming" in the regional outfits, sidetracking ideology and local aspirations.

The BJP is the only party where internal democracy is maintained, Nadda sought to claim as he described the opposition party as being undemocratic.Nadda said regional family-run parties have emerged all-over the country - from Jammu and Kashmir to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. "Family interests are supreme in these parties, vitiating the election process', he said.

Former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said regional parties are nothing short of a "private limited" company and blamed these outfits for cases of corruption, claiming that they need money for families to maintain their absolute power.

In the Congress, he said the "prince" does not want to be the president of the party but nor does he want anyone else to take over, and the party is functioning without a head.

Jhakhar joins BJP days after resigning from Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar, who had this week tweeted "good luck and good bye"' to the Congress leadership , joined the BJP here on Thursday in the presence of party president J P Nadda. Jakhar said he had to quit Congress as he opposed its "divisive politics" and asserted he would play an important role for the BJP in Punjab.

Last month, the Congress' disciplinary panel had recommended that Jakhar be suspended from the party for two years and removed from all posts."I had to leave after I was put in the dock for asserting that Punjab cannot be divided," Jakhar ,68, said, in a reference to the Congress selection of Charanjit Singh Channi as the first Dalit chief minister of Punjab before the assembly poll which the Congress lost to the AAP. Jakhar was one of the strong aspirants for the post of the Chief Ministership in Punjab.

"Three generations of my family served the Congress party over the last 50 years. Today,

I have broken the 50-year-old tie with the party over issues of nationalism, unity and brotherhood in Punjab," Jakhar said addressing the newspersons at the BJP head office.

China protests US Special Coordinator's meeting with Dalai Lama in Dharamshala

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE\AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI\BEIJING

As US Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues met the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh on Thursday, China protested and said it violated Washington's commitment that Tibet is part of China and it does not support Tibetan separatists. Beijing also said the visit was an interference in the internal matters of China.

The sharp reaction came after the Special Coordinator met the Dalai Lama and expressed US President Joe Biden and the American people's greetings to the Dalai Lama. She also expressed the gratitude of the world for the messages of peace that the Dalai Lama espouses.

The Tibetan government-in-exile, in a press statement, said she discussed the rich traditions of freedom and democracy in the United States and India. Tibetan leaders Penpa Tsering, Norzin Dolma and Namgyal Choedup besides members of the US Special Coordinator's delegation also attended the meeting.

"His Holiness expressed his happiness to meet Zeya and emphasised the oneness of all humanity. The Dalai Lama further said despite its best efforts, China has failed to win over the Tibetan people and transform their minds. Instead, he said, the thinking of the Chinese people itself is rapidly changing," it stated.

The US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues was on a two-day visit to Dharamshala. On Wednesday, she visited the Central Tibetan Administration and held discussions with its leadership. She also visited the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts, the Tibet Museum, and also met with members of the Tibetan civil society, according to the statement.

China said the meeting violated Washington's commitment that Tibet is part of China and it does not support Tibetan separatists. The Chinese Foreign Ministry criticised Zeya's visit, calling it an interference in China's internal affairs.

"Tibet is part of China and Tibetan religious affairs is China's internal affairs" China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing when asked about the Indian-origin senior US diplomat's meeting with the 86-year-old top Tibetan Buddhist leader. The US' appointment of a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues is an interference in China's internal affairs, he said, adding China firmly objects to it and has never recognised it.

World must create resilient supply chains: Jaishankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE\AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI\BEIJING

As the world is facing the after affects of the corona pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said, "We must not only seek socio-economic recovery from the Covid pandemic but also create resilient and reliable supply chains."

He also said the knock-on effects of the Ukraine conflict have led to sharp increases in the costs of energy, food and commodities. This must be mitigated for the sake of the developing world, he stressed.

Putting across these points from the country's point of view in the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa(BRICS)foreign ministers' meet hosted by China, he also said the grouping has repeatedly affirmed respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity and international law. The meet took place in the backdrop of the Russian military action in Ukraine. "We must live up to these commitments and BRICS should unanimously and specifically support UN Security Council reform," he tweeted.

The minister also stressed that BRICS must display zero tolerance for terrorism, especially cross border terrorism. It was in obvious reference to Pakistan supporting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Touching upon the environment issue, Jaishankar said the BRICS should press for credible commitment of resources by developed nations for climate action and climate justice.

He also said a globalized and digitized world will give due regard to trust and transparency and Sustainable Development Goals must be approached in a comprehensive manner.

Issues including propelling economic recovery post Corona pandemic and development figured prominently during the foreign ministers summit.

Besides Jaishankar, South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor, Brazilian Foreign Minister Carlos Franca and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attended the meeting chaired by China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Yi had visited India in late March and held bilateral dialogue with Jaishankar on the persisting stand-offs for the last two years at the Line of Actual Control(LAC)in Eastern Ladakh. It was the first visit by a Chinese minister to India since the face-offs erupted at the border.

Monitoring situation, says India after reports on China building bridge on Pangong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after reports of China building a second bridge on the Pangong Tso(lake)in Ladakh emerged, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said here the government is monitoring the situation. "We always felt it was occupied," it added.

This reaction came as China is building a second bridge at the lake to enable its tanks and armoured columns to move speedily.

The stand-offs in Ladakh started from the Pangong lake in May 2020 leading to a major crisis. Face-offs are some flashpoints that are still on for the last two and half years.

Fielding questions on the issue after some satellite images highlighted the bridge, ministry of external affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here, "We have seen reports on this bridge or a second bridge. We are monitoring the situation. Of course, we always felt it was occupied."

He also said talks are on with the Chinese side and "We will continue to remain engaged both at diplomatic and military levels."

Damien Symon, a geospatial intelligence researcher, who keeps track of Chinese activities along the LAC, posted satellite images of the new construction on Twitter.

Symon, who uses the handle @detresfa_ said a "larger bridge" is being developed parallel to the first one, adding the likely aim of the construction is to "support larger/heavier movement" (of the military) over the lake.

Modi to hold bilateral meetings with Japanese, Aus counterparts, US Prez at Quad Summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE\AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI\WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take part in the Quad Summit in Tokyo on May 24 and hold bilateral meetings with his Japanese and Australia counterparts and US President Joe Biden there. The summit, the fourth one, will take stock of the situation in the Indo-Pacific region where China is flexing its muscle. Moreover, the summit takes place at a time when the Russia-Ukraine conflict is unabated.

The Quad comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia. The leaders had met for the first ever summit in Washington last year. The forthcoming high-level meet is the second to be held in person while two summits were held virtually.

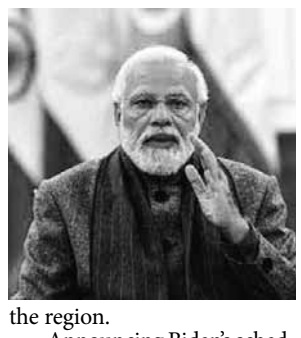
Giving details of Modi's upcoming visit, Ministryof External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here on Thursday bilateral meetings with Japanese counterpart and bilateral meeting with US President will take place the same day.

During the visit, Modi will participate in a business event with Japanese business leaders. He will also address and interact with the Indian community in Japan.

Bagchi said "We attach a lot of importance to the Quad. We have been keen to showcase what the Quad can do together and what it stands for. We will discuss contemporary issues and other issues of importance."

In November 2017, the US, Australia, India and Japan gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence, amidst China's growing military presence in the strategic region.

The Quad nations also carried out naval drills in the Indo-Pacific region in the last two years. China has all along criticized the combine claiming it will lead to militarization of



the region.

Announcing Biden's schedule, his National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said in Washington, "We believe that this summit will demonstrate both in substance and in vision that democracies can deliver and that these four nations working together will defend and uphold the principles of a free and open Indo-Pacific."

While he is in Tokyo, Biden will also launch a new and ambitious economic initiative for the region, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which will be a 21st century economic arrangement, designed to tackle new economic challenges, he said.

The framework, he said, will involve work ranging "from setting the rules of the digital economy to ensuring secure and resilient supply chains to managing the energy transition to investing in clean, modern high standards infrastructure."

Biden will be joined in person by the Japanese Prime Minister for the launch of IPEF and virtually by leaders from a number of Indo-Pacific partners from down under to southeast Asia to northeast Asia.

Before arriving in Japan, Biden is scheduled to travel to South Korea for a summit meeting with its leaders. "We think putting that on display over four days bilaterally with Korea and Japan through the Quad, through the Indo-Pacific economic framework, it will send a powerful message. We think that message will be heard everywhere. We think it will be heard in Beijing. But it is not a negative message and it's not targeted at any one country," he said.

'Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway to be completed by Sept 2023'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The ambitious 1,224 km long Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway project, which would connect the busy ports of Gujarat with industrial and agriculture centres from Punjab, is slated for completion by September 2023.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the 277 km long Bikaner to Jodhpur section of the corridor is targeted to be completed and opened to the public by 2022 end. Passing through Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat, this greenfield corridor would decrease the distance between Amritsar and Jamnagar from 1,430 km to 1,256 km and cut the travel time by half from 26 hours to about 13 hours and is considered to be another major expressway similar to the Delhi Mumbai Expressway corridor.

Gadkari said the Amritsar-Jamnagar Greenfield corridor, one of the most important Greenfield corridors being developed by NHAI, is being constructed in a full capacity. He said the complete corridor is targeted to be completed by September 2023.Work on another ambitious expressway Delhi-Mumbai with about 1400 km length is also scheduled to be completed by March 2023.Both the projects have been taken by the central road making agency NHAI under Bharatmala Pariyojana.The Minister said the flagship 1,224 km long Amritsar - Bhatinda - Jamnagar Corridor is being developed at a total capital cost of Rs 26,000 Crore and will connect the economic towns of Amritsar, Bhatinda, Sangaria, Bikaner, Sanchore, Samakhiyali and Jamnagar across the four states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the construction of Greenfield corridors, the government is committed to the development of infrastructure in the country.Gadkari said the corridor will connect the northern industrial and agricultural centres of the country with the key ports of western India like Jamnagar and Kandla. This will help boost the industrial revolution connecting industrial belt of Baddi, Bhatinda and Ludhiana through spurs and the state of Jammu and Kashmir through Delhi – Amritsar – Katra Expressway, he added.

Railways to run passenger trains on DFCs during emergency situations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a big decision, the Indian Railway has decided to run passenger trains during exigencies on its Dedicated freight corridors (DFC) which have been designed for the exclusive movement of goods trains at a high speed. According to an official order of the Railway Board, the new arrangements operations as of now on eastern and western corridors will come into effect in case of train accidents or natural calamities where passengers will be ferried to their destinations on the parallel DFC network.

"The move will benefit the passengers of the Delhi-Howrah and Delhi-Mumbai routes -- two of the busiest rail routes in the country. These routes also run parallel to the two dedicated freight corridors (DFCs). The Railway Board has decided that in case of exigencies, running of passenger-carrying trains on the DFCCIL network on corresponding IR lines can be permitted....," the order read.

Railway Board officials said the eastern and western DFCs are being built only for freight and as a rule, high-speed goods trains (100 kmph) are being operated on the said corridors.

There is no provision for running passenger trains on the DFCs.The board has given permission to run passenger trains on the DFCs only under special circumstances. What is significant is that 80 per cent of the eastern and western DFCs run parallel to the Delhi-Howrah and Delhi-Mumbai rail routes respectively. This will enable passenger trains to run on the DFCs in case of a disruption in the existing rail routes.

These busy routes witness disruptions if there is a breach in the tracks due to any reason. This leads to more congestion and diversion of trains, affecting the overall operations.

The EDFC, with a route length of 1,875 kilometres, will start from Sahnewal near Ludhiana in Punjab and pass through Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand to terminate at Dankuni in West Bengal. It will traverse through six states with the maximum length in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana having the least coverage.

The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor is a 1,504-kilometre-long, under-construction broad gauge freight corridor. It will connect Dadri in Uttar Pradesh with the Jawaharlal Nehru port in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai.

4 LeT ultras nabbed, Baramulla wine shop terror attack cracked

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir police Thursday claimed to have cracked the case of recent terror attack on a wine shop in Dewan Bagh in Baramulla area by arresting four Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorists and their accomplice along with 5 pistols, 9 magazines, 205 rounds, 23 grenades, an IED & other incriminating material.

According to the police, "Two bike-borne terrorists including a burqa clad pillion rider had dropped a grenade inside newly-opened wine shop at Dewan Bagh Baramulla in which one employee Ranjit Singh, son of Kishan Lal resident of Bakra Rajouri of the said shop, got killed and other three employees were injured. A case with FIR number 84/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation was set into motion to nab the terrorists involved in this terror act.

"The arrested terrorists have been identified as Shahid Showkat Bala son of Showkat Ahmad Bala resident of Banglowbagh, Safeer Ahmad Mir, son of GH Nabi Mir resident of Mir Sahib Old Town, Mohd Maroof Soleh alias Adil, son of Nazir Ahmad Soleh resident of Kanlibagh, and Faisal Shaban Gojri son of Mohd Shaban Gojri resident of Chesti Colony, Baramulla, and terrorist associate has been identified as Hafif Ahmad Sofi son of Bilal Ahmad Sofi resident of Arampora, Baramulla", said the Police.

Police personnel arrest four Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorists and a terror associate in connection with a grenade blast on May 17, in Baramulla district on Thursday PTI

According to a Police spokesman, the same group of terrorists were involved in various terrorist acts as was disclosed, which include last year's grenade attacks in Baramulla town, various firing incidents in & around Baramulla, transportation of proscribed weapons and explosives etc.

Meanwhile, in Jammu General Officer Commanding, XVI Corps, Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh Thursday reviewed the security situation in the Jammu region ahead of the commencement of the annual Amarnath yatra next month. Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi had earlier toured forward areas in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to review the security situation and operational preparedness in the region.

"A security review meeting chaired by Lt Gen Singh was held at Nagrota. The meeting was attended by Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh and senior officials of various intelligence agencies operating in the region," a defence spokesman said.

The meeting primarily focused on the prevailing security situation in the Jammu division, he said.

The security measures for the forthcoming Machail as well as Amarnath yatra were also discussed in detail to ensure streamlined coordination between intelligence and security agencies, the spokesman said.

The Amarnath yatra, scheduled to begin from June 30 to August 11, is taking place after a gap of two years.

CBI grills Bengal Min, TMC leader in recruitment scam case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

As a plethora of scams continued to rock the Mamata Banerjee dispensation, two senior Trinamool Congress leaders including a junior minister a and Trinamool Congress national working committee member were on Thursday subjected to intensive grilling by the Central Bureauof Investigation.

After remaining at large for two days Minister of State for Education Paresh Adhikari surrendered before the central agency for his alleged role in giving out-of-turn appointment to his own daughter in a government school by influencing the School Service Commission.

Adhikari's grilling came hours after his senior Cabinet colleague and State Industry Minister Partho Chatterjee was subjected to about three-and-a-half hours questioning by the CBI on large scale irregularities in SSC recruitment process.

Chatterjee --- the then Education Minister when the scams took place--- was on Wednesday questioned by the CBI. He allegedly ducked most of the questions or gave "roundabout answers," Agency sources said adding he could be summoned again.

Hundreds of people --- the figure may run into thousands as per claims--- were given appointments through back door allegedly in lieu of favours in various categories (from secondary level to higher-secondary level teachers to Group D and C posts) of jobs by passing the successful candidates whose names were figured in the merit lists.

Even as the successful yet deprived candidates agitated on the streets the Calcutta High Court not only ordered dismissal of hundreds of the illegally appointed staff but also ordered filing of criminal cases against the politicians and the officials in charge of the entire-process.

The Court of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay took the issue so seriously that it responded to a late evening petition on Wednesday directing the Central forces in the midnight to take charge of the SSC building so as to prevent tampering of electronic and other evidences. The entry of all staff, save a few top officers had been prohibited in the building till Friday noon.

The high drama on Adhikari ended on Thursday evening when the Court directed him to surrender before the CBI or else face contempt proceedings. The Minister flew in from North Bengal and reported at the Agency officer for interrogation. He was being interrogated when last report was filed.

Meanwhile, after a Division Bench rejected his prayer for a respite from appearance Partha Chatterjee on Thursday appealed before the Supreme Court and his petition is likely to be heard on Friday noon, sources said.

In a related TMC strongman and party national working committee member

Anubrata Mandal was on Thursday grilled for more than four hours by the CBI in cattle smuggling case. Mandal, also the party's Birbhum district president, had been evading appearance before the Agency forthe past several months.

According to sources Mandal who was asked 36 questions gave misleading replies to many of them. The CBI officers have asked him to return with his bank details and income tax return files, sources said.

BJP running Tughlaqi raj: Mamata

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Under attack from the Opposition parties for running a Government steeped in corruption Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday came down heavily on the BJP Government saying it was running a "Tughlaqi raj." She was referring to the allegedly imprudent regimeof 14th century ruler Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

Addressing an audience in West Mindapore the Chief Minister said that the BJP which was running a Tuglaqi government with the help of (central) agencies should not think that they would be able to stop the TMC from moving forward.

"They have no shame even after losing the elections (last year) … so they are unleashing agencies against us … they are running a Tughlaqi raj … but if they think that they can stop us by doing so with the help of agencies they are wrong," she said adding the BJP's actions were politically motivated.

"They are thinking about 2024 elections … they think that they will win by using agencies against us … they are telling lies about violence … but where is the violence … it is only in Bengal that people of all the parties live very peacefully … you talk of a few incidents here … but what about the crimes taking place in your States(ruled by the BJP) what action you take there?" she asked.

Union Minister Ajay Mishra's nephew dies in freak accident

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The nephew of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra 'Teni' died after the branch of a tree fell on his motorcycle.

The mishap took place near Khambhar Kheda village in Kotwali police station area of Lakhimpur Kheri district on Wednesday night.

Police said that Achin Mishra alias Sonu (41), a resident of Banveerpur village under Tikonia police station, was the son of the elder brother of the Union minister.

Additional Superintendent of Police Arun Kumar Singh said that Achin was going to Lakhimpur in the night when the branch of a tree fell on his motorcycle during the storm.

According to police, some passersby took Achin to the hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

A case was registered in this regard by the police and the body was sent for post-mortem.

In another incident reported from Lakhimpur Kheri, a prisoner of Pilibhit district jail died while being taken from Pilibhit to Lucknow.

Reports said that Gurmeet Singh (80), a native of Saraikhan in Pilibhit district was lodged in the district jail. Recently he was unwell and tests on May 12 showed that he had some problem in his kidney. He was admitted to the district hospital in Pilibhit from where the doctors referred him to the KGMU hospital in Lucknow. He was being taken to Lucknow on Thursday morning but on the way his condition deteriorated in Kheri so constable Praveen Kumar, accompanying him, took him to a local hospital where the doctors pronounced him dead.

The information was given to the Kotwali police after which the police took possession of the body and sent it for post-mortem.

UP Govt recommends dismissal of fugitive IPS officer Manilal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government has sent a recommendation to the Central Government for the dismissal of fugitive IPS officer Manilal Patidar of the 2014 batch of UP cadre.

Patidar has been booked for corruption and abetment to suicide and is on the run now for more than 19 months. A reward of Rs 1 lakh has also been announced on Manilal Patidar.

The State Government had sent a report for dismissal of Patidar and the matter is presently pending with the Central government. He was recommended for dismissal in a departmental inquiry after he was found guilty in the investigation on charges of corruption and abetment to suicide.

Patidar has been on the run ever since a case was registered in Mahoba following his suspension. The police have not been able to nab the fugitive IPS officer even after announcing a reward of one lakh on him.

MANILAL PATIDAR HAS BEEN BOOKED FOR CORRUPTION AND ABETMENT TO SUICIDE AND IS ON THE RUN FOR MORE THAN 19 MONTHS. A REWARD OF ₹1 LAKH HAS ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED ON PATIDAR

Apart from the SIT set up under the leadership of ASP (Crime) in Prayagraj, the Uttar Pradesh Vigilance Establishment and the Enforcement Directorate are also on the lookout for Patidar. The Vigilance Establishment has already indicted Patidar for corruption in its investigation.

As he is absconding, all the legal formalities under the judicial process have been completed.

Patidar, who was suspended on September 9, 2020, had not cooperated in the investigation earlier also. He had also not appeared before the SIT headed by then IG Range Varanasi Vijay Singh Meena, probing the case.

After the death of Mahoba-based crusher businessman Indrakant Tripathi, his brother Ravikant Tripathi had on September 10 lodged a report against Patidar and some policemen of Kabrai police station.

Yogi inaugurates Neva Seva Kendra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, inaugurated the refurbished picture gallery and Neva (National e-Vidhan Application) Seva Kendra located in the Vidhan Bhawan in the presence of UP Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana.

After the inauguration, the chief minister inspected the Neva Seva Kendra and got information about it. On this occasion, he also visited the modernised legislative assembly pavilion.

The speaker apprised the chief minister of the operation of e-Vidhan in the upcoming session. It is to be known that in the Neva (National e-Vidhan Application) Seva Kendra, orientation and training will be given to the members of the legislative assembly, Vidhan Sabha secretariat and various officers of the state government on the works related to e-Vidhan.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurates the renovated picture gallery in the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Bhavan, in Lucknow on Thursday. Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya and Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana are also seen PTI

The Neva Seva Kendra will also have the facility of video conferencing for training and communication with modern computers.

On this occasion Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Transport Dayashankar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Principal Secretary Legislative Assembly Pradeep Dubey and other senior Officers were present.

Sanjay Raut, Ravi Rana share meal in Leh

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After a bitter public spat over the "Hanuman Chalisa" controversy, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut and the Rana-couple — Ravi Rana and Navneet Kaur Rana — bonded well in the cool climate of Ladakh, setting aside the political differences.

So much so that Raut and Ravi Rana, husband of Navneet Rana, broke bread at Leh on Thursday.

A twitter user posted a photograph of Raut and Ravi having breakfast together and exchanging pleasantries. "In Leh today Sanjay Raut & Ravi Rana Husband of MP Navneet Rana. Cute Na ?,"Sameet Thakkar tweeted.

Raut and Navneet Kaur Rana, who are Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha members, respectively, are part of the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs that is currently on a visit to Leh, the largest town in the union territory of Ladakh.

Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut and Ravi Rana, husband of Independent MP Navneet Kaur Rana, having breakfast at Leh on Thursday Twitter

While Navneet Rana is an Independent MP from Amravati, her husband Ravi Rana is a three-time MLA from Badnera.

As per the regulations, an MP is allowed to take a family member and hence Ravi Rana is accompanying Navneet Rana. Over the last month, Raut and the Ranas have been at loggerheads over trhe latter's threat to recite "Hanuman Chalisa" in front of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's private residence "Matoshri" at Bandra in north-west Mumbai.

Ranas were arrested on April 23 for offences registered initially against them under sections 153A (causing enmity between different groups), 34 (common intention) and later under section 124A (sedition) of IPC for challenging the government machinery and making remarks against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in a controversy arising out of their threat to recite "Hanuman Chalisa" in front of Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's Bandra residence.

It may be recalled that during the course of the "Hanuman Chalisa" controversy, Raut had the Rana-couple as "Bunty and Bubbly" and claimed that the BJP was behind the "bogus couple".

Maha Zilla Parishads, Gram Panchayats ordered to remove curbs on widows

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Taking a cue from a progressive step by Herwad Gram Panchayat in Kolhapur district of western Maharashtra, the MVA Government has directed Zilla Parishads (ZPs) and Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the State to do away with the practice imposing various restrictions on the widowed woman.

Within days after Herwad Gram Panchayat passed a resolution to remove restrictions imposed on the women after the death of their husbands, the Maharashtra Government on Thursday issued a Government Resolution (GR) directed ZPs and gram panchayats to put an end to the regressive practices followed by the widows.

The regressive customs and restrictions imposed on widowed women involved widows removing their "mangalsutras' and 'toe rings', wiping 'sindoor' from their foreheads and breaking the bangles. The widows used to be ostracized and stigmatized in the villages by preventing them from attending any family, social, religious functions, celebrating festivals openly, interacting with other males and so on.

A fortnight ago, the gram panchayats of Herwad in Shirol taluka of Kolhapur district adopted a resolution removing all restrictions on widowed women in their respective villages. Mangaon village in the neighbouring Hatkanangale taluka of the same district adopted a similar resolution.

Having taken cognisance of the developments in Hervad and Mangaon villages, the State Rural Development Ministry – through a GR -- directed the ZPs and Panchayat Samitis to follow the suit and adopt similar resolutions.

"In line with the progressive traditions of Maharashtra, we have taken a decision to do away with all restrictions on the widowed women," Maharashtra Rural Development Minister Hasan Mushrif said.

MVA women leaders - Women and Child Development Minister Yashomati Thakur, School Education Minister Prof Varsha Gaikwad and Baramati MP Supriya Sule have backed the move.

"Big thank you…Hasan Mushrif sahab for taking such a progressive decision for widowed women on the grounds of the resolution passed by Herwad Gram Panchayat of Kolhapur," Sule said. Earlier in the day, Mushrif called on NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Union Edu Min reviews NETF, NDEAR progress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday reviewed the progress made under National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) and National Digital Educational Architecture (NDEAR) here today. Senior officials of the Education and Skill Development Ministries attended the meeting.

NETF will be the guiding body for National Digital Educational Architecture (NDEAR). It will act as the blueprint for creating a unifying national digital infrastructure to energize and catalyze the entire education ecosystem. NDEAR takes on an 'Open Digital Ecosystem' approach, where a set of principles, standards, specifications, building blocks and guidelines seek to enable different entities to create elements of the digital education ecosystem.

During the meeting Pradhan called for leveraging technology to ensure accessible, affordable and quality education for all. He stressed on developing a high quality course curriculum which can be delivered through technology.

Barabanki dist jail officials under scanner for serving prisoners pricey lemons

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The officials of the Barabanki district jail are alleged to be involved in a 'scam' by supplying lemon to almost all prisoners when the common man found it difficult to 'taste' it due to soaring prices. A cursory glance at the purchase of lemon by the jail authorities in Barabanki in the first quarter of this year leaves one surprised, as the figures show that every prisoner was getting at least one lemon daily.

Sources said that about 40 kilograms of lemons were purchased daily by the jail officials which add up to 36 quintals in the first three months of this year.

Interestingly, denying any scam or irregularity, jail officials said that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, lemons were given to the prisoners every day on the advice of doctors.

The prisoners, however, denied this and claimed that nothing was served for 'free' in the jail and if one was ready to pay for 'services', one could enjoy all comforts.

Sources said that when the price of lemon during this period was running from Rs 150 to Rs 300 per kg and the common man was craving for the taste of lemon, heavy purchases made by jail officials pointed to some scam but only a probe would reveal the truth behind the 'kindness' of the jail officials towards prisoners by serving them a lemon daily.

It may be mentioned that on an average, about 1400 prisoners are lodged in the 20 barracks of the district jail. In January, February and March, when the prices of lemon were sky high, a lemon was given to a prisoner every day during that period. This way, about 40 kg of lemons were procured in a day. On an average, Rs 8,000 were spent on the basis Rs 200 per kg price of lemon.Jail officials are making different statements in this regard.

Jail Superintendent Haribaksh Singh said that due to Covid-19 pandemic, a lemon was being given to the prisoners every day with the meal and the lemon was procured from the vegetable supplier in Barabanki.

Rahul to address meet at Cambridge Univ

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the deepening crisis in the party with two leaders –Sunil Jakhar and Hardik Patel — quitting the party, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi left for London on Thursday. His second foreign visit in less than a month's time, Rahul will attend the 'Ideas for India' conference starting from Friday at Cambridge University.

There he will address 'India at 75: The Challenges and Way Ahead for a Resilient-Modern India' and interact with Indians present there. This program of Rahul will be held on 23 May.

Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala said that Rahul will also talk to the NRIs about the present and future of the country. Rahul is accompanied by senior party leaders Salman Khurshid and Priyank Khadge to take part in the event.

However Rahul faced severe criticism as again at a time when the Congress is grappling with an exodus of party leaders from key states he left for abroad about which Hardik Patel took a jibe in his resignation letter to the party. Without taking names, Hardik stated in his letter senior that Congress leaders were busy checking messages on their mobile phones, and some leaders were "enjoying abroad" when the party and the country needed them.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

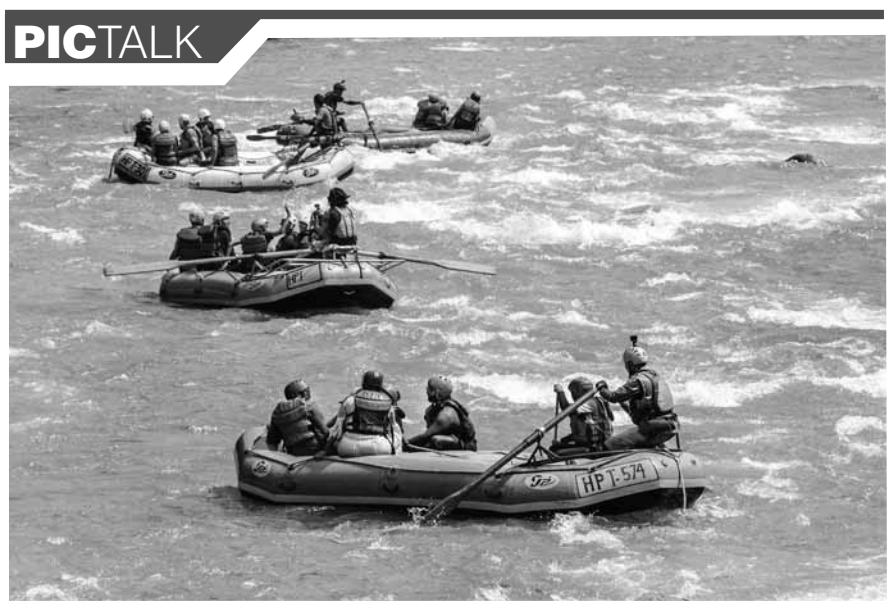
Spoiling for war

The Russia-Ukraine war has been reduced to a long-drawn spectacle, with no winners

War is a macabre spectacle. In Ukraine, it is tragically theatrical and absurd as well. The Russian invasion has dragged on for close to three months. Perhaps even Vladimir Putin does not know if he is winning or losing. Wars are accountable to the people who launch them and the victims they kill. This war somehow seems different. It has caused enough mayhem already, disfigured several cities and suburbs of Ukraine, maimed, wounded or killed hundreds, maybe thousands, of civilians and soldiers. The breathless bodies decaying in mass graves are testimony to the depths of Russian villainy. And yet, look at the irony. The Ukrainians, who have cornered the world's sympathy and aid worth billions, are starving because of a food shortage. Ukraine is among the top exporters of grain, but Russia is denying Ukrainians access to produce. Russia, facing western sanctions, is earning more revenue than in peacetime. The sanctions are deliberately weak to probably ensure an unaffected supply of Russian oil and gas to Europe. Russia earned $9 billion in additional revenue from energy sales in April due to spiralling oil prices. More bizarre things are happening as the war continues to take its toll, making one wonder if a surreal media spectacle is being played out around the wanton destruction. A big draw on US television was the sudden appearance of the wife of President Joe Biden in Ukraine. Jill secretly landed in Ukraine's Uzhhorod, on Mother's Day. She is used to such visits, having earlier gone to Baghdad in 2010 along with her husband, the then Vice-President.

The husband, now President, designed a tour of his own, even if it was to an Illinois family farm to "discuss" the war's impact on food supply and prices at home and abroad. Ukraine claims a part of the food problem is caused by Russia "stealing" its grain, vegetables and sunflower seeds and shipping them home. NATO did its bit too, going on an expansion binge and receiving joining requests from Finland and Sweden only for Turkey to object and use the opportunity to challenge the US. The diplomatic world is in turmoil as Russia expels dozens of Italian, Spanish and French diplomats because they did the same to Russian diplomats. At the same time, diplomats of BRICS members are busy preparing for the Summit meeting with India, Brazil and South Africa, readying for a cordial meeting with China and Russia. But what takes the cake is Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy taking time off his war to open the Cannes film festival, telling an elegantly dressed audience how "hundreds of people are dying every day" in Ukraine. And Zelenskky seems to be in a hurry not to end the war but to launch publicised war crime trials against captured Russian soldiers. One such soldier has already pleaded guilty, a mass media campaign victoriously has declared. This war may one day tire of its publicity.

PICTALK



Tourists enjoy rafting on the Beas river, in Manali PTI

Right course?

The Oppn is trying to pin the Govt on the mat on inflation, unemployment

Of late, there's been some sudden stirring in the Opposition ranks. On the one side are politicians who are deserting their parent party and looking for greener pastures in a foster outfit. In this category fall leaders like Col Ajay Kothiyal (Retd), who was the Aam Aadmi Party's chief ministerial candidate in the Uttarakhand Assembly elections and who has recently resigned from the party. Another one in the same category is former Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar, who quit the Congress last week and has since made his way into the BJP's fold. Yet another is Patidar leader Hardik Patel, who has also parted ways with the Congress, saying during the ongoing Gyanvapi mosque controversy that the "Congress's aversion to pro-Hindu policies" was hurting its fortunes. Interestingly, in his resignation letter, Hardik had mentioned that the senior Congress leadership was more focused on ensuring that chicken sandwiches for leaders who had come from Delhi were delivered on time. However, unlike Jakhar, Hardik has "till now" not decided whether he would join the BJP. Though these developments might make it seem like the saffron party is having an easy time in terms of the threat of desertions, it is up against another kind of attack.

A few Opposition parties, which have been for a while now lying inert, have discovered their voice and are jumping out at the ruling BJP in an attack mode. After BSP supremo Mayawati, who hit out at the saffron dispensation earlier this week, now Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has put the Union Government in his crosshairs. Taking the Government to task over the rising inflation and unemployment rate in the country, the Congress scion has said that India currently "looks a lot like Sri Lanka". He also advised the Government to stop doing things to distract people since it's unlikely to change the facts. Elaborating on his litany of complaints, Rahul also shared graphs of unemployment, rising petrol prices and incidents of communal violence, and showing similar images of India and Sri Lanka citing various sources. Hours earlier, Mayawati had raised the same points while lashing out at the BJP-led Government. She alleged that the saffron party was targeting religious places to divert people's attention from issues like poverty, unemployment and inflation. She also claimed that such attempts would only end up weakening the country. Maybe they have a point!

Flawed COVID death count data

BRIJENDER SINGH **PANWAR**

The World Health Organisation relied on a modelling methodology to reach its estimates, but the Indian Government has termed it 'flawed'

A recent World Health Organisation (WHO) report on excess mortality due to COVID-19 pegging the India figure at nearly 10 times the official toll at 47.4 lakh has created a controversy of sorts. On the one hand, WHO's data suggests that over 90 per cent of deaths in India have gone unreported and its death toll of 5.23 lakh so far is an undercount. The base number of expected deaths (in a non-COVID scenario) for 2020, which the WHO has used in its report, is almost nine lakh more than the average number of deaths recorded each year in India for the last 15 years. The WHO claims that its results are based on well-established mathematical models. Several other studies have shown India's COVID-related death count at anywhere between 25 lakh to 60 lakh. On the other hand, the report has received a lot of criticism in India.

The Health Ministers of various States who attended a three-day conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) under the chairmanship of Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya passed a resolution objecting to the WHO's estimates. They said the report was "intended to show the country in poor light", and that the modelling methodology used was "flawed". India has a robust, efficient and comprehensive system for registering deaths and all COVID-19 fatalities are recorded transparently, they said.

For its part, the track record of WHO on COVID has not been above board. Its own study concluded that crucial time was lost in fighting the virus because it delayed the announcement of an international emergency. It spent weeks persuading China to allow a team of international scientists to visit Wuhan after the outbreak. It then swung to the other extreme last year after the relatively less virulent Omicron surfaced, and it rang needless alarm bells instead of educating the world about the new variant.

However, the WHO's importance can't be underestimated. For estimating COVID deaths in India, the WHO study has relied, among various sources, on death registration data from the Civil Registration System (CRS). Several media houses had published monthly CRS for a few States last year and these numbers did not always match. Depending on which publication was selected to pick these numbers, the mathematical model would have been different.

According to experts, the WHO report, in case of India or other countries, doesn't go into the technicality of calculating the scale of the undercount. It has adopted a straightforward method of calculating excess mortality by estimating the total number of people who likely died in India in 2020 due to all causes and has subtracted from that the expected number of all-cause deaths if there was no COVID. These "excess deaths" are considered a result of COVID-19. There is general agreement that because most of the studies have been pointing to similar estimates, they must be reflective of the true toll. But the fact seems to be that the researchers and peer reviewers belong to an overlapping set of people using similar methodology.

> FOR ITS PART, THE TRACK RECORD OF THE WORLD BODY ON COVID HAS NOT BEEN ABOVE BOARD. ITS OWN STUDY CONCLUDED THAT CRUCIAL TIME WAS LOST IN FIGHTING THE VIRUS BECAUSE IT DELAYED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY

Going by deaths per thousand population, India does not figure among the top 100 countries, though the infection fatality rate of 1.2 per cent places it in seventh position, globally. Among the reasons for confusion over accurate COVID death estimates are: One, as accurate death statistics by causes is hard to come by — around 70 per cent of deaths take place at home even normally — attempts have been made to identify "excess" deaths; two, the Supreme Court's decision to consider all deaths within three months of COVID infliction as COVID deaths resulted in a surge in reporting; three, independent journalists and health statisticians who had sourced registration data and fragmented ground-level information have raised concerns over CRS' inadequacy. Consequently, the WHO placed India in the category for which COVID death figures are to be generated through modelling and not based on the officially reported numbers.

However, in reality, at this stage, any discussion on the undercount is premature because India has not yet stopped counting its COVID deaths. The figure of 5.24 lakh deaths is under constant revision, and is likely to remain so for some time. Even the death numbers reported in 2020 and 2021 are not final. For example, more than 21,000 deaths Kerala has reported in the last four months have not happened this year. Most of them pertain to last year. Many deaths that would have happened in 2020 but are not included in the 1.49 lakh tally would have been accounted for at later stages. Those deaths have not been missed; these will reflect in the statistics. The same is true for 2021.

The need of an hour is to compile robust data from official sources which should be scientifically collated and validated through field surveys. Unfortunately, reliable data is not available with Government agencies, which is creating miscommunication and confusion leading to speculation. The Government should take appropriate steps to clear the doubts about the actual count of COVID deaths.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR INDIA

Sir — The Indian men's badminton team has made the nation proud by scripting history with a spectacular win against formidable opponents Indonesia in the Thomas Cup final. Such a feat of glory and achievement won million of hearts in the country and around the globe. It proves that the Indian badminton teams, both men and women, have come a long way. They have carved a niche for themselves like never before with the dint of constant hard work and dogged determination. The consistent positive approach and perseverance of players with right professional guidelines of mentors have yielded astounding results in the Thomas Cup, which had eluded us for long.

The individual women's individual successful records post-Olympics will forever remain as an inspiration to all. The experienced and veteran chief national coach, Pullela Gopichand, deserved accolades as he has helped the game of badminton reach a zenith at the international level as well as mould new talent. The men's badminton team's historic win will forever remain etched in our minds and be considered as the greatest thing that ever happened to India in the sport of badminton. It is also to be hoped that the feat will inspire youngsters to take to the game.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | *Jalpaiguri*

RAJIV GANDHI ASSASSINATION CASE

Sir — The Supreme Court has ordered the release of AG Perarivalan, who has served over 30 years of his life term in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. A Bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao invoked its extraordinary power under Article 142 to grant relief to Perarivalan. Article 142 deals with enforcement of decrees and orders of the Supreme Court. On March 9, the apex court had granted bail to Perarivalan while taking note of his long incarceration and no history of complaints when out on parole.

The top court was hearing the plea of 47-year-old Perarivalan seeking suspension of his life sentence in the case till the Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency probe is completed. In its May 1999 order, the top court had upheld the death sentence of four convicts — Perarivalan, Murugan, Santham and Nalini. On February 18, 2014, the top court had commuted the death sentence of Perarivalan to life imprisonment, along with that of Santhan and Murugan on the grounds of an 11-year delay in deciding their mercy pleas.

Bhagwan Thadani | *Mumbai*

CONGRESS MUST REVIVE ITS GLORY

Sir — More than the Congress' total dominance in national politics till the late 1990s, the subsequent sharp fall in its fortunes has led the way to the rise of the multi-party system in India. Unfortunately, the party, nurtured for long under the shadow of secularism after Partition, could not fully grasp the essence of Nehruvian context, which was not the separation of religion from the State but of staying neutral towards all. Minority appeasement grew on it more a vice than virtue and the Congress remains blindsided to it.

Also, their consistent failure to gel then ushered in the BJP with its calculated political strategies and adapting to the changing times, which brought Narendra Modi to the centre stage. History is witness to the waves of totalitarianism that inevitably tend to invite a backlash. Progressive societies have then striven to restore equilibrium, which today is skewed even more by the pandemic and the following economic travails. This is a time for the Congress to again undertake a *padyatra*, much like the Dandi march. Its pedigree in the fight for freedom, more than its subsequent dynastic credentials, must help it reclaim relevance.

R Narayanan | *Navi Mumbai*

Russia is destroying dreams

This refers to the May 18 article, '*War crime watch: Targeting schools, Russia bombs the future*'. As the Ukraine-Russia war continues for nearly three months, heart-rending pictures of the suffering of Ukrainians continue to raise questions over the actions of Russian soldiers. The Russian troops have bombarded 1,000 schools so far, killing innocent children and citizens, even after writing in bold letters 'Children' on top of the school buildings. The Russian soldiers are committing cold-blooded murders. It is a serious war crime which Putin's country is committing. Even after the imposition of sanctions and turning Ukraine into virtual rubble, there is no point of such heavy shelling on innocent Ukrainians.

The Russian troops' advancement didn't spare even kindergartens. This shows the cruelty and inhumanity of the Russian advancement. At this rate of fatality, the recovery of Ukraine is far from imaginable since schools are the foundation and future of any country. Damage to such institutions is far more hideous and puts the future in jeopardy. Russia must stop shelling civilians and educational institutions. The intention of Russia reeks of tyranny, which is not the healthy foundation of any nation. Russia is not only militarising Ukrainians, but also cutting down the feathers of their dreams. Russia should exercise its power morally. Right now, the world sees Putin as a tyrant who is committing genocide, and which is highly condemnable.

Manoj Kumar Jena | *Cuttack*

Send your feedback to:
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SOUNDBITE

It's not just increasing internet speed but also the pace of development and creating jobs.

Prime Minister
— Narendra Modi

The next couple of months will be the most difficult ones of our lives.

Sri Lanka PM
— Ranil Wickremesinghe

Salman is a very good friend of mine. *Usne party pe bulaya, toh main chali gayi.*

Actor
— Kangana Ranaut

It'll take some time to get the timing and confidence back on my attacking moves.

Indian wrestler
— Bajrang Punia

The ongoing farmers' protest (on Chandigarh-Mohali border) is unwarranted and undesirable.

Punjab Chief Minister
— Bhagwant Mann

FIRSTCOLUMN

NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY OF INDIA-NEPAL

India has done well by refreshing its cultural shared narrative with Nepal

KUMARDEEP **BANERJEE**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, hopped across to Nepal to mark Buddha Poornima celebrations in Lumbini earlier this week. This one-day visit marks a renewed effort to amend ties with a long trusted partner and friend in the region. Lumbini is the birthplace of Buddha and for many years India and Nepal have not managed to cooperate and integrate it within the larger Buddhist place-of-interest framework. There had been angst for decades among the Nepali citizens regarding India taking away the cream of Buddhist tourism-circuit, while ignoring the birthplace. Meanwhile Lumbini became a place of interest for China which has been using all avenues possible to increase its strength in Nepal. It has in the past announced as part of its muscular external infrastructure policy the possibility of investing nearly $3billion in Lumbini to make it a world peace city and construct a railway line connecting Nepal with Tibet. The status of many of theseannouncements are on hold at present, but one doesn't know when they can be revived. The Himalayan kingdom of Nepal, enmeshed in shared cultural contexts of the region, has been an interest area for many power blocs including the US, European Union and China for some decades now. China has been on alert to the changing influence spheres in Nepal and has painstakingly built up its share of supporting voices amongst the political and cultural elite. Last month Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi was in Nepal to ratchet up support in its favour from the different factions of the Nepalese Communist

Party. It is understood that Wang Yi (also a known India-baiter), insisted on the quarrelling factions of the NepaleseCommunist Party to stay united and work towards a larger agenda (dictated by Chinese communist party). It was during the reign of Nepalese Communist Party Prime MinisterKP Sharma Oli that relationship between India and Nepal tanked to its historic low. He had nearly acted as an extended arm of Beijing'sgeopolitical strategy. Clearly, China has been trying to isolate India's long-term partners in the region by muscling its way into their domestic security,infrastructure and economic issues.

The Prime Minister's visit to Nepal, along with some other initiatives taken by the government in the past few months, suggests India's reinvigorated enthusiasm to engage with its immediate neighbourhood. In April, just before foreignsecretary, Harsh Vardhan Shringla retired, a high-level inter-ministerial meeting took place to focus on India's neighbourhood first policy. It saw participation from the ministries of home, finance, commerce, fisheries and defence to name a few. It deliberated on ways to improve roads and other border infrastructure with Nepal, starting railway link with Bangladesh and providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and Myanmar. Nepal was the focus during the meeting given the historical and cultural ties with the nation. India has done well by refreshing its cultural shared narrative with Nepal and announced a bunch of new measures to improve people to people connect. India's willingness to develop sister-city relations between Lumbini and Kushinagar, considered the holiest sites for Buddhists, has been well received and could be the game changer towards integration of Nepal in the tourism circuit and improving economic relations between the two countries. India has also signed 6 MoUs with Nepal during the PM's visit,5 of which are on improving educational and cultural relations while the 6th relates to hydel power project. India and Nepal blessed with the abundant wealth from the Himalayas need to focus on reviving their deep and rich shared culturalheritage while making way for a new age bilateral relation.

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

Time for CPI(M) to change its style

VANAM JWALA NARASIMHA **RAO**

There are examples of comrades who have acquired assets and incur expenses disproportionate to their known sources of income

The largest arm of the Communist Party in the country the CPI (Marxist) founded by stalwarts like Pucchalapalli Sundarayya, EMS Namboodiripad, Harkishan Singh Surjit, Pramod Dasgupta, AK Gopalan, BT Ranadive, M Basava Punniah, P Ramamurti and Jyoti Basu could manage to win just three Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 elections. For the first time since its formation in 1964, the party drew a blank in West Bengal. The CPI(M) which played a pivotal role in government formation at the centre in 1989, 1996 and 2004 is no more a confidant of Government of the day. The failure of the Communists will certainly enhance the influence and authority of right-wing politics and communalism and that is not healthy for the nation.

After India's Independence, a series of events like Sino-Soviet split and Sino-Indian war led to the split in the Communist Party of Indiain 1964. The breakaway Communist Party of India (Marxist) emerged stronger both in terms of membership and performance in Indian elections. CPI (M) has a glorious record in conducting class and mass struggles. It is the biggest contingent of the Left. It was once heading Left-led Governments in three States, now cut down to one.

In early 1950s, the united CPI was bitterly divided over the manner in which political power in India should be captured. The militant voices advocated the 'Chinese path', or capture of power through violent means and the other group was for the 'Indian path' or capture power within the constraints of Indian Constitution. Chandra Rajeswara Rao, who advocated Chinese Path, did not sail with CPI(M) after the split. Makineni BasavaPunniah, who advocated Chinese Path along with Rajeswara Rao, became a politburo member of the CPI(M) after the split in 1964. However, Sundarayya in his letter to the party Polit Bureau and Central Committee in August 1975 offered his resignation as party General Secretary and criticized Basava Punniah for limiting his role in the party.

Pucchalapalli Sundarayya was a founding member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and a leader of the peasant revolt in the Telangana Rebellion. In 1936, Sundarayya became a member of the Central Committee of the undivided Communist Party of India. He went underground between 1948 and 1952. He was re-elected to the Central Committee in 1952. He was also elected to the Polit Bureau, the highest forum in the Party. When the Party leadership was in favour of supporting the Government at the time of the Sino-Indian War, Sundarayya resigned his positions protesting against the policies of the dominant leadership of the Party. He was arrested and imprisoned during November 1962 at the time of India-China border war. After the split Sundarayya was elected as its General Secretary. He continuously remained Party's General Secretary till 1976. In that year, which fell during the Emergency, he resigned as General Secretary and Polit Buro member for what he called the "revisionist habits" acquired by the Party.

> IT'S TIME FOR THE CPI (M) TO HAVE AN INTROSPECTION AND LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE. IT IS THEIR ESSENTIAL DUTY TO ALIGN WITH LIKE-MINDED FORCES OF SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST FORCES TO COUNTER RIGHT-WING POLITICS

(The writer is Chief Public Relations Officer to Chief Minister of Telangana. The views expressed are personal.)

Sundarayya in his resignation pointed out among others, the Polit Buro's failure to concretize party's tactical line, non-seriousness on agrarian resolution in practice, ignoring building of secret part of party's organization, Polit Bureau not functioning as a collective bodyand so on. Had the Party taken serious note of his anguish, CPI (M) position would have been much, much better than the present humiliating status.

The 19th CPM Party Congress held in 2008 at Coimbatore called for a rectification campaign against wrong trends in the Party. The rectification was meant to unify and strengthen the Party on correct principles. How far the objective could be achieved and how far the campaign percolated down below the cadre in its true spirit is not known.

There is no doubt that alien values and ideas affected CPI(M) Party leaders and cadres. Along with the concentration of wealth, the creation of business-politician nexus at all levels is intertwining between corporate and business interests and the political system. Even the CPI(M) Central Committee once observed that the role of money power has increased to an unprecedented level in politics, particularly in elections and CPI(M) cadresare no exception to it.With the association with bourgeois parties at various levels, particularly through electoral understandings and with the rise of the business-political nexus, there is a corresponding rise in use of money and other bourgeois practices. These have corrosive effect on CPI(M) cadres. Its relationship with secular parties was also on the declining mode.

Majority of the Party membership consists of new entrants who are still to acquire the basic outlook of the Party and they are yet to be grounded in the class and mass struggles. Such a situation leads to all sorts of feudal, bourgeois and petty bourgeois trends emerging within the Party. The party top leadership noted that, in the leading committees of the Party only around 30 per cent belong to working class, poor peasants and agricultural workers. Violation of communist norms have also arisen. Due to parliamentary outlook and electoral opportunism, mass movements, launching struggles and building the Party is being neglected by CPI(M).

Due to distinct increase in parliamentary opportunism among CPI(M)cadre, Increased numbers of individual comrades resorted to revolting when refused party ticket. The use of money, liquor and other corrupt practices has grown in the party. The money used in elections has reached an unprecedented level in states where the party is in existence even for namesake.

The party feels threatened when some leaders and cadres fail to live up to the communist standards and values. The party is no exception to a lavish lifestyle, building posh houses, spending large amounts on weddings, and organizing festivities on a big scale. There are examples of comrades who have acquired assets and incur expenses disproportionate to their known sources of income. There are cases of Party leaders running NGOs with no check or accountability for the funds being used. Real estate promoters, contractors and liquor contractors seek to establish connections with CPM cadre and those in elected positions. The tendency to collect big amounts of money from individuals and affluent sections, instead of mass collection, has increased specially to meet election expenses. Accounts for these are not properly maintained and submitted to the respective committees. Often the Party committees are unable to initiate action due to various reasons such as factional trends, liberalism and reluctance to antagonize an important Party cadre.

Against this background now it's time for the CPI (M) to have an introspection and live up to the expectations of the people. It is their essential duty to align with like-minded forces of secular, democratic and socialist forces to counter right-wing politics.Maybe it is time for the party leadership to think in terms of actively supporting the alternate national agenda proposed by Telangana Chief Minister KChandrasekhar Rao so that the rise of the right-wing is checked and democratic forces are strengthened.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

SWEDEN AND FINLAND WILL HAND IN OUR RESPECTIVE APPLICATIONS TO JOIN NATO, ABANDONING OUR NEUTRALITY POLICY.
— SWEDEN PRIME MINISTER
MAGDALENA ANDERSSON

THE MOVE POSES NO DIRECT THREAT TO US... BUT THE (NATO) EXPANSION WILL CERTAINLY PROVOKE OUR RESPONSE.
— RUSSIAN PRESIDENT
VLADIMIR PUTIN

Farewell neutrality: Sweden and Finland

Both are very much in the same position as Ukraine militarily

GWYNNE **DYER**

It's easy to imagine Vladimir Putin coming into the shop marked 'Sweden', breaking some fine china accidentally on purpose, and growling: 'Nice little shop you've got here. It would be a pity if something happened to it.' But Sweden is not a pottery shop, Putin is not a Mafia capo, and what's going on in the Baltic now is not a protection racket.

The Russian president has stampeded both Finland and Sweden, two neutral countries of long standing (almost eighty years for Finland, over two hundred for Sweden), into joining the NATO alliance, the very 'threat' that Putin claimed he was trying to drive away from Russia's borders. Finland has a 1,300-km. border with northern Russia. The Swedish and Finnish response to his invasion of Ukraine would have surprised Putin. He would see no connection between his invasion of Ukraine, a former Russian imperial possession that needed to be whipped back into line, and two independent countries that have not been in Russia's sphere of influence for over a century.

They, on the other hand, did see a connection. A neighbour they previously rated as dangerous but rational had suddenly revealed himself to be an aggressive and probably irrational gambler. No fully sane and competent Russian ruler would have attacked Ukraine with the inadequate forces and haphazard, overconfident strategy that Putin employed.

You might think that Putin's sheer incompetence would be reassuring to the Swedes and the Finns, but it was not. On the contrary, it frightens them, because

they are very much in the same position as Ukraine militarily: relatively small countries (Sweden has ten million people, Finland five million) with very good military forces.

I can vouch for this personally, because in the course of making a documentary film about neutrality I spent time at sea in the Baltic with Swedish fast attack boats out of Karlskrona, and with Finnish reservists on exercises between Lappeenranta and the Russian border. They might even be able to stop the Russians dead (and nobody else is in a position to invade them). That's why the Swedes chose neutrality: they reckoned they were safer that way. If there were a general war, they were not a strategically vital place and they would be very costly to invade, so maybe the major combatants would just leave them alone.

The Finns had neutrality thrust upon them by the Soviet Union after the Second World War. They lost a lot of territory to the Russians, but they fought hard enough that Moscow let them be neutral rather than reducing them to satellite status.

So why have both countries now decided to join NATO? They are still such tough nuts to crack that they could probably stop the Russians by themselves if Moscow was also engaged in a war with NATO. And why would the Russians attack only them alone? Stay neutral, and even in the worst case the Russians will probably pass you by.

That remained a valid assessment until 24 February 2022, and then it suddenly wasn't. Putin invaded Ukraine, probably to the astonishment even of his own entourage, and from the start began issuing veiled warnings about resorting to nuclear weapons if he was thwarted.

The Russian attack in Ukraine bogged down almost at once, as it was bound to do unless the Ukrainian army was utterly useless. Too few Russian troops, too many lines of attack. And the hints from Moscow about resorting to nuclear weapons to compensate for a conventional defeat multiplied.

This is crazy stuff, and all military skills and hardware the Baltic countries could bring to bear in a conventional war would be irrelevant if they were faced with similar Russian nuclear threats themselves.

The only effective counter to a nuclear threat is a credible promise of nuclear retaliation. Sweden and Finland have no nuclear weapons, and the only way they can have their security guaranteed by a nuclear deterrent is to join NATO. So that is what they are doing.

The Swedes still don't like nuclear weapons, and Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson emphasised that Sweden will not allow foreign troops or nuclear weapons to be based in the country, but the deal is done.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo?an is demanding that the two Baltic countries expel some anti-Turkish Kurdish activists as a reward for not vetoing this NATO expansion, but this problem will be finessed. It will take months to do the legal work, but in practice the two Baltic countries are already covered by NATO's nuclear guarantee.

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

Lanka police questions more ruling party MPs over violence

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police on Thursday questioned three more members of the ruling SLPP parliamentary group over the violent clashes between anti- and pro-government protesters in the country that killed at least 10 people and injured over 200 others.

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

Nihal Thalduwa, the police spokesman, said three former ministers were quizzed on Thursday in Parliament by a group of police's CID investigators.

Two of their colleagues who were arrested previously have been remanded till May 25.

Thalduwa said 1,059 people have been arrested for attacks on the protesters and for the violence unleashed against the ruling parliamentarians where some 78 government parliamentarians had suffered arson attacks on property.

Thalduwa said the death toll from violence had risen to 10 with the death of a person admitted to hospital with serious head injuries dying on Thursday.

Politicians were charged with encouraging them to attack the protesters. At least two of them, a former state minister and another MP, who had been identified in video footage as instigators of violence were arrested and remanded.

The government parliamentarians blamed police inaction as the cause of arson attacks against their private properties.

They charged the opposition Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) with instigating violence which was vehemently denied by the Marxist party.

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

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

Video footage showed the entire house of Mahinda Rajapaksa and his younger brother and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Medamulana in Hambantota city was burning.

Prez: Lankan armed forces ended civil war with LTTE through humanitarian op

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has praised the country's military for ending the brutal conflict with the LTTE in 2009 and ushering in peace through a "humanitarian operation", saying there was no hatred, anger or revenge involved in the nearly three-decade-long civil war.

In a statement issued to mark the War Heroes Day on Wednesday, Rajapaksa, who is also the defence minister, asserted that the armed forces, who "safeguarded the freedom and territorial integrity" of the country will never be forgotten, under any circumstances.

"Our armed forces put an end to the war and brought peace to the country through a humanitarian operation. There was no hatred, anger or revenge in it. Therefore, there is no room for racism or any other form of extremism in the motherland where peace was established. We regard it as a unique value in Sri Lankan society," said Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Biden has an eye on China as he heads to South Korea, Japan

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden departs on a six-day trip to South Korea and Japan aiming to build rapport with the two nations' leaders while also sending an unmistakable message to China: Russia's faltering invasion of Ukraine should give Beijing pause about its own saber-rattling in the Pacific.

Biden departs Thursday and is set to meet newly elected South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Their talks will touch on trade, increasing resilience in the global supply chain, growing concerns about North Korea's nuclear program and the explosive spread of COVID-19 in that country.

While in Japan, Biden will also meet with fellow leaders of the Indo-Pacific strategic alliance known as the Quad, a group that includes Australia, India and Japan.

The U.S. Under Biden has forged a united front with democratic allies that has combined their economic heft to make Russia pay a price for its invasion of Ukraine. That alliance includes South Korea and Japan. But even as Biden is to be feted by Yoon at a state dinner and hold intimate conversations with Kishida, the U.S. President knows those relationships need to be deepened if they're to serve as a counterweight to China's ambitions. "We think this trip is going to put on full display President Biden's Indo-Pacific strategy and then it will show in living color, the United States can at once lead the free world in responding to Russia's war in Ukraine, and that at the same time chart a course for effective, principled American leadership and engagement in a region that will define much of the future of the 21st century," White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

The war in eastern Europe has created a sense of urgency about China among major U.S. Allies in the Pacific. Many have come to see the moment as their own existential crisis — one in which it's critical to show China it should not try to seize contested territory through military action.

Shaky Israeli coalition is jolted as another lawmaker quits

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Another member of Israel's parliament said Thursday she was quitting the ruling coalition, leaving embattled Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in control of a crumbling minority Government.

Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi's announcement further whittles away Bennett's hold on Israel's 120-seat parliament, reducing the coalition to 59 seats. Two other legislators from his own party have already bolted.

Rinawie Zoabi's departure further raises the possibility of new parliamentary elections, less than a year after the government took office. While Bennett's government remains in power, it is now even more hamstrung in parliament and will likely struggle to function.

In a letter to Bennett, Rinawie Zoabi, who hails from the dovish Meretz party, said she was leaving the coalition because she said it too often adopted nationalist positions on issues of importance to her constituents, Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Turkey's leader says 'no' to Sweden and Finland's NATO bid

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkey will oppose Sweden and Finland joining NATO, the country's president flatly stated in a video released Thursday.

"We have told our relevant friends we would say no' to Finland and Sweden's entry into NATO, and we will continue on our path like this," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a group of Turkish youth in the video for Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day, a national holiday.

Turkey's approval of Finland and Sweden's application to join the Western military alliance is crucial because NATO makes decisions by consensus. Each of its 30 member countries has the power to veto a membership bid.

World's highest weather station installed on Mt Everest

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A team of experts from the National Geographic Society has installed the "world's highest weather station" on Mt. Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres to automatically measure various meteorological phenomena, the Nepalese media reported on Thursday.

Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) said the automatic weather station was installed a few metres below the summit point (8,848.86 metres) last week as the snow and ice on the summit are not suitable for fixing equipment.

The weather monitoring system, powered by solar energy, is supposed to measure various meteorological phenomena like air temperature, wind speed and direction, air pressure, change in surface height of snow, and incoming and outgoing short and long wave radiation. The NatGeo team, led by climate scientist Baker Perry from the Appalachian State University in the US, consisted of acclaimed climbers and scientists, many of whom scaled the world's highest peak while installing the weather station.

The team spent a month in the Everest region of Nepal and also carried out the maintenance of other stations, including a station at South Col, The Himalayan Times reported.

The DHM and National Geographic signed a memorandum of understanding to operate all five Automatic Weather Stations installed by NatGeo to provide near real-time information regarding mountain conditions.

Chinese Prez Xi hails conduct of local level polls in Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

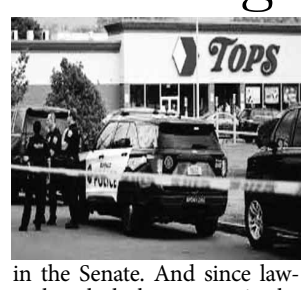
Chinese President Xi Jinping has congratulated Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba for holding the local elections, saying the process of electing people's representatives from the people themselves was a good one.

Xi's message was conveyed to Nepalese Home Minister Balkrihna Khand when Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Hou Yanqi met him here on Wednesday.

Hou called on Minister Khand at the latter's office in Singh Durbar Secretariat here, said Madhusudan Bhattarai, Press Coordinator, Home Ministry. Hou appreciated the recently held local level polls in the country, which went about largely peacefully and with a voter turnout of over 65 per cent.

House passes domestic terrorism bill after Buffalo shooting

AP ■ WASHINGTON



The House has passed legislation that would bolster federal resources to prevent domestic terrorism in response to the racist mass shooting in Buffalo, New York.

The 222-203, nearly party-line vote was an answer to the growing pressure Congress faces to address gun violence and white supremacist attacks — a crisis that escalated following two mass shootings over the weekend. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., a member of the congressional committee investigating the attack on the U.S. Capitol, was the lone Republican to vote in favour of the measure.

But the legislative effort by Democrats is not new. The House passed a similar measure in 2020 only to have it languish in the Senate. And since lawmakers lack the support in the Senate to move forward with any sort of gun-control legislation they see as necessary to stop mass shootings, Democrats are instead putting their efforts into a broader federal focus on domestic terrorism.

"We in Congress can't stop the likes of (Fox News host) Tucker Carlson from spewing hateful, dangerous replacement theory ideology across the airwaves.

PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED

CIN : L50102UP1982PLC015532
Regd. Office : Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Distt. Moradabad (U.P)
Corp. Office : M-14, Connaught Circus (Middle Circle), New Delhi-110 001
Tel. No. : 91-11-47627400, Fax No : 91-11-47627497
E-mail : delhi@pasupatiacrylon.com; Website : www.pasupatiacrylon.com
Quality Assured Company ISO-9001
(Rs. in Crores)

STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
		31.03.2022 Audited	31.12.2021 Reviewed	31.03.2021 Audited	31.03.2022 Audited	31.03.2021 Audited
1.	Total Income from operations	275.81	206.60	190.13	784.27	514.23
2.	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	5.79	15.12	40.38	61.83	58.53
3.	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5.79	15.12	40.38	61.83	58.53
4.	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.54	10.93	31.31	45.89	43.05
5.	Total comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)	4.47	10.94	31.87	46.05	43.52
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs.10/-)	89.14	89.14	89.14	89.14	89.14
7.	Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				190.38	144.32
8.	Earnings Per Share (Rs.10/- each)					
	Basic :	0.51	1.23	3.51	5.15	4.83
	Diluted :	0.51	1.23	3.51	5.15	4.83

NOTE : The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Company's Website (www.pasupatiacrylon.com) and website of stock exchanges www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com.

for Pasupati Acrylon Ltd.
(Sd./-)
Vineet Jain
Managing Director

Place : New Delhi
Date : 18th May, 2022

Jailed Egypt activist on hunger strike moved to new prison

AP ■ CAIRO

Egyptian authorities have transferred a prominent political activist from a maximum-security prison where he was allegedly tortured and denied basic rights to a new correctional facility, his family said on Thursday.

Alaa Abel-Fattah was transferred from Cairo's Tora prison complex to Wadi El-Natrun prison in the north of the country, where he was visited on Thursday by his family, his sister Mona Seif wrote on Twitter.

The transfer came as Abdel-Fattah had been on a hunger strike for nearly 48 days to protest his imprisonment conditions, according to his family. Abdel-Fattah had been serving time in one of Tora complex's most notorious prisons since his last arrest in September 2019.

"We're really glad that Alaa Abd El Fattah has been removed from the guardianship' of officers who bore him a personal hatred. We're relieved that he is is in a place which has some medical facilities," his aunt, award-winning novelist Ahdaf Soueif wrote on her Facebook page.

Abdel-Fattah has been constantly denied access to books, exercise time outside his cell, regular visits, and proper medical care, according to his family. He had previously filed several complaints documenting his mistreatment and alleging that he was beaten and humiliated by some prison officers.

Earlier this month, hundreds of Egyptian women filed a petition entitled "A Mothers' Plea" with the state-appointed National Council for Human RightsHe has , demanding the release of the 40-year-old programmer. In response, Moushira Khattab, NCHR president announced that authorities agreed to transfer him to the newly-erected Wadi El-Naturn prison complex, where she said, human rights standards are met.

Abel-Fattah is an outspoken dissident who rose to prominence during the 2011 pro-democracy uprisings that swept the Middle East and in Egypt, toppling long-time President Hosni Mubarak.

The activist spent most of the past decade behind bars, and his detention has become a symbol of Egypt's return to autocratic rule.

Last month, Abdel-Fattah's family said that he had gained British citizenship through his mother, Laila Soueif, a math professor at Cairo University who was born in London. The family said they sought a British passport for Abdel-Fattah as a way out of his "impossible ordeal."

Abdel-Fattah arrived on Wednesday morning in his new prison, which is located in a desert valley 150 kilometers north of Cairo, said his sister. She added that he is being held in a big cell with three other prisoners, and is allowed to sleep on a mattress for for the first time in years.The government of President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, a U.S. Ally with deep economic ties to European countries, has been relentlessly silencing dissenters and clamping down on independent organizations for years with arrests and restrictions. Many of the top activists involved in the 2011 uprising are now in prison, most under a draconian law passed in 2013 effectively banning all street protests.

Israeli military ID's gun that may have killed journalist

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli military has identified a soldier's rifle that may have killed Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, but said it cannot be certain unless the Palestinians turn over the bullet for analysis, a military official said Thursday.

The confirmation marked a small sign of progress in the investigation into the killing of Abu Akleh, who was fatally shot on May 11 while covering an Israeli military raid in the occupied West Bank.

Palestinian officials, along with fellow journalists who were with Abu Akleh, have said Israeli troops stationed nearby killed her.

The Israeli army says she was shot during a battle between troops and Palestinian gunmen, and it cannot be determined who fired the fatal bullet without a proper analysis.

Israel has called for a joint investigation with the Palestinians. But the Palestinians, who have the bullet, have refused, saying they don't trust Israel.

They say they are conducting their own investigation and are ready to cooperate with any country except for Israel.

The military last week released the results of a preliminary investigation that offered two possible causes of death. It said that in one scenario, she may have been hit by Palestinian gunfire during a fierce shootout with Israeli troops.

In the second scenario, it said she might have been hit by an Israeli soldier who shot through a "designated firing hole" in a military vehicle at a Palestinian gunman who was shooting at the vehicle.

It said it could not determine the source of fire without analyzing the bullet.

Asked for further details on Thursday, the military official confirmed that investigators have turned their focus to a specific weapon.

He stressed that while the source of the shot is still unclear, "we have narrowed down the IDF weapon that might be involved in the fire exchange near Shireen."

He said if the Palestinians cooperate with the investigation, Israel will "hopefully be able to compare the bullet to that barrel and check if there is a match." He spoke on condition of anonymity under military briefing guidelines.

The Palestinians have been conducting their own investigation. Last Friday, the Palestinian public prosecutor said preliminary findings show Abu Akleh was killed by deliberate fire from Israeli troops.

The prosecutor said the investigation would continue.

Bellingcat, an independent Dutch-based open-source research firm, has conducted its own analysis of material gathered largely from videos on social media. It said its initial findings lent support to Palestinian witnesses who say she was killed by Israeli fire.

Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American and 25-year veteran of the satellite channel, was killed in the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank. She was a household name across the Arab world, known for documenting the hardship of Palestinian life under Israeli rule, now in its sixth decade.

The shooting drew condemnations and statements of concern from around the world. Israel also has been widely criticized for the behaviour of police, who pushed and beat mourners at her funeral last Friday, causing the pallbearers to nearly drop her coffin.

M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED
(CIN-L67120DL1992PLC049038), Tel No. 011-49800900, Fax: 011-49800933
E-mail: commodities@bharatbhushan.com, Website: www.bbinvestments.in
Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022
(Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
	31-Mar-22	31-Dec-21	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-21
	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1. Total Income from operations	9.75	6.92	6.75	49.37	37.45
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.87	-3.66	-1.57	13.09	7.19
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.87	-3.66	-1.57	13.09	7.19
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-0.52	-3.07	-4.66	9.79	2.73
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-10.02	-23.47	154.48	131.96	482.70
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)					
-Basic	-0.02	-0.09	-0.14	0.29	0.08
- Diluted	-0.02	-0.09	-0.14	0.29	0.08

Notes :
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2022 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2022 is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in).
2. The above Audited Financial Results have been prepared in accordance with Ind AS notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rule made thereunder and other accounting principles to the extent applicable.
3. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 19.05.2022.
4. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.
5. The figures of the last quarter of the current year and of the previous year are the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and the published year to date figures up to the third quarter of the respective financial year.
6. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 globally and in India, the Company's management has made an initial assessment of likely adverse impact on the economic environment in general, business, and financial risks upto the date of financial statements and conclude that there is no material impact on the long-term performance of the Company. However, the Company will continue to monitor any material changes to the future economic conditions.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sd/-
Vijay Bhushan
Director
DIN: 00002421

Place : New Delhi
Date : 19.05.2022

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
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.	Naveen Arya/ Meenakshi Arya/ LBDEL00004899302	Flat No:- A- 13 Third Floor, Plot No- 45, Sector-9 The, Neelgiri Apartment, CGHS Ltd, Rohini Delhi/ May 17, 2022	January 27, 2022 Rs. 95,54,188.39/-	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 20, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Spain confirms 7 monkeypox cases as European outbreak grows

AP ■ MADRID

Health officials in Spain reported seven cases of monkeypox and Portugal updated its number of confirmed cases to 14 Thursday as an outbreak of a viral disease typically limited to Africa expanded in Europe.

In Spain, all of the reported cases to date involved men in Madrid, officials said. Health officials are currently testing another 22 suspected cases, said Antonio Zapatero of the regional health department."It's possible that more cases will emerge in the coming days," Zapatero told Spanish radio network Onda Cero.Officials said all of the cases identified so far were mild and that the infections appeared linked to close contact among two chains of transmission. No details were given as to whether the men had traveled to Africa or whether the cases were connected to other reported cases across Europe.Portuguese authorities said Thursday that the 14 cases confirmed in the country all were reported in the area surrounding the capital city of Lisbon.

Meanwhile, the tally of confirmed cases in Britain rose to nine. Britain's Health Security Agency said Wednesday that recent cases reported this week had been seen "predominantly in gay, bisexual or men who have sex with men," though it noted that it was unclear how exactly people had gotten infected.

Ukraine: Do not offer us ceasefire

AP ■ KYIV

An adviser to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says that the country won't accept any cease-fire until all the Russian troops pull back.

Thursday's statement from Mykhailo Podolyak, who was involved in several rounds of talks with Russia, reflects an increasingly confident stand taken by Ukraine as it has fought the Russian offensive to an effective standstill.

"Do not offer us a ceasefire — this is impossible without total Russian troops withdrawal," Podolyak wrote on Twitter.

In a reference to a 2015 peace agreement for eastern Ukraine that was brokered by France and Germany and signed in the Belarusian capital Minsk, Podolyak wrote: "Ukraine is not interested in new 'Minsk' and the war renewal in a few years."

Several Ukrainian officials have recently issued similar statements. Podolyak didn't specify what would constitute "total" withdrawal. He added that "until Russia is ready to fully liberate occupied territories, our negotiating team is weapons, sanctions and money."

British military authorities say Russia's centralised command and control structure is likely to come under increasing strain as senior officers seek to avoid responsibility for failures during the invasion of Ukraine.

The UK Ministry of Defence, in a briefing posted on Thursday morning, said a number of senior Russian commanders have already been fired for poor performance during the war.

The ministry says Lt. Gen. Serhiy Kisel, who led the elite 1st Guards Tank Army, was suspended for failing to capture Kharkiv, and Vice Admiral Igor Osipov, who commanded the Black Sea Fleet, has probably been suspended following the sinking of the cruiser Moskva.

The ministry also said it is unclear whether Chief of the General Staff Valeriy Gerasimov retains the support of President Vladimir Putin.

The ministry says senior officials are likely to be increasingly distracted as they seek to

avoid personal culpability amid this culture of "cover-ups and scapegoating."

"This will likely place further strain on Russia's centralized model of command and control as officers increasingly seek to defer key decisions to their superiors," the ministry said. "It will be difficult for Russia to regain the initiative under these conditions."

The head of the Russia-backed separatist region in eastern Ukraine says that over half of Ukrainian troops holed up at a steel plant in the key port of Mariupol have come out.

Denis Pushilin, the head of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, said Thursday that more than a half of Ukrainian servicemen who were holed up at the giant Azovstal steel plant have surrendered.

Pushilin didn't give specific numbers, but Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said on Wednesday that 959 Ukrainian troops had abandoned the stronghold since they started coming out Monday.

The Russian military has previously estimated the number of Ukrainian troops at Azovstal at over 2,000.

Red Cross registers hundreds of Ukrainian POWs from Mariupol

AP ■ KYIV

The Russian military said on Thursday that more Ukrainian fighters who were making a last stand in Mariupol have surrendered, bringing the total who have left their stronghold to 1,730, while the Red Cross said it had registered hundreds of them as prisoners of war.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said that the registrations of Ukrainian prisoners of war, which included wounded fighters, began

Tuesday under an agreement between Russia and Ukraine.

The Geneva-based humanitarian agency, which has experience in dealing with prisoners of war and prisoner exchanges, said however that its team did not transport the fighters to "the places where they are held" - which was not specified.

Ukrainian fighters who emerged from the ruined Azovstal steelworks after being ordered by their military to abandon the last stronghold of resistance in the now-flattened port city face an uncertain fate.

Some were taken by the Russians to a former penal colony in territory controlled by Moscow-backed separatists.

While Ukraine said it hopes to get the soldiers back in a prisoner

swap, Russia threatened to put some of them on trial for war crimes.

The Red Cross cited rules under the Geneva Conventions that should allow the organisation to interview prisoners of war "without witnesses" and that visits with them should not be "unduly restricted."

The organisation did not specify how many prisoners of war were involved.

It's also not clear how many fighters are left at the plant. Russia previously estimated that it had been battling some 2,000 troops in the waterside plant.

Denis Pushilin, a senior Russia-backed separatist official in a region that includes Mariupol, said that those Ukrainian soldiers who needed medical assistance were hospitalised while others were put in a detention facility.

He also claimed that Red Cross representatives were allowed to inspect the detention facility, but that could not be immediately verified.

Amnesty International said earlier that the Red Cross should be given immediate access to the Mariupol fighters who surrendered.

Denis Krivosheev, Amnesty's deputy director for the region, cited lawless executions allegedly carried out by Russian forces in Ukraine and

said the Azovstal defenders "must not meet the same fate."

Despite the setback in Mariupol, Ukraine's confidence has been growing after fighting the Russian offensive to an effective standstill and forcing Moscow to withdrawal from around Kyiv and narrow its military goals.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy who was involved in several rounds of talks with Russia, said Thursday in a tweet that at this stage "do not offer us a ceasefire - this is impossible without total Russian troops withdrawal."

"Until Russia is ready to fully liberate occupied territories, our negotiating team is weapons, sanctions and money," he tweeted.

Ukraine's military said in its morning briefing Thursday that Russian forces were still pressing their offensive on various sections of the front in the east, but were being successfully repelled.

Ukraine's military made no mention of Mariupol in its early morning briefing Thursday, saying only that Russian forces were still pressing their offensive on various sections of the front in the east, but were being successfully repelled.

In the eastern Donbas region, which has been the center of recent fighting as Russian forces on the offensive have clashed with staunch Ukrainian resistance, four civilians were killed in the town of Sievierodonetsk in a Russian bombardment, Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said.

Captive medic's bodycam shows firsthand horror of Mariupol

AP ■ KHARKIV

A celebrated Ukrainian medic recorded her time in Mariupol on a data card no bigger than a thumbnail, smuggled out to the world in a tampon. Now she is in Russian hands, at a time when Mariupol itself is on the verge of falling.

Yuliia Paievska is known in Ukraine as Taira, a moniker from the nickname she chose in the World of Warcraft video game.

Using a body camera, she recorded 256 gigabytes of her team's frantic efforts over two weeks to bring people back from the brink of death.

She got the harrowing clips to an Associated Press team, the last international journalists in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, as they left in a rare humanitarian convoy.

Russian soldiers captured Taira and her driver the next day, March 16, one of many forced disappearances in areas of Ukraine now held by Russia.

Russia has portrayed Taira as working for the nationalist Azov Battalion, in line with Moscow's narrative that it is attempting to "denazify" Ukraine. But the AP found no such evidence, and friends and colleagues said she had no links to Azov.

The military hospital where she led evacuations of the wounded is not affiliated with the battalion, whose members have spent weeks defending a sprawling steel plant in Mariupol.

The footage Taira recorded itself testifies to the fact that she tried to save wounded Russian soldiers as well as Ukrainian civilians.

A clip recorded on March 10 shows two Russian soldiers taken roughly out of an ambulance by a Ukrainian soldier. One is in a wheelchair. The other is on his knees, hands bound behind his back, with an obvious leg injury. Their eyes are covered by winter hats, and they wear white armbands.

A Ukrainian soldier curses at one of them. "Calm down, calm down," Taira tells him.

A woman asks her, "Are you going to treat the Russians?"

"They will not be as kind to us," she replies. "But I couldn't do otherwise. They are prisoners of war."

Taira is now a prisoner of the Russians, one of hundreds of prominent Ukrainians who have been kidnapped or captured, including local officials, journalists, activists and human rights defenders.

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has recorded 204 cases of enforced disappearances.

It said some victims may have been tortured, and five were later found dead. The office of Ukraine's ombudswoman said it had received reports of thousands of missing people by late April, 528 of whom had probably been captured.

The Russians also are targeting medics and hospitals even though the Geneva Conventions single out both military and civilian medics for protection "in all circumstance".

The World Health Organisation has verified more than 100 attacks on health care since the war began, a number likely to rise.

More recently, Russian soldiers pulled a woman off a convoy from Mariupol on May 8, accused her of being a military medic and forced her to choose between letting her four-year-old daughter accompany her to an unknown fate or continuing on to Ukrainian-controlled territory.

The mother and child ended up separated, and the little girl made it to the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, UN officials said.

"This is not about saving one particular woman," said Oleksandra Chudna, who volunteered as a medic with Taira in 2014. "Taira will represent those medics and women who went to the front."

Taira's situation takes on a new significance as the last defenders in Mariupol are evacuated into Russian territories, in what Russia calls a mass surrender and Ukraine calls a mission accomplished.

Russia says more than 1,700 Ukrainian fighters have surrendered this week in Mariupol, bringing new attention to the treatment of prisoners. Ukraine has expressed hope that the fighters can be exchanged for Russian prisoners of war, but a Russian official has said without evidence that they should be not exchanged but put on trial.

Ukraine's government has said it tried to add Taira's name to a prisoner exchange weeks ago.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Certificates for 10 (ten) shares bearing No.s 1387525 to 1387529 and 1950191 to 1950195 under folio No. U000012797 of ACC Limited standing in the name of USHA SINGH have been lost or misplaced and the undersigned has applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificate(s) for the said shares. Any person(s) in possession of the said share certificates or having any claim(s) to the said shares should notify to and lodge such claim(s) with the Share Department of the Company at Cement House, 121, Maharshi Karve Road, Mumbai-400020 within 21 days from the date of publication of this Notice after which period no claims will be entertained and the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates.

Place: New Delhi **Sd/-**
Date: 20.05.2022

Public Notice

This is to inform that **Mohd. Aqil Khan**, S/o. Late Natthu Khan, R/o. 24/43, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 is known to me. He has two sons named Mohd. Adil Khan and Mohd. Arif Khan and two daughters, named Shabnam and Zeba.

Mohd. Adil Khan has failed to discharge his duty towards his old father Aqil Khan. As such Aqil Khan had disowned his said son **Mohd. Adil Khan** and had **debarred** him from all his **moveable & immoveable properties.** He had sworn an affidavit declaring this fact on **13th may 2022** and from that day, **Mohd. Adil Khan** has no right, title, ownership on his father's moveable and immoveable properties.

Adib Fatema Nomani, Advocate
Chamber No.707, Saket Court,
New Delhi-110017

In the Court of Sh. Shirish Aggarwal
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-
Additional Rent Controller (Central), Delhi
Court Room No. 28, Ground Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
SC No. 128/2020
Smt. Madhu Gupta
Versus
The State & Ors.
Smt. Madhu Gupta
W/o Sh. Ajay Kumar Gupta
D/o Late Sh. Ashok Lal
R/o 2/54, Block-2, Roop Nagar,
Delhi-110007 ...Petitioner
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925.
To All Concerned

Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/ petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, in respect of the debt and securities **of Rs. ... As per record** to be standing in the name of **Late Smt. Usha Kumari** deceased.

Whereas the **23-05-2022** at 10' o clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 05-03-2022.

Sd/
SHIRISH AGGARWAL
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-
Additional Rent Controller (Central), Delhi
Seal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (ICB)
MASS-N-ERGY PVT. LTD.
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
2x4.75 MW Lashpathri Hydro Electric Project + COL

Bids are invited from eligible bidders for Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Erection & Commissioning of electrical & mechanical works for 2x4.75 MW Lashpathri Hydro Electric Project + COL at Lashpathri, Jammu & Kashmir.
Bids are also invited from eligible bidders for Design, Planning & construction of civil works 2x4.75 MW Lashpathri Hydro Electric Project +COL at Lashpathri, Jammu & Kashmir.
The details are given below:

Bid reference	MNEPL/LASH HEP/E&M/001
Time & Last date for receipt of bids	13:00 Hrs. on 5th July, 2022
Time & date of opening of bids	15:00 Hrs. on 5th July, 2022

For any technical details and assistance please contact:
Mr. Ravi Gupta
Mass-N-Ergy Pvt. Ltd.
9B, Atmaram House, Tolstoy Marg, Lane,Connaught Place, N.D. – 110001.
Contact No.: 011- 4044 4044

Jammu & Kashmir Address:
Executive Suite No. 02, Top Floor, Khidmat Complex Phase II, Regal Srinagar – 190 001 (J&K).
Ph: 01954 – 2458415, 2470349
Email: massnergy@gmail.com

ANS INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Regd. Off.: 136 KM, GT Road ,Vill & P.O Shamgarh, Karnal (Haryana)
Head Off.: 144/2, Ashram, Mathura Road, New Delhi - 110014, CIN: L15130HR1994PLC032362,
E-mail : ansagro.limited@gmail.com, Website : www.ansfoods.com,

NOTICE

This is to inform you that pursuant to Reg.29 read with Reg.33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, the 30th day of May, 2022 at 2.00 PM. at the head office of the Company inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the standalone Audited financial result for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2022.
This information is also available on the website of the Company and website of BSE.

For ANS Industries Limited
Sd/-
(Manoj Mishra)
Company Secretary
M.No.ACS-18801

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 19.05.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pl make it known to the general public that my client Sh. Ravi Shanker Thadani, aged 63 years S/o Late Permanand Thadani R/o J-31, Second Floor, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 has disowned & disinherited his son Anil Thadani, aged 33 years S/o Sh. Ravi Shanker Thadani R/o Seattle, USA, from his estate & succession especially due to his (son's) highly disobedient and quarrelsome act, conduct and attitude towards my client and other family members.
My client does not wish to keep any sort of contact and relations with the said son.
Take note that anyone dealing with the said son of my client shall do the same at its own risk and my client shall not be liable there-for.

Manish Gandhi (Advocate)
Ch. no. X-6A Civil Wing, TisHazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Public at large is hereby informed that my client Raj Kumar Madhian S/o.Late Jetha Nand Madhian R/o.H.No.A-2737 2nd Floor front Portion Green Filed Colony, Faridabad, Haryana-121 001 hereby disown, debar and sever all relations with my wife Smt. Sanna Madhian D/o.Shri P.L. Gianchandani, son Harshit Madhian and Rishabh Madhian from all his movable and immovable properties due to their insulting, derogatory, cruel and quarrelsome behavior with my client. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risks and costs. My client shall not be responsible for the same.

ATUL KUMAR SHARMA-ADVOCATE
CH. NO. B-108, B.G.S. BLOCK
TIS HAZARI COURTS COMPLEX, DELHI -54

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
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.	Sahil Chhabra/ Monica Chhabra (13000001994 & QZGUR00005042769)	Plot No-E-86-A & 87-A, Second Floor Khasra No-16/27, Block-E, South Anarkali, Vill- Khureji Khas, ILLAQA Shahdara, Delhi/ May 18, 2022	September 27, 2021/ Rs. 18,87,312/-	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 20, 2022
Place: Delhi/ Ncr

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency,
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun.

Ref. No. 362/I1-02(xix)-2/ITCO/URRDA/22 Dated : 18.05.2022

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice-03/2022-23

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of **Almora, Dehradun & Pauri** for 03 number of packages with estimated cost totaling to **Rs. 8.00 Crore** including their maintenance for Five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 21.05.2022.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the **CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works)**, eighter by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No Physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-Procurement: 04.06.2022 01:00 PM

For further details please log on to **www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in**.

Chief Engineer, URRDA, Dehradun

* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Victoria Crss Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001
CIN. UA40109UP2001SGCO25867/2358, Ph. No-0135-2763672-76, Fax-0135-2760289
Website : www.uktenders.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE

In reference to this office e-tenders invited preciously by this office are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons as under : -

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No.	Name of work	Quantity (Nos.)	Last date & time of online request for Tender and submission of tender in online & off line mode	Date of opening of Part-I of tender in online & offline mode
1	CCP-II/40/ 2021-22	Engagement of manpower for meter reading, bill preparation, bill distribution, receiving payment of bills at site and Supervision of the work through mobile based billing for two years in following packages: (i) Garhwal Zone (ii) Kumaun Zone (iii) Haridwar Zone (iv) Rudrapur Zone	2.960 CRORE (bills annually)	07.06.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs.	08.06.22 at 15:30 Hrs.
2	CCP-II/41/ 2021-22	Work of One year monthly meter data analysis through various reports	96000	07.06.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs.	08.06.22 at 15:45 Hrs.
3	CCP-II/3/ 2022-23	Engagement of Energy Auditor to carry out the energy audit and submit their report for FY 2020-2021		07.06.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs.	08.06.22 at 16:00 Hrs.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer
Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)

No.: 168/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Dated : 18.05.2022

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION.
Use L.E.D. Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912)
Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org. (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 1804 185/Fax No. 0135-2760911)

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
noida
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.	**38/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/21-22-** O/M of Sewer line and MSPS/IPS at Expressway (Cleaning of sewer line and Sewer Manhole between IPS/MSPS from Ch. 0.00 Km. to 10.00 Km. RHS along Noida - Gr. Noida Expressway Green belt) Noida. Cost, 34.73 Lac

Which can be uploaded by date **27.05.2022 upto 5.00 P.M.** Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **30.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M.**

Principal General Manager
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

कार्यालय पुलिस अधीक्षक जिला मुंगेली (छत्तीसगढ़)

निविदा क्रमांक–पुअ./ मुंगेली / / एसी–1,/ / 696 /2022 मुंगेली दिनांक 17.05.2022

// सीसीटीवी कैमरा एवं आवश्यक उपकरणों,/सामकियो के क्रय एवं इंस्टॉलेशन हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण //

मुंगेली शहर के कुल 04 चौक /चौराहे / स्थानों में 04–04 नग सीसीटीवी कैमरा क्रय कर लगवाने एवं लाईव प्रसारण एवं रिकार्डिंग का सम्पूर्ण सेटअप पुलिस कंट्रोल रूम मुंगेली में स्थापित किये जाने हेतु सीसीटीवी कैमरा उपकरणों तथा सभी आवश्यक सामग्रियों के क्रय एवं इंस्टॉलेशन हेतु सीलबंद लिफाफे में निविदा,/भावपत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते है। सामग्रियों का विवरण निम्नानुसार है :–

SN	Description	Quntity
01	4 MP NETWORK MOTORIZED BULLET CAMERA, 60 MTR, IR, WDR, IVS, AUDIO/ALARM PORT	16
02	8 CHANNEL NETWORK VIDEO RECORDER- 2 SATA PORT 320 MBPS BANDWIDTH	04
03	32 CHANNEL NETWORK VIDEO RECORDER-4 SATA PORT UP 320 MBPS BANDWIDTH	01
04	4 TB HDD	08
05	8 TB HDD	02
06	OUTDOOR DOUBLE JACKET CAT 6 CABLE	1500 Mtr
07	8 PORT POE GIGA SWITCH WITH 2 GIGA LAN UPLINK	05
08	PER METER LAYING OF ARMORD CAT 6 CABLE WITH FIXING OF CAPING AND CASING/PVC PIPE ON WALL OR TRUS OR PILLAR OR AS PER SITE CONDITION, COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECTS.	1500 Mtr
09	INSTALLATION CHARGES SCOPE OF INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF CAMERA AT DESIGNATED PLACE I.E. ON WALL/CEILLING/POLL (FIXING OF MOUNT, CAMERA, COMPLETE CONNECTION AND INTEGRATION WITH SYSTEM)	16
10	GI POLE 20 FEET WITH CONCRETE BASE	08
11	OUTDOOR IP55 BOX	05
12	55 INCH LFD DISPLAY	01
13	OUTDOOR NETWORK AP (WIRLESS).	05
14	OTHER NECESSARY EQUIPMENT OR MATERIAL WITH COMPLETE INSTALLATION	

निविदाकर्ता निविदा प्रपत्र, नियम एवं शर्ते इस कार्यालय से प्राप्त कर, निर्धारित सुरक्षा निधि राशि के साथ आवेदन कर सकते है। निविदाकर्ता के लिये निम्नलिखित नियम एवं शर्ते अनिवार्य है :–

01- Work Experience Certificate, Performance Certificate of one year for similar nature of work.
02- Bidder/OEM should not be bald / debarred / blacklisted by any Government institution globally. The Bidder/OEM has to submit the self - declaration regarding the same. OEM of the equipments/ Solution shall have positive net worth during last three years.
03- Tender specific authorization.
04- Turn Over Certificate.
05- GST Clearance Certificate.
06- All Camera & NVR and to solution should be single OEM.
07- Certificate - UL, CE, FCC, ROHS.
08- OEM/Brand/ Bidder should have established in India at least for five years. Its present should be supported with brand registration certificate like TM/COI etc.
09- CCTV manufactures shall have supplied at least 5500 Nos. - 4MP IP Camera in Government projects in India through single PO. Documentary proofs shall be submitted along with the bid.
10- Bidder should have established in India at least for 10 Years, Its Presence should be supported with registration certificate/ legal status.
11- Brochures and OEM compliance of the offered product on OEM letterhead.

निविदाकर्ता, निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने हेतु आवेदन पत्र के साथ रूपये 1000.00 (एक हजार रूपये मात्र) का चालान कोषालय में लेखा शीर्ष **0055 पुलिस शीर्ष 800 अन्य प्राप्तियां मद** में जमा कर चालान की मूल प्रति पुलिस अधीक्षक कार्यालय, मुंगेली में प्रस्तुत कर दिनांक 18.05.2022 से 17.06.2022 के 05:00 बजे तक कार्यालयीन दिवस में प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण एवं नियम तथा शर्तों का अवलोकन कार्यालयीन समय में पुलिस अधीक्षक कार्यालय मुंगेली में किया जा सकता है।

01– निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि – 18.06.2022 को शाम 03:00 बजे तक
02– निविदा खोलने की तिथि – 18.06.2022 को शाम 6:00 बजे

R. O. No. 91268/4
R. O. Date:- 19/05/2022

सही /–
पुलिस अधीक्षक

Sensex tanks over 1,400 pts amid global market meltdown

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices sank in a sea of red on Thursday, joining a global market sell-off after Wall Street suffered its worst drubbing since mid-2020 on renewed fears of scorching inflation crimping economic recovery.

Continued selling by foreign investors and the rupee sinking to another record low against the US dollar added to the woes. Posting its biggest drop in over two months, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex dived 1,416.30 points or 2.61 per cent to settle at 52,792.23. The broader NSE Nifty tanked 430.90 points or 2.65 per cent to 15,809.40. Investors lost Rs 6.71 lakh crore in Thursday's session, with the market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies falling to Rs 2,49,06,394.08 crore. IT counters led the losses, with Wipro emerging as the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack with a fall of 6.21 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, Infosys, TCS, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank. In contrast, ITC was the top gainer, spurting 3.43 per cent, after the company reported an 11.60 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 4,259.68 crore for the March quarter, driven by all-round growth across verticals.

Dr Reddy's and PowerGrid were the only other winners. "The recent earnings reported by the US retailers reflected the heat of high retail inflation, resulting in the rout in Wall Street. Persistent offloading by foreign investors along with mounting fears of an economic slowdown wreaked havoc in the domestic market.

"In this highly volatile market, investors can focus on sectors like FMCG, pharma, capital goods and manufacturing whose valuations are moderate and reasonable on a long term basis," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

SC dismisses plea to review decision on removal of Mistry as Tata Sons head

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea of the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) group firms seeking a review of the 2021 verdict which had upheld the Tata group's decision to remove Cyrus Mistry as the executive chairman of the Tata Sons.

Apex court, however, agreed to delete certain remarks made in the 2021 judgment against Cyrus Mistry after the counsel for the SP group said that he was willing to withdraw certain paragraphs, purportedly written against the bench, from their application.

"Sorry, review (petition) is not entertained. Dismissed," observed the bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian after hearing counsel from both sides.

The plea seeking review of the judgment was sought by SP group firms, Cyrus Investments Private Ltd and Sterling Investments Private Ltd. During the brief hearing, the bench was irked over certain pleadings such as "the judgment is worse than a press statement" made by the SP group in its application for expunction of adverse observations in the judgment against Mistry.

"That is not proper, you first withdraw (the paragraphs)," the CJI said. Somasekharan Sundaram, the counsel for Mistry, said there was no intention to hurt the bench. "Scores are settled. We had said something, you have said something against us," the bench said, adding that one of the observations made in the judgment would be deleted. The bench said the other side (Tata group) had no objection to Mistry's remarks in the application.

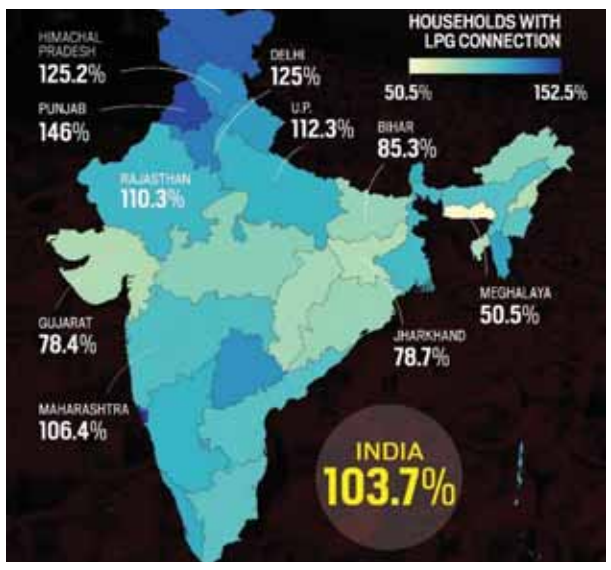
Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the Tata group, said that the court may permit the deletion of one or a few sentences "as an act of grace" and not for the reasons given in the application of the Sapoorji Pallonji (SP) group.

Earlier, the review plea and the application seeking an open court hearing on it was placed before the bench which by a majority of 2:1 had agreed to hear the plea in the open court."We would like to express our grateful appreciation of the judgment passed and upheld by the Supreme Court today. It reinforces the value system and the ethics of our judiciary," Tweeted Ratan Tata, reacting to the apex court judgment.

The Supreme Court on March 26, 2021, had set aside a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order restoring Mistry as the executive chairman of Tata group.

The apex court had also dismissed a plea of Shapoorji Pallonji group seeking separation of ownership interests in Tata Sons Pvt Ltd (TSPL). Mistry had succeeded Ratan Tata as the chairman of TSPL in 2012 but was ousted four years later.

Cooking gas LPG price hiked by ₹ 3.5, crosses ₹1,000 mark



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cooking gas LPG price was on Thursday hiked by ₹3.50 per cylinder, the second increase in rate this month following the firming of international energy rates.

Non-subsidised LPG now costs ₹1,003 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, up from ₹999.50 previously, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. This is the second increase in LPG rate this month and the third in less than two months. The price was hiked by ₹50 per cylinder on March 22 and again by the same quantum on May 7. Since April 2021, prices have risen by ₹193.5 per cylinder. Petrol and diesel prices however continue to be on freeze for the 43rd day in a row.

The pause followed rates being hiked by a record ₹10 per litre in a matter of 16 days beginning March 22. Non-subsidised cooking gas is the one that consumers buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cylinders at subsidised or below-market rates. However, the government pays no subsidy on LPG in most cities and the price of the refill that consumers, including the poor women who got free connection under the much-talked Ujjwala scheme, is the same as that for non-subsidised or market price LPG.

Non-subsidised LPG costs ₹1,002.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Mumbai while it is priced at ₹1,018.50 a bottle in Chennai and ₹1,029 in Kolkata. Rates differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT. Prices are higher in states with higher taxes.

Alongside, oil firms also hiked the price of commercial LPG cylinders - the ones used by establishments like hotels and restaurants - by ₹8 per cylinder to ₹2,354 per 19-kg bottle. On May 1, the price of a commercial LPG cylinder was increased by ₹102.50 to ₹2,355.50 but on May 7 it was reduced to ₹2,346.

International oil prices have been on the rise this year. They jumped to a 13-year high of USD 140 per barrel in March before shedding some of gains. Brent was trading at USD 110.13 per barrel on Thursday. To compound things, Indian rupee tumbled to ₹77.74 to a dollar, making imports costlier.

Maruti will never shift from Haryana, says R C Bhargava

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal said on Thursday the real estate sector and the automobile sector are flourishing in tandem in Gurugram. When the Chief Minister was asked what efforts were made by the government to bring back Maruti to the State, he replied 'Maruti is Gurugram and Gurugram is Haryana. Maruti is part of Haryana.'

Echoing the same sentiments, Chairman, Maruti, RC Bhargava said Maruti was in Haryana, is in Haryana and will remain in Haryana. Praising the industrial Policies and investment friendly environment of Haryana, Bhargava said that today Maruti has purchased land in Kharkhoda for setting up its new plant due to better environment in the state. Manohar Lal said that Haryana, which came into existence as an agricultural state in the year 1966, has made a distinct identity not only in the country but also abroad for attracting investors due to its better Industrial Policies.

Today Haryana has become the first choice of investors for bringing in foreign investment, thereby giving a tough competition to big states in country, said Manohar Lal.

The Chief Minister said this while addressing a press conference at Gurugram today after the signing of agreements for allotment of land to Maruti Suzuki India Limited and Suzuki Two Wheeler India Private Limited for setting up a plant at IMT Kharkhoda.

'Indian, Chinese companies take lead in use of artificial intelligence'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian and Chinese companies are taking lead in use of artificial intelligence compared to their peers in major technically-advanced countries, an IBM survey report said on Thursday.

According to the survey, 35 per cent of companies globally reported using AI in their business and when compared with 2021, organisations are 13 per cent more likely to have adopted AI in 2022. "Chinese and Indian companies are leading the way, with nearly 60 per cent of IT professionals in those countries saying their organisations already actively use AI, compared with lagging markets like South Korea (22 per cent), Australia (24 per cent) the US (25 per cent) and the UK (26 per cent)," IBM's Global AI Adoption Index 2022 said.

It said that IT professionals in the financial services, media, energy, automotive, oil and aerospace industries are most likely to report their companies have actively deployed AI, while organisations in industries such as retail, travel and government/federal services and healthcare are the least likely.

The survey was conducted from March 30-April 12, 2022, among a sample of 7,502 senior business decision-makers with some influence over their company's IT decisions, including 500 respondents each in the US, UK, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, China, India, Singapore, Australia, Canada, UAE, and South Korea, and 1,000 respondents in across the Latin America region (Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Peru), the report said.

India, fastest-growing major economy, projected to grow 6.4% in 2022: UN

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

As the Ukraine conflict impacts the global GDP, India is projected to grow by 6.4 per cent in 2022, slower than the last year's 8.8 per cent but still the fastest-growing major economy, with higher inflationary pressures and uneven recovery of the labour market curbing private consumption and investment, according to a UN report.

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs said in its World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report released on Wednesday that the war in Ukraine has upended the fragile economic recovery from the pandemic, triggering a devastating humanitarian crisis in Europe, increasing food and commodity prices and globally exacerbating inflationary pressures.

The global economy is now projected to grow by only 3.1 per cent in 2022, down from the 4.0 per cent growth forecast released in January 2022. Global inflation is projected to increase to 6.7 per cent in 2022, twice the average of 2.9 per cent during 2010–2020, with sharp

rises in food and energy prices, it said. The report said that the outlook in South Asia has deteriorated in recent months, against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and higher commodity prices and potential negative spillover effects from monetary tightening in the United States.

The regional economic output is projected to expand by 5.5 per cent in 2022, which is 0.4 percentage points lower than the forecast released in January. "India, the largest economy in the region, is expected to grow by 6.4 per cent in 2022, well below the 8.8 per cent growth in 2021, as higher inflationary pressures and uneven recovery of the labour market will curb private consumption and investment," it said. For the fiscal year 2023, India's growth is forecast to be 6 per cent.

Lead Author & Chief, Global Economic Monitoring Branch, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Hamid Rashid told reporters at the UN Headquarters that almost all regions in the world are affected by high inflation

except for East Asia and South Asia. He said "India in that sense" is a "little bit" in a better position as it did not have to aggressively pursue monetary tightening compared to other countries in Latin America.

Brazil has raised interest rates repeatedly. India's projected growth for 2022 is 6.4 per cent, a downward adjustment of 0.3 per cent from January.

"We expect Indian recovery to remain strong in the near term, in the next year and two, but again we cannot completely discount the downside risk that would come from external channels. So that risk is still there," he said.

The report added that higher prices and shortages of farming inputs including fertilisers are likely to persist in the region, negatively impacting the agricultural sector in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

"This will probably result in weaker harvests and exert further upward pressures on food prices in the near term," the report said. It said along with higher energy prices, elevated prices of food will likely increase food insecurity across the region. Consumer price inflation in the region is expected to accelerate to 9.5 per cent in 2022, from 8.9 per cent in 2021.

The report also said that tighter external financial conditions will adversely affect regional growth prospects, especially for countries with high exposure to global capital markets facing debt distress or risks of debt default.

"The pandemic left many countries with large fiscal deficits and higher and unsustainable levels of public debt. Sri Lanka is currently facing a debt crisis and discussing a new IMF-supported programme to bring its economy out of the crisis," it said.

The downgrades in growth prospects are broad-based, including the world's largest economies — the United States, China and the European Union — and the majority of other developed and developing economies, it said.

The growth prospects are weakening particularly in commodity-importing developing economies, driven by higher energy and food prices. The outlook is compounded by worsening food insecurity, especially in Africa, it added.

Growth forecasts for the United States, European Union and China have been revised downward, with the European Union registering the most significant downward revision.

The European Union economy – most directly hit by disruptions in the energy supply from the Russian Federation – is now expected to grow by 2.7 per cent in 2022, down from 3.9 per cent expected in January.

The US economy is expected to grow by 2.6 per cent in 2022 and 1.8 per cent next year, while China is expected to grow by 4.5 per cent in 2022 and 5.2 per cent in 2023.

Power Min urges States to direct utilities to clear dues to gencos, coal firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Power has urged certain states, including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, to direct their utilities to clear total outstanding dues towards generating firms (gencos) and coal companies as failing to do so might affect electricity supply.

Union Power Secretary Alok Kumar has shot off letters to chief secretaries of states including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in this regard.

The letter, a copy of which was reviewed by PTI, urged the chief secretaries to direct the utilities in their states to immediately clear the outstanding dues of gencos and coal companies, failing which the electricity supply to their states might get severely affected.

Kumar highlighted that lack of adherence to basic payment discipline by the utilities is not only causing supply side problems in generation of electricity, but also adversely affecting new investment in the sector.

He stated that public utilities have higher responsibility to be ideal paymasters and upholders of contract laws of the country, adding that repeated indiscretion on part of the utilities goes against the very essence of these basic responsibilities.

If the utilities continue to renounce their responsibilities for timely payments to their creditors, and do not wipe out their past and current dues on an urgent basis, this will have a perilous effect on the power supply, he stated.

Inability of the utilities to pay for legitimate dues against electricity dispatched and the coal received is increasing the electricity supply side concerns to unprecedented levels, he added. The pending dues of gencos and Coal India Ltd (CIL) have been a matter of grave concern for quite some time. This is posing a threat to reliable power supply, the secretary noted.

According to the letters, Uttar Pradesh utilities owed Rs 9,372.49 crore to gencos and Rs 319.82 crore to CIL.

Tamil Nadu utilities owed Rs 20,842.53 crore to gencos and Rs 729.60 crore to CIL. Maharashtra utilities' dues stood at Rs 18,014.54 crore towards gencos and Rs 2,573.19 crore for CIL.

Rajasthan utilities owed Rs 11,176.38 crore to gencos and Rs 307.86 crore to CIL.

Madhya Pradesh utilities owed Rs 5,030.19 crore to gencos and Rs 256.04 crore to CIL.The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir's utilities owed Rs 7,275.12 crore to gencos.

RBI allows settlement of trade transactions with Sri Lanka in INR

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In view of difficulties being faced by exporters in getting payments from crisis-hit Sri Lanka, the RBI on Thursday allowed settlement of trade transactions in Indian rupee outside the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism.

In March, the government had guaranteed a term loan of USD 1 billion extended by the State Bank of India (SBI) to Sri Lanka for financing purchase of essential goods by the island nation from India.

"In view of the difficulties being experienced by exporters in receipt of export proceeds from Sri Lanka and SBI's credit facility...It has been decided that such trade transactions with Sri Lanka, falling under the said arrangement, may be settled in INR outside the ACU mechanism," the RBI said in a circular. Under the arrangement, financing of export of eligible goods and services from India would be allowed subject conditions and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by SBI under the agreement. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948.

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

Govt should focus on public policy framework, wealth creation private sector's job: NITI Aayog CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Thursday said it is the private sector's job to create wealth and the government should focus on laying down public policy framework.

Addressing 'GovTech Summit 2022', Kant further said India needs a very simple, efficient, and transparent government. "The government's job should be laying down public policy framework, it is the private sector's job to create wealth. The only other areas where the government should be are health, education and nutrition," he said. Talking about digital economy, Kant said India is at the cusp of a very important transformation and the whole process of digitisation has been a transformational journey.

"If eastern parts of India digitises fully and makes governance very easy, then eastern part of India will actually become a very responsive government," he said, adding that these states are full of mineral resources. The NITI Aayog CEO also stressed that data-driven governance is the key to good governance.

Gold gains ₹76, silver tumbles ₹710

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold in the national Capital on Thursday gained Rs 76 to reach Rs 50,027 per 10 grams, supported by rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had finished at Rs 49,951 per 10 grams.In contrast, silver tumbled Rs 710 to Rs 60,224 per kg from Rs 60,934 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee extended its losses and slumped 10 paise to close at a fresh record low of 77.72 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by a negative trend in domestic equities and unabated foreign fund outflows. In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,812 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 21.33 per ounce. "Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading marginally down at USD 1,812 per ounce on Thursday. Gold prices traded under pressure as traders and investors weighed on aggressive Fed despite weak equity indices," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities.

Cargo vessel carrying 1,600 tonnes of wheat from India sinks in Bangladesh river: officials

PTI ■ DHAKA

A light cargo vessel carrying 1,600 tonnes of wheat worth 66.4 million Taka from India sank completely in Meghna river at the estuary of Bay of Bengal overnight, a day after officials said freighter was badly damaged as it hit a shoal.

The vessel was heading towards Narayanganj river port on outskirts of Dhaka to be delivered to a private flour mill after receiving cargo from a bigger ship at outer anchorage of Chattogram Port on Tuesday. The accident came as importers, particularly those in Asia, were banking on wheat from India, the world's second-biggest producer since exports from Black Sea region plunged following Russia's February 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Authorities said there was no scope to recover the wheat."The light vessel has completely gone under water with 1,600 tonnes of wheat . . . There is no scope to recover wheat," Bangladesh's Water Transport Cell joint secretary Ataul Kabir told PTI.

Earlier officials from the department said the ship did not sink completely and it was beached in a canal in Tillar Char area in coastal Laxmipur district.

The shipping agent of the vessel said a crack developed in front hatch of vessel after being hit by a shoal and huge water entered into it.

Later, water entered the middle of the vessel and sank with cargo. Officials and importer of cargo said wheat was worth around Taka 66.4 million (USD 7,58,280.70).

Asked if it could be an act of sabotage, Kabir ruled out such possibility as mere speculation saying it appeared a case of simple accident as sea was rough when ship hit an underwater shoal.

MOHSIN HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING FOR US IN THE LAST FEW GAMES. HE'S GOT THE SKILLS BUT THE KEY THING HAS BEEN HIS KNOWLEDGE OF WHEN TO USE THOSE SKILLS — KL RAHUL

I'm actually in the happiest phase of my life: Kohli

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In a declaration that is not commensurate with his current form, Virat Kohli says he is "actually" going through the "happiest phase" of his life, when he is not receptive to either success or failure.

He is "not finding any self-worth or value" in what he is doing on the field now, a far cry from the man known for his intensity and passion, things that made him a cricket icon, besides his incredible range of shots with the bat in his pomp.

Kohli has not scored a hundred in competitive cricket for nearly three years and current edition of IPL happens to be his worst.

"I'm actually in the happiest phase of my life. I am not finding any self-worth or value in what I do on the field. I'm way past that phase. This is a phase of evolution for me," Kohli told *Star Sports*.

The former India skipper, who also gave up captaincy at Royal Challengers Bangalore last year, is enduring his worst run with the bat, leaving his millions of fans concerned.

He has had a disappointing IPL-15 so far with the bat having managed only one half-century in 13 matches for RCB. Kohli has bagged three golden ducks already this season and has managed just 200 runs at an average and strike rate that fail to define a player of his calibre.

At the same time though, the 33-year-old refuses to believe that the drive is not there.

"... Not to say that I don't have the same drive, my drive will never die down. The day my drive goes away, I'll not be playing this game.

"But to understand that some things are not controllable, the only controllable you have are things that you can work towards, which is working hard on the field and in life as well and from that point of view, I feel that I am in the most balanced space that I have ever been and I am happy with who I am and how I am leading my life."

For Kohli, on-field success or failure is increasingly becoming irrelevant.

"I am not finding any source of encouragement or disappointment by what happens on the field.

"So, this has not been about myself, this is about the fact that I have not contributed to my team's cause as much as I would have wanted to or I pride myself to, and that is something that always disappoints me, not what I do as an individual.

"It's because I don't want to let my team down."

Speaking about his transition from a captain to a player, Kohli said, "To be honest, it's different. I won't say it's hard because it's something that you're involved in regularly.

"So, the good thing is that my relationship with Faf (current RCB skipper Faf du Plessis) has always been good. We also have a leadership group in the team where we all share our inputs.

"Even on the field, when Faf is on the outfield and I am inside, I make sure to look after the fielding angles and the placement, so he's given me the liberty to adjust wherever I feel that there's a need, but always keeping him in the loop obviously.

"So, it's been a different way to look at the game, but because I've done it so much in the past, it's not something that I don't know how to do."

RCB LIVE ON; PBKS, SRH EXIT

Virat Kohli completes 7K runs for RCB as his 54-ball 73 script 8-wicket win

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A fired up Virat Kohli roared back to form with a fine half-century as Royal Challengers Bangalore stayed alive in the IPL play-off race with a thumping eight-wicket win over table toppers Gujarat Titans here on Thursday.

This was after skipper Hardik Pandya scored a gritty 47-ball 62 to lift GT to a competitive 168 for five after opting to bat.

Kohli (73 off 54) and captain Fa du Plessis (44 off 38) shared a match-winning 115-run opening stand before Glenn Maxwell (40 not out off 18) went ballistic to ensure the team got home in 18.4 overs.

By virtue of this win, RCB moved to fourth place in the standings with 16 points but will have to wait for the Delhi Capitals-Mumbai Indians game on Saturday to know their fate. A loss for Delhi would ensure RCB a play-off berth.

As the 'Kohli Kohli' chants suggested, the whole of Wankhede and probably the country wanted to see the former India captain back amongst the runs and with a little bit of luck going his way, he was back playing the shots he is known for. When Kohi picked Mohammed Shami for two lofted boundaries over the bowler's head and cover in the third over, it looked it would be his night. His next four was a streaky one off Hardik who bowled with the new ball.

The very next ball, Kohli was at his animated best as he whipped Hardik towards square leg with Rashid Khan missing a tough chance in the deep.

A sign of his growing confidence was an aerial straight drive off Rashid. Kohli was quick on his feet both against Rashid as well as the pacers. The Indian superstar brought up his second fifty of the season by whipping a full ball off Rashid over deep midwicket.

With Kohli on song, Du Plessis played his part perfectly and kept rotating the strike besides an odd boundary.

After the captain's dismissal, Maxwell joined Kohli and went ballistic from ball one. The Australian's cameo included a reverse scoop shot off Hardik that went all the way.

After collecting his second six off Rashid, Kohli tried one too many and got stumped in the 17th over but the job had been well and truly done by then. Earlier, Hardik lifted GT to a competitive total. Coming into the game with a string of low scores, he warmed up nicely for the play-offs with a well crafted fifty even though he was not at his fluent best.

RCB limited GT to 72 for three in 10 overs, largely due to their brilliance in the field despite Wriddhiman Saha's (31 off 22) threatening stay in the middle.

Saha provided another brisk start with some clean hitting but his opening partner Shubman Gill perished cheaply. The right-hander poked at a good length ball and Maxwell, standing at a widish first slip, plucked a stunning one handed catch diving to his right.

pointstable

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	GT (Q)	14	10	4	0	20	0.316
2.	LSG (Q)	14	9	5	0	18	0.251
3.	RR	13	8	5	0	16	0.304
4.	RCB	14	8	6	0	16	-0.253
5.	DC	13	7	6	0	14	0.255
6.	KKR	14	6	8	0	12	0.146
7.	PBKS	13	6	7	0	12	-0.043
8.	SRH	13	6	7	0	12	-0.230
9.	CSK	13	4	9	0	8	-0.206
10.	MI	13	3	10	0	6	-0.577

boundarymeter

4s	1836
6s	956

Royals eye No 2 spot against CSK

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Having gone off the boil in the last few games, Jos Buttler would be eagerly waiting to pounce on an inexperienced Chennai Super Kings attack in order to clinch a play-off berth for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL here on Friday.

A win will take Sanju Samson's men to 18 points and help them steer clear of any permutations or combinations for a top-four finish.

In fact a win will ensure a top-two finish for Royals as they will then enjoy a superior Net Run Rate (NRR) of +0.304 compared to Lucknow Super Giants' +0.251.

In this backdrop, Royals would like to turn the heat on a lacklustre CSK, who can turn out to be 'party poopers' in their final game.

To prevent that, Buttler, who is currently leading the batters' chart with 627 runs, will need to do better than register scores of 22, 30, 7, 2 -- his contribution in the last four games.

The Royals' success in the tournament has got a lot to do with brilliant starts from Buttler, who has three hundreds and as many fifties -- most of his runs were scored during the first half of the tournament -- and Yuzvendra Chahal's 24 wickets.

While Chahal has maintained his consistency, in the case of Buttler there has been a slight dip in form but the last league game is an ideal time to up the ante before the play-offs.

Rookies Mukesh Choudhary, Simarjeet Singh and 'Baby Malinga' Matheesha Pathirana will like to show their wares one last time but the CSK unit's confidence has taken a big dent because of its poor batting efforts for the better part of the tournament.

While Buttler is at the top of the batting chart for Royals, Ruturaj Gaikwad came to the party late with 366 runs, but none of the others have crossed the 300-run mark. Devon Conway, who played more matches in the second half, has 236 runs to his credit.

Most of CSK's senior players like MS Dhoni (206), Ambati Rayudu (271) and Robin Uthappa (230) haven't had a great IPL and that has been the biggest failure of the 'Yellow Brigade'.

The bowling suffered a lot because of the absence of an injured Deepak Chahar and the inability to retain Josh Hazlewood. It was wafer-thin in terms of experience and they paid the price.

Pathirana, with a slinging action that is pretty similar to Malinga, has caught Dhoni's imagination but he is a work in progress. Similarly, the likes of Mukesh (16 wickets), Simar (3 wickets) and spinner Mahesh Theekshana (12) are good but not assured match-winners.

Stress fracture rules Archer out of English summer

PTI ■ LONDON

England pace spearhead Jofra Archer has been ruled out of the entire season due to a stress fracture on his lower back, the country's cricket board said on Thursday, which means he will miss the Test against India in July.

"After being diagnosed with a stress fracture to the lower back, England and Sussex seamer Jofra Archer has been ruled out for the rest of the season," the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement.

The worst part is that he is indefinitely out of competitive cricket as the ECB has not set any specific time-frame for his return.

"No time-frame has been set for his return. A management plan will be determined following further specialist opinion over the coming days."

India are scheduled to play a Test match (carry over from previous series) along with six white-ball games in the month of July.

The 27-year-old Jofra, who last played international cricket in March 2021 in an away series against India, had undergone an elbow surgery and then made a comeback to county cricket for Sussex before suffering a stress fracture.

The last competitive match that he played was a T20 game against Kent at Hove.

The Barbados-born Jofra has so far played 42 international matches for England across three formats and has 86 wickets to his credit.

'Mohsin will be playing for India soon'

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

LSG skipper K L Rahul was relieved to finish on the right side of the result on Wednesday against Kolkata Knight Riders.

"I should probably get paid more for games like these. Could easily have been on the losing side and have gone back home thinking we lost due to some poor cricket. Good way to finish the last game of the league season. Credit to both teams to make such a brilliant game of cricket.

"Can't say we held our nerves better because it was a matter of three runs. For Stoinis to execute those plans in the last two balls to get us the win, was brilliant," said Rahul.

He was also all praise for left-arm pacer Mohsin Khan, who returned with three wickets.

"Mohsin has been outstanding for us in the last few games. He's got the skills but the key thing has been his knowledge of when to use those skills.

"He'll be donning the Blue jersey soon the way he is going. India is always looking for left-arm pacers and he is right there," said Rahul.

Nikhat Zareen becomes World Champion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen lived up to the expectations as she clinched the coveted gold in flyweight (52kg) division with a facile 5-0 win over Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the final of the Women's World Championship in Istanbul on Thursday.

Capping off a stupendous campaign that saw her dominate all her rivals, the Telangana boxer out-punched her Thai opponent to win via unanimous verdict with judges scoring the bout 30-27, 29-28, 29-28, 30-27, 29-28 in her favour.

With this win, Zareen, a 2019 Asian Championship bronze medallist, became only the fifth Indian boxer to be crowned world champion.

Six-time champion Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006) and Lekha KC (2006) are the other pugilists who have won the world title.

This is India's first gold medal in four years. Mary Kom (48kg) had won the last title in 2018. Incidentally, it was the legendary Mary Kom who had participated in the flyweight category in the 2019 edition of the tournament.

Zareen had been refused a trial by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), which decided to go by Mary Kom's consistent performances while making the choice and the Manipuri claimed her eighth world medal, a bronze.

The 25-year-old Zareen produced some beautiful combination of punches to outclass Jutamas.

Jutamas had a better start of the two but Zareen soon made up and took the upper hand. The first round was fought on an even keel but Zareen's blows were more powerful and her punches were eye catching.

The Indian took the first round comfortably but Jutamas made a strong comeback in the second.

The Thai boxer took advantage of her longer reach as she countered Zareen's attacks from a distance, while landing punches herself.

There was very little separating the two boxers but strength proved to be a key factor as Zareen used her powerful right hand and came up with beautiful combinations in the final round to seal the deal.

As the winner was announced Zareen was overcome by emotion and she jumped with glee and couldn't hold back her tears.

This is Zareen's second victory over Jutamas. She had got the better of the Thai boxer at the Thailand Open back in 2019 as well.

The Hyderabad pugilist has been in stellar form this year. She became the first Indian woman boxer to claim two gold medals at the prestigious Strandja Memorial in February.

Apart from Zareen's gold, Manisha Moun (57kg) and debutant Parveen Hooda (63kg) will return home with bronze medals.

A 12-member Indian contingent participated in the competition. While the medal haul has decreased by one, an Indian has been crowned world champion after four years.

India's best performance in the event remains the one in 2006 when the country snared eight medals, including four gold, one silver and three bronze.

India now have won 39 medals, including 10 golds, eight silver and 21 bronze in the Women's World Championships.

Chandimal, Dickwella help SL draw 1st Test

AP ■ CHITTAGONG

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka drew the first Test in Chittagong on Thursday after Dinesh Chandimal and Niroshan Dickwella hung on for the visitors in a vital seventh-wicket stand of 99.

On the fifth and final day the two teams settled on a draw 45 minutes before the scheduled close of play with Sri Lanka on 260-6 in their second innings.

Dickwella was unbeaten on 61 alongside Chandimal on 39 not out at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Hosts Bangladesh made 465 in their first innings in reply to Sri Lanka's 397 as Tamim Iqbal (133) and Mushfiqur Rahim (105) played starring roles.

Player-of-the-match Angelo Mathews hit 199 to form the backbone of the Sri Lankan first innings and Nayeem Hasan claimed 6-105 for Bangladesh.

On Thursday left-arm spin duo Taijul Islam and Shakib Al Hasan had given Bangladesh hope of victory.

Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne made 52 off 138 balls before he gave a catch to his counterpart Mominul Haque at midwicket off the dangerous Taijul, who ended with figures of 4-82.

Shakib soon had Dhananjaya de Silva out for 33 off 60 balls as Mushfiqur took the catch, also at midwicket, leaving Sri Lanka reeling at 161-6.

Dickwella swept the next ball high but Taijul could only manage to get a finger on it at square leg.

After the scare, he and Chandimal dug in at the crease before and after the tea break to stubbornly thwart the home side.

"We tried to do something differently and put them under pressure, but we played some poor shots and then we had to change tactics," Karunaratne said.

FRANKFURT BAG EUROPA GLORY

Eintracht Frankfurt beat Rangers 5-4 on penalties to win Europa League title

AP ■ SEVILLE

Eintracht Frankfurt beat Rangers 5-4 on penalties to win the Europa League on Wednesday after the final in Seville finished 1-1 at the end of extra time.

Aaron Ramsey missed for Rangers in the shoot-out after coming on as a substitute with only three minutes left of extra-time, before Rafael Borre struck the winning shot to complete Frankfurt's remarkable triumph.

Borre was the hero of the night, after already cancelling out Joe Aribo's opener for Rangers as Frankfurt won their first European trophy since 1980 and booked their place in next season's Champions League.

"We are all heroes. Without the fans we wouldn't have made it," said Frankfurt goalkeeper Kevin Trapp.

Both clubs were looking to win a second European title in their history, Rangers after clinching the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972 and Frankfurt after they lifted the UEFA Cup 42 years ago.

But Rangers came up just short at the end of an incredible run to the final. Only ten years ago this week, Rangers fell into administration before being liquidated and relegated to Scotland's bottom tier.

Frankfurt had already beaten Real Betis, Barcelona and West Ham en route to the final and they were probably deserving winners, shading a compelling contest that always seemed to lack real technical quality.

With a capacity of just under 43,000, Sevilla's Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan was never going to be big enough to house all the travelling fans, with Rangers bringing over an estimated 100,000 while around 60,000 followed Frankfurt to Spain.

"WE ARE ALL HEROES. WITHOUT THE FANS WE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT," SAID FRANKFURT GOALKEEPER KEVIN TRAPP.

The vast majority enjoyed the day in good spirits but security concerns were not unfounded, with skirmishes breaking out in the city centre during the day on Wednesday while five German fans were arrested late on Tuesday night after police said 200 Frankfurt fans launched an attack on Rangers supporters.

It was a scruffy opening 15 minutes as Joe Aribo almost got away after a neat pirouette by Scott Wright before John Lundstram scraped his studs down the dipping head of Sebastian Rode, leaving the Frankfurt captain with a bloody shirt that had to be changed and a head that had to be strapped.

The German team gradually took control, faster to the ball and slicker in their passing, suffocating Rangers, who were reduced to speculative punts forward to try to escape the press.

PRESSURE MOUNTING

Frankfurt's Ansgar Knauff went close, the penalty box opening up for the winger at the end of a winding run forward, only for Allan McGregor to tip wide.

Rangers had their moments and improved before the break as Lundstram's header had to be pushed over and Ryan Jack drove too high.

Frankfurt seemed rejuvenated for the start of the second half but it was Rangers who took the lead just before the hour, capitalising on two dreadful Frankfurt errors, each compounding the other.

First, Djibril Sow misjudged a header in midfield, sending it back behind his own defence for the lively Aribo to latch onto, and then as Frankfurt's Tutu chased, he slipped, gifting an free run to the Rangers striker, who calmly slotted home.

Lindstrom might have equalised almost immediately but his finish was blocked and then Daichi Kamada looped onto the roof of the net when Rangers had failed to clear.

The pressure was mounting and in the 69th minute, it told, as Filip Kostic was given too much space out wide to cross and then in the middle, Connor Goldson and Calvin Bassey both hesitated to clear. Borre nipped between them and prodded in.

There were precious few opportunities in the final minutes but the contest became stretched in extra-time, with Borre almost capitalising on a Bassey stumble.

Rangers were the better team in the second period and their golden chance came in the 118th minute as the sprinting Ryan Kent arrived at the back post but somehow hit keeper Trapp from five yards.

To penalties, and the Rangers fans roared when the coin toss put the shoot-out at their end. James Tavernier, Steven Davis and Scott Arfield all scored for Rangers as did Frankfurt's Christopher Lenz, Ajdin Hrustic and Kamada, whose shot squeezed in off the post.

But Ramsey fired too straight, hitting Trapp's left foot and after Kostic and Kemar Roofe converted, it was up to Borre to finish it. He made no mistake.

'Blood, sweat and tears' pays off for Tammy

AP ■ ROME

Tammy Abraham said to himself when he joined AS Roma from Chelsea last summer he would give his "blood, sweat and tears for this club". In keeping his promise he could be rewarded with European silverware next week.

The 24-year-old England international striker's nine goals have been pivotal in Roma's passage to next Wednesday's inaugural European Conference League final against Dutch side Feyenoord in Tirana.

With 25 in all competitions he has more than justified Roma coach Jose Mourinho's decision to convince the board to shell out 40 million euros — not including bonuses —for him.

It brought to an end a disappointing final few months for the homegrown Chelsea player who fell out of favour with manager Thomas Tuchel when the German replaced Frank Lampard.

Abraham failed to make either the FA Cup final or Champions League final matchday squads under Tuchel. The German even selected two substitute goalkeepers for the European showpiece.

However, Abraham has put those setbacks firmly behind him and from the first day in Italy his attitude was one of positivity.

"For me since day one, as soon as I touched down in Rome, it made me feel like one of their own straight away," he said.

"It was the love, the passion, the way they worked with me.

"I told myself, 'I'll give my blood, sweat, tears for this club,' and it's been an amazing year."

Abraham's impressive performances and the way he has adapted to a different lifestyle in a country where English players have not always flourished could well see him add to the 10 international caps he has accrued.

However, for the moment he is focused on bringing home Roma's first silverware since the Italian Cup in 2008 and first European trophy since the old Fairs Cup — the predecessor to the UEFA/Europa League — back in 1961.

The Europa Conference may be in its first year and some may sniff at it being the poor man of the three European club competitions but Abraham said that mattered little to him.

"For me it's not a little cup," he said.

"I believe every final is a final — no matter what competition it is.

"You get to the final, you want to win the final.

"It's a trophy and these are the moments you look back on in your career, saying you want to win trophies.

"For me this is an opportunity and for my teammates and for Roma fans this is an opportunity to lift a European title."

Mourinho, like Abraham, took the Roma posting to try and revive a career which had rather lost its lustre with a sour end to his spell at Manchester United and a disappointing time at Tottenham Hotspur.

"For me, he's been one of the best coaches in the world for a long time," said Abraham.

"He knows his stuff about football.

"When I spoke to him on the phone he had ambitions, the club had ambitions and a mindset where they want to get to.

"For him to take a club to a final, which they haven't been in many years, you can only see how well he's doing and how well we're doing."

Sindhu enters Thailand Open quarters, Srikanth out

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu remains the lone surviving Indian shuttler in the competition after she sailed into the women's singles quarterfinals of the Thailand Open here on Thursday.

The world No 7 Sindhu, seeded sixth, took just 37 minutes to get the better of Sim Yu Jin, who had played a pivotal role in Korea's Uber Cup win, 21-16, 21-13 in a second round match.

Sindhu, who had defeated world number 62, USA's Lauren Lam in the opening round, will next face second seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan.

Yamaguchi beat Korea's Kim Ga Eun 21-23, 21-15, 21-16 in another second round match.

However, Kidambi Srikanth, one of the main architects of India's historic Thomas Cup triumph, exited from the BWF World Tour Super 500 event after handing a walkover to his opponent in the men's singles second round.

Srikanth, seeded eighth, gave a walkover to his Irish rival Nhat Nguyen. The reason for his withdrawal is not yet known.

The world No 11 Indian had earlier produced a gritty show to get the better of Brice Leverdez of France 18-21, 21-10, 21-16 in his opening round match. In the women's singles, it was curtains for Malvika Bansod, who lost 21-16, 14-21, 14-21 to Line Christopherson of Denmark in the second round.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto also bowed out in the second round, losing 19-21, 20-22 against sixth seeded Malaysia combination of Goh Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie.

Later, Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam too crashed out in the women's doubles second round, losing 19-21, 6-21 against fifth seeds Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara.

Top-ranked Axelsen out

AP ■ BANGKOK

Badminton world number one Viktor Axelsen pulled out of the Thailand Open on Thursday, citing an injury he sustained at last week's Thomas and Uber Cup finals. It means the top two seeds are out after the early exit of the out-of-sorts former world champion Kento Momota, who slumped out in the first round on Wednesday.

"After slipping on the courts last week during Thomas Cup, I suffered a minor injury which I have been dealing with the last 7-8 days," the 28-year-old Dane said on Twitter.

"After my match yesterday it has gotten worse and therefore I have decided to pull out from the Thailand Open and get 100 percent again."

Stubblety-Cook smashes 200m breaststroke WR

AP ■ ADELAIDE

Olympic 200m breaststroke champion Zac Stubblety-Cook smashed the world record on Thursday at the Australian championships, touching in 2mins 05.95secs to send a warning for the world championships and Commonwealth Games.

The 23-year-old was under the record pace for the entire race to shatter the 2:06.12 mark set by Russia's Anton Chupkov in 2019. "I was just trying to swim fast — I didn't think that fast. I can't really believe it to be honest, but I'm very happy with that," he said poolside in Adelaide. "Last year I put everything in and got that result (Olympic Gold), but this year there's a lot less pressure and obviously that pressure is nice not to have, and I'm just stoked."

Stubblety-Cook swam a blistering race to stun the field and win Gold in Tokyo last year in a new Olympic record time of 2min 06.38sec ahead of Dutch ace Arno Kamminga.

Bale named in Wales squad for WC play-off final

AP ■ CARDIFF

Gareth Bale has been named in the Wales squad for their World Cup play-off final against Scotland or Ukraine despite recent back trouble as they seek to qualify for the tournament for the first time since 1958.

The captain has made just two substitute appearances for Real Madrid since scoring both goals in Wales's 2-1 World Cup play-off victory over Austria on March 24.

The 32-year-old has been absent from Real's past five matchday squads with a back problem but has returned to training in the Spanish capital and is on course to be available for the club's Champions League final clash against Liverpool on May 28.

Aaron Ramsey is included for the play-off in Cardiff on June 5 after suffering penalty shoot-out misery for Rangers in their Europa League final loss to Eintracht Frankfurt on Wednesday.

Leicester goalkeeper Danny Ward is available again after knee surgery and replaces Salford's Tom King.

Bournemouth forward Kieffer Moore also returns to the squad after missing the Austria win with a broken foot.

Wales also face four Nations League ties in June, with home and away games against the Netherlands as well as a trip to Poland and a visit from Belgium.

Aubameyang retires from international football

AP ■ MADRID

Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has retired from international football, his country's federation has confirmed.

Barcelona's Aubameyang, who is Gabon's all-time top scorer with 30 goals in 72 appearances, sent a letter to the federation on Tuesday, confirming his decision.

"After 13 years of pride in representing my country, I announce I am ending my international career," wrote the 32-year-old.

"I would like to thank the Gabonese people and all those who have supported me in the good and bad times alike.

"I will keep a lot of good memories like the day I made my debut... or the day I came back from Nigeria with the African Ballon d'Or.

"I would also like to thank all my coaches, staff and the players that I have come across during this career."

कार्यालय उपायुक्त-सह-जिला दण्डाधिकारी, रांची।
(जिला नीलाम पत्र शाखा)

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

सभी बैंक/जीवन बीमा निगम/सभी वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं वित्त पोषित संस्थाओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि Authorized Officer, Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited, D-305, Ground Floor, Sarvodaya Enclave, New Delhi - 110017 ने देनदार, 1. Mr. Md. Hafiz & 2. Rajibul Ansari both Address - H. No. 107, Niche Muhalla, Patratoli, Vill-Kanke, P.S.-Kanke, Dist-Ranchi के विरुद्ध धारित भूमि (All that part and parcel of the property situated at R.S. Plot No. - 88, Sub Plot No.-88/A, Khata No.-84, Vill-kanke, Thana-Kanke, Thana No.-156, District-Ranchi) का दखल लेने हेतु SARFAESI Act-2002 के नियम-14 (i) एवं (ii) के अंतर्गत आवेदन किये है।

किसी भी संस्था/व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति हो तो स्वयं या अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से इस विज्ञप्ति के प्रकाशन की तिथि से 10 दिनों के अंदर अपना आपत्ति दायर करें। निर्धारित तिथि के बाद दायर आपत्ति आवेदन-पत्र पर कोई सुनवाई नही होगी एवं आवेदनकर्त्ता बैंक/संस्था को निर्धारित तिथि को दखल दिला दिया जायगा।

उपायुक्त-सह-जिला दण्डाधिकारी, रांची।

TATA
TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD.
Regd. Office: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013.
CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Rules already issued detailed Demand Notices dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) (all singularly or together referred to "Obligors")/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. Copies of the said Notices are served by Registered Post A.D. and are available with the undersigned, and the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Obligor(s) /Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay to TCHFL, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, the amounts indicated herein below against their respective names, together with further interest as detailed below from the respective dates mentioned below in column (d) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Obligor(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to TCHFL by the said Obligor(s) respectively.

Contract No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.) as on below date*	Date of Demand Notice / Date of NPA
TCHHL036200010007 4328	Mr. Anoop Kumar Singh as (Borrower) and Mrs. Vijay Laxmi as (Co-Borrower)	As on 29/04/2022, an amount of Rs. 27,52,338/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Eight Only)	29-Apr-22 / 27-Dec-20

Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties : All piece & parcels of Residential Flat bearing No. 1702, 17th Floor, Admeasuirng 1060 Sq. Feet, Situated at Tower Terrance, Rhythm Ccounty, Plot No. GH-16E, Sector – 01, Greater Noida (West), Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar – 201306 (Uttar Pradesh).

TCHIN 03700 00100 08250 0 & TC HHL03 70000 10008 2201	(Late) Mr. Dinesh Chand - Through his legal heirs as (Borrower) and Mrs. Mamta Gautam – Co Borrower/Legal Heir & Mr. Shubham – Legal Heir & Mr. Sanyam Gautam – Legal Heir as	As on 30/04/2022, an amount of Rs.32,006/- (Rupees Thirty Two Thousand Six Only) is due and payable by you under Loan Account No. TCHIN0370000100082500 and an amount of Rs. 7,31,082/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Thirty One Thousand Eighty Two Only) is due and payable by you under Loan Account No. TCHHL0370000100082201 i.e. totaling to Rs.7,63,088/- (Rs. Seven Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Eighty Eight Only)	30-Apr-22 / 05-Mar-22

Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties : All that piece and parcel of the Residential Plot bearing No. 07, Admeasuring 142.66 Sq. Yds. i.e. 119.28 Sq. Mtrs. (53'-6"x24'.00"), Comprised in Khasra No. 2158, Situated at Jyoti Kunj, Nai Abadi Kalindi Vihar, Mauja Naraich, Tehsil Etmadpur, Agar (Uttar Pradesh), with common amenities written in the Sale Deed. Bounded as - East: Other Owner, West: Road 25', North: Plot No. 06 of Om Prakash Saraswat, South: Plot No. 08.

*with further interest, additional Interest at the rate as more particularly stated in respective Demand Notice dated mentioned above, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization. If the said Obligor(s) shall fail to make payment to TCHFL as aforesaid, then TCHFL shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property(ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of TCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 20/05/2022
Place: - Uttar Pradesh

Sd/-Authorised Officer,
For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited