

OPINION 6

TRUE TRUSTEES OF THE CONSTITUTION?

WORLD 8

RUSSIAN FORCES STEP UP SHELLING IN UKRAINE'S EAST

MONEY 10

EXPECTATION OF RATE HIKE IN NEXT POLICY 'NO-BRAINER': RBI

RANCHI, TUESDAY MAY 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



OSAKA OUT AT FRENCH OPEN
12 SPORT

India committed to free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific: Modi

At Quad, PM calls for robust ties for eco prosperity, peace in region

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India is committed to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and called for robust economic ties between the countries to ensure continued growth, peace and prosperity.

Giving this assurance at the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in Tokyo, he also said this mechanism is a declaration of a collective desire to make the Indo-Pacific region an engine of global economic growth. He said the foundation of resilient supply chains must be 3Ts — Trust, Transparency and Timeliness.

These observations came against the backdrop of China adopting an aggressive stance in the region and repeatedly criticising the Quad combine. India, the US, Japan and Australia are part of the Quad.

Ahead of the Quad Summit, Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi on Sunday said the Indo-Pacific strategy

of the US is "bound to fail" as it is vigorously promoted by the US to "contain" Beijing.

The "Indo-Pacific strategy" is causing more and more concern in the international community, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, Wang Yi said at his joint press conference with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.

Meanwhile, speaking at the IPEF launch ceremony in the presence of US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida besides leaders of several other countries who virtually took part in the event, Modi said India has historically been at the centre of trade flows in the Indo-Pacific region, having the world's oldest commercial port in Lothal, Gujarat.

He stressed the need for finding common and creative solutions to tackle economic challenges of the Indo-Pacific region. He expressed India's commitment towards working with all countries of the region for an IPEF.

"India is committed to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and believes that deepening economic engagement among partners is crucial for continued growth, peace and prosperity," said Modi.

PM woos Japanese inc, lists ease of doing biz

Modi proposes 'Japan Week' to celebrate business ties

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday underlined several steps taken for ease of doing business in India and invited Japanese industry to explore more investment opportunities here.

Underlining India's robust economy, he said despite the slowdown in global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), India attracted record FDI of USD 84 billion in the previous financial year.

Terming this a vote of confidence in India's economic potential, Modi invited greater participation by Japanese companies in India and proposed celebrating Japan's contribution to India's



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday fondly interacted with a boy who was waiting outside his hotel here and praised him for his fluency in Hindi and signed him an autograph in his tricolour drawing, in Tokyo on Monday

Mujhe makhn par lakeer karne mein maza nahi aata hai, main pathar par lakeer karta hoon
— PM NARENDRA MODI

development journey in the form of a 'Japan Week'.

He made this strong pitch while chairing a roundtable with Japanese business leaders in Tokyo.

Nitish bowls another googly on caste census

Convenes all-party meet; move seen as his increasing proximity to RJD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



In yet another sign of growing proximity between the Janata Dal(U) and the RJD in Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has convened an all-party to develop consensus on holding a caste census in Bihar. Leader of Opposition and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav recently met Nitish Kumar to press for holding the caste census.

The BJP has been all along opposed to such an exercise apprehending that could revive the Mandal politics all over again, but the party is expected to attend the meeting. The BJP leadership does not want the caste census to become a trigger for political instability in Bihar at a time when the relationship between the JD(U) and the saffron party is at an all-time low.

Incidentally, the Union Government had gone on record in Parliament saying there was no move to hold a countrywide caste census.

The move has come amid speculation that Nitish was moving away from the BJP and has finalised some secret "deal" with the RJD. The crisis in Bihar NDA has yet another dimension. There is a strong

buzz that the JD(U) may deny Rajya Sabha nomination to Union Steel Minister RCP Singh, who is seen as close to the BJP leadership. The denial of ticket to RCP could be seen as yet another rebuff to the BJP by Nitish, who has already opposed the BJP on demand for a Uniform Civil Code and removal of a loudspeaker from masjids.

Nitish has also reservations about bringing back the CAA and the NRC and said that he would want that a suggestion made by his party in 2010 should be the criteria for the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The political temperature in Bihar has also risen amid reports that Nitish has asked his party MLAs to stay put in Patna for the next 72 hours, while he himself is going to Raigir on Tuesday.

While JD(U) leader Shrawan Kumar denied that any such directive has been issued to the MLAs, reports said majority of the MLAs and senior JD(U) lead-

ers are camping in Patna. Incidentally, last time in 2018 when Nitish dumped the RJD to join hands with the BJP, he had gone to Raigir, obviously to consider his political step away from the hustle and bustle of politics.

The way Nitish Kumar and his party have refused to comment on corruption cases and CBI raids against Lalu Prasad and his family members has become another talking point in Bihar politics. It was the same Nitish Kumar who dumped the RJD in 2018 on the issue of corruption.

Asked to comment on the date of the all-party meeting, Nitish said, "Many parties have agreed to the date. But we must have the consent of all parties for holding the meeting on any particular date."

The JD(U) leader, whose ally BJP has of late grown aggressive over the issue, expressed confidence that all parties in the state will back the proposed move before clearance is given by the cabinet.

CAPSULE

YOGA DAY IN PHYSICAL MODE AFTER 2 YEARS

New Delhi: After a two-year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the main event of the eighth International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations on June 21 will be held in the physical mode at Mysuru in Karnataka.

SCIENTIST WITH IT MIN JUMPS TO DEATH

New Delhi: A 55-year-old scientist working with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology died after allegedly jumping-off from the seventh floor of the Shastri Bhawan in central Delhi on Monday, police said.

BIDEN BACKS JAPAN BID TO JOIN UNSC: KISHIDA

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said that US President Joe Biden supports Japan's bid to join a "reformed" UN Security Council. If approved, Japan would join Britain, China, France, Russia, and the US as permanent members of the international body's security council.

Varanasi court order on maintainability of Gyanvapi suit today

PNS ■ VARANASI

Varanasi District Judge Ajay Kumar Vishvesha on Monday reserved his judgment on maintainability of the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi Mosque lawsuit. He will deliver the order on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a former seer of Kashi Vishwanath Temple filed a petition seeking permission to perform puja of the "Shivling" claimed by the Hindu side to have been found in the wuzu khana of the Gyanvapi mosque.

A city lawyer also submitted an application in the court demanding action against the Samajwadi Party national president, the AIMIM chief and six others.

District Judge Vishvesha started hearing the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi lawsuit on Monday afternoon.

Man who turned Khadi around is now Delhi LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Vinai Kumar Saxena, the Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission, was on Monday appointed the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi replacing Anil Bajjal. He is the first man from the corporate and social sector to be selected for such a gubernatorial post. He is the person who made Khadi a global brand. President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday issued a notification to this effect.

"The President of India has accepted the resignation of Shri Anil Bajjal as Lt Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi. "The President of India has been pleased to appoint Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena to be the Lt Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," read a communiqué issued by



Vinai Kumar Saxena

Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Bajjal, who was appointed as the Delhi Lieutenant Governor in 2016, resigned last week citing personal reasons. Bajjal's resignation has led to speculation about who will replace him. Praful Patel, the administrator of Lakshwadeep and Daman & Diu, was the top choice for the post but the appointment of Saxena surprised everyone in the political circle.

Temp plunges, flights delayed as rain, gale lash Delhi-NCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Eight people were injured as trees and houses fell in different parts of the city after gusty winds accompanied by rain lashed the national Capital on Monday morning, bringing the minimum temperature down to 17.2 degrees Celsius from 29 degrees Celsius - nine degrees below normal. Heavy rain and thunderstorms in Delhi and its adjoining areas led to massive traffic jams and affected flight operations at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGAI).

According to information, around 130 flights were delayed — 90 at the departure terminal and 44 at arrivals — while 20 were diverted to other airports between 6 am and 10 am as wind speeds touching as high as 75 km per hour disrupted operations. Taking note of water-logging and traffic jams, Gurugram police issued an advisory to work from home for Monday.



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that in an 80-minute period, the temperature in Delhi fell by 11 degrees from 29 degrees Celsius at 5:40 am to 18 degrees Celsius by 7 am.

Private weather forecaster Skymet said that the minimum temperature recorded in the city was not only the lowest of the season but also the lowest in a decade during May. The lowest all-time minimum in May stands at 15.2

degrees Celsius, which was observed on May 2, 1982, it added.

According to Skymet Weather, mercury in Delhi went down by "10 degrees in one hour" on Monday morning. The temperature dropped from 29 degrees at 5:30 am to 19 degrees at 6:30 am. "Delhi recorded 17.2 degrees minimum temperature on May 23, its lowest during the decade for May. Record for the lowest is 15.2 degrees on May 2 in 1982.

US will defend militarily if China invades Taiwan: Biden

AP ■ TOKYO

US President Joe Biden said on Monday that the United States would intervene militarily if China were to invade Taiwan, saying the burden to protect Taiwan is "even stronger" after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It was one of the most forceful presidential statements in support of self-governing in decades.

Biden, at a news conference in Tokyo, said "yes" when asked if he was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if China invaded. "That's the commitment we made," he added.

The US traditionally has avoided making such an explicit security guarantee to Taiwan, with which it no longer has a mutual defence treaty, instead maintaining a policy of "strategic ambiguity" about how far it would be willing to go if China invaded.

Diabetic Care is 100% Vegetarian

Made with bio-fermented vitamins, gymnema, rosemary, garcinia, methi, cinnamon and enriched with licorice extract, vitamins, fibre, taurine, alpha-linolenic acid which help to manage blood sugar and helps manage weight.

NO ADDED COLOUR
GMO FREE
GLUTEN FREE
TRANS FAT FREE
PRESERVATIVE FREE
100% VEGETARIAN

Scientific Formula for Diabetics
Helps manage Blood Sugar
Helps manage Weight

Complete range of Nutrela Nutrition is available at Patanjali Exclusive Stores, Medical Stores and all leading stores near you.

Order online at www.nutrelanutrition.com or download Order Me App

ORDER ME

Detailed report on P8

Three dead, dozens of houses damaged in heavy storm in Garhwa

NITYANAND DUBEY ■ GARHWA

Three people lost their lives and over a hundred houses were damaged, many cattle died, traffic was blocked due to falling trees on the roads, in a 10 minutes storm on Sunday.

Three people were buried to death under a bamboo tree in Barwahi village when they hid under a bamboo tree after fishing.

A 10-minute strong storm came in different villages of the Garhwa block at around 1 pm on Sunday. More than one hundred houses have been damaged. In addition, many animals have died. While many roads were blocked due to fallen trees on the roads. Crores of rupees have been lost due to the strong storm.

People of Garhwa block including Barwahi, Kalyan-



pur, Juti, Jata, Karamdih and other villages have suffered a lot of damage.

People who have been harmed due to the strong storm included, Sujayt Ansari, Sharfullah Ansari, Ikrar Ansari, Mohammad Hussain Ansari, Jamirullah Ansari, Merajuddin Khan,

Jannat Hussain Ansari, Zakir Hussain Ansari, Ainul Ansari, Jannat Ansari, Mukhtar Ansari, Gulab Laldeen Ansari, Gulab Laldeen Ansari, Jamirullah Ansari, Merajuddin Khan, residents of Kalyanpur village, Feku Ansari, Shukrudin Ansari, Ghiyasuddin

Ansari, Kamlesh Chandravanshi, Salim Ansari, Azim Ansari, Awadhesh Kumar Kushwaha of Juti village, Rajeshwar Prasad Kushwaha, Pramod Kumar Mehta, Ajay Saw, Krishna Prasad Kushwaha, Shamim Ansari, Ishaq Ansari, Balakeshwar Singh, Virendra Prasad

Kushwaha, Kamlesh Kumar Kushwaha and others residents of Jata village.

Victims said that between one and one and a half o'clock there was a strong storm in their village. Due to the strong storm, many houses were blown away. At the same time, the walls of many houses fell. While the roofs of many houses have also collapsed. He said that besides this many cattle have also died in the strong storm.

While many roads were blocked due to fallen trees.

The victims said that this is the first incident in Garhwa block. Where there has been a lot of damage due to the strong storm.

Victims said that people are very upset due to the damage to the houses. People are wondering where they will live now.

Tata Motors and Tata Power join hands for solar rooftop expansion project

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR



Reaffirming Tata Group's commitment towards sustainable manufacturing, Tata Power and Tata Motors have joined hands for the development of a 7 MWp solar rooftop project at Tata Motors' Passenger Vehicle Plant in Chikhali, Pune. This is the third phase of a joint 17 MWp on-site solar project developed by the two companies, of which a 10 MWp has been installed earlier. With this latest installation, the Tata Motors PV manufacturing unit, installed by Tata Power, will become home to India's largest on-site solar project.

Tata Motors and Tata Power have recently inked a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for this solar project. A significant step towards building a resilient and sustainable future, the installation is collectively expected to generate 23 million units

of electricity, mitigating 5.23 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide. This will be equivalent to planting 8.36 lakh trees over a lifetime.

Commenting on the project, Rajesh Khatri, vice president, operations, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd., said, "Tata Motors has been working towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions to achieve Net Zero Emission goal. With fresh agreement to install an additional Roof Top solar plant of 7 MWp in our Pune plant in association with Tata Power, we will move closer to our goal of 100% Renewable Energy. Post commissioning of this ca-

capacity, we will become the largest onsite solar installation in India."

Tata Motors, as a signatory to the RE100, is committed to using 100 percent renewable energy in its operations and has taken many steps toward this objective by gradually increasing the proportion of renewable energy used in its operations. The company generated 92.39 million kWh of renewable electricity in FY22, accounting for almost 19.4% of total power usage. The company also plans to obtain renewable energy with greater rigour to reach its goal of procuring 100% renewable energy by 2030.

Supply Chain Conclave 'ClockSpeed' on May 29

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR



XLRI ExPGDM batch of 2021-22 will be hosting the second edition of ClockSpeed, XLRI's flagship Operations and Supply Chain Conclave on May 29. This would be a virtual event and the theme for the conclave is "Creating Value through a Sustainable Supply Chain". The conclave is facilitated by the XLRI ExPGDM Student Placement Committee.

The operations and supply chain conclave will be inaugurated by Dr. Raghu Tata who is the chairperson of Father Amrue Centre for Ecology & Sustainability and Associate Professor of Strategic Management at XLRI Jamshedpur.

After Dr. Raghu Tata's wel-

come address, the chief guest Prashant Yadav, Affiliate Professor of Technology and Operations Management at INSEAD and Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Development and Lecturer at Harvard Medical School, will share his insights on "Musings on Supply Chains that Saves Lives and Improve Sustainability". This would be followed by a Keynote Address by Ranjan Sinha, Chief Group Shipping,

Tata Steel on the topic "Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity & Ambiguity: How to best position people, process and technology to define supply chain vision for 2025 and beyond".

Post lunch, the first session would be yet another Expert Opinion segment in the form of a panel discussion addressing the topic, "Can Digital accelerate our Journey to Net Zero?". The panel for the discussion would consist of luminaries such as Shom Chatterjee, Vice President - Head of Procurement & Logistics, ITC Limited, Shailen Shukla, Chief Logistic Officer, Pictur, Ms. Neha Parekh, Head of Logistics, Godrej Consumer Product Ltd. and Vivek Bhatia, MD & CEO, Thyssenkrupp. The discussion

would be moderated by Dr. Sayan Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Production, Operations and Decision Sciences, XLRI Jamshedpur.

Subsequent to the aforementioned session would be a Keynote Address by Shubhrangsu Dutta, Director - Femcare Supply Chain, Procter & Gamble on "Supply Chain Resilience". This would be followed by an Expert Opinion session which would be a panel discussion among the who's who of the industry such as Niraj Ambani, Group President - Supply Chain, Reliance Industries Limited, Nishith Rastogi, Founder & CEO, Locus, Pradeep Jadhav, Co-Founder & Director, Thoucentric and Saibal Nag, Asst. Vice President

(Supply Chain Modernisation), Bennett Coleman and Co. Ltd. (The Times Group). The topic for the discussion would be "Will Sustainability bind Leaders, Customers and Investors to seek long-term Value?" and it would be moderated by Dr. Abhishek Chakraborty, Professor, Production, Operations and Decision Sciences, XLRI Jamshedpur.

Following the above mentioned sessions would be a series of Keynote Addresses by Yogesh Sarin, Director - Supply Chain, Dell Technologies on "Supply Chain Transformations" and Daryl Watkins, Senior Director - Supply Chain, GEP Worldwide USA on the topic "ESG within the Supply Chain".

CRPF jawans donate blood in Palamu

M FAIYAZ AHMAD ■ DALTONGANJ



The elite force CRPF does not always make nauxals breathless. It gives blood to others whom it never knows to survive. Twelve CRPF jawans and officials today donated one unit of blood each, said the civil surgeon Palamu Dr Anil Kumar. The CRPF contingent was of the 134 battalion. It is based in the grounds of the GLA college Daltonganj.

The rare but much in demand blood group AB negative the blood bank got it from a CRPF cop who hails from Kerala. Dr Anil Kumar said today our blood bank had only 97 units of blood but with these 12 units we have crossed 100.

He said the status of blood

to be for road accident victims said the civil surgeon.

He said he had written a letter of request to the Commandant CRPF to help us with blood donation by his cops and officials only this last week.

Dr Anil Kumar said he and his team are very thankful to the elite force CRPF that 12 of their jawans and officials lined up for the blood donation today. He agreed blood donation gets a beating in the summer season.

Civil surgeon said he has sent a similar letter of request for blood donation to the Sergeant Major of Palamu to motivate his hundreds of cops to donate blood. He said the Palamu constabulary will surely help the blood bank with blood.

Dr. Satish selected for International Healthcare Awards

PNS ■ BOKARO



The International Healthcare Awards, 2022 is a unique platform that aims at underlining the innovative doctors and leaders from the healthcare sector and the objective of the program is to honour the expertise and specialists with the doctors from all walks of life and Society. This recognition program is to underline the innovation, efforts and perseverance by trend setting exemplary healthcare leaders along with enthralling

motivation for the upcoming entrepreneurs from the society. The awards felicitated at the program are determined

by means of a comprehensive selection process that is based on ratings conducted around the country. This really a matter of pride for the medical fraternity of Jharkhand that Dr. Satish Kumar, Chief Cardiologist & Chairman of Wellmark Hospital, Bokaro and Hony President, Cardiological Society of India (CSI), Jharkhand Chapter has been selected for the prestigious Healthcare Excellence (Cardiology) Awards of the year 2021-22.

It is noteworthy that Dr Satish will receive this

Healthcare Award in category Cardiology on Jun 04, 2022 in Mumbai and also to represent a vital talk session on the topic "Developing affordable Cardiac Care in Semi-Urban India". It is to be noted that Dr Satish was recommended for this Health care Award by Cardiological Society of India (CSI) and also last year under him despite Jharkhand being one of the youngest branch, the Jharkhand Chapter of CSI, the apex scientific body of Indian Cardiologists has been

unanimously selected as the best branch of the country.

The International Healthcare conference and Awards 2022 in association with Digital media partner News 10india event is also expecting the presence of Cricket Maestro Padma Shri Awardee Sunil Gavaskar along with Personalities from Politics and sports. The Awards are to underline the contributions of SMEs, Leaders, Entrepreneurs, towards strengthening the nation's socio-economic fabric and Infrastructure.

SAIL celebrates 50 years of incorporation with special logo

PNS ■ RANCHI



Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the maharatna steelmaking public sector unit, is celebrating the company's fifty years of incorporation this year in 2022. SAIL was incorporated on 24th January, 1973.

SAIL's legacy of fifty years is being celebrated with the launch of a new commemorative logo and will be followed by several events to be held all across the company throughout the

year. The design of the commemorative logo retains the essence of SAIL's company logo while bringing out the spirit of fifty years of journey of this company. The logo was launched by Soma Mondal, Chairman, SAIL in presence of the Company's

directors on 23rd May, 2022.

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

ON A DIFFERENT HIGH ...

By Suman Rastogi



Cloud Nine Yes? We have all been on it at various point of our lives, whether it has been a great result, a tough job accomplished, a beautiful personal moment, a career high ..and so on.

But here I am talking about the real Cloud Nine. When you are on it, or crossing through it, or over it. You know what I mean? That moment, when your flight takes off .. and goes up.. high into the sky! Have you experienced it too?

With all the rush of baggage check in, security check in, endless hours of waiting to board - finally you get into the aircraft and find your seat. As you settle down, relieved, the non-stop announcements going inside finally recede, the lights are dimmed, you feel relaxed and the flight takes off. As it goes higher and higher up in the sky - you feel lighter and lighter, as if all the worldly weight that your shoulders were carrying - slowly seems to slip away. You are miles away from the ground and all you can see through the window

are the clouds below you. White fluffy dots of clouds and you are flying above them - free and light, and all the care in the world seems to fade away. This sight and feeling always mesmerizes me.

At this point of time I feel I can do anything. It is a different kind of high my mind and body are both going through and I pledge to myself that all the dreams I have dreamt of doing, all those impossible things - will now be done. With some more impossible dreams added then and there, in the whole surreal picture that I am visualizing at the time!

Why haven't I done it yet? Why am I not taking out the time for it? Who or what is stopping me?? I ask these questions to myself. I continue dreaming till my mind gets numb and falls into a slumber after it got exhausted from all the adrenaline rush and excitement it went through .. for the last half an hour.

I wake up to the Captain's announcement that we would be landing in a few minutes and to prep ourselves with the necessary safety measures. I look out of the window. The clouds have vanished. I can now see the ground below. The concrete jungle that we now

live in, begins to show. The plane starts to descend. Suddenly, a sinking feeling washes over me. All those thoughts and plans that were building in my mind start getting scattered. As we inch towards the ground - other thoughts take over - Where are the house keys??, Did I inform my house help of my arrival today??, How am I going to complete that project I am working on, by tomorrow?? The bills .. the medicines .. the grocery .. the phone calls.. till the plane lands on the ground with a thud and races along the runway .. my mind racing too with all the tasks waiting to be done in the next few hours - days - weeks. All the meticulous and strategic planning which was being done in my mind when I was on 'Cloud Nine' - goes for a toss. I remember nothing of it now. And just a touch on my phone to remove it from the 'flight mode' is all it takes to crash land on the ground reality!

I bid my dreams "Good-bye, - Till we meet next again!"

Have you also felt it, friends??

The writer is Chief Manager (HR) in CMPDIL, Ranchi and the views expressed in the article are her own.

CMPDI RI-IV donates medical equipment



PNS ■ RANCHI

CMPDI's Regional Institute-4, Nagpur under CSR donated medical equipment worth Rs.12 lakh for treatment of Thalassemia Patients.

CMPDI, RI-IV, Nagpur in a CSR initiative purchased and donated medical equipment like Leukocyte Filter, BT Set and Intracath etc., Worth Rs12 lakhs to Rughwani Child Care Centre, Nagpur for treatment of children affected by Thalassemia (Blood disorder which requires frequent blood transfusion).

CMPDI's, RI-IV team comprising of Somnath Ray, HOD (Exploration), Sitaram Lomaror, Chief Manager (Env), Jaspreet Kaur Kahlon, Manager (P)/HOD (P&A) and Priyanka Tiwari, Dy. Manager (HR/P)/ CSR Nodal Officer visited the centre to inaugurate the facility/equipment.

President, Thalassemia Society of Central India, Nagpur, Dr. Vinky Raghwabi, thanked CMPDI for donating the medical equipment which will immensely help for the treatment of poor and weaker sections of society affected by Thalassemia.

We are dedicated to the service of the needy: Amresh Srivastava

PNS ■ RANCHI



An important meeting of Jharkhand Chitransh Vichar Manch was organized today at Sachchidanand Gyan Bharati Model School located in Kusai of the capital.

In his address at this important meeting, outgoing President Amresh Kumar Srivastava said that the organization is continuously fulfilling its objective of helping all the needy while showing its full dedication and responsibility. He said that even during the lockdown during Covid, the Manch provided medicines to the needy people and in this campaign, especially along with the medical members of the Forum, everyone contributed. He also discussed a specially organized eye medical camp in which eye patients were given medicines along with glasses. Apart from this,

while discussing the contribution of the forum in marriage, education and medicine, he said that the aim of all the office bearers and members of the forum is to help the needy people.

After this, outgoing secretary Sanjay Akhouri and outgoing treasurer Rajesh Srivastava presented their report. In today's regular meeting, the executive members were specially selected for the new session in which responsibilities were given to Pramod Kumar Sinha as President, Sanjay Piprewal and Col Sanjay Srivastava as Vice President, Rajiv Sahay as Secretary,

Saket Vihari Sharan as Treasurer and Santosh Deepak as Joint Secretary. All the members congratulated the new executive members.

In today's meeting, mainly Amresh Kumar Srivastava, Sanjay Akhouri, Saket Vihari Sharan, Rajesh Srivastava, Sanjay Piprewal, Prakhar Japuriar, Dr. KP Sinha, Pramod Kumar Sinha, Chandra Bhushan Sinha, Rajiv Lochan, Rajiv Sahay, Shivam Kumar Srivastava, Santosh Deepak, Anand Srivastava, Kumar Sambhava, Dr. Ravi Shankar and other officials and members were present.

Criminals open fire on contractor's house in busy area of Dhanbad

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

Two two-wheeler borne criminals opened fire on the house of contractor today in order to intimidate him, left a leaflet demanding extortion and escaped in a broad daylight incident. This happens to be the second incident within twenty four hours when motorcycle borne criminals committed such crime and escaped.

Today's incident took place in the Housing Colony area where criminals opened four rounds of fire on the house of RPS Singh located at Housing Colony locality. On Sunday a similar incident had taken place in Azadnagar locality when in similar fashion criminals had opened fire on the house of contractor Matlub Allah.

In both cases police have recovered three used cartridges from either of the incident spots. Incidentally, both incidents have several similarities like both happen to be contractors of a municipal corporation and in both cases criminals fired on houses and left a leaflet of extortion demand appreciated by the same gang of criminals.

It's worth mentioning that Singh had taken contract of road repair located in Washeepur locality and while some hindrance was created had got the work completed with support of police. Talking to the media the contractor said, "The incident has been reported to police. No one was injured as all family members were in other rooms. It appears to be handiwork of Prince Khan and his goons who disrupted road construction then." DSP law and order AK Pandey reached the incident spot soon after the incident and took stock of the situation. He said, "We are going through the CCTV footage and soon goons will be in the police net."

Guv concerned over vacant posts of teachers in varsities

Asks Higher Education Dept officials to put in sincere efforts

PNS ■ RANCHI

Governor-cum-Chancellor of Jharkhand State Universities Ramesh Bais today said that the Higher Education Department should always be active in the interest of the students. They have to speed up their work. They should not be limited to just exchanging files, but should be constantly striving for results and implementation, he said. The Governor was reviewing the efforts being made to solve various problems of the universities at Raj Bhavan on Monday. Chairman of Jharkhand Public Service Commission Amitabh Chaudhary, Principal Secretary to Governor Dr. Nitin Kulkarni and officers of Higher and Technical Education Department were present in the meeting.

The Governor expressed his displeasure while reviewing the updated status of the making of the statute of Jharkhand University of Technology and said that

the process of making of the statute is going on since the year 2017 and till now it has not been made. This is a serious subject. In the meeting, it was informed by the Higher Education Department that the draft of the statute has been prepared and has been sent for the concurrence of the Finance Department. He directed the Higher Education Department to establish coordination and contact with the Finance Department. The meeting reviewed the appointment of Vice-Chancellor for Jharkhand University of Technology.

On the subject of reservation of persons with disabilities in universities, the Governor said that in this context, the department should not be considered as a unit and the university should be considered as a unit. Under the Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) Rights Act, 2016, the benefit of reservation should be provided to the disabled persons in the vacancies of posts and services under the Government of Jharkhand and for enrollment in specified educational institutions. He also reviewed with reference to the place for the



Governor Ramesh Bais holds a meeting with Higher Education department officials at Raj Bhavan in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

conduct of Jharkhand Open University. In this context, it was informed by the Higher Education Department that a site has been marked on the second floor of the Vice-Chancellor's Secretariat building of Jharkhand University of Technology.

The Governor, while reviewing the latest appointment of professors and university office bearers in the universities of Jharkhand, said that so many vacancies (674 vacancies against the sanctioned posts of 1032 teachers in Ranchi University, Ranchi, 111 vacancies against sanctioned posts of 166 teachers in Dr. Shyama

Prasad Mukherjee University), 719 vacant posts against sanctioned 994 posts of teachers in Kolhan University, Chaibasa 343 vacancies against sanctioned posts of 597, 414 vacancies against sanctioned posts of teachers in Vinod Bihari Mahto Koyalachal University, Dhanbad. It is a very serious matter to have 494 vacancies against the sanctioned posts of 683 teachers in Sido Kanhu University, Dumka. Change has to be brought in this situation; the vacancies will have to be filled. Reviewing the requisition sent to the Jharkhand Public Service Commission, he said

that serious attention should be paid in this direction so that the backlog of assistant professors and regular posts of assistant professors, associate professors, professors in universities should be filled at the earliest. It was told in the meeting that the appointment of principals and teachers in all the affiliated colleges should be done by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission as per the provisions mentioned in the Jharkhand University Act. Expressing concern over the shortage of principals in many colleges of the state, the Governor said that the colleges located in the state have in-charge principals, and the principal in-charge of such colleges would now be appointed by the Raj Bhavan and not by the Vice-Chancellor. Governor, in order to review the appointment of principals attached to and affiliated to the State University, was apprised that a meeting was convened in December under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to ensure compliance with the guidelines of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

CM inspects Model School construction in Dhurwa

'Centre of Excellence will become outstanding centres for education'

PNS ■ RANCHI



CM Hemant Soren inspecting the under construction building at Jagannathpur, Dhurwa in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

Government schools will now have a separate identity. These schools will be excellent and excellent centers of education. Along with quality education of the children, all facilities for personality development will be available here. These schools will have all modern facilities related to education along with strengthening the infrastructure. With this resolution, the government has taken a pledge to develop government schools as centers of excellence," said Chief Minister Hemant Soren today while inspecting the under construction building of Model School (School of Excellence) Thakur Vishwanath Shahdev High School, Jagannathpur, Dhurwa.

The Chief Minister said that the Center of Excellence would not be just a school. "The foundation for a better future for the children will be laid here. With this thought in mind, the government has decided to make many government schools as centers of excellence across the state. As

many as 405 schools have been selected for the Center of Excellence. Of these, the work of rejuvenation of 80 schools has started in the first phase," he said.

The CM said that all modern facilities of education would be available for the education of the children in the Center of Excellence. Specialist teachers will be appointed. Special arrangements are being made for laboratories, libraries and computer labs in these schools.

On this occasion, he took information related to the construction work of the school from Rajesh Sharma, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy and gave necessary instructions.

Soren said that the quality of materials would not be compromised in the construction of the Center of Excellence. If a complaint of substandard construction is received, then action will be taken against the concerned officer and others. The CM, instructing the

officials, said that there should be a provision of a multipurpose hall in the Center of Excellence, so that all the activities of the children can be organized in a better way. The old building and the under construction building should be brought into one complex and both the buildings should have corridors for movement. There should be proper arrangement for water harvesting on the school building premises for water conservation. The boundary wall of the school premises should be maintained so that it cannot be encroached upon. There should be proper arrangements for indoor and outdoor games. Trees should be planted around the boundary wall of the school premises.

Chief Secretary Sukhdeo Singh, Secretary to Chief Minister Vinay Kumar Choubey and Secretary, School Education and Literacy Department, Rajesh Sharma were accompanying the Chief Minister during the inspection.

Around 47 L voters to exercise franchise in third phase

PNS ■ RANCHI

Around 47 lakh voters will exercise their franchise electing their representatives in 1,047 panchayats covering 70 blocks in 19 districts in the third phase of Panchayat polls on Tuesday. Out of total 47 lakh voters, the female voters include 22.86 lakh while the rest are male voters, who will decide the fate of 27,343 candidates.

In the third phase elections were held for 15,376 posts - 12,911 panchayat members, 1,047 mukhiyas, 1,290 panchayat committee representatives and 128 Zilla Parishad members. However, like other two phases 5,950 candidates have been declared winners uncontested. The four phase panchayat polls are being held without party lines. Preparations for the third



Polling officials carrying ballot boxes to their polling stations on the eve of the third phase of Panchayat polls, in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Ratan Lal

phase of election have been completed with respective districts carrying out all preparations. Like two other phases, voting will be from 7 AM to 3 PM. Polling parties have been dispatched to respective areas, deployment of security forces has been made. The polling in panchayat polls is being done

through ballot boxes.

The State Election Commission has set up 12,912 polling booths in the third phase out of which 6,021 have been declared sensitive while 3,804 have been declared as hyper sensitive.

In Ranchi, district election officer (DEO) and Ranchi

deputy commissioner Chhavi Ranjan on Monday directed sector magistrates and police officers engaged in election duty to follow the commission's guidelines.

Polling for the third phase of the three-tier panchayat elections is on May 24. Poll staff were sent to respective areas from Morhabadi ground in Ranchi on Monday. In the third phase, elections will be held in a total of 82 panchayats of Silli, Anagada, Ormanjhi and Namkum blocks. In these blocks, voting will be held on 9 Zilla Parishad members, 84 Panchayat Samiti members, 82 Mukhiya and 385 Ward member seats. A total of 1589 candidates are in the fray for various posts out of 560. On May 24, 3,55,776 voters will exercise their franchise. Voting is to be held at 932 booths in 640 buildings of all the four blocks.

The polling team sent to sensitive and sensitive booths will be accommodated in the cluster on Monday night. A total of 68 clusters have been formed in four blocks. Apart from the local police station, 8390 security personnel have also been deputed for voting. By 6 am on Tuesday, the polling team will be transported from the cluster to the booth. So, the voting can be done from 7.00 am to 3.00 pm at the scheduled time.

A total of 2266 candidates had filed their nominations for various posts in Silli, Ormanjhi, Anagada and Namkum for the third phase of elections. Out of which 119 applications were rejected. Whereas, 44 candidates had withdrawn their names. At the same time, 514 candidates were elected unopposed. After which 1589 candidates are in the electoral fray.

Marandi recalls NRC tune, blames Govt for infiltration

PNS ■ RANCHI

BJP Legislature Party Leader and former Chief Minister Babul Marandi today made a scathing attack on the State government. Marandi was speaking on the affidavit given by the State government on the petition filed against the infiltrators. He said that the way the government has given evasive answers in the Supreme Court, it is clear that it has stood in favour of Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators.

Marandi said that today the news of the State government opposing the plea to evict illegal infiltrators from the State is in the news headlines, especially in the Santhal Pargana region of the State. Sahebganj and Pakur districts of this area are full of infiltrators. These infiltrators include Bangladeshi and Rohingyas. He further said that these

infiltrators are increasing the occupation of the State's livelihood. They are involved in illegal mining. These infiltrators are carrying on illegal trade till Bangladesh along with smuggling of cattle. By wrongly making Aadhar card, PAN card, such people are snatching the rights of tribals and natives of Santhal Pargana. But, the State government was making infiltrators a vote bank.

Marandi said that a public interest litigation was filed in the Supreme Court in the year 2017 on the question of how to act on these infiltrators, identify them and drive them out of the country. In this, the State governments, union territories were asked to present their side. But it is unfortunate that the State Government opposed the petition and gave a roundabout reply in the court. Today, the result of this mentality of the State government



Former Chief Minister cum- BJP Legislature Party Leader Babul Marandi during a press conference in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

is that religious processions are being attacked in the state.

Violent incidents in religious processions are on the decline. Violent incidents in Lohardaga, Hazaribagh and many other places in the past are a clear example. Now the Sarhul procession of tribal society is also being targeted. He said that now even in

the midst of the democratic process such elements started coming out in the open. Slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad" were raised in the nomination of a candidate in Gandey under Giridih district in the course of the Panchayat elections. After the attack on the religious procession in Lohardaga in the past, the police

administration clearly accepted that sleeper cells are active in the State. Despite this, this government did not give any concrete answer and talked about building a detention center only in Hazaribagh. The government should tell what the progress of this detention center is. How many people were identified and brought to the detention center.

He said that the intention of the government is clear. That's why BJP demands that a survey should be done in Santhal Pargana in the first phase. Identify the intruder. Otherwise, in the coming days, the delimitation of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats will end in the reserved tribal seats.

Media in-charge Shivpujan Pathak, spokesperson Saroj Singh and co-media-in-charge Yogendra Pratap Singh were present in the press conference.

JMM asks how Godda MP gets prior information of ED action

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ruling party in the Chief Minister Hemant Soren led coalition government in the State, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Monday lashed out at Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Godda MP, Nishikant Dubey and said that it is ironic that the MP's tweet comes before what the agency is doing or going to do so the investigation agencies also investigate the matter how Dubey knows before what will be next step of the agencies like Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Addressing a press meet at the party headquarter in the State Capital JMM, General Secretary, Supriyo Bhattacharya said that after all, what such a system has been made in the constitution that an MP of the Country keeps on giving information about the



JMM General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya during a press conference in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Ratan Lal

workers from across Jharkhand, including Ranchi, demonstrated at the district headquarters in protest against the BJP Government at the Center for defaming the Hemant Soren Government of Jharkhand.

On the occasion, Bhattacharya said that today the party workers are protesting against the wrong policies of the Central Government. He said that the Central Government is forcibly defaming the elected Hemant Soren Government in Jharkhand by ED and CBI and to expose it, today JMM activists staged a sit-in demonstration in different districts of Jharkhand including Ranchi. He said that when the BJP cannot fight a political battle, it tries to defame the elected government by using its government undertakings and JMM will not allow this to happen, the party will continue to fight.

Meanwhile, JMM leaders and

workers from across Jharkhand, including Ranchi, demonstrated at the district headquarters in protest against the BJP Government at the Center for defaming the Hemant Soren Government of Jharkhand.

On the occasion, Bhattacharya said that today the party workers are protesting against the wrong policies of the Central Government. He said that the Central Government is forcibly defaming the elected Hemant Soren Government in Jharkhand by ED and CBI and to expose it, today JMM activists staged a sit-in demonstration in different districts of Jharkhand including Ranchi. He said that when the BJP cannot fight a political battle, it tries to defame the elected government by using its government undertakings and JMM will not allow this to happen, the party will continue to fight.

IN BRIEF

Summer Camp begins with Zeal in DPS Ranchi



A week long summer camp "Revamp the Champ" was started on Monday at the campus of DPS Ranchi. Thousands of students of the school of Classes III to X will reap the benefits of camp. The popular Summer Camp of DPS Ranchi, which became possible after a gap of two years, is an effort to groom the child in various disciplines filled with fun and frolic to make learning enjoyable and a memorable experience. The students of Classes III to X according to their interest selected various sports and Co-curricular activities with enthusiasm coupled with a deep desire to learn. In this week-long camp, they will get an opportunity to learn and develop skills in painting, yoga, dance, music, instruments, quiz, robotics, soft skills, photography, and various indoor and outdoor games. The first day began with a Yoga session in the assembly arena of the school with warming up and stretching followed by a series of asanas and meditation.

JMM holds demonstrations at Randhir Verma square

Hundreds of JMM workers with party flags in hands held demonstrations at Randhir Verma square today denouncing alleged misuse of Central investigation and enforcement agencies to destabilize the Hemant Soren led state government. Speakers from all across districts shouted anti-union government slogans and demanded to stop such practice to destabilize the State government. Speakers also criticized the union government for its failure in checking price rise. Incidentally, most of the prominent leaders of the district, including party MLA and leaders of ruling alliance, were missing from the demonstration.

AFFIDAVIT
I, Saimon kujur, S/o Laus kujur, R/o- Village Dumri, Post- Jhiko Chatti, P.S.-Bhandra, District - Lohardaga, Jharkhand do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my son Pratik Kujur according to aadhar card (8290 3810 9248) correct date of birth is 04.04.2004. In my Army service book by mistake my son date of birth is mentioned 04.10.2004. After this affidavit my son Pratik Kujur correct date of birth is 04.04.2004 for all purposes. Vide affidavit no 4653 dated 11.05.2022.

Laker take easy way out, PM tells Indians in Japan

Says BJP Govt has made Indian democracy strong and resilient in last eight years

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he never prefers to take the easy way out because of the teachings and training he received over the years.

Describing his work ethics during an interaction with the Indian diaspora in Tokyo, Modi said because of the teachings "I have got in my life, I have developed a habit that 'Mujhe makhn par lakeer karne mein maza nahi aata hain, main patthar par lakeer karta hoon.'"

He also said the BJP government has made Indian democracy strong and resilient. "In the last eight years, we have made our democracy strong and resilient. It is serving as one of the strongest pillars of progress," he said.

The Prime Minister said "We are working towards building a system that is not only inclusive but caters to a leak-proof governance to fulfill the aspirations of every citizen."

On ties between the two countries, he said India and Japan are "natural partners" and Japanese investments have played an important role in India's development journey.

Addressing the Indian community in Tokyo on the first day of his two-day visit to Tokyo, Modi also said India's relationship with Japan is of spirituality, of cooperation and of belonging. There are more than 40,000 Indians there.

"Today's world needs to follow the path shown by Lord Buddha. This is the way to save humanity from the challenges facing the world today, be it violence, anarchy, terrorism and climate change," Modi said.

Noting that India has always found a solution no matter how big the problem is, Modi said that during coronavirus pandemic, there was an atmosphere of uncertainty, but even in that situation, India supplied 'Made in India' vaccines to crores of its citizens and also sent it to more than 100 countries.

Tracing the age old relations between the two countries, Modi said before Vivekananda was going to Chicago for his historic address, he had come to Japan and left a deep impression on his mind in Japan. He had openly praised the patriotism



of the people of Japan, the confidence of the people of Japan, and the awareness of the people of Japan for cleanliness, the Prime Minister said.

He also said the world is realising the speed and scale on which India is increasing its infrastructure and capacity building. Japan is an important partner in building this capacity of ours.

India is fortunate enough to have the blessing from Gautam Buddha. India is continuously serving humanity no matter how big the challenge is, India will find a solution to it, he said.

Modi arrived in Tokyo on a two-day visit on Monday to attend a summit of the Quad leaders. "Landed in Tokyo. Will be taking part in various programmes during this visit including the Quad Summit,

meeting fellow Quad leaders, interacting with Japanese business leaders and the vibrant Indian diaspora," Modi tweeted in both Japanese and English.

"Ohayo, Tokyo! PM @narendramodi arrives to a warm welcome in Tokyo on what is his fifth visit to Japan in the last 8 years," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Modi interacted with children outside the hotel in Tokyo. He also saw the drawing of a young girl and signed an autograph for her during his interaction with the children.

He then interacted with a boy who was waiting for him with a drawing of the tricolour. Prime Minister Modi asked him from where he learnt Hindi and praised him for his fluency in the language.

'India, Japan can be imp pillars of secure region'

Modi writes Op-ed in Yomiuri Shimbun in Japan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid China's aggressive actions in the Indo-Pacific region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that India and Japan would contribute towards building an open, free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, connected by trade and investment, defined by respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and anchored in international law. He said the two democracies "can be important pillars of a stable and secure region."

Writing an Op-ed on the vibrant relations between India and Japan in 'Yomiuri Shimbun, Modi who is on a two-day visit to attend a summit of the 'Quad' leaders at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, said a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region will be critical for a better future for the entire world.

The Quadrilateral Security dialogue (Quad) is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the United States.

"As two democracies, strategically located in the Indo-Pacific region, we can be important pillars of a stable and secure region. That is why our



partnership is expanding across a broad range of areas," he said in the article published in the mainline paper published from Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and other major cities.

"Our defence ties are growing rapidly, from exercises and information exchanges to defence manufacturing. We are doing more in cyber, space and underwater domains," Modi said in article titled 'India-Japan: A Partnership for Peace, Stability and Prosperity'.

India and Japan will also contribute towards building an open, free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, connected by secure seas, integrated by trade and investment, defined by respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and anchored in international law, Prime Minister wrote, amidst China's aggressive postures in the region.

China has territorial disputes with many countries in the strategic Indo-Pacific region including Taiwan over which the US President on Monday sent a warning to Beijing with the latter verbally retaliating.

The Chinese government claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

"Besides security, together with like-minded partners in the region and beyond, in institutions and arrangements like Quad, we are promoting initiatives for development, infrastructure, connectivity, sustainability, health, vaccines, capacity building and humanitarian disaster response in the region," Prime Minister Modi said.

"Special Strategic Global. Each of these three words that describe the India-Japan partnership has a unique significance, yet they fall well short of the true potential of our ties," Modi said.

In a tweet, he said: "Penned an op-ed on the vibrant relations between India and Japan. Ours is a partnership for peace, stability and prosperity. I trace the journey of our special friendship which

completes 70 glorious years. @Yomiuri_Online"

"I have had the opportunity of regularly interacting with the Japanese people since my days as Gujarat CM. Japan's developmental strides have always been admirable. Japan is partnering India in key sectors including infrastructure, technology, innovation, start-ups and more," he said in a series of tweets.

From Bodhisena to Swami Vivekananda, India-Japan cultural ties have a long and rich history of mutual respect and learning from one another, Prime Minister said.

Among Mahatma Gandhi's cherished personal possessions were small statues of Mizuru, Kikazuru and Iwazuru, the Three Wise Monkeys, he said.

Prime Minister Modi said that his own conviction about this partnership began in his early days as Chief Minister of Gujarat.

It was not just the sophistication of Japanese technology and skills, but also the seriousness and long-term commitment of Japan's leadership and businesses, that made Japan Gujarat's preferred industrial partner and the most prominent presence in Vibrant Gujarat Summits since its inception, he said.

INSHORT

NCPCR ORDERS FIR AGAINST RALLY ORGANISERS

New Delhi: The apex child rights body NCPCR on Monday sought registration of an FIR against those responsible for allegedly letting a child raise provocative slogans during a political rally in Kerala. A short video of a boy sitting on the shoulder of a person during the 'Save the Republic' rally held by the Popular Front of India (PFI) in Alappuzha on May 21 and raising allegedly provocative slogans has gone viral on social media.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY

KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

Applications are invited for filling up the two posts of Staff Car Driver (Ordinary Grade) (General Central Services, Group C, Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial) in the Pay Matrix Level 2 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 19900-63200/-) as per 7th CPC in the Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi on Deputation/Absorption basis from amongst the Dispatch Rider (Group 'C') and Group 'C' employees in level - 1 in pay matrix (Rs. 18000-56900/-) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who possess valid Driving License for Motor Cars on the basis of a Driving Test to assess the competence to drive Motor Cars falling which from officials holding the post of Dispatch Rider on regular basis or regular Group 'C' employees in level - 1 in the pay matrix (Rs. 18000-56900/-) in other Ministries of the Central Government.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) DIVISION BARAMULLA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT No.: 02/EE/PMGSY/BIA/E-TENDERING-OF 2022-23 Dated:- 21/05/2022

For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla Invite e-tenders on Percentage Basis for the following works with Two years DLP for Serial No. 1 to 3 & Three years DLP for Serial No. 4 from the eligible & approved contractors of J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States.

S.No. 1. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat/ Macadamisation of road Tangwan Payeen to Harshnar, Length 2.50 Kms, Package No. JK03-90, PMGSY Division Baramulla. Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 32.63. Cost of documents (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.10. Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.65. Time for completion (Days) :- 45 Days, Tender Call :- 2nd, Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :- 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. Class of contractor :- 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.

S.No. 2. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat/ Macadamisation of road Lalpora to Nowlari, Length 3.00 Kms, Package No. JK03-53, PMGSY Division Baramulla. Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 55.76. Cost of documents (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.10. Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 1.12. Time for completion (Days) :- 45 Days, Tender Call :- 2nd, Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :- 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. Class of contractor :- 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.

S.No. 3. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat/ Macadamisation of road Namblian to Gutawan, Length 3.00 Kms, Package No. JK03-100, PMGSY Division Baramulla. Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 61.64. Cost of documents (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.10. Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 1.23. Time for completion (Days) :- 45 Days, Tender Call :- 2nd, Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :- 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. Class of contractor :- 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.

S.No. 4. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat/ Macadamisation of road Namblian to Watalipora, Length 4.50 Kms, Package No. JK03-96, PMGSY Division Baramulla. Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 124.36. Cost of documents (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.10. Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 2.49. Time for completion (Days) :- 60 Days, Tender Call :- 2nd, Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :- 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. Class of contractor :- 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.

1. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website www.pmgstyenders.jk.gov.in from 23-05-2022 (04:30PM) To 04-06-2022 upto 04:30PM.

2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.pmgstyenders.jk.gov.in from 25-05-2022 (10:00 AM) To 04-06-2022 upto 04:30 PM. The bid uploaded on the Website upto due date and time will be opened online on 06-06-2022 at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified, the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

3. The complete bidding process will be online.

4. Cost of Bid Form is Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) per package (non-refundable) only in the form of Demand Draft in Account of Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar.

5. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 24-05-2022 at 11:00 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Baramulla at Ahmad Complex, Delina, Baramulla to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.

6. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstyenders.jk.gov.in. The bidder will be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for Participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website www.pmgstyenders.jk.gov.in.

7. Bids must be accompanied by cost of document and bid security in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The Demand Draft on account of cost of bidding document shall be pledged to Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar. The bid validity shall remain valid for a period of not less than 90 days after the deadline date of bid submission specified in ITB. The bid security should be in the form of BG/FRD from a scheduled commercial bank and be pledged to the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla payable at Baramulla and shall be valid for minimum 45 days beyond the validity of the bid.

Now, pension relief for kin of missing Central Govt staff in militancy-hit areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief, particularly for Government employees serving in militancy affected areas like Jammu & Kashmir, North-East as well as Naxal prone pockets, the Centre has notified rules extending pensionary benefits to missing Central Government employees.

According to the earlier rule, the next of kin of an employee would not receive the family pension, if he or she went missing and the family pension would not be paid till the missing Government was declared dead in accordance with the law or till seven years, if he or she had passed since he went missing.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced that the government has relaxed

family pension rules for missing central government employees. "Now, in all cases where a government servant covered by NPS goes missing during service, the benefits of family pension will be immediately paid to the family of the missing government servant."

In case he re-appears and resumes service, the amount paid as family pension during the intervening time of his missing period can be accordingly deducted from his salary," Jitendra Singh said in a Press note. The Minister said this is going to provide huge relief particularly in those regions where instances of government employees going missing are reported more frequently. He said, cases of abduction of central government employees working in violence-prone areas have come to the fore and therefore to instill confidence and to protect them and their family interests, the changes in the pension rules were brought about.

New Covid variants don't pose a threat yet, says INSACOG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Though the first confirmed BA.4 and BA.5 variants of the Sars-CoV-2 have been detected in India from Hyderabad and Tamil Nadu respectively, these do not yet pose a concern as its other variant, BA.2, an offshoot of Omicron, continues to be dominant in India, already prevalent widely across the country, said the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) in its latest bulletin.

"BA.2.10 and BA.2.12 are BA.2 sub-lineages that have been detected and many old BA.2 sequences have been reclassified into these new sub-lineages. So far these sub-lineages are not reported to be associated with increased severity of disease," said INSACOG in its latest bulletin on results of genome sequencing. According to data submitted



to GSAID during the past four weeks, 773 samples were of the Omicron variant, making it about 97.2% of the total submitted samples of the said variant. "Suspected recombination sequences are under further analysis," said the consortium in the bulletin.

The BA.4 variant was detected earlier this month in Hyderabad in samples taken from a traveller from South Africa, where this strain of Omicron has been causing the current Covid-19 wave, people aware of the matter said, adding that this information is subject to an official confirmation.

Inter-State Council with PM as chairman, six Mins reconstituted

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Inter-State Council that works to promote and support cooperative federalism has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Chairman and all Chief Ministers and six Union Ministers as members.

This apart, 10 Union Ministers will be the permanent invitees to the Inter-State Council.

According to an official notification, the union ministers who were made members of the council are: Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, Hardeep Singh Puri, Nitin Gadkari, S Jaishankar, Arjun



Munda, Piyush Goyal, Dhamendra Pradhan, Pralhad Joshi, Ashwini Vaishnav, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Bhupendra Yadav. The mandate of the council is to create a strong institutional framework to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, activate the council and zonal councils by organising its regular meetings.

It also facilitates consideration of all pending and emerging issues of the centre-state and inter-state relations by the zonal councils and inter-state council and develop a sound system of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the inter-state council and zonal councils.

ED seizes foreign currency worth ₹1.53-cr at Kolkata airport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has seized foreign currencies worth Rs 1.53 crore from a domestic passenger at the Kolkata airport under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The flyer had travelled from Gorakhpur to Kolkata with the foreign currencies.

"During search (of the suspect flyer), 1,998 numbers of foreign currencies consisting of USD 1,65,000 and Euro 30,460 (equivalent to Rs 1.53 crore) were found in the possession of the passenger. However, he has failed to provide the source of the said foreign exchange and the purpose of traveling with such a huge amount of foreign exchange without any valid document.

Making allegations against judges now 'unfortunately' becoming new fashion: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday said that making allegations against judges is "unfortunately" becoming a new fashion now and the stronger the judge, the greater the allegations against him.

The apex court, while hearing an appeal filed by an advocate who was found guilty of contempt by the Madras

High Court and was sentenced to undergo two weeks of simple imprisonment, observed that making allegations against judges is rampant in Uttar Pradesh and now it is happening in Bombay and Madras also.

The top court said the conduct of the appellant was "thoroughly contemptuous" and besides levelling wanton allegations against the single

judge of the high court who had issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against him, the recusal of one of the judges hearing the proceedings thereafter was sought on thoroughly improper grounds.

"Now, this is becoming unfortunately a new fashion of making allegations against judges. The stronger the judge, the greater the allegations against the judge. This is hap-

pening now in Bombay. Of course, it is rampant in Uttar Pradesh, now Madras," a vacation bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Bela M Trivedi said. "Let a strong message go," said the bench, adding that judges are assaulted across the country and in the district judiciary, sometimes not even a 'lathi' (stick) wielding policeman is there for their protection.

Centre warns restaurants against forceful service charge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) on Monday warned restaurants against levying service charges forcefully on consumers. The department has reminded restaurants and eateries that it is the discretion of the consumers to pay or not pay the service charges as they are completely voluntary. The DoCA has convened a meeting with the National Restaurant Association (NRA) on June 2 to discuss the issue. In a letter written by Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, DoCA to President, National Restaurant Association of India, it has been pointed out that the restaurants and eateries are collecting service charge

from consumers by default, even though collection of any such charge is Voluntary and at the discretion of consumers and not mandatory as per law.

It has been pointed out in the letter that the consumers are forced to pay service charge, often fixed at arbitrarily high rates by restaurants. Consumers are also being falsely misled on the legality of such charges and harassed by restaurants on making a request to remove such charges from the bill amount. "Since this issue impacts consumers at large on a daily basis and has significant ramifications on the rights of consumers, the department construed it necessary to examine it with closer scrutiny and detail", the letter further adds.

ASHA workers get Global Health Leaders Award, PM lauds feat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Known as the pillars of the healthcare system in India, one million ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers have brought laurels to the country as they bagged the Global Health Leaders Award-2022 at the ongoing 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

"ASHA (which means hope in Hindi) are more than 1 million female volunteers in India, honoured for the crucial role in linking the com-

munity with the health system, to ensure those living in rural poverty can access primary healthcare services, as shown throughout the Covid-19 pandemic," said a statement from the World Health Organisation (WHO). They were one of the six recipients of the award.

The ASHA initiative, which falls under the National Health Mission, was launched in India in 2006. However, they are not well-paid. But this has not deterred them from doing yeoman services, which were particularly visible during the Covid crisis in the last two years.

Soon after an announcement was made by the WHO conferring award on them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to appreciate them. "Delighted that the entire team of ASHA workers have been conferred the WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Award. Congratulations to all ASHA workers. They are at the forefront of ensuring a healthy India. Their dedication and determination are admirable," he said.

After 2 years, Yoga Day to be held in physical mode; Modi to lead event

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a two-year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the main event of the eighth International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations on June 21 will be held in the physical mode at Mysuru in Karnataka. The event will be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Apart from the main event at Mysuru, another attraction will be Guardian Ring, a relay Yoga streaming event which will capture and weave together a digital feed of IDY programs organised by Indian Missions abroad on June 20. The proposed plan is to initiate the streaming from Japan, the land of the rising sun, at 6 am local time," Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal told media persons here.

According to Ayush Secretary, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, each Indian mission will organise yoga activities on June 21 as in the past.

Based on the broad pattern of observing IDY in previous



years, these activities could include short functions, speeches, Common Yoga Protocol based yoga demonstrations and local celebrity videos among others, said the official.

The Guardian Ring programme will string together video feeds from 20 to 30 selected missions across different time zones into a continuous social media event of about 18 to 20-hour duration.

The Ayush Ministry has sought concurrence from MEA on which missions will be participating in the programme.

The event will witness the presence of the Karnataka Governor, Union Ministers, film stars, sportspersons, celebrities, revered yoga gurus, eminent dignitaries, experts of Yoga and allied science, local Yoga institutions and Yoga enthusiasts.

Later, Dr Ishwar Basavaraddi, Director of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of Ayush shared Guardian Ring will end in North America by 11 pm in the night covering live yoga demonstration in 75 countries through-out the D-day.

"Also, as this Yoga day is being celebrated in the backdrop of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' year, events will be held at 75 iconic locations like Shiv Sagar in Assam and Hampi in Karnataka across the country. The focus will be on 'branding India' on a global scale."

He also informed that a series of events are being held across the country and globe in the run-up to IDY and the 25 days countdown is being observed in Hyderabad from May 27, wherein around 10,000 Yoga enthusiasts will participate in the Yoga demonstration.

Sharing that "this time the Government is targeting at least 25 crore people who will be joining yoga events to be held across the world including India," Basavaraddi pointed out adding that "Yoga has become an international phenomenon, with practitioners from all over the world practicing it in different ways. It has been followed by people of all ages and strata to improve their health and well-being."

Didi attacks Centre, demands autonomy of Central agencies

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Days after comparing the powers that be in Delhi with medieval tyrant Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday drew new parallels for the Narendra Modi Government comparing it with the likes of Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Joseph Stalin.

Saying that even Stalin, Hitler or Mussolini were better than the present dispensation in Delhi that ruled by CBI, ED et al, Banerjee demanded a complete autonomy for the central agencies.

"This is a government worse than those of Hitler Mussolini or even Stalin," Banerjee said adding "they are bull-doing the federal structure of the country by using the central agencies against the opposition parties."

Demanding autonomy for the central agencies she said, "I do not say that all the officials are bad but the fact is that many of them are influenced by those

in power ... I think the agencies should be made completely autonomous ... I am saying so because this is the need of the time ... these agencies are bound to be made autonomous in days to come only their salaries will be given by the government."

Flaying the BJP for sending the central agencies to the houses of the opposition leaders Banerjee referred to a recent raid in the houses of former Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Yadav. "As soon as Laloo ji came out of jail they sent agencies to raid his houses ... this is because they want to weaken the opposition parties ahead of the elections," Banerjee said.

Presently the Trinamool Congress functionaries including its senior ministers and MPs are facing more than a dozen cases of corruption, violence that are being investigated by the central agencies like CBI, ED and NIA — all upon court orders.

Attacking the Centre for bull-doing the houses of the



poor people Banerjee said how in the past week the BJP-run Bihar government sent police even to Bengal to pull down houses of the local people. "The Bihar Police did not even have the courtesy to inform the Bengal Police ... they simply sent in their men with bulldozers inside Malda district and pulled down the houses of the poorest of the poor people in that locality ... they know how to break."

Rebutting arguments that her own government should order a matching reduction of fuel prices following in the

footsteps of the Centre which cut petrol prices a couple of days ago Banerjee said, after the reduction of petrol prices her State too had suffered loss of Rs 641 crore in terms of cess and rebate.

"They (Centre) are asking us to reduce prices but on the other hand they are holding back our dues ... they release funds to the BJP-ruled States but do not give funds to the States ruled by the opposition parties and now they are asking us to reduce petrol prices," Banerjee said alleging the Centre had in the past a few years earned more than Rs 18.23 lakh crore by increasing fuel prices.

"Before Narendra Modi came to power petrol sold for Rs 71.51 in Kolkata ... after he came to power there was a reduction in price of crude but the Centre instead of cutting the price went on increasing it to Rs 106.03 in May 2022 ... and now they claim credit for reducing the price by a few rupees."

Rain brings respite from heatwave in north, northwest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rain and thunderstorms brought some respite from the scorching heatwave in north and northwestern parts of the country on Monday.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), no part of the country, except West Rajasthan, is likely to witness a heatwave condition during the next five days. "No significant change in maximum temperatures very likely over rest parts of the country during the next 5 days," it said.

An extra-tropical weather system approaching from north Pakistan led to formation of rain-bearing clouds that brought showers to parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh early on Monday.

"A Western Disturbance

as a cyclonic circulation lies over north Pakistan extending upto middle tropospheric levels. An induced Low Pressure Area lies over northwest Rajasthan and an east-west trough runs from this induced Low Pressure Area to north Bangladesh in lower tropospheric levels," the IMD said.

According to the weather office, thunderstorms occurred at several places in Uttarakhand, while most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and isolated places in Rajasthan received rainfall.

On Sunday, Fatehgarh in Uttar Pradesh had recorded the maximum temperature of 45.9 degrees Celsius.

In Delhi, the morning temperature plunged 11 notches from 29 degrees Celsius to 18 degrees Celsius.



Students of Calcutta University raise slogans during a protest demanding online examinations, in front of the university's campus, in Kolkata

Will Govt do wrongs like Aurangzeb who razed temples: Prof Irfan Habib

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Emeritus Professor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and eminent historian Prof. Irfan Habib said that the way Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had done wrong by destroying the temple, so will the Government do wrong in the same way. The temples of Kashi and Mathura were built by Raja Vir Singh Bundela during the reign of Jahangir, which were later demolished by Aurangzeb, as per the history records. He also raised questions on the structure being described as Shivling in Gyanvapi.

Prof Irfan said that there is talk of getting Shivling in Gyanvapi, but there was no mention of this in the petition which was filed. There is a way to make Shivling. Now Shivling is being made an issue. He said that when temples were demolished, its stones were used in

mosques. Stones of Hindu symbols were used in many mosques. Stones associated with the site of Buddhism will be found in many temples. 'Allah' is written in Arabic on a stone of the minaret built by Rana Kumbha in Chittor, but it cannot be called a mosque.

Prof Habib said that in the year 1992, the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished and it paved the way for the construction of Ram temple. He said that Aurangzeb had destroyed the temples. In those days there was no secret work. The incident of breaking the temple is recorded in history. On the Gyanvapi episode, he said that whenever mosques or temples were built in olden times, stones of Buddhist monasteries were found in them, so should the temples be demolished. These are stupid things. In such a situation many temples will be destroyed.

Priyanka to campaign for Cong in Karnataka Assembly polls: DK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar on Monday said the party's national General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has agreed to campaign and spend time in the State for the Assembly elections next year. The KPCC chief's sudden New Delhi visit came amid talks about differences between him and Congress Legislature party leader Siddaramaiah regarding probable candidates recommended to the high command for the upcoming MLC polls in the state.

Shivakumar's meeting also resulted in the announcements of the final list of candidates for the Legislative Council. Party chief Sonia Gandhi approved the candidatures of M Nagarjun Yadav and K Abdul Jabbar as Congress candidates to contest the biennial elections to be the Legislative Council.

The June 10 Rajya Sabha elections was also discussed with Priyanka Gandhi's name being favoured but the party will take some more time to decide upon it keeping in mind the resolution of Udaipur Chintan Shivir that proposed 'one family, one ticket, one MP'.

Tuesday is the last date to file nominations for the June 3 polls to seven seats of the Karnataka Legislative Council to be elected by MLAs and all the three major political parties in the state — Congress, BJP and JD(S) — are yet to announce their candidates.

"Everyone will have the desire that their leader should come to their state, but as of now it has not been discussed," Shivakumar said in response to a question about several state leaders insisting that Priyanka Gandhi contest the Rajya Sabha polls from Karnataka.



"We have said that she should spend time for the state during elections (assembly polls) and she has agreed to it. She has said that she will campaign in the state...No discussion has taken place regarding Rajya Sabha tickets," Shivakumar said briefing the media.

This comes amid speculation that a section of the Karnataka Congress leaders, including Shivakumar, wants Priyanka Gandhi to contest the June 10 Rajya Sabha polls from the state, as they feel it may benefit the party during the Assembly polls, due next year. Shivakumar had recently said the party wants Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to "concentrate on the south, where elections are coming up".

He said he and Siddaramaiah together had submitted a list of candidates to the high command for MLC polls. Seats are falling vacant, due to the retirement of MLAs — Laxman Sangappa Savadi and Lahar Singh Siroya of BJP; Ramappa Timmapur, Allum Veerabhadrappa, Veena Achaiah S of Congress; and H M Ramesha Gowda and Narayana Swamy K V of JD(S).

According to official sources, in this election, each MLC candidate will require a minimum of 29 votes to win, and on the basis of minimum votes required and tallying it with the strength of each party in the Legislative Assembly, the BJP will be able to win four seats, Congress two and JD(S) one.

SP MLAs create din in Assembly

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The first session of the 18th Vidhan Sabha of Uttar Pradesh began on a stormy note with the Samajwadi Party, the main Opposition party, creating a din during Governor Anandiben Patel's address to the joint sitting of the legislature.

The SP members, during the hour-long address by Governor Anandiben Patel, raised slogans against the government and asked her to "go back".

Continuing the high drama during the governor's address on Monday, the SP MLAs, who carried placards, trooped into the well of the House and raised slogans.

As soon as the House met on Monday morning, the SP members thronged the well of the House with placards in their hands and raised slogans over issues like law and order, farmers, stray cattle, and incidents of rape in the state.

Anandiben Patel was 'welcomed' by SP members with chants of "Governor go back." However, Governor Anandiben Patel continued her address and read the speech for over an hour.

During the protest, leader of opposition Akhilesh Yadav remained on his seat. His uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav also remained silent and raised no slogans. Abdullah Azam also remained seated and did not participate in the protest.

The SP MLAs asked the governor to stop her address and return midway. Inflation, unemployment and the law and order situation in the state were major issues raised by the opposition.

The governor, however, continued her address and listed out the achievements of the Yogi Adityanath-led government.

"The current Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in

the state is responsible for the galloping inflation that has affected everything, from fuel to vegetables, fruits and edible oil. The law and order situation in the state has worsened. The health sector is in a very bad shape and patients' attendants are being beaten up in hospitals in Kanpur Nagar," said SP MLA from Sisamau assembly constituency in Kanpur.

"The situation is very grim. We will raise all these issues in the assembly and will seek an answer from the government," he said.

Nagar said the BJP-led government had "miserably failed" on all fronts. He said the people of the state were facing the brunt of price rise and joblessness. These are the issues, which we will raise in the House, the SP MLA said.

Lone Bahujan Samaj Party MLA Uma Shankar Singh mentioned frequent power cuts as one of the pressing issues in his party's agenda.

Auditors play vital role in shaping e-governance, says CAG

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday said that auditors have an important role in strengthening e-governance systems by providing inputs to the Government in how it is managing the three Ps, which are the touchstone of e-governance systems - Privacy, Performance, and Participation. He was inaugurating a virtual seminar as the chair of International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Working Group on IT Audit (WGITA).

Murmu said that the principal beneficiary of e-governance is the people of the country and have to consistently follow the principle of Antyodaya which means no one is left behind.



"While e-Governance systems improve the ease of life, they also raise concerns of data privacy, national information security and associated risks of providing information technology services; creating new challenges and opportunities for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). These advancements have provided opportunities to audit as well. SAI India has embarked on its enterprise-wide audit process automation and knowledge

management system. An ambitious project is the One IAAD One System (IOS) Project implemented in SAI India," said the CAG of India.

He also said that India's apex audit body is increasingly embedding data analysis using advanced tools and techniques into its audit domain. It is supported by institutional arrangements within the organization. Its Centre for Data Management and Analytics (CDMA) of SAI India plays an advisory and facilitating role to our field audit offices in the use of Data Analytics and audit of IT systems and fostering a data-driven culture in our institution. The International Centre for Information Systems and Audit (iCISA), the premier training centre of CAG of India, promotes capacity building on technology related areas within our SAI as well as internationally.

Era of good governance in 5 yrs: UP Gov

Patel lauds Yogi Govt for laying foundation stone for dev in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Describing the past five years as an era of good governance, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel lauded the Yogi Adityanath Government for laying the foundation of development in the State during its first term.

During her address to the joint sitting of the UP Legislature on Monday, Patel said, "A grand building of development will take shape on the foundation laid during the first term in the next five years. To achieve the goal, efforts are being made to increase investment and strengthen infrastructure to make Uttar

Pradesh a leading state in the country on multiple fronts."

In her address, Patel outlined developmental initiatives of Yogi Adityanath's previous government and also the projections for the next five years. She said work was in full flow on the defence manufacturing corridor projects and there was a focus on self-employment schemes and establishment of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The work on the Lucknow-Ghaziपुर expressway was on while the government had improved aviation facilities, completed 20 irrigation projects and made five international airports, she said.

Some members of the opposition parties tried to create disturbance during the governor's address but she read out her entire address without stopping.

Appreciating the better law and order situation in the state, Patel expressed happiness over the peaceful completion of various festivals in the recent past.

While addressing the House, the governor mentioned the efforts being made by the government in all areas including housing, social security, pension schemes, industrial investment, infrastructure development, education, health and women's uplift.

She also stated that work would be done while fixing the timeline for implementation of projects and focus would be on performance-based works.

DST awards STUTI programme as PMU to Amity University

PNS ■ RANCHI/ROURKELA

The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has awarded the STUTI program as a Project Management Unit (PMU) to Amity University Uttar Pradesh (AUUP) to conduct 7 days of residential hands-on training on the state-of-the-art equipment, fully sponsored by DST.

Following the award, Amity University organized the second DST-STUTI Program, which commenced on Monday, in collaboration with National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela, on "Developing Skills and Knowledge for Civil and Electrical Engineering Researchers

through Access to Cutting-Edge Technology".

Advising the research scholars, Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela, said we must move from untruth to truth, from darkness to light, from death to immortality, and from ignorance to knowledge. Highlighting the researches, patents and innovations done by Amity Universities, Prof. R. K. Jha, VC, Amity University, Jharkhand said Amity is a leading Research and innovation driven University which has filed more than 1600 patents. Dr. Nitin Batra, CEO, Amity Institute of Training & Development, was present on the occasion amidst other dignitaries.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Tightrope

The new Australian PM has his task cut out with regard to his role in QUAD vis-à-vis China

The Chinese feel that Australian Labour Party leader Anthony Albanese, who succeeds Scott Morrison as the Prime Minister, may adopt a less hostile attitude towards them. Where does that feeling leave the QUAD? The US-initiated security dialogue is about countering the projection of Chinese power in the Indo-Pacific. As an equal partner in the quadrilateral, how the Albanese-led Australia interprets the growing tension between China and the United States becomes crucial for both. The QUAD had a chequered first phase when under Liberal John Howard, Australia withdrew from the dialogue, and his successor, Labour's Kevin Rudd, did not rejoin. The strategic initiative got a second life in 2017, and the four members are today more serious than ever to protect the QUAD. That is why the QUAD would like to reassure themselves that the shrillness of the campaign in the run-up to the just-concluded Australian elections, particularly over the Liberal-Labour spat over who is closer to China and who is not, will not find its echo now that Albanese has taken over. The QUAD and the Australian people want to know if Albanese will review or continue with Morrison's policies. The China-Australia ties were at their worst during Morrison's tenure. In the recent election campaign, Labour was under intense public scrutiny over its China policy. The Morrison-led Liberals accused Albanese of being soft on China, claiming that "the Chinese Government has picked their horse and he's sitting right there". A video showing Albanese trying to speak in Mandarin at an Australian Chinese trade association dinner in 2018 was recirculated afresh.



Albanese did not take the bait and maintained that there will not be a major change on contentious matters like Taiwan and the South China Sea. He said Australia's relationship with China "will remain a challenging one", and that the friendship with the US will remain the "first pillar" of Australia's foreign policy. Closer to the election, the Labour party displayed a similarly hardened attitude towards China. Labour's Penny Wong — the new Foreign Minister — led her campaign saying they will not take "a backward step" on Australia's current tensions with China. The same Wong had said a year ago that the bilateral friction does not mean that "there's no room for improvement in our actions". Wong also criticised Morrison for preferring the AUKUS-linked nuclear-powered submarines pact over the French submarine deal. The Labour at that time wanted Australia to have a view separate from the US over military and security matters. To think that Albanese, new to international diplomacy at this level, would adopt an America-first policy and simultaneously try to rationalise relations with China appears far-fetched. For its part, China is leaving no stone unturned to send the message that a healthy relationship is in the interests of both countries. Beijing will lose no opportunity to drive a wedge in the QUAD. It is time for the real Albanese to stand up.

PICTALK



Anchored boats during a dust storm at a ghat in Varanasi

PTI

Embarrassing cover-up

The Taliban have ordered all female TV news anchors to cover their faces while on air

The Taliban-led Islamic Emirate Government in Afghanistan has pronouncedly returned to its crooked ways, especially with regard to the country's women. Actually, it's always been biased against the fair gender, even when it was in power the last time in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. After they seized power again in August last year, the Taliban initially appeared to have moderated their restrictions somewhat, announcing no dress code for women. But in recent weeks, they have made a sharp, hardline pivot that has confirmed the worst fears of the rights activists and further complicated the Taliban's dealings with an already distrustful international community. On March 23, 2022, the first day of the school year in Afghanistan, eager female students arriving for class found closed gates and armed Taliban guards posted there. Despite the *de facto* authorities' assurances only days earlier that schools would reopen for girls above sixth grade, they had barred girls from further education. The Minister of Higher Education — part of an all-male Government — has stated publicly that Islam is more important than qualifications, so education is of no value to boys or girls.



Then earlier this month, the Taliban's Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and the Propagation of Virtue ordered all women to wear head-to-toe clothing in public that leaves only their eyes visible. The decree said women should leave the home only when necessary and that male relatives would face punishment for women's dress code violations. And now, as per a report last weekend, Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have started to enforce a new order requiring all female TV news anchors in the country to cover their faces while on air. After the order was announced midweek, only a handful of news outlets initially complied. But on Sunday, most female anchors were seen with their faces covered after the Taliban's Vice and Virtue Ministry began enforcing the decree. However, the presenters are obviously not happy with the diktat. They feel it's the imposition of "just an outside culture" and there "aren't feeling good at all" while presenting programmes. But all hope's not lost. Not yet! In an act of solidarity with female colleagues, the channel's male personnel covered their faces with masks, including the main evening newsreader. Way to go, you are fighting for a cause.

True trustees of the Constitution?

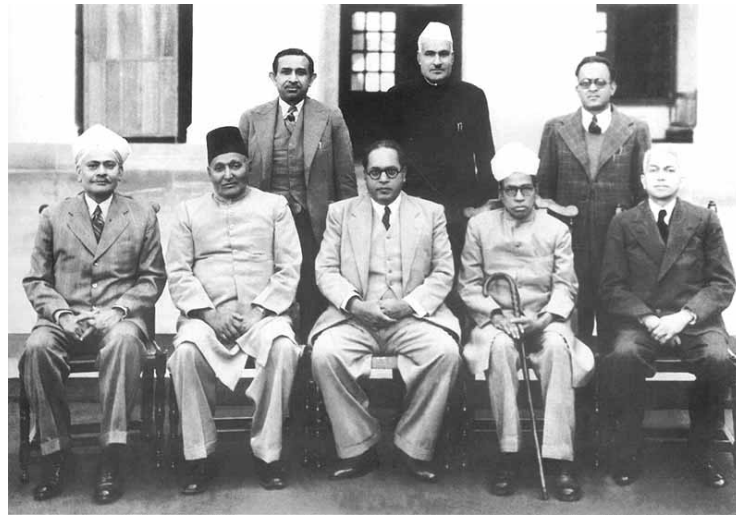
Our forefathers, who drafted the Constitution, had pictured an entirely different scenario for the development of the nation than what it has now become



JS RAJPUT

The unseating of the then Union Government by the people in May 2014 shocked those who were convinced of being the only conscience keepers to the nation, the protectors of the Constitution of India. Come September 2015, certain authors, poets and film personalities gave expression to their hurt conscience on what they thought were increasing intolerance and "unmaking of India". Recently, another letter written by 108 bureaucrats to the PM received only stunted media response; that too, from ideologically inclined fellow travellers. Selective efforts, people understand, are mere manifestation of the loss of hegemony over institutions and regular sources of support from the corridors of power. India deserves far more unbiased and credible civil society think tanks. Is it not intriguing that those worried about the 'victimisation of a particular community, intolerance and attack on secular fabric' just prefer to keep mum when orchestrated violence takes place in West Bengal before and after Assembly elections. Their conscience is not aroused when two ministers of the Maharashtra Government are put behind bars, but refuse to resign! The 108 custodians of the Constitution just did not remember TT Krishnamachari, Keshav Deva Malaviya or Lal Bahadur Shastri! Does it not indict the bureaucracy as a whole when the house of a senior IAS officer is raided and over ₹17 crore in cash is recovered? When orders of the Supreme Court of India on loud-speaker decibel levels are flouted for years and insistence on it being implemented is resisted? The unscrupulous come in the support of the deviant! Does the highest Indian judiciary deserve this treatment?

In Maharashtra and Rajasthan, the State Governments are openly encouraging the flouting of court orders on decibel levels; these two Governments are also the custodians of the spirit of Constitution. Why can't the 'hurt and worried' luminaries issue an appeal to



respect the judiciary?

As one peruses the Constituent Assembly debates, one is inspired by the spirit and intent that remains organically present during these deliberations, conducted with Rajendra Prasad as its president. The chairman of the Drafting Committee, BR Ambedkar, was admired for his comprehension of the socio-economic and cultural context of India. He had thorough comprehension of the global scenario and had acquired a great futuristic vision. He made a historic speech on November 26, 1949, when the draft was finally approved by the Constituent Assembly: "Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country will depend upon the way in which the country is administered. That will depend upon the men who administer it. It is a trite saying that a country can have only the Government it deserves."

Those with a hurt conscience must have read it all when they entered the corridors of power to implement the provisions of the Constitution, and preserve

and protect its spirit. Did they realise that it was imperative on the part of the implementers, including the elected representatives, bureaucrats and legal luminaries to remember Ambedkar's expectations: "I shall only hope that all those whose good fortune it may be to work this Constitution in future will remember that it was a unique victory which we achieved by the unique method taught to us by the Father of the Nation, and it is up to us to preserve and protect the independence that we have won and to make it really bear fruit for the man in the street. Let us launch on this new enterprise of running our Independent Republic with confidence, with truth and non-violence and, above all, with the heart within and God overhead."

On November 25, 1949, senior Congress leader Mahavir Tyagi was given four minutes to speak, which he considered "the most precious of my life, past, present and future". The Draft Constitution was a 'concrete picture' before them, in which each of the members had contributed; and Ambedkar was the chief artist. It would be very relevant

IN MAHARASHTRA AND RAJASTHAN, THE STATE GOVERNMENTS ARE OPENLY ENCOURAGING THE FLOUTING OF COURT ORDERS ON DECIBEL LEVELS; THESE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE ALSO THE CUSTODIANS OF THE SPIRIT OF CONSTITUTION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IS SLASHING FUEL PRICES LOGICAL?

Sir — A reduction in central excise duty per litre of petrol by ₹8 and ₹6 for each litre of diesel will translate into retail prices on these fuels dropping by ₹9.5 per litre and ₹7 per litre. Again, the price subsidy for LPG of ₹200 per cylinder to beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme is a boon. So it is in the hands of the Finance Minister to control inflation. If this holds true, then inflation can be controlled periodically in the same way instead of making people struggle. Tax reduction must be at once passed to consumers who are now reeling under direct or indirect taxes.

At the same time, the taxes levied must be routed towards reduction of burden of purchasing power of every citizen of State-Central sectors. It is the duty of an elected Government to give concessions to the lower strata of people to ease their day-to-day expenses in terms of fulfilling their basic daily needs. So far they haven't taken positive steps to enhance the purchasing power of the lower and middle class citizens. It is time to control commodity prices; the sale of things should be streamlined and made available in the open market.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

INDIA'S CONDITION SAME AS LANKA'S?

Sir — Sri Lanka, our neighbouring country, is experiencing an unprecedented economic collapse that has pushed its Government into a deep crisis. Lanka is struggling to import basic necessities for its 22 million people because of its diminishing foreign reserves and crippling debt; anti-Government protests even turned violent which led to the burning of the houses of the President and other Ministers houses, and this violence ultimately led to the PM's resignation. The policies of Rajapaksa led the \$81 billion economy to bankruptcy. The two policy blunders were the cutting of taxes overnight and barring the import of chemical fertilisers and pesticides to push Lanka into organic farming.

Appreciate the nuances first



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, while speaking about our country's foreign policy again on foreign land, had compared the conflict with China on Leh and Doklam with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. However, it is expected that he should have learnt a thing or two about the foreign policy from his forefathers, perhaps someone like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Pt Nehru had such foresight that he predicted way back in the 1950s that Atal Bihari Vajpayee will one day become the PM of India, and his saying came true in 1998-

99 when Vajpayee became our PM. When Indira Gandhi took the bold decision on Bangladesh, the entire Opposition highly praised Indira Gandhi.

When PV Narasimha Rao was the PM, an Indian delegation to the UN was led by leader of the Opposition AB Vajpayee; such instances are rarely seen these days. The foreign policy of any country is a continuous process and, even with the change of Government, the policy and a nation's stand on most issues remain the same. Present example is before us in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war, where India followed its own foreign policy and maintained neutrality as well as old relations with Russia and also purchased oil from it by paying in roubles. Side by side, India is also attending the QUAD meetings and, on this front, even Pakistan had praised the foreign policy of India many times.

Yash Pal Raihan | Jalandhar

Diminishing foreign reserves, huge piles of debt, devaluation of currency, rising inflation, rupee value dropping its lowest level compared to dollar and total economic collapse has compelled the people of Sri Lanka to struggle for their basic needs. The shortage of almost everything from food, medicines to cooking gas has resulted in social unrest and political turmoil. Lankans often call out that there is a threat to their country from Islamic extremists. Same is the situation in our country. Our economy is damaged, rupee value has fallen, commodity prices are out of the reach of common man.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

SIDHU'S CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Sir — With a fight for the fourth playoff spot, the fight between bat and ball was more tense than usual. The last two matches evinced keen interest from the bookie angle as the result would have had a bearing on the final outcome. The way Ashwin swept and pulled his old team-

mates from CSK was exhilarating, while the match between MI and DC was somewhat disappointing as the Delhi side could score within 160 and thereby lost a fair chance of going to the playoff stage. MI, who were doing bad so far, prevented DC with a facile win.

Royal Challengers Bangalore are having a minus run rate and that could have ousted them from the championship with NRR. However, the tournament reached the final stage with such interest to decide the last four positions. GT, RR and LSG booked their berth with facile wins and that too with a higher net run rate to show. RCB got a backdoor entry because of MI making a match of the final game. As a matter of fact, a number of bookies were arrested during IPL 15 and we would like to see fewer controversies during the final stages of the championship.

CKR Nathan | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

It's always people first for us. The decision (slashing fuel prices) will positively impact various sectors.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



I believe it's very important that this country has certainty... so it can move forward.

Australia ex-Prime Minister — Scott Morrison

Getting (to act in) Aashram was more of a gift from the universe.



Actor — Esha Gupta



I didn't want to win that way (a late blunder by world champion Magnus Carlsen).

Indian Grandmaster — Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is a part-time politician and a habitual offender.

BJP spokesperson — Gaurav Bhatia



FIRST COLUMN TIME TO REJECT FOSSIL FUELS RIGHT AWAY

A candle produces more CO₂
than a single firecracker



PRITAM SINGH

More than 95% human activities over the past 4-5 decades are responsible for inching 'mother-earth' towards getting warmer year after year, eclipsing our life-system. Stephen Hawking had unequivocally predicted ('a veiled threat') that our planet will gradually rise its temperature and will become a 'hot-fireball' in next six centuries; and to protect it - "we need to act now before it's too late". The human's lust for deriving more power from fossil fuels for our vehicles and industry is having a serious cause of concerns of scientists and environmental experts; warrants to have adequate notice of active derivative - "The Wax" - we use very frequently in our daily life. We burn every-year more than three 'billion-candles' on cultural and religious occasions. They significantly increase the level of 'greenhouse gases', inviting new threats to human health. Most of the candles are made from 'Paraffin wax' - derivative of petroleum - which have common carcinogenic toxins released by burning of diesel in IC engines. For instance, each 50 gm household candle burns for about four hours. That produces about 39 gm of carbon dioxide. A single candle thus produces nearly 30 times more carbon dioxide than a single fire-cracker which produces a mere 0.4 gm. The 'collective flames of earth's gradual burning' are reaching to the coldest region Antarctica opening-up the gate-ways of destruction of humanity from multiple fronts ranging from North and South poles of Antarctica to the ecologically vulnerable and fragile-points known as 'third pole of earth' - the Himalayan range - melting the precious



'snowy regions'. These snowy regions are solid water (ice) which act to play a significant role of our "life-line on earth" - cooling down the earth's temperature compatible to our living conditions. Is the sun to blame for rising temperature on earth? No. The earth's climate is influenced by the sun and acts as giver of life. However, the scorching heat touching new records is not attributable to the sun's activities. The most abundant 'greenhouse gases' physically or chemically are responsible. "It will continue to get more-hotter and fiercer until humans stop burning of fossil fuels" climatologists from Oxford University contend.

An analytical data from the satellites have observed that the sun's energy output has changed less than 0.1% in the last 40 years whereas earth's warming has increased by at least 1.1° Celsius (1.9° Fahrenheit) in 142 years. The warming has increased, since 1975, at the rate of roughly by 0.15 to 0.20°C per decade. Planets like Venus have carbon dioxide content that is 1,54,000 times more than on earth (about 19000 times on Mars). It produces such Green House Gases impact that the surface temperature is over 475 degree Celsius, sufficient to melt lead. The alerts of Stephen Hawking warrant serious measures to bridle this spiral at any cost. Some studies at University of North Carolina predict that five lakh lives can be saved by the year 2030 if the GHG are controlled. For mitigating the impact of the lurking shadow of climatic dangers, all the countries should unanimously step-up their priorities and revisit the whole issue of 'using fossil fuels and its derivatives' to meet our 'bare-minimum needs' only. Accordingly, India being more vulnerable in respect of pollution-related issues, it is high time the regulatory authorities framed more stringent guidelines and launched massive public-awareness campaigns across the nation for the betterment of our future generations.

(The writer retired from the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun and is now an educator and analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Indian power sector is pushed to the brink



UTTAM GUPTA

Among other things, free discoms from State control, allow them to set tariff for all consumers and permit private firms into the distribution business

Faced with an acute power crisis caused amongst others by sudden spurt in power demand in this season, the Modi Government has fired all cylinders to tackle the most crucial of all bottlenecks in the way, namely coal which accounts for nearly 52 percent of total power generation capacity in the country.

During April/May 2022, the Union Power Ministry - using powers vested in the Government under Section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003 - issued directions to (i) all imported coal-based plants (ICB) to operate and generate power to their full capacity and (ii) all generation companies (gencos) based on domestic coal to import at least 10 percent of their fuel requirements (there is a move to further raise it to 30 percent).

Other measures include asking all gencos having captive coal mines to maximize production from their mines; Coal India Limited (CIL) - a central public sector undertaking (CPSU) which contributes about 85 percent of domestic coal production - to auction its mines 'not under use' to private companies; galvanizing railways' infrastructure to move coal from mines to plants site etc.

The Government has also announced financial and price support measures to help gencos actually see things happening on ground zero.

Thus, it has directed the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC Ltd) "to arrange short term loans for a period of six months with adequate safeguards for ICB plants, which are under stress". It has also allowed 'pass-through' of the increase in cost of imported coal under the power purchase agreements (PPAs) of gencos with power distribution companies (discoms).

The Government's intent is to increase availability of coal- both from domestic and imported sources, by putting more money in the hands of gencos so that they can pay for higher cost imported fuel (in just about two months, its price is up by \$100 per ton, courtesy difficult geopolitical situation) and even more importantly, allow them charge more from discoms to recover the higher cost.

But things may not pan out as desired. The discoms (mostly owned and controlled by State Governments) may not agree to hike in tariff; besides such revisions are open to challenge in the court. It won't be easy to sell expensive stuff in the 'power exchange' either as under the extant regulations, the tariff chargeable is subject to a cap. As for garnering additional production, effort there won't yield results in the near term.

Even if the Government is able to surmount these problems by forcing the buyers (read: discoms) to pay for the higher cost and removing the tariff cap on sales in the exchange, this will push the already fragile discoms into deeper mess.

The discoms are in dire straits because



HAD THE PRODUCTION COME ANYWHERE NEAR THE TARGET, THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE POWER SECTOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AGGRAVATION OF DISCOMS WOES COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. THE HUGE SHORTFALL DEMONSTRATES THE DIRE NEED FOR BETTER PLANNING AND TIMELY EXECUTION OF PROJECTS

(The writer is a former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)



State Governments order them to supply a sizeable chunk of electricity to households and farmers at a fraction of the cost of purchase and distribution or even free (in some states, subsidy accounts for 30-40 percent of discoms' revenue). Although, States promise to reimburse discoms the excess of the cost over realization from sale, most of them either don't reimburse at all or do it partially and that too after delay. This results in huge under-recovery on units sold to HHs/farmers.

Discoms' under-recoveries are exacerbated by high aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) loss - a jargon for power theft. To offset, they charge high tariffs on supplies to industries and businesses. Despite this cross-subsidization, overall, discoms incur huge loss.

Thanks to persistent losses, as of March 31, 2022, they had piled up a mammoth debt of over ₹600,000 crore. They also owe about ₹100,000 crore to independent power producers (IPPs) and other generators in the public sector such as NTPC.

The efforts to revitalize discoms have been going on for two decades with four major schemes launched in 2002, 2012, 2015 and 2021; yet none has delivered. The last two under the Modi Government deserve special mention.

Under Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) launched in November 2015, the Centre coordinated a financial restructuring package (FRP) of ₹400,000 crore for discoms in lieu of their committing to reduce AT&C losses from 20.7 percent during 2015-16 to 15 percent by 2018-19 and reducing the gap between average revenue realisation (ARR) from sale of electrici-

ty vis-a-vis the average cost of supply (ACS) or the ACS-ARR gap from ₹0.59 per unit during 2015-16 to 'zero' by 2018-19.

During 2019-20, discoms' AT&C losses were 18.9 percent against the 15 percent target for 2018-19, while ACS-ARR gap was ₹0.42 per unit against the target of 'zero' for 2018-19.

In the Union Budget for 2021-22, the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman launched a 'Reforms-Linked, Result-Based Scheme for Distribution' (RLRBSD) with an allocation of over ₹310,000 crore. Under this scheme also, in lieu of support to discoms, the government set targets for reducing AT&C losses to 12-15 percent and ACS-ARR gap to 'nil' by 2025. The release of money - under the Scheme - is linked to their meeting various reform targets.

As in the past, these are hollow proclamations. Under UDAY also, discoms were required to set their house in order. But, they didn't. The current AT&C losses at about 25 percent are even higher than 20.7 percent during 2015-16 (when the scheme was launched). Forget reduction. Hence, claims under RLRBSD don't inspire.

How will the crisis triggered by coal shortage and the manner in which the government is dealing with it impact discoms' finances?

The direction to all ICB plants maximize generation and to domestic coal based plants to do 10 percent/30 percent blending with imported coal will result in sharp in the cost of power purchase by discoms. Since, our political brass won't let HHs/farmers pay even a paisa more and industries are already crippled by high tariff - ₹10 per unit plus in most states; hence can't be further

increased, this will end up further inflating their losses.

In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had set a coal production target of 1500 million tons (MT) for 2019-20. During 2019-20, India produced around 730 MT. In 2020-21, production declined to 716 MT (courtesy, Covid). During 2021-22, at 777 MT it exceeded the 2019-20 level but was barely 50 percent of the target.

Had production come anywhere near the target, the current crisis in the power sector and consequential aggravation of discoms woes could have been avoided. The huge shortfall demonstrates the dire need for better planning and timely execution of projects. Modi also needs to plan for a smoother transition to renewable sources ensuring that conventional source (read: coal) which currently takes a major share of the load doesn't become an impediment.

However, the most important thing our political class needs to do is to actually carry out reforms in the power sector at ground zero. This will call for unshackling of discoms from State control, giving them freedom to set tariff for all consumers (HHs/farmers included), allowing private firms in distribution business and vesting infrastructure for transmission, wheeling and last-mile delivery of power in an independent entity which should provide access to it on 'common carrier' principle in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

If, any State Government wants to give subsidy to farmers and HHs, it should be given directly to the beneficiaries using the direct benefit transfer (DBT) mechanism.

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THEY (THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE) HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED. THEY DON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING; THEY ARE ARROGANT.
— CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



YES, THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE HAS CHANGED. YES, THEY FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. NO, IT'S NOT CALLED ARROGANCE.
— EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S JAISHANKAR

Russia will not disappear soon

It is awaiting leadership change

Russian President Vladimir Putin will almost certainly not be in power three years from now. The war he foolishly began in Ukraine has fatally undermined his political credibility among the Russian elite (and among a large though mostly silent part of the population). One way or another, he will be replaced.

He may even save everybody the trouble by dying before he can be removed. He definitely doesn't look well, his behaviour is increasingly erratic, and rumours that he is suffering from some terminal disease abound. Russia is not a fascist state, just a kleptocracy where the thieves and the thugs have taken power, but Putin's personal behaviour does begin to resemble Hitler in his bunker in the final days, and Hitler too



GWYNNE DYER

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

was very ill. Putin knows nothing about military matters, but he is reportedly micro-managing single 'battalion combat groups' (about 1,000 men) in the currently stalled Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine, trying to retrieve a military situation that has sunk into stalemate. Very Hitlerian. So what will become of Russia when he goes?

Alexander J. Motyl thinks it may just disappear. In an opinion piece in 'The Hill', the leading political website in Washington, Motyl, a political scientist at Rutgers University, suggests that "The Russian Federation could metamorphose into 10 or more states, only one of which would be known as Russia. That would change the face of Eurasia forever." It certainly would, but it



does imply the permanent demise of a state that has dominated northern Eurasia for the past four centuries (the first Russians reached the Pacific in 1647). It also ignores the remarkable homogeneity of that state's population: 81% are ethnically Russian, while none of

the many minority group even reaches 4%. There have been occasions, most recently during the civil war of 1917-22, when Russia was temporarily carved up into rival jurisdictions, but these interludes have never lasted long. The sense that there is a special Russian identity, even a unique 'Russian civilisation', always reasserts itself.

Decolonisation came late to the Russian empire and was harder to recognise, because Russia's imperial possessions were around its own land borders rather than across the oceans. Nevertheless, it was the same process, and just as irreversible (as Putin has been discovering).

Russia is as unlikely to split up permanently as France or Japan. Motyl's speculations on its break-up are wishful think-

ing, possibly motivated by the fact (unmentioned by 'The Hill') that both his parents were born in Ukraine.

It is understandable that Ukrainians might wish Russia to vanish, but that is not going to happen. So what will happen when Putin goes?

We cannot know yet what a genuinely post-Communist Russia would look like. Although it's 31 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, almost all the people in senior political positions began their careers in the Communist Party. The ideology was dumped, but the administrative style and the factional struggles remain.

Moreover, one single man, Vladimir Putin, has dominated Russian politics for more than two-thirds of that time. It's hard to disentangle what is intrinsic-

cally Russian in the way Russia has been run during that time from what was just part of Putin's personality, but we are about to find out.

The default position is to say that the Russians are somehow fundamentally different from other Slavs. After all, the Poles and the Czechs got real democracy and genuine prosperity after 1991, whereas the Russians got Putin, border wars, and (for most people) genteel poverty.

But there were two big differences that had nothing to do with 'national character', whatever that is. One was that all the former 'satellite countries' of Eastern Europe immediately ditched their local Communist collaborators and got a whole new set of politicians, whereas Russia was essentially stuck

with the old Commies wearing new hats.

The other difference was that the western Slavs experienced the change as liberation, whereas their former rulers saw it as a loss of empire that stranded tens of millions of Russians in places that were suddenly foreign countries.

It would have been unreasonable to expect these two sets of people to react in the same way, and sure enough they didn't. But it's equally unreasonable to be convinced that Russians will go on behaving in the same ways when the ex-Communist ruling elite loses power (which may be imminent) and a new post-imperial generation takes over instead.

We have no idea what's coming out of the box then. It could even be something good.

Biden: US would intervene with military to defend Taiwan

AP ■ TOKYO

President Joe Biden said on Monday that the US would intervene militarily if China were to invade Taiwan, saying the burden to protect Taiwan is "even stronger" after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It was one of the most forceful presidential statements in support of self-governing in decades. Biden, at a news conference in Tokyo, said "yes" when asked if he was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if China invaded. "That's the commitment we made," he added.

The US traditionally has avoided making such an explicit security guarantee to Taiwan,



with which it no longer has a mutual defence treaty, instead maintaining a policy of "strate-

gic ambiguity" about how far it would be willing to go if China invaded. The 1979 Taiwan

Relations Act, which has governed US relations with the island, does not require the US to step in militarily to defend Taiwan if China invades, but makes it American policy to ensure Taiwan has the resources to defend itself and to prevent any unilateral change of status in Taiwan by Beijing.

Biden's comments were likely to draw a sharp response from the mainland, which has claimed Taiwan to be a rogue province. A White House official said Biden's comments did not reflect a policy shift.

Speaking alongside Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Biden said any effort by China to use force against Taiwan would "just not be

appropriate," adding that it "will dislocate the entire region and be another action similar to what happened in Ukraine".

China has stepped up its military provocations against democratic Taiwan in recent years aimed at intimidating it into accepting Beijing's demands to unify with the communist mainland.

"They're already flirting with danger right now by flying so close and all the maneuvers that are undertaken," Biden said of China. Under the "one China" policy, the US recognises Beijing as the government of China and doesn't have diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

However, the US main-

tains unofficial contacts including a de facto embassy in Taipei, the capital, and supplies military equipment for the island's defence.

Biden said it is his "expectation" that China would not try to seize Taiwan by force, but he said that assessment "depends upon just how strong the world makes clear that that kind of action is going to result in long-term disapproval by the rest of the community".

He added that deterring China from attacking Taiwan was one reason why it's important that Russian President Vladimir Putin "pay a dear price for his barbarism in Ukraine," lest China and other

nations get the idea that such action is acceptable. Fearing escalation with nuclear-armed Russia, Biden quickly ruled out putting US forces into direct conflict with Russia, but he has shipped billions of dollars in US military assistance that has helped Ukraine put up a stiffer-than-expected resistance to Russia's onslaught.

It's not the first time Biden has pledged to defend Taiwan against a Chinese attack, only for administration officials to later claim there had been no change to American policy.

In a CNN town hall in October, Biden was asked about using the US military to defend Taiwan and replied, "Yes, we have a commitment to

do that." Biden's comments came just before he formally launched a long-anticipated Indo-Pacific trade pact that excludes Taiwan.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed Sunday that Taiwan isn't among the governments signed up for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, which is meant to allow the US to work more closely with key Asian economies on issues like supply chains, digital trade,

clean energy and anti-corruption. Inclusion of Taiwan would have irked China. Sullivan said US wants to deepen its economic partnership with Taiwan on a one-to-one basis.

Lankan police arrest 1,500 people in connection with May 9 violence



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police have arrested at least 1,500 people so far in connection with the violent clashes between anti- and pro-government protesters in country earlier this month that killed at least 10 people and injured over 200 others, according to a media report on Monday.

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 country's worst economic crisis that led to acute shortages of staple food, fuel and power.

According to Sri Lanka Police spokesman SSP Nihal Thalduwa, 1,500 people have been arrested in connection with violence, online portal newsfirst.lk reported.

Thalduwa further said 152 persons have been arrested in past 24 hours. On Saturday, Inspector General of Police Chandana D Wickramaratne was interrogated by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) over his alleged actions that triggered violent clashes that killed at least 10 people and

Lanka's controversial 21st Amendment to Constitution fails to come up for Cabinet approval after SLPP's objection

PTI ■ COLOMBO

In a major blow to Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, the proposal for 21st Amendment to Constitution to curb the unfettered powers of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, scheduled to be referred to Cabinet on Monday was not presented before it.

According to sources, the proposal was not presented in Cabinet after parliamentarians of ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) objected to it in its present form. They demanded that the proposed legislation be approved by Attorney General before referring it to the Cabinet. The 21st Amendment is expected to annul the 20A which gave unlimited powers to President Gotabaya

injured over 200 others.

Last week, Galle district MP Ramesh Pathirana informed the Parliament that Senior Police DIG in-charge of Western Province Deshabandu Tennakoon informed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa that Wickramaratne had instructed him not to block mob heading to Galle Face to disrupt anti-government protesters, online



Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment which had made Parliament powerful over the president.

The constitutional reform was a major plank of the agreement between Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe when he took over the job of the prime minister on May 12. Rajapaksa had also pledged reforms in the Constitution in an address to the nation earlier this month. The 21st Amendment would make it impossible for those with dual citizenship to hold a seat in Parliament.

portal Colombo Gazette had reported. Pathirana added that President demanded action be taken to prevent situation from spiralling out of control. Following President's orders, police rushed to spot and fired tear gas and water cannons on mob, by which time scores were injured and at least 10 people were dead, according to Colombo Gazette news portal.

Albanese sworn in as PM in Australia ahead of Tokyo summit

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australia's new prime minister was sworn in on Monday ahead of a Tokyo summit with President Joe Biden while vote counting continued to determine whether he will control a majority in a Parliament that is demanding tougher action on climate change.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party ousted predecessor Scott Morrison's conservative coalition at Saturday's election. The coalition had been in power under three prime ministers for nine years.

"I want to lead a government that has the same sentiment of optimism and hope that I think defines the Australian people," Albanese said in his hometown of Sydney before flying to the national capital Canberra to be sworn in.

Albanese, who describes himself as the first ever candidate for the office of prime minister with a "non-Anglo Celtic name" and Malaysian-born Penny Wong, Australia's first foreign minister to be born overseas, were sworn into office by Governor-General David Hurley before the pair flew to Tokyo for a security summit on Tuesday with Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Biden rang Albanese to



congratulate him on his election win and express the president's wish to make the countries' alliance stronger, the White House said.

Morrison's decision to resign as prime minister during the early vote counting enabled Hurley, who represents Australia's head of state, British monarch Queen Elizabeth II, to appoint his replacement without evidence that Albanese can control a majority of seats in parliament's lower chamber where governments are formed.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles was also sworn in and will act as prime minister while Albanese is in Japan. Katy Gallagher and Jim Chalmers were sworn into economic ministries.

Labor appears assured of 75 seats, one short of the majority in the 151-seat House of Representatives needed to form an administration. The conservative coalition was on track for 58, unaligned lawmakers 12 and six seats were too close to call, the Australian Electoral Commission said.

Bangkok governor's election handily won by Opposition figure

Bangkok: Residents of Thai capital Bangkok, in their first opportunity in nine years to vote for their city's governor, have elected an independent politician seen as representing opponents of country's military-backed government, results released early Monday showed.

Chadchart Sittipunt had been widely predicted by opinion polls to top field, but significantly outpaced expectations by taking 1,386,215 votes, or almost 52% of the 2,673,696 votes cast in Sunday's election, according to virtually complete but uncertified returns. He competed in a field of 31 candidates, with voter turnout just under 61%. The 55-year-old Chadchart, though running as an independent, was seen by

both supporters and opponents as a proxy for Pheu Thai party, the main Opposition grouping in Parliament. He served as transport minister in a Pheu Thai government in 2012-2014, and stood as one of party's prime ministerial candidates in 2019 general election.

"Now that we've received an order from people, I would start working right away, visiting communities and areas to see where I could begin my work as soon as I can as a governor," Chadchart told reporters Monday morning. "I have a young, energetic team who are keen to move." The independent candidate who was seen as a stand-in for the ruling Palang Pracharath party ran a weak fifth in race. (AP)

UK's Boris Johnson awaits judgment of 'partygate' report

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been shadowed by career-threatening scandal for months - but so far he has escaped unscathed. This week he faces one more threat to his political future: a comprehensive report into lockdown-breaching parties in government offices that is expected to be published within days.

Senior civil servant Sue Gray is due to release her findings on "partygate," the scandal over more than a dozen gatherings in Johnson's No. 10 Downing St. Residence and nearby buildings that took place when coronavirus restrictions barred people in Britain from mixing with others.

Beijing extends work-from-home order as Covid-19 cases rise

Beijing: Beijing extended orders for workers and students to stay home and ordered additional mass testing Monday as cases of COVID-19 again rose in the city.

Numerous residential compounds in Chinese capital have restricted movement in and out, although conditions remain far less than in Shanghai, where millions of citizens have been under varying degrees of lockdown for two months. Beijing on Monday reported an uptick in cases to 99, rising from a previous daily average of around 50.

7 dead, 120 others rescued in Philippine ferry fire

AP ■ MANILA

A ferry carrying more than 130 people caught fire Monday while approaching a northeastern Philippine province, killing at least seven people while most passengers and crew members were rescued, the coast guard said.

At least four people remained missing after fire engulfed the M/V Mercraft 2 while it was approaching a seaport in Real town in Quezon province from Polillo island. Many of the 134 passengers and crew were forced to jump into water, coast guard officials said. The survivors were rescued by vessels in the area, they said. The fire apparently started from engine room, the officials said. The wreckage has been towed to shore in Real.

Pictures released by coast guard showed fire engulfing ferry and dark smoke billowing from it. Injured survivors on stretchers were taken to waiting ambulance vans while a rescuer tries to revive an unconscious survivor by pressing on his chest. (AP)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	82224731	Advance Hand Instrument With OEM Certified Compatibility With Valley Lab Machine in OT/NRCH-Assorted Length	45 Nos	17.06.2022

Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No.: 82224731 Dated: 23.05.2022
1232/22

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public at large is hereby informed through this notice that my client Plot No.13 and 14, Area 32 Sq. Yards, Kh. No.9/13, 9/14, Village Tilangpur/Kotta, Kotta/Vihar, Ph-II, New Delhi-110043 is being sold by M/s MCF Finlease P. Ltd., At B-204, Vikas Tower, Community Centre, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018 against mutual settlement of Loan taken from the Company. Any person having any objection against the same shall inform the Company within 30 days.
Ankur Chaudhary, (Advocate), Delhi High Court, Chamber No. V-34, Tehsil Lane, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) 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.	Rohan Sahani/ Meenakshi/ Ved Prakash/ L/BDL00004965262/ L/BDL00004961412	Plot No-149, 4th Floor, With Roof Rights, Block-A, Sector-8, Dwarka, Delhi 110075/ May 20, 2022	November 10, 2021 Rs. 73,55,445/-	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 24, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation 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.	Arun Kumar Jha/ Babita Jha (9600001622 & QZDEL00005004690)	Property No- A-581, First Floor, Without Roof, Block- A Shastri Nagar Delhi, Delhi/ May 20, 2022	September 27, 2021/ Rs 13,71,019/-	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 24, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Xinjiang in focus as UN rights chief arrives for China visit

Beijing: Allegations of human rights abuses in China's north-western Xinjiang region are the dominant issue on a visit by the United Nations' top rights official that starts Monday.

Michelle Bachelet's visit is the first to China by a U.N. High commissioner for human rights since 2005, but rights groups warn it threatens to whitewash the ruling Communist Party abuses in Xinjiang. China has locked up more than a million members of its Uyghur, Kazakh and other Muslim minorities in what critics describe as a cam-

paign to obliterate their distinct cultural identities. China says it has nothing to hide and welcomes all those without political bias to visit Xinjiang and view what it describes as a successful campaign to restore order and ethnic cohesion.

Bachelet will begin her six-day visit in the southern city of Guangzhou before travelling to Kashgar and the Xinjiang regional capital of Urumqi. Details have been tightly held and China's entirely Communist Party-controlled media have not reported on her visit. A key question is whether

Bachelet will be allowed to visit the now-largely empty internment camps that China calls reeducation centres and meet with figures imprisoned over calls for greater religious,

political and cultural freedoms, such as Ilham Tohti, an economist and winner of the Sakharov Prize. China has also been accused of using forced labour, coercive birth control and separating children from their incarcerated parents, and monitoring group The Dui Hua Foundation says fasting for Ramadan or selling Islamic books has also been targeted.

Iran vows revenge over killing of Guard member in Tehran

Dubai: Iran's hard-line president vowed revenge on Monday over killing of a senior Revolutionary Guard member gunned down in heart of Tehran day before, a still-mysterious attack on country's powerful paramilitary force.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi hailed Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodaei as a martyr and blamed "the hand of global arrogance," a reference to United States and its allies, including Israel, for his slaying. There has been no claim of responsibility for killing, carried out on Sunday afternoon by two unidentified gunmen

on a motorbike. They shot Khodaei five times in a car, an unarmored budget SAIPA Pride - among the cheapest, most-common Iranian vehicles.

But style of brazen attack bore hallmarks of previous slayings in Iran blamed on Israel, such as those targeting country's nuclear scientists. "I have no doubt that revenge against criminals for blood of this martyr is assured," Raisi said before leaving Tehran for a state visit to sultanate of Oman, a strategic Gulf Arab state that traditionally mediates between Tehran and West.

UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Regd. Office : Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana-122001.
CIN : L17100HR1983PLC033460 Website: www.uililtd.com, Email id: investorrelations@uililtd.com, Phone: 011-49075251
Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter & Year Ended 31st March, 2022
(Rs. in lac, except per Share data)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
		31.03.2022 [Audited]	31.12.2021 [Unaudited]	31.03.2021 [Audited]	31.03.2022 [Audited]	31.03.2021 [Audited]
(Refer Notes Below)						
1	Total Income from Operations	223.21	176.16	120.16	525.32	314.13
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	24.30	45.56	55.11	67.05	52.96
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	24.30	45.56	14.02	67.05	11.87
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	13.84	45.56	14.02	56.59	11.87
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-
6	Paid-up equity share capital	300.00	300	300.00	300.00	300.00
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)					
	a) Basic	0.46	1.52	0.47	1.89	0.40
	b) Diluted	0.46	1.52	0.47	1.89	0.40

Notes :
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.uililtd.com
2 The figures for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2022 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the year to date figure up to nine months of the respective financial year.
3 Figures of the above Previous periods have been regrouped/reclassified/ restated wherever necessary.

For United Leasing & Industries Limited
Anil Kumar Khanna
[Managing Director]
DIN : 00207839
Date : May 23, 2022
Place : Gurugram [Haryana]

Expectation of rate hike in next policy 'no-brainer': RBI

New Delhi: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday hinted at another interest rate hike in early June to bring down stubbornly high inflation rate which has remained above the tolerance level for the past four months.

"Expectation of rate hike, it's a no-brainer. There will be some hike but how much I will not be able to tell now... To say that 5.15 (per cent) may not be very accurate," Das said in an interview with CNBC-TV18.

The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled for June 6-8.

RBI, in its first rate move in two years and its first hike in nearly four years, raised the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40 per cent following an off-cycle meeting earlier this month.

In April RBI raised its inflation forecast for the current fiscal year to 5.7 per cent from earlier estimate of 4.5 per cent and lowered its GDP estimate to 7.2 per cent from 7.8 per cent for 2022-23, citing the impact of escalating geopolitical tensions triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war.

Das further said the RBI and government has entered into another phase of coordinated action to cool down inflation.



RBI has taken a number of steps to moderate inflation in the last 2-3 months, he said, adding that the government on other hand has taken measures, including wheat export ban and cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel. All these put together will have sobering impact on price rise, he added.

Retail inflation has been above RBI's upper tolerance level for the past four months. The government has mandated MPC headed by the RBI Governor to keep the retail inflation between 2 to 6 per cent. As per the latest print, the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

inflation increased to 7.79 per cent against 6.95 per cent in the previous month and 4.21 per cent in April 2021.

"Interest rates in almost every country today are negative, except Russia and Brazil. The target for inflation for advanced economies is about 2 per cent. Except for Japan and one more country, all advanced economies have inflation of over 7 per cent," he said. "We will move towards positive real rates, but it is impossible to forecast how soon because of the evolving situation," said the governor. **PTI**

India, Brazil agree to further strengthen ties in agri, allied sectors

New Delhi: India and Brazil have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in agriculture and allied farm sectors.

Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala met his Brazilian counterpart Marcos Cordeiro during a five-day visit that concluded on May 20.

"Rupala held very fruitful discussions with his Brazilian counterpart and both ministers agreed to further strengthen the mutually beneficial ties," an official statement said.

Rupala also held meetings with Presidents of the Brazilian Association of Zebu Breeders (ABCZ), Mayor of Uberaba, Brazilian Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock (CNA), and Brazilian Cooperatives Organization (OCB) and discussed ways to increase cooperation in the dairy sector through Research and development (R&D), genetic improvement, and trade and investment.

In January 2020, Brazil for the first time in its history had signed 15 memorandum of understandings (MoU) and agreements with India and decided to widen cooperation in various areas including animal husbandry and dairying,

oil and natural gas, bio-energy, ethanol, trade and investment, and many more.

A Joint Declaration of Technical Cooperation between the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Brazilian Zebu Breeders Association (ABCZ) was also signed in 2020.

During the visit, Rupala also visited the Embrapa Cattle Dairy (Embrapa Gado de Leite) research center in Juiz de Fora and stressed on the early finalization and implementation of a work plan under the MoU signed in 2016.

Training of Indian professionals in Brazil in IVF technology and identification of Brazilian companies to take up IVF embryo production in India are the key activities being identified under the work plan. **PTI**



Markets pare gains to end flat in volatile trade; Sensex slips 38 pts



Mumbai: In a highly choppy session, equity benchmarks pared early gains to settle on a flat note on Monday, with the Sensex falling 38 points amid a heavy sell-off in metal stocks.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex encountered volatility during the day and settled 37.78 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 54,288.61. During the day, it hit a high of 54,931.30 and a low of 54,191.55.

The broader NSE Nifty declined 51.45 points or 0.32 per cent to end at 16,214.70. From the Sensex firms, Tata Steel tumbled the most by

12.53 per cent, followed by UltraTech Cement, TTC, Power Grid, HDFC, HDFC Bank, HCL Technologies and Reliance Industries.

In contrast, M&M, Maruti, Hindustan Unilever, Larsen & Toubro, Asian Paints and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the gainers.

"Nifty once again gave up the intra day gains and ended in the negative. Metals stocks sold off post the levy of export duties over the weekend on iron ore and some steel intermediates," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Meanwhile, Asian markets in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended higher, while Hong Kong settled lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly higher in the afternoon session. Stock markets in the US had ended on a mixed note on Friday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude gained 1.15 per cent to USD 113.8 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth Rs 1,265.41 crore on Friday, as per stock exchange data. **PTI**

Gold jumps ₹170; silver rallies ₹458

New Delhi: Gold jumped ₹170 to ₹50,926 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday in line with firm global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal finished at ₹50,756 per 10 gram. Silver also rallied ₹458 to ₹61,792 per kg from ₹61,334 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,857 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 21.99 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded higher with spot prices at COMEX trading 0.56 per cent up at USD 1,857 per ounce on Monday. Gold prices traded higher extending weekly gains supported by weaker dollar," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities. **PTI**

Steel products' prices should fall by 10% for primary producers: EEPC

Kolkata: In the wake of rising input costs, especially primary steel, the government's decision to remove import duty on raw materials for the metal production would lower costs for domestic steelmakers and reduce prices by around 10 per cent, an Engineering Export Promotion Council official said on Monday.

The move would help engineering goods manufacturers and exporters become more competitive in the global markets, EEPC India chairman Mahesh Desai said.

He also said, "imposition of export duty on iron ores and a host of steel intermediaries would increase the domestic availability of the key industry inputs".

The government levied an export duty of 15 per cent on almost all the major steel products, including stainless steel.

In order to reduce the overall cost of domestic production of steel products, the Centre slashed import duty on coking coal and anthracite from 2.5 per cent to zero. Meanwhile, import duties



for coke or semi-coke and ferromanganese were lowered too, from 5 per cent to zero and 2.5 per cent to zero, respectively.

"Downstream exporters feel primary steel products prices will fall by 10 per cent for primary producers and 15 per cent for secondary steel producers," Desai said in his reaction.

He said that a reduction in fuel prices would ease logistics costs which have been hurting the sector. **PTI**

"All the steps together would not only help the industry beat the surging input costs but also improve liquidity. We welcome the government decision and greatly appreciate the timely response," he said.

Rising inflation has emerged as a major headache for policymakers across the world, he said, adding that the persistently elevated price poses a serious "risk to demand and growth". **PTI**

Maruti Suzuki to acquire AI firm Sociograph Solutions

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Monday said it will acquire an equity stake of 12.09 per cent in Sociograph Solutions Pvt Ltd (SSPL) for about Rs 2 crore.

SSPL is an artificial intelligence (AI) software company that specialises in visual AI platform predominantly used to help enterprises improve sales experiences and improve efficiency in their business.

"The investment would help MSI strengthen its offering to customers by creating a customised sales experiences on the web, virtual reality and augmented reality," the auto major said in a regulatory filing. **PTI**



Crude oil futures gain on spot demand



New Delhi: Crude oil prices on Monday rose by ₹43 to ₹8,661 per barrel as participants widened positions on a firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for June delivery traded higher by ₹43 or 0.5 per cent at ₹8,661 per barrel in 7,787 lots.

Analysts said the raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade.

Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was down by 0.92 per cent at USD 111.30 per barrel, while Brent crude traded 1.09 per cent lower at USD 113.78 per barrel in New York. **PTI**

Sintex Industries Q4 net loss at ₹119 cr

New Delhi: Textiles maker Sintex Industries Ltd on Monday reported narrowing of consolidated net loss to ₹119.30 crore for fourth quarter ended March 2022.

The company had incurred a net loss of ₹144.05 crore during January-March period a year ago, Sintex Industries said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations was up at ₹1,028.49 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹721.62 crore in the corresponding period of previous fiscal year.

Total expenses were at ₹1,189.41 crore as against ₹894.06 crore. For the fiscal year ended March 2022, it reported a net profit of ₹573.82 crore as compared to ₹1,306.41 crore profit in 2020-21. **PTI**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

RAIN GAMES LAUNCHES GAME MAGIC T23
New Delhi: India's first hack-proof real money gaming start-up for professional gamers, Rain Games, today unveiled Magic T23. India's first innovative, real money card game. A new genre of card game, it involves tactical decision making & quick thinking and is ideal for even a family to play together. Magic T23 is also India's most transparent game with features like replay, fair play, instant withdrawal & fastest KYC.

EXCON-22: PRODUCTS EXCLUSIVELY DESIGNED FOR INDIA
New Delhi: Sany, one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers of construction machinery, is all set to unveil at mega trade fair EXCON its state-of-the-art products exclusively designed for the application in India, while keeping Indian customer requirements in mind. We were eagerly waiting for this event to unfold since last two years, said Deepak Garg, MD of Sany South Asia. He added Sany has worked with different engine manufacturers on biodiesel.

Rupee recovers from record lows to end 15 paise higher at 77.55/USD

Mumbai: Rupee recovered from record lows and settled 15 paise higher at 77.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, supported by a weak greenback overseas.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 77.69 against the US dollar. It moved in a range of 77.51 to 77.69 during the session.

The rupee finally snapped its three-session losing streak and closed at 77.55, registering a rise of 15 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee had settled at a record low of 77.70 against the American currency. According Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion



Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, rupee continued to consolidate and volatility remained confined to a narrow range despite chopiness in domestic equities.

"Today volatility for the dollar could remain low as no major economic data is expected to be released from the US.

We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 77.20 and 77.80," Somaiya added.

However, unabated foreign fund outflows and firm crude oil prices weighed on the rupee and kept the appreciation bias capped.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 1 per cent lower at 102.12.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 37.78 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 54,288.61, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 51.45 points or 0.32 per cent to 16,214.70. **PTI**

Non-payment of TDS not a ground for initiation of insolvency process: NCLAT

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has held that dues on account of non-payment of TDS can not be a ground to initiate insolvency proceedings against any company. Setting aside an order of the Kolkata bench of NCLT, the appellate tribunal said "the process of Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) cannot be utilised" for recovery of TDS dues by an operational creditor of the company.

"The consequences of non-payment of TDS are provided under Income Tax Act, 1961, and income tax authorities have ample powers to take appropriate action," said the NCLAT bench headed by Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan.

The bench said the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has committed a "serious error" while directing to initiate insolvency proceedings over a section 9 application filed by an operational creditor under the IBC after admitting that non-payment of the TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) amounts as default.

"We are of the view that it is not for us to consider whether TDS amount has been paid or not... We, thus, are of the view that the Adjudicating Authority (NCLT) has committed a serious error in admitting the Section 9 Application on the ground of non-payment of two TDS amounts," the NCLAT said. **PTI**

'Economic growth may have slowed to 3.5% in Q4 FY22'

Mumbai: The economic growth may have slowed to 3.5 per cent in fourth quarter of 2021-22 from 5.4 per cent in the previous three-month period due to the impact of higher commodity prices on margins, decline in wheat yields and on higher base, ICrA Ratings said on Monday.

The agency said the hiccups in the recovery of the contact-intensive services attributable to the third wave of Covid-19 in the country may have also affected the economic growth in the quarter.

Even the gross value added (GVA) at basic prices (at constant 2011-12 prices) in Q4 FY2022 seems to have eased to 2.7 per cent from 4.7 per cent

in Q3 FY2022, it said.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) will release the fourth quarter numbers of fiscal 2022 on May 31.

ICra's Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said Q4 was a challenging quarter, with the Omicron-fuelled third wave of Covid-19 arresting the momentum in contact-intensive services, and a pervasive pressure on margins from higher commodity prices.

Moreover, the heatwave adversely affected wheat output in March 2022.

"We are apprehensive that both agriculture and industry will post a sub-1 per cent GVA growth in Q4 FY2022, whereas services growth will print at

around 5.4 per cent," Nayar said.

The agency further said that the recent cut in excise duties on petrol and diesel will help boost sentiments and improve consumers' disposable incomes, while simultaneously cooling the CPI inflation.

Last week, the government had cut excise duty on petrol by a record Rs 8 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 6 per litre to give relief to consumers battering under high fuel prices that has also pushed inflation to a multi-year high.

Retail inflation, as measured by consumer price-based inflation (CPI), accelerated to an eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April. **PTI**

Prolonged high temperatures could worsen inflation, hurt growth: Moody's

New Delhi: Prolonged high temperatures are credit negative for India, as that could exacerbate inflation and hurt growth, Moody's Investors Service said on Monday.

Over the longer term, India's highly negative credit exposure to physical climate risks means its economic growth will likely become more volatile as it faces increasing, and more extreme incidences of climate-related shocks, it noted. The rating agency said although heat waves are fairly common in India, they usually occur in May and June.

However, this year New Delhi witnessed the fifth heatwave in May with the maximum temperature touching 49 degrees Celsius.

"The prolonged high temperatures, which are affecting much of the northwest of the country, will curb wheat production and could lead to extended power outages, exacerbating already high inflation and hurting growth, a credit negative," Moody's said.

The Indian government has revised down its estimates for wheat production by 5.4 per cent to 105 million tonnes for

the crop year ending June 2022, given lower yields amid higher temperatures.

"The lower production, and fears that a surge in exports to capitalise on high global wheat prices would add to inflationary pressures domestically, has prompted the government to ban the export of wheat and to divert it toward local consumption instead.

"Although the move will partially offset inflationary pressures, it will hurt exports and subsequently growth. The ban comes at a time when India - the world's second-largest

wheat producer - could have been capitalising on the global output gap from wheat following the Russia-Ukraine military conflict," Moody's said.

Global wheat prices have jumped 47 per cent since the conflict began in late February.

The agency said India's export partners will likely face a further surge in wheat prices because of the ban. They include Bangladesh, which absorbed 56.8 per cent of India's wheat exports in fiscal 2021, Sri Lanka (8.3 per cent), UAE (6.5 per cent) and Indonesia (5.4 per cent). **PTI**

P-Notes investment rises to ₹90,580 cr in April

New Delhi: Investments in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes (P-notes) increased slightly to Rs 90,580 crore at the end of April, as foreign investors are shifting allocation from China to India amid a significant economic slowdown in the most populated country.

P-notes are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

According to Securities

and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets -- equity, debt, and hybrid securities -- stood at Rs 90,580 crore at April-end, compared to Rs 87,979 crore in March.

In February, the investment reached Rs 89,143 crore against Rs 87,989 crore in January.

Sonam Srivastava, the founder of Sebi-registered investment advisor Wright Research, said the investment via P-notes rose last month from March, as FPI were net sellers in Indian markets in April with a negative flow in both equity and debt segments.

"The rationale for this slight increase could be that foreign institutional investors are shifting allocation from China to India given the significant economic slowdown in China, or that the IPOs which came out in April pulled in foreign investors. So, there is a tiny up move from March numbers but seeing strategic foreign hedge funds take positions in India is exciting," she added.

Manoj Trivedi, co-founder, Jama Wealth, Sebi-registered investment advisor, said these are legitimate instruments. They can be potentially used for money laundering purposes. When Indian markets are

buoyant, there has been an effort to bring P-Notes within regulatory jurisdiction, but controls have been lifted when capital inflows have been plummeting.

"Given that FPIs have been net sellers in the market for some time, there seems to be an uptick in investments through P-notes.

It probably points to overseas investors continue to look at India as an attractive investment destination, but just want to ensure that they do not get stuck with regulatory compliance in case there is a need to make a quick exit," Srivastava said. **PTI**

The first half (of the tournament) I was playing some of the best cricket I've ever played, and I'm still taking lots of confidence from that going into the play-offs

— JOS BUTTLER

GT take on Royals for place in final

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Equipped with a lethal bowling attack and boasting a number of quality finishers, debutants Gujarat Titans will start as favourites against spin-heavy former champions Rajasthan Royals when the two teams face-off in the first IPL Qualifier, here on Tuesday.

Captaining a team in the IPL for the first time ever, a fit-again Hardik Pandya has been a revelation this season as he led from the front with both bat and ball to ensure a top finish for his team in the league stage.

Apart from firing at number 4, Pandya has used his resources well, be it the death bowling of wily Rashid Khan or making his batting exploits count to go alongside the fiery duo of David Miller and Rahul Tewatia. Every little thing has fallen in place.

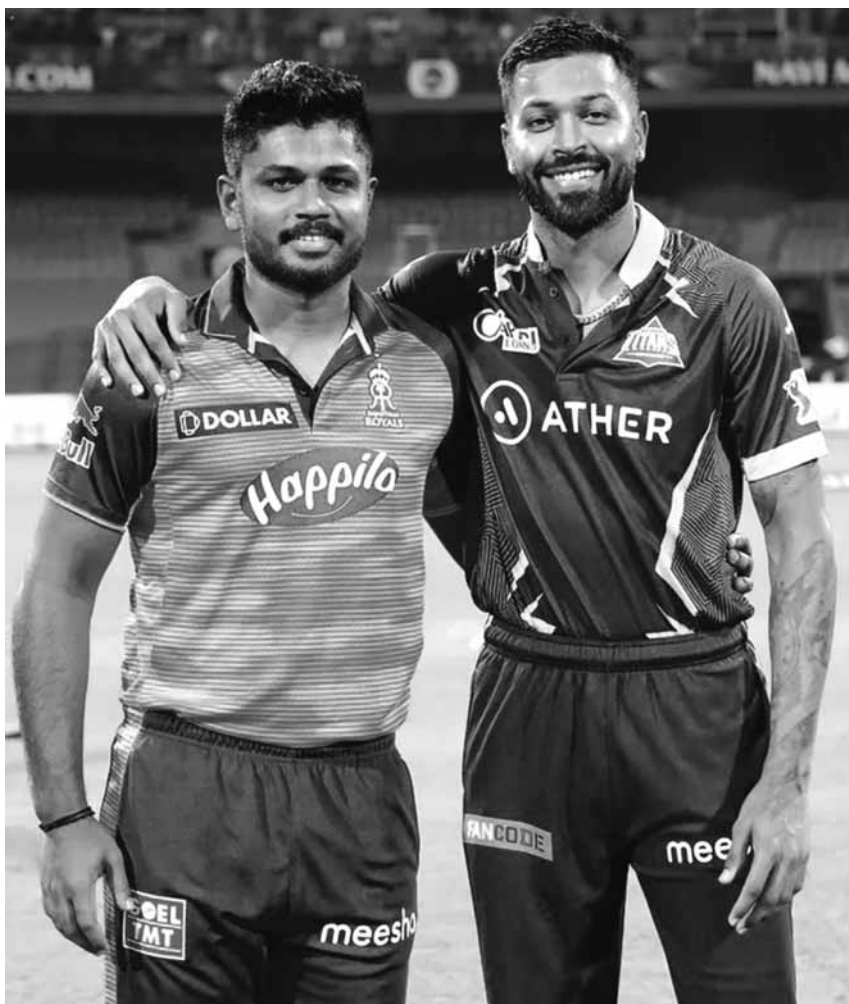
Their weak link was their top-order batting with highly-rated Shubman Gill failing to convert his starts but the addition of veteran Wriddhiman Saha has done wonders for the team.

The discarded India wicket-keeper-batter is batting with a newfound passion at the top of the order and has scored three half-centuries in nine matches to make up for Gill's lacklustre run.

While the Afghan leg-spinner has been outstanding in the middle and death overs, India senior pacer Mohammed Shami has given them perfect starts, by being the highest wicket-taker (11 wickets) in the powerplay this season.

Saha, who has been making headlines since he was axed for Team India, will look to make a point as he along with Bengal teammate Shami play in front of their home crowd again.

The fact that the playoffs will be



Titans vs Royals
Live from 7:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

played on fresh tracks would put the seamers in focus and Pandya may look to bring in Alzarri Joseph to go alongside Lockie Ferguson and Shami.

The Titans had defeated the same opponents by 37 runs in the league stage but the inaugural edition champions have a spin-heavy attack to go with rich experience and they might prove to a tricky customer.

The Titans also have looked vulnerable as they suffered three defeats in last five matches, including an eight-wicket thrashing by Royal Challengers Bangalore in their previous outing, which would mean that the Pandya-led side has to step up.

Three of Titan's four defeats, and four of Royals' five losses have come while setting up a target as the toss would also be a key area of concern.

The Sanju Samson-led outfit boast of both the Orange and Purple Cap holders this season -- Jos Buttler and Yuzvendra Chahal.

They also have the experience of Ravichandran Ashwin whose versatility has come to the fore especially in the second-half of the season. Ashwin's batting has also made a huge difference.

Batting at number 5 ahead of their regular batters Shimron Hetmyer and Rryan Parag against Chennai Super Kings the other day, Ashwin smashed an unbeaten 23-ball 40 to script a five-wicket win that also sealed their top-two finish.

But for them to repeat their 2008-IPL winning show, the Royals would not just need an Ashwin but the top-order to fire.

IPL Playoffs: Super Over could determine winner in case of disruptions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Super Over could decide IPL 15's champions should rain gods play spoilsport and no play is possible in regulation time.

If not even an over a side is possible, the league standing will take precedence and will decide the winner, according to an IPL briefing note.

This will also apply to the Qualifier 1, Eliminator, Qualifier 2, which do not have reserve days.

May 30 has been kept aside as a reserve day for the summit clash, which will begin at 8pm.

With the IPL moving to Kolkata for the playoffs and inclement weather forecast for the city, the IPL has issued certain guidelines in case of rain-interrupted games.

While Gujarat Titans take on Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 1 on Tuesday, Lucknow Super Giants will play Royal Challengers Bangalore at the same venue the next day in the Eliminator.

The second Qualifier and the final are slated to be played in Ahmedabad on Friday and Sunday respectively.

"The number of overs in the playoff match may, if necessary, be

reduced so that each side has the opportunity to bat for five overs," the IPL guidelines read.

"For the Eliminator and each Qualifier playoff matches, in the event that it is not possible to schedule a five-over match to complete by the end of the extra time on the original day, the teams will, if conditions permit, play a Super Over to determine the winner of the relevant Eliminator or Qualifier match."

If the Super Over is not possible "the team that finished highest in the league table after the 70 matches of the regular season shall be declared the winner of the relevant playoff match or final," it added.

In case of the two Qualifiers and the Eliminator, if one innings is complete but no

Play is possible in the second, the DLS method will come into play.

If the final starts on May 29 that is at least one ball is bowled then the "match will resume at the point where it stopped on the previous day. For the avoidance of doubt, any match recalculations done without the match actually restarting on the previous night will be ignored."

to be back among runs.

Their batting too has slumped with Samson and Hetmyer's loss of form and they would look to get into the act ahead of the big match.

The fact that the loser of the Qualifier One will get a second shot at making the final will give both the teams some breathing space.

Disappointed with last few games: Jos Buttler

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Star Rajasthan Royals batter Jos Buttler is "disappointed" with his form in the last few games but said he is taking a lot of confidence from the big knocks that he had played early in the tournament going into the IPL play-offs.

The English wicketkeeper-batter has accumulated 629 runs at a strike rate of 147, including three hundreds and three fifties, this season but has slowed down in the business end of the tournament with single digit scores -- 2, 2, 7 -- in his last-three outings.

"I've obviously been delighted with my form in the IPL, but a bit disappointed with the last few games," said the 31-year-old Buttler ahead of RR's first qualifier against Gujarat Titans at the Edens Gardens on Tuesday.

"The first half (of the tournament) I was playing some of the best cricket I've ever played, and I'm still taking lots of confidence from that going into the play-offs."

RR finished second in the points table behind new entrants Gujarat Titans.

Retiring out is risky but can give competitive advantage: Ashwin

Experienced spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who has impressed both with ball and bat this season, feels certain decisions like retiring out can provide a competitive edge to the teams if done properly.

"It's important to understand how it (a decision) is going to give us an edge in important moments. I think (retiring out) is part of the future of the game in T20 cricket, and I believe it's there to stay," said Ashwin, RR's most economical bowler this season.

"People are going to perceive it as risky because once you retire a batter out and things don't go your way you might have to explain that. But if it's executed well, then it can give you a competitive advantage." Ashwin has scored 183 runs and picked up 11 wickets at an economy of 7.14 this season.

WARNE HAS BEEN WATCHING ME FROM ABOVE: CHAHAL

Yuzvendra Chahal credited his success to the closely knit group and said playing for RR

I kept learning as a batter & captain: Sanju Samson

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Leading the franchise for a second full season, skipper Sanju Samson said he has never stopped learning and communication has been one of the key components of his captaincy. "I think I've actually developed and kept on learning as a batter and also as a captain. I'm really enjoying the responsibility of leading this team, especially with so many experienced players in our side."

"I think when you lead a side, it's very important to have that kind of perspective where you allow people to

come and talk to you in pressure situations and allow them to express their ideas," said Samson.

"I do receive a lot of information, a lot of suggestions... So, I'm really enjoying the unity and the willingness of everyone to contribute to the team, and I think it's very important to listen to everyone. But I also know that the final call has to be from my side, and I have to take the ownership of each and every decision made by the team."

has also been special because of the late Shane Warne, who had led the team in the inaugural season.

"I know it's just the first season here (at Royals) for me, but it feels like I've been playing here for many years. I'm really relaxed here mentally, and I believe the credit goes to the people here, who take really good care of me... It has really made me connect with the franchise at a different level," said the Purple Cap holder.

"On the other hand, it's also special for me because Warne played for RR and I think his blessings are with me. I feel like he's been watching me from above."

Warne has been watching me from above: Chahal

VASTRAKAR SHINES IN SUPERNOVAS 49-RUN WIN

PTI ■ PUNE

Pooja Vastrakar picked up four wickets for just 12 runs in a brilliant pace-bowling display as Supernovas notched up an easy 49-run win over Trailblazers in a record-breaking opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge here on Monday.

The 22-year-old Vastrakar claimed the wickets of Trailblazers' captain Smriti Mandhana (34), her opening partner Hayley Matthews (18), No 4 Sophia Dunkley (1) and Salma Khatun (0) in two separate spells to tear apart the batting line-up of the defending champions.

England left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone and Australia all-rounder Alana King chipped in with two wickets apiece as Trailblazers could only score 114 for 9 in 20 overs while chasing 164.

The Supernovas had earlier scored the tournament's highest-ever score of 163 all out after opting to bat.

Trailblazers made a strong start to their chase with Mandhana and Matthews putting on 39 runs for the opening wicket in five overs.

But Vastrakar struck triple blows on



Trailblazers to leave the defending champions in deep trouble.

She first had the wicket of Matthews off the last ball of the fifth over and then dismissed skipper Mandhana and Dunkley in the space of four balls in the eighth over.

Wickets kept on tumbling in quick succession as Sharmim Akhter (0) was out in the next over for a duck to be King's first victim of the day.

Runs were hard to come by for Trailblazers as they reached 71 for 4 at the halfway mark. But two quick wickets in

the 11th over bowled by Ecclestone virtually ended the contest.

Ecclestone had Richa Gosh (2) off the second ball of the over and Arundhati Reddy (0) was run out in the next delivery as Trailblazers batters looked in a hurry to return to the hut.

Harmanpreet Kaur brought Vastrakar for her second spell and the pacewoman got immediate success by having Khatun to reduce Trailblazers to 73 for 7 at the end of 12 overs.

Asking rate had climbed more than 11 runs an over by then and one-down Jemimah Rodrigues (24) tried to make a match out of it but she also fell in the 14th over to Meghna Singh to extinguish any hopes of Trailblazers' fight back.

Earlier, Supernovas captain Kaur top-scored with 37 off 29 balls while Harleen Deol and Deandra Dottin chipped in with 35 and 32 respectively.

They, however, lost five wickets in the last two overs for just eight runs, including that of Kaur, in a dramatic collapse.

Matthews was the pick of the Trailblazers bowlers with figures of 3 for 29 while Salma Khatun took two for 30 runs.

County stint will keep me in good stead: Pujara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Back in national team for the Edgbaston Test after scoring a bagful of runs in County cricket, Cheteshwar Pujara said his stint for Surrey will hold him in good stead when India takes on England in the one-off red ball fixture in July.

The 34-year-old Pujara scored 720 runs, including two double hundreds and two centuries, in five Division two games for Sussex, which forced the selection committee to give him a call-up for the rescheduled 'fifth' Test of the last series.

"I am glad to have been selected for the England Test, and happy that my recent county performances were recognized," Pujara told PTI.

"Having spent some time in the middle during the county games, I do believe



it will keep me in good stead as we get ready for the game against England.

"As always, looking forward to preparing and training well ahead of the tour, and do hope to continue contributing to the Indian team," he added.

The fifth Test, which was postponed last year due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the Indian camp, is scheduled from July 1 to 5 in Birmingham.

Going through a poor run of form, Pujara had been left out of India's home Test series against Sri Lanka earlier this year but he made a return to the squad after producing a scintillating performance for Surrey.

Pujara amassed an unbeaten 201 against Derbyshire, before scoring 109 against Worcestershire. He also smashed 203 and 170 not out against Durham and Middlesex. Playing for Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy, Pujara had also hit 91 against Mumbai and 64 not out against Goa. Pujara has scored 6713 runs at 43.87 in 95 Tests for India.

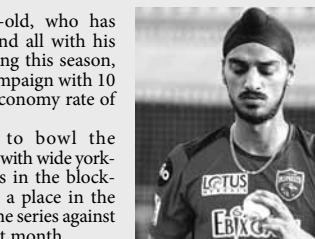
Arshdeep delighted to represent India

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Delighted to earn a maiden national call-up, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh said bowling to the big-hitting Punjab Kings batters in the nets helped him perfect his yorkers.

The 23-year-old, who has impressed one and all with his death over bowling this season, ended his IPL campaign with 10 wickets and an economy rate of 7.70.

His ability to bowl the change-ups along with wide yorkers and deliveries in the block-hole earned him a place in the squad for the home series against South Africa next month.



Arshdeep got to know the good news on his way to Punjab's last league stage match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday.

"I got to know just before the match, in the bus that I have got selected in the Indian team. Because the match was going on I didn't feel much," Arshdeep told teammate Harpreet Brar after Punjab Kings' five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.



Usman dropped for WI ODIs

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has dropped leg-spinner Usman Qadir and hard-hitting batters Asif Ali and Haider Ali for next month's limited-overs international series against the West Indies.

"Usman, Asif and Haider remain in our plans for the shortest format as we have a series of T20s lined up this year, including the T20 World Cup," chief selector Mohammad Wasim said in a statement on Monday.

Wasim said the return of vice-captain Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz from injuries resulted in Usman's absence for the ODI series. Both players missed Pakistan's last ODI series at home against Australia.

Rawalpindi will host the three one-day games, which are part of the Cricket World Cup League, on June 8, 10 and 12.

OSAKA OUT AT FRENCH OPEN

AP ■ PARIS

Former world number one Naomi Osaka lost in the first round of the French Open on Monday, 12 months after controversially quitting the tournament, while women's title favourite Iga Swiatek stretched her winning streak to 29 matches.

Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion, was knocked out 7-5, 6-4 by American 27th seed Amanda Anisimova -- the same player who ended the Japanese star's title defence at the Australian Open this year.

An error-plagued Osaka served up eight double faults and committed 29 unforced errors on her return to Roland Garros, after withdrawing in 2021 when she refused to honour mandatory media commitments before revealing she had been suffering from depression.

"It's tough to see Naomi Osaka in the first round so I knew it wouldn't be easy," said Anisimova, who reached the semi-finals in Paris three years ago.

"I knew I had to play my best tennis and the conditions were not easy."

As rain fell on the outside courts, Swiatek required just 54 minutes to dispatch Ukrainian qualifier Lesia Tsurenko 6-2, 6-0 under the roof on Court Philippe Chatrier.

The 20-year-old Swiatek, who took over as world number one following Ashleigh Barty's shock retirement, has won her last five tournaments and is bidding for a second French Open in three attempts.

"Today was a pretty good match," said Swiatek. "I love playing here even though the last couple of days it's been raining and pretty dark."

The 2020 champion will play Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska or American Alison Riske for a spot in the last 32.



Swiatek is unbeaten since February and has the longest winning streak on the WTA tour since Serena Williams won 34 matches in a row in 2013.

"I'm pretty sure that it can end, but I just want to keep going. I'm sure someday my streak will stop."

"I'm just focusing on tennis and playing my game, not on stats or some numbers."

DJOKOVIC, NADAL READY TO ROLL

Defending champion Novak Djokovic and 13-time French Open winner Rafael Nadal start their Roland Garros campaigns

later on a star-studded Monday.

Djokovic plays Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan in the first of 10 night sessions -- introduced at Roland Garros last year when a pandemic curfew saw most late matches played in front of empty stands.

It is the world number one's first Grand Slam match since his high-profile deportation from Australia. He won his first title of the year at the Italian Open earlier this month.

"I feel I am always in that contention to fight for any Grand Slam trophy," said Djokovic, who is seeded to meet Nadal in the quarter-finals and Spanish teenage sen-

sation Carlos Alcaraz in the last four.

Djokovic's last match at a major was his loss to Daniil Medvedev in last year's US Open final, a defeat which denied the Serb a calendar Grand Slam.

Nadal has yet to win a title on his beloved clay this season, but played down concerns over the chronic foot issue that resurfaced in Rome.

"There is nothing to recover," said Nadal, who faces Australia's Jordan Thompson. "What happened in Rome is something that happened very often in my practices. I was suffering after that for a couple of days, but I feel better. That's why

I'm here." Nadal began the year with a 20-match winning run, capturing a second Australian Open title to claim a record 21st Grand Slam and move ahead of Djokovic and Roger Federer.

The 35-year-old's record at the French Open stands at a staggering 105 wins and just three losses since his 2005 title-winning debut. Djokovic has been responsible for two of those defeats. One came in the bruising semi-final 12 months ago, the most recent clash of the pair's epic 58-match rivalry.

Reigning women's champion Barbora Krejckova will play France's Diane Parry

Naomi may skip Wimbledon over ranking points row

AP ■ PARIS

Former world number one Naomi Osaka on Monday said she may skip Wimbledon over the decision to strip the Grand Slam tournament of ranking points.

"I would say the decision is kind of affecting my mentality going into grass, like I'm not 100% sure if I'm going to go there," said Osaka after her 7-5, 6-4 loss to Amanda Anisimova in the French Open first round.

"I would love to go just to get some experience on the grass court, but at the same time, I don't want to say pointless, but I'm the type of player that gets motivated by seeing my ranking go up."

"I'm the type of player who gets motivated by the idea of rising in the rankings," said the four-time major winner.

"So the intention of this measure was good, but the execution is all over the place."

The ATP and WTA tours last week removed ranking points from Wimbledon after the All England Club banned Russian and Belarusian players in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

Wimbledon chiefs branded the move by the two tours, which threatens to reduce the sport's most prestigious tennis tournament to the status of an exhibition event, as "disproportionate".

On Monday, former US Open champion Sloane Stephens said she supported the move to strip points from Wimbledon.

"I think the decision that was taken was the correct one," said the American.

"I think that there is a lot of things that happened behind the scenes that the press are not aware of, and I think there has been a lot of mishandling of how everything was handled."

in round one. The Czech world number two has been sidelined by an arm injury since late February and is yet to play on clay this year.

Liverpool confirm signing of Fabio Carvalho

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have finally completed the signing of Fulham forward Fabio Carvalho after failing in a bid to bring the 19-year-old to Anfield in January, the Premier League runners-up announced on Monday.

The Portuguese teenager, who is understood to have signed a five-year contract, will officially join the Anfield club on July 1.

Carvalho, out of contract at the end of June, was set for a move four months ago on deadline day when a £5-million deal was agreed with the Championship winners but the transfer window closed without a medical and formal paperwork being concluded.

Liverpool have reportedly agreed to pay extra in add-ons and attach a 20% sell-on clause.

Carvalho played a key role in Fulham's promotion back to

the Premier League, scoring 10 goals and providing eight assists in 36 games as Marco Silva's side won the Championship title.

He made his debut for Portugal's U21s in March, having previously represented England at youth level.

Carvalho's arrival will add another fresh face to Liverpool's dynamic forward line, already

boosted by the arrival of Luis Diaz in January.



India concede late goal to draw-1-1 with Pak



PTI ■ JAKARTA

Defending champions India conceded a late goal to allow arch-rivals Pakistan walk away with a 1-1 draw in their opening Pool A match of the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament, here on Monday.

India took the lead in the ninth minute through Karthi Selvam before Abdul Rana broke their neighbours' heart by equalising in the 59th from a penalty corner. India will next play

Japan on Tuesday. Pakistan had the first scoring chance in the third minute in the form of a penalty corner, but they failed to stop the ball properly as India survived.

Seconds later, it was India's turn to secure a penalty corner but Neelam Sanjiv Xess' effort was saved by the Pakistan goalie Akmal Hussain.

The Indians continued to put pressure on the Pakistan defence and secured two more penalty corners in the first quarter, the second of which was con-

verted by Karthi, who scored his first international goal after his flick went inside the Pakistan citadel after getting a deflection off the stick of defender Muhammad Abdullah.

In between Pakistan also got another penalty corner but the effort went wide.

Soon after the start of the second quarter, Pakistan goalkeeper Hussain made a fine reflex save to deny Pawan Rajbhar from point blank range.

Pakistan made a bright start after the change of ends and threatened the Indian defence early on. Second into their third quarter, Pakistan secured their third penalty corner but Rizwan Ali shot his flick wide.

A lapse in concentration cost India dearly as a long ball caught, an otherwise alert Indian defence, off guard in the final two minutes, resulting in a penalty corner for Pakistan.

Rana pushed in from a rebound after Mubashar Ali's flick was saved at the goal line by Yashdeep Siwach.

Ten Hag aims to smash Liverpool-City duopoly



AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United's new manager Erik ten Hag believes it is possible to end the dominance of Manchester City and Liverpool despite taking over a struggling side that finished a lowly sixth in the Premier League.

United ended up 35 points behind champions City, who pipped Liverpool to the title by a point, as the Red Devils registered their lowest-ever Premier League points tally.

City boss Pep Guardiola has now claimed four titles in five years, while Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp can complete a treble of cup trophies this season should the Reds see off Real Madrid in Saturday's Champions League final.

Guardiola and Klopp -- the managers of United's two biggest rivals -- have consistently battled it out for the major trophies, leaving the Red Devils, without silverware since 2017, as bystanders.

However, the Dutchman challenged the suggestion it would take the departure of one or both of Guardiola and Klopp for United to be able to compete again.

"In this moment I admire them both," Ten Hag said as he was unveiled at Old Trafford on Monday. "They play in this moment really fantastic football, both Liverpool and Manchester City. But you always see that an era can come to an end. I am looking forward to battle with them."

The former Ajax boss, 52, is United's fifth permanent manager since the club last won a league title in Alex Ferguson's farewell season in 2013.

Ten Hag also had a spell as Bayern Munich's reserve team manager earlier in his career and said he was used to the demands of working at a big club. "This is a project, it takes time," he said. "I know in this club -- I have the experience of Ajax and Bayern -- in the top (clubs) there is never time."

Emery's Villarreal beat listless Barca



AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona finished 13 points behind La Liga champions Real Madrid after ending their turbulent season with a whimper on Sunday by losing 2-0 at home to Villarreal.

Athletic Madrid secured third place by winning 2-1 away at Real Sociedad, retaining their one-point lead over Sevilla, who won 1-0 at home to Athletic Bilbao.

Athletic's defeat, combined with Villarreal's excellent victory at Camp Nou, means Villarreal beat Athletic into seventh and qualify for the Europa Conference League.

Villarreal's season was lit up by their sensational run to the semi-finals of the Champions

League but Unai Emery's team has suffered from inconsistency against the lower sides in La Liga and will be demoted to Europe's third-tier competition next term.

Athletic finish eighth while Real Sociedad held onto sixth and Europa League qualification, despite their loss at home to Athletic Madrid.

Barca already had second place and a spot in the top four wrapped up but Xavi Hernandez will be concerned heading into the summer about how his team has faded.

Defeat by Villarreal means Barcelona lost four of their last nine games in all competitions while Real Madrid won La Liga at a canter. After being appointed in November, with the team

Ansu Fati in Spain's Nations League squad

AP ■ MADRID

Teenager Ansu Fati was called up to Spain's national team again on Monday after a long injury layoff.

Spain coach Luis Enrique included the 19-year-old Barcelona forward in the list of 25 players selected for the four Nations League matches La Roja will play in June.

Fati hasn't played with Spain since a Nations League game against Ukraine in October 2020. He was marred by knee and muscle injuries and only recently returned to the Barcelona squad. He scored

lying ninth, Xavi revived the team and achieved the most important objective of qualifying for the Champions League.

But going out to Frankfurt in the Europa League semi-finals and Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey was disappointing while the drop-off during the run-in suggests there is still a lot of work to do.

Villarreal's two goals came either side of half-time as Alfonso Pedraza scored in the 41st minute after latching onto

one goal in five Spanish league appearances in May, all coming off the bench.

Also back in the national team was Real Madrid forward Marco Asensio, who last played with Spain in the team's 6-0 rout of Germany in the Nations League in November 2020.

Another teenager included again in the squad was 17-year-old Barcelona midfielder Gavi Paez. Liverpool midfielder Thiago Alcantara returned after not being in the squad since last year's Euro 2020, and Sergio Busquets was back after missing the last call-up because of an injury.

a Dani Parejo through-ball before Moi Gomez made it two in the 55th.

Athletic's victory over Real Sociedad came after Rodrigo de Paul and Angel Correa scored goals in the second half before Jon Guridi grabbed a consolation for the hosts late on.

Rafa Mir's smart finish inside the post in the 68th minute proved enough for Sevilla to overcome Athletic Bilbao at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.

'FOR LEWANDOWSKI, BAYERN IS HISTORY', SAYS HIS AGENT



AP ■ MUNICH

Robert Lewandowski's agent Ralf Furler has made it clear the Polish striker wants to leave Bayern Munich, amid reports Barcelona have made an offer.

"For Robert, things are very clear: he wants to leave FC Bayern this summer," Furler told German daily Bild.

Lewandowski has already said he wants to leave Bayern, where he has a year left on his contract, with Barcelona reportedly offering 32 million euros (\$34 million) to sign the 33-year-old.

Zahavi warned Bayern: "Of course they can keep Robert for another year, to be fair he has a contract until 2023, but I wouldn't recommend that to them."

"For Robert Lewandowski, FC Bayern is history." A back-to-back winner of FIFA's best male player award, Lewandowski has won every title available since joining Bayern in 2014, including eight Bundesliga trophies for a total of 10 having won two with ex-club Dortmund.

He also won the Champions League with Bayern in 2020.

Lewandowski was top-scorer in the Bundesliga last season after netting 35 goals in Germany's top flight.

Bayern CEO Oliver Khan and director of sports Hasan Salihamidzic have both publicly stated the club will not let Lewandowski leave before 2023.

On Sunday, Salihamidzic slammed Zahavi on a Sport1 talk show.

"He (Lewandowski) has an adviser who has been messing with his head all year," Salihamidzic fumed. Zahavi played a role in David Alaba leaving Bayern for Real Madrid on a free transfer, leading to former club president Uli Hoeness once describing the player agent as a "piranha".

NEUER EXTENDS HIS STAY

FC Bayern Munich on Monday announced that the club has extended Manuel Neuer's contract by a further year till June 30, 2024.

Germany No.1 moved to Munich from Schalke in 2011. The 36-year-old has been FCB captain since 2017. Neuer has won 10 Bundesliga titles, five DFB Cups, six DFL Supercups, two Champions Leagues, the FIFA Club World Cup and the UEFA Super Cup at FC Bayern.

He has made 472 competitive appearances for the club. The goalkeeper has 109 caps for Germany, which is a record in his position. He lifted the FIFA World Cup in Brazil in 2014, having come third in the tournament four years earlier.

CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834013, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in /respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, www.cmpdi.co.in), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal <https://gem.gov.in>"