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5G launch historic, turning point in telecom sec: PM

Technology should be used to bring about a revolution in country: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the 5G telephony services in the country at the Indian Mobile Congress here and said this technology should be used to bring about a revolution in the country and should not be limited to just voice calls or watching videos.

The PM highlighted the use of drone technology as a case in point, saying after the newly launched drone policy many farmers have learnt how to fly drones and started making use of them to spray insecticides and pesticides in the fields.

"This is not just India's decade. It is the century of India. India is among those nations where data is so affordable. Earlier, 1 GB data used to cost ₹300, now it only costs ₹10. Today an Indian, on an average, spends 14 GB data in a month. In 2014 this cost ₹4,200 per month, now it is costing somewhere between ₹125 and ₹150.

"This means that poor and middle-income people



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, Reliance Industries Ltd chairman Mukesh Ambani, and Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal during the launch of 5G services in India at the 6th India Mobile Congress, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday

are saving approximately ₹4,000 every month, it is not a small feat," said the PM in the presence of the heads of India's three telecom operators Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Jio, Sunil Mittal of Airtel and Kumar Mangalam Birla of Vodafone-Idea.

Reliance, Airtel and Vodafone Idea demonstrated one use case each in front of the PM and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to show the potential of the 5G technology in India but all the three tycoons of the Indian telecom sector later did not answer queries related to the tariff packages to be charged

for the 5G services. The cumulative economic impact of 5G on India is estimated to reach \$450 billion by 2035.

Modi said, "The summit today might be global but its repercussions and directions are local. Today is a special day for the fast-developing India of the 21st century.

"Today, 130 crore Indians are getting a wonderful gift in the form of 5G from the country and from the telecom industry of the country. 5G is a knock on the doors of a new era in the country.

"The 5G is the beginning of an infinite sky of opportunities. I congratulate every

Indian for this."

He said, "New India will not remain a mere consumer of technology, but India will play an active role in the development and implementation of that technology. India will play a big role in designing the future wireless technology, and manufacturing related to it."

He pointed out that India was dependent on other countries for 2G, 3G and 4G technologies, but with 5G, India has created a new history.

"With 5G, India is setting a global standard in telecom technology for the first time," he remarked.

In Odisha Murmu's village 1st to get 5G network

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

For over 100 students, teachers and residents at the SLS Memorial Residential School in remote Pahadpur village in Mayurbhanj district, it was a lifetime experience to be part of a live demonstrative class through the 5G network that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday.



Notably, Pahadpur is the village of President Droupadi Murmu which became first in Odisha to experience transformational

high-speed Jio 5G technology.

Jio has been the No. 1 digi-

tal service provider in Odisha with both highest numbers of subscribers as well as highest revenue market share.

Cyclonic circulation over BoB in 24 hrs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A cyclonic circulation is likely to form in the northeast and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal (BoB) during next 24 hours, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday.

At present, the cyclonic circulation over west-central BoB off the Andhra Pradesh coast

persists and extends up to 5.1 km above mean sea-level tilting southwestward with height.

As per the IMD, several parts of Odisha would experience light to moderate rainfall and thunderstorm activities in next 24 hours.

On Sunday, thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places in

the districts of Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Angul, Boudh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri.

Heavy rainfall is also very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of

Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak, Baleswar, Koraput and Malkangiri.

On Monday, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Dhenkanal.

22 killed as tractor falls into Kanpur pond

PTI ■ KANPUR

At least 22 people were killed and several critically injured when a tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond near Bhadeuna village in Kanpur district on Saturday evening.

The tractor-trolley, carrying about 50 people, was on its way to Ghatampur after the passengers attended a "mundan" ceremony at the Chandrika Devi temple in Fatehpur, the official said. He

added that more than a dozen people were killed on the spot. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

11-YEAR-OLD SODOMISED BY MINORS SUCCUMBS

New Delhi: Nearly two weeks after being sexually assaulted by three minors in Northeast Delhi, an 11-year-old boy succumbed to the injuries on Saturday.

CPM LEADER KODIYERI BALAKRISHNAN DIES

Chennai: Senior CPI(M) leader and former Kerala Home Minister Kodyeri Balakrishnan, 69, died at Apollo Hospital in Chennai on Saturday night.

₹1,476 CR DRUG SEIZED

Mumbai: DRI Mumbai recovered 198 kg high purity crystal methamphetamine (ice) and 9 kg high purity cocaine worth ₹1,476 crores after a truck carrying imported oranges was intercepted in Vashi.

Indore cleanest city, MP tops States' list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the sixth time in a row while Surat and Navi Mumbai followed it on the next two spots in the Central Government's annual cleanliness survey 2022 awards, the results of which were announced on Saturday. Among the States, Madhya Pradesh secured the first position, followed by Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

The New Delhi Municipal Council area was ranked first in the "country's cleanest small city" category, having a population between



1 lakh and 3 lakh. The NCR city of Noida has been ranked at 11th in the latest report compared to its 9th position in the 2021 survey report.

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday gave away the awards to the winners at an event here also attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and others.

Extra 5-kg rice under SFSA for 3 months

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Beneficiaries of the Odisha State Food Security Act (SFSA) will get an additional 5 kg of rice each free of cost for the next three months.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday made an announcement in this regard. The decision will benefit 9.05 lakh persons of 2.92 lakh families in the State.

The extra rice of 5 kg will be given per beneficiary for the months of October, November and December. The State Government will spend Rs 49 crore to provide 13, 575 metric tonnes of rice to the beneficiaries.

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'Knowledge is key to economic, social growth'

CM says at KIIT Convocation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

"Currently, we are living in a geo-economic world and knowledge is recognised as a key resource for achieving economic growth and social development," said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the 18th Annual Convocation of the KIIT University here on Saturday.

"In the last 25 years, KIIT has carved a niche for itself in the realm of technical and professional education in the country," he said.

In her convocation address delivered virtually, Nobel Laureate Dr Rigoberta Menchú



Tum urged the new graduates to do something for those who are less privileged than them. Guest of Honour John Desmond Forbes Anderson (Lord Waverley), Member of British Parliament, said India is an economic powerhouse and shares much in common with the UK. He advocated expanding the areas of cooperation between the two coun-

tries. The KIIT conferred Honorary Causa D.Litt. degrees upon six eminent persons from across the world. As many as 8,123 students received degrees at the convocation. KIIT founder Prof Achyuta Samanta congratulated the batch of 2022 for their outstanding performance despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

KIIT Chancellor Ashok Kumar Parija said, "KIIT-DU is contributing to the development of India by empowering its students, creating alumni that are building the nation and supporting the growth trajectory of millions of indigenous students." Medals were awarded to 71 students for their outstanding academic performances.

Durga Puja 90 police platoons to be deployed in Twin City

Organisers asked to install CCTVs at pandals

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Odisha police have made elaborate security arrangements for peaceful and smooth celebrations of the Durga Puja festival across the State. As many as 230 platoons of police force in addition to district police personnel would be deployed to maintain law and order, regulation of traffic and crowd control throughout the State during the week-long celebrations. In particular, additional security forces have been deployed in Cuttack (50 platoons), Bhubaneswar (40),

Baleswar (19), Bhadrak (13), Rourkela (11) and Sambalpur (eight) to assist district police in maintaining law and order during the festive season. ADGP (Law and Order) RK Sharma said adequate security arrangements are being made in sensitive areas to ensure hassle-free celebration of Durga Puja, Dussehra, Ravan Poda and idol immersion in the State. The SPs and the DCPs have been instructed to keep an eye on communal fanatics, anti-socials, criminals, mischief mongers, for smooth culmination of the festival. Puja organisers have been asked by the police to install CCTV cameras in the pandals from safety and security point of view, said Sharma.

HM axed for corporal punishment

PNS ■ ROURKELA

The Lathikata Block Education Officer on Saturday suspended the Headmaster of a Government Upper Primary School in Sundargarh district for alleged corporal punishment to a student.

Two students of Class-V of the Nodal Upper Primary School in Lathikata were reportedly fighting in the classroom on Thursday. After a teacher saw this, he took the

two students to the room of Headmaster Bairagi Arka, who allegedly beat them up with a bamboo cane. One of the students' hands got swollen. When he went home, his father took him to the Lathikata police station and filed a complaint. The injured boy was sent to hospital. When the BEO got information about the incident, he asked the Assistant BEO to inquire into it. Based on the probe report, the Headmaster was suspended.

Part-time BEd course in 4 varsities

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Fakir Mohan University would offer part-time BEd course for the serving teachers after the authorities have received a communication to this effect from the Government.

University PG Council Chairman Prof Munesh Adhikary said the course would be offered from the current education year and the modalities of selection would be communicated through a notification after the Puja vacation.

Notably, there was a demand for opening part-time BEd course from the serving CT-trained teachers, who are otherwise unable to take up regular BEd course.

According to the Government decision, this course would be offered in three more universities, MPC University, Rajendra University and Sambalpur University. There would be 50 seats and the candidates have to attend at least 120 classes in a year and it has to be completed within three to five years after admission.

IDCO Asst Manager's Rs 3.53-cr assets detected

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Vigilance police have detected assets of Rs 3.53 crore during the house searches of Manoj Kumar Lenka, Assistant Manager (Civil), BCD-II, office of Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) Bhubaneswar.

The assets included two multi-storied buildings in Bhubaneswar, six plots in prime areas of Bhubaneswar, Puri and Kendrapada, a market complex at Uttara, a flat in an apart-

ment in Puri, a shop at Ravi Talkies Square, bank, postal and insurance deposits worth over Rs.65.76 lakh, gold and silver ornaments over Rs 12.32 lakh, household articles worth Rs 14.60 lakh, one car and three two-wheelers. Further searches are continuing. Unearthing of more assets is likely and overall valuation is likely to increase. Notably, the anti-graft agency had conducted raids on Lenka's properties on Thursday on the allegations of possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

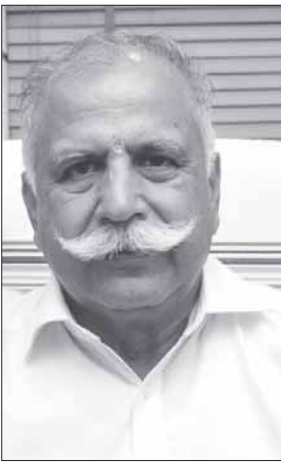
Brahma re-elected UCCI president

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 58th AGM of the Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) and elections to various posts of office-bearers and various advisory committees in the small trade and services category were held at the chamber's premises on Friday under the chairmanship of its president Brahma Mishra.

The annual report was presented and accepted by the AGM. Out of 736 members, 618 voted under the supervision of election officers.

The office-bearers were elected for next two years. Brahma Mishra was re-elected as president. Tarini Mohanty, Swapna Kumar Swain and Sanjeev Mohapatra were



elected as vice-presidents. Ashok Kumar Sharda, Giridhari Lal Sharma, Narayan Kumar and Akshaya Khandelwala were elected as secretary, joint secretary, treasurer and joint treasurer, respectively.

In Jagatsinghpur

Dowry death: Hubby, his parents get life term

KAHNU NANDA
■ JAGATSinghpur

Jagatsinghpur District Judge Anup Kumar Chandan on Saturday sentenced a man and his two parents to life term imprisonment and imposed Rs 10,000-fine on each in a dowry death case.

The convicted persons were Ganeswar Bastia and his parents Gangadhar Bastia and Sanjukta Bastia of Ninigaon under Jagatsinghpur block.

The dowry death case had occurred in Bhokanji village in 2012. One Harapriya Khatua had married Ganeswar by Hindu rituals in Dhyanakuda Pitha in Biridi block. The

bride brought dowry including cash of Rs 50,000. A few months later, the in-laws forced Harapriya to bring Rs 1 lakh from her parents. Harapriya's father Niranjan Khatua expressed his inability to meet the demand.

Harapriya's body was found hanging in her in-laws' kitchen. The in-laws claimed that she committed suicide. But her relatives lodged an FIR in the Jagatsinghpur police station that she was murdered by her in-laws.

Police arrested Ganeswar and his parents and the case progressed. Public Prosecutor Nalini Ranjan Moharana conducted the case during trial.

Odia entrepreneur Arun honoured at British Parliament Gets 'Mahatma Gandhi Samman'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

UK-based Odia entrepreneur and military veteran Arun Kar was honoured with "Mahatma Gandhi Samman" at the House of Commons, British Parliament, London, to commemorate the 153rd birth anniversary celebrations of the Father of the Nation (India). The event was attended by some senior MPs and Lords of the UK Parliament and business tycoons worldwide.

Arun is an eminent achiever who has made a place for himself in his entrepreneurial journey of innovations and is keeping the flag of India high across the globe. He has also



brought in many glories by fostering and boosting bilateral business engagements between India and the UK.

Arun Kar gave credit for all his successes to his parents Dr

Manoranjan Kar and Rashmi Rekha Kar) and wife Nidhi Kar, his business partner Chintan Panara and his company Xpertnest.

Recently, Arun Kar an-

nounced his new venture Global Odia Connect, a digital platform to unite the Odia community of professionals across the globe and bring them under one domain.

Fox, jackal, wolf populations on decline

Environmentalists demand protection of nocturnal wild animals

SUDHI MISHRA ■ BALANGIR

The death of a fox, after being injured in an accident by vehicle near the bottling plant at Sadeipali on August 28 is not an isolated case. The killings of small nocturnal animals, like fox, jackal and wolf are occurring regularly in the district, which is a cause of concern.

First the fox was rescued in injured condition from road by animal lovers and then, it

was handed over to the local forest officials, who provided treatment for 2-3 days. But the fox succumbed to its injuries.

Jackals, foxes, wolves and hyenas are a regular victim of irresponsible driving by human beings which cause accidents while these animals cross roads at night. They are also hunted in large numbers for various reasons.

Jackal and fox prefer to stay near human habitations whereas wolves and hyenas prefer to live in dense forests. The Indian grey wolf is found in Balangir and adjoining districts. Similarly, the Indian fox or Bengal fox is found locally.

"In 2014, I had seen a lone male Indian gray wolf in Lachhipur forest area in adjoining Subarnapur district,



but the species has almost vanished now," said Shymananda Naik, a wildlife photographer, expressing concern over declining population of fox, jackal, wolf and hyenas in Balangir district and its adjoining areas. He stressed on conservation of their habitat and protection, considering the vital role they play for the environment.

The major cause for declining population of these nocturnal animals are human population growth and rise in construction activities, including houses and industries in the agriculture field and nearby forest areas, destroying the habitat of many wild animals, Naik said.

The excessive use of pesticides in farm lands has also adversely affected the rodent population in the field. The foxes, jackals and wolves by eating those rodents also died. Moreover, some nomads also kill these animals for meat. The tail of fox or jackal is used in black magic and traditional medicines, causing their poaching. Often misunderstood and viewed as dangerous for humans and livestock, hyenas and wolves are poisoned in many areas. If any livestock dies due to animal attack, the villagers often give poison on the carcass and the hyenas eat that carcass as they are scavengers in nature and die, Naik added.

"Five decades ago, our area was full of forests and in the

evening or early morning, the residents used to hear howling of jackals from the open paddy fields. Now-a-days, we hardly listen such howling of jackals in evening. Rather, heavy motor vehicles sound noisy horns which disturb the animals in the wild," complained some villagers.

The Government has given lots of attention for conservation of tigers through its Project Tiger since 1973 and Project Elephant since 1992 for conservation of elephants. The projects have also yielded good results boosting up the population of the two animals. But little is done to protect and propagate the population of these small yet important wild animals, said a few local environmentalists.

Gandhi's Khadi: A nonviolent action for sustainable fashion

The country will celebrate the 153rd birth anniversary of the "Father of the Nation" on Sunday (October 2). The decision to begin the celebration of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" on March 12 last year from the Sabarmati Ashram, the place from where Gandhiji led the historic 24-day-long Dandi March in 1930, is indeed a great tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As the world goes through an unprecedented ecological crisis caused by human greed, unsustainable industrialisation and wide-ranging violence against the environment, the Gandhian principles continue to resonate as a powerful tool to save us from the peril. Taking a cue from the same, PM Modi has sent a message to the world that India's leadership is guided by Gandhian principles. Recently in the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation



BINAYA BHUSAN JENA

Organisation (SCO) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Modi echoed Gandhi by saying, "Today's era is not of war" in a bilateral talk with the Russian President Vladimir Putin. The international community today understands the relevance of Gandhi in ensuring peace, harmony and ecological balance in the world. Recognising the contributions of Gandhi, on June 15, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly

adopted a resolution that declared October 2 as "International Day of Nonviolence". The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of nonviolence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence".

Gandhiji exemplified nonviolent action through symbolic tools in fighting social, economic, political and environmental issues. Imagine his selection of Charkha (the spinning wheel) as an instrument to fight not just the colossal menace of colonialism but to bring back the self-esteem, confidence, self-reliance and sustainability among Indians at a go! Gandhi's clarion call in the 1920s to use Khadi as an instrument of nonviolent action in India's freedom struggle infused a new nonviolent blood among Indians for freedom from foreign rule. By adopting Khadi as the symbol,

he in a way laid the foundation for sustainable fashion.

Today, a similar mass action seems to be more appropriate at a global scale to fight against unsustainable fashion. Despite many promises, deliberations and declarations, the world has failed to find ways to fight climate change caused by human acts. Thirty years ago in 1992, more than 170 countries came together at the Rio Earth Summit and agreed to pursue sustainable development, protect biodiversity, prevent interference with climate systems and conserve forests. However, nothing has changed since then. Rather, the situation has gone from bad to worse. Albert Einstein once famously said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." We need a more radical approach in addressing the problems we created as its impact has become massive.

Gandhi was far ahead of his times and had a deep understanding about the ecology and the impact of human greed on the environment. His immortal words of wisdom "earth has enough to fulfill everybody's needs but not anybody's greed" justify his far-sightedness and understanding about sustainable development long before the terminology came into existence. After the Dandi March was over, he stated that the aim of the march went beyond the independence of India and embodied in its scope the much broader objective of freeing the world from the immoral greed of materialism. It was a powerful statement in itself that made Gandhi one of the greatest champions and practitioners of sustainable development. In fact, the world is gradually listening to the resonating words of Mahatma Gandhi. People across the globe

are taking measures to simplify their life and living to minimise their impact on the environment. Even though India initially followed a socialist-inspired path of economic development, it has gradually shifted and followed the West. But the country has remained more resilient because of an embedded socio-cultural-economic ecosystem that has never detached from the past. Gandhiji once warned that if India followed the Western model of development, she would require more than one planet to achieve the progress they had attained.

When we are celebrating Gandhi's 153rd birth anniversary while also celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, let us change the course of our development path that Gandhiji had advocated long back. We have got so much to give to the world today. Let us make a humble beginning with a sector

that still upholds the sustainable path for ages, the handloom sector. With more than 500 handloom clusters in the country, there is an opportunity to bring back another non-violent Gandhian revolution against the unsustainable fashion industry in favour of handloom fashion that has ever remained sustainable, equitable and inclusive. This will send a very strong message to the world and surely make an impact on the global community to throw the plastic-based unsustainable fast fashion out of their life and put the world on the path of sustainability through nonviolent means.

(Dr Jena is a Professor at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Bhubaneswar and a passionate advocate of sustainable fashion. Email: binayajena@gmail.com)

B'pur ITI students make Gandhi statue out of scraps

Said to be country's first

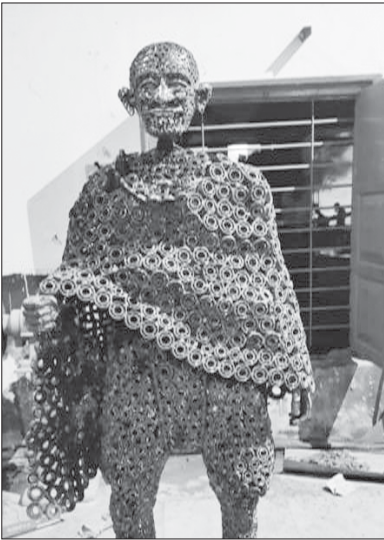
KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAPUR

As a special tribute to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, students and faculty members of the State's premier technical institute, Government ITI, Brahmapur, have artistically and professionally designed a statue of Gandhi exclusively out of scraps which is said to be the country's first such Gandhi statue.

Principal of the ITI Dr Rajat K Panigrahi said the students

and faculty were keen to unveil such an innovative statue on October 2, the Gandhi Jayanti day, since Gandhiji has had always emphasised on cleanliness as his principal mantra. So, the students of this institute started working on the concept of waste to wealth and developed a host of scrap sculptures to bring name and fame to Odisha in general and the institution in particular.

Being grossly motivated by the PM's call to the nation to create



wealth out of waste, the students and staffs of this institute are working hard to develop their skills for innovative designs of diverse objects with the slogan "Swachhata ru Dakshata" (from cleanliness to skill), he said.

The design of the six-feet sculpture of Gandhiji is exclusively made from automobile scraps which weigh around 100 kg with 1,600 fan bearings. "This would be a great tribute to the Father of the Nation and a message to our society, Dr Panigrahi added.

Police IIC registers case against himself For 'harassing' with Dalit family in Jajpur

PNS ■ JAJPUR

In a highly unusual instance, an an Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of police has registered a case against himself at the Korai police station in Jajpur district for allegedly harassing and misbehaving with a Dalit couple.

The accused is Shraavan Kumar Maharana of the Korai police station.

According to reports, some villagers had attacked one Balam Jena, his wife Gitanjali and their family members of Chanchania village on Sep-

tember 11 suspecting that he stole a tractor.

After the intervention of police, Balam was taken to the police station. Next day, his wife reached the police station, where the IIC allegedly misbehaved with her.

It is also being alleged that the IIC kept Balam at the police station for five days and tortured him. Balam was released from the police station after location of the vehicle.

The family members of the victim had met the district Superintendent of Police (SP) in this regard and sought action against the IIC.

DSP Pramod Kumar Mallik has been appointed as the Investigating Officer of the case.

INBRIEF

CHILD-FRIENDLY POLICE STATION OPENED IN B'PUR

Brahmapur: IG, Southern Range, Satyabrata Bhoi inaugurated a child-friendly police station in the premises of Mahila police station here on Friday. SP, Brahmapur, Dr Saravana Vivek, Additional SPs, SDPO Town and other officers were present. Bhoi said that whenever a child accompanying a complainant or aggrieved person comes to the police station, this space would bring comfort to both the child and the mother/guardian in a peaceful and friendly ambience. This child-friendly PS includes a resting area, a separate toilet, feeding area, toys and a play area.



CROREPATI AEE IN VIG NET IN BRAHMAPUR

Brahmapur: The Vigilance police on Friday conducted simultaneous raids on the properties of Bishnu Charan Sahu, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of Baghua Project of Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division on the allegations of possession of disproportionate assets to his known sources of income. During the searches, a three-storied and a one-storied building at Brahmapur, two plots in Brahmapur, bank, postal and insurance deposits of Rs 40 lakh, a Hyundai car (benami) in the name of a contractor, three two-wheelers and cash of Rs 1.38 lakh were detected in the name of Sahu. Details of other investments and assets were being ascertained.



BRAHMAPUR IISER DIRECTOR CHERRY NO MORE (Pix)

Director of Brahmapur IISER and noted physicist Prof KVR Cherry passed away in New York (USA) following cardiac arrest on Friday. Arya Bhatt Foundation chairman and Green Man of Odisha Dr Sudhir K Rout condoled said Prof Cherry's death is a great loss not only to the IISER but to the entire science and technology-based education system. The Brahmapur IISER is the sole vision and contribution of Prof Cherry, who had dreamt a lot for further development of the IISER.

BANPUR-BALUGAON ROTARY HONOURS TEACHERS

Banpur: Primary teachers are nation builders who give a strong foundation of education to students, said former IAS officer and Past Rotary District Governor Ravinarayan Nanda and District Literacy Chairman Rotarian Achyutananda Routaray on presentation of National Builders Award to teachers by the Rotary club of Banpur-Balugaon on Thursday. The meeting was chaired by club president Rabinarayan Pal. The others, who spoke, included Nanda Kishore Mishra, Rabinarayan Naik, RN Pradhan and Omprakash Agrawal. Students of the Blind School of Nehru Seva Sangh sang "Tunga Sikhari Chula" written Pandit Godavarish Mishra.



OLDER PEOPLE DAY OBSERVED IN ATHMALLIK

Athmallik: The International Older People Day was observed at the block office meeting hall here. Athmallik Sub-Collector Tarani Suna was chief guest. Three senior voters of above 100 years were honoured by the administration. After the meeting, health checkup and a cultural programme were organised for senior citizens.



In Jharsuguda Rs 55L collected from traffic rule violators



PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

RTO officials with the help of police have intensified their vehicle-checking drive to nab traffic rule violators in Jharsuguda district.

In the last 11 days, fines amounting to Rs 55.37 lakh have been collected from the offenders by RTO and police officials.

During the drive from September 20 to October 1, the penalty collection has crossed Rs 22 lakh. Out of this, 145 persons were caught for drunk driving, 145 vehicles were seized and 95 driving licences

were cancelled. Each evening, checking for helmetless driving is being conducted by the police near Bus Stand Chowk, Beheramal, Kisan Chhah and Bombay Chowk.

However, rash driving, driving under influence of liquor and over speeding incidents are not seeing a significant decline. As a result, the number of accidents continued to remain high.

To make matters worse, illegal parking along the National Highway and movement of stray cattle continues unabated in Jharsuguda town leading to frequent accidents.

DCBL MMUs cover 11K in Cuttack, Jajpur

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A health camp was organised by the Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (DCBL)'s Kapilas Cement Manufacturing Works (KCMW) plant in Cuttack, in association with its occupational health centre, 'Sanjeevani.'

The camp included a number of healthcare facilities provided through its Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) and covered 31 villages in Cuttack and 15 villages in Jajpur to benefit over 11,000 community residents. Some of the healthcare services being offered included



OPD facilities, emergency services - 24x7 to manage medical emergencies, first aid provisions for minor injuries and referrals as well as ambulance services to the higher centre in severe or critical cases. The medical institutes that provided support to DCBL in the initiative were Cure Well Laboratories, Cuttack and Subham Diagnostics, Cuttack.

"At Dalmia Cement Bharat, we have always believed in working collaboratively so that we are able to prioritise

the well-being of the people and, at the same time, alleviate health-related sufferings of the underprivileged within the communities we operate it," said Deputy Executive Director and Unit Head, KCMW, DCBL Bhavesh Wala.

Huge acres of Govt land encroached in Binka

Probe launched by Tehsildar after nexus of revenue officials with land mafias alleged

SRIKUMAR MAHANTA ■ SONEPURI

A three-day preliminary inquiry by Binka Additional Tehsildar Chandini Meher into land grab of 56.763 acres in Kartang Mouza by some anti-

social elements of the same village found a big land scam in Kartang.

Six Amins were deployed to demarcate the total Government land under unauthorised use in order to ascertain the veracity of the allegations levelled in petitions filed by some villagers of Kartang, Padhanpali and Sansamura with the administration.

However, the Amins who were deployed to demarcate the land have not cooperated with Additional Tehsildar

Meher and did not submit daily performance report. This has fuelled doubt on the involvement of revenue officials including Amins in the land scam.

Sources said in the last 15 years, land mafias have become increasingly active and encroached on Government land in and around Binka and Sonepur tehsil. Land documents and classifications were allegedly being modified before the property was sold to a third party for industries, commercial or residential purposes.

Landless families alleged that they were waiting for patta from revenue authorities despite being entitled to homestead land as per Government welfare schemes.

Ranjit Panda, a denizen of Binka town, said there is a nexus between the they are able to commit the irregularities without any hindrances.

Locals demanded an impartial probe by the Vigilance into the land scam and exemplary action against the corrupt officials who are hand in glove.

Direct train from B'pur to Delhi demanded

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Brahmapur Railway Station Consultative Committee demanded regular trains to Delhi and Puri from here.

In its first meeting, the committee said that though Brahmapur is a prominent city of southern Odisha still there is no regular train from Brahmapur to the national capital of Delhi.



Also the committee said that though many people as well as pilgrims are going daily from Brahmapur to Puri and the vice versa but there is no direct

train leaving from Brahmapur to Puri. The committee demanded a direct train facility between Brahmapur and Puri.

The meeting was chaired by

the Khurda Railway Division DCM BC Nayak. BeMC Corporator Sanjit Kumar Panigrahy narrated the difficulties and problems of the railway passengers at Brahmapur station. He also demanded construction of a roof in front of the main entrance of the railway station.

Display of coach indicators, ample sitting facilities in 4th Platform and functioning of 24x7 of lift and escalator in the platform were demanded.

50 B'garh students sick after taking MDM

Most discharged from hosp after preliminary treatment

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

More than 50 students fell ill on Friday after taking mid-

day meal (MDM) in Brahmanidhi village under Sohela block of Bargarh district.

Soon after taking the meal, the students developed pain in stomach and some of them also started vomiting. The panicky teachers and villagers rushed them to the nearest Sohela Government hospital

for treatment.

The doctors started immediate treatment of the students with medicines and only two were given saline. However, their condition improved rapidly and all of them were discharged from hospital in the evening.

It is learnt that with rice, the students were given soya curry

in the MDM as per the weekly menu.

"We are yet to know what really happened. But an inquiry will be made soon to ascertain the cause," said Sohela block BEO Amrita Sahu who was very much present during the treatment of the students and monitoring it with the help of doctors and teachers.

The books that influenced Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi was an obsessive letter writer, penning thousands of epistles. Asked what ideology he followed, he replied: "I have not read Smith, Mill or Karl Marx. When in doubt, a little voice tells me that when in doubt, turn neither left nor right but always follow the narrow straight path." It's a surprising statement as Smith was the father of classical capitalism, who wrote in his magnum opus 'Wealth of Nations' (1776) that "market forces, as if by an invisible hand, will promote welfare of all". JS Mill added the pleasure principle to wealth creation. Marx, on the other hand, saw 'seeds of destruction contained in capitalism' as it was exploitative of labour. In his Communist Manifesto (1847), he gave a clarion call to the workers to revolt and usher in a classless society. Though Gandhi was witness to the Russian Revolution (1917), he was more attracted by the work the British philosopher John Ruskin and his book 'Unto This Last' and the Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy and his book 'The King-



SATYA NARAYAN MISRA

dom of God Is Within You'. Both these books went against the tide of those times and were proscribed.

Ruskin was deeply critical of the market economics and wealth creation dictum of Adam Smith in "Wealth of Nations" and pleasure principle of John Stuart Mill. He was deeply concerned about the plight of working class after the Industrial Revolution and strongly pitched for equitable sharing of riches where men are treated and paid justly. He strongly believed that an economy must be based on the consideration

of humanity and economics must have its roots in ethics. This philosophy sowed the seeds of Tolstoy's farm which was founded by Gandhiji near Johannesburg in South Africa in 1910, where the residents lived self-sufficiently devoting their bodies to hard manual labour, their minds to the ideals of truth and nonviolence, and children exposed to the beauty of vocational education.

Nonviolence and passive resistance were the lessons Gandhi learnt from Tolstoy's book. 'Kingdom of God' was a philosophical treatise where Tolstoy wrote that all those who waged wars are an affront to the teaching of Christ. He was anguished that the Russian Orthodox Church supported state's policy for war. In 1908, Tolstoy wrote to Gandhi, "Only by using love as a weapon through passive resistance, the native Indian people can overthrow the colonial British empire." Gandhi wrote, "Before the independent thinking, profound morality and truthfulness of this book, all the

books seemed to pale into insignificance."

When Gandhi wrote to Tolstoy as to whether he can name the firm after the name of the great novelist, he wrote back "I have known about your work in leading the Satyagraha movement in South Africa and your quest for equality. Nothing will give me greater pleasure than my name being associated with the community firm and high idealism that you propose to build". The two major ideas in these two books, viz dignified living for all, and nonviolence as an unshakable article of faith remained the two lynchpins of Gandhian philosophy throughout his movement in South Africa & struggle for independence of India thereafter.

Gandhi returned to India and was in the zenith of his political career in the 20s, when he read Katherine Mayo book 'Mother India' in 1927. This book was a scathing attack on India's religion, retrograde customs, pernicious practice of early child marriage, and lack of medical care for pregnant women. While many

of the practice described by Mayo undoubtedly existed in India, she did not give credit to the effort of Indian reformers to end these evils and completely exonerated the British authority from any responsibility. The Britishers were delighted with the book and free copy was presented to every Member of Parliament. Gandhi described a book as "the report of a drainpipe inspector endowed with one purpose of opening the drains of the country". He charged Mayo with a selective representation of facts. At the same time, he insisted that we must not overlook the dark side of the picture where it existed like child marriage and ill treatment of women.

When the socialist regime of USSR disintegrated by 1990 and the Berlin Wall got dismantled in 1989, Francis Fukuyama wrote in his book 'End of History' that this was end point of ideological conflict and acceptance of liberal democracy with free market economics as the ideal fusion of polity with economic system. However, this huge faith in market

fundamentalism got a severe jolt when the US financial crisis, happened in 2007-2009 with a cascading impact on many countries who had close financial ties with the USA. The world realized the fault lines of unregulated markets, toxic effects of greed and conflict of interests. Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate, wrote that market economics benefited only an unscrupulous few as against Smithsonian prognostication that it will bring welfare to all. Gandhi's unequivocal adherence to the ideals of Ruskin and firm conviction that there is 'enough for everybody's need and not for everybody's greed' found resonance in nurturing small and cottage industry and flagging the importance of sustainable development. His commitment to social justice, concern for villages where majority of Indians live and eschewing greed and mindless pursuit of wealth made Gandhian ideals extremely relevant to the present times.

One of the most definitive

biographies written early on Gandhi was by Romaine Rolland, French novelist. Rolland heard of Gandhi in 1920 from the Bengali mystic Dilip Roy and Tagore. His book, published in 1924, covered the period ending with Gandhi's arrest in 1922. He wrote, "His body is walled in as in a tomb, but Gandhi's invisible soul still animates India's vast body." A man of faith, he was greatly upset by the wind of violence sweeping the world and believed that in the old crumbling world; 'there was no hope or great light except Gandhi.' Einstein wrote, "Generations to come will scarce believe that such a person in flesh and blood walked upon this earth." Indeed, he is not merely an insignia of our national currency but India's contribution to alternative ideology, reiterates the importance of sustainable development and abdicates violence as a weapon of power. (Prof Misra is a Sarvodaya Foundation Trustee. E.mail- misra.sn54@gmail.com, Ph: 91-7381109899)

12 billion workdays lost every year due to depression, anxiety

Address mental health of working population, WHO tells nations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An estimated 12 billion workdays are lost annually due to depression and anxiety, costing the global economy nearly USD one trillion. Not without reason, though, as just 35 per cent of the country members who are signatories to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Occupational Safety and Health

Convention have reported having national programmes for work-related mental health promotion and prevention.

Against this backdrop, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the ILO have called upon the countries to take concrete action to address mental health concerns in the working population and have come out with two new publications "WHO Guidelines on mental health at work" and a derivative "WHO/ILO Policy Brief".

The WHO's global guidelines on mental health at work recommend actions to tackle risks to mental health such as heavy workloads, negative behaviours and other factors

that create distress at work. For the first time WHO recommends manager training, to build their capacity to prevent stressful work environments and respond to workers in distress.

According to the WHO's World mental health report, published in June 2022, of one billion people living with a mental disorder in 2019, 15 per cent of working-age adults experienced a mental disorder.

Work amplifies wider societal issues that negatively affect mental health, including discrimination and inequality. Bullying and psychological violence (also known as 'mobbing') are key complaints of workplace harassment that

have a negative impact on mental health. Yet discussing or disclosing mental health remains a taboo in work settings globally.

The guidelines also recommend better ways to accommodate the needs of workers with mental health conditions, propose interventions that support their return to work and, for those with severe mental health conditions, provide interventions that facilitate entry into paid employment.

Importantly, the guidelines call for interventions aimed at the protection of health, humanitarian and emergency workers. "It's time to focus on the detrimental effect work can have on our mental health,"

said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

"The well-being of the individual is reason enough to act, but poor mental health can also have a debilitating impact on a person's performance and productivity. As people spend a large proportion of their lives in work — a safe and healthy working environment is critical. We need to invest to build a culture of prevention around mental health at work, reshape the work environment to stop stigma and social exclusion, and ensure employees with mental health conditions feel protected and supported," added Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General.

CBI books Amrapali for ₹177 cr bank fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a fresh case against Amrapali Builders and its promoters for cheating a consortium of banks led by Bank of Baroda to the tune of Rs 177 crore.

The case follows a written complaint dated August 10 by the lead bank of the consortium Bank of Baroda to the CBI alleging commission of cheating upon the consortium comprising Bank of Baroda, Bank of Maharashtra and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce (now Punjab National Bank) to the of Rs 177 crore by Amrapali Silicon City Pvt Ltd and others, including its promoter, director and personal guarantor Anil Kumar Sharma. The accused have allegedly defrauded Rs



59.53 crore of Bank of Baroda, Rs 58.05 crore of Bank of Maharashtra and Rs 59.50 crore of erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce. The agency has booked the accused entities and individuals for bank fraud, criminal conspiracy and cheating under the Indian Penal Code and criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The private company Amrapali Silicon City Pvt Ltd was promoted by a consortium of four companies—Ultra Home Construction Pvt Ltd

(lead member), Jotindra Steel & Tubes Ltd, Rinku Clothing Creations Pvt Ltd and Vidya Shree Buildcon Pvt Ltd to execute a group housing project Amrapali Silicon City.

The company acquired land measuring 1,76,758.70 square metre from Noida authority with a cost of Rs 360.96 crore. An amount of 10 percent of the cost was to be paid upfront and the balance amount was payable in 18 half yearly instalments of Rs 19.86 crore each commencing September 2, 2012.

The company allegedly indulged in various fraudulent practices like selling the same residential flat to more than two buyers, selling the flats at rates even lower than the construction cost and the like.

Gehlot continues his hold over Cong Govt in Raj

CM asks public to send suggestions for Budget

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after expressing regret to party president Sonia Gandhi for a revolt in his State to prevent his rival Sachin Pilot from taking over as his successor, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday indicated at his continuance at the helm in the State as he asked the public to "send their suggestions for the Budget directly to him".

His remarks came on a day the process of filing of nominations for the post of Congress president came to an end. Gehlot was the first choice of the party high command but he dropped out following the revolt.



While three of his loyalists have since been showcaused, the revolt was also assumed to be a challenge to the party leadership, which is likely to yet again seek the opinion of its Rajasthan MLAs in one-on-one meetings.

Gehlot appealed to the youth, students and the public in general to send their suggestions directly to him so that the government could come up with better schemes. The assembly elections are due in Rajasthan after a year.

Asked about whether he would present the next Budget of Rajasthan, Gehlot, in Bikaner, said, "I would want people to send their suggestions for the budget directly to me." He said the Congress Government will complete its five years and that the next Budget will be dedicated to students and the youth.

He also said the Congress will not let the BJP succeed in its plan to topple the Government. "We will present the budget for the youth and

children. I appeal to all people, youths and students to send their suggestions to his office to be evaluated and included in the proposals.

This will enable the government to implement various schemes and programmes for youth welfare and skill development. The youths are the future of the nation and they should come forward. Many journalists get jail terms for two years and are released on bail, which is not good," Gehlot said.

However, earlier when he was almost certain to run for the Congress presidency, Gehlot had stated that he would brief the "next CM" on suggestions regarding schemes for students and the youth for the next budget. "Despite our good work, govt gets changed every time. Earlier we lost as voters got swayed away under the Modi wave. We were winning MP, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan (in 2019 elections) but lost. I request the people to give us another chance," he said.

Hitting out at the BJP, Gehlot said, "They keep making efforts to ensure that our government does not complete five years.

Earlier, too, the BJP tried horse trading but our MLAs were united and they did not budge. You can see the government was saved last time and it is still going strong."

The Rajasthan chief minister had opted out of the race for Congress president after a rebellion in the party's state unit, with a majority of MLAs holding a parallel meeting and not allowing a legislative party meeting last Sunday to pass a one-line resolution authorising the party chief to nominate a successor to Gehlot.

LS privileges panel to hear plea for Adhikari's disqualification for switching party

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha Privileges Committee will hear West Bengal's Kanthi Lok Sabha Member P Sisir Adhikari on October 12 to respond to Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay's plea to disqualify him for switching his party.

Adhikari has moved over to the BJP but is understood to have informed the committee that he had not switched parties.

Bandyopadhyay had several times raised the issue with Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla for Sisir's switching over to the BJP.

The issue was referred to the Privileges Committee as Bandyopadhyay lodged a complaint against Sisir under the anti-defection law.

The committee headed by BJP's Sunil Kumar Singh has asked Sisir to be present in the Lok Sabha and explain why he should not be disqualified as an MP.

The complaint against Sisir is that he had crossed over to BJP in March 2021 during the run-up to the assembly polls and attended a rally of senior BJP leader and union home minister Amit Shah at Egga in East Midnapore.

Earlier, his son Suvendu (who defeated Mamata Banerjee in the assembly poll from Nandigram assembly seat) had quit TMC and joined the BJP.

Sisir and his younger son Dibeyndu, also an MP, had skipped Trinamool's Shahid Divas event on July 21.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Ambassadors and High Commissioners to India upon their arrival to attend Navratri celebrations in Vadodar PTI Photo

French envoy condemns Russia's annexation of 4 Ukrainian regions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

France on Saturday condemned Russian military action in Ukraine terming it as "naked aggression" and said the offensive was a violation of international law. New Delhi and Paris are working together to convince President Vladimir Putin to end the conflict, French envoy to New Delhi Emmanuel Lenain said here.

He also condemned Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions on Friday and said the action was a serious violation of both international law and Ukraine's sovereignty.



ereignty. "We feel it is a naked aggression by a country on another one, on a democracy, an aggression which was without any provocation and that it is not in keeping with the principles of international order," Lenain said.

He said India and France were also working together to mitigate the consequences of

the conflict including global food and energy security. He welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Putin on the Ukraine war. Modi had said today's era is not of war. "I think it was a very welcome remark, as always, and you have seen that President Emmanuel Macron in his speech in New York to the UN General Assembly has mentioned and quoted Prime Minister Modi," the French envoy said. Lenain also condemned Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions on Friday and said the action was a serious violation of both international law and Ukraine's sovereignty.

BJP starts preparations for local body polls in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Staying ahead of the Opposition parties, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has started preparations for the urban local body elections.

The BJP has appointed conveners for urban local body polls and election in-charge for each of the 17 nagar nigams. The BJP has drafted ministers and senior office-bearers of the party for the urban local body elections. In appointing the election in-charges for 17 mayoral seats, the BJP has taken care for maintaining a fine balance between the government and the organisation.

For each mayoral seat, along with a cabinet minister, a senior leader from the party organisation has been appointed as co-in-charge for the elections.

BJP state president Bhopendra Singh Chaudhary, after several days' exercise, has approved the list of in-charges for these elections. The convener for each mayoral seat is from the same district while the co convener is from a different district. The ruling party has set the ambitious target of winning all 17 mayoral seats of municipal corporations. The BJP has already



announced another ambitious target of winning all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2024.

The BJP has chalked out the strategy for winning all 17 mayoral seats. Though the urban elections make no impact on the stability of the state government, these elections do create an environment and give a clear indication about the popularity of the incumbent government.

The BJP, for organisational purpose, has divided the urban areas into three regions — Western UP, Awadh and Gorakhpur. The mayoral seats in Western UP region are Ghaziabad, Meerut, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Mathura-Vrindavan, Agra, Firozabad, Aligarh, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Kanpur, and Jhansi. The seats in Awadh region are Lucknow, Ayodhya, Prayagraj and Varanasi and Gorakhpur.

Akhilesh raps PM over launch of 5G telecom services

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president AKhilesh Yadav, on Saturday, took a jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 5G telecom services in Delhi.

Akhilesh Yadav, also the Leader of Opposition in UP Assembly, said "under the BJP rule people are already getting the benefit of 5G".

In a tweet on Saturday, Akhilesh Yadav said G stood for Garibi, Ghotala, Ghapla, Ghalmeel and Gorakhdhandha .The SP has been consistently targeting the Yogi Adityanath government almost daily on myriad issues.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while welcoming the launch of the 5G services, said, "We are grateful to Prime Minister Modi for connecting the country and Kashi with 5G services."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 5G telephony services that promise to provide ultra high-speed internet on mobile phones, saying it marks the beginning of a new era and presents a sea of opportunities. "The 5G marks the dawn of a new era and presents a sea of opportunities," he said.

Desertered BSP leaders get prominence in newly constituted UP Cong panel

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With old Congressmen already sidelined or forced to quit the party ever since Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took charge of the party affairs in Uttar Pradesh, leaders who deserted Bahujan Samaj Party to join the Congress have once again been given prominence over the old warriors.

The appointments have come months after Ajay Lallu resigned as UP Congress Committee chief following the party's crushing defeat in the assembly elections held earlier in March this year. Congress managed to win only 2 two seats in the UP Assembly elections of 2022.

An aggressive campaign by Congress general secretary Priyanka Vadra Gandhi and even her decision to give 40 per cent of tickets to women failed to attract the masses in UP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections too, the Congress had bagged just one seat and that too of its president Sonia Gandhi (Rae Bareilly).

Her son and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was defeated by senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Union Minister Smriti Irani from Congress bastion Amethi.

The UPCC chief's post was lying vacant since party president Sonia Gandhi asked the state chiefs of five states to resign after defeat in elections. Congress faced a debacle in



Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab assembly elections. The Indian National Congress on Saturday appointed Brijlal Khabri, a Dalit, as chief of its Uttar Pradesh unit, besides appointing half a dozen more leaders as regional heads in Uttar Pradesh.

Khabri had quit the BSP in 2016, alleging sale of tickets for money, and subsequently joined the Congress. He is a former Member of Parliament from Jalaun constituency, a seat he won in 1999 as a member of BSP.

He contested the UP Assembly election in 2022 from Mahrauni seat in Lalitpur while his wife Urmila Devi contested from Orai seat both lost their deposits with just 4,334 and 4,650 votes, respectively.

All India Congress Committee president Sonia Gandhi also appointed six regional heads in the UPCC. The regional heads are Naseemuddin Siddiqui, Ajai Rai, Virendra Chaudhary, Nakul Dubey, Anil Yadav and Yogesh Dixit.



Volunteers with their painted faces take a selfie during Wildlife Week, in Gorakhpur on Saturday

PTI Photo

Ukraine encircles key city; Russia intensifies bombing

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian forces encircled the strategic eastern city of Lyman on Saturday in a counteroffensive that has humiliated the Kremlin, while Russian bombardments intensified after Moscow illegally annexed a swath of Ukrainian territory in a sharp escalation of the war.

In the northeast, Ukrainian officials accused Russian forces of attacking a civilian evacuation convoy, killing 20 people including children.

In the south, Ukraine's nuclear power provider said Saturday that Russian forces blindfolded and detained the head of Europe's largest nuclear plant.

The fighting comes at a pivotal moment in Russian President Vladimir Putin's war.

Facing Ukrainian gains on the battlefield — which he frames as a U.S.-orchestrated effort to destroy Russia — Putin this week heightened his threats of nuclear force and used his most aggressive, anti-Western rhetoric to date.

Despite Putin's land-grab Friday of four regions in



Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his military have vowed to keep on fighting to liberate the annexed regions and other Russian-occupied areas.

Ukrainian officials said Saturday their forces had surrounded some 5,000 Russian forces who were trying to hold the eastern city of Lyman, which is located in Luhansk, one of the four annexed areas.

Andriy Yermak, Zelenskyy's chief of staff, posted video online Saturday purporting to show Ukrainian soldiers at a monument on the outskirts of Lyman, waving a signed Ukrainian flag.

It remained unclear whether Ukrainian forces have entered

the city itself. Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai claimed that all routes to resupply Russian forces in Lyman were blocked.

Russia has not confirmed that its forces were cut off, and Russian analysts had said Moscow was sending more troops to the area.

But the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said Ukraine likely will retake Lyman in the coming days.

Citing Russian reports, the institute said it appeared Russian forces were retreating from Lyman, 160 kilometers southeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

That corresponds to online

videos purportedly showing some Russian forces falling back.

Meanwhile Ukrainian authorities accuse Russian forces of targeting two humanitarian convoys in recent days, killing dozens of civilians.

On Saturday the governor of the Kharkiv region, Oleh Syniehubov, said 20 civilians were killed in an attack on a convoy of people trying to flee the Kupiansky district, calling it "cruelty that can't be justified."

The Security Service of Ukraine, the secret police force known by the acronym SBU, posted photographs of the attacked convoy.

At least one truck appeared to have been blown up, with burned corpses in what remained of its truck bed. Another vehicle at the front of the convoy also had been ablaze. Bodies lay on the side of the road or still inside their vehicles, which appeared pockmarked with bullet holes.

The SBU said the convoy was attacked with "small arms fire," while the governor said it was shelled. The discrepancy could not be immediately resolved. The exact date of the attack was not announced.

Russian forces have not acknowledged or commented on the attack. Russian troops have retreated from much of the Kharkiv region after a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive last month but have continued to shell the area.

In an apparent attempt to secure Moscow's hold on the newly annexed territory, Russian forces seized the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Ihor Murashov, around 4 p.M. Friday, according to the Ukrainian state nuclear company Energoatom. That was just hours after Putin signed treaties to absorb Moscow-controlled Ukrainian territory into Russia, including the area around the nuclear plant.

Energoatom said Russian troops stopped Murashov's car, blindfolded him and then took him to an undisclosed location.

Russia did not publicly comment on the report. The International Atomic Energy Agency said Saturday that Russia told it that "the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was temporarily detained to answer questions."

The Vienna-based agency did not immediately elaborate.

19 killed, including 4 elite Guard members, in Iran attack

AP ■ DUBAI

An attack by armed separatists on a police station in a southeastern city killed 19 people, including four members of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Saturday.

The assailants in Friday's attack hid among worshippers near a mosque in the city of Zahedan and attacked the nearby police station, according to the report.

IRNA quoted Hossein Modaresi, the provincial governor, as saying 19 people were killed. The outlet said 32 Guard members, including volunteer Basiji forces, were also wounded in the clashes.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was related to nationwide antigovernment protests gripping Iran after the death in police custody of a young Iranian woman.

Sistan and Baluchestan province borders Afghanistan and Pakistan and has seen previous attacks on security forces by ethnic Baluchi separatists, although Saturday's Tasnim report did not identify a separatist group allegedly involved in the attack.

IRNA on Saturday identified the dead as Hamidreza Hashemi, a Revolutionary



Guard colonel; Mohammad Amin Azarshokr, a Guard member; Mohamad Amin Arefi, a Basiji, or volunteer force with the IRG; and Saeed Borhan Rigi, also a Basiji.

Tasnim and other state-linked Iranian news outlets

reported Friday that the head of the Guard's intelligence department, Seyyed Ali Mousavi, was shot during the attack and later died.

It is not unusual for IRG members to be present at police bases around the country.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client, IBC First Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Shanti Matani is owner of 10th Janta, Flat No.47-B, on First Floor, in Block-B Pocket-84, area measuring 22 sq. mtr, Situated in the Layout Plan of Housing Estate, Shamir Bagh, Delhi the said property by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 10.03.2022, registration No. 13105, executed by Mr. Anil Mehta & Mrs. Vashishtha Mehta after demise of Late Ramesh Kumar, who was owner of the said property by virtue of Conveyance deed dated 10.10.2019, registration No. 12464, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Prince Mondal & Mr. Jatin Mondal who is taking loan for purchase the said property from IBC First Bank, if anybody has any objections of ownership of Mrs. Shanti Matani in respect of the said property its Sale/Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-4101227-28 kumar.associates@rediffmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that we Pawan Kumar Chhabra S/O Late Shri Gian Chand Chhabra and Sujata Chhabra W/O Pawan Kumar Chhabra have severed all our relations with our son Lakshya Chhabra and his wife Jayashree Tandon and hereby debarred them from inheriting any of our properties movable and immovable in all aspects, and all responsibilities. They will have no right, title or any kind of charge on all our assets movable and immovable.
Isahn Roy Chowdhury
(Advocate) Enrollment No. D/6202/2022
A-288 Basement, Shivajik, Panchsheel
Geetanjali Road, New Delhi-110017

'China struggling to find enough trained pilots for its 3 aircraft carriers'

PTI ■ BEIJING

China is struggling to find enough trained pilots to operate fighter jets from aircraft carriers, prompting its navy with two aircraft carriers commissioned and another launched in June, to speed up the pilot training programme, a media report here said.

The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) is struggling to meet increased demand for qualified ship-borne fighter jet pilots to operate the specially made J-15 jets for the aircraft carriers.

The PLAN has sped up carrier-based fighter jet pilot training programmes in the decade since the commissioning of its first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, but its lack of a fighter trainer specifically designed for carrier-based operations has hindered progress, according to an article published in Ordnance Industry Science

Technology, a Chinese military magazine.

With Fujian, China's third and most advanced aircraft carrier, having started sea trials last week, the PLA needed at least 200 qualified carrier-based fighter jet pilots to operate 130 ship-borne aircraft, Beijing-based naval expert Li Jie was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Saturday.

The Fujian is equipped with advanced electromagnetic catapults, similar to those on the US supercarrier Gerald R Ford, while China's first two carriers featured ski-jump designs, so the navy will have to master a new aircraft launch and recovery system. Official media reports say China plans to produce more aircraft carriers to match the strength of the US Navy.

"It's full of challenges, as aircraft design and pilot training are among the world's most difficult and com-



plicated core technologies – which no one will share with you," Li said. Defence experts say that while China is producing aircraft carriers at a faster pace, it is still a work in progress for

the J-15 carrier-based fighter jets, which were stated to be too heavy for deployment on aircraft carriers.

China is rapidly modernising its navy, almost launching a battleship

every month or two.

Dai Mingmeng, who flew a J-15 prototype on its maiden flight from the deck of Liaoning on November 3, 2012, when he was 41, was one of the first five Chinese pilots to achieve ship-borne certification. He and other senior carrier-capable pilots are now training the latest generation.

State-run China Central Television said the navy has directly recruited cadets from high school graduates aged between 16 and 19 since 2020. The average age of the latest generation of new naval aviation pilot cadets was 20, at least 10 years younger than their predecessors.

The PLA Navy started training its own pilots - rather than picking qualified candidates from the air force - following the establishment of the Naval Aeronautical University in Yantai, Shandong province, in 2017 - adopting the same approach as its US counterpart.

North Korea conducts 4th round of missile tests in 1 week

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Saturday test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles, its neighbours said, the fourth round this week of weapons launches that prompted quick, strong condemnation from its rivals.

In an unusually strong rebuke of North Korea's weapons programs, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said North Korea's "obsession" with nuclear weapons is deepening the suffering of its own people, and warned of an "overwhelming response" from South Korea and US militaries should such weapons be used.

"North Korea hasn't abandoned its obsession with nukes and missiles despite the persistent international objection in the past 30 years," Yoon said during an Armed Forces Day ceremony.



"The development of nuclear weapons will plunge the lives of North Korean people in further pains."

"If North Korea attempts to use nukes, it'll face a resolute, overwhelming response by the South Korea-US alliance and our military," Yoon said.

Yoon's comments could enrage North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who has alleged that Yoon's government was led

by "confrontation maniacs" and "gangsters".

Kim has already rebuffed Yoon's offers of massive aid and support plans in return for denuclearisation.

The North's testing spree this week is seen as a response to recent naval drills between South Korea and the US and their other training that involved Japan.

North Korea views such military exercises by the allies as an invasion rehearsal and argues they reveal US and South Korean "double standards" because they brand the North's weapons tests as provocation.

On Saturday, South Korea, Japanese and US militaries said they detected the two North Korean missile launches. South Korea said the liftoffs occurred from North Korea's capital region.

Myanmar accuses rebels in east of shooting passenger plane

AP ■ BANGKOK

Myanmar's military government accused rebel forces in the eastern state of Kayah of firing at a passenger plane as it was preparing to land Friday, wounding a passenger who was hit by a bullet that penetrated the fuselage. Rebel groups denied the allegation.

State television MRTV said the Myanmar National Airlines plane, carrying 63 passengers, was hit as it was about to land in Loikaw, the capital of the eastern state of Kayah, also known as Karenni.

It said Maj. Gen Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for Myanmar's ruling military council, said the shooting was carried out by "terrorists" belonging to the Karenni National Progressive Party, an ethnic minority militia battling the government, and People's Defense Force.

Arizona judge won't suspend ruling that halted all abortions

AP ■ PHOENIX (US)

An Arizona judge has declined to put her order that allowed enforcement of a pre-statehood law making it a crime to provide an abortion on hold, saying abortion right groups that asked her to block the order are not likely to prevail on appeal.

The ruling from Pima County Superior Court Judge Kellie Johnson on Friday means the state's abortion providers will not be able to restart procedures. Abortions were halted on September 23 when Johnson ruled that a 1973 injunction must be lifted so that the Civil War-era law could be enforced.

Republican Attorney General Mark Brnovich sought the order lifting the injunction. Attorneys with his office told the judge that, since the US Supreme Court's June 24 deci-



sion said women do not have a constitutional right to obtain an abortion, there was no legal reason to block the old law.

Planned Parenthood and its Arizona affiliate had urged Johnson to keep the injunction issued shortly after Roe v Wade was decided in 1973. They argued that laws enacted by the state Legislature in the ensuing 50 years should take precedence.

Trump at centre of Oath Keepers novel defence in Jan 6 case

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The defence team in the Capitol riot trial of the Oath Keepers leader is relying on an unusual strategy with Donald Trump at the centre.

Lawyers for Stewart Rhodes, founder of the extremist group, are poised to argue that jurors cannot find him guilty of seditious conspiracy because all the actions he took before the siege on Jan. 6, 2021, were in preparation for orders he anticipated from the then-president — orders that never came.

Rhodes and four associates are accused of plotting for weeks to stop the transfer of presidential power from the Republican



incumbent to Democrat Joe Biden, culminating with Oath Keepers in battle gear storming the Capitol alongside hundreds of other Trump supporters.

Opening statements in the trial are set to begin Monday.

Rhodes intends to take the stand to argue he believed Trump was going to invoke the Insurrection Act to call up a militia to support him, his lawyers have said.

Sweden: Right-wing party get 4 chairmanships in parliament

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

A right-wing populist party that received the second-most votes in Sweden's general election last month landed the chairmanships of four parliamentary committees on Saturday and with it, the ability to wield more influence in mainstream Swedish politics.

The positions to be held by lawmakers from the Sweden Democrats include chairing the Riksdag's justice, foreign affair, business affairs and labour market committees.

"It is important for us, a milestone in the party's history," legislator Richard Jomshof, a Sweden Democrat who was tapped to be the next chairman of the justice committee, told Swedish public broadcaster SVT.



"It is an expression of the fact that we are Sweden's second largest party."

In addition to the four chairperson posts, the party was allowed to name the vice-chairs of parliament's civil

affairs, traffic, defense and tax committees.

Sweden Democrats, a nationalist and anti-immigration party with roots in the neo-Nazi movement, is part of right-wing bloc that won a narrow major-

ity in the Riksdag in the September 11 election.

Decisions on the posts were announced Friday in a joint statement from the four center-right parties that are in talks to form a coalition government. Sweden Democrats, which is one of the four, announced its nominees Saturday.

Ulf Kristersson, the leader of the center-right Moderates, the party that placed third, has been tasked with forming a government that is likely to have the Sweden Democrats as part of a governing coalition or at least the party's support in securing a majority in parliament.

Kristersson has until October 12 to present results of his talks with parties to Parliament speaker Andreas Norlen.



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CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866
Website: www.ujvn.com

R.O. No.: 721 e-Tender Notice Date: 01.10.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer(M&G), Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
e-Tender No. 12/SPH/2022-23.
Name of work/supply/ services etc.-Procurement of various mechanical spares/consumables at Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima
Estimated cost-7,46,050/- (Seven Lakhs Forty six Thousand Fifty only) GST extra.
Date of availability of bid document on website- 01/10/2022 at 16:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of bids on website- 24/10/2022 upto 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> **Executive Engineer (M&G)**
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, अनुरक्षण खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, लेन नं०-1, तरुण विहार, मोहरवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001 दूरभाष / फ़ैक्स: 0135 2671940 Email: eamdujs@rediffmail.com					
पत्रांक : 2913 / ई-निविदा सूचना / 2022-23 दिनांक : 01 / 10 / 2022					
ई-निविदा सूचना					
मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, दू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमर्शियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :-					
निविदा क्र. सं.	विकासखण्ड	कार्य विवरण	घरौहर घनराशि (कू. मी)	निविदा का मुख्य अवधि (कू. मी)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	सहसपुर	कोटडा कल्याणपुर पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	146500.00	₹4000 + GST	06 माह
2	सहसपुर	दुधई पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	111500.00	₹4000 + GST	06 माह
3	सहसपुर	जगमपुर पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	140200.00	₹4000 + GST	06 माह
4	विकासनगर	माजरी पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	254250.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
5	विकासनगर	कटाढाखुर पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	230300.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
6	विकासनगर	लाघा पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	84100.00	₹3000 + GST	06 माह
7	डोईवाला	मोहनपुर बड़कली पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	187100.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
8	डोईवाला	माजरी ग्रांट पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	681200.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
9	डोईवाला	भट्टोवाला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	226700.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
10	डोईवाला	गढी मयचक पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	354900.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह

निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य स्थितियाँ) निम्नवत् हैं।		
क्र. सं.	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि।	11.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि।	12.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि।	17.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि।	22.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि।	28.10.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाईन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड स्थिरांक, स्टैंडम पफर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज।	28.10.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि।	29.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि।	सूचना पत्रक से दी जायेगी।

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित सम्स्त जानकारी या शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।
(के० सी० पैचुली)
अधिशासी अभियन्ता

India's unemployment rate drops to 6.43%: CMIE

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's unemployment rate has drastically dropped to 6.43 per cent in September due to an increase in labour participation in the rural and urban areas, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

During August, India's unemployment rate surged to a one-year high of 8.3 per cent as employment sequentially fell by 2 million to 394.6 million.

"In September, the unemployment rate has fallen significantly with an increase in labour participation in both urban and rural areas," CMIE managing director Mahesh Vyas told PTI over the phone on Saturday.

The unemployment rate in the rural areas fell to 5.84 per



at 23.2 per cent, Haryana at 22.9 per cent, Tripura at 17 per cent, Jharkhand at 12.2 per cent and Bihar at 11.4 per cent.

The unemployment was the lowest in Chhattisgarh at 0.1 per cent in September, followed by Assam at 0.4 per cent, Uttarakhand at 0.5 per cent, Madhya Pradesh at 0.9 per cent, Gujarat at 1.6 per cent, Meghalaya at 2.3 per cent and Odisha at 2.9 per cent, the data showed.

Meanwhile, in August, the unemployment rate surged to a one-year high as erratic rainfall, which impacted sowing activities, affected employment in rural India.

In August, the urban unemployment rate shot up to 9.6 per cent and the rural unemployment rate also increased to 7.7 per cent, CMIE data showed.

Inflation at manageable level, says FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said inflation is at a manageable level.

Her comments came a day after RBI hiked interest rate by 50 basis points to tame inflation.

"Inflation is at a manageable level," she said here.

On Friday, RBI retained its inflation projection for FY23 at 6.7 per cent amid geopolitical concerns triggered by Russia-Ukraine war, and expected inflation to be under control from January.

The central bank is mandated to keep retail inflation in a band of 2-6 per cent. Inflation has remained above RBI's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent since January 2022.

Last month, inflation touched 7 per cent.

5G services will bring fundamental change in several sectors: Ashwini

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The next generation high-speed 5G services will bring fundamental changes across several sectors, including education, health, agriculture and banking, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

The minister also said that 5G will create new services with digital capabilities at the centre.

"Telecom is a gateway of Digital India. Telecom is the root of all digital services that we are seeing in our modern life. 5G services will bring fundamental change in several sectors — education, health, agriculture, logistics, and banking. It will create new opportunities," Vaishnaw noted.

The 5G service was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at India Mobile

Congress on Saturday.

The minister said the Prime Minister gave a challenge of developing indigenous technology for 4G and 5G, and India is marching ahead in the technology development, and now the world is looking at Indian telecom technology.

Modi launched a crucial 5G network gear — 5G Non-Standalone (NSA) core, indigenously designed and developed by state-run C-DOT.

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) said that end-to-end 5G call was demonstrated using C-DOT 5G NSA Core installed at BSNL Chandigarh and 5G Radio Access Network (RAN), developed in collaboration with Wisig Networks, VVDN Technologies and Radisys India.

The industry lauded the government's move to launch

5G services in the country, terming it a transformation step for industrial development.

"It is a generational leap that can help increase the telecom sector's contribution to GDP to 8-9 per cent from 6.5 per cent presently," Ficci Director General Arun Chawla said.

Ficci IT/ITes Committee chairperson Rahul Sharma said it is anticipated that 5G technology will add USD 450 billion to the Indian economy between 2023 and 2040.

"The potential of 5G in India is genuinely transformative. Once built, it will accommodate up to one million connected devices per square kilometre compared with only 2,000 under 4G," Chawla said.

Nokia Senior Vice President and Head of India market Sanjay Malik said its

global experience in 5G rollouts shows that it will provide a strong impetus to socio-economic growth and industrial development, contributing to the GDP and mission of Digital Bharat.

MediaTek India Managing Director Anku Jain said 5G will usher in a new wave of opportunities for businesses, unlocking the next level of growth for the country.

"5G will be a key driver for Digital India initiatives and realising Design in India opportunities, leveraging disruptive technologies like AI, cloud, IoT, and others across the ecosystem. We foresee India becoming a major hub for cutting-edge semi-conductor R&D and design, and the rollout of 5G services will accelerate the next wave of digital transformation," Jain said.

Jio 5G across India by December 2023, says Ambani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio, the nation's biggest telecom firm, will expand 5G telephony services offering ultra high-speed internet connectivity to every part of the country by December 2023, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Saturday.

Jio had in September 2016 made an entry into the telecom sector, offering free voice calls and dirt-cheap data, forcing the competition to either match or fold up/consolidate.

Ambani has now promised affordable 5G services.

vices.

"Today, I want to reiterate Jio's commitment to deliver 5G to every town, every taluka, and every tehsil of our country by December 2023," he said at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) conference here.

Ambani had at his flagship Reliance Industries Ltd's annual shareholder meeting in August announced the rollout of 5G services across multiple key cities, including metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, by Diwali.

Most of Jio's 5G is developed

in India, and hence carries the stamp of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', he said, adding 5G and 5G-enabled digital solutions can bring affordable and high-quality education and skill development within the reach of common Indians.

It can deliver high-quality healthcare to rural and remote areas by turning existing hospitals into smart hospitals without much additional investment, making the services of the best doctors digitally available anywhere in India as well as improving the speed and accuracy of diagnostics and enabling real-



time clinical decision making.

5G can also bridge the gap between urban and rural India by accelerating digitisation and intelligent data management of agriculture, services, trade, industry, informal sector,

transportation and energy infrastructure, he said.

"By bringing AI into every domain, 5G can power India's emergence as the world's intelligence capital. This will help India become a major exporter of high-value digital solutions and services," he said, adding all these will trigger a huge explosion of entrepreneurship in the country, which in turn will attract even larger investments and create millions of new jobs.

Ambani said by harnessing the combined power of demography and digital technologies, India can become

the world's leading digital society, accelerating growth by making the country a USD 40 trillion economy by 2047, up from USD 3 trillion now and increasing per capita income rapidly to over USD 20,000, from USD 2,000.

"It will not be an exaggeration to say that 5G is like a Digital Kamadhenu, the heavenly cow that grants whatever we desire," he said.

With 5G, India will take longer and faster strides towards 'Sab Ka Digital Saath and Sab Ka Digital Vikas', he said. "India may have started a little late, but we'll finish first

by rolling out 5G services that are of higher quality and more affordable than anywhere else in the world."

Ambani further said 5G is much more than just the next generation of connectivity technology, offering foundational technology that unlocks the full potential of other transformative technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), internet of things, robotics, blockchain, and metaverse.

Speaking to reporters later, Ambani said Jio's 5G services will be launched by Diwali, but did not comment on tariffs. The company's 5G

services will be affordable, he said, adding "Jio is always affordable".

"Today is a historic day where as a country we started 5G, and I am very grateful to the PM for his Digital India vision... We have implemented his vision and I think this is really a new era in terms of connectivity, and what the PM has outlined, we in the telecom industry will work together to achieve this and make India and Indian connectivity ecosystem best in the world and the most affordable in the world," Ambani said.

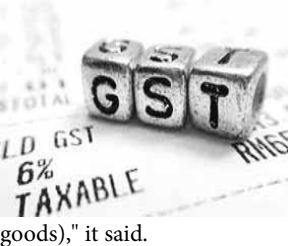
GST mop-up in September at ₹1.47 lakh crore; festive season to push up revenues in coming months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections remained above Rs 1.40 lakh crore for the seventh month in a row at Rs 1.47 lakh crore in September, a 26 per cent increase over last year, reflecting buoyancy in tax collection and stability of the GST portal, the finance ministry said on Saturday.

With the ongoing festive season, the collections are expected to go up in the coming months, experts said.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of September 2022 is Rs 1,47,686 crore, of which Central GST is Rs 25,271 crore, State GST is Rs 31,813 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 80,464 crore (including Rs 41,215 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 10,137 crore (including Rs 856 crore collected on import of



goods)," it said.

The GST collections had touched a record Rs 1.67 lakh crore in April, while in August it was over Rs 1.43 lakh crore.

The revenues for the month of September 2022 were 26 per cent higher than those recorded in the same month last year. During the month, revenues from import of goods were 39 per cent higher, while from domestic transaction (including import of services) the mop-up was 22 per cent more than the amount collected from these sources in the year-ago month.

The growth in GST revenue till September 2022 over the same period last year is 27 per cent, thus continuing to display very high buoyancy.

In August 2022, a total of 7.7 crore e-way bills were generated, which was marginally higher than 7.5 crore in July 2022. This month witnessed the second highest single day collection of Rs 49,453 crore on September 20 with second highest number of 8.77 lakh challans filed, next only to Rs 57,846 crore collected on July 20, 2022 through 9.58 lakh challans, which pertained to end of the year returns.

"This clearly shows that the GST portal maintained by GSTN has fully stabilised and is glitch-free," the ministry said.

During September, more than 1.1 crore e-way bills and e-invoices combined were generated without any glitch on the portal run by NIC.

EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the generation of 1.1 crore e-way bills and e-invoicing in a single day showcases a stability in the IT infrastructure of NIC.

"However, it's important for the big businesses to move to private Invoice Registration Portals appointed by the government in order to share the load of data which is likely to be increased due to increase in number of assesses liable to generate e-invoices from 1 October 2022," Agarwal said.

KPMG in India Partner Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said the collections in September reflect supplies made in August. "With the festive season coming up, the GST collections can further be expected to go up in the coming months," Jain added.

Deloitte India Partner, Leader - Indirect Tax Mahesh Jaising said, the key contributors appear to be the expansion in usage of e-invoicing and e-way bills, use of analytics for audits and also the increased in imports with the upcoming festive seasons as businesses build up stocks.

"With the pandemic behind us, further reduction in e-invoicing threshold from October 1, 2022 and the recent amendments to extend year-end compliance due dates, we expect the last quarter of 2022 to witness even higher collections," Jaising added.

N.A. Shah Associates Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said the major reasons were pick up in sales due to festive seasons. In September and October due to festivals like Navratri, Dusshera, Diwali, the spending is usually high.

ATF price cut 4.5%, commercial LPG rates down ₹25.5

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jet fuel (ATF) price on Saturday was slashed by 4.5 per cent and that of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants by Rs 25.5 per 19-kg cylinder.

The price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was cut to Rs 1,859.50 in the national capital from Rs 1,885, according to a price notification from state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the sixth reduction in price of commercial LPG since June, in step with softening international energy prices.

In all, rates have come down by Rs 494.50 per 19-kg cylinder.

However, rates of LPG used in household kitchens for cooking purposes remained unchanged at Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

This because the rates of domestic cooking gas were way lower than cost and now



with a drop in international prices, they are at breakeven, industry sources said.

Commercial LPG rates, on the other hand, have largely been aligned with cost and so they have moved in tandem with rise and fall in international prices.

Simultaneously, the rates of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) were cut marginally by 4.5 per cent.

Jet fuel price was cut by Rs 5,521.17, or 4.5 per cent, to Rs 115,520.27 pr kl in the national capital.

Rates differ from state to state depending on incidence of local taxes.

While commercial LPG rates are revised once a month, ATF prices are changed every fortnight. There was no change in jet fuel prices on September 16. Prior to that, they were cut marginally by 0.7 per cent on September 1.

Petrol and diesel prices, however, continued to remain on freeze for a record near six months. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62.

₹2 additional excise duty on petrol deferred to Nov; diesel to Apr 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has put off by one month the levy of an additional Rs 2 per litre excise duty on petrol that is not doped with ethanol, and by six months for diesel that is not blended with bio-diesel.

The government relaxed the deadline for supplying ethanol-blended petrol to avoid the extra levy to November 2022 and that for supply of bio-diesel doped diesel to April 2023 in a bid to give the industry more time to implement the oil import cutting measure.

The finance ministry, in a Gazette notification issued late on Friday (September 30), stated that the additional excise tax on petrol will now be levied from November 1, 2022 and that on diesel from April 2023.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in her Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 brought a Rs 2 per litre additional levy on petrol and diesel that is not blended with ethanol and bio-diesel, respectively. This duty was to be applicable from October 1, 2022, but now has been deferred to November 1 for petrol and April 1, 2023 for diesel.

Presently, 10 per cent ethanol, extracted from sugarcane or surplus foodgrain, is blended or mixed in petrol (meaning 10 per cent of ethanol mixed with 90 per



cent of petrol) with a view to cutting oil import dependence and providing farmers with an additional source of income.

This will help avoid the levy of additional excise duty on petrol.

But there is only an experimental blending of bio-diesel, extracted from non-edible oilseeds, in diesel -- the most used fuel in the country.

"Blending of fuel is a priority of this government. To encourage the efforts for blending of fuel, unblended fuel shall attract an additional differential excise duty of Rs 2 per litre from the 1st day of October 2022," Sitharaman had stated in her Budget speech in the Lok Sabha on February 1.

In the September 30 notification, her ministry stated that "petrol which is intended for retail sale, not so blended with ethanol or methanol" will attract Rs 3.40 per litre basic excise duty effective November 1, 2022, instead of Rs 1.40 a litre currently.

Branded petrol, not doped with ethanol, will attract Rs 4.60 a litre excise duty as

against Rs 2.60 currently.

In the case of diesel, it said the fuel "intended for retail sale, not so blended with alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids obtained from vegetal oils, commonly known as bio-diesels" shall attract Rs 3.80 a litre basic excise duty instead of Rs 1.80. Branded diesel will attract Rs 6.20 a litre basic excise levy as against Rs 4.20 currently.

Besides basic excise duty, cess and special additional excise duty is levied on petrol and diesel. The total incidence of excise on petrol comes to Rs 19.90 a litre and that on diesel to Rs 15.80.

While the additional duty will push oil companies to procure more ethanol for mixing in petrol and arrange for logistics for transporting to deficient areas, it is unlikely that the country will be able to build infrastructure to manufacture bio-diesel in the scale needed for blending in diesel, industry officials said.

Last year, the government brought forward the target to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol to 2025, five years ahead of its previous target, to help reduce its dependence on costly oil imports. 10 per cent ethanol blending was achieved earlier this year.

India is the world's third-biggest oil importer, relying on foreign suppliers to meet more than 85 per cent of its demand.

UPI transactions up over 3% at 678 crore in September



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

UPI transactions grew by over 3 per cent to 6.78 billion in September from a month ago, data from NPCI showed on Saturday.

In August 2020, the total number of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) based digital financial transactions stood at 6.57 billion (657 crore).

In value terms, 6.78 billion (678 crore) transactions in last month corresponds to transactions worth Rs 11.16 lakh crore, up from Rs 10.73 lakh crore in August, as per the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data.

In July, India processed 6.28 billion UPI transactions worth Rs 10.62 lakh crore.

Among other payments methods under the NCPI umbrella, the instant inter-bank payments through IMPS stood at 462.69 million (46.27 crore) in September slightly lower from 466.91 million (46.69 crore) in the preceding month. In July, it was 460.83 million (46.03 crore).

UP: All-women milk business flourishing in economically backward Bundelkhand

PTI ■ JHANSI (UP)

Women in the parched landscape of the Bundelkhand region are steering towards self-sufficiency through milk production run by a well-structured women self-help group that has expanded to over 40,000 female members.

These women are partners in Balinee Milk Producer Company Limited and have taken big strides since the inception of the company in 2019.

The all-women initiative in the economically backward Bundelkhand region has drawn praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The company, which was inaugurated by Adityanath, has members spread across six districts of the Bundelkhand region.

During a virtual programme based on the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Nari Shakti' last year, Modi lauded the initiative.

Adityanath appreciated the successful experiment in Jhansi while speaking at a special session of the state assembly on September 22.

Started by Uma Kanti Pal, who mobilised women of the villages, the initiative has helped thousands of women of

the region stand up on their feet.

The women members take care of milk production, collection and safe transport to processing centres. They are paid on a weekly basis for their work.

At the break of dawn, the centres could be seen buzzing with activities with women members one after another visiting there with their pots full of milk.

The earnings have helped rural women contribute towards running their families and providing better education to their children.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Balinee Milk Producer Company Limited OP Singh said, "We collect over 1.35 lakh litre milk every day from more than 40,000 women members from six districts of Bundelkhand region, including Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Mahoba, Banda and Hamirpur."

"Over 7,000 more women members will soon join us, which we are expecting will help to increase our capacity to 2 lakh litre milk every day."

The woman members have been made the shareholders in the company.

Currently, the company has 703 milk collection centres in 795 villages in six districts. The collection centres are



equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to determine the quality of the milk.

The milk collected is sold in Jhansi city and is also sent to other milk processing firms located in nearby states.

To facilitate easy payment and empower its women members, the company has also helped them to link with the banking system.

"We have also signed MoU with various banks so that our members can get easy loans from the bank to buy cattle. We are also working to ensure the milking cattle of our members get insured," Singh said.

The earnings have helped the women members to improve their status and quality of life.

Asha Devi, a group member, said that at the time of joining the company, she only had one cattle but with help of the

earnings she now owns three cattle.

"I have three buffaloes who produce around 20 litres of milk, which I deposit in the collection centre. The company pays me Rs 55 per litre and the payments are always on time," she said.

"I have admitted my children to a better school and am able to save some money for the future," she added.

Another member Pavitra Devi of the Babina area said, "In the last three years, I have increased the number of cattle from two to 11. The cattle give around 40-litre milk every day which I submit to the collection centre". Pavitra Devi added that her family has been able to build a new shed for the cattle with the money she earned.

The company also provides assistance to members in purchasing cattle.

US WOMEN WIN FOURTH STRAIGHT GOLD AT WORLD CUP, TOP CHINA

AP ■ SYDNEY

The names on the US team have changed, the Americans' dominance has not.

A'ja Wilson scored 19 points, Kelsey Plum added 17 and the United States beat China 83-61 on Saturday to win its fourth consecutive gold medal at the women's basketball World Cup.

"It feels great," said Wilson, who was selected as the tournament's MVP. "We came here on a mission, we got it. We got gold. Now we're going home with some hardware. It feels great to us. Australia was great to us. I didn't see any kangaroos, but it's OK because we are leaving with a gold."

This was one of the most dominant teams in the Americans' storied history in the World Cup that now has won 11 gold medals. They've won four straight gold medals for the first time. This also was the biggest win in a gold-medal game, surpassing the 20-point wins that the Americans had done twice.

"Everybody wants to beat us. Everybody wants what we have and that's gold medals and victories," Breanna Stewart said.

What started with Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi has now been passed down to Wilson and Stewart. With Alyssa Thomas the oldest player at 30, the domination could continue for years to come.

"It's been an incredible journey just to continue to lay that foundation down like so many of the greats in front of us have," Wilson said. "Now it's our turn to step up and be in that situation."

Host Australia defeated Canada 95-65 to win the bronze medal, led by 41-year-old Lauren Jackson's 30 points.

As they've done all tournament, the Americans did it on both ends of the court, playing stellar defense as well as using a high-powered offense.



The U.S. (8-0) finished the World Cup averaging 98.8 points — just short of the mark held by the 1994 team that averaged 99.1. They won by an average of 40.8 points, topping the mark held by the 2010 team.

The game was a sellout with nearly 16,000 fans — the biggest crowd to attend a women's World Cup game since the inaugural tournament in 1953 in Chile.

Led by Li Yueru and Wu Tongtong, China hung around. The Chinese team trailed 33-28 late in the second quarter before the U.S. went on a 10-2 run highlighted by fast-break layups by Stewart and Wilson to extend the advantage to double-digits.

Jin Weina hit a 3-pointer just before the halftime buzzer to get China back to within 10.

The U.S. was just too good to let the upset happen, outscoring China 25-14 in the third. The Americans did have one scary moment when Thomas went down after a collision with Li in the

lane. She was helped off the court, but returned a few minutes later.

"It was a tough game as we expected," Thomas said. "By no means is this game easy. We stuck to it and pulled out a win."

China won its first medal since the 1994 World Cup when the team also took the silver and are a rising power in women's basketball. After the game, the team posed for a photo with their flag and men's great Yao Ming, who is the president of the Chinese Basketball Association.

Li finished with 19 points and Wu added 13 before leaving the game in the fourth quarter after her knee gave out driving to the basket. She had to be carried off the court.

The victory was the 30th in a row in World Cup play for the Americans, who haven't lost since the 2006 semifinals against Russia. The Soviet Union holds the World Cup record with 56 straight wins from 1959-86. This is only the second time in the Americans'

storyline they've reached four consecutive gold medal contests. They also did it from 1979-90, winning three times.

This U.S. team, which has so many new faces, continued to dominate the paint even without 6-foot-8 Brittney Griner, outscoring its opponents by an average of 55-24.

The teams met in pool play and China gave the U.S. its toughest game, losing by 14 points.

CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE

Wilson, Chelsea Gray and Plum are part of an incredible group that won a World Cup and WNBA title in the same year. There have been 14 total now.

HONORING GRINER

"This is for BG. I hope BG knows she's in our thoughts," Stewart said. "We can't wait for her to come home and hoping that she's going to be home as soon as possible. BG, we got the gold for you and we miss you and we love you."

Griner was sentenced in August to

nine years in a Russian prison after she was convicted of drug possession. The U.S. honored her by not having anyone wear her No. 15 on the roster.

WOMEN'S WORLD

FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis was pleased that half of the officials in the tournament were female and five of the 12 head coaches were women. Both China and the U.S. had women in charge of their teams, the second straight time that two female coaches made it to the gold-medal game.

MISSING IN ACTION

The U.S. was without Kahleah Copper for the second straight game after injuring her left hip in the win over Serbia in the quarterfinals. Copper landed hard on her hip driving to the basket and had to be helped off the court. China was missing its star guard Li Meng, who sat out a second consecutive game with what Chinese media reported as having a fever due to body fatigue.



Hockey India names 33 probables for FIH Pro League matches

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Hockey India on Saturday named a 33-member men's core probable group, including the likes of captain Manpreet Singh and veteran goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, for the FIH Pro League season opening matches beginning on October 28.

The players will report to the SAI Center in Bengaluru on Monday for a national camp ahead of FIH Pro League matches against New Zealand and Spain at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Talking about the camp, chief coach Graham Reid said, "The FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 will give us insights into the areas that require work ahead of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

"The matches against Spain and New Zealand are important for us and the players are excited about the upcoming months of hockey. We have chosen some fresh names in the core group who have shown great potential and are eager to perform when

given a chance."

India play against New Zealand on October 28 and November 4. They face Germany on October 30 and November 6.

The team will move to Bhubaneswar on October 21 after a three-week camp in SAI, Bengaluru.

The Probables:

Goalkeepers: PR Sreejesh, Krishan B Pathak, Pawan

Defenders: Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Yashdeep Siwah, Dipsan Tirkey, Sanjay, Manjeet, Sumit

Midfielders: Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Pawan Rajbhar

Forwards: Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Maninder Singh, Mohd Raheel Mousen, S Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh.

Marseille beats Angers 3-0 to lead French league

AP ■ ANGERS

Jonathan Clauss notched a goal and two assists to help Marseille take the lead in the French league by downing Angers 3-0.

Marseille remained unbeaten to overtake Paris Saint-Germain by a point, but the defending champion can take the top spot back when it hosts Nice on Saturday.

Clauss rounded Angers right back Yan Valery to fire home an angled strike off the near post in the 35th minute. The France international then intercepted a pass from Valery in the 50th to feed Luis Suarez, who doubled the lead by beating goalkeeper Yahia Fofana.

Marseille midfielder Gerson made it 3-0 by controlling a cross from Clauss in the 59th to curl into the bottom corner.

"The squad lives very well together. We all stick together," Marseille midfielder Jordan Veretout said in explaining Marseille's strong start to the season.

"All the players are very important, whether it's the 11 who start or the bench. We are



a team showing solidarity, that's what makes us strong this season."

Marseille rested striker Alexis Sanchez, who stayed on the bench after playing two full matches for Chile during the international break.

Angers created the first chances by pressing high up the pitch but lacked the finishing touch. Nabil Bentaleb intercepted a pass from Marseille midfielder Jordan Veretout before rattling the post in the 18th. Angers left back Souleyman Dombia also dispossessed Issa Kabore in the 34th to cut the ball back for Adrien Hunou, who fluffed his shot wide.

TT: Manika loses both matches as Indian women go down to Germany in World Team C'ships

PTI ■ CHENGDU

Sreeja Ajula and Diya Chitale registered impressive wins but star paddler Manika Batra lost both her fixtures as Indian women lost 2-3 to Germany in their ITTF World Team Championships opener here on Saturday.

The men's team, on the other hand, blanked Uzbekistan 3-0 in its Group 2 opening clash.

Commonwealth Games medallist Batra, ranked 44 in the world, was no match to the world number eight Ying Han, who breezed past the Indian 3-0 (11-3 11-1 11-2) to give her side a 1-0 lead.

World number 77 Sreeja then upstaged the higher-ranked Nina Mittelham 3-0 (11-9 12-10 11-7) to put India back in the contest.

The 122-ranked Diya then gave India the lead with a hard-fought 3-1 (11-9 8-11 11-6 13-11) win over Sabine Winter.

Asian Games medallist Batra made a strong start to her second match but couldn't take advantage of the winning momentum as she was handed a 1-3 (11-7 6-11 7-11 8-11)



defeat by world number 14 Mittelham as the fixture was tied at 2-2.

However, the 24-year-old Sreeja too was no match to the mighty Ying, the 2016 Rio Olympics team silver medallist, as she also surrendered meekly to the German 0-3 (3-11 5-11 4-11) in the decider.

Indian women are placed third in Group 5.

Earlier, the men's team was hardly tested by its Uzbek rivals.

Harmeet Desai gave India the lead with a 3-0 (11-9 11-9

11-1) win over Elmurod Kholikov.

G Sathiyam then doubled the lead with a similar 3-0 (11-3 11-6 11-9) victory against Abdulaziz Anorboev while Manav Thakur sealed the fixture after defeating Shokhrukh Iskandar 3-0 (11-8 11-5 11-5).

The win puts India in third place in Group 2 behind Germany and France.

The Indian men will next face Germany while the women will take on Czech Republic on Sunday.

My focus is World Tour Finals: Prannoy

PTI ■ SURAT

Star India shuttler HS Prannoy has set his sight on the season-ending World Tour Finals but said he will have to hone his skills to ensure that he doesn't falter at the business end of the remaining tournaments.

One of the most consistent players in the international circuit this season, Prannoy has consistently reached the quarters and semifinals this season but a title has still eluded him.

The 30-year-old from Kerala recently replaced Tokyo Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark at the top of the latest men's singles HSBC Race To Guangzhou rankings.

He is leading with 58,090 points, having participated in 13 tournaments on the BWF World Tour this year. Players in the top 8 qualify for the year-ending World Tour Finals scheduled to be held from December 14 to 18 in Guangzhou.

"My focus would be the World Tour Finals. There are quite a few tournaments before that. I hope to produce winning results in those," Prannoy said after guiding Kerala to a 3-1 win



over Assam in the mixed team quarterfinals of the National Games here.

"I have to be consistent. I would like to get into a good rhythm before the World Tour Finals. I'm happy with my results over the last year and I need to be consistent."

A former world number 8, Prannoy had slipped out of the top 20 after enduring a tough phase plagued with health issues and a slump in form.

However, Prannoy has regained his place in the top 15 in the latest rankings and said his aim remains to get back into the elite 10.

"I would like to get into the top 10 and preferably top five as I would get a better draw. I also need to work on my game so that I should go beyond the semifinals. That is my priority now."



Popular wrestler and politician Antonio Inoki dies at 79

AP ■ TOKYO

A popular Japanese professional wrestler and lawmaker Antonio Inoki, who faced a world boxing champion Muhammad Ali in a mixed martial arts match in 1976, has died at 79.

Inoki brought Japanese pro-wrestling to fame and pioneered mixed martial arts matches between top wrestlers and champions from other combat sports like judo, karate and boxing.

He also was the first in his sport to enter politics. He promoted peace through sports and made more than 30 trips to North Korea during his time as a lawmaker in hopes of forging peace and friendship.

Inoki, who was battling a rare disease called amyloidosis, died earlier on Saturday, according to the New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., of which he was the founding president. Inoki was upbeat and in good spirits, even as he was fighting the disease.

With his trademark red scarf dangling from his neck, Inoki last appeared in public in August on a TV show, in a wheelchair.

"As you can see, I'm pushing myself to the limit, and I'm getting power as I get to see you," he said.

Born as Kanji Inoki in 1943 in Yokohama, just outside Tokyo, he moved to Brazil with his family when he was 13 and worked at a coffee plantation.

Inoki won local fame in shot put as a student, and debuted as a professional wrestler at 17 while on wrestling tour in Brazil where he captured the attention of Rikidozan, known as the father of Japanese pro-wrestling.

Inoki made his pro-wrestling debut in 1960 and gave himself a ring name Antonio Inoki two years later.

With his archival and another Japanese legend, the late Shohei "Giant" Baba, Inoki made pro-wrestling a hugely popular sport in Japan. Inoki founded the New Japan Pro-Wrestling in 1972.

Guinea removed as host of 2025 African Cup

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

The African soccer confederation has removed Guinea as host of the 2025 African Cup of Nations because of inadequate infrastructure.

The decision was announced late Friday night and after Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe traveled to the country to meet with Col. Mamady Doumbouya, the head of the military junta in Guinea who took power in a coup in 2021.

CAF said its executive committee would meet in Algeria on Saturday to discuss the details of re-opening the bidding process for the 2025 tournament.

Guinea's hosting of the continental championship had been under scrutiny for weeks after an inspection committee made a visit in early September and determined that Guinea wouldn't be ready. CAF made an internal decision then to strip the West African nation of the tournament but held off making an official announcement until Motsepe's visit.

In a statement, CAF said the infrastructure and facilities in Guinea were "not ready to host a world class AFCON competition."

Advani, Laxman among 6 Indians to qualify for knockout stage of World Men 6-Red Snooker C'ship



PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Star cueist Pankaj Advani and defending champion Laxman Rawat were among the six Indians to qualify for the knockout stage of the World 6-Red Snooker Championship here.

Besides Advani and Laxman, Dhvaj Haria, Kamal Chawla and S Shrikrishna have also made it to the last 32.

Advani won all the four group stage matches with a scoreline 4-0, 4-1, 4-1, 4-2 and secured top position in his group. However, the other Indian players qualified for the knock-out stage after finishing second in their respective groups.

The 37-year-old from Pune defeated Mohamed Emeesh of

Libya 4-0 in the morning session, before getting the better off Enkhtuvshin Bat-Ochir of Mongolia 4-1 in the evening session on the opening day of the competition on Thursday.

On Saturday, Advani beat Loh Chung Leong of Malaysia 4-2 in another group B match.

Advani took a 2-0 lead against Loh but the Malaysian surprised him and took away two frames to level the match but then the Indian tightened the string and sealed the next two frames to close the proceedings. His frame score against Loh Chung Leong was 34-26, 37-01, 24-38, 19-47, 32-20, 41-10.

Advani will face Lim Kok Leong in the last 32 stage on Sunday.

Sikki-Kapoor pair loses in Vietnam Open semifinals, Indian campaign ends

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH

Indian mixed doubles pair of IN Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor suffered a straight game loss in the semifinals of the Vietnam Open Super 100 badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The unseeded Indian pair lost 16-21 14-21 to top seeded Indonesian combination of Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto and Lisa Ayu Kusumawati in a 37-minute contest.

The defeat brought the curtains down on India's campaign at the tournament.

Sikki and Kapoor had clinched the Chhattisgarh International Challenge title, last week.

The Indonesian pair opened up a 8-4 lead early on and even though the Indian duo brought the equation down to as close as 15-16, Rehan and Lisa quelled the challenge and knocked off four straight points to pocket the opening game.

The second game also went on similar lines with Rehan and Lisa leading 12-9. Sikki and Kapoor then reduced the deficit to 14-15 but the Indonesian pair sealed the contest with six points on the trot.

Bayern routs Leverkusen 4-0 to end crisis, Musiala stars

AP ■ BERLIN

Jamal Musiala starred and Bayern Munich ended its four-game winless run by beating Bayer Leverkusen 4-0 as the Bundesliga returned from the international break on Friday.

The 19-year-old Musiala was involved in all three of the first-half goals. And this time — in contrast to the 1-0 defeat in Augsburg or the three preceding draws — fortune was smiling on Bayern. Every score was helped on its way by a slight deflection — or a gift from the opposition.

The 10-time defending champion wasted little time in answering its first loss of the season in Augsburg as Musiala skipped down the right wing and crossed for Leroy Sané to open the scoring in the third minute.

Thomas Müller set up Musiala to score in the 17th, and Musiala was involved again when he set up Sadio Mané to end his six-game scoring drought in the 39th. It was Mané's first goal in Munich for his new team.

Mané thought he'd scored again early in the second half, but the goal was ruled out after a VAR check for an apparent



foul by Matthijs de Ligt on Odilon Kossounou in the buildup. Bayern's players kept playing while the Leverkusen defender was lying on the ground after a clash of heads with de Ligt and Musiala again provided the final pass. Referee Tobias Stieler checked replays while Kossounou received treatment and consequently penalized de Ligt for a foul.

Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer denied Amine Adli in the

visitors' only real chance, while his counterpart Lukáš Hrádecký ended an evening to forget by gifting Müller Bayern's fourth goal in the 84th. Hrádecký wanted to play the ball out but slipped and inadvertently provided the assist for Müller, whose celebrations were muted by embarrassment.

Bayern moved two points behind league leader Union Berlin, which visits Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday.

JEMIMAH'S CAREER-BEST POWERS INDIA TO 41-RUN WIN OVER SL IN WOMEN'S ASIA CUP



PTI ■ SYLHET

Jemimah Rodrigues played the role of an enforcer to perfection with a career-best 76 in T20Is before the bowlers produced a clinical display to power India to a 41-run win against Sri Lanka in their women's Asia Cup opener here on Saturday.

Rodrigues put up a boundary-hitting exhibition as she whacked 11 fours and a maximum in her counter-attacking 53-ball innings to help India post 150 for six on a wicket where batters struggled due to low bounce.

The Indian bowlers then struck at regular intervals to bowl Sri Lanka out for 109 in 18.2 overs.

The Indians were better than their Sri Lankan counterparts in all three departments.

India were not off to the best of starts after being asked to bat.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (10) was the first to be dismissed, while her fellow opener Shafali Verma's (6) batting woes continued as she became spinner Oshadi Ranasinghe's (3/32) first victim of the day.

But Rodrigues, who is coming off a wrist injury, was in control from the beginning, timing the ball to perfection.

She kept sending the ball to the fence every over and punished the Sri Lankan bowling attack all over the field.

Rodrigues raced to her half-century in 38 deliveries and together with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (33 off 30) steered India over the 100-run mark.

The two got 92 off 71 balls with Kaur also looking dangerous.

The skipper got a reprieve in the 15th over when she was dropped off Sugandika Kumari (1/26) but couldn't capitalise on it as Ranasinghe had her stumped in the next over.

Sri Lankan bowlers then staged a comeback in the death overs with a flurry of wickets.

While Rodrigues continued to score at a good pace, going past her previous career-best T20I score of 72, her fabulous innings soon came to an end off a Chamari Athapaththu (1/8) slow and low delivery as the Indian was bowled.

Dayalan Hemalatha chipped in with an unbeaten 13 towards the end while Richa Ghosh (9) slammed a six.

Spinners, led by Ranasinghe did the bulk of the work for Sri Lanka.

Chasing 151, Sri Lanka were off to a flyer, plundering 13 runs off the first over bowled by pacer Renuka Singh (0/20). But Sri Lanka couldn't continue the momentum as they lost wickets at regular intervals.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma (2/15) got the prized wicket of the experienced Chamari (5)

with her slower ball.

The Sri Lankan skipper looked to slog it over the on side only for Renuka to catch the ball at square leg. Sri Lanka's running between wickets was sloppy as a sharp India side capitalised on the errors.

Deepti ran out Melsha Shehani (9) but opener Harshitha Samarawickrama (26) continued to play aggressively but she too was run out in the eighth over.

With the required run rate increasing, the Sri Lankans wilted under pressure.

Pooja Vastrakar (2/12) snared the wickets of Nilakshi de Silva (3) Kavisha Dilhari (1) off her successive overs as Sri Lanka were left tottering at 61/5.

However, Hasini Perera (30) provided some resistance as she partnered with wicketkeeper

Anushka Sanjeevani (5) and Oshidi Ranasinghe (11) to breach the 100-run mark.

But spinner Hemalatha (3/15) cleaned up the tail with a three-wicket burst as India started their Asia Cup campaign with a win.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER:RWSS DIVISION:BERHAMPUR
Near Jarada Bungalow, Pin - 760004, Ph. 0680-2296344
eervss_bam@nic.in rvssbam@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Bid Identification No. SERWSSBAM-14/2022-23
The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Berhampur, Ganjam on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids in Single Cover system according to the norm of "e" Procurement system in online mode for Supply, drawing, design, construction, testing and commissioning and maintenance of different PWS Schemes in Ganjam District from the eligible contractors as per DTGN.

TENDER CALL NOTICE
Sealed tenders are invited from the Manufacturer/Importer/ authorized distributors / Stockists / Dealers for supply of Medicines to Mental Health Institute, SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack-753007. The tender will be opened on scheduled date and time in the office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives. In the event of the date being declared as a holiday for Govt. of Odisha, the due date of submission of bids and opening of bids will be the next working day. The bidders may download the Tender Documents directly from the website www.mhicoecuttack.co.in and also can be obtained from the office of the Director-cum-Medical Superintendent, Mental Health Institute; SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack. The cost of tender paper is Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees one thousand only) (Non-refundable) by cash payment or bank draft/demand draft in favour of "Director-cum-Medical Superintendent, Mental Health Institute, SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack" payable at Cuttack from any Nationalized Bank. Any tender received after the due date and time will be rejected and return to the sender un-opened. The tender will be received through Speed Post/Regd. Post only. The authority reserves the right to reject any / all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-AUCTION FOR ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS
No. SDGM/KUR/E-Auction/Press Clippings/2022-23/4651, Dt. 27.09.2022
SN. DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS AUCTION END DATE & TIME
01 Advertisement through Vinyl wrapping (below window) of 09 trains. 12.10.2022, 1250 hrs.
02 Operation and Management of Cloak Room at Khurda Road & Bhubaneswar 12.10.2022, 1140 hrs.
03 Advertisement inside Stations (Ordinary Board & Glow Sign Board) at Kendujhargarh, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Talcher Road, Talcher 13.10.2022, 1320hrs.
04 Installation of ATMs at 19 Locations over Khurda Road Division 15.10.2022, 1430 hrs.
05 Advertisement (out of Home) on Kendujhargarh-Bhadrak section & Angul-Paradip section. 17.10.2022, 1140 hrs.

Office of the Superintendent
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Post Graduate Institute of Pediatrics
Health & F.W. Department, Govt. of Odisha
Cuttack-753002, Tel/Fax: 0671-2508978
E-Mail ID- svppgip_cuttack@rediffmail.com
www.svppgip.org
Letter No: 5242 /SVPPGIP, Cuttack Date: 30.9.2022
TENDER NOTICE-I
The Superintendent SVPPGIP, Cuttack invites sealed tenders from the GSTN registered wholesaler/retailer having valid drug license for supply of medicines this institute on rate contract basis during the year 2022-23. The bid is two bid systems i.e Technical bid and price bid. The last date of submission of sealed tender is 25/10/2022 up to 05pm by Regd. post/Speed post only. The details about tender with term and condition can be found in tender paper which will be available from website of Institution i.e www.svppgip.org. The tender paper cost of Rs. 1000/- in the form of BD to be submitted along with technical bid.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No-C-IIM-IFB-06/2019 (PT) No. 37566 Dtd. 30.9.2022
1st Corrigendum Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-20/2022-23
The following changes are made to the work invited vide Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-20/2022-23 vide letter No.35225 dtd.15.09.2022.
1. The Bid documents will be available in the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in from 10.00 AM of 12.10.2022 to 5.30 PM of 28.10.2022 for online bidding.
2. Bids shall be received only on "on line" on or before 5.30 PM of 28.10.2022.
3. Bids received on line shall be opened at 11.30 Hours on 29.10.2022 in the office of the Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Nirmana Saudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Chief Engineer, DPI & Roads, Odisha

DIRECTORATE OF STATE INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, ODISHA
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751012
Re-advertisement Reference No. 3814 dated 30.9.2022
TRAINING OF GOVERNMENT DOCTORS
In continuation of classified advertisement vide caption no. E- 453 dated 09.09.2022, it is informed that the last date for apply for training of Government doctors for the course of 1 Year Training of Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health Management (PGDPHM), Which was published in Times of India, Prameya & Dharitri Daily on 09.09.2022, has been extended to 20.10.2022. Those doctors who have already applied need not apply again. All other terms and condition remain unchanged.
Sd/-
Director, SIH&FW (Odisha), Bhubaneswar.

Salt's 88 trumps Babar's 87 to set up T20 decider



AP ■ LAHORE

Phil Salt's 88 trumped Babar Azam's 87 for England to beat Pakistan in a Twenty20 and set up a series decider.

Both openers carried their bats through the sixth match, and Salt's extra ruthlessness was a big reason why England won by eight wickets to even the series 3-3.

They play the seventh and last match on Sunday at the same Gaddafi Stadium.

Salt smashed an unbeaten 88 off 41 balls, propelling a chasing England to 170-2 in just 14.3 overs.

Babar anchored Pakistan to 169-6 with an unbeaten 87 off 59 balls.

Salt's brutal batting in the powerplay led England to 82-1, the most runs ever conceded by Pakistan in the first six overs.

Alex Hales made 27 off 12 balls and added 55 runs with Salt. Then Dawid Malan and Ben Duckett combined with Salt to get England home with 33 balls to spare.

"Thought the way we batted in particular was outstanding," England stand-in captain Moeen Ali said.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit made before Executive Magistrate, Talcher vide AR No. 2681, dtd. 16/09/22, I, Dhuba Jena aged about 56 years s/o Late Somanath Jena, Vill. Tieswar, Po. Maulabhanja, Ps. Digapahandi, Dist. Ganjam at present Qr. No. A/103, Block-18, Lingaraj Township, po. Handihuan ps. Colliery, Dist. Angul hereby declared that I am working as Sr. Dumper Operator category-B vide Emp. No.77120921 at Lingaraj OCP, MCLtd. Talcher, in the service record my name has been mentioned as DHOBA ZANA, Where as in my adhaar, PAN Card, Voter ID and in other documents etc. Hence, Dhuba Jena and Dhuba Zana, s/o Late Somanath Jena of the above address is one and same person for all purposes.

SALIENT FEATURES OF NEW TIME TABLE 2022
Introduced by East Coast Railway W.E.F. 01st October
INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRAINS
REVISED DEPARTURE TIME AT ORIGINATING STATIONS
EXTENSION OF TRAINS
REVISED ARRIVAL TIME AT DESTINATION STATIONS
CHARGE IN TIMINGS AT IMPORTANT STATIONS
TRAINS SPEEDED UP
TRAIN TIMINGS ADJUSTMENT

2 October
Nation pays tribute to Gandhi ji and Shastri ji on their Birth Anniversaries
The life and ideals of Puja Babu will continue to inspire every generation of the country to walk on the path of duty. Similarly, Shastri ji's life based on values and principles will always remain a source of inspiration for the countrymen.
-Narendra Modi

“Be happy with being you. Love your flaws. Own your quirks. And know that you are just as perfect as anyone else, exactly as you are”
—Ariana Grande



AFTER A LONG ROPE, PFI FINALLY NAILED

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agenda,, writes RAKESH SINGH

The ban on the radical outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates by the Centre earlier this week under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has come in the wake of intelligence reports that the Islamist organization's scale of radicalization has reached monumental proportions and its linkages with several global terror groups was threatening national security.

The banned outfit's deep-seated strategic ambit is clear as it has begun regrouping within a week of the ban under the banner of Tipu Sultan Volunteer Force.

The most alarming element in the PFI's tactics was the recruitment of a large number of mentally challenged children by its affiliate Rehab India Foundation, also banned along with the parent organization. The clandestine nature of such recruitment left the children open to abuse into drug trafficking, organ harvesting, gunrunning, and suicide bombing without them being aware of their role in such affairs.

While the government has banned the Rehab India Foundation, measures are yet to be taken to rescue these children. Their legal verification and tracing of their families are the need of the hour to stem any possible threat posed by their misuse in the future.

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agendas.

The PFI affiliate National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation was working in the guise of raising human rights issues of the Rohingyas and also organized protests in favour of the displaced Myanmar nationals illegally residing in India and also organized anti-state protests in the name of human rights violations of the Muslims to further its anti-government propaganda by projecting that the Muslims were being crushed in the country at the hands of the state. It was also working to create a pro-Rohingya and anti-UAPA narrative. It was being mentored by an American Human Rights group and also had a working relationship with urban Naxals and ultra-Left human rights groups.

The Empower India Foundation that brought the Vision 2047 document for Islamisation of India was engaged in intellectual narrative building and pushing Muslims at different levels of the government administrative machinery.

Likewise, the All India Imams Council, also a PFI affiliate, also banned, was allegedly working to convert the youths of Islamic factions like Sufism and Shia denominations into radical

Salafism. It also engaged in conversion for which it issued a detailed set of guidelines.

PFI's National Women's Front was reportedly tasked to spearhead the hijab movement. The outfit was not only radicalizing gullible Indian youths but also Islamic cohorts from a number of countries like Maldives and Seychelles among others.

The PFI had also reportedly ran a "Boycott India" campaign in the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region when India was coping with the Covid pandemic and cryogenic oxygen was being imported from the Gulf countries. Through the Boycott India campaign, the outfit intended to disrupt the supply of oxygen so that more and more Indians could die due to the pandemic.

The outfit had grown so bold that it issued threats to a few serving and former Intelligence officers including Interlocutor for the Northeast RN Ravi last year.

The organization, with a membership base of over 15 lakh, was growing organically. The Tamil Nadu Tauheed Jamat merged with it in 2021. Tauheed Jamat's Sri Lankan faction was involved in the 2019 serial bombings in Colombo in the high security diplomatic zone killing over 200 people.

The PFI had developed significant connections with the Rohingyas. On the Uyghurs, the PFI facilitated the movement of leaders to Hyderabad but in a display of a double game, it did not endorse Uyghur demands in line with the Pakistani government line on the issue.

The PFI was also in the advanced state of setting up training camps abroad in conjunction with the Taliban and ISIS.

The PFI hierarchy is divided into two factions-the one owing allegiance to ISIS and the other to Al Qaeda. The current action against the PFI by the law enforcement agencies entails measures against the ISIS faction within the outfit.

The PFI leadership, tilted toward the Al Qaeda global terror group, was in contact with the Tahreek-e-Taliban. The group had also prepared a hit list of top political leaders.

The PFI was indulging in "disturbing" the country's communal and secular fabric and "posing a grave threat" to national security by advancing its radical ideology and seeking to establish "political Islam" in India besides targeting Hindu activists.

According to agencies monitoring the activities of the PFI and its members, a secret 'service team' was formed, similar to the 'hit squads', whose main task was to provide security to senior PFI leaders and also keep track of Hindu leaders in their areas and plan action against them.

The PFI also covertly organised training exercises, and military-like drills, where participants are trained to use force and violence against certain religious groups, which are perceived as enemies of Islam.

Since its inception, the PFI has been against Hindu organisations and their leaders. The e group has a secret hit squad that engages in targeted killings of Hindu activists and those allegedly indulging in blasphemy.

The PFI is alleged to have been continuously involved in anti-government propaganda and spreading the narrative that Muslims were being

THE MOST ALARMING ELEMENT IN THE PFI'S TACTICS WAS THE RECRUITMENT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN BY ITS AFFILIATE REHAB INDIA FOUNDATION, ALSO BANNED ALONG WITH THE PARENT ORGANIZATION. THE CLANDESTINE NATURE OF SUCH RECRUITMENT LEFT THE CHILDREN OPEN FOR ABUSE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING, ORGAN HARVESTING, GUNRUNNING, AND SUICIDE BOMBING WITHOUT THEM BEING AWARE OF THEIR ROLE IN SUCH AFFAIRS

persecuted in India.

The outfit was at the forefront in organising anti-CAA protests during December 2019-March 2020 and many cases were registered against them which included 51 in Uttar Pradesh alone where the PFI-led platform, Samvidhan Suraksha Andolan, was among those which coordinated the anti-CAA agitations.

Through active involvement in the protests, the PFI was able to project itself as a prominent Muslim organisation capable of safeguarding the interests of the community.

By projecting itself as the champion of Muslim causes, the PFI had been successful in attracting new members over the years. Its role in the Delhi riots was also investigated by the ED.

In recent years, the peaceful atmosphere of the country was

threatened by PFI, which has a presence in 17 States.

The murder of Praveen Nettaru in Bellare town on July 26 was one of the cases that exposed the violent character of PFI. Nettaru, a member of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha and a local businessman, was hacked to death in typical ISIS style by bike-borne assailants and most of the accused in the case had an affiliation with the PFI.

An investigation by local police claimed a chilling tale of cold-blooded murder by PFI cadres and SDPI members in retaliation to the killing of 19-year-old Masood, a Muslim migrant labourer.

A list of RSS and Bajrang Dal members of the town was prepared and the PFI leaders handpicked some members to avenge Masood's death. Nettaru was targeted as he had commented on the halal issue, officials said.

Contrary to PFI's claim of being a social organisation working for the uplift of Muslims, the ground actions of the outfit tell a totally different story with several of its cadres having a violent history.

Over 1,400 criminal cases had been registered against PFI cadres and its affiliates across the country including under the UAPA, the Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act and other sections of the IPC.

The interrogation of the accused in various cases showed that the PFI would identify Muslim youths, from poor or middle-class backgrounds, for physical training during which they were also inculcated with anti-Hindutva ideology.

These cadres were trained in handling knives, swords, and rods and how to attack specific body parts to inflict maximum damage.

On July 4, Telangana Police registered a case against 27 people after a training camp for 200 PFI cadres was found in Nizamabad. The PFI had been trying hard to make inroads into Telangana to increase its cadre base and was undertaking social programmes like distributing school books and food to the poor to gain traction among them.

There have been a number of instances of international linkages of PFI with global terrorist groups where some PFI activists, particularly from Kerala, had joined ISIS and had participated in terror activities in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, which was an outcome of the continuous radicalisation of its cadres.

While investigating the foreign funding trail of PFI, the ED found that PFI had formed district executive committees in various gulf countries including the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The India Fraternity Forum (IFF) and Indian Social Forum (ISF) were PFI's overseas fronts and were to politically engage the expatriate Muslims to conform to their ideology and organise funds for activities of PFI in India.

Their executive committees were responsible for sending money to PFI in India without leaving any trail. Funds were generally collected in cash and remitted to India either through hawala channels or camouflaged as remittances made to relatives and friends of PFI's members and sympathisers working abroad.

Further, PFI had linkages with the dreaded Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, which was involved in several terror incidents in that country.

Also, 21 people having linkages with the PFI had joined the internationally banned ISIS terror group.

Some Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) training videos, depicting gruesome murders, were recovered from the PFI cadres accused in the professor TJ Joseph hand-chopping case in 2010.

PFI's top leaders visited Turkey in 2018 and 2019 to attend programmes related to Palestine.

Its radical activities had attracted the attention of an international radical outfit namely, the Party of Islamic Renewal, which had in April sent an online letter to PFI on Twitter, praising its activities and urging it to organize a 'Revolutionary Army' for Jihad against the Indian government.

The PFI has also been targeting leaders of the Sufi Islamic Board, who were campaigning constantly for a ban on the PFI.

Since its inception in 2006, the PFI encouraged its cadres to undertake actions that mar peace and harmony among religious groups and disrupt the secular fabric of the country.

On December 9, 2006, three south Indian Muslim fundamentalist groups -- National Development Front/NDF, Kerala; Karnataka Forum for Dignity/KFD, Karnataka; and Manitha Neethi Pasarai/MNP, Tamil Nadu, rechristened 'South India Council' (a Bengaluru-based organisation floated by NDF in 2004) as 'Popular Front of India'.

Several members of PFI, including its top leadership, had been active members of banned SIMI. They included EM Abdul Rahiman (former Chairman), E Abubacker (Member, National Executive Council/NEC) and P Koya (Member, NEC).

SIMI was banned in 2001 under the UAPA for anti-national activities.

In their oath of allegiance, the PFI cadres swear to sacrifice their lives for the creation of Allah's rule (Shariah). This oath was administered to the cadre

only when he was judged to have been suitably radicalised for the group.

PFI recruits were radicalised by the display of selective video clippings on emotive issues like the Babri Masjid demolition, and communal riots in Gujarat and other parts of the country, aimed at instilling a sense of Muslim persecution and distrust against the state as well as other communities.

During interrogation by the ED (December 2020), Rauf Sharief (former general secretary, CFI), had said that PFI runs a secret relief wing, which actually plans and executes revenge attacks on selected RSS leaders.

On the funding part, the officials said that PFI receives dubious funding from within the country as well as from abroad.

PFI and its affiliates maintain a large number of bank accounts and receive money through its well-wishers/financers based in India and abroad. It also collects Zakat (donations) from its wealthy supporters.

The ED searched several office premises and residences of PFI leaders in 2020 and 2021 for suspected money laundering and arrested PFI leaders. The ED probe revealed that the PFI had created a very well-organized structure in Gulf countries for raising funds and the collected fund was sent to India through Hawala.

PFI was operating money laundering fronts overseas, which included the Munnar Villa vista project in Kerala and Darbar restaurant in Abu Dhabi.

In the Munnar Villa vista project, lakhs of unaccounted cash were infused and some benami shareholders were located in UAE, who later transferred the shares to PFI leaders.

The PFI was parking its illegally raised funds in this project so as to use them as and when required.

ED probe also revealed that Anshad Badruddin (PFI, arrested by UP ATS in Lucknow in February 2021 with arms and explosives) had received more than Rs 3 lakh from PFI (from 2018 to 2021) for criminal activities.

The PFI's accountant during the investigation, in the aftermath of the Delhi riots, told his interrogators that PFI's headquarters at Shaheen Bagh, Delhi kept crores of unaccounted money, which they use without any accountability.

Many cases of Hawala money transactions were being investigated by various law enforcement agencies against PFI.

A large jewellery company from Kerala is also suspected to be funding PFI.

(The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)

DELHI UNIVERSITY RECOLLECTING THE PAST

As Delhi university celebrates its centenary, Union Minister HARDEEP SINGH PURI launched an anthology of writings by its well-known alumni titled — DELHI UNIVERSITY: CELEBRATING 100 GLORIOUS YEARS—and reminisced the time he spent in DU's Hindu College and noted that a good institution is defined by its student body. The book is edited by Puri himself

BY HARDEEP SINGH PURI

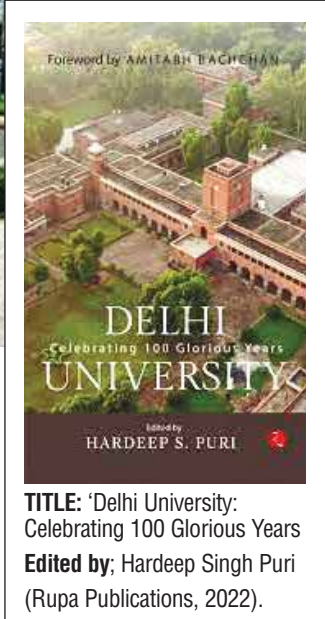
Many of India's most consequential nation-builders and opinion-makers have emerged from the hallowed grounds of the University of Delhi — India's most sought-after educational institution. Its alumni include political leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and litterateurs of the highest caliber. The university celebrated its 100 th anniversary on May 1 2022. I am proud and honoured that I brought together some of its most illustrious alumni to collective reflect on its rich history, vibrant student life, and influence in India's public discourse today.

As Editor, coordinating the development of this anthology was made easy because the who's who of Indian public life agreed to help me in this endeavour without a moment's hesitation. This anthology was conceived to celebrate the 100 years of our alma mater and the role it has played in furthering world-class education. It has successfully captured a spectrum of viewpoints that covers five decades of studying or teaching at the university.

While no such work can be exhaustive, I do believe that we have been able to capture the ineffable spirit of the university in the eclectic recollections of our authors.

Prospective students who have seen the university from afar will get an inside view of one of the most prestigious public universities in the country, while those intimately familiar with the institution will reconnect with their fondest memories through the words of some of its most famous alumni.

Speaking at the launch of the book at Hindu College, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri—an alumnus of Hindu College—noted that the university is a leading centre of excellence in the country and among the most successful universities in the country. The launch was also attended by other contributors to the book — Former DU Vice Chancellor Dinesh Singh; former assistant secretary-general



at the United Nations and deputy executive director of UN WOMEN, Lakshmi Puri; lawyer Raian Karanjawala; Indian writer Namita Gokhale; and Director Imtiaz Ali.

List of authors who have contributed to the anthology
● Amitabh Bachchan (wrote the Foreword)



- Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Singh
- Sanjeev Sanyal
- Dr. Shashi Tharoor
- Hon. (Dr.) Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud
- Mrs. Lakshmi Puri
- Imtiaz Ali
- Arnab Goswami
- Raian Karanjawala
- Dr. Bibek Debroy
- Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath

- Kiren Rijiju
- Namita Gokhale
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Hardeep Puri, who has edited this anthology, has had a distinguished four-decade career in diplomacy spanning the bilateral and multilateral arena, having held Ambassadorial posts in London, Brasilia and as India's Permanent

Representative to the United Nations in both Geneva (2002-2005) and New York (2009-2013). He is one of the few Indians to preside over the United Nations Security Council and the only one to have chaired its Counter-terrorism Committee. He served as Chairman, RIS; as Vice President at the International Peace Institute; and as Secretary-General of the

Independent Commission on Multilateralism in New York.

He is the author of three books: 'Separating the Wheat from the Chaff, Decoding Dominant Narratives' (Konark Publications, 2019); 'Delusional Politics: Back to the Future' (Penguin Viking, 2019); and 'Perilous Interventions: The Security Council & The Politics of Chaos' (Harper Collins, 2016).

A pilgrimage with a difference

A ritualistic bath at Sangam during Kumbh is a dream for millions of Hindus across India. One of the best-known Bengali writers of our time, Samresh Bose, takes us on a memorable journey to the Kumbh mela in his fabulous book IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR. On this pilgrimage, Bose also exposes the duplicity of our belief system, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY



The magic of Kumbh mela, a humongous congregation of millions of devotees for taking the purifying ritualistic dip at Sangam, has spawned hundreds of fiction, non-fiction and memoirs. Samresh Bose's IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is one such effort.

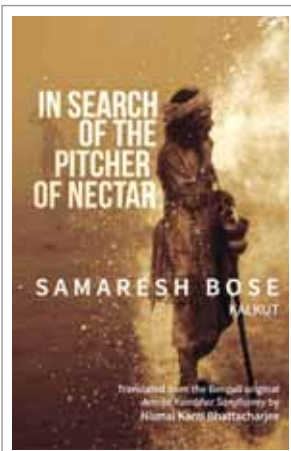
Translated from the Bengali original "Amrita Kumbher Sandhaney" by Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, the book revives the magical atmosphere of the Kumbh Mela and the mythical

tales surrounding it: How a holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, at the moment of the Kumbh, can provide you with "moksha" both here and in the afterlife.

The title of the book comes from the mythical tale that Amrita, the nectar of immortality arising out of Samundra manthan, the churning of the ocean by Gods and asuras, spilled out from the pot at this location. The dialogues between the two main characters in the

first few pages underline the essence of their spiritual journey. One such exchange takes place as early as on page 11:

He smiled sweetly and asked. "Why do people from the whole world go there? Why do saints and monks come there to take a dip? Have not you seen how bright they look? How well-built their physique? People are cured of their disease and receive a hundred years of life span if they bathe in the Sangam at the auspicious Kumbh moment. This is why I am also going?"



TITLE: In Search of the Pitcher of Nectar
Writer: Samresh Bose
Translator: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee
Publisher: Niyogi books
Price: Rs 450

The narrator commences on this journey with the desire not to achieve atonement, but to learn about life, about people. He is amazed and inspired by every character he meets, whether it is his fellow passenger on the train, sadhus, and devotees like Mahavir and Ramjidas at the festival, or the family with whom he shares a tent.

The protagonists reveal the double standard of the society that Kumbh brings to the fore.. How many of those millions who take the ritualistic bath are really spiritual, kind, and compassionate? The book highlights how these hardcore devotees are unable to leave behind their social prejudices, their weakness for sensual pleasure, their joys, and sorrows, their possessions and obsessions even when they are thinking of "mokshas".

Samresh Bose, born in Dhaka in 1924, is regarded as one of the greatest Bengali writers of all time. His stories have been turned into award-winning films. He received the Sahitya academy award (1980) for his novel Shambha. Among his more successful novels and short stories, collections are Baghini; Ganga; B.T. Roder Dharey; Shastharipu; Rituanga; He wrote several travelogues under the nom-de-plume Kalkut.

Anyone interested in literature and travelogues as well as spiritualist forays will find this a fascinating book. The language, the dialogues, and the translations are excellent. IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is undoubtedly one of the finest books to hit the stands in recent months in the domestic market.

NIF Book Prize longlist announced

Books on gender parity, the Chipko movement, the Tata group and iconic painter Syed Haider Raza are among 10 works named in the longlist of the 2022 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize on Thursday.

The longlisted books for the fifth edition of the prize include "Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India's Professional Elite" (Swetha S Ballakrishnen), "The Truths and Lies of Nationalism as Narrated by Charvak" (Partha Chatterjee), "Syed Haider Raza: The Journey of an Iconic Artist" (Yashodhara Dalmia), "Governance by Stealth: The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Making of the Indian State" (Subrata Mitra), and "The Chipko Movement: A People's History" (Shekhar Pathak).

"Tata: The Global Corporation That Built Indian Capitalism" (Mircea Raianu), "Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India" (Rukmini S), "Congress Radio: Usha Mehta and the Underground Radio Station of 1942" (Usha Thakkar), "Midnight's Borders: A People's History of Modern India" (Suchitra Vijayan) and Ghazala Wahab's "Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India" complete the list.

This year's longlist covers a variety of themes in combining keen research with scholarly writing, the New India Foundation said, adding each offers valuable insight into dif-



ferent aspects of the country's history.

"Ranging from biography and art history to analysis of environmental, industrial, and governmental shifts, the books selected this year represent the ways in which India has come to be shaped in this 75th year of independence. In theorizing the past and present, the longlisted titles offer a new way of interpreting paths towards an aspirational future," the NIF said in a statement.

Named after one of India's foremost nation-builders, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize celebrates the finest non-fiction literature on modern and contemporary India published in the previous calendar year by writers of all nationalities. Instituted in 2018, it carries an award of Rs 15 lakh and a citation.

The shortlist will be announced on November 8 and the winner on December 1.

This year's jury was headed by political scientist Niraja

Gopal Jayal and also included entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal, historians Srinath Raghavan and Nayanjot Lahiri, former diplomat Navtej Sarna, and attorney Rahul Matthan.

The jury termed the longlist "wonderfully diverse".

"The many themes in modern Indian history that it covers have great relevance today: if the histories of nationalism, business, the environment and state institutions offer a sobering historical lens on the present, the more contemporary works on feminism and data give reasons for optimism about the future. Deeply researched and engagingly written, these works of history reflect on the contemporary Indian condition," it said.

Previous winners of the prize are Milan Vaishnav (2018), Ornit Shani (2019), Amit Ahuja and Jairam Ramesh (2020 jointly) and Dinyar Patel (2021).

PTI

CUET: Predicament & possibilities

A nation infatuated with IITs and AIIMS makes it difficult for the vast majority of students to seek a degree in a field other than engineering or medicine. Yet, students who are unable to acquire admission to either tier II or tier III institutes often end up enrolling in a non-technical degree course. So, what we are seeing in the form of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) — a homogenised objective test — is nothing more than the fallout of that fixation where the students could be evaluated on a similar standardised test.

In an academic environment where near-perfect scores are the norm rather than the exception, the introduction of CUET to decide students' eligibility for university admission is a much-needed initiative. However, if the proposed entrance exam is going to be based on Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) test, I am afraid it would only result in mushrooming of more coaching centres to prepare students for university entrance test.

Testing a student's suitability, particularly for liberal subjects, necessitates a comprehensive evaluation. Therefore, this test cannot be solely dependent on multiple-choice questions. When a candidate is expected to employ her critical and argumentative acumen during the course, testing her ability to memorise facts and information is never a good idea. Hence, the assessment should ideally be a blend of both objective and subjective questions, done in stages (preliminary and advanced). The intention behind having an advanced stage consisting of subjective paper is to assess the applicants' linguistic, critical, and analytical skills.

This is important because the purpose of higher education is much more than just creating high paying job opportunities for students. Quality education has an inherent responsibility to play an enabling role in personal accomplishment, constructive public engagement, and productive contribution to society. The broader objective is to engage faculty and students



with local communities to learn a thing or two about real-world problems while functioning in collaborative, inclusive, and cross-disciplinary ways.

In liberal education, exploration is not just a whimsical luxury; it is a central benefit. Learning stuff is of secondary importance than learning about oneself, the emphasis is on developing all capacities of a human being — intellectual, physical, emotional, aesthetic, and moral — in an integrated manner.

There are no entry barriers to pursuing a graduation

degree in India. Anyone who can afford the fees can obtain the degree with minimal effort. As a result, we keep producing graduates who lack any employable skills. According to the most recent data from the periodic Labour Force Survey (20-21), only 13.8 per cent of Indian youth are vocationally trained. In comparison to Germany's 75 per cent and the United States' 50 per cent, this is woefully inadequate to reap the benefits of demographic dividend.

And we can't blame anyone but ourselves for this complete mess. We live in a country

where everyone wants to secure a limited number of white-collar jobs by acquiring a college degree. The vast majority of them are academically challenged, but they don't mind crowding colleges and universities.

Against this backdrop, it makes more sense for us to borrow a leaf or two from the US education system, where cost and academic talent are major barriers to acquire a graduate degree. The obvious advantage of this type of ecosystem is that a large number of students do not qualify for a degree course. And these

students eventually go on to pursue industry-related specific skill upgradation via diploma or certification — making them qualified for blue collar jobs.

However, there is a widespread aversion to blue collar jobs in India. Despite the government's numerous policy initiatives to connect schools to ITIs and polytechnics, the number of trained people being absorbed in industries is not encouraging.

Unless we can prepare academically average students for decent industrial opportunities, this lot of students will con-

tinue to graduate with no skill set.

Therefore, the need of the hour is to create a better entry barrier to degree colleges while also imparting industry relevant courses at ITIs and Polytechnics.

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to distinguish the concept of wellbeing from wealth. In the absence of this fundamental distinction, people invariably choose wealth over wellbeing.

A generation raised on the yardstick of Instagram filter has its own challenge of accepting their inherent flaws.

Making peace with the fact that someone might not be intellectually gifted to make a dent in the academic or business world is a first step towards exploring possibilities in life.

And you never know how this exploration could prove to be a gateway to a life worth living, where you can strive to be someone who offers meaning to things rather than someone who seeks meaning in things.

(The writer is a former IRS officer & author of the book 'Current Perspectives on the Indian Economy')



PIYUSH KAMAL

PERSPECTIVE

Western push on China, Russia at UN rights body faces test

Western countries are leading a rare two-pronged push at the UN's main human rights body to better scrutinise the human rights records of two big world powers: China, over allegations of abuses during an anti-extremism campaign in western Xinjiang, and Russia, over its government's crackdown on dissent and protest against the war in Ukraine.

Going after two such influential UN members — two of the five permanent members of the Security Council no less — at the same time will be no small political task, diplomats and rights advocates say. It testifies to a growing rift between democracies and more autocratic countries, and is shaping up as a gamble of geopolitical clout, the outcome of which will resonate beyond the Geneva conference room where the Human Rights Council meets.

Some Western diplomats insist it's now or never, and say it just so happens the two issues need separate attention. Britain, Canada, the US and the five Nordic countries are leading a call for council members to agree a debate at its next session in March on alleged abuses against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups in Xinjiang. They aim to build momentum on an August 31 report by the UN human rights chief that raised concerns about possible crimes against humanity during Beijing's anti-extremism drive in the region.

On Tuesday, 26 European Union countries — all of them except Hungary — floated a

proposal for the council to appoint a "special rapporteur" on Russia, citing a string of concerns about mass arrests and detentions; harassment of journalists, opposition politicians, activists and rights defenders; and crackdowns — at times violent — on protesters against President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. Both issues will come up for a vote near the end of the council's current session on October 7.

Intense backroom diplomacy is already underway. Developing countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa and West Asia make up the majority of the 47 current members of the council. Stalwart allies of China and Russia, including Cuba, Eritrea and Venezuela, are members, as is China itself. Western and European countries have 13 seats. Some European diplomats have expressed concern that the cultural, political and economic ties — even dependence — that many developing countries have with both Russia and China could torpedo the Western initiatives.

Alexander Pchelyakov, press secretary of the Russian diplomatic mission in Geneva, rejected the "politicised" Western proposal on Russia, insisting its "main goals are to punish Russia for pursuing an independent foreign policy course" and to divert attention away from the West's own problems when it comes to human rights, economics and energy.

The proposal on China is for a simple debate, with no consistent monitoring of the



People gather to protest against China on human rights on the eve of China's National Day in front of the Bank of China in Taipei, Taiwan, on Friday

AP

rights situation, and is just about the least intrusive form of scrutiny that the council could seek. The call stops short of creating a team of investigators to look into possible crimes in Xinjiang, or appoint a special rapporteur — a proposal that is on the table with Russia.

John Fisher, global advo-

cacy deputy director at Human Rights Watch, said recently that action on China and Russia are its top two priorities, and they amount to "no small challenge."

"There was a time when states like China and Russia felt to be almost untouchable," he said. "But it now feels that states of principle are finally saying

'enough' and standing up to those who would seek to disrupt the international rules-based order."

"Even the fact that these initiatives are under active consideration — and quite likely both to move forward — is itself a signal of the relevance and engagement of the Human Rights Council," Fisher added.

Western diplomats appear to feel more confident about success with the Russia measure. The council has little power to force countries to act, and there's little certainty that Moscow would even allow an outside UN-backed monitor into Russia as part of the post if the council seeks to create it. The Xinjiang debate proposal

is shaping up as the bigger ask, diplomats say. The situation is perceived, rightly or wrongly, as a less pressing one than in Russia, where a crackdown is continuing. China, ever-protective of its reputation as its global profile and power rise, has said it has largely shuttered what it called training centers in Xinjiang — and what critics

derided as detention centres.

One Western diplomat whose country backs the debate on Xinjiang, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, insisted the proposal was a "measured" response. Some supporters of China fret that the plan for a springtime debate is secretly just a foot in the door — a quiet effort that will aim to ramp up pressure on Beijing later on.

A key test will be with Africa, whose countries hold 13 council seats. Some have populations that are predominantly Muslim. Nicolas Agostini of DefendDefenders, an NGO that promotes human rights in East Africa, told reporters recently that it estimates most African countries will abstain in the Russia vote, but maybe one or two — "we identified Malawi and the Gambia as the two most progressive African states that are members of the council right now" — will vote yes.

"Regarding China, it's much more complex," he said, alluding to "extreme Chinese pressure on African states, including members of the OIC that are African states." One African diplomat, also speaking on condition of anonymity because his country is still calibrating its response, said it has a "principled and objective approach" on the China resolution. "We will have to consider our bilateral relations with the Chinese," the diplomacy said coyly. "We're not just going to jump in there (in support of the draft decision)."

(Courtesy: AP)

