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POLLUTING A RIVER
IS A SIN AGAINST IT!

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US CARRIER, S KOREA SHIPS LAUNCH
DRILLS AMID NORTH'S THREAT

MONEY 10

INDIA'S GDP TO GROW
AT 7.3% IN '23: S&P

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Raj revolt leaves Cong on razor's edge, may defer call on CM pick

Gehlot says sorry to Kharge, but loyalist MLAs defiant; Makan briefs Sonia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The Rajasthan crisis has forced the Congress high command to defer the move for a change of guards in the poll-bound State even as all eyes are on Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi to take a call on the rebellion staged by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his loyalists.

The Congress's high command has limited options given the fact that Rajasthan is the lone big State where the party is in power. Source-based reports kept trickling throughout Monday that Sonia will take action against some Rajasthan leaders for defying the high command. But experts feel that she is unlikely to get into any such misadventure that could further destabilise the State Government and keep the pot boiling.

Sources said that to diffuse the cruises, the Congress high command may defer the entire process to elect a new leader in the State. This seems a high probability since Gehlot may be pulled out of the race for the Congress president.

While Gehlot has now apologised to the AICC observer and senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge, but that may not mean anything. It is well known that



Congress leader Ajay Maken addresses media after meeting Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday PTI

the rebellion had his blessings, and he did not do anything to restrain the MLAs.

The crisis continued even on Monday with the MLAs loyal to Gehlot refusing to separately meet Kharge and Maken. They held a parallel meeting and demanded that Gehlot should remain the Chief Minister.

Gehlot met Kharge at a hotel in Jaipur before they left for Delhi. The CM is believed to have apologised and said he had nothing to do with the rebellion by MLAs close to him.

The Gehlot loyalists said they have conveyed to Kharge and Maken that any decision on the next Chief Minister should be taken after the party's

presidential election on October 19 and in consultation with Gehlot.

They also want someone to the top post who stood with the Congress Government during a political crisis led by Sachin Pilot in Rajasthan in 2020. Gehlot and Pilot were at loggerheads over the Chief Minister's post soon after the Congress won the 2018 Rajasthan Assembly polls. In July 2020, Pilot, along with 18 party MLAs, rebelled against Gehlot's leadership.

Party observers Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken returned to Delhi and reported to Sonia.

Talking to reporters after a nearly hour-long meeting with Sonia, Maken said they

wrong," he said, without naming Gehlot.

He said it was "unfortunate" that the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting could not be held and termed the move of pro-Gehlot loyalist MLAs and ministers as "indiscipline". The AICC observers kept waiting for the party MLAs in Jaipur on Sunday night but they did not turn up.

He added that the CLP meeting was kept after Gehlot's consent and the place and time were set as per his request. He said the MLAs and ministers loyal to Chief Minister Gehlot cannot pose conditions to the party leadership as they amount to a "conflict of interest".

"Kharge ji and I have apprised the Congress president of the CLP meeting in Rajasthan. The Congress president has sought a written report on the entire chronology, which we will submit by late night or tomorrow," Maken said.

"Some representatives of MLAs, ministers came and put forth three demands. Their condition is that the CLP leader be elected after October 19 and any decision should be taken after that... This cannot happen as those who are moving the resolution after October 19 would themselves take the decision and this would amount to a conflict of interest," Maken briefed.

"It is unfortunate that after all this, the CLP meeting could not take place. When the CLP official meeting is kept, no parallel meeting should take place and it primarily amounts to indiscipline," he added. The Congress has 108 MLAs in the 200-member Assembly.

F-16s to Pak for anti-terror? Lame excuse: India to US

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

India has raised doubts about the US selling F-16s to Pakistan in a deal worth over 450 million dollars to "fight terrorism" and said the USA is not "fooling anybody by saying these things."

Giving this terse message in the US capital days ahead of his meeting with US Foreign Secretary Antony Blinken and others, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar late on Sunday said America's relationship with Pakistan has "not served" either of the two countries.

Raising questions on the Biden administration's approval of a USD 450-million sustenance package for F-16 fleet, Jaishankar said in an interaction with the Indian-Americans there, "Very honestly, it's a relationship that has neither ended up serving Pakistan well, nor serving the American interests. So, it is really for the United States today to reflect on what are the merits of this relationship and what do they get by it."

Referring to the argument made by the US that F-16 sustenance package is to fight terrorism, he said everybody knows where and against whom F-16 is used. "You're not fooling anybody by saying these things," he said in response to a question.

Early this month, the Biden administration approved a USD 450 million F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan, reversing the decision of the previous Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens to the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network.

In a notification to the US Congress, the State Department made a determination approving a possible for-



eign military sale for sustainment and related equipment for an estimated cost of USD 450 million, arguing that this will sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet.

Jaishankar's remarks about the F-16 package came days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in telephonic talks with his US counterpart Lloyd Austin on September 14 had expressed India's concerns.

"I conveyed India's concern at the recent US decision to provide a sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Look forward to continuing dialogue with Secretary Austin to further consolidate India-US partnership," Rajnath tweeted after talks.

On September 23, the US

said "it (F-16) is not designed as a message" to New Delhi for its neutral stand on Russia regarding the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

Making his country's stand clear regarding the issue, Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, said its decision to provide a package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet is associated with America's defence partnership with Islamabad which is primarily focused on counterterrorism and nuclear security.

He also said the US has a limited security partnership with Pakistan. However, New Delhi says Pakistan's F-16s are not used for counter-terrorism operations and instead pose a threat to India.

Rains may play spoilsports during Puja

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Rains may dampen the spirit of upcoming Durga Puja festivities in Odisha as a low pressure area (LOPAR) is likely to form over the north-west Bay of Bengal on October 2, caused by remnants of typhoon 'Noru' in the South China Sea.

According to the SOA Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) here, remnants of the typhoon could help form an upper air cyclonic circulation in east-central Bay of Bengal near the Myanmar coast which would move in a north-westerly direction subsequently.

After the LOPAR is formed below the Bangladesh coast, the system would move in a west-north-westerly direction towards north Odisha coast on October 3 and advance towards western Odisha next day, the CEC said.

Under its influence, widespread rainfall may occur over the State with the districts of Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Cuttack, Kendrapada Jajpur, Bhadrak, Baleswar, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar,

Dhenkanal and Angul likely to experience heavy rains on October 2.

Besides, heavy to very heavy rainfall could occur at one or two places along coastal Odisha, the CEC said.

The districts of Khordha, Cuttack, Jajpur, Nayagarh, Dhenkanal, Angul, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Balangir, Subarnapur, Boudh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Bargarh, Keonjhar and Sundargarh could receive heavy rainfall on October 3.

Light to moderate precipitation is likely across the State from October 4 to 6 while sporadic rain could continue till October 1. Models, however, didn't indicate further intensification of the system.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Regional Office here on Monday said rains or thundershowers occurred at a few places over the districts of coastal Odisha in the past 24 hours.

As per the IMD, thunderstorms with lightning are likely to occur in several parts of the State in next two days.

BDO held taking Rs 1.8L bribe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Monday caught Binod Kumar Naik, BDO, Gudvela block in Balangir district, red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs.1.80 lakh.

Naik had demanded the bribe from a contractor for clearing his past bills for executed works and for awarding him new contracts for re-

pair and construction of Government residential quarters.

Following the trap, simultaneous searches were carried out on the Government residential quarter of Naik at the Tusura block campus, house at native village Sagarpada near Badamath in Balangir town and his office chamber at Gudvela block.

Further investigation was underway.

Gehlot's bid to head Cong in peril as loyalty to Gandhis in question

Raj Min Dhariwal accuses Maken of plotting to make Pilot CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



If Ashok Gehlot can stage a rebellion even before he became the Congress president, how would he treat the Gandhis after taking up the reins of the party, has worried the Congress high command.

Gehlot may have apologised to party's observers Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge for the display of defiance by his loyalists, but that is unlikely to help him put the clock back. A section of senior party leaders and Gandhis are report-

ed to be very upset with the Rajasthan Chief Minister for scripting the entire drama.

They feel Gehlot has done serious damage to the efforts made by Rahul Gandhi to revive the party through the Bharat Jodo Yatra route. After the Rajasthan crisis unfolded on Sunday, Gehlot has not spoken a word about filing his nomination paper. It's obvious that unless he is able to resolve the crisis to the expectation of Sonia Gandhi, the Congress High command

is unlikely to forgive him.

Sources said disciplinary action is being considered against Gehlot's loyalists. Sonia has been reportedly very upset with the way the Gehlot handled the entire Rajasthan crisis by not holding the CLP meeting.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Minister and key Gehlot-loyalist Shanti Dhariwal on Monday launched a frontal attack on Congress' State in-charge Ajay Maken, alleging that he was talking to party MLAs in a partisan manner and canvassing for Sachin Pilot.

Soon after Maken briefed Sonia in Delhi about the political developments in the State, Dhariwal called a press conference at his residence here and hit out at party general secretary Maken.



Devotees offer prayers at the Mata Longa Wali Devi Temple on the first day of 'Navratri' festival, in Amritsar on Monday PTI

23 child marriage cases in S'garh in 5 yrs

Cops casual as only 2 arrested in dist

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act was first enforced in India in 1929 and subsequently it was amended in 1978 and 2006. Lately, the Union Cabinet has given its nod to increase the minimum age for a girl child for marriage to 21 years in the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021 in December, 2021.

Despite all this, the cases of child marriage have been going up every year and unfortunately it is high in the tribal dominated Sundargarh

district, if the statistics of last five years is any indication.

As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, since 2011, a total of 162 cases of child marriage have been registered in Odisha and in last five years, a total 23 cases have been registered in Sundargarh district.

The data reveals while in 2017-18, four cases were registered (one each in Bonai, Lahunipara, Lathikata and Bisra block), six cases were recorded in 2018-19 (two each in Nuagaon and Kuarmunda blocks and one each in Bisra and Bonai blocks), five cases in 2019-20 (two in Kuarmunda and one each in Biramitrapur, Lahunipara and Bisra), three in 2020-21 (two in

Bisra and one in Kuarmunda) and five cases were reported in the district in 2021-22 (two in Kuarmunda and one each in Lahunipara, Bisra and Lathikata). But surprisingly, so far police have arrested two persons only. This shows the police also are going very casual on this sensitive issue.

Further, it is alleged that very negligible cases are coming to the fore and many are concealed in the remote areas. It all is due to lack of awareness, besides growing illiteracy and poverty of the people. So, the ICDS should work vibrantly in rural pockets and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) should keep vigil, opine activists.

ZP Member death due to asphyxia: Report

Am shocked over incident, says Min Dash

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The postmortem report of BJD Zilla Parishad Member Dharmendra Sahoo, who was found hanging in his residence at Sishupalgarh on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, revealed that asphyxiation caused his death. The report also stated that the body didn't have injury marks on it.

A doctor of the Capital Hospital has conducted the postmortem.

"According to doctor who conducted the postmortem, it was antemortem hanging. The death was due to asphyxiation and venous congestion and there was no injury mark on the body," said Capital Hospital Director Dr Laxmidhar Sahoo. Meanwhile, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said,

"I am shocked because the incident occurred in my Zilla Parishad zone. But, I am not aware of the charges being cooked up against me."

"While nothing as such has come from his family side as yet, I don't think it proper to give my comment on the allegations levelled by the opposition parties," said Dash.

A five-member team of the Commissionerate police, which is investigating into the incident, has questioned his family members and the neighbour cook regarding the incident. Cops have seized the CCTV camera footage, sent two mobile phones of the deceased to the forensic laboratory for examination.

Following the death of Sahoo, Opposition parties BJP and Congress alleged Minister Dash's involvement in the case and demanded that Dash resign and be brought into the purview of investigation.

CM releases encyclopaedia on Odisha tribes

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday released five edited volumes of 'Encyclopaedia of Tribes in Odisha' during his visit to the State Tribal Museum here. The encyclopaedia has been published by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) and the Odisha State Tribal Museum.

"The book will certainly be a great treasure and repository for all the academicians, researchers, policymakers and those interested to know about the tribal communities of the State," Patnaik said.

The encyclopaedia has 418 articles, which have been published in Adivasi journals and other publications over last six decades and is the product of efforts in the last four years by SCSTRTI Director Prof AB Ota and his consultant SC Mohanty.

Notably, the Chief Minister had inaugurated the Tribal



Museum in 2001 and the second museum in 2009, which is exclusively devoted to the

PVTGs. Odisha is the only State till now to publish an encyclopaedia of all tribes. The

five edited volumes contain 3,800 pages and 418 research articles covering all the 62

Scheduled Tribe Communities and 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

State Automated Testing Station policy soon

Transport Commissioner to draft it

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government will formulate an Automated Testing Station (ATS) policy soon.

Commerce & Transport Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi has directed the department to ask the Transport Commissioner to draft the policy as soon possible, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Government of India has made fitness testing of vehicles through Automated Testing Stations (ATSs) mandatory in a phased manner starting from April 2023.

Accordingly, ATSs will also be set up in Odisha to check

fitness of old vehicles. Before finalising a tender for selection of operators for the proposed ATSs, the Transport Department is going to frame an ATS policy.

The State Government is planning to set up ATSs at five locations. The Inspection & Certification Centre at Arilo, Cuttack is also likely to be converted to an ATS.

Notably, the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry is going to make fitness testing for heavy goods vehicles and heavy passenger motor vehicles through an ATS mandatory from April 1, 2023.

In the case of medium goods vehicles, medium passenger motor vehicles and light motor vehicles (transport), the requirement will be made compulsory

from June 1, 2024.

An ATS uses mechanical equipments to automate the various tests required to check the fitness of a vehicle. Fitness testing for personal vehicles (non-transport) is done at the time of renewal of registration (after 15 years).

The Ministry has also asked the State Government to announce a State-level policy for Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF). The Government of India has already launched a similar policy at the national level.

The State Transport Department has also initiated a process to draft the policy, under which incentives will be provided to both the vehicle owners to scrap their vehicles and the investors to set up RVSFs.

HSRP

No fine for users who applied before deadline

STA issues notification

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

There has been a steep rise in the number of people applying for High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) with the deadline for registration numbers ending with 1, 2, 3 and 4 on October 1.

However in a major relief, the State Transport Authority (STA) on Monday said those who have applied for the number plate online before the concerned last date would not be fined.

Such vehicle users need to produce online booking slip during the checking to avoid imposition of penalty.

"It is observed that due to the sudden rise in online

booking for fitment of HSRP, some of the vehicle owners are facing difficulties for getting a slot for fitment of HSRP within the timeline," the STA said in a notification.

It is, therefore, ordered that in case any vehicle owner has applied for HSRP online before the timeline applicable to his vehicle, he shall be exempted from enforcement checking provided he produces an online booking slip during the checking," the STA added.

Notably, more than 50,000 online applications for HSRP are being received daily, while around 13,000 number plates are being affixed. As of now, more than 12.6 lakh online applications for HSRP have been received while over 6.51 lakh vehicles have got their high-security registration plates.

GAA conducts spl training for Central officers

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Gopabandhu Academy of Administration (GAA) has upgraded itself as a Partner Training Institute of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). Previously, the GAA conducted special training on disaster management for IAS probationers and also administrative training for officers from Central Secretariat Service and Chhattisgarh Civil Service. A Bharat Darshan programme for full batch of IAS Probationers sponsored by the LBSNAA was also conducted by the academy recently.

On Monday at the GAA, Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra inaugurated a



Special Foundation Course Training for Central Civil Service officers from Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) and Indian Postal and Telegraph Account & Finance Service cadre in the presence of GAA Director General Ranjana Chopra and Utkal University Vice-Chancellor Dr Sabita Acharya.

Mahapatra observed, "The training programme should

not be confined to monotonous classroom learning type."

He said, "In last 20 years, Odisha has set new benchmarks in disaster management, farmers' empowerment and innovative IT applications. The State is now investing for transformative changes in health, education, agriculture, women empowerment and

sports. It successfully organised international sports and athletic events and days would not be very far when Odisha-trained sportsmen would shine as Olympians." Chopra said the GAA is now all set to impart national-level training to officers of different cadres.

Twenty-nine officers joined the 15-week course with a "suitable mix of indoor academic and outdoor sessions". The course structure included Law, Political systems, Indian constitution, economics, public administration, management, history and culture, application of IT, etc. There would be village visits, forest tracking, visit to industrial clusters, make in Odisha conclave.

Mo Parivar help Woman's body handed over to kin



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Seventy-two-year-old Nisaran Bibi, a resident of Dhamnagar, Bhadrak district, had been admitted to a private hospital here for treatment, but she died due to a cardiac arrest.

The bereaved family were helpless as they were unable to arrange funds for logistics to transfer the mortal remains and approached local leaders Md Ali, Javed Khan and Dilbar

Mohammad seeking support. The concerned leaders intimated the matter to Odisha-Mo Parivar joint secretary Rudra Samantaray. Samantaray, under the guidance of Odisha-Mo Parivar convener, made arrangements to transfer the body from the hospital to the family's native place in Bhadrak, for which the family members expressed its gratitude to the Odisha-Mo Parivar.

ZP Member death: BJP seeks impartial probe

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A BJP delegation led by State vice-president Pravati Parida on Monday met Commissioner of Police Saumendra Priyadarsi and urged him for an impartial probe into the death of Zilla Parishad Member Dharmendra Sahoo.

As it is alleged that Minister Samir Ranjan Dash has a role in the incident, an appropriate probe is required

since it is apprehended that power can be misutilised to derail the inquiry. By an impartial probe, many facts can come to the fore, the delegation said.

In the last panchayat elections, the Minister had given the ticket to Sahoo though he was not a politician. Sahoo's father-in-law has also questioned this. Who deleted Sahoo's Facebook post after his death? This should be probed, the delegation urged police.

Three-day teachers' training in Bargarh

PNS ■ BARGARH

A three-day residential teacher training programme was launched jointly by the Bargarh district administration and Piramal Foundation at the Government High School, Paikmal, with 90 mentors from different pilot schools of the district.

Minister of Handloom Rita Sahu inaugurated the event, who emphasized on the value of creativity in Government schools. ADM Bargarh Nabin Patel also spoke on the occasion. District Education Officer (DEO) Mitrabhanu Kachhap, senior teacher educator of DIET Dr Benudhar Bariha and DSS Monoj Sahoo spoke about the

VIJETA innovation programme and the objective to develop latest skills among the students through various co-curricular activities.

On the second day, Collector Manisha Banerjee interacted with the teachers. She appreciated the efforts made by the Education Department officials.

Under the ambitious programme, the students will get exposure to over 25 different activities over a period of seven months to enhance their skills. The teachers were trained on art activities, concepts of aesthetic literacy and perspectives and community projects under the Socially Useful Productive Work (SUPW) campaign, said sources.

2-day meet held

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Department of Women and Child Development, CRS' flagship initiative 'Changing the Way We Care' and UNICEF jointly organised a two-day State level consultation to identify and promote opportunities for non-institutional care (NIC) for children in a supportive family environment.

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, the mega State-wide consultation saw robust participation of District Child Protection Officers (DCPO) from all 30 districts in the State. Additionally, members of the Odisha State Child Protection Society (OSCPs), senior Government



functionaries, experts, district consultants, and practitioners in the field of care reform at the State and national levels exchanged knowledge and discussed opportunities to promote non institutional care (NIC) and family-based care.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund

(UNICEF), India has 29.6 million orphaned and abandoned children. While a safe and secure environment is a prerequisite for any child, there are millions who are less fortunate. The ones born into abject poverty and facing varied deprivations are forced to live in short or long-term

residential care in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) by families. Many of these children have families and a 2018 Government of India report also revealed that most children living in CCIs have a single parent.

The objective of the consultation was to analyze the scope, challenges, and opportunities for promoting NIC and family-based alternative care laid down under Mission Vatsalya; harness learning from the reflection on the efforts delivered by different district child protection units to strengthen NIC mechanisms; refine approach and strategy for successful demonstration and scaling of NIC components like sponsorship, foster care, and after care.

Aparajita bats for BBSR-Cuttack metro rail service

Urges CM to send proposal to Centre

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi has written to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik urging him to send a proposal to the Central Government regarding an integrated metro rail system for Bhubaneswar-Cuttack.

The parliamentarian has also discussed the Metro Rail Policy with the officials of

Urban Affairs Ministry. "The combined population of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack will be around 22 lakh. However, the habitations and commercial complexes between both the twin cities have expanded at a rapid pace. If one includes the areas which do not come within the Municipal Corporations of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, the estimated population would be close to 30 lakh. I would like to mention that both Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, though important cities of

Odisha, do not have Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS)," Sarangi mentioned in the letter.

"As per Metro Rail Policy, 2017, the cities having more than 20 lakh population should plan for Metro Rail system. In this regard, I would like to mention that the population of Bhubaneswar is likely to exceed 20 lakh within 4 to 5 years. Further, as mentioned above, the current combined population of twin cities Bhubaneswar and Cuttack is already exceeding 20 lakh," she

stated. "Therefore, in the fitness of things, an integrated Metro Rail system should be planned for both the cities by the State Government. The project can be implemented in a phased manner, first starting with the city of Bhubaneswar, thereafter expanding to the city of Cuttack. Metro system can be planned under 50:50 equity partnership of Central and State Government as per Metro Policy, 2017. The implementation of the project can be done by 50:50 Joint

Venture of the Central Government and Government of Odisha," Sarangi said.

"For going ahead with the Metro Rail System, a feasibility-cum-Detailed Project Report (DPR) needs to be prepared. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), under Urban Transport Planning and Capacity Building Scheme, provides financial assistance up to 50% for conducting feasibility studies and for preparing DPR for

formulating such a proposal," she wrote.

"I would request you to kindly look into the matter and direct the concerned officials to send a proposal to MoHUA for sanctioning Central financial assistance for feasibility study and Detailed Project Report. In anticipation of the State Government sending a detailed proposal to Gol, I am writing to Hon'ble Minister, MoHUA, for positive consideration of the proposal once it reaches the Ministry," Sarangi concluded.

Heavy rush at B'swar DHH ultrasound, MRI units

Many forced to do tests in pvt clinics; poor left high and dry

UBACHAK MOHANTY
■ BALESWAR

The healthcare facility in the district is crippled due to lack of adequate infrastructure. With number of patients rising up, the services look to be too poor and inadequate. Advanced diagnostic facilities are a far cry in the district as the patients of are facing a tough time for carrying out ultrasound and MRI tests. The patients have to wait for days together to get their number for any test in the District Headquarters Hospital

(DHH). Difficulties for the patients referred from the PHCs and CHCs compound as they have to wait for their number. Since the ultrasound and MRI facilities are only available in the DHH, a heavy rush is seen in the hospital. As a result the patients in emergency have to go to the private hospital for diagnosis which is burdening them financially, especially the poor patients are feeling harassed. Similarly, besides the District Headquarters Hospital blood bank, there is no blood bank in other hospitals, except in Nilgiri sub divisional hospital. So the demand for blood is high on the blood bank. Although Soro,

Jaleswar, Bhograi and Basta have blood storage units, they are not working, reports said. The district has only 14 beds in the ICU against the total beds of 750. Ideally, about 10 per cent of total beds should be available for treatment in the ICU. Similarly, there have been allegations that the dental care centre in the DHH is not adequately equipped owing to which for even minor treatments, the patients are often referred to Cuttack or Bhubaneswar. Against the deficiencies in the DHH, the concerned denizens have demanded that immediate steps be taken to address the shortcomings in the DHH.

‘Swachhata’ drive in Keonjhar

BDO, Sarpanch, SHGs sweep road



PNS ■ KEONJHAR

The Block Development Officer (BDO) of Hatadihi along with the Dhenka panchayat Sarpanch and other locals swept a village market road as part of the Swachh Bharat initiative in Keonjhar district on Monday. The drive was carried out to

spread the message "Swachhata hi Seva" to people and make them aware of the importance of a clean environment. In a meeing at the panchayat office, BDO Binita Bijayini and Sarpanch Subasini Sathy spoke about the significance of 'Swachhata' and the need to include certain lifestyle changes like avoiding

use of plastic, washing hands with soap and keeping the village surroundings clean through voluntary efforts. "We swept the road with SHGs and panchayat ward members to drive home the point that cleanliness, with regard to personal hygiene and environment both, should be a way of life," the BDO said.

Dhabalmukhi Besha of Samaleswari held

Thousands throng shrine at Sambalpur

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

Thousands of devotees from across the region, including neighbouring Chhattisgarh, thronged the Samaleswari Temple to have Darshan of Dhabalamukhi Besha of the Goddess on the occasion of the Mahalaya Amavasya on Sunday. The Goddess Samaleswari remains in red-costume round the year except on the day of Mahalaya. After Covid 19 restrictions, devotees witnessed the deity in pure white colour with sanctity and devotion. "On Sunday, the temple was opened for the devotees at 6 am after which a huge rush was seen in front of the temple. But devotees were seen maintaining perfect discipline in the queue to have darshan of the Mother Goddess," said temple's main priest Ambik Roy. "On the day of Mahalaya, the Goddess adorns 'Dhabalamukhi Besha', also called as 'Ganga Darshan' treated as very auspicious one as good as seeing river Ganga. It takes more than six hours to adorn the deity in white colour.



The Mother will remain in the colour till Tuesday afternoon," said Samaleswari Temple Trust Board president Sanjay Baboo. Babu further said elaborate arrangements have been made by the temple authority for the devotees coming from far off places. Similarly, adequate police arrangements have also been made for the peaceful 'darshan' of the deity, he added. After the Mahalaya, the Navaratra Puja is observed for nine days in the Samaleswari Temple. "The Mahalaya is a pious occasion for devotees as they get the opportunity to witness the deity in white costume. There was restriction last year but we got the opportunity to witness the deity this year," said Manjubala Swain, a devotee.

JAP(L) protests tree cutting in Paradip

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Jan Adhikar Party(L) has demanded protection of the coastal artificial forest near IOCL, Paradip. In a Press meet here on Sunday, party national general secretary Debashis Mishra complained that a private company had made an agreement with the State Government in 2006 to set up a star hotel near Paradip. It purchased private land of 13 acres from Abhayachandapur mouza adjacent to IOCL.

Mishra said people sold the land with a hope that the company would set up a hotel. But it did not happen. Later, local women SHGs have planted teak and eucalyptus trees on the land. Now, some people have started cutting trees from this artificial forest. The loss of tress shall cause CRZ violation and create risk of sea tide inundation for IOCL and locals. If the district administration does not stop the tree cutting, the party would move the National Green Tribunal.

BJP demands arrest of accused in RTI activist assault case

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA
■ BRAHMAPUR

The Ganjam BJP led by district president Bibhuti Bhusan Jena in a Press meet here has brought serious allegations against the ruling BJD saying that some of its leaders have given shelter to liquor mafias and antisocial elements in Gopalpur and Raingailunda area under Gopalpur Assembly constituency, thereby, posing a threat, not only to the life of Opposition members, but also to RTI activists and common men as well.



The liquor mafias and antisocial elements are given shelter by the ruling BJD, as a result of which, they are openly threatening the RTI activists and workers of opposition BJP in particular and terrorising the entire area at the behest of a senior leader of BJD who has been entrusted the responsibility of this constituency by the party, soon after the Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahi was suspended from the ruling party in a cheating case, Jena said.

He said the BJD leader has

taken all the Government officers including Tehsildar and BDO and the police under his control and using the officers and the local police for his vested interest and to settle political scores.

The BJD is giving false assurances to the people to give work and making false bills and lucrative offers to workers of other parties by resorting to corrupt practices. If anyone demands an impartial probe in to the corrupt practices, the concerned person is being threatened and openly assaulted, Jena alleged.

Citing an incident, Jena said that on September 19, one RTI activist Biswambara Patra who sought information on some alleged corruption matter from the Rangailunda BDO was openly kidnapped by Bairi Patra in the presence of Rangailunda BDO. "This has exposed the ruling BJD's dirty politics and hunger for power and since then people of this constituency are in panic apprehending danger to their lives," Jena charged. The BJP demanded immediate arrest of the concerned BJD leader along with the BDO and all accused, including Bairi Patra, involved in the incident, failing which it threatened to launch agitation.

Bonus to be paid after puja; RSP workers disgruntled

2 meets fail to decide quantum; next meet on Oct 10

AUROBINDA DAS
■ ROURKELA

Though the RSP workers were expecting a respectful bonus this year as in the current Financial Year the SAIL has earned a profit of Rs 12,015 crore, but due to lack of consensus between the unions and SAIL management, the decision on

bonus has been shifted to October 10. It means the workers will get bonus after the Durga Puja is over, which has spread resentment among them. Last year, the RSP workers were given Rs 21,000 each. As this year, the SAIL has earned maximum profit due to the tireless works of the workers, the unions had submitted a memorandum to the management on August 18 to take a decision on bonus early. Their demand was for Rs 63,000 per worker. Their argument was that in TISCO the bonus range is from Rs

48,000 to Rs 4 lakh and additional Rs 20,000 as incentive per worker. Accordingly, the first NJCS (National Joint Committee for Steel) meeting for bonus was held on September 19 where the management gave a proposal for Rs 22,000 which was not acceptable to the unions. Again, the next NJCS meeting was fixed for September 24 where the management hardly agreed for Rs 26,000 and the unions demanded for Rs 45,000 minimum for which the meeting again failed and next

meeting was fixed for October 10 that is after the Durga Puja. RSP recognised union Rourkela Shramik Sangh (RSS) general secretary Prasanta Behera, CITU All India vice president Bishnu Mohanty and leaders of AITUC, HMS and BMS have condemned the decision of the management and appealed to get united to fight against the anti-workers mindset of the management. It may be noted here that the workers have not yet got the 39 months arrear of their revised wages so far.

‘Barang 1999’

OTT to stream web series on Anjana case

Makers warned of legal action

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An Over the Top (OTT) platform 'Kancha Lankka' has announced its upcoming web series 'Barang 1999', which is inspired by the sensational Anjana Mishra rape case. The web series having nine episodes is scheduled to be streamed on the OTT platform

in March, 2023. The shooting for one episode has been completed, the same for others would commence soon. In a bid to make it true to life, the makers of the web series have decided to shoot the scenes at the real locations of the incident. "Our intention is not to target any political party or individual. The content is being prepared as per information received from

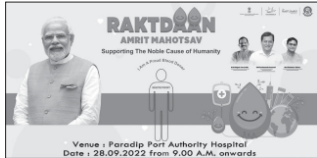
court and police station," said Ajay Padhi, the director of 'Barang 1999'. The web series would portray the struggle of the victim after the incident, political scenario of the State then and reaction of people of the State, reports said. The web series has been written by Saroj Mahapatra and conceptualized by Dilip Bisoi. On the other hand, the

announcement has triggered a row as Anjana has warned the director and producer not to shoot the web series. "I came to know about it through newspaper, today. I was shocked as I had no prior information. They neither held any discussion with me nor sought my permission. I warn them not to make the web series. If they do so, I will move the court of law for action against them," said Anjana.

INBRIEF

PARADIP PORT BLOOD DONATION DRIVE TOMORROW

Paradip: On the occasion of Union Government's 'Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav', a blood donation camp will be organised by the Paradip Port Authority (PPA) at the Port Hospital on Wednesday. The camp will be assisted by the Vrishav Foundation Trust, Paradip. It has been requested that local industries, educational institutes, voluntary organisations and people to cooperate in this voluntary blood donation camp. For any details and enrolment of donating blood, they can contact on 7008506606, 8093204321 or 9937588568 mobile number or WhatsApp, informed PPA CMO Dr Prahallad Chandra Panda.



GAYAK SHIROMANI AWARD FOR LAXMIDHAR DASH

Puri: Gayak Byas Laxmidhar Dash received the Utkal Gayak Shiromani award in the 12th Kumar Kabi Award ceremony held at the District Culture Bhawan here on Monday.



HEMLATA MADE G'PATI KRUSHAK SAMAJ PRESIDENT

Paralakhemundi: Hemalata has been nominated as president of the Odisha Krushak Samaj Gajapati unit. As a woman, she has played a leading role in the development of the farmers of the district. She is expected to play a vital role in the development of the farmers of Gajapati.



AKANKSHA KABI FELICITATED IN KIIT

Bhubaneswar: KIIT and KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samanta felicitated KIIT student Akanksha Kabi, who has been conferred the National Service Scheme (NSS) award by President Droupadi Murmu for the year 2020-21. Dr Samanta said the recognition was a proud moment for the KIIT group of institutions. Besides Akanksha, three other volunteers from Odisha were conferred the NSS award in recognition of their distinguished services. In 2009, Akanksha had won the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar; and in 2011 the KIIT Nanhi Pari contest.



21-KG GANJA SEIZED; 2 FROM RAJASTHAN HELD IN NUAPADA

Nuapada: Police seized 21.26 kg of ganja from two persons at Khariar Road on Saturday. The accused were identified as Kailash Majhi (39) of Kurumpuri and Sanjay Vaishnav (19) of Didwana in Nagaur district in Rajasthan. The ganja was seized by SI Arabinda Meher along with another staff in the presence of Nuapada Additional Tehsildar Kailash Das. The accused were later forwarded to court. "Some other people are also involved and will be nabbed soon," said the Jonk PS IIC.



OLAM AGRI BASMATI RICE BUSINESS IN ODISHA

Bhubaneswar: Odisha will be one of Olam Agri's key markets as it expands into the basmati rice retail segment by introducing its longstanding Heaven's Harvest and True Earth brands in consumer-friendly packaging. As one of India's leading rice players, Olam Agri's entrance into the retail market builds on the presence that it has long established in Odisha. Since mid-2022, the company has been supplying its basmati rice to the F&B industry across key cities, including Baleswar Bhubaneswar, Brahmapur, Cuttack, etc.



SPORTS COMPETITION AT NDRF MUNDALI

Athagarh: The NDRF Inter Battalion Badminton, Dog Squad, Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Competition Closing Ceremony was organised at 03rd Battalion NDRF Mundali on Monday. Jacob Kispotta, Senior Commandant, 03rd Battalion, congratulated the participants and made them aware of the importance of sports in life. In this sports competition, about 120 personnel of different NDRF battalions such as 03rd Battalion NDRF Mundali, Odisha, 04th Battalion NDRF Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu, 5th Battalion NDRF Pune, Maharashtra and 10th Battalion NDRF Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh personnel participated.



Swadhinatar Ullash

2 chariots given warm welcome in Ganjam

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA
■ BRAHMAPUR

As a part of Government's initiative to observe "Swadhinatar Ullash" on the eve of 75 years of India's independence, two nonviolence chariots (Rath) started moving to different places of Ganjam district to mark the event.

On the second day of the event here on Saturday, one chariot proceeded towards Dharakote passing through Hinjilikatu and Aska, while the other reached the Brahmapur Circle Jail under the geographical ambience of the BeMC.



BJD leaders and BeMC officers, namely, Brahmapur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu, MLA Bikram Kumar Panda, BeMC Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai, Deputy Mayor E Vivek Reddy, among others welcomed the chariot at the Circle Jail. Thereafter, the guests paid their floral tribute on the statue of Sahid

Lakshman Nayak located in the jail complex. Similarly, a large number of people were found waiting near the Government ITI to felicitate the chariot where a public meeting was organised. The artists of "Saswati Kala Anusthan" performed Patha Pranta Natak to mark the event. Later, the chariot reached

the MKCG Medical College Hospital where the students unfurled the national flag and welcomed the 'non-violence' chariot in which BeMC Mayor Dalai and many Corporators were present. Similarly, when the chariot reached Khallikote College Stadium, a shot film on the life of "Sahid Lakshman Nayak" was screened.

A warm reception was given to the chariot at Madhu Bhavan and Barrack Road. Thereafter, the chariot reached Gandhinagar square where Mayor Dalai garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and from there the chariot proceeded to Aska Road.

Later, a photo exhibition on the life of Gandhiji was organised at the Town Hall by the BeMC and coordinated by District I and PR Department. Similarly, an impressive procession was taken out to welcome the second chariot soon after it reached Hinjilikatu, the constituency of CM Naveen Patnaik, followed by a public meeting.

Durga Puja preparatory meet held in J'suguda

DM stresses on hassle-free peaceful puja this yr

RAJKUMAR SHARMA
■ JHARSUGUDA

A preparatory meeting for the ensuing Durga Puja was held on Friday under the chairmanship of district Collector Saroj Kumar Samal in the presence of SP Rahul Jain, ADM (General) Prabir Kumar Nayak and Sub-Collector Dayamaya Padhi. The discussion focused on how to make the puja celebrations peaceful.

Collector Samal advised the officers to be careful to maintain peace, solidarity and

brotherhood among people of different communities in the Durga Puja and sought cooperation of all to obtain necessary permission for the puja. Likewise, SP Jain requested to co-operate with the police administration in maintaining law and order in celebration of the puja. Necessary action will be taken for use of liquor in public places and driving bikes with loud horn, the SP said. A detailed discussion was held on issues like fire prevention arrangements in the puja mandaps, use of loudspeakers and procession for immersion of idols etc. Focus was also given on how to celebrate the puja peacefully and for the

smooth immersion of the idols after the festival. The meeting also discussed the proposals given by different puja committees, including the issue of smooth traffic management. The immersion ceremony has been scheduled to be held on October 7. Several other decisions also have been taken to conduct the Durga Puja peacefully in view of the participation of a large number of devotees this year as there would be no Covid related restrictions. The general public has been requested not to leave domestic cattle on the road. The line departmental officials and representatives of the various puja committees were present.

We will work to boost Indo-Japan ties: PM

Modi leaves for Tokyo to attend Shinzo Abe State funeral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday left for Tokyo to attend the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The funeral will take place on Tuesday and is expected to be attended by representatives from around 100 countries. "I am traveling to Tokyo tonight to participate in the State Funeral of former PM Shinzo Abe. I will be conveying heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Kishida and Mrs. Abe on behalf of all Indians," the Prime Minister said in a tweet message on Monday. "We will continue working to further strengthen India-Japan relations as envisioned by Abe San," he said. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said the duration of Modi's visit from the time of his departure from Delhi will be



Representational picture

around 12 to 16 hours. Modi will have a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and also meet Abe's wife, he said. Modi's visit to Japan will be an opportunity to honour the former prime minister Abe, Kwatra said. Abe, Japan's longest-serving Prime Minister, was shot dead on July 8 while delivering

a political campaign speech in western Japan ahead of the House of Councillors election on July 10. Prime Minister Modi had a close relationship with Abe. He had condoled the demise of his "dear friend" Abe and said the former Japanese premier dedicated his life to making the world a better place.

Cong: Legal action in 5 cases against BJP's fake news on yatra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said it has initiated legal action in five cases of "fake and divisive news" peddled by BJP leaders and their "online hate factory" to hurt Bharat Jodo Yatra, asserting that it will not take this lying down. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also shared a police complaint by Kerala MP Hibi Eden against a particularly "vicious bhakt". "We have initiated legal action in five cases of fake and divisive news peddled by BJP leaders and their bhakt online hate factory to hurt Bharat Jodo Yatra. Be warned! We will not take this lying down," Ramesh said. In the police complaint shared by Ramesh on Twitter, Congress MP Hibi Eden complained against a social media post with two pictures. "The impression these pictures sought to convey was that INC leader Rahul Gandhi was posing with an individual who had been accused of sloganeering

'Pakistan Zindabad' on a previous occasion. However, as was made clear immediately, the individuals in the photographs were two separate and distinct people," Eden said. "The distortion was not an innocent one because it sought to falsely and maliciously suggest that former INC president Rahul Gandhi, who was on a yatra to unite Indians had demonstrated sympathy for individuals who supported Pakistan and approved their illegal sloganeering and was ultimately attempting to 'break India'," he said. Thus, it is clear that this "malicious post" was designed to create a dangerously false impression in the minds of the viewers regarding the Congress leader's approach towards Pakistan and individuals involved in the illegal sloganeering in support of Pakistan; and to foment social tensions in the Bharat Jodo Yatra rallies led by Gandhi, Eden said. He requested that an urgent and immediate FIR be registered by police under relevant IPC provisions.

Def Min honours kin of HP martyrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday felicitated the families of the brave soldiers of the armed forces, hailing from Himachal Pradesh, who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. The felicitation ceremony was organised at Badoli in Kangra district of the state. Rajnath paid glowing tributes to the war heroes, including the first recipient of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) Major Somnath Sharma (1947); Brigadier Sher Jung Thapa, Maha Vir Chakra (1948); Lt Col Dhan Singh Thapa, PVC (1962); Captain Vikram Batra, PVC (1999) and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, PVC (1999), the defence ministry said here. He said the armed forces will always be a source of inspiration to the people, especially the youth, as they possess the traits of discipline, devotion to duty, patriotism and sacrifice and are a symbol of national pride and trust. The defence minister said India is the only country which has given the message of peace to the whole world and its military is respected across the globe for its bravery. While maintaining that India has

SC asks Bombay HC to hear Deshmukh bail plea immediately

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed displeasure over the delay in hearing the bail plea of Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, arrested in connection with a money laundering case, and directed the Bombay High Court to hear and decide his case expeditiously. The top court observed that any person who has filed a bail application has a legitimate expectation that his plea will be disposed of at an early date. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli noted that the bail plea of Deshmukh is pending in the high court since March 21. "We issue a direction and permit the petitioner to apply before the learned judge, to whom the case has been assigned, tomorrow. The application shall be taken for hearing during the course of this week and decided expeditiously," the bench said, adding that keeping an application for bail pending is not consistent with the Right to

Life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The top court clarified that it has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the case. Justice NJ Jamadar of the High Court is hearing the bail plea of Deshmukh. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for 73-year-old Deshmukh, submitted that the hearing on the bail plea is being deferred and sought interim bail. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for ED, opposed the interim bail plea and said the top court should not pass any such order. Deshmukh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in November 2021 and is currently in judicial custody. On April 8, the high court adjourned the hearing on Deshmukh's bail application while deprecating the practice of seeking urgent hearings of bail pleas citing medical emergencies. The ED's case is that while serving as the Home Minister, Deshmukh misused his official position and collected Rs 4.70 crore from various bars in Mumbai through Sachin Waze, a police officer who has been dismissed.

SC notice to Centre, TN over early release of Nalini in Rajiv assassination case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and the Tamil Nadu Government on a plea filed by Nalini Sriharan and RP Ravichandran, serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, seeking premature release. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna issued notices to the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government and sought their replies on the plea. Both convicts challenged the June 17 order of the Madras High Court, which rejected her plea for early release, and cited the apex court judgment ordering the release of co-convict AG Perarivalan. The HC do not have the power under Article 226 of the Constitution to do so, unlike the Supreme Court



which enjoyed the special power under Article 142, the high court had said while rejecting their pleas. Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court had on May 18 ordered the release of Perarivalan, who had served over 30 years in jail, and said the Tamil Nadu governor ought not to have sent the "binding" advice made by the state cabinet for his release to the president. The apex court had said the advice of the state cabinet is binding on the Governor in

matters related to commutation/remission of sentences under Article 161 of the Constitution. Under article 142, the top court may issue any verdict or order necessary to provide "complete justice". Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally. In its May 1999 order, the top court had upheld the death sentence of four convicts Perarivalan, Murugan, Santhan and Nalini. However, in 2014, it commuted death sentence of Perarivalan to life imprisonment along with those of Santhan and Murugan on grounds of delay in deciding their mercy petitions. Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 2001 on the consideration that she has a daughter.

Seva Bharti to award 25 renowned people for 'selfless social service'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RSS outfit, Seva Bharti, would award 25 distinguished people for their 'selfless social service' here on October seven. One 'Seva Ratna' and 24 'Seva Bhushan' awards will be given away by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar at a special function here at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, according to Seva Bharti. "The awards will be given for the priceless contribution in social work or providing funds for social development", said the organization. "In continuation of the high tradition set by ancient Maharshi Dadhichi, Raja Bali, 'danveer karna' and Bhama Shah there are many contemporary lights who have



given away everything they had in service to the nation", said president of Seva Bharti Ramesh Aggarwal. Uttarakhand governor Gen (retired) Gurmit Singh will be the special guest on the occa-

sion. The event will be attended by many central ministers, senior RSS leaders, industrialists and social workers. Five hundred past awardees will also be invited to the function, the outfit said.

Medal for hurt officer not needed: Chief's quip irks CRPF men

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

While the CRPF has moved a proposal for the award of Shaurya Chakra for the gallant action of Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh in an encounter with the Naxals in Aurangabad district of Bihar, outgoing paramilitary chief Kuldeep Singh's recent comment that there is no need for a gallantry medal to him because that was a routine incident has led to resentment among the cadre officers. Bibhor Kumar Singh had to undergo amputation of both legs due to a blast during an

anti-Naxal operation 15 km southwest of Pachrukhiya village near Madanpur in Aurangabad district of Bihar in February this year. Shaurya Chakra is the third highest peacetime gallantry award. On March 17, the CRPF chief, an IPS officer on deputation to the paramilitary, had said he will hold himself responsible for delays in air evacuation of injured personnel but pointed out that sometimes "practical difficulties" crop up in executing such operations in a timely manner in the Naxal theatre. The DG was talking about injured Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh who had to undergo amputation of both his legs

post a blast while leading an anti-Naxal operation, due to delayed evacuation for over seven hours. The Naxal movement is being spearheaded by the Communist Party of India (Maoist) which a banned terror organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. "If you ask who is responsible for this, I would hold myself responsible, it is my responsibility to ensure helicopters are provided to troops because it is me who directs and motivates troops to go out for operations. If anyone is to be blamed, it is me. I cannot blame anyone else," Singh told a Press conference in March ahead of the Force's 83rd Raising Day.

There has been a longstanding demand for a dedicated air wing for the CRPF. "In operations, such incidents (of blasts and resultant injuries) are normal. In the CRPF and its specialized CoBRA Battalions, young officers like Assistant Commandants and Deputy Commandants and even up to the level of Commandants lead the troops from the front. In certain cases, DIGs also lead operations. In Maharashtra, Assistant Commandant Nitin Bhale Rao and Deputy Commandant Vikas lost their lives in IED blasts in Palodi (Sukma, Chhattisgarh). Similar blast has occurred in this case (of Bibhor Kumar Singh) and there is no provision of medals

for injury. Medals are for action and not injuries. If there is an element of action involved in the operation, medal can be definitely given," the DG had said at a Press conference on September 21. Cadre officers of the CRPF mostly comprise the post of DIGs. Bibhor will be looked after for everything but medals are awarded on action and not on injury. Even deaths occur in the operations, then there should be more medals, he quipped sarcastically. Veterans as well as serving cadre officers of CRPF took exception to the casual manner in which the sacrifice of the brave officers during action was mentioned by the paramilitary boss.



Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary presents a memento to Commander UAE Air Force & Air Defence, Major General Ibrahim Nasser Mohammed Al Alawi during a meeting PTI Photo

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-Tender Call Notice
TD/DTM/OPN/PILOT/150/1617, dttd.13.09.2022
Name of the Work : "Allotment of the 2nd floor of newly constructed building near Gate-3 (10,751 sqft) for office purpose inside Port Prohibited area on Annual Premium Basis". Estimated cost : Rs.52.35,737/- . Period of allotment : 5 years. Last date & time of submission of bid : dt.03.10.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs. Date and time of opening (technical bid) : 06.10.2022 up to 12:00 hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> & <http://paradiport.gov.in/>.
Traffic Manager
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/197/22-23, dttd.26.09.2022

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the Work : Development of new plot along with repair the existing plot adjacent to net barrier near Gate No.2. Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,72,40,236.06. Last Date & Time of submission.gov.in./eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.
Executiv Engineer,
HWD-II,PPA
PPA/PR/198/22-23, Dtd. - 26.09.2022

Union Min launches JALDOOT App today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI



You will soon be able to measure and capture the water level in your area with the click of the mouse or keypad of your mobile. Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh will on Tuesday launch the "JALDOOT App" that will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected wells in a village. The App is being launched in view of declining levels of the groundwater, as also utilization of surface water sources, resulting in significant depletion of water levels causing distress to the community, including farmers. "Therefore measurement and observation of the levels of water tables across the country has become neces-

sary. "The Jaldoot app will enable Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon). In every village, an adequate number of measurement locations (2-3) shall need to be selected. These will be representative of the ground water level in that village," said an official from the Ministry. The app will facilitate panchayats with robust data, which can be further used for better planning of works. The ground

water data could be utilised as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDPD) and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA planning exercises. Further, the data can also be used for different kinds of research and other purposes. The official pointed out that in the last few years, various steps have been taken for improvement of water management both in the rural and urban areas, through watershed development, afforestation, water body development and renovation, rainwater harvesting and so on. According to the Central Ground water Board (CGWB), with 230 billion metre cubes of groundwater drawn out each year for irrigating agriculture lands in India, many parts of country are experiencing rapid depletion of groundwater.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Family physicians have played a pivotal role in the prevention of diseases and their complications particularly in the backdrop of the Covid-19, but ironically they are facing 'identity crisis' as no training is being given to the MBBS students in the subject, the Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI) rued on Tuesday. Seeking mandatory inclusion of 'training as family physician' in the MBBS course at all Indian medical colleges in the background of the Covid-19 pandemic, the members of the AFPI said that they act as single point of contact for all healthcare needs of a family and prevent unnecessary burden on secondary and tertiary

healthcare systems. "Family Physicians can deliver holistic treatment and prevent unnecessary burden on secondary and tertiary hospitals," Dr Raman Kumar, AFPI national president, said, adding that a family physician is not only a family doctor but acts as a guide, who helps a family in making informed healthcare decisions. The occasion was the foundation Day of the Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI), which has also been declared 'National Family Medicine Day' The AFPI has been pushing for the revival of family physicians and popularising family medicine as a clinical specialty. Dr Kumar said that Family Medicine is recognized in many developed countries where training is provided

through organized residency programs. This should happen in India as well, he added. "Family medicine has been incorporated in the foundation course of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and is planned to be adopted in all medical institutes in India; however, the MBBS syllabus makes no mention of it." "There is a requirement for developing a comprehensive curriculum for family medicine to address the current health needs of communities. The healthcare system should focus more on primary care and family medicine to provide affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare to people," the members said. Prof Surekha Kishore, Director of AIIMS Gorakhpur, who was the chief guest, agreed

and assured to raise the issue of family physicians and their training with the National Medical Commission as its member. Dr SK Sarin, Director of Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Delhi, and president, National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), said, "Family physicians play a pivotal role in the prevention of diseases and their complications." Director of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Alok Saxena emphasised on its revival and the integration of family physicians with the health system. He said, "Training MBBS doctors as family physicians is of paramount importance. There should be a structured course during MBBS as all doctors need not become hospital-based specialists."

Ghulam Nabi Azad launches Democratic Azad Party

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Veteran Congress leader and a former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad Monday launched his 'Democratic Azad Party', exactly a month after severing ties with the parent party, along with his supporters here in Jammu.

Unveiling the party flag, with three stripes in different colours—mustard, white and dark blue, Azad claimed his party will be based on the principles of democracy. "It will not be 'autocratic' but 'democratic'", he added.

Speaking to reporters, Azad said, "The mustard colour indicates creativity and unity in diversity, white indicates peace and blue indicates freedom, open space, imagination and limits from the depths of the ocean to the

heights of the sky".

Flanked by senior party leaders Azad also appealed to the people of both Jammu and Kashmir to join hands together and break the artificial walls being raised between them by the vested interests.

Azad had earlier declared the broader contours of his newly launched party in his maiden public rally in Jammu soon after exiting the Congress party in the first week of September. According to Azad the top most priority of his party will remain restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, protection of land and job rights of its residents, creating job opportunities for the unemployed youth and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

After announcing the party name and unveiling the party flag he focused on the agenda

of the party in the days to come. While doing so, Azad made it clear. We will have no competition with any political party. "We will speak about our own policies and programmes and let others do their own and leave everything to the people who are the ultimate masters in politics", he added.

In the same vein Azad added, Democratic Azad Party will not be influenced by any outside leader or other party. It will have independent thinking and will stay independent in its decisions. It will not be autocratic and power will not be in one hand.

He also clarified his surname has nothing to do with 'Azad' in the party name.

After leaving the Congress party Azad had himself talked about launching a National party with a J&K unit ahead of beginning a new political

innings, however, none of the supporters, backing him from behind especially from the G-23 grouping, were present at the time of formally floating the party.

Responding to the allegations that he was working at the behest of BJP, Azad told reporters, "Many people accused me of having a prior alliance. We only have the alliance with heart and minds and people of J&K and nobody else. We have not consulted anyone before launching the party, neither regional nor national party." Our party will borrow from the ideas and principles of former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi.

"Our party policy will not be influenced by politics of religion, caste or creed. It will follow the roadmap of Gandhi, who got India independence.

Talking about his priorities Azad claimed the party will keep holding grassroots level elections for its structure. "We are here to compete at our own level. I have no competition with any party. Will compete like students compete with each other in a classroom. We don't have any enemy or foe," he said, adding "50 per cent of tickets will be given to women and youth". "Our priority is to get the party registered. But since elections (in Jammu and Kashmir) can happen anytime, related developments would continue".

On Article 370, Azad clarified that he never said it won't be restored. "I had only stressed that if someone can persuade Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah. I can't do that as I have no such strength at present," Azad explained.



Gehlot's rebellion dwarfed Sonia's stature, says BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of an apparent rebellion in the Congress Rajasthan unit over the selection of new Chief Minister, the BJP on Monday claimed that the developments have "considerably dwarfed the stature of Sonia Gandhi" and "demolished" the "aura of their invincibility".

BJP leader Amit Malviya said in a tweet in Hindi "Irrespective of whether Ashok Gehlot files or not his nomination for the post of Congress president his rebellion has considerably dwarfed Sonia Gandhi's stature."

He further said, "Now whosoever becomes the president of Congress, it is possible that there can be a rebellion again against the Gandhi family which has lost its aura of



invincibility," said Malviya hitting out at the opposition party.

Union Minister and BJP leader from the state Arjun Meghwal said there is virtually no government in the state and people have been left to fend for themselves.

Another BJP leader from Rajasthan Satish Poonia also took a dig at the Congress, saying none of its leaders wants to be the party's national president and prefer to be a state chief minister or a regional leader. "This drama of 'Kissa Kursi

Ka' (tale of CM's chair) started in Rajasthan in 2018 when slogans for Gehlot and Sachin Pilot were raised. It then continued for portfolio allocation and then for rooms in the secretariat in Jaipur," Poonia said adding throughout the entire episode, the people of the state suffered.

Echoing similar sentiments, BJP leader and MP from Rajasthan Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, said, "It's time to bring down curtains on this drama. It would be better if they really resign to give relief to the public. The Congress government has no moral standing to continue in power."

Rathore said everyone is suffering in the state, be it farmers, youngsters and females, adding, "Law and order in the state has completely collapsed".

No coercive action till Nov 17 against Anil Ambani: Bombay HC to I-T Dept

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Income-Tax Department not to take any coercive action against Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani till November 17 on a show cause notice issued to him seeking to prosecute him under the Black Money Act.

The I-T department had issued the notice to Ambani on August 8, 2022 for allegedly evading Rs 420 crore in taxes on undisclosed funds worth more than Rs 814 crore held in two Swiss bank accounts.

The department has charged Ambani (63) with "wilful" evasion, saying he "intentionally" did not disclose his foreign bank account details and financial interests to Indian tax authorities.

As per the department's notice, Ambani was liable to be



prosecuted under Sections 50 and 51 of the Black Money (undisclosed foreign income and assets) Imposition of Tax Act of 2015, that stipulates a maximum punishment of 10 years imprisonment with a fine.

Ambani earlier this month approached the HC challenging the notice, claiming that the Black Money Act was enacted in 2015 and the alleged transactions are of assessment years 2006-2007 and 2010-2011.

Senior counsel Rafique Dada, appearing for Ambani, said provisions of the Act cannot have a retrospective effect. Advocate Akhileshwar

Sharma, appearing for the I-T department, sought time to respond to the petition.

A division bench of Justices S V Gangapurwala and R N Laddha permitted the same and posted the petition for hearing on November 17.

"The Income Tax department shall till the next date not take any coercive action against the petitioner (Ambani) in pursuance to the show cause notice," the court said.

It also directed the I-T department to respond to Ambani's contention that provisions of the Black Money Act may not have a retrospective effect.

Dada told the court that an assessment order was passed by the department in March this year and the petitioner filed an appeal against the said order before the Commissioner of Income Tax.

BJP chief lambasts Kerala Government

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala has become the epicentre of terrorism and anti-national activities, according to J P Naddha, all-India president, BJP. Addressing booth level party workers at Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, the national president of the BJP alleged that the chief minister's office itself has become the hub of gold smuggling. "Swapna Suresh, who was arrested in connection with gold smuggling, has named the chief minister and his family members for their active rolls in smuggling. Names of many CPI(M) ministers and party leaders have been disclosed by Swapna Suresh in her statement to the Court," said Naddha.

The BJP chief alleged that there was no ideology or ethics in the CPI(M). "The party has become a family dynasty party. Family rule and dynasty rule are the hallmark of the CPI(M). Kerala has also become the



hotspot of terrorism," he said. The BJP chief also came down on the State administration for its financial mismanagement. "Kerala is in a debt trap as its debts has crossed the Rs 3,40,000 crore mark. Over the last seven years, the debt of the State has doubled and this is a matter of concern. There is nepotism everywhere. Appointments in universities are meant only for the relatives of the ministers and party leaders. The CPI(M)-led government is trying to weaken the Lok Ayukta (whistleblower) to save the chief minister and other ministers from charges and allegations of corruption," said the party president.

President to inaugurate HAL ICMF in Bengaluru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday will inaugurate the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) state-of-the-art Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF) in Bengaluru.

The facility will cater to the entire Rocket Engine Manufacturing under one roof for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The facility will boost self-reliance in manufacturing of Hi-thrust Rocket engines.

The facility is set up over an area of 4,500 sqmts housing over 70 hi-tech equipment and testing facilities for manufacturing Cryogenic (CE20) and Semi-cryogenic (SE2000) Engines of Indian Space Launch Vehicles.

In 2013, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed with the ISRO for establishing the facility for manufacturing of Cryogenic Engine



modules at HAL, Aerospace Division. The MOU for the Cryogenic Engine facility was subsequently amended in the year 2016 for setting up of Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF) with an investment of Rs. 208 crores.

The commissioning of all the critical equipment for the manufacturing and assembly requirement is completed. The pre-production activities which involve preparation of the process plans, drawings, quality plan etc. has also commenced. The HAL will start realising the modules by March 2023.

The Aerospace Division of the HAL manufactures liquid propellant tanks and launch vehicle structures of PSLV, GSLV Mk-II, GSLV Mk-III and also stage integration for GSLV Mk-II. The Aerospace Division entering into manufacture of Cryogenic Engines is a major step in technology up-gradation cum modernization.

Cryogenic Engines are the most widely used engines world over in the launch vehicles. Due to the complex nature of the cryogenic engine, till date only few countries USA, France, Japan, China and Russia have mastered the cryogenic technology.

On January 5, 2014 India successfully flew GSLV-D5 with a cryogenic engine (made by ISRO through private industries) and became the sixth country in developing cryogenic engines. Space exploration in the future is mostly dependent upon cryogenic technology.



Devotees participate in a religious procession to install an idol of Goddess Sharada at Kudrolli Sri Gokarnanatheshwara Temple on the first day of 'Navratri' festival, in Mangaluru on Monday . PTI

Passport applicants can apply online for PCCs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Passport applicants will now be able to apply for police clearance certificates (PCCs) at all online post office passport seva kendras, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday.

The MEA is the nodal ministry for the issuance of passports.

The PCCs are a pre-requisite for the issuance of passports to the applicants.

Often, the issuance of the PCCs by the local police takes time that results in a delay in the grant of passports.

"To address the unanticipated surge in demand for Police Clearance Certificates (PCCs), the ministry has decided to include the facility to apply for PCC services at all online Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) across India, starting from September 28," the MEA said in a statement.

Activist Sandeep Pandey, 3 others detained in Gujarat ahead of foot march planned in support of Bilkis

PTI ■ GODHRA

Police have detained social activist Sandeep Pandey and three others ahead of a foot march planned on Monday to express solidarity with Bilkis Bano, who was gang-raped and seven of her family members murdered during the 2002 Gujarat riots, police said.

Ramon Magsaysay award recipient Pandey and other activists were scheduled to participate in the foot march, titled 'Apologising to Bilkis Bano', planned to be taken out from her native village Randhikpur in neighbouring Dahod district on Monday under the banner of 'Hindu-Muslim Ekta Samiti'.

The march was to conclude in Ahmedabad on October 4.

"Sandeep Pandey and three others were detained from Godhra (in Panchmahal district) at around 10.30 pm on Sunday. They are still in detention," a B-division police station officer said.



The Hindu-Muslim Ekta Samiti in a statement condemned the police action.

It said the foot march was organised to apologise to Bilkis Bano, after the Gujarat government on August 15 this year released 11 convicts in her case under its remission policy.

The convicts were serving life sentence in the Godhra sub-jail on charges of gang-rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of seven members of her family in a post-Godhra riot case.

"We only wish to apologise to Bilkis for whatever has happened to her and wish such heinous acts do not happen in an otherwise peaceful state of Gujarat," the organisation said in the statement.

Strong possibility of Opp parties fighting 2024 polls together: Nitish

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is a strong possibility of Opposition parties coming together to fight the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said on Monday, stressing that he has had good talks with them and many will join hands gradually.

Speaking to reporters, the Janata Dal (United) leader also made light of the BJP's repeated swipe at the Opposition over its unity talks, saying the ruling party has many problems of its own. "All they can do is speak day and night," he said.

"Many parties will join hands gradually and there is a strong possibility that they can fight the 2024 polls together," he said, adding that he has had good talks with leaders of different parties.

Asked if the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, both having strong reservations against the Congress, will also be a part



of such a formation, he said once an agreement is reached in the Opposition about an alliance, only then something concrete can be said.

At the same time, he added that the media will be aware of all the leaders he has met.

Kumar had met AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his last visit to the national capital.

TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had also said recently that she together with Kumar, RJD's Tejashwi

Class 10 Dalit student dies after beating by teacher in Auraiya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rutal assault in the name of corporal punishment took its toll when in a fresh incident, a Class 10 Dalit student was fatally beaten up by his schoolteacher in Auraiya.

The student died during treatment in a hospital.

The victim, Nikhil Dohre, was beaten up by his social science teacher on September 7 as he had made a mistake in an exam. His health deteriorated after that and he was being treated in a hospital. The teacher also contributed to the treatment.

On September 24, Nikhil's father, Raju Dohre, lodged a report in the Achhalda police station against the teacher for not cooperating in the treatment and for using caste-indicative abusive words.

He made a complaint after Nikhil died during treatment on Saturday.

The FIR was registered

against the accused, Ashwini Singh, at Achhalda police station and teams have been formed to arrest the accused.

Auraiya's Superintendent of Police Charu Nigam said, "We have talked to Etawah chief medical officer to set up a panel for autopsy to find out the cause of death and get the autopsy and videographed. Further action will be taken. Three teams have been formed to arrest the accused."

In another incident, a Class IV employee of the BED department committed suicide in a classroom of the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University.

The employee, identified as Vibhuti Prasad, ended his life by hanging himself from the ceiling. When the teachers saw him hanging, they immediately informed the Cantonment police, and the cops rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Gehlot's gambit

Congress leadership failed to comprehend that he is unwilling to quit the top office in Rajasthan

The presidential election in the Congress and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's candidature have once again proved the gross ineptitude of the party leadership—that is, of the Gandhis. It is quite evident that, for the umpteenth time, they failed to assess the situation. It looked like, and we editorially commented, that the intra-party election may provide the Gandhis an opportunity to kill two birds with a stone: get a non-family party president, thus blunting the Bharatiya Janata Party's attacks of the GOP being a family-run party; and putting an end to the Gehlot-Pilot tussle in Rajasthan. But that was not to be. For one, Gehlot was reluctant right from the beginning to give up the top office in Rajasthan for a national role. Apparently, he believes that it is better to rule in Jaipur than to serve in New Delhi, for becoming party president with the Gandhi family's blessings means working under their supervision. But reluctance to leave the chief ministerial office is much

different from stubbornly sticking to the demand to have a loyalist in that office at any cost. The rebellion by over 90 Congress MLAs supporting him has not only displeased the Gandhis but also put his candidature for the president's post in the grand old party at risk. On Sunday, the 90 MLAs had threatened to resign if his arch rival Sachin Pilot was made chief minister.

Reportedly feeling "upset and humiliated," the Gandhis are looking for alternatives to Gehlot for the Congress top post. Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath is said to have arrived in the national capital for a meeting with Sonia Gandhi. All this doesn't



seem to have deterred Gehlot or his MLAs. They refused to talk to Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge, the high command's emissaries. They wanted the new chief minister to be decided after the next Congress president is elected, Maken told the media, adding that this would be "conflict of interest" as the resolution would be passed when "Gehlot may already be party chief. So, he empowers himself to decide on his own successor in Rajasthan." That's a valid point, but Gehlot and his MLAs have dug their heels in over the issue of the next chief minister. That there is rivalry between the 71-year-old Rajasthan Chief Minister and his young challenger is a well-known fact; the rivalry became intense after his unsuccessful rebellion in 2020. But few—and certainly not the Gandhi family—knew that the intensity had crossed the limits within which it could be managed. Is the enmity no more political? Has it become personal? Only Gehlot and Pilot can answer these questions, but it is indisputable that this episode has put yet another question mark over the competence of the Gandhis. How could Rahul Gandhi unite the nation or the Opposition if he can't unite his own leaders? It is time the top Congress leadership focused on putting its house in order.

PICTALK



A young devotee pays obeisance at Durgiana Temple on the first day of 'Navratri' festival, in Amritsar

PTI

Food Security Dwindles

Increasing foodgrain prices will be a big blow to country's food security which is already strained

Food security has been a major challenge as we have a sizable population that earns its living on daily basis and do not have the reserve to buy food in advance.

According to the UN, there are nearly 195 million undernourished people in India, which is a quarter of the world's total. Also, roughly 43% of children in India are chronically undernourished. India has constantly moved down various indexes dealing with food security, well-being, and human development at an alarming rate. It slipped to the 101st position out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2021 from its 2020 position of 94. All that ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry did about it was to raise "methodological issues" and claim that the FAO's methodology was unscientific. The 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, published by UN agencies in 2022, estimated that a whopping 40 per cent of people in India suffered from food insecurity in 2019-2021 which puts India into the category of countries with severely food-insecure populations. India ranked 71 out of 113 major countries in terms of the food security index 2020.



In this scenario, the government is said to be considering an increase in the prices of rice, wheat, and cereals sold through the National Food Security Act (NFSA) by ₹.7 per kg for Priority Households. Moreover, NITI Aayog has even recommended that the price for sale to the poorest of the poor through Antyodaya Anna Yojana be increased by ₹ 1 per kg. The Ministry is reportedly brought it to consideration by the Union Cabinet. Should the cabinet approve it, it would be a big blow to the food security in the country which is already under severe stress due to the rise in inflation. This would also negate the National Food Security Act, 2013 or right to food act as it is popularly called which sought to provide subsidized food grains to two third of the Indian population. It is time to strengthen the right to food security rather than diluting it. The central government must help states who are doing their bit to provide food security. Karnataka launched the 'Indira Canteen', which serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner at a very low price. Tamil Nadu has an 'Ammam' canteen. But the situation in Bihar, UP, and Orissa remains grim. Now is the time to do it on the pan India level so that no one goes to bed with a hungry stomach.

Polluting a river is a sin against it!

Immersion of idols laced with harmful chemicals does an irreparable damage to a river, time to stop sinning against salvator



SANJIB POHIT ANUPMA MEHTA



It is that time of the year again, when the devout prepare fancy and exotic idols of gods and goddesses, venerate them for a few days and then consign them to the waters of our rivers. The immersion ritual, as witnessed during the recently concluded Ganesh festival and also anticipated during the forthcoming Durga Puja celebrations, has been a regular annual feature of the festival season across the nation. This is because our rivers are perceived as divine, almost supernatural, entities that have the power of salvation and exculpation of human sins. But while immersing idols signifies a sort of religious atonement for the 'sinners', unfortunately, the rivers that function as the sites for this redemption become the ones 'sinned against'; for this paradoxical coalescence of divinity and desecration not only leads to surface pollution in the rivers but also damages their biodiversity and causes extensive and often irreversible contamination of the groundwater. Several of the idols immersed in the rivers are made from Plaster of Paris, which takes countless years to dissolve, and paint comprising heavy metals like mercury, cadmium, and lead.

River pollution is, in fact, a persistent area of concern across the country. Other research documents the high level of pollution and contamination in the Ganga river, which increases notably during the Hindu festive season. A study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) examines the state of Ganga river water quality at selected stretches of the river in recent years. For ensuring a detailed analysis of the polluting constituents in the Ganga, the NCAER team moved beyond conventional laboratory examination of water samples and used in-situ mobile sensor platforms equipped with GPS capability to pinpoint the pollution sources and hotspots in the river, and capture water quality data at high geospatial resolution. Noting a significant deterioration in the river water quality due to pollu-

tion, the NCAER study points out that despite being among the top ten water-rich countries of the world, and home to both perennial and non-perennial rivers, India has become a water-stressed region.

Albeit, a large proportion of the pollution in rivers is the result of anthropogenic activities and the release of raw sewage, untreated industrial effluents, pesticides, and debris into the river. However, this does not diminish the polluting impact of visarjan or submergence into the river of idols made with non-biodegradable and toxic materials. So, wherein lies the solution? While seeking to purify ourselves through religious rituals, how can we ensure the purification of our rivers too?

For the last few years, the Central Pollution Control Board has been issuing advisories to prevent riverine pollution by prohibiting the immersion of idols, puja material, and religious offerings in rivers. Recently, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) too urged all urban local bodies in the city to set up temporary ponds in residential areas for the immersion of idols. The



A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE POLLUTION IN RIVERS IS THE RESULT OF ANTHROPOGENIC ACTIVITIES AND THE RELEASE OF RAW SEWAGE, UNTREATED INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS, PESTICIDES, AND DEBRIS INTO THE RIVER

DPCC's guidelines mandate the removal of worship materials like flowers and paper decorations, and of collection of biodegradable material used in the idols for recycling and composting, before the immersion.

However, while the advisory is clear on the 'do's' and 'don'ts' about idol immersion, it is silent regarding the enforcers who would ensure diligent implementation. What is the guarantee that the harmful chemicals released from the idols after immersion would not percolate underground through the multiple water bodies earmarked for the immersion? The larger, more serious implications of this could be contamination of the groundwater. Further, decentralisation of idol immersion away from the Yamuna necessitates the redoubling of efforts to monitor the ground pollution level.

It is thus imperative for the authorities to follow a somewhat centralised approach for monitoring the pollutant load arising due to immersion. Both the authorities in Delhi and the Namami Ganga Clean-up Campaign being undertaken to cleanse

the Ganga river can also draw lessons from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation which has been following the 'no pollution' principle during the Durga Puja rituals in Kolkata, wherein vats are placed alongside rivers for collection of decorative items removed from idols before their immersion. Thereafter, any residual debris in the rivers is extracted with the help of cranes to minimise the pollutant load in the river. This approach is certainly worth emulating.

The NCAER study also revealed that a large section of the people living in the Ganga river basin depends on the river for their daily needs and livelihood. Similarly, the Yamuna river is the aquatic lifeline for Delhi and its surrounding areas. Hence, even as the Yamuna, Ganga, and all our holy rivers ostensibly absolve us of our moral sins, the least we can do in return is to keep them free of physical and human waste.

(Sanjib Pohit is Professor and Anupma Mehta is Editor at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANTI BJP ALLIANCE NOT EASY

Sir — In a major step towards forging a United anti-BJP front, Nitish Kumar and Sharad Pawar attempted to forge a united front to upset BJP in the 2024 elections. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday met Congress president Sonia Gandhi here in a bid to unite Opposition parties to take on the BJP in the 2024 general elections.

The meeting at Ms Gandhi's 10 Janpath residence is considered very crucial in forging an Opposition unity as efforts are on to reconcile differences between Nitish and the first meeting with Ms. Gandhi since he severed ties with the BJP. But it is not so easy. Already, we have seen how coalition government fell in a heap at the state and central levels. The coalition forging ahead should become a laughing stock in the wake of the increasing popularity of PM Modi internationally.

CKR Nathan | Chennai

BAN ON NON-VEG ADS

Sir — The Bombay High Court on September 26 dismissed as withdrawn a plea seeking a restriction or ban on the advertisement for non-vegetarian food in print and electronic media. The high court asked the petitioners why they were seeking to encroach on others' rights. After the Jain community petitioners sought to withdraw the plea in view of the past Supreme Court decisions, the division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Madhav J Jamdar allowed them to file a fresh petition with better particulars and dismissed the present PIL as withdrawn.

The high court said that the issue falls within the issue of the legislature, and it cannot frame rules and laws imposing bans. As soon as the petition came up for hearing, the bench clarified that the court can intervene only when rights are infringed. The petition, filed by Religious

Scintillating Series Win



Team India learned the art of winning after losing the first match. This is possible in home matches where pitch conditions are known to the team very well. Despite our bowlers being hit all over the ground by the tail-enders and by the openers slogging. However, the batters phased their innings after losing

openers early.

Both Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav combined well to script a century stand and sealed the series from World Champion Australia. In the end, Hardik Pandya played his part to perfection to achieve an incredible win with a ball to spare. This win boosted the team's confidence before embarking on a tour of Australia with those practice games. Though it is just a game and someone loses and someone wins, winning a series is great for team's morale and uplift the spirit of its wellwishers. It was indeed a Scintillating series win for Team India. It was special because it happened outside India which is indeed very heartening. Well done boys in the blue just keep your focus and keep winning for the country.

CK Ramani | Coimbatore

and Charitable Trust and stated that such promotions are a violation of the right to live in peace and the right to privacy. The court said: "What about violation of Article 19 of the Constitution? Why are you encroaching on others' rights? There are two ways of looking at it. An ordinary man would say switch off the TV. But we would look at it from the point of law. What you are asking has to be provided by law. Here there is no such law, which is why you are asking us to frame the law. The court allowed the petitioner to withdraw the plea stating that the petitioners can file a fresh petition if they so desire.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

MURDER MOST FOUL

Sir — Your editorial "Himalayas burning was very apt. There is no end to rapes and murder of innocent women under the BJP's rule. The murder of Ankita Bhandari, a 19-year-old female receptionist is another example that women are not safe under BJP's rule. Ankita who worked in a BJP leader-owned resort was murdered just because she didn't oblige the

SOUND BITE

My son is a *seedhasadhabalak* and is only concerned about his work. I want justice for both my son Pulkit and the murdered girl.



BJP leader
—Vinod Arya



Though there is a right-wing extremism asserting [itself in Canada], I don't think there is any threat to any minorities here.

Professor, Carleton University
—Chinnaiah Jangam

It was a secret that I will be contesting 2024 elections. This news Modiji and Amit Shahji were supposed to announce, but it is my good fortune that HemaMalini announced it.



Actor
—Rakhi Sawant



It's good that he (Pant) has not set the world on fire in white ball cricket, there is plenty to come.

Indian skipper
—Rohit Sharma

How often do you hear people talking about it; pronouncing it, in fact, look at the media coverage. What does the media cover, what does the media not cover?



S Jaishankar
—External Affairs Minister

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet
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FIRST COLUMN

SOCIAL MEDIA SPURS
SUICIDAL TENDENCIESExcessive usage of social media
could harm mental health of kids

JYOTI KAPOOR

With suicide cases being the second leading cause of death in the young population (10-24 years), influence of social media/internet is immense. Digital interventions among teenaged kids and young adults are significantly affecting their mental health and well-being, making them more susceptible to self-harm, suicidal ideation and later suicide attempts.

A study published in 2015 highlighted teens who reported using social media sites more than two hours a day are much more likely to report poor mental health outcomes. Besides, the suicidal thoughts, excessive social media usage results in a low self-esteem and poor body image are quite a frequent behaviour.

An addiction is identified from mild to severe using 11 criteria of addiction outlined in the 'Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)-5'. A child can be termed as a social media addict if he/she meets two or fewer criteria.

The 11 criteria of addiction are more social media usage than wished for; having frequent urge or desire of checking social networking sites; usage of social media started conflicts in their immediate relationships with others; hampering his/her ability to function, work, or complete tasks; focussing more on social media and cutting back on activities which they previously used to enjoy; experiencing physical or emotional discomfort when you stop or cut back; stopping or cutting back on social media making them irritable; negative impacts to physical or mental health; continued use of social media despite



problems, consequences, or impairments; using in situations that are risky or hazardous (i.e. while driving or working); reduced real-world social interaction; needing more time/likes/follows to get the same amount of pleasure or enjoyment from social media.

Parents play an important role in the de-addiction regime of social media in their kids. Though it's a tough job, if done in a friendly way then it can strengthen a parent and child bond. They need to build a positive and family environment at their home so that the child doesn't get the urge of the virtual world. Parents should also take part in their social media usage by learning about the programs/apps, their child is using. Ask the child to teach you about the nuances of these platforms. Parents need to show interest in such activities and ask questions.

In order to monitor children's online activities, the tablets and computers are placed in common areas, while a tab on child's online accounts be kept. This will make them understand that monitoring their online activity would help keep them to stay protected from cyber bullying.

But be attentive as some children or teens may create a fake second account for their parents to follow. You can ask them in a friendly gesture about the people they are friends with online.

Showing genuine interest will help them feel comfortable talking about it. Explain that it's easy for someone on the Internet to pretend to be someone they're not. Talk about the importance of keeping online friendships in the online world. Make it clear that if your child wants to meet an online friend in person, it must be in a public place and with a trusted adult. Talk in detail about what's okay and safe to post online, and what isn't.

People do not always have control over what others post about them. Explain how information and photos found on the internet can resurface years later. Explain how autocorrect can sometimes result in misunderstandings and hurt feelings.

(The author is Founder & Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali)

Mainstream channels
are the biggest threat

ANURAG THAKUR

Edited version of speech by Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur
at the Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) on Sep 20

I am extremely delighted to be amidst you at the AIBD (Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development) general conference meeting 2022 and address this prestigious assembly of the broadcasters from the Asia-Pacific region...

Firstly, I would like to congratulate AIBD for creating a desirable platform for broadcasters to put forward their opinions and comments to build a strong future for themselves.

I have been told that even during the difficult Covid period, when the world was facing fear and gloom, lockdowns had slowed the pace of life, economies were under severe stress, AIBD leadership kept the member countries connected online and maintained a constant dialogue on how media can mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

The member countries were immensely benefitted through sharing of information on the latest developments in the medical field, positive stories of Covid warriors and more importantly in countering fake news which was spreading faster than the pandemic.

If we talk about the theme of the event, it highlights the need for creating a stronger future for broadcasting in a post-pandemic era...

It is media which brought the world on one platform during this difficult phase and reinforced the spirit of one global family.

We have also seen the extensive use of media—both mainstream as well as new digital platforms—by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government during this exceptionally difficult phase of Covid-19.

Information was shared in a timely and transparent manner, ensuring a quick response, mitigating myths and spreading awareness about a pandemic that was both evolving as well as ever expanding.

Together with our media friends, we ensured saving millions of lives the world over, which otherwise could be lost, had timely information not flowed to the people about safety measures and protection from Covid-19 virus.

I would specially appreciate India's Public Service Broadcaster, Doordarshan and All India Radio, as they very satisfactorily delivered on their mandate of public service and stood strong with the people during the testing times of the pandemic.

Even the other Indian broadcasters and Indian media in general ensured that Covid-19 awareness messages, important government guidelines and free online consultations with doctors reached everyone in nook and corner of the country.

Expert opinions through programmes like Doctors Speak and campaigns such as Mask-up India by the public broadcaster Doordarshan played a very significant role at the time when fake news on the epidemic became a menace.



IF YOU [NEWS
BROADCASTER
S] DECIDE TO
INVITE GUESTS
WHO ARE
POLARISING,
WHO SPREAD
FALSE
NARRATIVES
AND WHO
SHOUT AT THE
TOP OF THEIR
LUNGS, THE
CREDIBILITY
OF YOUR
CHANNEL
GOES DOWN

*(The author is
Information &
Broadcasting Minister)*



The media the world over played a very significant role in educating the people of the country about the vaccine availability and the benefits of being vaccinated against coronavirus.

It helped the health system in fighting the vaccine hesitancy...

The Covid-19 crisis has thrown up challenges as well as provided an opportunity not just to re-invent journalism, but to redefine the media as a trusted source of news and information.

Our mainstream media organisations have a great challenge to provide truthful accurate and reliable news faster, while preserving media ethics and values.

Real journalism is about facing the facts, presenting the truth and letting all sides the platform to present their views.

In my personal opinion the biggest threat to mainstream media is not from new age digital platforms, but rather the mainstream media channel itself.

If you decide to invite guests who are polarising, who spread false narratives and who shout at the top of their lungs, the credibility of your channel goes down. Your decisions regarding the guest, the tone and visuals define your credibility in the eyes of the audience.

The viewer may stop for a minute to watch your show, but will never trust your anchor, your channel or brand as a trusted and transparent source of news.

So my question to broadcasters present here today is this:

Are you going to watch the narrative be defined by soundbites, or redefine yourself and set

the terms for your guests and channel?

Are you going to watch as the younger audience switches and sweeps through the shrill on TV news, or are you going to bring back the neutrality in news and discussion in debates to stay ahead of the game?

Are you going to show visuals that grab eyeballs and inflame anger, or show restraint and project visuals in context to showcase the full picture?

And finally, how will you redefine and innovate your TV news content, presentation and dissemination to reach the new-age audience who is constantly being fed information via social media platforms?

Instead of compromising our values in this fierce competition, we must work hard to preserve professionalism.

I strongly believe that journalists are duty bound to report news without fabrication, despite temptations to compete with those who propagate false news.

The AIBD as a regional inter-governmental organisation must continue to train and equip media practitioners with the best professional skills to gain broader freedom for our media. India stands ready to support your efforts.

Another important area of cooperation is good quality content exchange among the member countries.

Prasar Bharati has been sharing DD India channel in the OTT platform of South Korea on reciprocal basis including exchange of several coproduction programmes. Prasar Bharati is also uplinking

Bangladesh TV on its Freedish platform. We have also partnered with Australia in the field of broadcasting in March 2022 through programme sharing.

The broadcasters of the two countries are also exploring opportunities in co-production and joint broadcasting of programmes spanning multiple genres.

I am happy to state that DD India with the objective to become Global Public Broadcaster channel is now available on OTT platforms.

Dear delegates, you have come to India at a time when we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Independence. It is the time for us to pay tribute to hundreds of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives and freed the country from the shackles of foreign rule.

This is the festival time for us which we call 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. It has taken the form of a mass movement where people from all walks of life are participating in different programmes across the country.

Before concluding, I truly believe that media, in all its forms, has immense ability to shape public perceptions and perspectives as an effective tool of empowerment.

It is imperative to create an enabling environment for our journalists and broadcasters friends for making the space of media more vibrant and rewarding.

I wish the delegates from the member countries of the AIBD a very happy stay in India. I am sure that the deliberations which you are going to hold over the two days will be meaningful and bring new insights to the media industry.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

TODAY'S ACTORS ARE INSECURE TO SHARE SCREEN
SPACE WITH EACH OTHER AS
COMPARED TO 80S-90S ACTORS.

—ACTOR
SANJAY DUTT



I THINK THEY ARE STILL DOING THREE-HERO FILMS AND
TWO-HERO FILMS. AS FOR INSECURITY, SOME PEOPLE
HAVE IT FOR SURE, SOME PEOPLE DON'T CARE.

—ACTOR
JACKIE SHROFF

Release of cheetahs significant in various ways

But there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea

After 70 years since the killing of the last surviving cheetah by Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Koriya estate in Madhya Pradesh (now in Chhattisgarh), the Centre re-introduced cheetahs in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon after returning from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit released the first batch of eight cheetahs on September 17, 2022 in Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh.

The cheetahs will first be quarantined for a few days in an enclosure and gradually released in a larger fenced area and into the forests ultimately. The release of cheetahs is significant not only from the point of view of conservation of wildlife but also for the



VK BAHUGUNA

*(The author is former
Director-General, ICFRE,
Ministry of Environment
& Forest)*

civilisational message to bring back the lost heritage of biodiversity and celebrate the co-existence of all life forms on earth.

It is also a proud moment for the much maligned Indian Forest Service (IFS) which has been using the acronym IFS for over more than a century for getting back a priceless species it conserved against all odds before it went extinct due to the false notion of bravery by hunting with guns by the misguided Royals. Cheetah is the most charismatic, beautiful and fastest animal in the world.

Cheetah is capable of accelerating up to 120 kilometres per hour in just over three seconds. At top speed, their stride is 23 feet long which makes them fearsome hunters. The male and female cheetahs live

differently. The male siblings move in a group of two to three or even more and this is called a coalition which lasts for life and protects their territory well, while the female cheetah lives alone and meets the male only during mating time.

Cheetahs do not pose much challenge for humans and many royals and others used to rear them and used them for hunting. Unlike other cats they do not roar but meow or purr.

However, after this release of cheetahs in the Kuno National Park, the real challenge to the foresters has begun in order to see if we can replicate the success of tiger conservation for cheetah also.

The cheetah became extinct due to indiscriminate hunting and shrinking of its



natural habitat. It thrives in grassland and in India the saddest part is that we have never given focus on grassland conservation.

Now there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea. Today, if cheetah can find a new home akin to their home territory there is nothing wrong in it from the

point of view of biodiversity conservation. After all, the migration of animals and plants from one geographic area to another had routinely happened during the evolutionary process.

The real test of re-introduction will happen when these eight cheetahs adapt to their new home and start hunting and live in a natural style of their own so that the next batch of cheetah can be brought here. The good thing about Kuno is that it has a good prey base for them to survive.

The second issue is how the local people will see this introduction in future in terms of protection of their habitats.

The Madhya Pradesh government had already relocated 24 villages and the forest department though had made

adequate precautions for their protection and movements and had made arrangements for 24 hours vigilance but they will have to see that the tree climbing leopard do not enter their territory.

The leopard hunts by ambush but cheetah do not have retractable claws and hunt for a particular type of prey like medium sized antelopes, hares, calves of herd animals, birds through their speed and sudden galloping gait. Thirdly, the local people and scientific community from the Wild Life Institute and Universities need to be involved in the conservation process with liberal research and training grants.

Fourthly, the poachers must be kept at bay and for this forest department at field level must possess the best of the

equipment. The Central as well as the Madhya Pradesh Governments, therefore, will have to plan a long term strategy for the cheetah conservation in India so that in next few years the population of the cheetahs can grow.

The situation of manpower from forest guard to ranger level and infrastructure needs a review. We must understand that the manpower of the forest department and infrastructure like superior weapons and other modern gadgets are no match for the superior equipment of the poachers.

It will be a special challenge for the Park Director, because cheetah breeding requires proper attention and resources. A "Project Cheetah Scheme" needs to be started on the pattern of Project Tiger.

US carrier, S Korea warships launch drills amid North's threat

AP ■ SEOUL

A US aircraft carrier and its battle group launched drills with South Korean warships off the Korean Peninsula's east coast on Monday in their first such training in five years, a day after North Korea test-fired a short-range ballistic missile in a possible response to the exercise.

North Korea could conduct more tests in coming days as it views US-South Korean military exercises as a practice to invade the county and often reacts with displays of weapons designed to attack its rivals.

The four days of drills are aimed at demonstrating the allies' "powerful resolve to respond to North Korean provocations" and improve their ability to perform joint naval operations, the South Korean navy said in a statement.

More than 20 US and South Korean navy ships, including the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, a US cruiser and South Korean and US destroyers, were mobilised for the drills, according to the navy statement. It said US and South Korean fighter jets and helicopters will also take part in the training.

It would be the first such



joint drills involving a US aircraft carrier near the peninsula since 2017, when the US sent three aircraft carriers including the Reagan for naval drills with South Korea in response to North Korean nuclear and missile tests.

The allies had since cancelled or downsized some of their regular drills to support now-dormant talks on North Korea's nuclear programme or guard against COVID-19.

The North Korean missile fired on Sunday flew about 600 kilometres at the maximum altitude of 60 kilometres before falling into the waters off the

North's east coast, according to South Korean estimates.

Some experts say North Korea might have launched a nuclear-capable, highly maneuverable ballistic missile and that its 600 kilometre-flight had enough range to strike a southeastern South Korean port where the Reagan was previously docked.

North Korea has performed a record number of missile tests this year as it steadfastly rebuffs US and South Korean calls to resume the nuclear diplomacy.

North Korea has said it won't return to talks unless the

United States drops its hostile policies in an apparent reference to US-South Korean military drills and US-led economic sanctions on it.

Earlier this month, North Korea adopted a new law that authorised the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in some situations, a development that showed its increasingly aggressive nuclear doctrine.

Some analysts say North Korea would eventually aim for arms control negotiations with the US to get sanctions relief and other concessions in return for a partial surrender of its nuclear capability.

Dependence on Russian def equipment not lack of trying on India's part: Jaishankar

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India's dependence on Russian defence equipment and the strong defence ties with Moscow is not because New Delhi did not approach the US to get those from the United States, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Sunday.

"One of the changes in our relationships has actually been the defence cooperation which has really come about in this current form maybe the last 15 years," Jaishankar told Indian Americans here during an interactive discussion with him organized by the US India Friendship Council and Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies.



"From 1965 pretty much for the next 40 years, there was no US defence equipment to India. This was, in fact, a period when the India Soviet, India Russia relationship became very strong," he said. "This was not due to a lack of trying

on India's part. I can vouch for it myself. I've had my relatives, my father, my grandfather, they worked with the defence ministry. So, I know firsthand what great efforts were made over those years to try to make the US understand that it was in American interest to have a strong, united, independent, prosperous India," Jaishankar said.

"At that time, they did not succeed, maybe the state of the world was such," he noted. "The change that started was really triggered by the nuclear deal that removed a very big obstacle to go forward and then to actually take the relationship to a new level requires leadership in India," that did not have reservations.

In Tokyo, US vice prez Harris calls US-Japan alliance 'a cornerstone'

AP ■ TOKYO

US Vice President Kamala Harris met with Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio on Monday shortly after arriving in Tokyo for the state funeral of his predecessor, Shinzo Abe.

Abe, who was assassinated in July, will be honoured on Tuesday, and Harris is leading a U.S. Delegation to pay its respects.

"The alliance between Japan and the United States is a cornerstone of what we believe is integral to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," she said at the Akasaka Palace. Kishida said Abe "poured his heart and soul" into strengthening ties between their two countries.

"I feel it is my duty to carry on his aspirations," Kishida said.

Abe forged closer ties with the United States at a time of increased concern about China's ambitions, and Kishida is continuing his push for a stronger national defence.

The potential for war over Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as part of its own territory, has troubled Japan, which would likely be pulled into such a conflict.

President Joe Biden said recently that the U.S. Would send its own troops to defend Taiwan if China attacked.

"The president has addressed that issue. And if it comes up, the vice president will align with the president," said a senior administration official, who requested anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

The official also said Harris would "make clear our ironclad commitment to Japan's security." More than 50,000 U.S. Troops are based there. Harris, who is scheduled to spend three nights in Tokyo, is visiting at a politically fraught moment. Kishida's decision to hold a state funeral for Abe, a conservative nationalist, has been controversial in a country where such memorials are uncommon, and some oppose honoring him in this way.

6 Pak Army personnel, including two officers, killed in helicopter crash in Balochistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Six Pakistan Army officials, including two Majors, were killed in a helicopter crash in southwestern Balochistan province, the military said on Monday, the second such incident after another military helicopter crashed in the same province last month.

The crash occurred near Khost in the Harnai district of the province on Sunday night during a flying mission, it said.

All the "six personnel on board, including two pilots" were killed in the crash, the Army said. No reason for the crash was given.

The accident comes more than a month after a similar incident occurred in Balochistan on August 1 when a Pakistan Army helicopter crashed, killing all six personnel, including a Lieutenant General, on board.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR),



the media wing of the Pakistani military, said on Monday that 39-year-old Major Khurram Shahzad (pilot) and 30-year-old Major Muhammad Muneeb Afzal (pilot) were among those killed in the crash.

The funeral prayers of the six army personnel were offered at Quetta Garrison, according to the ISPR. Balochistan corps commander as well as senior military and civil officials attended the funeral.

Indian climber among 12 injured as avalanche hits Nepal's Mt. Manaslu

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Indian climber Baljeet Kaur was among 12 climbers who were injured when an avalanche struck them at the base camp of Mt. Manaslu in Nepal on Monday, according to media reports.

Out of the 12 mountaineers, three were critically injured, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported.

The Department of Tourism confirmed that the avalanche hit at 11:30 am on Monday.

Sources told local media that Sherpa climbers from Seven Summit Treks, Satori Adventure, Imagine Nepal Treks, Elite Expedition, and 8K Expeditions, among others, were injured.

Pemba Sherpa from 8K Expedition said Indian climber Kaur and her Sherpa guide both suffered minor injuries and were safe, the report said.

The Tourism Department is yet to establish contact with the officials at the incident site, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported, quoting the Director of the department.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XXI ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE ALLIKULAM COMPLEX, CITY CIVIL COURT CHENNAI

O.S. No. 4804 of 2019
M/s Chaganraj and Company
By its Proprietor..Plaintiff
Versus
M/s Swati Paper Converter and 2 others...Defendants

To D2 M/s Kashvi Papers, D97, Gali No.6, Garhi Maendur, Bajan Pura, Delhi-110053.

Take notice that the above Plaintiff has filed the suit against the Defendants for recovery of Rs. 20,83,820/- and further interest in the above Court. The above case came up for hearing on 21.09.2022 and the Honble XII Addl. Judge, City Civil Court Chennai was pleased to order Notice by substitute service to you returnable by 17.10.2022.

Hence be present on 17.10.2022 at 10.30 am in the above said Court to state your objections if any, failing which the above matter will be heard and decided in your absence as ex parte.

V.V.RAIVICHANDRAN, Advocate,
E.No.290/92, 437, New Addl. Law Chambers

Australia after data breach mulls tougher cybersecurity laws

AP ■ CANBERRA

The Australian government said on Monday it was considering tougher cybersecurity rules for telecommunications companies after Optus, the nation's second-largest wireless carrier, reported personal data of 9.8 million customers had been breached.

Optus said on Thursday it had become aware the day before of the cyberattack breaching details of 9.8 million people — within Australia's population of 26 million.

In the cases of 2.8 million current and former Optus customers, the breach involved "significant amounts of personal data," Cybersecurity Minister Clare O'Neil told Parliament.

"The breach is of a nature that we should not expect to see in a large telecommunications provider in this country," O'Neil said.

In some countries, such a breach would result in fines



"amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars," O'Neil said.

Australian law doesn't currently allow for Optus to be fined for the breach.

"A very substantial reform task is going to emerge from a breach of this scale and size," O'Neil said.

"One significant question is whether the cybersecurity requirements that we place on large telecommunications providers in this country are fit for purpose," she added.

O'Neil called on Optus to

offer compromised customers free credit monitoring to protect them from identity theft, a request that the Sydney-based company complied with later on Monday.

Optus announced it was offering its "most affected" customers 12-month free subscriptions to Equifax Protect, a credit monitoring and identity protection service.

Optus said the information that had been accessed by an unnamed third party included customers' names, dates of birth, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

For a minority, the personal data also included identification documents such as driver's license and passport numbers. Police and other government security agencies had worked through the weekend to protect affected customers, O'Neil said.

Government agencies were also working with the banking sector to protect customers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.

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Renewed militia clashes rock western Libya; 5 killed

AP ■ CAIRO

A new round of infighting between rogue militias in western Libya has killed at least five people, including a 10-year-old girl, health authorities said Monday, the latest bout of violence to rock the North African nation mired in decade-long chaos.

The fighting broke out on Sunday between rival militias in the western town of Zawiya, where armed groups — like in many other towns and cities in oil-rich Libya — are competing for influence. Along with the five who were killed, at least 13



other civilians were wounded in the clashes that continued overnight, the Health Ministry's emergency services said. The fighting trapped dozens of families living in the area for hours, said Malek Mersat, a spokesman for the emergency services. Local media reported that one mili-

tia fired at a member of its rivals, wounding a militiaman who was taken to hospital.

The violence was the latest between militias in western Libya. In August, clashes in the capital of Tripoli killed more than 30 people, one of the deadliest bouts of fighting in Libya in many months.

Libya was plunged into chaos after a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. The oil-rich country has for years been split between rival administrations, each backed by rogue militias and foreign governments.

2 more arrests in deadly attack during Norway Pride festival

AP ■ COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)

Two more suspects have been arrested in connection with a deadly shooting during the Norwegian capital's annual LGBTQ Pride festival, police said on Monday. The total number of suspects is now at four.

A 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran was arrested shortly after the June shootings in Oslo's nightlife district that killed two people and wounded more than 20.

A second Norwegian man in his 40s is being sought, police said on Friday.

On Monday, police said two more suspects — a man in his 40s with Somali citizenship and a Norwegian national in his 30s — were arrested on Sunday. Both are known to the police, authorities said, adding that they are residents of Oslo.

They faces preliminary charges of "complicity in an act of terrorism", police said.

Powerful typhoon leaves 6 rescuers dead in north Philippines

AP ■ MANILA

Typhoon Noru blew out of the northern Philippines on Monday, leaving six people dead, knocking down power in two entire provinces, trapping villagers in floods and forcing officials to suspend classes and government work in and around the capital.

The most powerful typhoon to hit the country this year slammed ashore in Burdeos town in Quezon province before nightfall on Sunday then weakened as it barrelled overnight across the main Luzon region, where more than 52,000 people were moved to emergency shelters, some forcibly, officials said.

Gov. Daniel Fernando of Bulacan province, north of Manila, said five rescuers, who were using a boat to help residents trapped in floodwaters, were hit by a collapsed wall then apparently drowned in the rampaging waters.

"They were living heroes who were helping save the lives



of our countrymen in the calamity," Fernando told DZMM radio network. "This is really very sad."

Police said a Bulacan villager drowned after refusing to heed appeals to leave his river-side house. Authorities were separately trying to confirm another death in Burdeos town and a missing farmer in a flooded village in western Zambales province.

In Aurora province's hard-hit Dingalan town, more than 6,000 houses were damaged and a newly built evacuation centre housing more 200 displaced families was battered by the fierce wind and rain but no injuries were reported, officials said.

India’s GDP to grow at 7.3% in ‘23: S&P

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Monday projected India’s economic growth at 7.3 per cent in the current fiscal with downside risks and said inflation is likely to remain above RBI’s upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent till the end of 2022.

In its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, S&P said India’s growth next year will get support from domestic demand recovery after the coronavirus pandemic.

“We have retained our India growth outlook at 7.3 per cent for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and 6.5 per cent for the next fiscal year, although we see the risks tilted to the downside,” it said.

Other agencies have cut India’s GDP growth forecast amid higher inflation and rising policy interest rates. Earlier this month, Fitch Ratings slashed the growth estimate to 7 per cent for the current fiscal from 7.8 per cent pegged earlier. India Ratings & Research too had reduced its projections to 6.9 per cent from 7 per cent earlier.

Asian Development Bank has cut the projection to 7 per cent from 7.5 per cent earlier.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects the Indian economy to grow 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal (April-March). The growth last year (2021-22)



was 8.7 per cent.

Indian economy expanded 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, sequentially higher than 4.10 per cent growth clocked in the January-March period.

On inflation, S&P Global Ratings pegged the average rate in the current fiscal at 6.8 per cent and projected it to fall to 5 per cent in the next fiscal beginning April 2023.

“India headline Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) is likely to remain outside the Reserve Bank of India’s upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent until the end of 2022. That’s amid substantial weather-induced wheat and rice price increases as well as sticky core inflation. And food inflation may rise again,” it said.

Retail or consumer price

inflation has remained above RBI’s upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent for the eighth month in a row and was at 7 per cent in August. Wholesale price inflation remained in double digits for the 17th straight month and was at 12.41 per cent in August.

According to S&P Global Ratings, elevated core inflation would drive up policy rates further in India, and projected policy interest rates to be 5.90 per cent by the end of this fiscal.

To tame stubbornly high inflation, the central bank has already hiked benchmark interest rates by 1.40 percentage points to 5.40 per cent. In its monetary policy review on September 30, RBI is expected to hike rates by another 50 basis points to a three-year high level of 5.90 per cent.

OECD retains India GDP growth projection at 6.9% for FY-2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Economic grouping OECD in a report on Monday retained the GDP growth projections for India at 6.9 per cent for the current financial year despite the global economy losing momentum in wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.

The projection by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is lower than the Reserve Bank’s growth forecast of 7.2 for 2022-23. The growth last year (2021-22) was 8.7 per cent.

Indian economy expanded by 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, sequentially higher than 4.10 per cent in the January-March period.

“Softer external demand is a factor in India’s projected slowdown from 8.7 per cent annual growth in FY2021-22 to around 7 per cent in FY 2022-23 and around 5½ per cent in FY 2023-24, but this still represents rapid growth in the context of a weak global economy,” the OECD’s latest Interim Economic Outlook said.

In the June 2022 Economic Outlook, the OECD projected the GDP growth for India at 6.9 per cent.

The global economy has lost momentum in the wake of Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine, which is dragging down growth and putting additional upward pressure on inflation worldwide, according



to the OECD’s latest Interim Economic Outlook.

The outlook projects global growth at a modest 3 per cent this year before slowing further to just 2.2 per cent in 2023.

This is well below the pace of economic growth projected prior to the war and represents around USD 2.8 trillion in foregone global output in 2023, it said.

It further said growth in China has also been hit and is expected to drop to a projected 3.2 per cent in 2022.

Except for the 2020 pandemic, this will be the lowest growth rate in China since the 1970s, said the Interim Economic Outlook.

Inflation is projected to recede gradually through 2023 in most G20 countries as the tighter monetary policy takes effect and global growth slows.

Headline inflation is projected to ease from 8.2 per cent this year to 6.6 per cent in 2023 in the G20 economies, and fall from 6.2 per cent this year to 4 per cent in 2023 in the G20 advanced economies.

Sensex extends losses into 4th session amid negative global cues

IT stocks stand out

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks spiralled lower for the fourth session running on Monday, in tandem with a bearish trend overseas as hardening interest rates and prospects of a global recession darkened the outlook for riskier assets.

The rupee plunged to a fresh lifetime low against the US dollar amid foreign fund outflows, which further dented investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 953.70 points or 1.64 per cent to close at 57,145.22. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 311.05 points or 1.80 per cent to 17,016.30.

Maruti Suzuki was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 5.49 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ITC, Axis Bank, NTPC, Bajaj Finance and IndusInd Bank.

In contrast, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Nestle India and Wipro were the gainers, climbing up to 1.28 per cent.

“Nifty fell for the fourth consecutive session driven by weak global cues and a falling rupee. Global risk assets including equities extended their sell-



off on Monday as fears of faster inflation and global recession continued to rise,” said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said the soaring dollar as a result of aggressive monetary tightening by the US Fed, slowing economic growth and rising demand from cautious investors are causing turbulence in the global equity markets.

“This is creating mayhem in the domestic market led by weakening INR, elevated bond yields and pessimistic trends of Asian peers. Only the IT sector, which exhibited the weakest performance in the last 1 year, defied the trend in anticipation that the global recession is mostly factored in the price and is trading at reasonable valuations,” he noted.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 3.33 per cent and the midcap index fell by 2.84 per cent.

Gold gains ₹138; Silver jumps ₹224



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national capital rose by ₹138 to ₹49,786 per 10 grams on Monday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹49,648 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped by ₹224 to ₹56,514 per kilogram from ₹56,290 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,639 per ounce, while silver was trading flat at USD 18.67 per ounce.

Gold Plus Glass Industry, Uniparts India get Sebi’s nod to float IPOs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Float glass maker Gold Plus Glass Industry and engineering solutions provider Uniparts India have received capital markets regulator Sebi’s approval to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs).

The two companies, which had filed preliminary IPO papers with the Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in April, obtained observation letters from the regulator during September 22-23, an update with the markets watchdog showed on Monday.

In Sebi’s parlance, the regulator’s observation implies its go-ahead to launch an initial share-sale.

Going by the draft papers, Gold Plus Glass Industry’s IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 300 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) up to 1,28,26,224 equity shares by promoters and existing shareholders.

As a part of the OFS, promoters — Suresh Tyagi and Jimmy Tyagi — will offer up to 10,19,995 equity shares each and investor PI Opportunities



Fund-I will sell up to 1,07,86,234 equity shares.

The company proposes to utilise net proceeds from the fresh issuance of equity shares towards funding debt, working incremental requirements and general corporate purposes.

Gold Plus Glass Industry is one of the leading float glass makers in India with a 16 per cent share of manufacturing capacity in fiscal 2021. The company’s products cater to a range of end-use industries, including automotive, construction and industrial sectors, with a variety of applications.

The initial share-sale of Uniparts India is entirely an OFS of 1,57,31,942 equity shares by promoter group entities and existing investors, according to the draft papers.

Those offering shares in the OFS are promoter group entities — The Karan Soni 2018 CG-NG Nevada Trust, The Meher Soni 2018 CG-NG Nevada Trust, Pamela Soni -- and investors Ashoka Investment Holdings Ltd and Ambadevi Mauritius Holding Ltd.

Since the IPO would be entirely an OFS, the company will not receive any proceeds from the public issue.

This would be the company’s third attempt to go public. Earlier, Uniparts had filed its IPO papers with Sebi in December 2018 and in September 2014. It also obtained the regulator’s clearance to launch the IPO on two occasions but did not go ahead with the initial share sale.

Uniparts India is a global manufacturer of engineered systems and solutions.

It is one of the leading suppliers of systems and components for the off-highway market in agriculture and construction, forestry and mining and aftermarket sectors on account of its presence across over 25 countries.

₹ sinks all-time low to 81.67/\$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, escalation of geopolitical risks due to conflict in Ukraine, a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.47, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the American currency, registering a decline of 58 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee slumped 30 paise to close at 81.09, its previous record low.



This is the fourth consecutive session of loss for the domestic unit, during which it has lost 193 paise against the American currency.

“Another day of large gains for the dollar versus the rupee as it fell for the fourth day in a trot amid risk-averse sentiments and unprecedented strength in the greenback following Fed tightening and recession worries,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

BUSINESS BRIEF

SILICON RENTAL SOLUTIONS IPO TO OPEN ON SEP 28

New Delhi: IT equipment outsourcing company Silicon Rental Solutions Limited on Monday said it will raise a little over Rs 21 crore through its initial share-sale opening on September 28. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) will close on September 30, and the shares will be listed on BSE SME, the company said in a statement. This is a SME IPO of 27.12 lakh equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each. The issue is priced at Rs 78 per equity share aggregating the size to Rs 21.15 crore. Out of net proceeds, Rs 8.55 crore will be utilised to meet capital expenditure requirements, Rs 8.5 crore for repayment of borrowings and the balance towards general corporate purposes, the company’s Chairman and Managing Director, Sanjay Harish Motiani said.

AIR INDIA REDUCES TICKET REFUND PROCESSING TIME

New Delhi: Full service carrier Air India on Monday claimed it has reduced processing time for the ticket refund to the eligible customers to 2-3 days. Refunds have been an issue for many airlines during the global pandemic and subsequent recovery, Air India said, adding, it was severely impacted by Covid-19 and many customers’ travel plans were affected. The company also claimed that more than 2.5 lakh cases amounting to over Rs 150 crore were processed in just the first few months after Air India took control of the airline from the government. As of today, an eligible refund request lodged on its website will typically be processed within 2-3 days, it added.

AQUA SERIES FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMERS

New Delhi: Pumps and Valves manufacturers KSB Limited launched the ‘AQUA series’, a new range of domestic products, at its dealers’ conference in Delhi. “KSB’s focus has always been on product innovation... Our close association with our customers and their inputs help us to constantly innovate to ensure that our products come with lower maintenance costs and optimum energy consumption,” said Farrokh Bhatnaga, sales & marketing Director.

Govt decides to extend Foreign Trade Policy by six months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday said it has decided to extend the existing Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) by another six months till March 2023. The current Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) was to end on September 30.

Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Amit Yadav, said there were demands from different quarters, including industry associations and export promotion councils, to extend the policy and not introduce a new policy at this time.

They have stated that currently there are challenges like global uncertainties and currency fluctuations.

Apple now manufacturing iPhone 14 in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Apple’s newest phone iPhone 14 will be made in India as the global tech titan bets big on the manufacturing prowess of the world’s second-biggest smartphone market after China.

Cupertino, California-headquartered Apple started manufacturing iPhones in India in 2017 with iPhone SE. Today, Apple manufactures some of its most advanced



iPhones in the country including iPhone SE, iPhone 12, iPhone 13 and, now, iPhone 14.

Earlier this month, Apple Inc unveiled its latest iPhone series — the iPhone 14 models - with an improved camera, powerful sensors and satellite

messaging feature to send SOS texts in emergencies. The new lineup has four models: iPhone 14, Plus, Pro and ProMax.

According to sources, the Made-in-India iPhone 14 will begin to reach local customers in the next few days. Phones manufactured in India will be both for the Indian market and exports.

The iPhone 14 will be shipped from Foxconn’s Sriperumbudur facility on the outskirts of Chennai.

High price of coal to adversely impact profitability of domestic non-ferrous metal companies: Icra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The high price of coal will adversely impact the profitability of domestic non-ferrous metal companies mainly operating in the aluminium and zinc space, Icra said on Monday.

The domestic e-auction premium on coal, though it has softened in recent months,

continues to remain high at around 300 per cent.

“In the domestic market, power costs have significantly increased for domestic base metal companies, owing to the lower availability of coal linkages to non-power sectors and elevated coal prices in both domestic e-auction and the international markets,” Icra said in a statement.



Besides, the price of alumina decreased along with the

price of aluminium, giving some respite to the non-integrated players.

“Owing to the twin onslaught of corrections in metal prices and continued high coal costs, the estimated operating profitability of domestic players is likely to contract by 600-700 bps in FY2023 after a weak performance in Q1 FY2023,” Icra

Senior Vice-President and Group Head, Corporate Sector Ratings Jayanta Roy said.

The high cost of coal remains a concern in the near term.

The rating agency said that it has changed the outlook of the base metal industry to stable from positive in July on account of this likely reduction in profitability, Roy stressed.

CROATIA, NETHERLANDS INTO NATIONS LEAGUE SF

AP ■ LONDON

Croatia and the Netherlands booked their places in the last four of the Nations League as holders France needed a favour to avoid relegation from the top tier on Sunday. Les Bleus lost 2-0 in Denmark to finish with just one win from their six group games, but Croatia's 3-1 win at Austria saved the world champions from the drop.

Didier Deschamps will be hoping to have a number of key men back from injury by the time France's defence of the World Cup begins against Australia on November 22.

"It was a young French team, which for the most part does not yet have experience of the highest level," said Deschamps.

"Tonight is a dose of reality and what will be waiting for us in two months."

France will also come up against the Danes in the group stage in Qatar and the Euro 2020 semi-finalists showed they are more than capable of causing more trouble in two months' time.

Both goals came before half-time as Kasper Dolberg stretched to turn home Mikkel Damsgaard's cross before Andreas Skov Olsen volleyed in from the edge of the area.

France were without Hugo Lloris, Jules Kounde, N'Golo Kante, Paul Pogba, Ousmane Dembele and Karim Benzema through injury.

But the star trio of Antoine Griezmann, Olivier Giroud and Kylian Mbappe failed to find a way back into the game for France.



We have to focus on winning against Spain: Santos

AP ■ BRAGA

Portugal coach Fernando Santos said his team would not settle for the draw they need to reach the Nations League finals when they host Spain in Braga on Tuesday.

Portugal, who won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2019, moved top of Group A2 on Saturday with a 4-0 victory over the

Czech Republic as Spain lost at home to Switzerland.

Santos' side now hold a two-point lead over their neighbours ahead of the final group match.

"We just have to focus on winning rather than reaching the final four," he said.

"I want the players to face Spain on their merit, as they do all opponents. Do that and we will always be

closer to getting where we want to go."

Manchester United right-back Diogo Dalot scored twice against the Czechs as Portugal bounced back from a defeat in Switzerland in June.

Santos has a near fully-fit squad to choose from, with Atletico Madrid forward Joao Felix having returned to training after missing last week-end's match.

Denmark's win meant Croatia needed to get all three points in Austria to top the group.

Luka Modric got the 2018 World Cup finalists off to a flying start, but they were quickly pegged back by Christoph Baumgartner's header.

Two goals in three second-half minutes proved decisive as Marko Livaja and Dejan Lovren headed in at the far post.

"Austria made our lives very hard, but in the end, the win was deserved," said Modric. "I am very happy that we are in the top four."

Defeat relegated Austria to League B.

The Netherlands made sure of top spot in Group A4 with a 1-0 win over Belgium thanks to Virgil van Dijk's header 17 minutes from time.

The Dutch just needed to avoid defeat by a three-goal margin after winning 4-1 in Brussels earlier in the group.

A Belgian revival never looked likely. Van Dijk settled the game when he was left completely unmarked to head in a corner inside the six-yard box.

In the same group, Wales were relegated after losing 1-0 at home to Poland.

Karol Swiderski scored the only goal in Cardiff from Robert Lewandowski's cushioned through ball.

Turkey were already guaranteed promotion from League C, but were still embarrassed by a 2-1 defeat to the Faroe Islands.

The Faroes led 2-0 through Viljormur Davidsson and Joan Edmundsson before Serdar Guler's late consolation for the side ranked 83 places higher in FIFA's world rankings.



India face Vietnam test in football tourney

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH CITY

The Indian men's football team will have its task cut out when it takes on Vietnam in the Hung Thinh Friendly Football Tournament here on Tuesday.

In their opener last Saturday, India were held to a 1-1 draw by lower-ranked Singapore.

Up against a confident Vietnam, who blanked Singapore 4-0 in their first match, the Blue Tigers will have to be extremely focussed.

"It will be a very different game against a much stronger opponent, so our approach will also change accordingly," said India head coach Igor Stimac said on the eve of the match.

"We need to be more

focused, especially on vertical football and quick transition.

"At the same time, we must maintain focus on our defence as well. They pose a real threat from long range shots, and from their crosses, and we need to be able to deal with that," said Stimac.

The India head coach has also closely followed the match between Vietnam and Singapore, and believes that their Tuesday's opponents are an organised unit.

"I've watched their first match against Singapore and they (Vietnam) are a very disciplined side," said Stimac.

"They have also had enough time after the first game for recovery, while we need to see how many of our boys will be available and fit to play."



Determined to make big contributions in World Cup: Gurjant

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Having played a vital role in India's Silver medal-winning feat at the Commonwealth Games, national hockey team forward Gurjant Singh is now looking to make an impact at next year's FIH World Cup.

"I am glad that I was part of the Silver medal-winning team at CWG. It's a huge honour for me to be an Olympic and CWG medal winner," Gurjant, who was part of the Olympic Bronze medal winning team in Tokyo, Hockey India said in a release.

"However, I have noted down the points that I need to improve on and I am determined to make an even bigger impact in tournaments such as the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

India are set to host the men's hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time jointly in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29 next year and Gurjant hopes to get an

opportunity of playing in front of the home crowd.

"Playing in the World Cup is every hockey player's dream. And I really hope I will be given the opportunity of playing the tournament at our home ground."

"There is always a great buzz and fanfare in Odisha and I am sure that the fans' support will motivate us to play at our best."

The 27-year-old said the Indian team's immediate focus is the FIH Hockey Pro League beginning next month.

"We are working very hard to put up a good show at the FIH Hockey Pro League. A good performance there will give us a huge confidence boost before the all-important World Cup in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela. "We are looking forward to the challenge and are determined to keep getting better as a side."

India will face Spain and New Zealand in the FIH Pro League in Odisha from October 28.

Murray backs Federer as future Laver Cup captain

AP ■ LONDON

Andy Murray has backed Roger Federer as a future Laver Cup captain after Bjorn Borg indicated the sixth edition in Vancouver next year could be his last.

Federer bade farewell to professional tennis at the tournament in London at the weekend, playing doubles alongside great rival Rafael Nadal on Friday in his final competitive match, which ended in defeat.

Team Europe suffered a 13-8 loss to Team World in the Ryder Cup-style tournament to ensure Federer, 41, was denied one final trophy but a vacancy for the captaincy will open up when Swedish great Borg steps away.

Federer, who won 20 Grand Slams in his glittering career, said he had no immediate plans after hanging up his racquet but it is likely he will want to stay involved in the Laver Cup, which he helped to create.

"I'm sure Roger is going to



stay involved in the event in some capacity and maybe one day captain the team," Murray said.

"Look, he's great on the side (coaching). He watches a lot of tennis, he loves the game. I think for ex-players that go into coaching, I think that's important to sort of stay current and know a lot of the players."

Murray made his Laver Cup debut at London's O2

arena, joining other members of the "Big Four" -- Federer, Nadal and Novak Djokovic in competing for Team Europe.

Djokovic expressed his hope that Federer would turn his hand to coaching.

"I think that Roger can offer a lot," he said. "I mean... it's logical to expect him to be able to share so many useful and valuable things with anybody really."

Need to work on my fitness, says Tasnim Mir

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Teen Indian shuttler Tasnim Mir feels she needs to work on her fitness to match the speed and power of the Asian players as she looks to break into the world's top 50 in the senior circuit.

The 17-year-old from Mehsana, Gujarat, who won the Chattisgarh International Challenge on Sunday, will be one of the attractions at the National Games.

"I have to work on my fitness. I'm working on my rallies and stamina as I'm aware that Asian players are very good in rallies, power and speed. The game is becoming faster and we have to



play some quick rallies," she said in a press release.

"My focus is to improve my ranking. My target is to be in the top 50 so that I can compete in bigger international tournaments. I have to be consistent with my game to achieve that goal and then to rise to be among the top 20."

"My father (Irfan Mir) has played a crucial role in my evolution. I learnt the basics from him and continue to train under him."

Tasnim, who had become the first Under-19 Indian woman shuttler to be ranked world No. 1 in junior earlier this year, is currently ranked World No. 113 in the senior category.

"With some good players from Japan, Thailand, China competing in these tournaments, it gives us the necessary experience and the chance to rise in the ranking charts," she said.

Fresh from her win in Raipur, Tasnim is eager to soak in the joys of playing in front of the home crowd at the National Games.

"I have not yet competed in a major National-level tournament in my home state," she said.

"Surely, it will always be a big motivation when you play in front of a home crowd. The National Games will be a great platform for me to experience that."

We need to have better academies & start early, says Lalengmawia

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Starting early and upgrading academies are crucial to lifting the standard of Indian football, feels Lalengmawia Ralte, who has returned from a two-week training camp with Mumbai City FC's sister club in Belgium, Lommel SK.

The prodigious midfielder, Apuia scored his first goal for the Islanders in the Durand Cup final against Bengaluru FC. Although Mumbai City FC ended the final on the wrong side of a 2-1 scoreline, the 21-year-old midfielder put in a stellar display in Asia's oldest football tournament and in the AFC Champions League earlier this year.

He suggested how Indian footballers can compete with foreign players.

"I think Indian players will be able to compete with or against them, but we need to have better academies. We need to start sending kids from a young age so that they can follow the style of Europeans and then we can compete with them at any level," Ralte said in a release.

"Training with Lommel SK in Belgium was a good experience for me. Learning new things with European players and being at the top of the game was a great experience. I gained a lot of knowledge, which is the most important thing for me."

The Aizawl native described a day in the life of the players at Lommel SK and said, "The training starts at 10 and ends around 11:30. At 12 they have lunch and then if there is a gym session, we have gym after lunch and later, they go back to their own homes."

One forgets ABCD of sport if he is away from training for 3-4 years: Vijay Kumar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having returned to top-flight shooting after a long sabbatical, Olympic Silver medallist Vijay Kumar feels athletes could "forget the ABCD of sport" if they stay away from action for three-four years.

London Games Silver medallist pistol shooter Kumar, incidentally, had taken a long break from shooting to focus on his career with the police in Himachal Pradesh. It included intense academic training, field training and border training, taking up most of his time and attention.

It was only last year that he returned to the sport, hoping to dominate it one more time.

"Spending time away was not a big deal since I was providing job security for myself. It is not a big deal, either, starting the sport from scratch," he said.

He conceded, though that muscle memory built over many years as a sport shooter was lost during police training. "Technique goes for a toss. If one doesn't train and compete for three or four years, one forgets the basics, the ABCD of sport. When you return at the highest level, you realise you



have all but forgotten how to play," he rued.

Kumar has a clear target in mind for the upcoming National Games: emulate his

own five-Gold, one-Bronze medal haul during the 2015 edition in Thiruvananthapuram.

The upcoming edition is starting in Ahmedabad on September 29.

"That (performance) is a thing of the past. I believe I can push myself more and can even excel at the Olympic level once again. That single goal has fuelled my motivation," the 2012 Olympic medallist said, revealing that he has been preparing for the Gujarat Games for over six months.

"I am happy that within a year of my return to shooting, I have made it for my fourth

National Games. I will try to perform well here ahead of the World Championships," the 37-year-old said.

The World Championships will be held in Cairo from October 12.

"The competition at the National Games will be intense, since the best 16 shooters in each event will be there. We have all been on the circuit, competing in championships and National trials since November last year."

"Each has been shooting good scores and that will make the competition really absorbing," Kumar said.

Watford appoint Bilic as manager after Edwards sacking

AP ■ WATFORD

Championship club Watford on Monday appointed former West Ham and West Brom manager Slaven Bilic as their new coach after sacking Rob Edwards.

The club announced the arrival of Bilic minutes after reporting that Edwards had been fired after just 11 games in charge in all competitions.

The team, relegated from the Premier League last season, are 10th in the Championship, the second tier of the English game, with three wins from 10 league games.



"As with all decisions taken by the board, I believe this change to be in the best inter-

ests of the club," said Hornets owner Gino Pozzo.

"We felt Rob had enough time to show us the identity of his team. However, performances haven't reflected our hopes and ambitions."

"Now we must move forward, and, in Slaven Bilic, we have secured the services of an experienced coach who has recent experience of promotion to the Premier League."

Former Croatia international and national team coach, Bilic, 54, guided West Brom to promotion in the 2019/20 season and has since managed in China.

ROHIT KEEPING FAITH IN BHUVI & HARSHAL

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma has backed pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Harshal Patel to hit form ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Following a disappointing Asia Cup campaign, the Indian team had something to cheer as it won the three-match series against Australia 2-1 after clinching a six-wicket win in the third game here on Sunday.

However, both Bhuvneshwar and Harshal, who made a comeback from injury, leaked runs in the series, ending with an economy rate of 12 plus.

"It's important that we give him (Bhuv) that space because when you have a guy like him in the team and the quality that he brings, we know that he's had more good days than the bad days in the last so many years."

"We've been working on some plans, and hopefully, we can give him more options to bowl in the death. And then he'll be as good as he was before," said Rohit in the post match media interaction.

Despite the woeful run, Rohit said Bhuvneshwar is not short on confidence.

"I don't see that he is short in confidence. It's time for us to show that faith in him and keep backing his skillset



"From our side, we are trying to work out what are the things we can do because when you're bowling in the death you can't be predictable. You need to have options to bowl on both sides of the ground and set the field accordingly.

"And someone with that experience it'll be easy for him to grasp all that knowledge."

Harshal, who is coming off a long injury layoff, also struggled, giving away 99 runs in eight overs in the three games but Rohit said the death overs specialist is not being judged on

this series.

"Harshal is an important player for us without a doubt. Coming back after an injury is never easy. He missed cricket for close to two months. It's not easy (to come back), so we've not judged him on how he is performing in these three games, because we know his quality.

"He has bowled some really tough overs for us in the past and also for his franchise. It's important to keep showing that faith and I'm sure that you know he's also trying to rectify

those mistakes and he's not too far from his best."

Assessing the team's performance in the series, Rohit said "We want to tighten in all departments. I know our batting has been brilliant in the last eight or nine games that we played since Asia Cup.

"But we still want us to be more clinical, more aggressive, you know and play with that aggression. We want to keep doing that."

While the batting unit performed well, the bowlers struggled and the fielding from the

side was also substandard.

"Bowling is the main focus. Fielding is one aspect which will never stop. We want to keep improving as a fielding unit all the time."

Suryakumar Yadav played a special 69-run knock to pave the way for India's victory alongside Virat Kohli, who also scored a half-century in the third game.

"When it comes to Surya we all know his quality. He can play the shots all over the ground. And that is what makes him special.

‘Want to give DK more game time ahead of T20 World Cup’

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma wants to give wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik more time in the middle before the team heads Down Under for the T20 World Cup next month.

India have been alternating between Karthik and Rishabh Pant in their playing XI.

While the young keeper was given the nod ahead of the veteran player in the Asia Cup, Karthik was picked for all three matches against Australia.

"I wanted both of these guys to have a number of games under their belt before the World Cup. When we went to the Asia Cup both of these guys were in the fray to play all games," Rohit said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the three-match series against Australia on Sunday.

"But I just feel that



Dinesh needs a little more game time. He hardly got to bat (this series). Just maybe three balls. So that's not enough time," Rohit added. Karthik faced seven balls in total against Australia, while Pant played only one game where he did not get a chance to bat.

"Pant also needs game time obviously. But looking at how this series was it was important for me to just stick to that consistent bat-

ting lineup."

India take on South Africa for a three-match T20I series, starting Wednesday and Rohit said Karthik and Pant's inclusion in the playing xi will depend upon the situation.

"I don't know what we're gonna do against South Africa. We just need to go and see their bowling, what sort of bowling lineup they'll play with, and who are the best guys for us who can handle that bowling lineup. It all depends on that.

"We want to be flexible in our batting. So if the situation or if the thing demands that we need a left-hander, we will bring in a left-hander if we need a right-hander, we will continue to do that.

"But we'll try and manage those guys pretty carefully. I do understand that they need game time before the World Cup but there are only 11 players you can play, unfortunately."



T20I Rankings: India go 7 points clear at top

PTI ■ DUBAI

India went seven points clear of England at the top of the ICC T20 rankings following their narrow series win over Australia in Hyderabad.

Down 0-1 against the touring Australia, the Rohit Sharma-led India bounced back in style to level the series in Nagpur before Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav's fifties in the deciding rubber on

Sunday sealed a 2-1 win.

The six-wicket final over win improved their ranking by one point to 268 points, a seven-point lead over their closest rival in England in the ICC T20 rankings released on

Monday.

The upcoming three-match series against South Africa will give India a chance to consolidate their lead at the top ahead of the World Cup in Australia.

The Proteas occupy third place on the team rankings with 258 points, but could stake their claim when they in the upcoming series commencing at Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

Incidentally it was Pakistan's narrow three-run win over England in the fourth game in Karachi on Sunday that helped India increase their lead.

That series remains tied at two games apiece, with plenty of rankings points still to play for during the final three matches in Lahore.

Rizwan, Rauf help Pak win 4th T20I

AP ■ KARACHI

Pakistan halted England with three wickets in six balls to take a sensational three-run win in the last over of the fourth T20I in Karachi on Sunday.

Haris Rauf grabbed three wickets as the hosts tied the seven-match series.

Earlier in-form opener Mohammad Rizwan struck a brilliant 88 as Pakistan made 166-4.

With England needing five for victory from 10 balls, Rauf dismissed Liam Dawson (34) and Olly Stone off successive deliveries in the 19th over.

Last man Reece Topley was then run out as Pakistan rescued victory from almost certain defeat at a packed National stadium in Karachi.

Dawson had silenced a 32,000 holiday crowd by cracking four fours and a six off pacer Mohammad Hasnain's 18th over.

When Topley was run out off the second ball of the last over it sent Pakistan players and home fans into raptures.

The win made the occasion of Pakistan's 200th T20I more memorable. They are the first team to reach the milestone.

England were rocked by Hasnain (2-40) and Nawaz (3-35) and were staring at defeat at 130-7 before Dawson added 32 with Adil Rashid (three not out) to bring England back in the game.



But Rauf's two wickets, he finished 3-32, sealed the match for Pakistan. The remaining matches

are in Lahore (September 28, 30 and October 2). England, who are on their first tour of Pakistan for 17

years, won the first and third games while the home team won the second and fourth - all in Karachi.



We warned her multiple times: Deepti Sharma on controversial run out

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma on Monday revealed that Charlie Dean was warned against backing up multiple times before she effected a controversial run out of the England batter in the third and final ODI.

The dismissal reignited an intense debate over the 'spirit of the game'.

"Woh plan tha hum logon ka, kyunki woh baar baar... Hum warn bhi kar chuke the usko. Jo rules mein hain, jo guidelines hain, uske according hi humne kiya (We had planned this as she was not paying heed to our repeated warnings. We acted according to the rules and the guidelines," Deepti told reporters upon her arrival here.

Reduced to 118 for nine in their pursuit of 170 in the third ODI, England's chase was led by their No 9 batter Dean who revived their hopes with her last wicket partnership with Freya Davies. With 17 needed to win, Dean was run out for 47 with the veteran Indian off-spinner deciding to clip the balls during her delivery stride to put an end to their 35-run partnership that gave India 3-0 sweep. It was also Jhulan Goswami's swansong game.

The run-out is currently listed in the 'Unfair Play' section of the laws but is set to be moved to the 'Run Out' section at the start of next month when an update in the ICC Playing Conditions comes into effect.

Deepti further pointed out that they had informed the umpires before running out Dean.

"Umpires ko bola tha hum logon ne, but still woh wahin par thi. Hum log kuchh nahin kar sakte the. (We did inform the umpires, but she continued to do it. There was nothing we could do)," the 25-year-old added.

The 39-year-old Jhulan, who has a record 355 wickets across formats, retired from international cricket in the final ODI as India secured their first-ever 3-0 sweep on English soil to give the legendary Indian pacer a fitting farewell.

Having made her debut in 2002, Jhulan ended up playing 12 Tests, 204 ODIs and 68 T20Is.

"Har team ko jeetna hota hai, aur last match mein hum chahte the ki hum jitke unko (Jhulan) acha farwell de, toh uske hisaab se, as a team, jo effort daal sakte the woh humne diya. (Every team wants to win and we as a team gave our best effort to win it for Jhulan Goswami," she said.

Jhulan and Deepti, who also plays for Bengal in domestic cricket, landed in the city to a rousing welcome at the airport by several women's cricketers.

Shahbaz & Shreyas in T20I squad vs SA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Yet to recover from COVID-19, Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of India's three-match T20I series against South Africa, while Bengal all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed came in place of the rested Hardik Pandya.

The series is starting on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram.

With all-rounder Deepak Hooda also out of the series due to back spasms, the national selection committee is set to recall middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer for the series.

"Shami hasn't recovered from his bout of COVID-19. He needs more time, and hence, will be out of the South Africa series. Umesh Yadav will continue as Shami's replacement for the South Africa series," a senior BCCI source said.

However, when asked why Shahbaz has been picked in place of Pandya, the source said, "Is there any seam bowling all-rounder, who can replace Hardik? Raj Bawa is too raw and that's why we kept him in India A for exposure. He will need time to blossom. Tell me another name?"

Assam Cricket Association ‘rain-ready’ for India-SA T20I

PTI ■ GUWAHATI


The Assam Cricket Association has put in place elaborate arrangements to minimise time-loss in the event of rain, including importing pitch covers, for the T20 International between India and South Africa on October 2, a senior official said.

The last cricket match at Barsapara Stadium here between India and Sri Lanka in January 2020 was abandoned following heavy rainfall.

"Guwahati had experienced unprecedented rainfall in the middle of winter, and that is why the match in 2020 had to be eventually called off."

"The weather forecast for October 2 is clear, but the weather is not within the control of anyone. We have all arrangements in place in case there is rain on October 2," ACA secretary Devajit Saikia said.

The ACA has imported two "extremely lightweight" pitch covers from the US, he said. It already has around 20 covers at its disposal.



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PADAMPUR

O- 1049

1st Corrigendum to

Tender call notice No. Online 08 of 2022-23


In pursuance to this office tender call notice no. Online 08 of 2022-23 the cost of tender paper will be Rs. 4000/- instead of Rs. 2000/- for Sl.No. 8 .

All other terms and conditions remains unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Rural Works Division, Padampur

OIPR: 25069/11/0024/2223



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No. S.E. JSPR(R&B)- 04/2022-23

1. Name of work : Road works for the year 2022-23

2. No. of Works. : Total:- 09 (Nine) nos Works

3. Estimated cost : Above Rs.10.00 lakhs up to Rs.60.00 Lakhs (Approx)

4. Period of completion : As per Column No-8 of this NIT

5. Class of contractors : As per Column No-7 of this NIT

Other details as follows :-

6. Date & time of availability of bid documents in Portal:-29.09.2022 at 11.30A.M

7. Last date/ time for receipt of bids in Portal:-14.10.2022 up to 05.00 PM.

8. Opening of Bid documents :- 15.10.2022 at 11.30A.M

9. Procurement Officer : Superintending Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division,Jagatsinghpur.

With


E-Mail address:- eerbjspr@gmail. com

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/- Superintending Engineer

Jagatsinghpur(R&B)Division

OIPR: 34093/11/0010/2223



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

WORKS DEPARTMENT

B- 629

E-mail: ccroads.bbsr@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-20/2022-23

1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:

2. Nature of work : Road & Bridge works

3. No. of work : 12 Nos

4. Tender Paper cost : Rs. 10,000.00

5. Class of Contractor : A Class/ Special Class/Super Class


6. Available of bid document : From 10.00 A.M. of 01.10.2022 to 5.30 PM of 20.10.2022

7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.21.10.2022 at 11.30 AM

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR: 34111/11/0045/2223

Sd/- Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER & WILDLIFE

WARDENCHANDAKA WILDLIFE DIVISION GAJA VIHAR: I

P.O: BARAMUNDA: BHUBANESWAR- 751 003

Phone-(0674) 2355400 (O)

Email-dfo.chandakaw@odisha.gov.in /chandakadamparaffigmail.com

Tender Notification No. 03 Dated .22.09.2022

TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR HIRING OF VEHICLE

Sealed tenders are invited from interested Vehicle Owners/Travel Agencies/Tour Operators for providing diesel run Bolero/Scorpio vehicle 6nos of AC (4nos-7seater, 2nos-9seater) for official use on hiring basis at different Government Offices of Chandaka Wildlife Division as detailed below on terms & conditions mentioned in the standard bidding documents so as to reach in the office of the Divisional Forest officer, Chandaka Wildlife Division on or before 07.10.2022 up to 5.00 PM through Registered/Speed Post or by courier service & can also be dropped in the Tender Box placed in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Chandaka Wildlife Division. Tender paper cost for Rs.1000/- (Rupees One Thousand) only in shape of non-refundable Demand Draft from any Nationalize Bank drawn in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Chandaka Wildlife Division in the sealed bid document should be submitted. The Technical & financial bid will be opened on dt.10.10.2022 at 11 AM in presence of the bidders or their authorized representative in the office of the undersigned. The standard bidding documents & terms & conditions can be obtained from www.chandakawildlife.in & also can be obtained from the Section Officer, Office of the Divisional forest Officer, Chandaka Wildlife Division from 27.09.2022 to 07.10.2022 (1.00 PM) in the office day & office hours only. Tender inviting authority reserve the right of accepting or rejecting one or more tenders offer(s) or cancelling the tender

Sl. No.	Name of the Office	No. of vehicle required
1	Bhubaneswar Wildlife Range, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar	Seven Seater- 1 No. Nine Seater-2 Nos.
2	Chandaka Wildlife Range, Chandaka	Seven Seater- 1 No.
3	Dampara Wildlife Range, Dampara	Seven Seater- 1 No.
4	Haladia Wildlife Range, Minchinpatna	Seven Seater-1 No.

(i) The Technical Bids will be opened in presence of the tenderer or the authorized representatives on dt.10.10.2022 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Chandaka Wildlife Division. The financial Bids will be opened only of successful bidders on the same day at 1.00 PM.

LIST OF DOCUMENT TO BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE QUATATION

Sl. No.	Name of the Vehicle Owner/Agency with address	Regd. No. of the Vehicle	Date of Registration	Type of vehicle AC/Non AC	Year of Manufacture	Model of the Vehicle	Fitness Certificate valid up to	Permit validity	Insurance validity	Pollution Certificate validity	Salaries average in Ru per ltrs	Name of the Driver	Driving License with date of validity
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1.Filled up proforma with Copy of all above documents to be submitted along with the tender paper.

2.Copy of GSTN

3.Copy of PAN Registration

4.In case of Agency valid Registration Certificate/License to be submitted.

Sd/-Divisional Forast Officer

Chandaka Wildlife Division

Bhubaneswar

OIPR:08096/11/0002/2223