

OPINION 6
TAKING STOCK OF 9 YEARS
OF MODI GOVT

WORLD 9
CLIMBERS HONOURED ON 70TH
ANNIV OF 1ST MT EVEREST ASCENT

MONEY 10
GAPS IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
AT BANKS DESPITE NORMS: DAS

BHUBANESWAR, TUESDAY MAY 30, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹4

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Late City Vol. 19 Issue 146
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DJOKER ENTERS
SECOND ROUND
OF FRENCH OPEN
11 SPORT

In Cuttack
700 kg ganja
seized in
separate cases
4 smugglers held
PNS ■ CUTTACK

A team of the Cuttack UPD of the Commissionerate police on Monday seized over 700 kg of ganja in two separate cases and arrested four notorious drug peddlers from the outskirts of Cuttack city by intercepting two vehicles.

Police said that a team of the Jagatpur police station got information regarding the transportation of ganja. Subsequently, the team intercepted a four-wheeler near the Indian Oil petrol pump at Jagatpur.

The team was successful in nabbing two ganja traders, Panchanan Bisoi and Amit Mahakud and recovered 360 kg of the contraband and cash over Rs 1 lakh. The two are habitual offenders and are involved in similar cases.

During the interrogation of the accused, the police got information and intercepted a car that was on its way to Dhenkanal and arrested two more peddlers, Ganeswar Das and Damo Kanhar. Around 351 kg of anja and Rs 48,000 cash were recovered from their possession.

In the preliminary probe, it was ascertained that Cuttack is being used as a transit point for narcotics trade..

MURDER MOST FOUL ROCKS DELHI AGAIN

Girl stabbed 20 times with knife, bludgeoned in full public view in Shahbad Dairy; killer arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a horrific murder that shook the national Capital a 16-year-old girl was stabbed over 20 times and then stoned to death in full public view in Shahbad Dairy area late on Sunday night.

The accused has been arrested from Bulandshahr, in Uttar Pradesh. Identified as Sahil the 20-year-old works as a fridge and AC mechanic. The horrific attack was caught on CCTV and the video footage went viral. The video showed the girl walking down the street when she was intercepted by the accused, who stabbed her over 20 times with a knife. The act was so ferocious that

at one point the knife got stuck in the head of the victim. The accused then picked up a heavy cement slab lying nearby and started hitting her.

Shockingly, the murder took place in full view of people who can be seen passing within inches of the attacker, but no one stops or says anything as the girl falls to the ground and the attacker continues his assault. The horrific attack lasted for 90 seconds and this includes him kicking her body. The accused is seen walking away from victim in a casual manner only to turn back and again hit her with cement slab before leaving site.



Political slugfest: AAP lashes out at L-G, BJP screams 'Love Jihad'

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A political slugfest erupted between the AAP and the BJP on Monday following the gruesome killing of a 16-year-old girl allegedly by her boyfriend in Shahbad Dairy area. While AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal sought to corner Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena over the poor law and order situation in the national Capital, the Delhi BJP termed the brutal killing an incident of 'Love Jihad' and compared it with the Shradha Walker murder case. Taking to Twitter, Kejriwal wrote, "A minor girl

was brutally murdered in Delhi. This is very sad and unfortunate. The criminals have become fearless, there is no fear of the police. LG sir, law and order is your responsibility, do something. The safety of the people of Delhi is of paramount importance".

LG comes in the backdrop of the row over Centre's ordinance which limited the Delhi Government's powers. BJP MP Hans Raj Hans termed the brutal killing of a minor girl in northwest Delhi "very painful" and said youths sometimes get "carried away by emotions" and act like "fools".

Don't support AAP on ordinance: Cong men

Kharge told by Delhi, Punjab Cong leaders

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Days after Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal sought an appointment with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi to rally their support in his party's fight against the Modi Government's Ordinance and defeat it in the Rajya Sabha, the Congress unit of Delhi and Punjab units on Monday bluntly told the party leadership to maintain distance from the AAP.

The leaders from Delhi and Punjab have advised the party leadership not to speak about the Centre's ordinance on control of services in the national Capital or not have any alliance with Kejriwal, who is mustering support from the Opposition to oppose the ordinance.

Kharge had convened a meeting of leaders from Delhi and Punjab on seeking their opinion on the matter. Former Congress president Rahul was also present during the meeting.

The leaders from Delhi and Punjab met the leadership separately. During the meeting, Delhi Congress leaders suggested that they should not have any alliance with the AAP. Reportedly several leaders from the Congress told the leadership to not support Kejriwal, calling him a "B-team" of the Bharatiya Janata Party and claiming he harmed the Congress' interests not only in Delhi and Punjab but other States as well. The



Mallikarjun Kharge



Arvind Kejriwal

Congress leaders further advised the party leadership that either the party should remain silent or should not support Kejriwal on the ordinance issue. However, the leaders have left it to the high command to take a final decision.

Congress leaders Ajay Maken, Arvinder Singh Lovely, Harun Yusuf, Delhi Congress president Anil Chaudhary attended the meeting, with Kharge and Rahul and shared their viewpoints on the issue.

During the meeting, Delhi Congress explained to the party leadership why they should not support Kejriwal. Similar sentiments were expressed by Punjab leaders led by State unit chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, sources said.

The Congress leadership will also meet party leaders from other States before deciding its position. After the meeting, Punjab Congress president Warring said they have put across their views before the party high command and left the final decision to it. "All the

leaders have said the party high command will decide and we have left it to Kharge to take the final decision," Warring said. He later tweeted a resolution passed by Punjab leaders who came to Delhi against the AAP Government in Punjab for its action against a journalist.

Former party chief Navjot Sidhu said what transpired during the meeting was a secret and only the Congress chief or Rahul would divulge the details. He, however, said India's Constitution is a sacred grant and he took inspiration from it.

Addressing the media at the party headquarters, Venugopal, who was also present in the meeting said, "Today we had discussion on this with Delhi and Punjab leadership.

They have given their concerns and views and certainly we will take a final call in the coming days." Asked if the party has decided on Kharge's meeting with Kejriwal on the latter's request, Venugopal said, "We will let you know once it's decided."

'Joranda Gadi' under Govt's 5T plan

Pandian assures all support for promotion of Mahima religion
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR



promotion and propagation of the Mahima religion, assured Pandian, adding that all Mahima Peethas across the State would also be developed. Naming the Balangir Medical College after Mahima Saint Bhima Bhoi is a sign of the Government's commitment towards the development of the religion, said Pandian.

Pandian said that a bridge has been built over the Brahmani river from Kaluria to Sardeipur at a cost of Rs 235.56 crore by which people of 62 villages have been benefited. Besides, the tourists and devotees to the Mahima Gadi are able to conveniently commute. The CM has named the bridge as Mahima Setu.

The is born in Odisha and The State Government would provide all support to

Man uses poison to eliminate girl child

Baby now in ICU in Baleswar
UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

In a shocking incident, a man allegedly administered poison to his 20-day-old infant daughter on Monday as he was deeply unhappy with the girl child. The man is identified as Chandan Mahana of Mallikashpur in Baleswar district. Chandan had married Tanmayi last year. He did not want the girl child. Tanmayi had gone to her parental house at Singhiri village under the Nilgiri police station after delivery and Chandan used to visit her there. On Monday when she went to

take bath, Chandan allegedly administered poison to the infant with the help of a syringe. However, Tanmayi rushed back after hearing the baby's screams and found Chandan sitting beside the child.

Tanmayi, suspecting something abnormal, asked Chandan about the reason behind the baby's cry. Although initially he refused to say anything, later he confessed to having administered poison to the child as she was a girl. Soon, the infant was rushed to the Baleswar District Headquarters Hospital for treatment. Currently, the child is undergoing treatment at the ICU. After getting a complaint, police detained Chandan for interrogation.

CM launches Odisha AI initiative

To be executed in BBSR, Puri, Cuttack in 1st phase

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Odisha for Artificial Intelligence' and 'Artificial Intelligence for Youth' initiative on Monday.

The State Government has roped in international technology company Intel for the initiative. In the first phase, the initiative will be imple-

mented in Bhubaneswar, Puri and Cuttack. The CM said Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds an incredible potential to reshape our world and drive progress. The initiative would augment digital literacy of the masses. He advised all Government departments to take advantage of these programme and train officials for enabling them to be at the forefront of the AI revolution. Electronics & IT Minister Tusharkanti Behera said the AI initiative would put Odisha in the top league among the States in India.

Firsts in Vigilance history Tehsildar takes Rs 12L bribe in cheques

Highest amount detected so far
PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Monday out carried out raids on the properties of Charles Nayak, Tehsildar of Karanjia in Mayurbhanj district on the allegations of demand and acceptance of bribe Rs 12 lakh from a person through cheques.

Nayak had demanded the bribe from the complainant to release the land acquisition award of Rs 51,75 lakh in his favour which the latter had got from the NHA. The Tehsildar demanded the bribe amount in the form of two blank cheques (without name of the payee) of Rs 10 lakh and Rs 2 lakh to release the compensation cheque of the complainant.

Finding no alternative, the complainant handed over two cheques worth Rs 12 lakh to the Tehsildar keeping the name portion blank. The Tehsildar in turn handed over the cheque to his associate one Athar Alli, a local contractor. Later, Alli presented the cheque to the bank with his name as payee.

The Tehsildar was being examined in connection with the case while Alli was absconding. This is the first case of bribe Rs 12 lakh by cheque mode and also the highest bribe amount in a case detected by the Vigilance.

42-degree temp in many places in next 5 days

More thunderstorms also predicted in State
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Regional Office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here on Monday predicted that the maximum temperature is likely to be 42 degrees C or more at several places in the districts of interior Odisha during the next five days. However, several districts would continue to experience thunderstorms in the next couple of days. A Yellow warning for thunderstorm and lightning has also been issued by the IMD.

Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty surface wind with speed reaching up to 40 to 50 kmph are very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, and Kandhamal on Wednesday. On Thursday, thunderstorms with lightning and gusty surface wind with speed reaching up to 40 to 50 kmph are very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati and Ganjam. On Friday, thunderstorms with lightning are very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Khordha, Puri, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar.

Hailstorms are very likely to occur at one or two places over

the districts of Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, and Koraput. Thunderstorms with lightning are very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Nuapada, Bargarh, Keonjhar, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Baleswar, Bhadrak and Balangir on Tuesday.

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Cabinet decision ahead of 2024 polls

State Govt approves 'Mo Ghara' scheme

For lower & lower middle-class households in rural areas
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With completion of four years of the BJD's fifth term in office, the State Government on Monday approved 18 proposals including a 'Mo Ghara' scheme.

The decision was taken at a State Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

A week after a Cabinet reshuffle inducting three new

Ministers, the State Government approved the 18 proposals introducing Mo Ghara (Government Housing Assistance in Rural Areas), a new housing scheme, obviously in view of the 2024 general elections.

Under the Mo Ghara scheme in the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, the Government will provide financial assistance to meet aspiration of the lower and lower middle-class households in rural areas.

The scheme will cover all such families which were left out in the existing housing



Sl. No.	Loan Amount	Subsidy by Government	
		General	SC/ST/PwD headed families
1	1,00,000	30,000	40,000
2	1,50,000	45,000	55,000
3	2,00,000	60,000	70,000
4	3,00,000	60,000	70,000

schemes due to stringent eligibility criteria or due to insufficient allocation and also those families which had received housing assistance of smaller amount in the past and now want to upgrade or expand their houses.

Under the scheme, a beneficiary can avail a loan up to Rs 3 lakh, which can be repaid in 10 years excluding a 1-year

moratorium period in easy installments. They can opt for one of the four slabs of the loan amount — Rs 1 lakh, Rs 1.5 lakh, Rs 2 lakh and Rs 3 lakh.

The Government may bear the expenses of Rs 2,150 crore for approximate 4 lakh beneficiaries (1 lakh from each loan slab) over a period of two years for the scheme.

The following categories of rural households will be eligible under the scheme.

- 1) If the family is staying in a kutcha house or one pucca room with RCC roof.
- 2) If the family has either not availed any Government housing assistance or has availed assistance of below Rs 70,000 in the past.
- 3) If the income of the family per month is below Rs 25,000.
- 4) If the family does not possess a non-commercial motorised four-wheeler for personal use.
- 5) If the family does not

have any member as a regular Government or PSU employee or drawing a monthly pension for the service period from Government/ PSU.

6) If the family owns below 5 acres of irrigated land or below 15 acres non-irrigated land.

7) The Government will release capital subsidy to the loan account of the beneficiaries on completion of the house. Enhanced capital subsidy will be available to the vulnerable categories like SC/ST and PwD-headed households.

The rates of the subsidy as

decided by the State Cabinet are as follows:

- 8) The capital subsidy released to the loan accounts of the beneficiaries will result in a significant reduction in EMI for repayment and, thus, make the repayment more affordable.
- 9) Banks will not charge any processing fee from the beneficiary for sanction of the loan.
- 10) In order to further reduce the financial burden for the beneficiaries, the registration fee and stamp duties required during mortgage of title deed have been waived

off by the Government. The charges for getting certified copies of relevant documents from the Sub-Registrar offices as required by bank for processing of loan applications under this scheme will also be waived.

11) The legal consultation fee is also standardised to Rs 1,000 maximum, which Government will reimburse to the banks.

12) The beneficiaries can also avail support under relevant schemes of rural sanitation, drinking water, rural electrification, etc., if found eligible and not availed earlier.

Cabinet decision

Apartment (Ownership & Mgmt) Ordinance gets nod



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Cabinet on Monday approved the Odisha Apartment (Ownership and Management) Ordinance, 2023 by repealing the Odisha Apartment Ownership Act, 1982.

"The Odisha Apartment Ownership Act, 1982 had been enacted with a view to making provisions for ownership of an individual apartment which came into force on May 1, 1984 and the "Odisha Apartment Ownership Rules, 19923 was framed there under. In course of administration of the provisions of the act and rules made there under; it has been experienced that there are some operational deficiencies which renders it necessary to bring a new legislation," a Housing and Urban Development Department release said. "With a view to promoting apartment and group housing, it is a step forward to provide the individual apartment owners of their rights on common areas and facilities appurtenant to such apartment, its proper

maintenance and to make such apartment and interest heritable and transferable," it said.

"In the meantime, cases have been filed in the Orissa High Court challenging the notification of Odisha Apartment Ownership Rules, 2021 on the ground of apparent contradictions prevailing between the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and the Odisha Apartment Ownership Rules, 2021," the release stated.

"In the meanwhile, registration of the apartments has been stalled in the wake of the aforesaid cases. The State Government is also losing revenue as the sale deeds are not getting registered. The situation has been prevailing for a long time and there is an immediate need for amendment of the legislation to address the impasse," the release said.

"It is considered that for better management of the apartments, there is a need to make a number of corrections in different provisions of the existing act and addition and alternation of different sections. It is therefore

VSSUT transformation to cost Rs 2000 cr

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Cabinet on Monday approved a proposal for transformation of the Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) with an expenditure of Rs 2,000 crore.

"Implementation of the institute development plan for transformation of the VSSUT, Burla with an outlay of Rs 2,000 crore will broaden the horizon and give an impetus to multi-disciplinary teaching and research. This will also

help in introducing new-generation industry-oriented and employment-linked courses. Moreover, this will expand the scope for opening different schools to deliver multi and interdisciplinary courses," the Government said in a Press release.

"It will also enable the university to have better access to academic resources and intellectual capital worldwide. This will facilitate the university to have a strong focus on research and introduce doctoral and post-doctoral programmes," the release added.



considered expedient instead of going for further amendments of the said act, a new legislation may be brought by repealing the present act," It stated.

"Accordingly, it is proposed to repeal the Odisha Apartment Ownership Act, 1982 (Odisha Act 1 of 1984) and to have a fresh legislation namely Odisha

Apartment (Ownership and Management) Ordinance, 2023. The problem faced by the apartment buyers cannot be resolved except by making a new legislation. Since the legislative Assembly is not in session, it is proposed to bring the legislation by way of promulgation of an ordinance," the release added.

Doctor killed in accident in city



Was on his way to celebrate anniv with wife

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a highly tragic incident, a newly-wed doctor, who was on his way to celebrate a three-month marriage anniversary with his wife, died in a road accident near Fire Station Square in the capital late on Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Dr Manoj Kumar (35), who was working at a private hospital in the city. His wife Dr Sushree Sangita

works at the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack.

According to reports, Kumar was heading towards Cuttack by a motorcycle. He met with the accident when an unidentified vehicle hit the two-wheeler.

Though locals rescued Kumar and rushed him to the Capital Hospital, he was declared dead there. The body was handed over to the family members after postmortem. The Nayapalli police have registered a case and started investigation.

The couple had tied the nuptial knot on February 28.

BJD benefitted, people neglected: Cong



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Monday congratulated the BJD for completing the 4th year in its fifth term and said though the party has benefitted, the people of the State have been neglected.

Quoting the India Today's current report on best-performing States, Congress Media Cell chairman Ganeshwar Behera told reporters that Odisha occupies the 14th position among 20 States in field of agriculture, 13th in healthcare, 14th in law and order and 10th in creation of infrastructure. These are the so-called achievements of the BJD.

The BJD Government from the

beginning had promised to create 1 lakh jobs every year; accordingly, 23 lakh jobs should have been created by now. But it has remained mere eyewash. More than 2.36 lakh Government posts are vacant, Behera said.

In terms of violence against women, Odisha stands second in the country. The Crime Branch has turned into "Crime Protection Branch". If one reads the charge-sheet of the Naba Das murder case, one gets the impression that the Government is providing protection to the accused, Behera alleged. Among others, Congress spokespersons Rajani Kumar Mohanty and Manoranjan Das also spoke.

In Cuttack 2 critical as car plunges into Taladanda Canal

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Two persons, including a woman, sustained critical injuries when the vehicle by which they were travelling veered off the road and fell into the Taladanda Canal in Cuttack city on Monday.

The incident took place on the Matrubhaban-Nayabazar road.

The male occupant of the car is currently in a critical condition while both injured have been shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital.

Prompt action was taken by a team comprising local residents,

firefighters and police officers, who successfully rescued both individuals from the submerged vehicle. An eyewitness at the scene commented, "The absence of safety barricades, despite ongoing construction work, led to the car plunging into the canal."

Expressing concern over the incident, former MLA Prabhat Ranjan Biswal remarked, "I will urge the local MLA to arrange a meeting of the Collector, CMC, Drainage Division, JICA and Irrigation Department to implement appropriate measures to prevent such incidents in future."

‘BJP has given corruption-free regime under Modi’

Says Union Minister Kishan Reddy

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Monday claimed that the NDA has provided a corruption-free stable Government at the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the country has witnessed progress in all sectors.

"The Modi Government is working with a focus on service, good governance and uplift of the poor," said Reddy at a Press conference here.

He said the Modi Government



has provided water connections to 12 crore households in nine years, given 9.60 crore cooking gas connections under the Ujjwala Yojna, helped 80 crore people by providing them food grains under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

Interview of the week

Popularising Kalidas' 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam' on world stage



SUGYAN CHOUDHURY



PROF DR SATYABRATA ROUT

Kudos to this Odisha-born celebrated Indian theatre director **Prof Dr Satyabrata Rout**, who has added feathers unto the cap of mother India by straining his every nerve, putting his heart and soul together towards popularising Kalidas' timeless, epoch-making monumental drama 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam' on world stage! The aesthetically-delightful Jhoti designs and pretty Muruja patterns at his village that he witnessed in his childhood days were intricately interwoven in his creative imagination that urged him to embrace the art of painting and play-producing later in his life. Today, he is an internationally-known theatre director with over 75 plays in his repertoire like 'Passa', 'Rashomon', 'Urubhangam', 'Mrigtrishna', 'Baji', 'Animal Farm', 'Hayavadan', 'Nagamandal', '30 Days in September', 'Pygmalion', 'Karna Katha', 'Evam Indrajit', 'Waiting for Godot', 'Matte Eklavya', 'Tumhara Vincent', 'August Ka Khwab', 'Adding Machine' and 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam' to quote a few. Dr Rout recently retired as Professor, Department of Theatre, University of Hyderabad.

Prof Rout spoke to **Sugyan Choudhury** on the trends and styles confronting the contemporary theatre world.

You have earned rave reviews both at home and abroad by producing Kalidas' 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam'. What are the challenges you have faced in stage-adaptation of this timeless classical play?

As the recipient of prestigious Fulbright Fellowship, I was deputed as a visiting professor to the Central Michigan University to teach Indian Scenography to the undergraduate students. I had to produce a play with the drama students as part of my fellowship. I started working on 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam'. The rehearsal went on finely until the end when the girl playing the lead role of Shakuntala suggested changing the ending of the play. It was the conflict of cross-cultural values that posed a challenge there. Owing to the curse of sage Durvasa on Shakuntala, as Kalidas concludes the story; King Dushyant could not recognise Shakuntala and returns her from his door with humiliation. Her mother comes to her rescue and takes her with her to the heaven where Shakuntala gives birth to a male child called Bharat. After being reminded of his marriage with the discovery of the wedding ring, Dushyant goes to Shakuntala, begs pardon and brings her and her son home to Hastina. The girl playing Shakuntala could not identify with her character as she belongs to a society where single parenthood is not unfamiliar, nor does it arouse stigma. She could not reconcile with the idea of following her spouse submissively after all this humiliation. She does not live in a society like ours where women have been made a slave to her male counterpart for generations. Kalidas wrote this play under the patronisation of a king who believed in male hegemony and for an audience who treated women as a commodity. On the other hand, I always have leanings to make the classics relevant to the contemporary time. I could perceive what would be the reaction of the audience and thought of bending the spine of Kalidas' plot a little to accommodate the sentiments of alien audi-

ence hailing from a different cultural ethos. I let Shakuntala part with her child only and her staying alone. It is this unique re-imagination of 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam' that sets me apart from others who have produced this play.

How do you explain your fascination with 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam'?

The sweet tender story about the intimate affairs of heart that its plotline weaves with dramatic turns and twists holds a strong and enduring fascination for me. Have you ever heard about how the German poet, playwright Goethe admired this play after perusing its translation? Goethe exclaims, "Wouldst thou the young year's blossoms and the fruits of its decline, and all by which the soul is charmed, enraptured, feasted, fed, Wouldst thou the earth and heaven itself in one sole name combine? I name thee, O Shakuntala and all at once is said." Goethe crowns Kalidas, the greatest poet of ancient India, with the title 'Shakespeare of India'.

How do you distinguish between Indian dramatic tradition and that of the West?

They (Westerners) are mostly seen to be following the tenets of drama laid down by Aristotle in his 'Poetics'. They rarely depart from their tradition in regard to form and content of drama. They believe in imitating the life and reality. They represent life on the stage. But the old Indian aesthetics laid down by Sage Bharat Muni teaches us to recreate the life and reality. We never employ models wearing masks representing the deer running for life before murderous Dushyant. We recreate drama by using our body language just as what we do in Odishi dance.

Whom do you follow as your model?

Sometimes, people call me as cloning of Karanth. I feel blessed to have worked under the tutelage of BV Karanth for most part of my career. Besides, I have gained a lot by collaborating in various projects with different legendary thespians of the world like Richard Schechner, John Martin, Fritz Benefits, Frank Hoffmann, Barry John, Juan Monsalve, Beatriz Camargo, Habib Tanver, KN Panikar, Prof Raj Bisaria, Rattan Thiyam, Bansi Kaul, MK Raina, Mohan Maharshi, Dr Anuradha Kapur, Dr Mohan Agashe, Shiela Bhatia and DR Ankur to name a few.

What advice would you like to give to a young person wanting to pursue a career in directing?

I would like to tell them that just learning art and craft of building drama is not be-all and end-all in this strange world. They need to have intellect; and to have intellectual acumen, they are required to read all kinds of literature so that they can innovate and experiment.

Democracy under threat under Modi Govt: CPM

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Senior communist leader and State Secretariat Member of CPI(M) Janardan Pati briefing media here said the democratic structure of the country is under threat now.

The decisions taken by the BJP led NDA Government are in contradiction to the sanctity of the Constitution, he told.

Citing the Article-79 of the constitution, Pati said the Parliament is constituted with three pillars i.e. President, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. But unfortunately, the newly built Parliament House is inaugurated by the Prime Minister instead of the President of India. It is an insult to democracy and to the President of India. This unconstitutional and



autocratic behaviour of the Central Government is not acceptable, he said further.

Pati again said the decision of withdrawing Rs 2, 000 currency notes is an attack on the economy of the country. For what this decision is taken should be clarified before the public by the Union Government, he demanded.

Putting the BJP in dock, Pati said while BJP is in power in Manipur the State is burning and many people are dying. The BJP has succeeded to create rift among the innocent tribal people of the State, charged Pati.

Since last five months the women wrestlers are agitating against the sexual

harassment by a BJP MP. Despite the intervention of the Supreme Court of India, BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh who is the principal accused in the case is not yet arrested by the police. This is a clear-cut message of dishonoring the law of the land by the Modi Government, he alleged.

B'swar: 6 including 2 minors held over firing

Incident fallout of social media comments

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Industrial police in Baleswar town have arrested six persons, including two minors in connection with the firing on May 24 under the Industrial police station area.

While five of the accused were nabbed from Bhubaneswar one was held from Baleswar. The arrested were identified as main accused Udit Nayak (20), Saroj Behera (23), Karan Kumar Barua (18) Suresh Chandra Behera (19) and two juveniles. The motive behind the incident was offensive comments on the social medi between t two

groups, said Baleswar SP Sagarika Nath on Sunday.

Most of the accused had fled to the State capital after committing the offence. The weapon of offence, the pistol was also seized.

The main accused Udit Nayak in a bid to settle old scores had called Amit Das and Pinku Dasto Remuna Golai and shot a few rounds after conspiring with the other co-accused, said Nath.

Pinku received bullet injuries in the firing and was admitted to hospital. Police said that Udit was a You- Tuber and used to post some provocative and offensive contents to get more views. This led to provocative comments from both sides which led to the firing.

'Include Soura language in 8th Schedule'



Meet held by community people of R'gada, G'pati dists

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

A meeting was held for protection of Soura language and culture of Gajapati and Rayagada districts.

While Gunupur District Council Egan Gamang attended as chief guest, Gumma block Chairperson Sunemi Mandal, Theophile Gamang, Mathew Dalbehera, tribal leaders Damdar Shabar, Majes Dal Behera, Inasu Shabar joined as honourable guests.

Inam Gamang, Srinivas Gamang and Lakshmi Shabar spoke on the 8th Schedule of the Constitution and how the Soura language and script can be recognised at the Government level. While the scripts of various languages have been officially recognised, the script of the Soura language has not been recognized till date, they lamented.

It was also suggested to preserve the unity, culture and traditions of the Soura tribe. Hundreds of people of Soura community from the two districts were present. Former Sarpanch and MLA representative Meen Mandal and Abhi Rait coordinated.

In Nuapada Minor boy falls in hot pudding vessel, dies

PNS ■ NUAPADA

In a shocking incident, a minor boy succumbed to burn injuries after falling into a vessel containing hot rice pudding in Nuapada district on Sunday.

The four year-old Bikas Herna of Ranimunda village in Khariar block died during treatment at a hospital in Raipur in Chhattisgarh. He was the son of one Hutesh Herna, a schoolteacher. Sources said Hutesh had married twice. While he had a girl from his first marriage, Bikas was his son from the second wife.

As per reports, a feast was being organised in Ranimunda on May 25 night, for which the rice pudding was being prepared. Sources said the boy accidentally fell into the pudding vessel. While Hutesh somehow managed to pull the child out, both his hands were charred. Bikas too suffered major burn injuries and was rushed to the Mission Hospital nearby. As his condition worsened, Bikas was referred to the hospital in Raipur. However, he succumbed during treatment on Sunday night. A pall of gloom descended on the village following the mishap.

Death anniv of Prof Sabita Patnaik held



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The 2nd Death Anniversary of noted poet and former Odia Professor of Mahamayee Women's College, Brahmaur Dr Sabita Patnaik was observed at Amman Veda, Orphanage for Girls in Hyderabad on Friday.

Senior executives from Hyderabad Metro Rail and Keolis Hyderabad Metro Rail Team attended the event and paid their floral tribute as a mark of respect to late Dr Patnaik. Among

others, Dr Pattnaik's niece Dr Reena Das, son- in- law Subrata Mohanty, grandson Arman Das Mohanty along with close relatives, friends and renowned literary figures and intellectuals were present.

Mention may be made that Dr Sabita Patnaik died on May 26, 2021 in Chennai being hit by Corona. She was instrumental in many women empowerment initiatives and was an ardent supporter for building the brand image of her college.

At NITR Conf on 'Indian Defence System and Role of NCC' held



AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

The First National Conference on 'Indian Defence System and Role of National Cadet Corps (NCC)' was organised in the NIT Rourkela.

The aim and objective of the conference are to focus attention on the current scenario, technologies and research activities in Indian defence system and responsibilities of NCC cadets.

It covered 16 talks and more than 50 poster presentations from various battalions of India.

Colonel SC Kulkarni, CO 9(O) Battalion, motivated the

cadets to join the Indian defence system.

With the rise of global security challenges of the 21st century, asymmetric warfare (economic warfare, satellite warfare, cyber warfare or AI-generated technologies, which can act and think like humans) has emerged, and the next generation should learn to deal with these challenges, he said.

Colonel PD Gyatso (Group head Quarter, Sambalpur, Odisha Battalion), briefed on the career opportunities in Indian military forces.

With departments like the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the country has

reduced the number of imports in buying technologies and weapons. "Fulfilling the Make in India vision, we have developed modern technologies. NCC cadets pursuing science or engineering can join DRDO or other R&D wings under the Ministry of Defence and take the organisation to a better height," he said.

Prof K Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT-R inspired the NCC cadets with the story of the youngest Param Vir Chakra awardee Subedar Major Yogendra Singh Yadav.

Lieutenant Udaya, Captain Arya Jena and Lieutenant PK Sahoo spoke on topics like

'Career and Job Opportunities for NCC Cadets', 'Exploring the Robust Defence System' and 'Role of NCC In Disaster Management' respectively.

Later in the day, the NCC cadets presented their thoughts on different subjects like 'Ballistic and cruise missile systems', 'Artificial Intelligence and role of computer technology in Indian defence system', '5G technology in Indian defence system', 'Role of NCC in making new leaders', 'War Heroes and their impact on defence innovations', 'Implementation of new ideas and upgradation in our defence system' etc.

Cuttack Ahmadiyya body observes Khilafat Day

PNS ■ CUTTACK

After the departure of the reformer Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in 1908, the formation of Ahmadiyya Khilafat began. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission is committed to social service and has helped many distressed people, said speakers at the celebration of Khilafat Day on Sunday here.

Syed Taher Ahmed Kalim, former president of Cuttack Ahmadiyya Muslim Organization, presided. He recited the Holy Quran while Syed Yahiya Ahmed performed Urdu Nazam. Engg Firoz Khan administered the



centenary oath of Ahmadiyya Khilafat.

Joining as the chief speaker, Hafizuddin Ahmad Khan said Khilafat means, after the death of any avatar or reformer or Prophet, Rasul's work will be carried forward according to the eighty orders. Maulana

Fazal Haque Khan attended as the chief guest and said Khilafat is a gift. As in the history of Islam, Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq, Hazrat Umar Farooq, Hazrat Usman Ghani and Hazrat Ali carried the burden of the Islamic Caliphate after the Prophet Hazrat

Muhammad. The great man appointed to the position of Caliphate is called a Caliph. Only God chooses a monotheistic, truthful and pious person for the post of Caliph, he said. Many important people of the Ahmadiyya Muslim organisation attended.

Ore transporting stopped in Suakati OMC mines

As truck owners' bodies fight over loading quota

RAJENDRA K SAHU ■ KEONJHAR

Iron ore transporting from Gandhamardan mines of the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) at Suakati under Keonjhar mining circle has been stopped for the last eight days which has not only affected the productivity and profitability of the State owned public sector mining company, but also adversely affected other stakeholders depending on it.

Sources revealed that mainly two truck owners associations such as the Keonjhar Truck Owners' Association and the Anchalika

Truck Owners' Association supply trucks to the OMC mines for transporting iron ore from Suakati to different destinations of the country.

While the Keonjhar Truck Owners Association, the largest body of truck owners of the State, represents the truck owners of the entire district of Keonjhar, the Anchalika Truck Owners' Association represents the truck owners of Suakati area only. In the year 2010, there was a dispute between the two associations over the allocation of loading slips to them by the OMC. It is said that on the basis of loading slips available, the two associations supply trucks to the buyers for lifting the materials from the mines.

However, during the tenure of Devayani



Chakravorty as Collector, Keonjhar, the administration had fixed a certain ratio on the basis of which loading slips were issued. Since then

everything was going on smoothly but after the entry of one youth BJD leader who claims himself as a close aide of MLA and BJD

INBRIEF

WOMAN PALA SINGER BRUTALLY KILLED IN KEONJHAR

Keonjhar: A woman Pala singer was brutally killed near her residence at Binida village under the Pandapada police limits in Keonjhar district on Sunday night. Pala singer Satyabhama Singh, a former Samiti Member of Binida gram panchayat, was also BJP vice-president of Pandapada circle. The 45-year-old singer was reportedly crushed to death with a stone by some miscreants after 10 pm. On receiving information, the Sadar SDPO along with a scientific team and Pandapada police reached the incident site for investigation.

NABA DAS' MOTHER PASSES AWAY

Sambalpur: Slain Minister Naba Kisore Das' mother Bishnupriya Das (89) passed away at her Modipada residence here on Sunday. Born in Bhatpura village near Kuchinda, Bishnupriya married Nrushingha Charan Das, who is a nona-genarian now. She is survived by three sons and a daughter who are well settled in life. Her son-in-law Anand Chandra Jena is a former Chairman of the nSambalpur Municipality and granddaughter Dipali is sitting MLA of Jharsuguda.

EDUCATIONIST KABITA PATTNAIK PASSES AWAY

Brahmapur: Former Principal of the SB Rath Government Women's College here Prof Kabita Pattnaik (68) passed away on Sunday at her Hyderabad residence. At her death bed, her husband Prof Lakshmikanta Pattnaik, a former Principal of Khallikote College, son and daughter-in-law were present. Prof Kabita Pattnaik was staying at her Hyderabad residence since last few years ill since last few years. Several persons, including former Professor and senior scribe KC Panda, said, "Her death is a great loss to the academic fraternity."

GAJAPATI DIST WINS SCOTCH AWARD (Pix)

Paralakhemundi: Gajapati district has bagged the Scotch Award for increasing attendance in schools and reducing the drop-out rate. Gajapati Collector Lingaraj Panda collected the award



at the Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi on Monday from the chairman of Scotch Group. As an innovative initiative on the part of the district administration, under the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe Department, a programme was started in 50 schools in the district to increase the attendance of the students through the library program and to eliminate the students' dropout rate. More than 10,000 students have benefited by making the library better and more accessible to more students in these schools.

GAJAPATI FARMER KILLED IN LIGHTNING

Paralakhemundi: A person was killed in lightning strike at Ariba village in Kontagarh panchayat under Gosani block of Gajapati district on Monday afternoon. The deceased was identified as B Paparao (55) of Ariba. Paparao had gone to collect straw to the farmland when lightning struck him. He died on the spot. The locals said Paparao was a poor farmer and his family is totally dependent on his earnings. Some Government assistance should be provided to his family members, the Sarpanch and locals demanded.

Burglary gang busted in Ganjam

6 held; gold ornaments seized

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Pattapur police in Ganjam district on Saturday busted a notorious burglary gang by arresting six habitual offenders, including two recoverers.

The cops seized huge quantities of gold ornaments, valuables from the possession of the accused.

The arrested were identified Hari Dakua (23), Kureshu

Dakua (47), Tuna (25), S.Sahiba (55), S.Bikram (21) and B Ramesh Patro (60). Later, all the arrested accused were forwarded to court.

Reports said police teams on the instructions of Ganjam SP Jagmohan Meena conducted multiple raids and rounded up the six accused who are habitual offenders and were wanted in a number of cases.

The cops seized a 180 grams of gold jewellery including a necklace, ear rings, anklets, finger rings, mobile phones and an auto-rickshaw.

ICMR to form team to prevent suicides

Urges researchers to join 'suicide prevention intervention' study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Alarmed at the rising number of suicide cases in the country, particularly among school and college students, the Government's premier health research institute, Indian Council of Medical and Research (ICMR) has woken up to the need for a suicide prevention framework that is based on scientific interventions.

It has called upon the researchers from across the country to join the team being constituted for ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on Suicide Prevention Interventions. In India, the suicide rate has been on the rise with a reported rate of 12 per 100,000 of the population in 2021, reflecting a 6.2 per cent increase from the previous year.

"The goal is to reduce the burden due to suicidal behaviour and promote mental well-being, thereby improving the mental health outcomes in the country," an official from the ICMR.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO),



the crude suicide rate in the age-group 15-29 years (per 100,000 population for both sexes) for India has been recorded as 15.721, thus indicating that suicidal behaviour has become a significant public health concern, especially among the young age groups.

The Covid-19 pandemic induced factors such as stress, isolation, and economic difficulties have just worsened the mental health of this particular group, noted the official.

"Though there has been some progressive actions by the country in this regard such as launch of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy last year in November with an objective to reduce the suicide mortality by 10 per cent by 2030. Despite these alarming statistics, a suicide prevention framework that is based on scientific interventions is largely lacking in the country," said the official.

According to the health

experts, suicides are preventable, for every 40 seconds a person dies by suicide somewhere in the world and many more attempt suicide.

The inclusion of "Suicide Mortality Rate" as an indicator under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring framework (Indicator 3.4.2), demonstrates the global commitment to address this issue more effectively. Suicides occur throughout the lifespan, notably, among young people 15-29 years of age, suicide is the second leading cause of death globally.

Suicide prevention interventions among school and college students will be implemented through training teachers, counsellors, staff members, parents, peers etc who will identify signs of distress and respond appropriately, the official said.

Under coping strategies, students will be taught mechanisms to manage stress and build resilience while under health promotion initiatives, stress would be on healthy lifestyle such as, adequate physical activity, healthy diet, away from addictions (tobacco, alcohol, other psychotropic substances, internet), and mental health promotion.

Students at high risk will also be identified while focus will also be on enhancing social skills, fostering positive relationships and reducing isolation, the official added.

Cong cheated K'taka voters: Bommai

Ex-CM accuses State Govt of delaying, putting conditions to poll promises, guarantees

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of Congress party's alleged 'delay' in implementing the five guarantees committed by it during Karnataka poll campaign, former Chief Minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai on Monday accused the Congress of "cheating voters" by "attaching conditions" to its guarantees and doubted whether it would "fully operationalize" them.

Bommai expressed doubts whether the Congress government would fulfill its promises maintaining that the ruling party may soon show their true colours by using delaying tactics towards announcing legislative provisions for implementing poll-guarantees.

After some tug of war for key cabinet posts, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has allocated portfolios to ministers , keeping the Finance department with himself while assigning the Irrigation and Bengaluru City Development departments to his deputy DK Shivakumar.

Siddaramaiah took the oath of office with Shivakumar and eight ministers on May 20.

Instances have come to notice where women who voted for the Congress have refused to pay for the bus tickets in Bengaluru drawing attention to the 'free-ride promise' by the party. Similarly, many have resolved not to pay for the bill below 200 units.

"Looking at various statements by Ministers, it looks like — it is certain that they said something and will do something else. During the election without speaking about any conditions they said it (guarantees) will be free for everyone. The Chief Minister had said with example that — it is free for me, you and everyone," Bommai said .

Speaking to newsmen at Bengaluru , he said in the in-principle approval order too it was mentioned that guarantees will be for everyone, but now statements are being made that they will be applicable only to those eligible and not for everyone.

"By making changes they (Congress) have made 'dhoka' (cheated) to the people of Karnataka. People have given them power



based on these guarantees, without responding to it, they are speaking about the previous (BJP) government's promises....Them (Congress leaders) making lame excuses, indicates that they will not operationalise the guarantees fully. Their true colours will come out in open in a few days," he added.

Responding to a question about delay in choosing the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Bommai said, there is no delay, normally the Leader of Opposition is elected on the eve of the first session, and it is going to happen accordingly.

The Congress had promised to implement the 'guarantees' — 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), ₹2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), ₹3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and ₹1,500 for unemployed diploma holders (both in the age group of 18-25) (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti), on the very first day of assuming power in the state.

After having accorded in-principle approval for guarantees in the first cabinet meeting on May 20, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said they would "most likely" be implemented after the next Cabinet meeting.

In Himachal Pradesh where Congress won the assembly election this year, the party had made similar guarantees including the implementation of old-pension scheme, some of them have been implemented.

Govt committed to fulfilling poll guarantees, no need to worry: Shivakumar

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said there is a "responsible government" in the state, which will fulfill all the guarantees made to the people ahead of the assembly polls.

He, however, did not specify any timeline to implement the guarantees, but maintained that the cabinet meeting on June 1 will discuss on fulfilling them.

"There is a cabinet meeting on June 1, the Chief Minister has the responsibility of the Finance department, he will discuss with officials and bring the relevant information to the cabinet. We will keep up our promise. We will have to do it systematically and preparations are on," Shivakumar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "there is a responsible government in the state and it will keep up the promises made to its people and there is no need to worry"

Noting that all the Ministers have been instructed to review their respective departments, the Deputy CM said, all the Ministers including him will begin their work



today. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who expanded his cabinet on Saturday by inducting 24 new Ministers, has allocated portfolios to all the ministers in his Cabinet, late last night.

There is mounting pressure on the new Congress government by opposition parties and various sections of people from across the state, to fulfill its five poll guarantees.

In the maiden Cabinet meeting of this government, soon after the swearing-in of Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and eight Ministers on May 20, it was decided to accord "in-principle" approval to the Congress' five 'guarantees' promised before the elections.

The 'guarantees' would "most likely" be implemented after the next Cabinet meeting, Siddaramaiah, who chaired the cabinet meeting, had told reporters that day.

Delhi HC issues notice to Yasin as NIA seeks death penalty for him

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued a notice to separatist leader Yasin Malik, who is presently serving a life term, on a plea by the National Investigation Agency seeking death penalty for him in a terror funding case. A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Talwant Singh also issued warrants for production of Malik before it on August 9.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, who appeared on behalf of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), argued that the accused indulged in terrorist and secessionist activities and should be awarded death penalty by treating the matter as a "rarest of rare" case.

Mehta stated that Malik committed the "sensational" killing of four IAF officers and even kidnapped the daughter of



then Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed which led to the release of four dreaded criminals who masterminded the 26/11 attack in Mumbai in 2008.

"In view of the ground that Yasin Malik, sole respondent in this appeal, has inter alia pleaded guilty to a charge under IPC section 121 (waging war against the Government of India) which provides for an alternate death sentence, we issue notice to him... To be served through the jail superintendent," the court ordered. Let warrants be issued for

his production on the next date of hearing, it added.

The court also issued notice to Malik on NIA's application seeking condonation of delay in "re-filing" the present appeal. Mehta urged the court to condone the delay, saying "technicalities" should not have a bearing in matters such as the present one.

On May 24, 2022, a trial court here had awarded life imprisonment to Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front chief Malik after holding him guilty for various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the IPC.

Malik had pleaded guilty to the charges, including those under the UAPA, and he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Such a tactic by an accused to avoid death penalty, he said, cannot be allowed when he

knows that facing trial would lead to imposition of capital punishment.

"Any terrorist can come here, do terrorist activities, plead guilty and court says since he has pleaded guilty, I give him only life term and not capital punishment," said Mehta, adding that even Osama bin Laden would have been permitted to plead guilty here and that "possibly the USA was right" in its dealing with the Al Qaeda founder.

The court responded that there could be no comparison between Malik and Laden as the latter never faced trial and it would not comment on matters affecting foreign relations. During his submissions, Mehta said Malik crossed over to Pakistan for training, was coordinating stone pelting and spreading "rumours" on social media about oppression by security forces.

Army marks 75th anniv of UN peacekeepers day

Pays homage to fallen comrades

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army on Monday commemorated the 75th International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers by paying homage to the fallen comrades by laying wreath at National War Memorial here by the Army Chief and Vice Chief and representatives from Navy and Air Force, Ministry of External Affairs and United Nations. One fifty nine (159) Indian soldiers have laid down their lives to uphold peace.

This is the day when in 1948 the first UN peacekeeping mission, "UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)" began operations in Palestine.



Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar and officials pay tributes during the wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 75th UN Peacekeepers Day, at National War Memorial in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

Each year on this Day, the UN and countries across the globe pay tributes to the professionalism, dedication and courage of all men and women who have served or are serving in UN Peacekeeping Missions and honour the memory of those who have laid down their

lives in the cause of peace. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the UN Peacekeepers Day.

India has a rich legacy of contribution to UN Peacekeeping operations and is one of the largest contributors of troops. It has contributed approximately 2,75,000 troops to

peacekeeping missions so far, with around 5,900 troops currently deployed in 12 UN Missions.

Indian Army personnel have operated under difficult conditions in challenging terrains and have displayed exemplary professionalism, humane approach, courage and valour, to the extent of making the supreme sacrifice to defend the UN mandates.

Apart from the current deployment, India has pledged one Infantry Battalion Group and Corvette with Helicopter, as hard power and an Engineer Company and Signal Company as Force enablers, to be deployed at the behest of the UN.

In keeping with the need for women peacekeepers in conflict areas under UN mandate, India has deployed Female Engagement Teams (FETs) in MONUSCO and UNISFA (the second largest women contingent after Liberia).

NIA files 2nd supplementary chargesheet in naxal attack case in which 2 cops killed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed its second supplementary chargesheet in the case related to the Naxal attack on former MLA Gurcharan Nayak, in which two police personnel were killed in Jharkhand in January 2022.

The NIA has named two accused in the chargesheet filed in the NIA Special Court Ranchi. The chargesheeted accused are 25-year-old Tivari Bankira alias Shaka and 20-year-old Sadan Korah alias Sajan, both armed cadres of Communist Party of India (Maoist), a proscribed terrorist organization, the NIA said in a statement.

The duo hails from West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and has been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

While Tivari was arrested on November 30, 2022, Sadan has been in custody since February 13, 2023.

The attack took place on January 4 last year at High School Jhirlua, Police Station Goikera, West Singhbhum. The Jharkhand police had initially registered the case (FIR No. 01/2022) at the local police station. Subsequently, on June



30, 2022, the NIA re-registered the case.

Following investigations, NIA had charge-sheeted 14 accused persons on December 31, 2022 in this case.

"As per NIA investigations, Tivari and Sadan were providing support to CPI (Maoist) for furthering its terror and violence related activities and waging a war against the Government of India. They were part of the conspiracy to carry out the terrorist attack on Gurucharan Nayak and his bodyguards. They were also part of the Special Action Team established by the banned terror outfit to execute the crime," the agency said in a statement.

The two accused had attended the meeting in which the conspiracy to attack Gurucharan Nayak with deadly weapons at Project +2, High School Jhirlua, was hatched. They had reconnoitered the spot a day before the incident and had also participated in the training to execute the attack, it added.

KHALISTANI ATTACK ON INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION

Ensure security of our diplomatic missions, EAM urges UK Min

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of alleged Khalistan supporters trying to vandalise the Indian High Commission in London in March, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday asked visiting British Minister Lord Tariq Ahmad to ensure security of India's diplomatic missions in the UK and prevent misuse of democratic freedoms.

Jaishankar's assertions here during a meeting with Lord Ahmad, the Minister of State for Foreign, Commonwealth



and Development Affairs, came against the backdrop of the vandalisation of the Indian High Commission in London in March by pro-Khalistan supporters.

Jaishankar took to Twitter to share the issues he raised during his discussions with Lord Ahmad. "Met with UK MOS Lord Tariq Ahmad today in New Delhi... Underlined

the obligation to ensure security of our diplomatic missions and prevent misuse of democratic freedoms," the External Affairs Minister said.

In April, the Union Home Ministry had handed over the probe in the case of attack on the Indian mission in London to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) after a meeting with representatives from Britain.

Jaishankar said he also discussed a broad range of issues ranging from the Free Trade Agreement and South Asia to Indo-Pacific and G20 with the visiting minister.

HC refuses relief to teen who failed to fill form for JEE-Advanced

Admission process for IITs based on discipline: Court

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Institutes such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are centres of technical studies par excellence in the country and the process of finding students is based on discipline, the Bombay High Court said while refusing relief to an 18-year-old boy who failed to submit his

online form for the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Advanced due to a technical glitch. The boy, Atharva Desai, in his petition claimed that he lived in a rural area where there were frequent power outages because of which he was unable to register himself online in the given time frame.

The petitioner sought a direction from the court for his registration form to be accepted and to permit him to appear for JEE-Advanced scheduled to be held on June 4.

The Joint Admission Board



of the IIT opposed the plea on the ground that as per their records, Desai had logged in on the portal for the first time to fill the online form a day after the deadline and hence, no relief ought to be granted to him. A vacation bench of Justices Abhay Ahuja and Milind Sathaye, in its May 24 order, accepted the IIT's argu-

ment and said it could not disturb the discipline adopted by the institution in the larger interest of lakhs of aspiring meritorious students of the country.

The order copy was made available on Monday."It is not in doubt that IITs, NITs and other institutes are centres of technical studies par excellence in India. The process of finding the best talent in this country is based on discipline which is of utmost importance in the field of education," the court said.

SC dismisses plea against eligibility criterion of 75% marks in Class XII board exams for admission to IITs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea challenging the eligibility criterion of 75 per cent score in higher secondary examination for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

A vacation bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and K V

Vishwanathan said this prerequisite existed earlier as well and it was not inclined to intervene in the matter. The top court said these are education matters and it has to defer the issue to experts.

"This condition was always there, why should we interfere? This is not a matter we want to get into," the bench said.

‘PM worked hard to speed up development in 9 yrs’

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked tirelessly and without discrimination to speed up development in the country since 2014. The PM has worked to empower the people and the country during the past nine years, he said.

Talking with reporters, Goyal said, “The full majority government has strengthened the PM’s hands so that he could transform the country, strengthen the economy, uplift the poor sections of the society and defend the country’s borders.” The PM has worked hard to speed up development, take welfare schemes to the last person in the line and empower the people of the country, he said.

BJP MP Poonam Mahajan gave a presentation on the achievements of the Modi government. “India was among the fragile five economies of the

world in 2014 and today it is the fifth largest economy in the world,” she claimed.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leaders, including Union Ministers and Chief Ministers, highlighted the achievements of Modi-led government in a nationwide outreach on Monday to mark its nine years in office, with Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur expressing confidence of its re-election in 2024.

From India’s “rising” global stature to emphasis on national security, welfare measures like housing and toilets for the poor, boost to piped water supply, infrastructure growth and efforts to ramp up the manufacturing sector were among the initiatives cited at the press conferences they held in every state of the country.

The BJP said in a statement that the country has witnessed “unprecedented” development in every sector with the mantra of “nation first” guiding Modi’s policies.

Leaders opposing Modi will face rout in LS polls, says BJP’s Ghosh

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh on Monday mocked the proposed Opposition meet in Bihar next month and said the leaders opposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi will face a complete rout and decimation in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Ghosh’s comment comes in the backdrop of the proposed opposition meeting in Bihar.

According to hints that have emanated from a meeting of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s JD (U), the meeting of the parties opposed to the BJP may be held in Patna on June 12.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata



Banerjee is likely to attend the meeting, party sources said.

“We have seen such efforts in 2019, and the results are before us. The TMC tally came down from 34 to 22. And BJP’s tally across the country increased from 282 to 303 seats. The people of this country trust the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Whoever tries to fight against

PM Modi will face complete rout and decimation in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls,” Ghosh told reporters.

Reacting to Ghosh’s comment, the TMC said the remarks reflect the “fear of defeat” that has set in the saffron camp.

“The BJP is terrified and frustrated by the efforts to forge opposition unity ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Just because it didn’t succeed in 2019 doesn’t mean it won’t succeed again,” said TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, adding such comments only “reflect the fear of defeat”.

For the last one year, the opposition parties have been trying to come together in the fight against the saffron camp.

₹2K note saga cast doubts on stability of Indian currency: PC

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Terming the nine-year-long rule of the Narendra Modi Government as a “complete failure on all fronts”, senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Monday ridiculed the introduction of Rs 2,000 note seven years ago and its subsequent withdrawal recently had “cast doubts on the integrity and stability of Indian currency”.

Addressing a news conference as part of the part of his party’s outreach to the people across the country to expose the Modi government’s failure on all front, Chidambaram said: “In the

first place, the people had no need for the Rs 2000 notes after the Rs 500-Rs 1000 value notes were demonetised (in November 2016).... The thoughtless — some would even say foolish — introduction of the Rs 2000 note (which the people shunned) and the mortifying spectacle of withdrawing the note have cast doubt on the integrity and stability of India’s currency”.

Chidambaram said that he didn’t agree with the RBI’s explanation that Rs 2000 note was introduced to meet the immediate requirement of people. “Within 30 days of its introduction, no one was using it. The notes didn’t come to people. It was a foolish move bringing the integri-

ty of the currency system in question. The original decision to introduce it was foolish but the government didn’t want to admit it,” the former finance minister said.

Expressing his utter disappointment over the state of economy in the country, Chidambaram said: “Key economic indicators are pointing downward and there is low confidence that the economy will reach the high-growth path. The first three quarters of 2022-23 recorded growth rates of 13.2, 6.3 and 4.4 per cent, a declining trend. The present situation is a far cry from the average of 9 per cent growth rate that marked the boom years between 2004 and 2009”

Lone WB Cong MLA joins TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Days after Mamata Banerjee expressed her willingness to play ball with the Congress on condition of reciprocation and days ahead of the anti-BJP Opposition meet in Patna, the Trinamool Congress on Monday drew the Congress blood by getting its lone MLA in the State legislature Byron Biswas to join the Bengal ruling outfit.

Left-backed Congress candidate, Biswas had won the Sagardighi Assembly by-elections three months ago causing a big flutter in the State politics ahead of the next year’s general elections. Sagardighi is in Muslim dominated Murshidabad district.

Biswas who joined the TMC in the presence of its national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee however said that he was attracted by Mamata Banerjee’s developmental works and that he was not being able to work while in the Congress.

“I was unable to work in the Congress ... and there is no point being an MLA if you cannot work ... so I joined the TMC where I will get ample scope to work under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee whose welfare schemes have inspired me,”



Biswas said.

Coming against the backdrop of the multi-crore recruitment scam the Sagardighi elections had been interpreted as the beginning of the end of the Trinamool Congress rule and the rise of a new experiment in the form of Congress-Left camaraderie in Bengal.

Both the Congress and the Left drew a blank in the 2021 Assembly elections which was apparently conducted in an unprecedentedly polarized atmosphere.

The Congress immediately reacted to Biswas’ joining the TMC saying the people of Sagardighi would remember the “deceit.” Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury said, “they (TMC) may have purchased or coerced one

MLA into joining their party ... but they will not be able to purchase the people of Sagardighi ... this dishonest defection will only strengthen their result and the TMC will get a befitting reply in the next elections.”

The TMC which had allegedly engineered a large number of defections in the Bengal Congress over the past several years was actually playing with snake Chowdhury said adding “the snake-charmers finally die of snake bite.”

Referring to Chowdhury’s attack, Abhishek Banerjee who is also the nephew of the Chief Minister said, the Congress’ failure to hold back its MLA was not the TMC’s fault adding his party never engineered defections.

Jambu Zoo thrown open to public in Nagrota

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory Administration in Jammu and Kashmir Monday added another tourist ‘hot spot’ in the long list of local getaways by throwing open Jambu Zoo at Nagrota.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the phase -1 of Jambu zoo built at a cost of around Rs 70 crores over 70 hectares of land.

The foundation stone of the project was originally laid in September 2016 by the then Forest Minister Lal Singh.

The ambitious project, aimed at attracting the rush of Mata Vaishno Devi bound pilgrims, had earlier missed several deadlines due to paucity of funds. Speaking on the occasion Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said, “the scenic beauty around the first-of-its-kind full-fledged zoo in the UT will make it a unique tourist destination and has the potential to boost tourism in the region”.

“This much awaited addi-



tion to the tourist destinations of J&K was taken up under the Languishing Project”, he added.

Referring to the successful conduct of G20 Summit, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said , “Jammu Kashmir has entered a new era of opportunities.

It is a rare moment and the world is applauding J&K’s saga of development. We must work together to keep pace with the rest of the states and contribute to the significant task of Viksit Bharat 2047”.

The Lt Governor announced free entry for all in the Jambu Zoo for one

month. He also announced that the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams will be dedicated to the people on 8th June.

To woo the visitors, as many as 27 famous species of animals, including Royal Bengal Tiger, Asiatic Lion, leopards, bears, crocodiles etc will be shifted from different places to Jambu zoo. An amphitheatre and park for children has also been constructed.

Visitors can also avail the facility of battery-operated vehicles to move around inside the zoo.

Congress slams BJP for removing Holkar, Savitribai statues from Maha Sadan

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hindu nationalist leader Veer Savarkar once again became a bone of contention between the Opposition Congress and ruling BJP on Monday, as the Maharashtra Congress hit out at the J P Nadda-led party for “removing” the statues of Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar and Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule while celebrating Savarkar Jayanti at Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi.

Describing as “outrageous” the manner in which the statues of Savitribai and Ahilya Devi were removed from Maharashtra Sadan on the Savarkar Jayanti at Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi on Sunday, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole demanded a public apology from both chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis of the BJP for “insulting” Maharashtra’s two iconic leaders “who are a source of inspiration to the



society”.

Talking to the media persons, Patole charged that that the BJP “does not respect women and such things happen only because of their anti-women mentality”

“The BJP can do anything on the basis of its numbers, the same thing happened in Maharashtra Sadan. The BJP is trying to create a new history on the strength of numbers. What happened in Maharashtra Sadan is causing a lot of backlash and strict action should be taken against the culprits in this case,” he said.

“The world remembers Mahatma Gandhi and Buddha and BJP forgets these great men as soon as they come to power,” Patole said.

ISRO looking at testing Gaganyaan crew module mission by July

PTI ■ SRIHARIKOTA



Centre here,” he said. This launch would demonstrate how the crew escapes in case of any accident during the Gaganyaan mission, he said.

“The vehicle will be taken to an altitude of 14 km and from there we would create a problem or try to destroy it and see how the crew module escapes. That we have to demonstrate. We are talking to various stakeholders like the Navy,” he said. This mission has to be repeated again and after that there would be an unmanned mission probably next year in which the whole crew module would be taken to orbit and return, he said.

On setting up a launch pad in Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu about 600 km from Chennai, he said ISRO was almost in the final stages of acquiring 2,000 acres of land.

“We will be building a launch pad for a small launch vehicle in Kulasekarapattinam and possible rocket launches for private players in future.

Land acquisition process is almost completed and some more land is yet to be acquired” he said. Somanath said the space agency was under discussion about the launch of the next-generation launch vehicle (NGLV).

“Now is not the right time to discuss it. It is a rocket which we want to be a recoverable stage, and basically (we are) working on liquid and semi-cryogenic technology,” he said.

10 killed as car crushed in head-on collision with bus in Mysuru



PTI ■ MYSURU

Ten people, including two children, died on the spot and three persons were injured in a road accident in which a car was crushed in a head-on collision with a private bus in T Narasipura taluk here on Monday, police said.

The incident took place near Kuruburu village on Kollegala-T Narasipura main road.

According to the police, the car was completely crushed due to the impact of the accident in what seems to be a head-on collision between the

two vehicles. The injured have been rushed to hospital and are receiving treatment.

The deceased, said to be from Sanganakallu in Ballari district, were returning from B R Hills in an Innova car they had hired when the incident took place, a police officer said, adding that they had their train ticket reserved from Mysuru back to Ballari in the evening.

Two children are among the deceased, sources said. The private bus was said to be on its way towards Kollegala. The three injured, also passengers of the car, have been shifted to Chamarajanagara hospital.

CAG Murmu re-elected as WHO External Auditor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu has been re-elected as External Auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027.

The CAG has already been holding this position in the WHO since 2019 for a four-year term. The present election was held on Monday in the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva, where the CAG of India was re-elected with an overwhelming majority (114 out of 156 votes) in the first round of voting itself, according to a press release issued by the office of the CAG.

The CAG was personally present at the meeting. After the election, in his address to the World Health Assembly, Murmu outlined his vision as External Auditor for the WHO, emphasising on process improvement for better outcomes, transparency and professional approach.

The CAG’s appointment is recognition of the Indian institution’s standing among



the international community as well as its professionalism, high standards, global audit experience and strong national credentials, the release said. This resounding victory was made possible by the sustained support and tireless efforts of the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at Geneva, his officers and a special team of handicapped officers from CAG.

This is the second major international audit assignment

for the CAG this year following his selection for the post of External Auditor (2024-2027) of International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva earlier this year in March 2023.

Besides WHO, the CAG of India is currently the External Auditor of the Food and Agriculture Organization (2020-2025), the International Atomic Energy Agency (2022-2027), the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (2021-2023) and the

Inter Parliamentary Union (2020-2022).

The CAG is a Member of the United Nations (UN) Panel of External Auditors. He is also a member of the Governing Boards of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and ASOSAI. CAG chairs the INTOSAI Knowledge Sharing Committee, its Working Group on IT Audit, and the Compliance Audit Sub-Committee.

Active women have 25% less rate of Parkinson’s disease: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Women who engaged themselves in regular exercise such as cycling, walking, gardening, cleaning and participating in sports had a 25 per cent lower rate of Parkinson’s disease when compared to those who exercised the least, according to a study published in the journal Neurology.

Researchers also found that 10 years before diagnosis, physical activity declined at a faster rate in those with Parkinson’s disease than in those without,



likely due to early symptoms of Parkinson’s disease.

It found that female participants who exercised the most had a 25 per cent lower rate of Parkinson’s disease when

compared to those who exercised the least.

The finding only shows an association and does not prove that exercise lowers the risk of developing Parkinson’s disease,

a brain disorder that causes unintended or uncontrollable movements, such as shaking, stiffness, and difficulty with balance and coordination.

The study included 95,354 female participants, mostly teachers, with an average age of 49 who did not have Parkinson’s disease at the start.

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh, US and Radboud University Medical Center in The Netherlands followed participants for three decades during which 1,074 participants developed Parkinson’s disease.

Over the course of the

study, participants completed up to six questionnaires about the types and amounts of physical activity they were getting.

They were asked how far they walked and how many flights of stairs they climbed daily, how many hours they spent on household activities as well as how much time they spent doing moderate recreational activities such as gardening and more vigorous activities such as sports.

Researchers assigned each activity a score based on the metabolic equivalent of a task (METs), a way to quantify energy expenditure.

A more intense form of exercise like cycling was six METs, while less intense forms of exercise such as walking and cleaning were three METs.

The average physical activity level for participants was 45 METs-hours per week at the start of the study.

Participants were divided into four equal groups of just over 24,000 people each.

At the start of the study, those in the highest group had an average physical activity score of 71 METs-hours per week. Those in the lowest group had an average score of 27 METs-hours per week.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Inconsistent

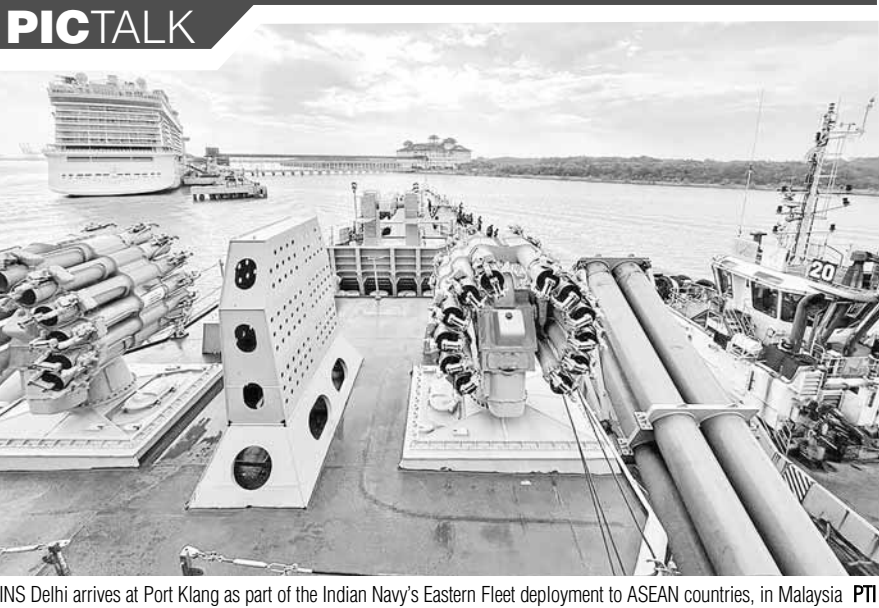
Shielding WFI chief is inconsistent with claims about the new Parliament

It must have upset many Government and Bharatiya Janata Party supporters that the pomp and pageantry of the inauguration of the new Parliament building was accompanied with the news that the wrestlers at Jantar Mantar in Delhi were manhandled by Delhi Police. They have been protesting against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh who also happens to be a BJP leader and parliamentarian. The Delhi Police has justified their action. “The dharna and demonstration of the wrestling wrestlers were going on smoothly at the notified place of Jantar Mantar. Yesterday, the protesters flouted the law in a frenzy despite all requests and requests. Hence, the ongoing dharna has been called off,” aDeputy Commissioner of Policetweeted in Hindi. That may be true, but the unsavory incident did take some of the shine off the grand event which was presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At the heart of the issue is the ruling dispensation’s reluctance to act against Singh.



ing medal winners, had to protest in the heart of the national capital to get a police report filed against Singh.

Besides, as we mentioned earlier, Singh is not exactly the kind of leader Modi’s New India would project as an ideal leader. His image is that of a bahubali; years ago, he was charged with the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act or TADA for allegedly sheltering Dawood Ibrahim’s aide Subhash Thakur. He has faced several other cases too, though he has never been convicted even in one of them. That, however, is not surprising, because many bahubalis don’t get convicted for long periods. The protection that Singh enjoys is inconsistent with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s claim of being tough on crime. More importantly, it is also at odds with the inspiring words spoken by the Prime Minister at the inauguration of the new Parliament. He said, “Today, a New India is setting new goals and forging new paths. There is a new enthusiasm and a new zeal. There is a new journey and a new perspective. The direction is new and the vision is new. The resolve is new, the confidence is new.” Where does Singh fit into the new scheme of things?



INS Delhi arrives at Port Klang as part of the Indian Navy’s Eastern Fleet deployment to ASEAN countries, in Malaysia PTI

The unpredictable world of politics

Politics is a field paved with landmines and traps. It is a dangerous world and only the fittest will survive the arduous journey

Many times one is forced to believe that George Santayana’s words “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” were made after studying the political species in India. Recent history in India is proof of how narrow-minded and reluctant our leaders were in learning from the mistakes and blunders committed by their predecessors and contemporaries.

The year 1980 marked the return of Indira Gandhi to power after she was demolished in the 1977 general election by the combined might of the Opposition parties. The slogan “Indira is India and India is Indira” was torn to pieces by the United Opposition. Nanaji Deshmukh, a political leader-turned-social activist remarked that Indira was not even Rae Bareilly after the then Prime Minister was trounced in the election by Raj Narayan. (It is a sad fact that how many among us remember this political comedian with the green scarf on his head!). With the Janata Party constituents fighting unitedly against each other and com-



ing crashing down within two years, the electorate was fed up and brought Indira Gandhi back to power. Sadly enough neither Indira Gandhi nor the Opposition had learnt anything from their failures. Indira’s third tenure as Prime Minister began in style with her promise to the nation that hers would be a government that works and in the next five years she would provide drinking water and power to all villages in the country. The first scam of her third tenure broke out within weeks. The first budget presented by the then union finance minister saw some innocuous-looking alterations in the finance act, a surreptitious manner of helping persons who stood by her during the days when she was out of power. The amendments in the finance act helped Swraj Paul, the UK-based entrepreneur to make heavy investments in DCM and Escorts,

two blue-chip corporate entities in India. Paul was on the verge of taking over the two Desi companies but the intervention by Arun Bharat Ram and Rajan Nanda, scions of the groups who were the Doon schoolmates of Rajiv Gandhi saved the day for DCM and Escorts.

The period 1980 saw the introduction of colour TV in the country, India hosting the Asian Games 1982, the Non-Aligned Movement summit, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet etc and Indira Gandhi was projected as a global leader by the Congress. But her handling of the Khalistani extremism led to her downfall. The truth is that by the end of 1983, Indira Gandhi’s image had taken a severe bearing while the Opposition started lining up behind S Chandrasekhar, the then-president of the Janata Party.

Had Indira been not assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards in the aftermath of Operation Bluestar (the Army action on Golden Temple) she would have bitten the dust in the 1985 general election. There were many scams also which

dampened the image of the Prime Minister as well as the Congress party. The sympathy factor and the communal polarization helped Rajiv Gandhi to pulverize the Opposition in the election held in 1985. Rajiv too failed to learn from the mistakes of his mother and goofed up on the Sri Lankan Tamil issue resulting in him paying with his own life.

After seeing the TV images of President Joe Biden hugging Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Hiroshima, the doubt that comes to one’s mind is what would be the US President’s attitude when Modi pays a State visit to the USA. The US Government is waiting to take up with him the human rights violations in Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur. What is of concern to the US is the burning down of churches and attacks on priests and evangelists across India. All we can do is wish the Prime Minister a Bon Voyage and a safe return.

(The writer is a senior journalist working as a Special Correspondent with The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

dampered the image of the Prime Minister as well as the Congress party. The sympathy factor and the communal polarization helped Rajiv Gandhi to pulverize the Opposition in the election held in 1985. Rajiv too failed to learn from the mistakes of his mother and goofed up on the Sri Lankan Tamil issue resulting in him paying with his own life.

(The writer is a senior journalist working as a Special Correspondent with The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

Taking stock of 9 years of Modi Govt

The Modi Government has done well on infrastructure and kept the growth rate good though its record on the job front is not very impressive

On May 30, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the oath of office for the second time in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan as the blazing sun sweated out the audience, who then were more interested in finding the missing names in the new Council of Ministers. Modi had guided the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to a spectacular victory in the Lok Sabha election, winning 303 seats in the Lower House of Parliament.

There was no precedent in the last decades of any party winning two massive mandates in back-to-back general elections. People had given resounding mandates to the Modi-led BJP, and they truly expected a fundamental change in the way the country was governed. Aspirational democracy was the buzzword within the BJP circles, and leaders in the saffron camp claimed that the people voted for Modi in the hope that their fate will change for the better.

Half of the second tenure of the Modi Government was accounted for by the hardships of the Covid-19 pandemic. Still, Modi had six and a half years of normal tenure. His government was also comfortably placed in Parliament. The BJP commanded an overwhelming majority to the extent that the Opposition ranks were most of the time beset by self-doubt.

In the Rajya Sabha also, the BJP was aided by the fence sitters to get some of the most contentious legislation, such as the abrogation of Article 370 redundant and criminalising the practice of triple talaq among Muslims, passed. Even the contentious farm laws were cleared, though these have to be withdrawn later.

So, the Modi Government came out with flying colours as far as the legislative business is concerned, particularly the core agenda of the ruling party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which were being mentioned in manifestos since the BJP was founded. The Modi Government also ticks the box on reducing the size of the statute book, eliminating redundant laws and lessening



the compliance burden for businesses. This explains India improving ranking in the global index on ease of doing business, as the country removed over 30,000 compliances after 2014.

Modi has been persistent in taking review meetings of the ambitious multi-purpose and multi-modal platform Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation (PRA-GATI) to take stock of the progress of infrastructure projects. Under his watch, several key projects saw the light of day, even in Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast. In this, he was aided by Road Minister Nitin Gadkari. If there is anyone in the Council of Ministers who has a say, it’s Gadkari.

The Ganga Vilas, the longest river cruise, was a mega success, as the ship was fully booked by tourists from Switzerland, which also announced the arrival of the waterways in India.

Late Arun Jaitley and Nirmala Sitharaman, and Piyush Goyal briefly, have served the country as Finance Ministers during the last nine years. They have tried to execute Modi’s vision and plans to the best of their capabilities. Modi’s economic philosophy is influenced by the nudge theory—that is, incentivizing

EVEN WHILE PETROL AND DIESEL HAVE BEEN COSTLY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, PRICES HAVE MOSTLY BEEN MODERATE FOR THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES, EVEN THOUGH THE LPG COST IS MAKING HOLES IN KITCHEN BUDGETS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The new Parliament House



This refers to the news, New Parliament will make Indians Proud (May 27). Due to political jealousy, the opposition parties (especially the Congress) are getting angry on account of the failure of their petition in the Honourable Supreme Court. Sri Narendra Modi ji led BJP government will be boastfully encashing the inauguration of the newly constructed Parliament House. By just shrewdly speaking against the inaugura-

tion by Modiji, twenty-one opposition parties inclusive of the Congress will bring down their dignity in the minds of the populace as a whole. Besides the fact that more than two dozen parties inclusive of BSP have extended due support. It must not be out of context to reiterate that the installation of all the latest modern equipment in the new Parliament House will facilitate all the honourable MPs to prepare questions and answers by making good use of electronic gazettes. Very important topics related to the upliftment of the country will be discussed with references easily available on redesigned seats. Modi government should be praised with the free web for getting this best building of democracy ready. Opposition parties will also feel proud while criticizing government policies in the luxurious Parliament House.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

sell outside and get Rs 6 to Rs 12 more per litre. AMUL is trying to procure the Milk which otherwise would have gone waste or procured by the manufacturers of Milk products. It seems that still a lot of capital expenditure will be needed with more cooling points near the collection centres and hence the move of AMUL to help the milk producers should get due respect beyond misunderstanding. Hope and Pray that we rise above small bickerings and help the White Revolution.

CK Ramani | Trichy

INDO AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS

Sir — The bilateral relations between India and Australia reached a new high in the recently concluded Modi’s visit to that country. The bonhomie started in 2014 when Modi assumed charge as the P.M. of India. It is not surprising that since 1986 when Rajiv Gandhi travelled to Australia no Indian P.M. has found time to engage with the latter given their disagreement on contentious issues like nuclear disarmament due to the cold war situation. With time mutual bonding between the two countries has not only strengthened but

also acquired a new dimension due to the converging Internets in Asia as well by their becoming Quad partners. This has produced a wider and greatest outreach in several critical areas like education, defence and security, science and technology, trade and investment, education, green hydrogen, critical minerals etc.

Considering that the Indian diaspora forms more than 3 % of the Austrian population, a bilateral agreement on Migration and Mobility was reached to facilitate easier movement of people between the two countries. This will open up opportunities for students, businessmen, and research scholars and also weed out illegal migration. It also acquires even more significance given attacks on Hindu temples by extremists. The establishment of two new consulates in Brisbane and Bengaluru is a step towards their well-being. Dealing firmly with such miscreants can pave the way for a deeper, safe and secure connection between New Delhi and Canberra.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
IN EDUCATION SECTOR

Quality education can be imparted with digital ecosystem and better resource allocation



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

The role of digital technology in education is increasingly becoming crucial globally, as it provides new and innovative forms of support to students, teachers, parents, and the learning process more broadly. The Covid pandemic has made this process much faster, relevant and robust. By deploying remote learning technologies through a combination of TV, radio, online and mobile platforms, a large number of institutions were able to cater to the educational needs of their students. The G20 Education Working Group Meeting on 'The Role of Digital Technologies in Education' comes as a key development in this regard, highlighting a slew of present and prospective technological measures. Identification of core areas and themes to promote possible research and academic collaboration among educational institutions in G20 member countries, is a huge development, as the group comprises some of the most developed countries of the world, who use world-class research, innovation and cutting-edge technologies in this domain.

The selection of priority areas for deliberations such as 'Foundational Literacy and Numeracy', 'Tech-enabled learning', 'Future of work' and 'Research and innovation collaboration', - broad-based discussions with enriching inputs from sectoral experts. There is little doubt that during the past few years, G20 countries have made significant progress in expanding the use of digital technologies for improving access to quality education, however, the sharing of more tangible and effective educational practices and experiences did help recognize where participating countries are and what they need to improve upon. Here, we can



collaborate to leverage technology further to achieve some common educational goals, as we still confront a lot of challenges in the process, especially when it comes to ensuring quality learning opportunities for all along with improving learning outcomes.

What the world including some of the G20 countries, need is accessible, inclusive and equitable school education, higher education and skill development. It is digital technologies that can bring parity in the quality and accessibility of education at all levels. For example, India has around 1.48 million schools, 265 million school students and nearly 9.5 million teachers, with more than 20 regional languages as medium of instruction alongside 62 educational boards of instruction across the country. Moreover, lakhs of students received their higher education in different languages. In such a case, only digital technology can be expected to provide equitable and inclusive education, as a lot of content and expert teachers are still not available in regional languages.

Hence, the union budget 2023 emphasises much on digitisation of education. The Digital India programme has received Rs 4,795.24 crore, and to boost digital infrastructure, the government has proposed initiatives like Digital Libraries and Digital Universities. States have also been urged to set up physical libraries at panchayat levels to provide infrastructure for accessing the National Digital Library resources. Digital initiatives with a focus on artificial intelligence terming it a step towards the 'digital revolution', have been hailed by all. Three centres of excellence for AI and 100 laboratories in engineering institutions for developing applications using 5G services, will only add to this process of digital revolution. Digital Universities aim to reach out to the remotest regions of the country with quality, skill-based and job-oriented courses and training. With the focus of the budget being on expanding reach, improving quality education, building capacity and strengthening the digital education ecosystem, we can now expect to have a world-class school and higher education system, which would be accessible to all.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

Nine years of inclusive progress

Prime Minister Modi has laid the ground for the 'Amrit Kaal' and his era would be remembered for putting the country in the fast lane



SUMET BHASIN

The ninth anniversary of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government is an occasion to celebrate the successes of statecraft passionately demonstrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in action with visible and verifiable impacts on the ground. PM Modi has also shown that decisive mandates deliver decisive governments. Political pundits must examine the achievements of the Modi government by dropping their coloured lenses to codify the messages for all the political parties in the larger interests of the country.

Memory will certainly not fail to recall the days of 2012-14 when a maverick activist held a kangaroo court at Jantar Mantar to accuse and abuse each and everyone in politics. The Arvind Kejriwal tribe attacked the very institution of democracy by raising doubts in the minds of the people about the political class. He poured a truckload of muck on the participants of Indian democracy.

The first task of PM Modi was to restore the trust of the people in the Indian democracy. This was done in record time, as the Jantar Mantar tribe shut their shops and also joined politics. The record turnout of the voters in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections demonstrates that PM Modi has restored the trust of the people in the Indian democracy fully. Now, no one abuses Indian democracy. Taking inspiration from PM Modi, youngsters are quitting even high-paying jobs to join politics.

The greatest tribute to the nine years of PM Modi's achievements as head of the government will be on the count of financial inclusion of over 48 crore people in the banking system of the country. The over one-third population of the country was not seen as worthy to be part of the formal economy by the Congress-led UPA government.

These 48 crore people were pushed into the informal economy and also at the risk of losing their hard-earned money to chit funds and other financial fraudsters while also being vulnerable to the moneylenders. For the economists of the Congress pedi-

“

IF THE SOCIAL SECTOR GAINS FROM THE CARING TOUCH OF THE MODI MODEL OF GOVERNANCE, THE ECONOMY HAS TO LIE ON FIRM LEGS TO RUN THE GROUND FULL STEAM TO ATTAIN THE \$5 TRILLION TAG IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS AND ALSO CLAIM THE STATUS OF THE FOURTH LARGEST ECONOMY

(The author is a policy analyst)

gree, these 48 crore people were not deserving of being part of the economy.

When they joined the Indian financial system on the call of PM Modi for their inclusion, they brought a whopping Rs1.90 lakh crores in deposits to the banking system. The Modi model of the economy must be studied by all, as the gains of financial inclusions were not limited to the beneficiaries of the Jan Dhan Scheme but even the banks, which have been reporting record profits while also meeting all norms of healthy banking norms.

PM Modi brought empathy for the poor, women and the people at large in his caring statecraft. He brought the policy attention to areas that were never paid attention to. His first term addressed the dignity of women in the country, who had for ages been going in the darkness for toilet needs. According to the topmost priority to making India a defecation-free country, more than 11 crore toilets have been built in the country.

By sanctioning over four crores of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Modi government has brought unprecedented changes for the better in the life of the people. Shelter and sanitation have been the hallmark of the Modi model of statecraft with empathy for the vulnerable sections of society. It should be examined why the Congress-led governments never thought of addressing the basic issues that concerned the well-being of the rural and the poor people.

By ensuring sanitary napkins for Rs 1, the Modi statecraft showed that the well-being of the people is at the core of the governance. This was again seen when once in a century pandemic struck the country. PM Modi first ensured that none in

the country slept hungrily. His intervention to protect the people from hunger saw the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for 80 crore people free of cost, and 1121 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains were made available to the population so that they could meet the hardships caused by Covid-19 outbreak. Access to potable water is needed to safeguard the health of the people and save them from water-borne diseases. It will be a task for the economists to measure the savings for the people on their out-of-pocket expenses due to the expanding coverage of tap water in homes.

Har Ghar Jal (Jal Jeevan Mission) is another example of the Modi government thinking of the well-being of the people, as more than eight crore rural households with more than 40 crore people have benefitted under the programme.

Har Ghar Bijli (Saubhagya Yojana) also saw close to three crore households getting electrified under the scheme, covering over 99.9 per cent of the total households in the country. By March 2023, over nine crores of LPG connections were sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, fulfilling the promise of a 'Har Ghar Gas Cylinder'. This again bears the Modi model of economy's concerns that the policies should think of the wellbeing of the people, as it served to protect the women from kitchen smoke. Once more the women in the country because of the policy intervention of the Modi government were protected from ailments due to exposure to kitchen smoke.

Under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), close to 41 crore loans have been sanctioned since the launch of the scheme. Also, there has been a growth of more than 200 per cent in digital payment

volume during the last four years since 2018-19. UPI transactions alone have grown eight times in the last three years, which is 50 times in the last four years.

With over 41 crore people in India exiting poverty between 2005-06 and 2019-20 due to the committed efforts of the Modi government, we are today on track to eliminate extreme poverty by 2024.

If the social sector gains from the caring touch of the Modi model of governance, the economy has to lie on firm legs to run the ground full steam to attain the \$5 trillion tag in the next few years and also claim the status of the fourth largest economy. The economy is making good use of the extraordinary expansion of infrastructure, spanning roads, ports, waterways and airports, which hastened the making of a well-knit Indian economy with faster movements of goods.

On the security front, the Modi government has an unparalleled track record of almost terrorism-free track record. Also, India has made its border infrastructure robust with accelerated developments in states with long border regions. North-eastern states are well-connected with all parts of India. Now, there is no reason in the country, which is without being connected with major cities in the country. This has been shown to the delegates who are taking part in several meetings of the G20 all across the country.

By committing Rs 2.50 lakh crore for the railway infrastructure, the Modi government has brought much-needed energy and capacity to the national transporter, which carries the size of the population of Australia daily. It must be underlined that the Modi Era has laid the grounds for the 'Amrit Kaal' for India.

NITI Aayog must be revived for better Centre-State relations

PM Modi is facing united opposition from the non-BJP-ruled states. They have been ganging up against him despite their political differences

One of the first things Prime Minister Narendra Modi did soon after assuming office nine years ago was dismantling the Planning Commission with a legacy of 65 years and setting up the Niti Aayog in January 2015. Even as the chief minister of Gujarat earlier, Modi had some ideas for a stronger Centre-State relationship and reforms. He hoped that Niti Aayog would strengthen this relationship.

However, Modi still faces Opposition from the non-BJP-ruled states. They have been ganging up against him due to their political differences. The new chief minister's club is growing by the day as they work in tandem.

Unsurprisingly, acting as a pressure group, some non-



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist)

BJP chief ministers had boycotted Saturday's Niti Aayog meeting addressed by Modi. The conference's theme was "Viksit Bharat @2047: Role of Team India." These chief ministers could have participated and discussed 100 issues identified for the session. Instead, they stayed away.

Nineteen Opposition parties also boycotted the inauguration of the new Parliament building on May 28. They held that President Draupadi Murmu and not Modi should have that honour. Those who boycotted included Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), Arvind Kejriwal (Delhi), Ashok Gehlot (Rajasthan), K. Chandrabab Naidu (Telangana), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab), Nitish Kumar (Bihar), M.K.

Stalin (Tamil Nadu), Pinaray Vijayan (Kerala), and Naveen Patnaik (Odisha).

The last name was a surprise addition as Patnaik had been keeping equidistance from both Congress and BJP. He is said to have been upset that President Draupadi Murmu, hailing from Odisha, had not been invited to the inauguration of the new Parliament. K.C. Rao skipped the Niti Aayog meeting even last year. Having a running battle with the Centre, he claimed, "Chief Ministers do not get enough time to speak, and after a few minutes, a bell rings saying you should stop now."

Mamata Banerjee wanted a revival of the Planning Commission instead of Niti Aayog, which she called a "paper tiger". Other chief ministers

gave some excuses for their absence, like prior engagements. It was clear that they worked in tandem.

It is not the first time such boycotts have taken place. Even during the Indira Gandhi era, late Andhra Pradesh chief minister N.T. Rama Rao walked out of the National Development Council protesting against the Centre. Doyens like the late Jyoti Basu, Ramakrishna Hegde and others, too, had walked out of the NDC meetings. As for Saturday's Aayog meeting, should the chief ministers have shown their anger by boycotting it, or should they have participated and explained their misgivings? They could have attended the meeting and presented their grievances or worn black flags.

After all, it was a forum for interaction with other chief ministers and the Centre.

The BJP sees the boycotts of the Aayog meeting and the inauguration of the new Parliament building as part of the Opposition's "Modi hatred".

There have been several questions about the relevance of the Niti Aayog and its predecessor Planning Commission. While the Commission was seen as a White elephant, the Niti Aayog is seen as a toothless institution. The Planning Commission had two primary duties-implementation of the five-year plan and providing Finances to the states. NITI Aayog has no constitutional or statutory sanction. Its stated aim is to construct a dynamic and robust nation. Unlike the Planning

Commission, it has no financial role. It is mainly the country's premier think tank. The Aayog has two hubs: "Team India Hub" and "Knowledge and Innovation Hub".

In addition to developing long-term, strategic plans for the Government of India, the Aayog supports a federal cooperative structure. Critics say that it should focus on the implementation rather than only concentrating on the recommendations of the policies.

India has emerged as a major global economy. The Aayog will be unable to transform an unequal society into a modern economy. It cannot influence public or private investment or policymaking. It needs to answer specific questions like why 90% of the workers are in the unorganized

sector. Aayog should evolve into a much stronger organization. It lacks the states' confidence, particularly from the non-BJP chief ministers. petition among the states worked well during the Covid period.

The Prime Minister held Zoom conferences and involved the chief ministers in pandemic relief. However, politics entered on Covid relief later with the non-BJP chief ministers complaining of step-motherly treatment from the Centre.

Overall, the NITI Aayog needs to evolve into a much stronger organization. If it wants to be more effective, it requires the trust of the non-BJP chief ministers and their active participation. Only then a strong centre and strong states will emerge.

HK court rejects Lai’s bid to end national security trial

AP ■ HONG KONG

A Hong Kong court on Monday rejected a jailed publisher's request to terminate his national security trial, pressing ahead with a landmark case seen as part of Beijing's crack-down on the city's pro-democracy movement. Jimmy Lai, the 75-year-old founder of the now-defunct newspaper Apple Daily, faces up to life in prison if convicted under a Beijing-imposed national security law. His lawyers earlier filed an application to halt the trial, raising concerns that his case was being heard by three judges approved by the city's leader, instead of a jury.

When Hong Kong returned to China in 1997, it was promised that trials by jury, previously practiced in the former British colony, would be maintained under the city's constitution. But in a departure from the city's common law tradition, the security law



allows no-jury trials for national security cases.

On Monday, Judges Esther Toh, Susana D'Almada Remedios and Alex Lee unanimously rejected Lai's request, saying there was no reason to believe they "would be biased, actually or apparently, against" Lai. The national security law was enacted in June 2020 following months of anti-government protests calling for an

investigation into police conduct during the unrest and universal suffrage.

It outlaws secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign collusion to intervene in the city's affairs, and has been used to stamp out dissent.

Lai is accused of conspiring with others to call for sanctions or blockades, or engage in hostile activities, against Hong Kong or China. He also faces a

charge of collusion with foreign forces to endanger national security, and a separate seditious charge under a colonial-era law that is also increasingly used to crush the opposition.

Under the security law, the secretary for justice may direct national security cases to be tried without a jury if state secrets need to be protected, foreign forces are involved, or if the personal safety of jurors needs to be protected.

In such cases, they will be heard by a panel of three hand-picked judges.

Earlier this month, Robert Pang, one of Lai's lawyers, pointed to the lack of transparency in the appointment of the judges, saying that might affect the public's confidence in the judiciary and the judicial process. Pang also alleged the executive's move to block British lawyer Timothy Owen from representing Lai could be fairly described as "persecution."

Explosions rattle Kyiv during day

AP ■ KYIV

Explosions rattled Kyiv during daylight Monday as Russian ballistic missiles took aim at the Ukrainian capital, hours after a more common nighttime barrage of the city by drones and cruise missiles. Debris from missiles intercepted by Ukrainian air defenses fell in Kyiv's central and northern districts during the morning, landing in the middle of traffic on a city road and also starting a fire on a building's roof, the Kyiv military administration said. At least one civilian was reported hurt.

The blasts unnerved some locals, already under strain after being awakened by the night attack.

"After what happened last night, I react sharply to every siren now. I was terrified, and I'm still trembling," shared Alina Ksenofontova, a 50-year-old woman who took refuge in the Kyiv subway with her dog Buklik.

The central station, Tetatralna, was crowded with sheltering locals.

Artem Zhyla, a 24-year-old who provides legal services abroad, took his laptop with him and kept working underground.

"I heard two or three explosions, went to the bathroom, and then I heard five or seven more explosions. That's when I realized something terrible was happening," he said.



People take cover at metro station during a Russian rocket attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Monday

Like many others in the capital, he feels exhausted and stressed. However, he has no intentions of giving up and plans to attend his yoga class to recharge. "This is certainly not enough to break us," he said.

Russia used Iskander short-range missiles in the morning attack, the spokesman for Ukraine's air force said on local television.

The missiles were fired from north of Kyiv, Yuriy Ihnat said without clarifying if he meant Russian territory. Kyiv lies around 380 kilometers (236 miles) from the Russian border.

During the previous night, air defenses brought down more than 40 targets as Russian forces bombarded Kyiv with a combination of drones and cruise missiles in their 15th

nighttime attack on the capital so far this month, said Serhii Popko, the head of Kyiv's military administration.

On Saturday night, Kyiv was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war. At least one person was killed, local officials said.

Kremlin's strategy of long-range bombardment has brought many sleepless nights for Ukrainians.

Over the winter, Russian forces aimed their missiles and drones at power plants and other infrastructure. The apparent goal was to weaken Ukraine's resolve and compel the Ukrainian government to negotiate peace on Moscow's terms, but Ukrainians swiftly and defiantly repaired the damage.

Russia issues arrest warrant for Lindsey

Moscow (AP): Russia's Interior Ministry on Monday issued an arrest warrant for US Sen Lindsey Graham following his comments related to the fighting in Ukraine.

In an edited video of his meeting on Friday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that was released by Zelenskyy's office, Graham, a Republican from South Carolina, noted that "the Russians are dying" and described the U.S. military assistance to the country as "the best money we've ever spent." While Graham appeared to have made the remarks in different parts of the conversation, the short video by Ukraine's presidential office put them next to each other, causing outrage in Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov commented Sunday by saying that "it's hard to imagine a greater shame for the country than having such senators." The Investigative Committee has moved to open a criminal inquiry against Graham, and the Interior Ministry followed up by issuing a warrant for his arrest.

CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED					
Regd. Office-456, Aggarwal Metro Height, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034 CIN-L65993DL1990PLC040101 website : www.cubical90.com, E-mail : cubfinser@yahoo.com					
(Rs. in Lacs)					
Extract of the statement of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter/year ended March 31, 2023					
Sl. Particulars No.	Quarter Ended 3/31/2023 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 3/31/2022 (Audited)	Year Ended 31-03-2023 (Audited)	Year Ended 31-03-2022 (Audited)	
1 Total Income from operations	35.45	21.42	114.80	216.00	
2 Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	-24.17	26.53	-19.67	81.73	
3 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	-26.34	23.14	-28.57	67.53	
4 Equity Share Capital	1303.40	1303.40	1303.40	1303.40	
5 Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserve	-	-	53.85	82.49	
6 Earnings Per Share (EPS) (of Rs. 2/- each)					
Basic Diluted			-0.04 -0.04	0.10 0.10	
Note:- The above is an Extract of the Detailed Format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full Format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Website of Bombay Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com & on Company website at www.cubicalrealitors.com .					
By Order of the Board of Directors for CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED ASHWANI KUMAR GUPTA MANAGING DIRECTOR DIN-00348616					
DATED : 29TH MAY, 2023 PLACE : DELHI.					

TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN					
That [Manchanda Medicos 17 A/L Market, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi] has already created the charge in 1992 on unaminated original title deed of the property. Mortgage was created on unaminated Title deed & later on lamination of the title deed was made in our presence					
Details of the relevant property [Shop No. 17 A/L Market, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088]					
M/S Manchanda Medicos had already created charge since 1992 for availing a loan/credit facility from State Bank of India, SME Wazirpur industrial Estate Branch, Branch Code 05714					
The General Public is hereby notified that in case any party has any claim towards the said relevant property (ies), the same should be lodged with Manchanda Medicos / Susheel Manchanda at above mentioned address and also with the above stated branch of State Bank of India, within 15 days from publication of this notice					

Ramsons Projects Limited					
CIN-L74899DL1994PLC063708 Regd. Office: A-10/6, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057 Website: www.ramsonsprojects.com, Email: corpdrelations@ramsonsprojects.com					
Extracts of Standalone Audited Financial Results for the Fourth Quarter and Financial Year ended March 31, 2023					
(Figures in Lakhs)					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended March 31, 2023 (Audited)	Quarter ended December 31, 2022 (Un-Audited)	Quarter ended March 31, 2022 (Audited)	Financial Year Ended March 31, 2023 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	17.74	15.05	9.03	56.81
2	Net Profit/(Loss) For the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1.73	0.56	4.39	6.63
3	Net Profit/(Loss) For the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1.73	0.56	4.39	(5.14)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1.63	0.58	3.83	(5.30)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	10.05	0.94	(10.45)	5.22
6	Equity Share Capital	300.65	300.65	300.65	300.65
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the Previous Year	-	-	-	301.95
8	Earnings Per Share(of Rs 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
1.Basic:		0.05	0.02	0.13	(0.18)
2.Diluted:		0.05	0.02	0.13	(0.18)
Notes:					
1. This above is an extract of the detailed format of fourth quarter & financial year results for the period ended March 31, 2023 filed with Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly & Twelve months results for the period ended March 31, 2023 are available on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and website of the Company (www.ramsonsprojects.com).					
2. # Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items are adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with IND AS Rules.					
By the Order of the Board Ramsons Projects Limited Sd/- Sunil Sachdeva Managing Director DIN: 00012115					
Place: Gurugram, Haryana Date: May 29, 2023					

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED					
Regd. office. 18th KM Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road, NH24, Village-Amhera, Distt: J.P.NAGAR-244102, U.P. CIN-L17291UP1979PLC004804 PH: 9760091983, Email: info@prakashwoollen.com, Website: www.prakashwoollen.com					
Extract of Audited Financial Results (Standalone) for the Quarter and Year Ended 31/03/2023					
Particulars	Quarter ended			Year Ended	
	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-22	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
Total income from operations (net)	1511.46	4639.95	2151.58	10371.96	9866.13
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	20.77	(147.60)	(52.69)	(515.75)	(13.17)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	20.77	(147.60)	(52.69)	(515.75)	(13.17)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	21.77	(144.67)	(25.81)	(503.90)	(5.56)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	26.84	(144.67)	(12.62)	(498.83)	7.63
Equity Share Capital	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	-	-	-	-	-
Earnings per share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/-each):					
(a) Basic	0.21	(1.41)	(0.25)	(4.91)	(0.05)
(b) Diluted	0.21	(1.41)	(0.25)	(4.91)	(0.05)
Earnings per share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/-each):					
(a) Basic	0.21	(1.41)	(0.25)	(4.91)	(0.05)
(b) Diluted	0.21	(1.41)	(0.25)	(4.91)	(0.05)
Notes:					
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Annual Audited Financial Results (Standalone) filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Audited Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.prakashwoollen.com)					
By Order of The Board For Prakash Woollen & Synthetic Mills Limited Sd/- Vijay Kumar Gupta Whole Time Director & CFO DIN: 00335325					
Place : Village Amhera (Amroha) Date : 29-05-2023					

Tinubu sworn in as Nigerian President

Abuja (AP): Nigeria's Bola Tinubu has been sworn in as president of Africa's most populous country at a period of unprecedented challenges, leaving some citizens hopeful for a better life and others sceptical that his government would perform better than the one he succeeded. The former governor of Lagos, Nigeria's economic hub, Tinubu, 71, was sworn in as Nigeria's president in Abuja, the capital city, in the presence of thousands of Nigerians and several heads of governments. He succeeds President Muhammadu Buhari to lead a country that by 2050 is forecast to become the third most populous nation in the world, tied with the United States after India and China.

Judge appointed in SA to oversee weapons-for-Russia probe

Cape Town (AP): South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed a judge to oversee an inquiry into allegations that the country supplied arms to Russia on a ship that docked secretly at a naval base in December.

The allegations were made this month by the United States' ambassador to South Africa, who said he was sure that weapons and ammunition were loaded onto the Russian-flagged cargo ship Lady R when it docked at the Simon's Town naval base near Cape Town late last year.

Ambassador Reuben Brigity indicated that the US had intelligence to sustain the

allegation and he said he would bet his life on the accuracy of his claim that weapons were loaded onto the ship. The Lady R container-carrying ship is under US sanctions for being tied to a company that has transported weapons to aid the Russian war effort in Ukraine. South Africa has denied there was any government-sanctioned deal to provide weapons to Russia, although it hasn't categorically ruled out that an unofficial transaction took place involving another entity. Judge PMD Mojapelo, a former Supreme Court of Appeal judge, was appointed chairman of a three-member panel to investigate

the incident, Ramaphosa's office said in a statement on Sunday. A lawyer and a former minister of justice were also appointed.

The panel has six weeks to complete its investigations and another two weeks from then to provide a report to Ramaphosa, the president's office said. "The panel has been tasked to establish persons who were aware of the cargo ship's arrival, and, if any, the contents to be off-loaded or loaded, the departure and destination of the cargo," Ramaphosa's office said.

Ramaphosa ordered the inquiry because of the seriousness of the allegations and "the impact of this matter on South

Africa's international relations," his office said. South Africa could be in breach of international law and its own laws regarding weapons sales if it is found to have supplied arms to Moscow for the war in Ukraine. The incident has strained relations between the US and South Africa, which is Africa's most developed economy and a key Western partner on the continent. South African Defence Minister Thandi Modise has said the Lady R was visiting to deliver an ammunition shipment from Russia that was ordered by South Africa in 2018 but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Erdogan turns away reform-minded challenger to win another term

AP ■ ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan turned away a challenger who sought to reverse his authoritarian-leaning changes, securing five more years to oversee the country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia that plays a key role in NATO.

Erdogan prevailed by winning more than 52% of the vote in Sunday's presidential runoff, which came two weeks after he fell short of scoring an outright victory in the first round.

A majority of Turkish voters in the second round chose him over challenger Kemal Kilicdaroglu, showing their support for a man who they see as a strong, proven leader.

Voters were divided between loyalty to Erdogan, who has ruled for two decades, and hopes for the opposition candidate, who promised to return to democratic norms, adopt more conventional economic policies and improve ties with the West.

With his immediate political future secure, Erdogan must now confront skyrocketing



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan delivers a speech to supporters outside his residence in Istanbul

inflation that has fuelled a cost-of-living crisis and rebuild in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people.

In two speeches — one in Istanbul and one in Ankara — Erdogan thanked the nation for entrusting him with the presidency again. "We hope to be worthy of your trust, as we have been for 21 years," he told supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul.

He said the divisions of the election are over, but he continued to rail against his opponent. "The only winner today is Türkiye," Erdogan said outside

the presidential palace in Ankara, promising to work hard for Türkiye's second century, which he called the "Turkish century." The country marks its centennial this year.

Supreme challenges lie ahead, starting with the economy that has taken a beating from what critics view as Erdogan's unorthodox policies. He also must tend to massive rebuilding efforts in 11 provinces hit by the Feb. 6 earthquake that levelled entire cities. Kilicdaroglu said the election was "the most unjust ever," with all state resources mobilised for Erdogan.

Spanish PM Sánchez calls early election

AP ■ MADRID

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Monday called an early general election for July 23 in a surprise move after his Socialist party took a serious battering in local and regional elections.

Prior to Sunday's debacle, Sánchez had insisted that he would ride out his four-year term with leftist government coalition partner United We Can, indicating that an election would be held in December.

The woes for Sánchez and his PSOE party come as Spain is due to take over the rotating presidency of the European Union on July 1.

Sánchez said he had spoken to King Felipe VI and would hold a special Cabinet meeting later on Monday to dissolve parliament.

"I have taken this decision given the results of the elections held yesterday," Sánchez from the Moncloa presidential palace.

The local and regional elections saw Spain taking a major swing to the right and made the

leading opposition right wing Popular Party, or PP, the main political force in the country.

"This is unexpected," said Ignacio Jurado, a political scientist at Madrid's Carlos III University. "Sánchez is trying to short circuit the PP's rise as soon as possible."

In the municipal vote, the Popular Party, or PP, won 31.5 per cent of votes compared with 28.2 per cent for the Socialists.

This was a 1.2 percentage point decrease for PSOE on 2019, but almost a nine point increase for the PP, which benefited from the collapse of the centrist Citizens party.

The PP won in seven of the 12 regions contested and dominated in several regions previously won by PSOE including Valencia, Aragon and La Rioja. It remains to be seen whether PP will have to rely on far-right party Vox to form regional governments.

Spain's regional governments have enormous power and budgetary discretion over education, health, housing and policing.

China to send astronauts to moon by 2030

PTI ■ BEIJING/JIUQUAN

China on Monday announced plans to send a manned mission to the moon by 2030 for lunar scientific exploration, amid its deepening space race with the West.

The announcement was made by Lin Xiqiang, Deputy Director of the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), as China is preparing to send a third set of astronauts to its space station on Tuesday.

Li told the media at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Inner Mongolia ahead of the launch of the spacecraft that takes the three astronauts to the space station called Tiangong that China has recently initiated under the lunar landing phase of its manned lunar exploration programme.

The overall goal is to achieve China's first manned

landing on the moon by 2030 and carry out lunar scientific exploration and related technological experiments, he was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

China's manned lunar mission came as the US space agency NASA aims to send a second manned mission to the moon by 2025 to explore the south pole for frozen water.

For its part, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced plans to launch its ambitious Chandrayaan-3 mission aimed at demonstrating critical technologies to land the spacecraft on the south pole.

Chandrayaan-3 mission carries scientific instruments to study the thermo-physical properties of the lunar regolith, lunar seismicity, lunar surface plasma environment and ele-



mental composition in the vicinity of the landing site.

China in the past successfully launched uncrewed missions to the moon which included a rover. China has also sent a rover to Mars.

According to Lin, the goal of China's moon mission also includes mastering the key technologies such as earth-moon manned roundtrip, lunar surface short-term stay,

human-robot joint exploration, accomplishing multiple tasks of landing, roving, sampling, researching, returning, and forming an independent capability of manned lunar exploration.

In 2021, China and Russia announced plans to set up an International Lunar Research Station.

Russian space agency Roscosmos said in March 2021

that it has signed an agreement with China's National Space Administration to develop research facilities on the surface of the moon, in orbit or both.

Lin said China's manned lunar landing will promote the leapfrog development of manned space technology from near-Earth to deep space, deepen human understanding of the origin and evolution of the moon and the solar system, and contribute Chinese wisdom to the development of lunar science, he said.

The aim of space powers, such as the US, Russia and China, is to set up bases on the Moon for astronauts to live in, Dr McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in the US told BBC earlier.

The Moon is being used as a stepping stone to places like Mars," he says.

Talks possible if Imran Khan apologises: Dar

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has hinted that negotiations with former prime minister Imran Khan to end the political crisis were possible if he took “corrective measures” and apologised to the nation for the May 9 violence in which sensitive military installations were attacked.

Dar made this assertion during a Geo News programme on Sunday, the day when Pakistan’s ruling coalition rejected Khan’s offer for dialogue, saying talks were held with politicians, not terrorists.

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party constituted a seven-member team to hold talks with the government – for developing a consensus on a date for general elections - amid a massive crackdown on his party for the May 9 violence following his arrest. The crackdown launched after May 9 violent protests have thrown PTI into a deep existential crisis with dozens of key party leaders quitting the party daily. The prominent leaders who have quit the party include Secretary General Asad Umar,

senior leader Fawad Chaudhry and former minister Shireen Mazari. “If he (Khan) takes corrective measures and apologises to the nation for the May 9 carnage, negotiations could be held,” Dar said. Dar noted that before that fateful day (May 9), the government negotiated with PTI with “sincere intentions” and the two sides agreed on all matters except the date of the election.

The minister said peaceful protest was everyone’s right, but attacks on armed forces’ installations should not be condoned. On May 9, violent protests erupted after paramilitary Rangers arrested 70-year-old Khan from the Islamabad High Court premises in connection with a corruption case.

His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander House, the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad in response to Khan’s arrest. The mob also stormed the Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi for the first time. Thousands of Khan’s supporters were arrested following the

violence that the powerful Army described as a “dark day” in the history of the country.

The ambiguities of the federal government’s policy came into sharp focus, with Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique asserting that there was no way talks could be held with Khan under the current situation.

“There used to be an environment and agenda for holding parleys on any issue. But the existing atmosphere is not suitable for talks,” the Dawn newspaper quoted him as saying.

Earlier this month, the National Assembly, the lower house of Pakistan’s Parliament, passed a resolution vowing to try May 9 rioters under the existing laws including the stringent Army Act and the Official Secrets Act. Khan, a cricketer-turned-politician, was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

Ex-PM lashes out at govt



do not have an identity card and there is a difference of 30 rupees per dollar between the official and open market rates.

“This dollarisation of economy means no local or foreign investment into the country, which will result in contraction of the GDP and worse, lead to hyperinflation,” he added.

Turning to his favourite theme of stonewalling his opponents, Khan said the leaders of the coalition government have billions of dollars stashed abroad, and understandably they are not pushed. “The question is, how on earth is the Pakistani establishment allowing the coun-

try to head towards a complete economic meltdown?” he asked.

The statement comes as the government and Khan have traded barbs over the alleged ill-treatment of women supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf who were still in jail after being arrested in the wake of violent protests on May 9.Khan is under pressure to keep his party intact as dozens of leaders have abandoned it after the crackdown launched to arrest those involved in attacks on military installations.

His statement is apparently an effort to tell his supporters that Khan was still relevant and can take the country out of trouble. Khan, a cricketer-turned-politician, was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

Japan PM’s son to resign after public outrage



Tokyo (AP): Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Monday his son is resigning as his executive policy secretary to take responsibility for using the prime minister’s residence for a private party at which the merrymaking was exposed in magazine photos that triggered public outrage.

Shotaro Kishida, his father’s executive secretary for political affairs and eldest son, invited a group of people including relatives to a year-end party on Dec 30 at the Prime Minister’s Official Residence.

Photos published by the weekly Shukan Bunshun magazine showing Kishida’s son and his relatives posing on red-carpeted stairs in an imitation of the group photos taken of newly appointed Cabinets, with his son at the center — the position reserved for the prime minister. Other

photos showed guests standing at a podium as if holding a news conference.

“As secretary for (the prime minister’s) political affairs, a public position, his actions were inappropriate and I decided to replace him to have him take responsibility,” Kishida told reporters Monday night. He said his son will be replaced with another secretary, Takayoshi Yamamoto, on Thursday.

Lanka drafting bill to curb religious slander

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka is drafting a new legislation to curb the growing incidents of religious slander and online vitriol, according to the country’s religious affairs minister. The move comes after a stand-up comedian Nathasha Edirisooriya allegedly made certain derogatory remarks on religions, which she uploaded online.

Edirisooriya offered an apology, but a complaint was filed and she was taken into custody on Sunday while trying to fly out of the country.

Lanka’s Minister of Buddhisthasana, Religious, and Cultural Affairs Vidura Wickramanayaka on Sunday said a legislation would soon be passed to curb the growing incidents of religious slander in the country. They will stop all incidents of demeaning religion on social media,” he asserted.The controversy surrounding Edirisooriya’s comments is not a one-off incident.

Earlier this month, Pastor Jerome Fernando, a self-styled Godman, was accused of derogatory comments on Lord Buddha, which went viral on social media. On May 15, President Ranil Wickremesinghe ordered the Criminal

Investigation Department to launch an immediate investigation into the matter, arguing that such statements could create religious conflicts in the country.

Like Edirisooriya, Fernando also offered an apology. He has, however, fled to Singapore and filed a fundamental rights petition to block his impending arrest.In January, a popular Youtuber Sepal Amarasinghe was sent to police custody for making disparaging comments on the Sacred Tooth relic of Lord Buddha.

The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a Buddhist temple in Kandy.

It is located in the royal palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy, which houses the relic of the tooth of the Buddha. The arrest came after parliamentarians across the aisle unanimously condemned Amarasinghe’s comments on his YouTube channel. Amarasinghe’s YouTube channel has nearly 80,000 subscribers and the outspoken man is well-known on social media for his unorthodox views that challenge what he claims are parochial traditions and customs. Over 74 per cent of Sri Lanka’s 22 million population are Buddhists.

AP ■ TOKYO

North Korea on Monday notified neighbouring Japan that it plans to launch a satellite in coming days, which may be an attempt to put its first military reconnaissance satellite into orbit. Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said he ordered Japan’s Self Defence Force to shoot down the satellite or debris, if any entered Japanese territory.

Japan’s coast guard said the notice it received from North Korean waterway authorities said the launch window was from May 31 to June 11, and that the launch may affect waters in the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and east of the Philippines’ Luzon Island.

The coast guard issued a safety warning for ships in the



area on those dates because of the possible risks from falling debris. Japan’s coast guard coordinates and distributes maritime safety information in East Asia, which is likely the reason it was the recipient of North Korea’s notice. The launch a satellite into space, North Korea would have to use long-range missile technology banned by UN

Security Council resolutions. Its past launches of Earth observation satellites were seen as disguised missile tests.

Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said the launch would violate UN resolutions and was a “threat to the peace and safety of Japan, the region and the international community.”

Sudan army, rival force under pressure to extend truce

AP ■ CAIRO

Sudan’s warring sides were under pressure Monday to extend a shaky cease-fire in their battle for control of the country, after two key international mediators signalled impatience with persistent truce violations. In a joint statement Sunday, the United States and Saudi Arabia called out Sudan’s military and its rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, for specific breaches of a week-long truce that is to expire Monday evening rather than issue another general appeal to respect agreements.

Sudan descended into chaos after fighting erupted in mid-April between the military, led by Gen. Abdel- Fattah Burhan, and the RSF, commanded by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo. The fighting has killed at least 866 civilians and wounded thousands more, according to the Sudan Doctors’ Syndicate, which tracks civilian casualties. The toll could be much higher, the medical group said. The conflict has turned the

capital, Khartoum, and other urban areas into battlefields, forcing nearly 1.4 million people to flee their homes to safer areas inside Sudan or crossing into neighbouring countries. Early on, foreign governments raced to evacuate their diplomats and nationals as thousands of foreign residents scrambled to get out of the African nation.

For weeks, the United States and Saudi Arabia have been mediating talks between the military and the RSF in the Saudi port city of Jeddah. So far, there have been seven declared cease-fires, all of which have been violated to some extent.

In Sunday’s statement, the US and Saudi Arabia noted that the military continued to carry out airstrikes, while the RSF was still occupying people’s homes and seizing properties.

Fuel, money, aid supplies and vehicles belonging to a humanitarian convoy were stolen, with theft occurring both in areas controlled by the military and by the RSF, the statement said.

Birmingham gets first British Indian Lord Mayor

London: Birmingham has got its first British-Indian Lord Mayor in Councillor Chaman Lal after the local councillors of the West Midlands city of England chose him to represent it as its first citizen.

Lal, who is from the Ravidassia community of British Sikhs, was born in the village of Pakhowal in Hoshiarpur before he moved to the UK, where he has served as a local councillor for many years.

The Labour Party politician was first elected in 1994 and in the most recent local elections was re-elected Councillor for the Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward.“It is a very proud moment for me and our family, as a son of an army officer born in India, but made in Birmingham,” Lal said in his acceptance speech at a mayoral ceremony last week. “I am an adopted Brummie, and I never thought that one day I would become the Lord Mayor of my adopted city. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for electing me as their first citizen which happens to be the highest civic role,” he said.

Many evacuated as Philippines warns of floods, landslides

Manila (AP): Philippine officials began evacuating thousands of villagers, shut down schools and offices and imposed a no-sail ban Monday as Typhoon Mawar approached the country’s northern provinces a week after battering the US territory of Guam.

The typhoon is packing maximum sustained winds of 155 kpm and gusts of up to 190 kph but is forecast to spare the northern mountainous region a direct hit. Current projections show the typhoon veering northeast by mid-week toward Taiwan or southern Japan.

Authorities warned of dangerous tidal surges, flash floods and landslides as it blows past Cagayan and the northernmost province of Batanes from Tuesday to Wednesday. Gusty winds lashed eastern villages of Cagayan on Monday, causing an old and unoccupied warehouse in a wharf to collapse and prompting more villagers to move to evacuation centres.

Nearly 5,000 people have sought shelter in Cagayan, Batanes and other provinces, said Assistant Secretary Raffy Alejandro of the Office of Civil Defence. He said the number was expected to rise given the precautionary evacuations that

were underway in flood- and landslide-prone regions. Classes and office work, except those involved in disaster-preparedness, have been suspended. Flights to and from the provinces have been cancelled and fishing and passenger vessels prohibited from sailing.

PUBLIC NOTICE


Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Rajkumari w/o Mr. Chandrawali who is purchasing the Plot area measuring 41 sq. yards, out of Khasra no. 136, Village Mavai, Bhim Nagar, Pargana Loni Tehsil & District Ghaziabad (U.P.), from Mr. Vishnu Dutt Sharma S/o Mr. Deep Chand Sharma, who had owner through Khatauni Record, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim right/ title/ interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301 Contact #0120-4269379

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No.: MD/SPG-I/2/2022/667 Date: 25.05.2023
Name of the Work: Supply of 01 no. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) (Drone) System for Paradip Port Authority including Installation, Commissioning, Certification, test, trial and training for a period of Five years (Comprehensive Warranty of 02 Years + Annual Maintenance Contract for 03 Years) including Buy Back. Estimated cost: **Rs.136.15,000/- Plus GST.** Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is **15:00 hours on Dt.20/06/2023.** Technical Bids shall be opened at 16:00 hours on Dt.21/06/2023. For further details, please log on to the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Sd/-Deputy Conservator, Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/17/2023-24
ctd.29.05.2023

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
E & M DEPARTMENT
PLANNING & DESIGN CELL
No.EMPD-11/2022/761 Date: 19/05/2023
CORRIGENDUM-IV
4th CORRIGENDUM to e-tender Call Notice (TCN) No. EMPD-19/2022 issued vide No. EMPD-11/2022/758, Dt.14/02/2023 for the work "Implementation and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of Port Access Control System (PACS) at Paradip Port Authority". The date and time of submission of tender are hereby extended as per the following schedule: (i) Document download end date: 11/06/2023, 18:00 hrs., (ii) Bid submission and date: 11/06/2023, 16:00 hrs., (iii) Last date of submission of cost of Tender document/Tender fee through NET/ATIS (as per Clause No. 17 of IIB): 11/06/2023, 18:00hrs., (iv) Bid opening date: 12/06/2023, 16:00 Hrs. (v) Clarification to the fresh queries received against Corrigendum-III are annexed as Annexure-I. No further query over the tender document and other details vide different Corrigenda published, shall be entertained thereafter for any clarification. Detailed Tender document is available at the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for online bidding. **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Planning & Design Cell, Electrical & Mechanical Department**
PPA/PR-16/2023-24
Date: 29/05/2023

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No.: MD/SPG-I/2/2022/667 Date: 25.05.2023
Name of the Work: Supply of 01 no. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) (Drone) System for Paradip Port Authority including Installation, Commissioning, Certification, test, trial and training for a period of Five years (Comprehensive Warranty of 02 Years + Annual Maintenance Contract for 03 Years) including Buy Back. Estimated cost: **Rs.136.15,000/- Plus GST.** Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is **15:00 hours on Dt.20/06/2023.** Technical Bids shall be opened at 16:00 hours on Dt.21/06/2023. For further details, please log on to the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Sd/-Deputy Conservator, Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/17/2023-24
ctd.29.05.2023

<div>  Origo Commodities India Private Limited (CIN No. U51103DL2011PTC213352) Regd. Office- FK-06, Somdatt Chamber - I, 5, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066 Email: info@origoindia.com, Phone No. +91124 4934750 Statement of Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for year ended March 31, 2023 [Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015] <i>Amount (In Lakhs)</i> </div>									
S. No	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		For the quarter ended		For the Year ended		For the quarter ended		For the year ended	
		March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2021
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1.	Total Income	33,566.02	16,428.87	128,839.20	51,766.26	36,114.86	24,843.31	148,372.74	70,305.75
2.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items#)	-1,307.41	540.84	-2,851.24	1,406.11	-1,271.81	474.92	-3,273.25	1,018.56
3.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items#)	-1,307.41	540.84	-2,851.24	1,406.11	-1,271.81	474.92	-3,273.25	1,018.56
4.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items#)	-1,174.86	390.92	-2,424.46	937.56	-1,161.70	336.05	-2,942.94	594.23
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-1,151.41	386.76	-2,392.79	948.5	-1,137.18	334.3	-2,906.96	614.79
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90
7.	Reserves * (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	4,725.22	6,961.33	4,725.22	6,961.33	1,872.89	4,612.23	1,872.89	4,612.23
8.	Securities Premium Account	6,667.22	6,667.22	6,667.22	6,667.22	6,667.22	6,667.22	6,667.22	6,667.22
9.	Net worth	16,841.35	19,077.45	16,841.35	19,077.45	13,989.01	16,728.35	13,989.01	16,728.35
10.	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	0.26	0.32	0.26	0.32	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	4,843,706	4,843,706	4,843,706	4,843,706	4,843,706	4,843,706	4,843,706	4,843,706
12.	Debt Equity Ratio *	1.26	0.9	1.26	0.9	0.78	0.36	1.69	1.44
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -								
	1.Basic:	-1.79	0.72	-4.08	1.72	-1.88	0.62	-4.95	1.11
	2.Diluted:	-1.91	0.66	-4.02	1.58	-1.84	0.57	-4.87	1.02
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-0.05	0.27	0.15	0.61	-0.08	0.11	0.13	0.42
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	-0.26	2.50	0.32	2.01	-0.18	1.97	0.30	1.71
Note: 1.The above is an extract of the format of Audited Standalone and Consolidated financial results filed with Bombay Stock Exchange ("BSE") under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the annual financial results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange(s) i.e. BSE Limited and the listed entity, www.origoindia.com & https://www.bseindia.com . 2.For the other line items of Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to BSE and can be accessed on the URL www.origoindia.com & https://www.bseindia.com . 3.The impact on net profit / loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s) due to change(s) in accounting policies shall be disclosed by means of a footnote. 4.The above Financial Results have been approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on May 26, 2023 and have been audited by the Statutory Auditors of the Company in accordance with the requirement of Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations). 5.Segment Information as per Ind-AS 108, 'Operating Segments' is disclosed in Segment reporting. 6.# - Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable. 7.* - Includes Retained Earnings, Other Comprehensive Income and Equity component of Compound financial instruments. For and on behalf of Origo Commodities India Pvt. Ltd. Date: 30.05.2023 Place: Gurgaon									
For Origo Commodities India Pvt Ltd Name: Mayank Dhankua (Whole Time Director) DIN:02572510									



People from the mountaineering community, Sherpa guides and officials participate in a rally to mark the 70 anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest in Kathmandu, Nepal on Monday

AP

a record 28 times, and Sanu Sherpa, who climbed all the world’s 14 highest peaks twice. Hari Budha Magar, who became the first double above-

the-knee amputee to climb Everest, was also honoured by Nepal’s Tourism Minister Sushila Sirpali Thakuri. On the occasion, a silver badge

encrypted with the logo of Everest was distributed to dozens of Nepalese and foreign Everest summitters.

Those receiving the badge include an Indian citizen, who climbed the 8,848.86 metres-high Everest in 2021.

Russian, North American and French climbers were also bestowed with this honour.

“For the first time, we are honouring local and foreign climbers who have climbed Everest with medals,” Mohan Lamsal, the general secretary of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, said.

A special programme was also organised to honour the families of Norgay and Hillary, officials said. Since their herculean efforts seven decades ago, 7,621 mountaineers have scaled Everest.

RBI saw gaps in corporate governance at banks despite norms: Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank has found gaps in banks' corporate governance despite issuing guidelines on the matter, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Monday. Addressing directors of bank boards, Das said such gaps, which have been mitigated, could have caused "some degree of volatility". He also hit out strongly against "smart accounting" to conceal stress and bloat financial performance. "It is...A matter of concern that despite these guidelines on corporate governance, we have come across gaps in governance of certain banks, with the potential to cause some degree of volatility in the banking sector," Das said at the meeting specially convened by the

Reserve Bank.

Bank boards and management should not allow such gaps to creep in, he said, adding that the RBI has taken up such matters with the banks at an individual level in the past. It is the joint responsibility of the chairman of the board and the directors, both whole-time and non-executive or part-time directors, to ensure robust governance in banks, the governor noted. The RBI has also found banks adopting "smart accounting methods" to "artificially boost financial performance", Das said, revealing more about the modus operandi. Banks try to conceal the real status of stressed loans by getting two lenders together to evergreen each other's loans by

sale and buyback of loans or debt instruments, persuading good borrowers to enter into structured deals with a stressed borrower to conceal the stress, adjust borrower's repayment obligations by using internal or office accounts, he said. "We have also come across a few examples where one method of evergreening, after being pointed out by the regulator, was replaced by another method. Such practices beg the question as to whose interest such smart methods serve. I have mentioned these instances to sensitise all of you to keep a watch on such practices," he said. Without naming any particular case, Das said the RBI has noticed the dominance of chief executives in board discussions and decision-making



and rued that the boards do not assert themselves. "We would not like this type of situation to develop. At the same time, there should not be a situation where the CEO is inhibited from doing his duties," he added. Das advised banks to be cautious in the pursuit of their growth strategies, pricing and

while the Reserve Bank has nudged banks to adjust their business strategies in some cases where they were creating "avoidable vulnerabilities" by being aggressive, the central bank does not interfere in the commercial decision-making of the banks. Employees cannot be rewarded for increasing short-term profits without adequate recognition of the risks and long-term consequences, Das said. In the remarks that come weeks after turbulence in the American banking sector, Das also asked bank boards to be wary about basic aspects like asset-liability mismatches, saying as suboptimal ALM can lead to serious liquidity risks and destabilising effects on the bank itself. "...Developments in the

USA have also demonstrated that aggressive growth strategies with disproportionate or excessive focus on the bottom lines and/or market capitalisation often leads to build up of vulnerabilities," he said. He was quick to add that the Indian banking sector is "strong and stable" with capital buffers at 16.1 per cent, gross non-performing assets at 4.41 per cent and provision coverage ratio at 73.20 per cent at the end of December 2022. "It is in times such as these that complacency may set in. We have to bear in mind that risks often get overlooked or forgotten when things are going well. Therefore, boards of directors of banks and their senior management should maintain a constant vigil on external

risks and build-up of internal vulnerabilities, if any," he said. Meanwhile, the RBI in a statement said that the governor acknowledged the role played by the banks in supporting the economy and maintaining resilience, along with improved financial performance in the face of several adverse shocks in recent times. He exhorted the directors of banks to further strengthen the governance and assurance functions (risk management, compliance and internal audit) so that the banks are able to identify and mitigate risks at an early stage. The governor also emphasised the need for banks to ensure continued financial and operational resilience, the statement said.

Sebi levies ₹15L fine on an individual for violating norms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday slapped a fine of Rs 15 lakh on an individual for illegally mobilising funds from the public through a collective investment scheme in the matter of Alchemist Infra Realty Ltd.

In addition, the regulator asked Balvir Singh (individual) to pay the penalty within 45 days.

In the matter related to Alchemist Infra, Sebi initiated adjudication proceedings against Alchemist and its directors, including Singh, for the violation of CIS (Collective Investment Scheme) rules.

In February 2021, the markets watchdog passed an order and slapped a fine of Rs 1 crore on Alchemist and its directors, including Balvir Singh, as they were engaged in fund mobilising activity from the public by floating and launching collective investment schemes without obtaining registration from the regulator.

The order came after the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) set aside Sebi's order



against Singh for violating CIS norms and directed the markets watchdog to pass a fresh one.

Sebi's Adjudicating Officer Soma Majumder said, "I find that Noticee (Balvir Singh), being a director of Alchemist during the period from April 2008 to February 2009, was responsible for the conduct of the firm, which engaged in fund mobilising activity from the public through investment contracts by floating/sponsoring/launching collective investment schemes without obtaining registration from the regulator during his tenure".

"Therefore, the allegation that Noticee has violated CIS regulations stands established,"

she added.

In a separate order, the regulator slapped fines totalling Rs 10 lakh on Bull Research Investment Advisors and its directors for flouting regulatory norms.

The order came after Sebi had conducted an examination of pending complaints in SCORES against Bull Research, a registered Investment Adviser under the markets regulator.

Ashif Shaikh, Vinit Satpute and Sandeep Kushwaha were the directors of Bull Research Investment Advisors.

The regulator issued the show cause notices to the noticees (Bull Research, Shaikh, Satpute and Kushwaha) in February 2023.

FDI equity inflows fell 22% to \$46 bn in 2022-23: DPIIT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India declined by 22 per cent to USD 46 billion in 2022-23, dragged by lower inflows in computer hardware and software, and automobile industry, according to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data.

The FDI inflows stood at USD 58.77 billion during 2021-22.

Total FDI inflows, which include equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital, declined by 16 per cent to USD 70.97 billion in the last fiscal as against USD 84.83 billion in 2021-22.

During April-March 2022-23, Singapore emerged as the top investor with USD 17.2 billion FDI.

It was followed by Mauritius (USD 6.13 billion), the US (USD 6 billion), the UAE (USD 3.35 billion), the Netherlands (USD 2.5 billion), Japan (USD 1.8 billion), UK (USD 1.73 billion), Cyprus (USD 1.27 billion), Cayman island (USD 772 million), and Germany (USD 547



million), the data showed.

The FDI inflows have contracted in 2022-23 from Mauritius, the US, the Netherlands, the Cayman Islands, and Germany.

Though the computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest inflows of USD 9.4 billion during the last financial year, these inflows are down as compared to USD 14.5 billion in 2021-22.

Similarly, FDI in the automobile industry dipped significantly to USD 1.9 billion in 2022-23 as compared to about USD 7 billion in 2021-22. The other sectors which recorded dip in the inflows in the last fiscal include construction (infrastructure) activities, and metallurgical industries.

However, the inflows have recorded growth in sectors including services (USD 8.7 billion), trading (USD 4.8 billion),

telecommunications (USD 713 million), pharma (USD 8.7 billion), 2 billion), and chemicals (USD 1.85 billion). State-wise, though Maharashtra received the highest inflows of USD 14.8 billion during the last financial year, the inflows are down as compared to USD 15.44 billion in 2021-22. Similarly the overseas inflows in Karnataka plunged to USD 10.42 billion in 2022-23 as against USD 22 billion in 2021-22. Other states/UTs where FDI dipped in 2022-23 include Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Telangana, and West Bengal. On the other hand, FDI in Gujarat has increased to USD 4.71 billion in 2022-23 as against USD 2.7 billion in 2021-22. FDI has also reported positive growth in Rajasthan. The FDI equity inflows declined in January, February and March in the last fiscal.

Tata Consumer to expand presence in southern India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Consumer Products Ltd is expanding its presence in the southern markets and focussing on building distribution channels in rural and semi-urban markets now, the company said in its latest annual report.

"We are expanding our presence in South India across tea, coffee, salt and spices with the launch of South-specific products to cater to regional consumers," said TCPL.

The company continues to "gain ground in the South" in tea and coffee. In tea, TCPL's Chakra Gold and Kanan Devan brands continued to make strong inroads into the south and Tata Coffee Grand was restaged with a new pack design. "We have identified the rural market as an area of opportunity and are focussing on building distribution in rural and semi-urban markets now. In salt, we launched Shuddh, a brand specifically targeted to the South market,"



said TCPL.

While in the spices category, TCPL launched a range of customised spices under the Tata Sampann brand for the southern market.

TCPL aspires to be a leading player in the FMCG industry by expanding its play in existing categories and venturing into new spaces, the annual report said.

Overall, In FY23, TCPL increased the direct distribution by 15 per cent to 1.5 million outlets pan India.

"This has allowed us to take our portfolio to a larger outlet universe with more impact. Tata Consumer currently has a direct reach of 1.5 million outlets across India, a 2x+ increase from two years ago," it noted.

G20 members to discuss common framework to define startups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

G20 member countries, including India and the US, are holding consultations to arrive at a common framework to define startups with a view to promoting the growth of new ventures, a senior official said. This issue among others would come up for discussion during the Startup20 Engagement Groups, under India's G20 presidency, third meeting on June 3-4 in Goa.

A common framework would help investors and other stakeholders of the startup ecosystem in the G20 member countries.

Briefing media about these meetings, Startup20 India Chair and Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog Chintan Vaishnav said that there are five task forces under this group - foundation, alliances, finance, inclusion, and sustainability.

"The idea of the foundation is to come up with a start-up definition framework which



is applicable across different economies. When you talk about the global startup ecosystems coming together, working together, becoming interoperable, you realize that there are no common definitions of startups across these nations," he told reporters here.

The attempt is to provide a framework of choices from which a country can create a definition, he added.

Under alliances, the countries are trying to ensure that there is some form of platform to promote cooperation between key stakeholders of startup ecosystem such as incubators, and regulators.

Similarly, the idea of the finance task force is to unlock financing of startups in general for nations to invest in these enterprises and also cross-border investments.

"There are many other financial issues like taxation of startups is a very major issue across the world," he said adding in the inclusion part, "we are trying to focus" on marginalised groups and empowering these groups by following best global practices.

Further, the idea of the sustainability task force is to say which are those startups that

are willing to be measured by SDGs (sustainable development goals).

When asked about the possible outcomes from the summit meeting at Gurugram on July 3-4, he said it included adoption of policy commune on startups; a common framework to define startups; there is hope that there will be a global innovation centre or a global network of innovation centre that would implement what Startups 20 group wants to take forward into action.

"Also a network of global points of contact. If a startup wants to go to another country, is there a way to enter into that ecosystem? Some kind of common financing of startups, how much money to allocate, how do you invest across borders; and mechanisms to support these marginalised communities and also support those startups that help the world achieve the SDGs," he added.

"We are hoping for such kind of outcomes," Vaishnav said.

Under India's G20 presidency, Startup20 serves as a prime opportunity to foster collaboration, exchange ideas, and shape the future of startups and entrepreneurship on a global scale.

The focal point of the meeting will be to build consensus on the Draft Policy Communique, which the Startup20 recently published asking the public for feedback.

The meeting will feature a startup showcase, exciting talks as part of the Startup20x series, cultural experiences, and discussions on the implementation and benefits of the ideas outlined in the document.

Dignitaries from state, central, and international levels are expected to be present at the meeting, adding to the significance of the event.

The last date for providing views on the draft was May 27. The final version of the Policy Communique will incorporate the valuable inputs received from stakeholders across nations.

BHEL logs over 17% rise in new orders in 2022-23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-run engineering firm Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) logged over 17 per cent growth in new orders bagged in 2022-23 to Rs 23,548 crore compared to the previous year due to its diversified business approach.

BHEL secured new orders worth Rs 20,078 crore in 2021-22, according to a company statement.

"BHEL secured orders worth Rs 23,548 Crore (excluding taxes) during 2022-23 in its power, industry and export segments and the company ended the year with a total order book of over Rs 91,336 crore (excluding taxes)," it stated.

The latest outstanding order book has crossed Rs 1,00,000 crore (excluding taxes) with the finalisation of the prestigious Vande Bharat trainset order in April 2023, it explained.



The BHEL-TWL (BHEL-Titagarh Wagons Ltd.) consortium has been awarded an order valued at about Rs 23,000 crore (excluding taxes) for 80 Vande Bharat Trains in one of the biggest Railway tenders for manufacturing-cum-maintenance of Vande Bharat Trains.

This order will give further impetus to the company's diversification drive, it pointed out.

As part of its diversification strategy, BHEL has also leveraged its Pressurised

Fluidised Bed Gasification technology for coal gasification and has entered into MoUs (memorandum of understanding) with Coal India and NLC India for development of coal gasification projects.

During the fiscal year, the BHEL commissioned 1,580 MW of power-generating equipment, in addition to synchronising captive/solar projects of 298 MW.

With this, the company's global installed power generating capacity has gone up to 195 GW.

Sensex, Nifty extend gains to 3rd day on global scrip rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rose for a third straight day on Monday amid positive trends in the US markets and continuous foreign fund inflows. Rising for a third session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 344.69 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 62,846.38 as 20 of its constituents ended in the green. During the day, it jumped 524.31 points or 0.83 per cent to 63,026.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 99.30 points or 0.54 per cent to end at 18,598.65 with 34 of its components closing in green.

In the three days of gains, Sensex rose by 1,072 points or 1.8 per cent while Nifty spurred by 313 points or 2 per cent. From the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra climbed 3.71 per cent after the



company reported an 18 per cent jump in its consolidated profit for the March quarter and the highest-ever annual profit of Rs 10,282 crore in FY23.

Titan, Tata Steel, HDFC, UltraTech Cement, State Bank of India, TFC, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, HDFC Bank and Bajaj Finserv were the other major gainers. HCL Technologies, Power Grid, Maruti, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Hindustan Unilever were the laggard.

"The domestic benchmarks experienced a strong rally and came close to life-time highs, primarily driven by positive global cues and robust predictions of domestic economic growth..

"An in-principle approval from US leaders for raising the US debt ceiling has generated optimism among global investors, who are now anticipating the next monetary plan of the Fed and economic data points," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Banks need to improve digitalisation and keep vigil on stressed asset: MoS Finance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad on Monday said banks need to focus on digitalisation and keep a vigil on stressed loans.

Bank should also undertake financial literacy and financial inclusion activities, he said after inaugurating the zonal office of ESAF Small Finance Bank here.

Karad said banks should do timely recognition of non-performing assets and make adequate provisions so that the banking system remains healthy. Emphasising on use of technology, he said, it is the future and there is need to promote digital banking.

Speaking on the occasion, ESAF Small Finance Bank managing director K Paul Thomas said the bank has special focus on agriculture sector.

The bank signed an agree-



ment with Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited for providing crop insurance.

The bank, which has nearly 600 branches spread across 21 states, recorded over four-fold jump in net profit to Rs 302.33 crore for the year ended March 31, 2023. The bank earned a profit of Rs 54.73 crore a year ago.

Total business (including advances under collection management) increased by 23.22 per cent to Rs 30,996.89 crore, compared to Rs 25,155.76 crore in the preceding year.

Rupee falls 4 paise to close at 82.64 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 4 paise to close at 82.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking a strong American currency against major rivals overseas.

However, a firm trend in domestic equities, foreign capital inflows and lower crude prices restricted the fall in the domestic unit, forex traders said. Meanwhile, the dollar strengthened as investors were upbeat on the tentative agreement between US President Joe Biden and Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on the debt ceiling, which is likely to face voting on Wednesday before getting sealed.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 82.57 against the US dollar. During intra-day, the Indian currency touched the peak of 82.51 and the lowest level of 82.67.

The currency finally settled

at 82.64 (provisional) against the US dollar, registering a fall of 4 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee closed at 82.60 against the US currency.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.02 per cent to 104.23.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 0.40 per cent to USD 76.64 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 344.69 points or 0.55 per cent to close at 62,846.38 points, and the broader NSE Nifty rose 99.30 points or 0.54 per cent to 18,598.65 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital market on Friday as they purchased shares worth Rs 350.15 crore, according to exchange data.

Gold falls ₹110; silver jumps ₹290



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices softened by Rs 110 to Rs 59,965 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid a fall in the metal's prices overseas, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had settled at Rs 60,075 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver, however, jumped Rs 290 to Rs 73,040 per kg.

"Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at Rs 59,965 per 10 grams, down Rs 110 per 10 grams," Samuil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Real Sociedad seal Champions League place

AP ■ MADRID

Real Sociedad fell to a 2-1 defeat at Atletico Madrid on Sunday but still sealed qualification for next season's Champions League after Villarreal were beaten 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano.

Imanol Alguacil's Basque outfit finished fourth in La Liga despite defeat only thanks to Villarreal losing too.

Espanyol were relegated from the top flight after Valencia's Samuel Lino struck a stoppage-time equaliser in a gripping 2-2 draw.

One other side will go down along with already-relegated Elche on the final day of the season, with Real Valladolid currently 18th, a point from safety, after they drew 0-0 at Almeria.

Celta Vigo lost 1-0 at Cadiz and are 17th, a point from safety, along with Almeria.

"To get to this situation we have done many things wrong, but I think sincerely, from the most self-critical position personally and as a group, that we don't deserve this in this way," Espanyol midfielder Sergi Darder told Movistar.

"Above all, we want to say sorry. We have such a big club badge that in many moments, we haven't represented. I'm the first to be angry, but have no doubt we will be back."

Antoine Griezmann and Nahuel Molina struck for Atletico in their win over Real Sociedad, who struggled to create much of note, perhaps aware of Villarreal's struggles.

Eventually Alexander Sorloth



pulled one back for the visitors at the Metropolitano to give them something to celebrate as they achieved their European goal.

"I would have liked to be able to celebrate qualifying another way, but we have had a great season and are very happy," Real Sociedad striker Mikel Oyarzabal told Movistar.

"We have to celebrate, the fans should enjoy it, and next Sunday we can have a party at home, a celebration -- we'll do all we can to win that game and end things well."

Victory leaves Atletico third, a point behind Real Madrid.

Villarreal will play in the Europa League next season, along with Real Betis, sixth, who beat Girona 2-1.

Osasuna, who fell to a late 2-1 defeat by Getafe which took the Madrid side two points clear of the relegation zone, are seventh and currently in line to qualify for the Conference League.

However Athletic Bilbao, Girona, Rayo and Sevilla remain in contention for the spot.

CAMP NOU BOWS OUT

La Liga champions Barcelona enjoyed a series of emotional goodbyes in their final match at Camp Nou before the stadium is rebuilt, thrashing Real Mallorca 3-0.

Captain Sergio Busquets and defender Jordi Alba also played at home for the last time, in the club's penultimate league match of the season, and were awarded warm farewells by the sell-out crowd.

Ansu Fati struck twice in the first half and Gavi added one after the

break as the Catalans triumphed in style.

Marc-Andre ter Stegen earned his 26th clean sheet of the season, equalling the all-time record in the division, set by Deportivo La Coruna's Francisco Liano in the 1993-94 campaign.

The only bad news for Barcelona came when defender Alejandro Balde was taken off injured in the first half -- he will be out for at least six weeks and miss Spain's Nations League final four games in June.

Camp Nou, inaugurated in September 1957, has been one of football's most iconic stadiums since then.

Alba departed in tears when he was substituted in the final stages with the crowd chanting his name, while Busquets followed and was given an ovation of his own.

The duo could yet appear in Barcelona's final game of the season at Celta Vigo next weekend, but for nearly 90,000 supporters, this is the end of an era.

Busquets has won La Liga nine times and the Champions League on three occasions, making over 700 appearances for the club.

Alba departs with six La Liga trophies and one Champions League triumph among other silverware.

The duo both gave speeches on the pitch after the game.

"Since I was little I've dreamed of playing a game in this stadium that we're saying goodbye to temporarily," said Busquets.

"We're already the best club in the world, with the best players, and now we'll have a stadium on that level."

Giroud seals win at Juve and CL spot for Milan



AP ■ MILAN

Olivier Giroud secured Champions League qualification for AC Milan with the only goal in Sunday's 1-0 win at troubled Juventus.

Giroud guided home a brilliant header from Davide Calabria's cross in the 40th minute to guarantee Milan at least fourth place and complete Italy's line-up in Europe's top club competition next season.

It was the one moment of quality in an otherwise drab match in Turin in which little of consequence happened apart from Giroud's 12th league goal of the season.

Stefano Pioli's side, who were knocked out of this year's Champions League in the semi-finals by Inter Milan, join their local rivals, Lazio and champions Napoli on the continent's big stage.

They are six points ahead of fifth-placed Atalanta with one match left in what has been a long season and one in which their title defence collapsed after the World Cup.

"This was the first time we truly tried to be competitive in two tournaments and we were lacking something," said Pioli. "We can enjoy the win and qualification, but it was a strange season for many reasons."

Juve meanwhile stay seventh and in the Europa Conference League spot after being deducted 10 points for illicit transfer activity by the Italian Football Federation on Monday.

Massimiliano Allegri's side can still reach the Europa League spots as they are one point behind Roma in sixth, although the spectre of more punishment for financial irregularities hangs over the Turin giants.

LECCE SAFE

Lecce ensured Serie A survival after late penalty drama gave them a 1-0 win over Monza, while a crushing late draw with Empoli took Verona's survival battle to the final day.

Lorenzo Colombo rammed home the spot-kick which maintained Lecce's Serie A status in the 11th minute of stoppage time after Christian Gytkjaer

was penalised for handball following a VAR check.

Former Denmark forward Gytkjaer had a penalty of his own saved by Wladimir Falcone with six minutes of regular time remaining.

That allowed Colombo to fire Lecce five points clear of the drop zone and cause coach Marco Baroni to sink to his knees in joy and grief for his recently deceased father.

"I thought about my father because I lost him recently... I felt him by my side in that moment," Baroni told DAZN.

Verona sit in the final relegation spot after a gut-wrenching Giangiacomo Magnani own goal in the sixth minute of injury time which snatched a 1-1 draw for safe Empoli.

They are level on 31 points with 17th-placed Spezia, whom they might have to face in a play-off devised this season to decide who ends up in 18th place between teams who finish on the same points.

OSIMHEN NOT ENOUGH

Victor Osimhen's brace wasn't enough for Napoli as the newly-crowned Italian champions threw away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with Bologna.

Nigeria forward Osimhen took his season's tally to 30 in all competitions with finishes in the 14th and 54th minutes. However Lewis Ferguson pulled one back in the 63rd minute and Lorenzo De Silvestri headed the hosts level in his final home match as a Bologna player.

Napoli won their first league title since 1990 this season but owner Aurelio De Laurentiis said that coach Luciano Spalletti will leave to take a year's sabbatical.

"He's a free man, he's given us something and I thank him, it's right that he does what he wants," said De Laurentiis to state broadcaster Rai.

Mbappé wins his 4th Ligue 1 player of the year award

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe was voted the Ligue 1 player of the season for the fourth successive time Sunday after helping Paris Saint-Germain win a record 11th French title.

The France star has scored 28 goals in the league this term and is on course to finish as the division's top scorer for the fifth season running.

"It's a pleasure, I always wanted to win, to write my name into the league's history. But even with all the ambition I have I didn't expect to win

so quickly," said Mbappe on receiving his award.

Mbappe, scorer of 40 goals this campaign, snubbed Real Madrid at the end of last season and signed a new three-year contract to stay with PSG.

According to reports, the 24-year-old's contract will run out next year unless he exercises an option to stay until 2025.

Asked about his future at the awards ceremony, Mbappe replied: "I will be here again next season."

He is the first four-time winner of a prize first awarded in 1994, sur-



passing Zlatan Ibrahimovic who won the accolade on three occasions with PSG.

Franck Haise of Lens was named coach of the season after leading the club to second place and a return to Champions League football for the first time in two decades.

Lens goalkeeper Brice Samba was also honoured while Paris Saint-Germain left-back Nuno Mendes earned the best young player award.

He was one of four PSG players in the team of the season alongside Mbappe, Lionel Messi and Achraf Hakimi.

Klopp won't take break from management despite Liverpool's troubled season

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Jurgen Klopp insists he does not need a break from management as he looks to put Liverpool back on track after their troubled season.

Klopp's side missed out on Champions League qualification after finishing outside the top four for the first time in a full season under his leadership.

A 4-4 draw at Southampton on the last day of the season stretched Liverpool's unbeaten top-flight run to 11 games, but they had to settle for a fifth-place finish in the Premier League.

Klopp is the Premier League's longest-serving manager and there had been claims the intense German might be willing to walk away from Liverpool due to burn-out.

But, asked if he needs time off from football, Klopp said: "No, no, no, not at all. Honestly, I'm completely fine."

"If you'd asked me 11 games ago, 'do you want to have a break?', I would have thought about it, to be honest."

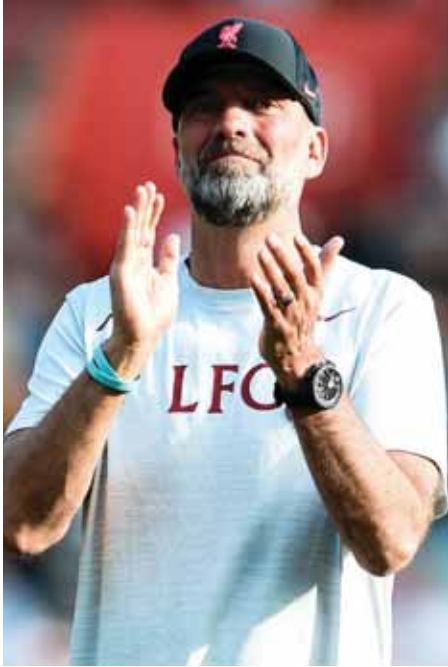
"But I'm absolutely fine, full of energy, I have a break - I don't have training and these kind of things."

"I will find time to reenergise and then we start again in July."

Liverpool's fifth-placed finish was their lowest since they finished eighth in 2015-16, the season during which Klopp replaced Brendan Rodgers at Anfield.

Despite their difficulties, Klopp takes heart from the way his squad stuck together during some difficult moments.

"There is not a lot to learn (from the season) but a lot of clubs when the expectations are as high as ours when things don't go well pretty quickly



you start blaming each other," he said.

"That didn't happen here. The better you behave in a crisis, the better you get out of it - and I really thought that was the case for us."

"We're really, really not happy about it and for a club like us it's massive not to qualify for the Champions League."

"If we improve, we are all of a sudden again a team nobody wants to play against and that's what we have to become again."

Leicester face major changes after relegation, says Evans

AP ■ LEICESTER

Leicester defender Jonny Evans admits the former Premier League champions face major changes after their relegation to the Championship.

Evans' team were condemned to the second tier on Sunday after Everton's 1-0 win against Bournemouth rendered the Foxes' 2-1 victory over West Ham irrelevant.

Leicester are only the second former Premier League champions after Blackburn to the relegated from the top-flight.

Their fairytale title success seven years ago seems a distant memory as they face up to a first season in the Championship since 2014.

A large number of players including Evans and Youri Tielemans are out of contract and likely to leave the King Power Stadium in the close-season.

England midfielder James Maddison and talented winger Harvey Barnes look set to be sold to help balance the expected financial losses of at least £60 million (\$74 million).

Leicester boss Dean Smith also faces an uncertain future, with his short-term contract set to expire after he replaced Brendan Rodgers in April.

Former Manchester United



centre-back Evans, 35, revealed the Leicester squad had said their goodbyes in the dressing room ahead of a likely close-season exodus.

"It is a tough thing to take. There was silence for a long time in the dressing room afterwards. We know there are a lot of players out of contract," he said.

"There are going to be a lot of changes in the football club. It was an opportunity for everybody to say goodbye really. A lot of us don't know where we are going to end up."

"I said to the boys it has been an amazing five years but the club now have decisions to make."

"I don't think they probably know what they are going to do."

Djoker battles into French Open 2nd round

AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic started his bid for a men's record 23rd Grand Slam singles title with a straight-sets victory over Aleksandar Kovacevic in the French Open first round on Monday.

Two-time Roland Garros champion Djokovic held off a late rally from his American opponent on Court Philippe Chatrier to clinch a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) victory. He has still not lost in his opening match of a major since the 2006 Australian Open.

"I'm very motivated to stay in this tournament for a long time, it's just the start now," said Djokovic after kicking off his 19th consecutive French Open campaign. "I'm happy. I've started well and hope I can improve further for the next match."

The 36-year-old will face Hungarian Marton Fucsovics, who he has beaten four times in as many meetings, in the second round. Djokovic is only seeded third at Roland Garros this year despite

the absence of his great rival and 14-time winner Rafael Nadal through injury, behind world number one Alcaraz and Daniil Medvedev.

He is tied with Nadal for most men's Slam singles trophies and just one behind the 23 of Serena Williams. Margaret Court holds the all-time record of 24.

Kovacevic, the world number 114 playing in his first Grand Slam match, battled hard but could not put Djokovic under sustained pressure until it was too late.

Elsewhere, Canadian 10th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime suffered a third defeat at the opening hurdle in four visits to Roland Garros as he lost 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 to Fabio Fognini.

The unpredictable Italian, who himself has lost in the first round six times in nine tournaments so far this season, pulled off a shock win on Court Simonne Mathieu. The world number 52 will next face Australian Jason Kubler.

British 14th seed Cameron Norrie



came through a five-set thriller on Court Suzanne Lenglen to beat home wildcard Benoit Paire 7-5, 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Last year's Wimbledon semi-finalist will take on resurgent Frenchman Lucas Pouille for a third-round berth.

Canadian Denis Shapovalov scraped past Brandon Nakashima 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3.

Chinese hopes of a first men's singles match win at the French Open since 1937 were dashed as Wu Yibing lost 7-6 (7/4), 6-1, 6-1 to Robert Bautista Agut and Shang Juncheng was beaten 4-6, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 by Juan Pablo Varillas.

Zhang Zhizhen is the third and final Chinese man in action later Monday.

In the women's draw, former runner-up Sloane Stephens dumped out 16th seed Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-4.

Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, the losing finalist in 2021, brushed aside Czech teenager Linda Fruhvirtova 6-2, 6-2. Croatian 22nd seed Donna Vekic and American Madison Keys also secured their places in round two.

Chelsea hire Pochettino as new club manager

AP ■ LONDON

Chelsea hired Mauricio Pochettino as their new manager on Monday as the Argentine accepted the daunting task of reviving the troubled Premier League club.

Pochettino agreed a two-year contract with an option for an additional year and will return to the Premier League four years after being sacked by Chelsea's London rivals Tottenham. The 51-year-old had been out of work since being dismissed by Paris Saint-Germain in July 2022.

"Mauricio is a world-class coach with an outstanding track record. We are all looking forward to having him on board," Chelsea co-owners Todd Boehly



and Behdad Eghbali said in a statement.

Pochettino, who will begin his new role on July 1, replaces Frank Lampard after the former England midfielder returned to Chelsea as caretaker boss until the end of the season.

Lampard was Chelsea's third manager of a dismal cam-

paign that featured Boehly sacking Thomas Tuchel in September and then axing his successor Graham Potter in April after less than seven months in charge.

Pochettino emerged as the favourite after Chelsea held talks with the former Spain manager Luis Enrique and Julian Nagelsmann, who was sacked by Bayern Munich in March.

Pochettino verbally agreed to take charge at Chelsea in April, but the appointment was put on hold until the end of the season.

With the Blues wrapping up their lacklustre Premier League campaign with a draw against Newcastle on Sunday, Pochettino flew into England to officially seal the deal.

SUDHARSAN'S 96 TAKES GT TO 214/4

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

B Sai Sudharsan led the charge with a terrific 96 as defending champions Gujarat Titans set Chennai Super Kings an imposing target of 215 in the IPL final here on Monday.

Sudharsan struck eight fours and six sixes to make his runs from a mere 46 balls, forging crucial partnerships along the way and helping GT find their feet in the summit clash, after Shubman Gill perished for 39 and Wriddhiman Saha failed to go beyond his half-century.

Put in to bat, Gujarat Titans posted a formidable 214/4. A big moment arrived in the game as early as in the second over when Tushar Deshpande had Gill flicking a delivery on the leg side, as if executing a well-planned delivery, but with no success.

Deepak Chahar, positioned at short fine leg, spilled a regulation chance but Gill also could not hurt CSK the way he did Mumbai Indians a few nights ago, here.

Saha piled further pressure on the bowler, collecting 16 runs off the third over and providing the Titans momentum.

Gill followed with three consecutive fours off Deshpande, but Chahar's poor luck continued when spilled a tough return catch off Saha's bat.

The two drops indeed proved costly as GT reached 62 for no loss after the powerplay.

However, the brilliance of MS Dhoni ended Gill's sensational IPL with the bat, stumping the batter for a 20-ball 39 (7x4s) off Ravindra Jadeja (4-0-38-1) in the seventh over.

With 890 runs in 17 matches with three centuries and four fifties, an average of 59.33 and strike rate of 157.80, the 23-year-old Gill finished with the second best performance for any batter in IPL history.

Saha brought up his second fifty of this IPL in the 13th over but his 64-run stand with B Sai Sudharsan ended in the 14th over, with Chahar getting him caught by Dhoni.

Saha hit five fours and a six to make 54 from 39 balls.

The second highest run-scorer for Gujarat Titans this season, Sudharsan accelerated to his third fifty in this IPL, bringing it up with consecutive fours off Matheesha Pathirana.

The young left-handed batter from Chennai recovered well from a sedate start to accelerate after the 14th-over mark, hitting three fours and a six off Deshpande and two sixes against Theekshana. In fact, Sudharsan was on 36 from 25 balls when Saha was dismissed, and on the next 21 balls he faced, the 21-year-old smacked 60 runs.

However, in the final over, Sudharsan's carnage ended as Pathirana pinned him in front of the wickets for his first breakthrough in the game. GT skipper Hardik Pandya scored an unbeaten 12-ball 21.



Sindhu, Srikanth eye good show in Thailand

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Following a decent show in Malaysia, star Indian shuttlers, including PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth, will look for consistency as they begin their campaign in the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

While Sindhu had reached the semi-finals last week, Srikanth signed off with a quarterfinal finish in Kuala Lumpur and the duo will look to go deep in the draw to keep their hopes of winning a title.

Double Olympic medallist Sindhu had come close to breaking her title jinx when she reached the finals of Madrid

Spain Masters but Srikanth has struggled since his epic run on way to the Thomas Cup victory last year.

The 27-year-old from Hyderabad, who slipped two places to world number 13 this week, will face Canada's Michelle Li in the opening round, while Srikanth will look to take a few tips from HS Prannoy when he takes on Malaysia Masters finalist Weng Hong Yang of China.

While a win for Sindhu is likely to put her face-to-face with China's sixth seed Wang Zhi Yi, Srikanth will have to compete with third-seeded Chinese Shi Yu Qi if he can cross the opening hurdle.

Lakshya Sen, who has slipped out of



the top 20 following a dismal run this season, will open against Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei. Sen had lost to Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong in straight games last week.

Orleans Masters winner Priyanshu Rajawat will also be in the fray this week when he squares off against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the opening round.

After skipping Malaysia Masters, India's top doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will be back in action this week, taking on France's Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar.

Men's pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala, women's pair of Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam are also in the fray.



Kohli joins Team India training ahead of WTC final

PTI ■ ARUNDEL

Batting mainstay Virat Kohli joined the national team's training session on Monday at the picturesque Arundel Castle Cricket Club along with left-arm seamer Jaydev Unadkat, who seemed to have recovered from left shoulder injury.

India will play Australia at the Oval in the one-off Test from June 7 to 11. The BCCI on Monday shared pictures of the members of the team, including Kohli, pace duo of Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Siraj on their official twitter handle.

"Team India members begin their preparations for the WTC23 at Arundel Castle Cricket Club," BCCI said in a tweet. While Kohli, Umesh and Siraj were seen jogging in their new training kit, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin could be seen rolling his arm over at the nets. Unadkat was also engaged in a discussion with head coach Rahul Dravid and bowling coach Paras Mhambrey. Cheteshwar Pujara, who has been playing for Sussex in the English

county circuit to prepare for the final, also was seen arriving in the training ground.

Umesh and Shardul Thakur were among the first batch of Indian players to arrive for the WTC final.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and young Mumbai opener Yashasvi Jaiswal have also reached, while the last batch including Ravindra Jadeja, Shubman Gill, Mohammad Shami, K S Bharat and Ajinkya Rahane, will be leaving on Tuesday following the IPL final in Ahmedabad. Jaiswal was included in the squad as a stand-by player after Ruturaj Gaikwad informed BCCI about him getting married on June 3-4.

India had finished runners-up in 2021 after losing the WTC final to Kane Williamson-led New Zealand by eight wickets in Southampton two years ago, India won't play any warm-up game as the English County Championship is on and also this being an ICC event, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is under no obligation to arrange practice matches for the visiting team.

Anderson, Robinson expected to be fit for England's Ashes bid

AP ■ LONDON

England head coach Brendon McCullum expects James Anderson and Ollie Robinson to be fit for the Ashes clash with Australia despite ruling the pace bowlers out of this week's Test against Ireland. Anderson strained his groin while on Lancashire duty and Robinson suffered an ankle issue playing for Sussex earlier this month.

The pair will remain sidelined when England host Ireland at Lord's in a four-day match prior to the first Ashes Test. The five-match series against Australia begins on June 16, but McCullum is confident Anderson and Robinson can return in time for the opener in Birmingham.

"For the first Ashes Test, I think they should be fit," McCullum said on Monday.

"They won't be fit for this one against Ireland. We'll just have to monitor it over this next sort of while, but we've got some great options right throughout the squad. "When I first took over this job, people said there wasn't much depth in English cricket and I disagree with that completely.

"I think there is an immense amount of depth and we've got plenty of good options throughout the squad." England already have fitness concerns over a number of other bowlers, with Jofra Archer and Olly Stone struggling with elbow and hamstring problems respectively.

With Anderson and Robinson ruled out, Stuart Broad will lead the bowling attack against Ireland but Mark Wood will have to be assessed before a final decision is made on his fitness. "He is bowling over there at the



moment and seems to be getting through his work so hopefully he will be fine too," McCullum said of Wood.

"We've still got a couple of days and will make the decision when we need to, but he seems to be progressing well."

All eyes were on captain Ben Stokes during England's training session on Monday.

There are doubts over how much he will bowl this summer following an Indian Premier League series where he only played twice and sent down just one over for Chennai Super Kings. McCullum remains positive the talismanic all-rounder can still make an impact with the ball. Asked if Stokes will bowl against Ireland, McCullum responded: "I don't know. You'll have to ask Stokes. He's progressing well too. "He looks really fit as well, looks in great order and has a big smile on his face.

"He is delighted to be back around the group and as our leader, having that sort of energy he brings is fantastic so again we'll monitor that and see what happens. "I think he'll bowl at some stage throughout the summer, yeah, no doubt.

"He is a world class all-rounder and if he is able to bowl, fantastic. If not, we'll find a way."

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit made before Executive Magistrate, Talcher, Vide AQ No- 1771 , dated-11/05/2023. I Pinky Agarwalla, aged about 44 years, W/o- Kishan Kumar Agrawalla, At- Ward No 5, Marwadi Pati, Po-Talcher Town, Ps-Talcher, Dist-Angul, Pin- 759107 declare that in my Aadhaar, PAN, Voter Id Card and Bank Passbook has been mentioned as Pinky Agarwalla. But in the Birth certificate of my daughter Kanchan Agarwal and son Sarthak Agarwal my name has been mentioned as Pinky Agarwal, I do hereby declare that Pinky Agarwalla & Pinky Agarwal, W/o- Kishan Kumar Agrawalla is one and same person for all purposes.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit made before Executive Magistrate, Talcher, vide AQ No- 1773 , dated-11/05/2023. I Roshan Kumar Agrawalla, aged about 39 years, S/o- Arjun Kumar Agrawalla, At- Ward No 5, Marwadi Pati, Po-Talcher Town, Ps-Talcher, Dist-Angul, Pin- 759107 declare that in my Aadhaar, PAN, Voter Id Card and Bank Passbook has been mentioned as Roshan Kumar Agrawalla. But in my H.S.C. Certificate, my name has been mentioned as Rosan Kumar Agrawalla, whereas my mother's name has been mentioned as Mamata Agrawalla instead of Mamata Devi Agarwal. Roshan Kumar Agrawalla and Rosan Kumar Agrawalla is one and same person and my mother Mamata Devi Agarwal, Mamata Agrawalla is also same and one person for all purposes.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit made before Executive Magistrate, Talcher, Vide AQ No- 1772 , dated-11/05/2023. I Kishan Kumar Agrawal, aged about 46 years, S/o- Arjun Kumar Agrawalla, At- Ward No 5, Marwadi Pati, Po-Talcher Town, Ps-Talcher, Dist-Angul, Pin- 759107 declare that in my Aadhaar, PAN, Voter Id Card and Bank Passbook has been mentioned as Kishan Kumar Agrawal. But in my Passport my name has been mentioned as Kisan Agrawalla, I do hereby declare that Kishan Kumar Agrawal & Kisan Agrawalla, S/o- Arjun Kumar Agrawalla is one and same person for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bhushan Power & Steel Limited

Notice is herewith given to all that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; has accorded Environmental Clearance as recommended by SEIAA during its 120th SEAC meetings with specific and Standard conditions for the Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore Block of M/s Bhushan Power & Steel Limited for iron-ore production with Total Excavation of 2.680 MTPA [2.0 MTPA (ROM)+ OB 0.680] along with 2x100 TPH Mobile Crusher in mine lease area of 139.223 ha located at Baladihi village, Koira Tehsil, Sundargarh District, Odisha on 26.05.2023 in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and further amendments thereto. Copies of the Environment clearance letter are available with the State Pollution control Board and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at www.parivesh.nic.in.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER M.I. DIVISION GANJAM NO-I, BERHAMPUR ODISHA INTEGRATED IRRIGATION PROJECT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE (OIIPCR)	
(WORLD BANK PROJECT ID : P163533) NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT FOR SMALL WORKS E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE	
Bid Identification No. : OIIPCR-W2-GM-I-01/2023-24	
Name of Work	: Civil Construction in Minor Irrigation Projects.
No of Work	: 13 (Thirteen)
Estimated Cost of works	: Varies from Rs 10.55 lakh to Rs 69.45 lakh
Cost Of Bid Document	: Free of Cost
Time for Completion	: 150 to 210 Days
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	: On dt. 17.06.2023 11.30 Hrs
Period for receipt of Bid	: From 30.05.2023 at 10.00 Hours to 29.06.2023 upto 15.00 Hours online
Payment of bid cost / bid security	: Shall be paid On-line through the E-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha
Date of opening of Technical Bids	: On dt. 29.06.2023 At 15.30 Hours onwards
Details about the tender	: Available in web site of www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.dowrodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of can also be seen in the said website
Name & Address of the OIT	: Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division Ganjam-I, Berhampur.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, M.I.Divn. Ganjam-I. Berhampur	
OIPR-32104/11/0003/2324	

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Office of the Executive Engineer N.H. Division, Bhubaneswar Email- ee-nh_bbsr@yahoo.co.in Ph No-0674-2972908 INVITATION FOR BIDS							
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 04 EE NH, BBSR of 2023-24							
The Executive Engineer, National Highways Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Governor of Orissa invites percentage rate bids in Single cover system on online mode for construction of works as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors as mentioned in Col. 7 registered with the State Govt. and Contractors of equivalent Grade or Class registered with Central Government/Other State Government/MES/Railways for execution of Civil Works, on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority.							
Sl No	Name of work	Approximate Estimated cost put to Tender	Concerned Sub-Division	Bid security EMD (online)	Cost of Bid documents (online)	Class of Bidder	Period of completion.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	"S/R to NH.316 (Puri-Satapada Link) such as laying 30mm thick BC from km 00/000 to 0/400, km 0/850 to 0/900 & 2/200 to 2/700km for the year 2023-24"	Rs 3316405/- (Excluding GST)	NH Sub Division, Puri	Rs 33164/-	Rs.6000/-	"C & B" Contractor	01(One) calendar month
The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. The web-site for "ONLINE BIDDING" is http://tendersodisha.gov.in .							
2. Bid documents will be available in above website from dt.01.06.2023 to dt.13.06.2023 up to 17.30 Hours. The cost of Bid document and EMD as stated in the DTCN shall be deposited in online as per instruction in the portal. Bids of the above work shall be opened at 11.30 hours on dt.16.06.2023. The bidder must possess matching class compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Further details and other terms and conditions can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in							
3. Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above.							
4. The authority reserves the right to cancel any/all bids without assigning any reason.							
OIPR-34044/11/0001/2324							
Executive Engineer N.H. Division, Bhubaneswar							