



Keonjhar: Odisha Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra and Secretary to CM (ST) VK Pandian on Friday reviewed various development projects in Keonjhar district. Mohapatra and Pandian arrived at Chimila and reviewed various projects, including the defunct Kanupur Irrigation Project near Basudevpur village.

Scams reported in nationalised banks higher than cooperative institutions: Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar

PUNE (KCN): Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday claimed that the number of scams taking place in nationalised

can fill that up. "If any small wrongdoing takes place at the level of cooperative banks, the sector is defamed to such an extent that a percep-

Rs 64,509 crore. The state finance minister refuted a report about scams to the tune of Rs 220 crore at cooperative banks and said that there were 118 cases of irregularities at urban cooperative banks in the country and the amount involved was Rs 127 crore.

The number of scams reported at nationalised banks was higher than frauds at cooperative banks, but no propaganda or hue and cry is raised about that, he said. Appealing for more transparency, professionalism and pro-people policies in the cooperative banking sector, Pawar said that any amount of irregularity is unacceptable. A few years ago, a

picture was painted that cooperative banks were being operated in a wrong way and allegations of corruption were being made, he said. "Allegations were made that sugar mills were sold cheaply. Enquiries were conducted by the ACB, EOW, CID, cooperative department and even by a retired judge of a high court, but nothing was established," Pawar said. He further said that there were discussions at the national level about merging nationalised banks, which will leave only seven or eight such institutions in the country. "If that happens, a big space will be created in the banking sector and urban cooperative banks can fill that space," Pawar said.



banks was higher than frauds reported in the cooperative banks. Speaking at an event organised by the Pune District Urban Cooperative Bank, Pawar, who is also the state finance minister, said there are discussions about merging nationalised banks, and the move will create a space in the banking sector and cooperative banks

tion is created among citizens that these people (from cooperative banking sector) indulge in wrong deeds," the minister said. Talking about the number of scams reported in banks, Pawar said that in 2018-19, a total of 3,766 cases of (irregularities) were reported in nationalised banks, involving amount to the tune of

CM Naveen Patnaik releases coffee table book 'Magic of Mangalajodi'

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released a coffee table book, 'The Magic of

commitment to the most beautiful bird paradise of Mangalajodi by showcasing its trea-

Patnaik also released a book, 'Sikh History of Eastern India' which is a rigorous research work of his-

Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Mohapatra, a scholar of Sikh history based in Odisha, has



Mangalajodi' here on Thursday. The book written by Avinash Khemka, a wildlife photographer and conservationist, provides a bird's eye view of Mangalajodi in Chilika through images and descriptions. Khemka said the book is a culmination of two long standing dreams, to fulfill a

sures through photographs and to have the book inaugurated by the Chief Minister. Appreciating the author for the book, the Chief Minister said the exemplary efforts put up by him to capture and portray life and essence of Mangalajodi in Chilika and its surrounding through the book is praiseworthy.

torian Abinash Mohapatra. It is a compilation of eight books authored by Mohapatra. The book is the result of an extensive study on Sikh history in the eastern parts of India. These books tell the history of Sikhs of Bihar, Assam, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh,

authored 38 books on Sikh history, theology and principles. The preface of the compilation is written by Sardar Gurbax Singh, junior vice-president, Shiromani G u r u d w a r a Parbandhak Committee, Sri Amritsar Sahib.

FM Sitharaman meets heads of FedEx, Mastercard, others during US visit

WASHINGTON (KCN): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday met CEOs of large American firms like FedEx and Mastercard and discussed various opportunities for investment in India, which is the fastest-growing large economy in the world. The finance minister is in the US to attend IMF-WB Spring Meetings 2022.

FedEx President and CEO-elect Raj Subramanian, during the meeting with the finance minister, mentioned that he is positive about India and has significant expansion plans, in-

cluding in skilling. Appreciating the government's commitment to integrated

Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a Rs 100 lakh crore national

handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time. The plan aims to lend more



development through the PM Gati Shakti Master Plan, Subramanian said the company is looking at R&D centres in India and the company has great opportunity to grow in the country.

master plan for multi-modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy. PM Gati Shakti targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo

power and speed to projects by connecting all concerned departments on one platform. As per the Economic Survey 2021-22 India is projected to grow at 8-
CONTINUED ON: P-7

'No pressure' from UK over India's stance on Ukraine war: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the Russia-Ukraine conflict with his British counterpart Boris Johnson and conveyed strong advocacy for a peaceful resolution and direct dialogue between the two parties involved, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on Friday, asserting that the UK applied "no pressure" over New Delhi's position on the matter. Briefing reporters on talks between Modi and

ALSO READ| PM Modi, Boris Johnson set Diwali deadline for India-UK free trade agreement

Asked if Boris Johnson put pressure on the Indian side to adhere to the sanctions against Russia, Shringla said, "The Ukraine issue was discussed by the two prime ministers but there was no pressure involved. Prime Minister Boris Johnson put forward his views on the Ukraine issue from his perspective."

Prime Minister Modi put forward India's perspective on the Ukraine issue and asserted that "we are on the side of peace", and want that there should be dialogue and diplomacy, and the conflict should be resolved soon, he said.

India's position was very clear and there was "no pressure of any kind", he asserted. "The two leaders also discussed the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict. Prime Minister (Modi) expressed deep concern over the ongoing situation and mounting humanitarian crisis. Prime Minister (Modi) reiterated his call for immediate cessation of violence and conveyed strong advocacy for peaceful resolution of the situation, and direct dialogue between the two parties," Shringla said.

The foreign secretary CONTINUED ON: P-7



NYCA paid a deep tribute to late J B Patnaik



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The leading Socio-Cultural Association of the state Niladrivihar Youth &

Cultural Association (NYCA) paid a deep tribute to the legendary politician, Literati, Columnist,

Former Chief Minister of Odisha & former Governor of Assam Late Janaki Ballabh Patnaik on

his 7th death anniversary. In a tribute ceremony organised at hotel park premium at satyanagar by the state level Smruti committee for late patnaik a team lead by its president Dr. Prakash Chadra Panigrahi, General Secretary Shri Biswajit Pattnaik, Cultural Secretary Shri Bata Krushna Panda, Asst. secretary Shri Gadadhar Prasad Rath, Senior Member Shri Niranjana Sahoo, A. Gobinda Biswal, Prakash Chandra Sahoo paid a deep tribute to Late Pattnaik. The express his noble life style, people friendly attitude, normal life style, love towards culture etc along with this the team once again repeat its appeal to give Bharat Ratna to Late Pattnaik posthumously. At the last the team discussed various issues of the state with the dignitaries present over there.

Police Hosts Ex-Ultra Marriage

Bhawanipatna(KCN): The Reserve Police Ground here was on Friday decorated with colourful tents, flowers and food stalls for the wedding of two former ultras.

Biblab Sarkar and other senior Police officers of Kalahandi district were among the guests. At the age of 19, Kalamdei, the eldest daughter in a family

an association of ten years with the Maoists groups, having spent maximum time in the forests of Odisha, before surrendering to the police on February 18, 2020. He

tween Ramdas and Kalamdei Majhi was solemnized today by Kalahandi police and a grand feast was organized by the police at the temple premises



Kalahandi District Police played host to the marriage of Ramdas (29) and Kalamdei (25) who were both associated with the Maoists group active in Chhattisgarh and Odisha. DIG of Police (SWR) Koraput Rajesh Pandit graced the ceremony as chief guest. Kalahandi SP Dr. Saravana Vivek M, CRPF 64th Bn Commandant

of seven, was allegedly abducted from her village to join the ultras. Unable to align herself with their ideologies, she surrendered herself to the Kalahandi district police on January 5, 2016. She received Rs. 2.98 lakh as per the State government's Surrender and Rehabilitation policy. Kesab Veladi alias Ramdas, a native of Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh, had

was given Rs 3.98 lakh as per the Rehabilitation policy. Recently, when Ramdas' family visited Kalahandi for his father's eye operation, they met Kalamdei's family and both the families finalized the alliance. The initiative was taken by Kalahandi SP under the guidance of DIG of Police (SWR) Koraput. Their marriage be-

where family members of the bride and bridegroom participated along with police and media persons. On the occasion, the police appealed to other members of the Left Wing Extremists to shun the path of violence and take benefit of the Government's Surrender and Rehabilitation policy and join the mainstream of the society.

RMF, Barbil join hands to combat social problem

Barbil(KCN): A friendly reunion has

lar reporting during the event. "The addition of teachers and con-

to form a committee combat pollution. Sunil Das, Basant



been organized by the leading journalism organization "Regional Media Forum" in Barbil. Some journalist from electronic and print media outlet attended the event. The organization has also proposed to conduct few social programs along with their regu-

tion towards use of mobile is increasing among the school going students which creates adverse effect in their physical and mental body. An awareness programme is planned to discourage students. It is decided to visit schools and request all school principals of the area

duct an awareness program on it among the students. In addition, the state and central pollution control boards will be informed about the severity of pollution caused in the area especially on the side of the railway siding and to take appropriate action to

Mohapatra, Basanta Kumar Mahanta, Purna Chandra Mohanty, Shivashish Nanda, Rasananda Behera, Arjun Jena, Shankar Konar, Saroj Mohapatra, Manoj Sahu and Prashant Mohanty were the prominent participants on the occasion.

Chief secretary and 5T secretary visit Kendujhar. Reviewed various projects



Barbil (KCN): Today, Chief Secretary Suresh Mohapatra Additional Secretary, Water Resources Anu Garg and 5T Secretary VK Pandian have visited Champua in Kendujhar district.

They visited Kanpur's large irrigation project near Basudebpur, reviewed the project's of water resource department and direct for the speedy implementation of all pending work at a stipulated time. They

then reached the Basudebpur Kanyashram and supervised the renovation work under 5T. They all played with the students and also had their lunch along with students. They also reviewed how drink-

ing water could reach every household in Kendujhar district. Ashis Thakrey, Collector, Keonjhar and the superintendent of police Mitrabhanu Mohapatra were present at the event.

Cuttack mayor Subash Singh resigns from Rajya Sabha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Nearly a month after he was elected as the Mayor of Cuttack,

Subash Singh with

by the resignation of Singh is likely to be filled up along with three other Rajya Sabha seats in July. The terms of three BJD Rajya Sabha members Prasanna Acharya, Sasmit Patra and N Bhaskar Rao will end on July 1. Singh had sought advice of Vice President and Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu after his election as Cuttack Mayor about the legal implications. After receiving a written reply from the Parliament, allowing him to

quit membership of the Upper House, Singh tendered his resignation. The senior BJD leader had defeated Congress rival Giribala Mohanty by 45,026 votes in the mayor election on March 26. Singh had left CPI(M) to join BJD in 2013. He was made BJD's national spokesperson and treasurer. He is also the founder member and general secretary of Biju Shramik Shamukhya, the trade union wing of the ruling party in the State.



Subash Singh on Thursday resigned from the Rajya Sabha. He was

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. According to sources, the vacancy created

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'Shakeela' trailer falls flat, lacks the punch expected in a star biopic



The trailer of Indrajit Lankesh's Hindi language film "Shakeela" doesn't hold much to impress. From using modern-day Hindi music to cliched film sets, it feels like a repackaging of Vidya Balan's 'Dirty Picture' except that this version fails to bring the charm Vidya brought to the

screen. The film, as described by the filmmakers of 'Shakeela', is "inspired by life events of a famous star Shakeela who predominantly starred in southern cinema." It features Richa Chadha as the titular adult actor who was one of the biggest stars of the 1990s ar-

iving from Kerala who went on to act in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada, while Pankaj Tripathi is the male lead. The film is described to "portray the hardships of the actress as she had to face a lot of criticism, insults and betrayals from

her own family members and the film fraternity who were influential in getting her films banned." The main reason for the success of 'Kinnarathumbikal', one of the films that catapulted her into the limelight, was solely her screen presence and energy, and with no other male lead in the

movie. Trying to fill in the gaping hole left by Silk Smitha in the low-budget softcore industry, Shakeela made her own mark with around 250 movies in her kitty -- heralding the 'Shakeela Tharangam' (The wave of Shakeela). Meanwhile, the Shakeela that

Indrajith is trying to portray doesn't look like she has much story to tell. The screen-space also seems to be overpowered by star cast Pankaj Tripathi. Let's hope the full length movie holds more than what the trailer showed. The film is produced by Sammy Nanwani and Sahil Nanwani, with music by Meet Bros and Veer Samarth.

Priyanka Chopra reveals husband Nick Jonas likes her 'natural' looks, calls him 'appreciator'

WASHINGTON(K-CN): Nick Jonas has

Chopra. The actor re-

2019 and revealed how her husband is

natural or a more glamorous look.

"there are days when he likes a really natu-

went all out for the event, wearing a sheer black top with a pussycat bow, a white blazer paired with a matching pair of pants. Adding a pop of colour to the whole look, she opted for striking pink eye makeup with a matching bold lip colour.

Earlier this month, Priyanka joined her fellow J sisters Sophie Turner and Danielle Jonas in celebrating the first night of their husbands' 'Happiness Begins' tour. All three women rocked Jonas Brothers T-shirts.

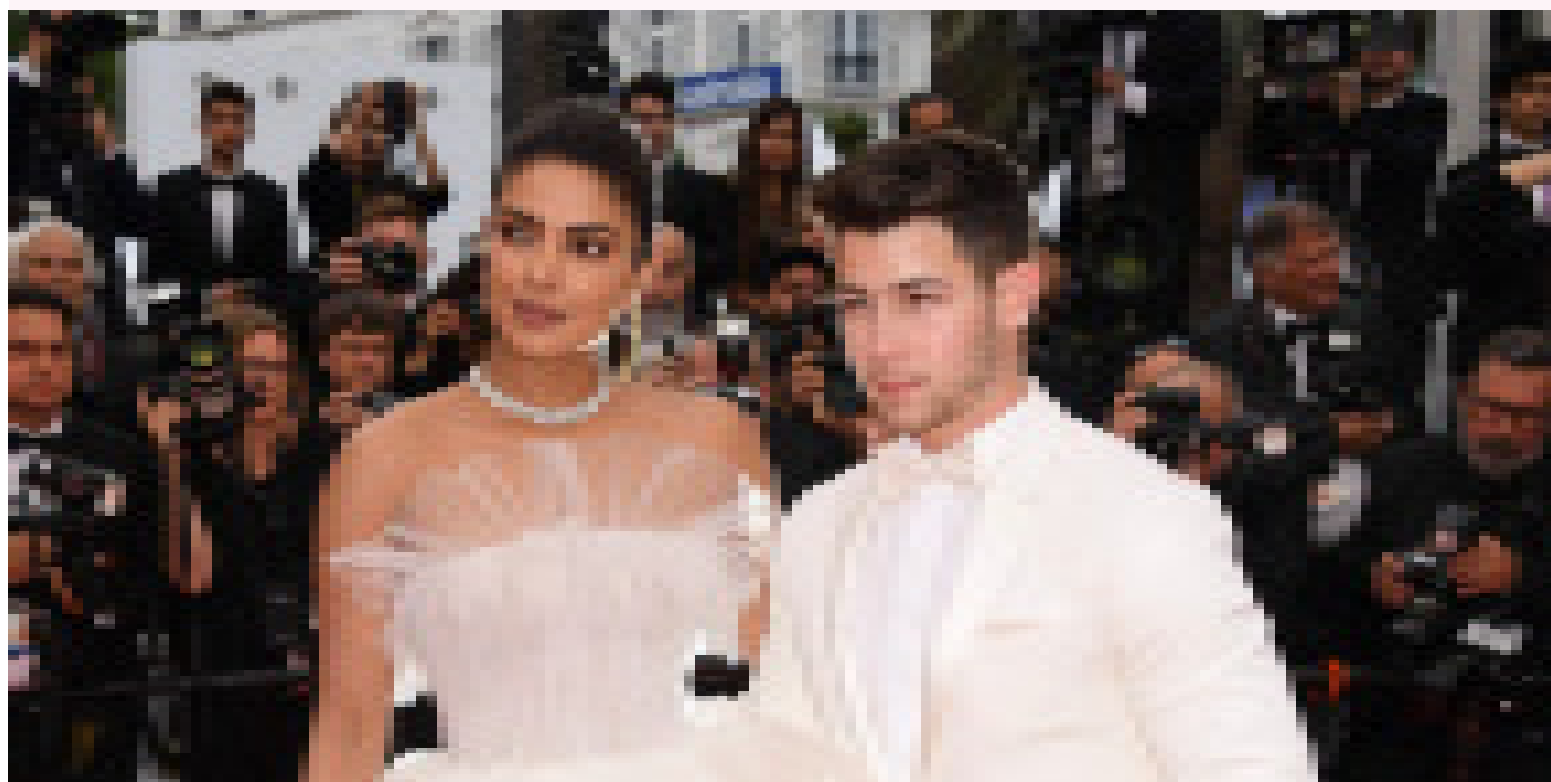
The actor shared that it was "really cool" that they all decided on coordinating their outfits since they "have such distinct personalities."

Just 'normal' to exclude women in decision making process: Adil Hussain

MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artistes who are asking the reason for women's absence from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

The meeting of the delegation came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?" Adil took to Twitter to criticise the panel that met the prime minister.



nothing but love and admiration for his wife Priyanka

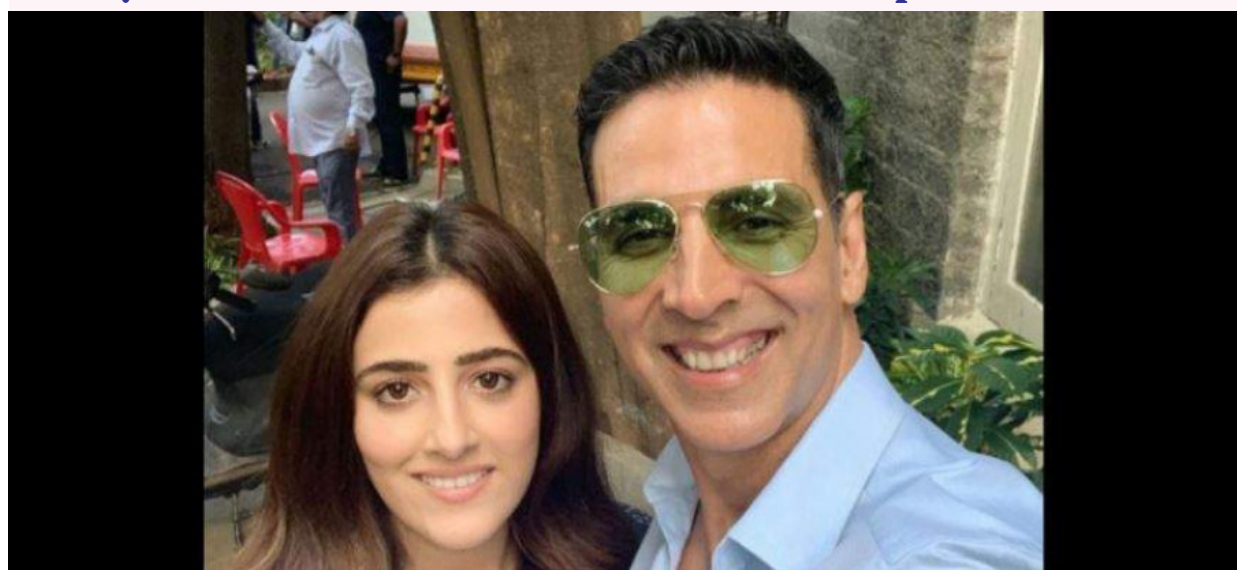
cently spoke to People at Beautycon Festival Los Angeles

full of admiration for her whether she decides to go for a more

"He likes a bit of both," the 'Quantico' star, said, adding that

real thing."

Akshay Kumar shoots with Kriti Sanon's sister Nupur for music video



MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Akshay Kumar on Sunday shot for singer B Praaks new single with actress Kriti Sanon's younger sister Nupur.

written by Jaani. B Praak has previously lent his voice to the song "Teri Mitti" in Akshay's film "Kesari".

London! The song will also feature renowned Punjabi singer Ammy Virk.

posing with Nupur and Ammy at the St. Xavier's college in Mumbai.

ALSO READ: Akshay Kumar has a namesake actor in

A lot of pictures are doing the rounds on the internet in which Akshay is seen

On the work front, Akshay will be seen in "Housefull 4" and "Good Newwz" this year.

The General I Knew

Four days is a long time. Earlier this week, I was planning to write a piece on the victory of the fifth battalion of 11 Gorkhas in the 1971 war. A fateful Wednesday morning changed that, when a helicopter carrying India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat and his wife Madhulika Rawat



crashed in the Nilgiri Hills, ending their lives. This piece is a personal tribute to an extraordinary general, gentleman and my battalion commanding officer.

On July 4, 1994, I arrived at my battalion stationed in Uri, Kashmir. I was a newly commissioned Second Lieutenant, exuberant but wet behind my ears. Summoned to the Adjutant's office, I walked in and saluted the well-built, strapping senior Major, sitting behind the desk. After a brief welcome over tea, he handed me a series of minor errands in the unit.

Feeling like an underemployed youngster, in a melee of busy officers and men at battalion base, I strutted off to the quarter guard, company barracks, armory et al, asking questions and trying to look important. After a while, I returned to the adjutant's office, smug in the belief that I had found the right answers to the tasks. I was wrong. The adjutant, phlegmatic and unfazed, popped a few questions that I hadn't figured, despite the efforts. How could that happen?

I was promptly dispatched on another round of errands on the missing answers, with additional tasks of scouring war diaries, preparing a brief on the battalion's area along the Line of Control, etc. The cycle continued and each time I returned with responses, he would lob a thought that invariably had eluded me. That was the Adjutant's way of getting me to learn the unit's functions, operations and about the troops.

What struck me then was how the adjutant, despite an awfully busy day on relentless phone calls, monitoring operations and filing reports in a vital location in Kashmir, found time to spend an hour with me, with patience to correct my innocuous blunders.

DC Exclusive: Rs 1,500 crore land scam in Hyderabad by GHMC, revenue dept

Grossly compromising on the interests of the state and failing in their duty to protect government land parcels, revenue and municipal authorities have given up their decades-long legal fight over a prime piece of land located in the twin cities, estimated to be worth over Rs 1,500 crore, by granting the final layout right on it to a cooperative housing society, Deccan Chronicle has learnt.

Following a "request" made by a senior state government official, through a recent memo 976/Assn.III(1)/2019, GHMC commissioner Lokesh Kumar sanctioned a layout for 32 acres in Survey No 327 paiki of Shaikpet village in favour of S.N. Mutually Aided Cooperative Housing Society (popularly known as Sakkubainagar).

The GHMC commissioner's sanction came after its standing counsel submitted in the Telangana High Court that "according to the Municipal Corporation, Sy No. 327/paiki does not exist."

Documentary evidence available with Deccan Chronicle revealed that different government

The adjutant wasn't one to waste the first day of a young Indian army officer and wanted me to hit the ground running in the unit.

That was my first meeting with Major Bipin Rawat.

One morning, in my early days in the unit, a succession of solar powered rockets rained from the Pakistani area across the Jhelum and LoC, exploding on our side. One of them blew away the temporary accommodation to smithereens. Taken by surprise due to the boom, flash and flying rockets that threatened troops on our side, we realized after a couple had been fired that these rockets were timed to launch every fifteen minutes.

Amidst the mayhem, I remember Major Rawat's composed voice on radio from the unit headquarters directing me to figure out the pattern of rocket strikes. His calmness and the presence of another unruffled figure at that place, Colonel Durga Prasad,

PROBAL DASGUPTA

office. He received the young officer at the gate and after the meeting, saw her off past the labyrinthine lanes of the building.

The General's wife, Madhulika Rawat, whose brother went to the same school as I (Daly College, Indore), was a kind hearted lady who many families will miss. On one occasion, a wife of a retired officer of the unit was recovering from cancer in Mumbai. Mrs Rawat decided to visit their house in Juhu, Mumbai, to spend time with the ailing lady. It sent the neighborhood security into a tizzy.

For those who knew of Gen Rawat as China-focused in recent times, his erstwhile battalion adjutant Major Manish Mall reminded of how, way back in 2001, when the nation was obsessed with Pakistan, Gen Rawat recognized China as the bigger threat in a presentation to a visiting corps commander.

vised on the people and places for sources. I sought his wishes and left.

A remarkable aspect of the General's aura was his immaculate sense of timing. Often, he read the tea leaves early. A few months ago, I met him at a literature fest where he delivered the valedictory address. Before he arrived at the venue, a Bangladeshi war hero on a panel rued how the victory of 1971 was often reduced to an Indian victory, though Bangladeshis had contributed too.

I walked the CDS and announced to the entire gathering, "1971 was a victory for the people of India and Bangladesh." In the tea for participants that followed, the Bangladeshi war hero sidled up to me and gushed in Bangla, "Did you hear the CDS? ...No wonder he is a true leader."

With one inclusive stroke, General Rawat had turned around the opinion of the veteran.

A week ago, the battalion's officers and jawans, serving and retired, along with

their families gathered in Delhi for celebrations of the 1971 war victory. The CDS and his wife attended each event. The unit was his home: he socialized freely amongst troops, officers, families and children amidst food and banter in barakhanas and dinners; behind a tough exterior was a leader with a humane side.

Destiny ordained that everyone in the battalion came together last weekend to bid a final goodbye. At dinner last Saturday, I discussed my next book idea with him. Like earlier, he was enthused and said we must write more



was my first lesson on decision-making under pressure. After over a decade of service, I left the army for a corporate career. Over the years, Colonel Rawat went on to command the unit and take it to greater heights. Yet, he remained firmly anchored to personal relationships, with officers and families from the regiment or from the wider armed forces community. The larger fauji fraternity reminisces about refined conduct of both the general and his wife.

Once, around 2001, when Colonel Rawat was posted at the Army headquarters, a young newly commissioned lady officer Lieutenant Madhvi Singh (wife of a fellow battalion officer) visited his South Block

In 2017, before starting on my debut book on the untold 1967 battles, I met General Rawat, then our Army chief. Since my book was to be based on events in the 1960s that warranted visits to units, regimental centers and key locations, I sought his thoughts. As I briefly narrated the story to him, the Chief squinted his left eye, tilted his head to a side and lightly tapped the pencil on his desk – a mannerism that, over years, was well known to unit officers as a popular giveaway about the General's liking for a topic.

"China? I am happy you're writing on the subject. Bataa, how can I help?" he greeted my idea with typical reassurance and ad-

military history that drew people to read. I promised to meet him soon. That was my last conversation with my former commanding officer.

It has been an honor to have served alongside General Bipin Rawat, India's first CDS, a military hero, a glorious officer of the regiment and a gentleman.

Major (retd) Probal DasGupta is the author of the bestseller, Watershed 1967, an Indian Army veteran, who served General Bipin Rawat as his battalion officer.

The writer, a retired Army officer, is the author of Watershed 1967, based on a forgotten war between India and China, and a member of the guest faculty at New York's Columbia University.

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS

agencies had taken a consistent stand for decades that Survey No.

327 paiki was a non-existent and fictitious survey number and that the only survey number available in the records — 327 — was government land. This view had been upheld by the judiciary at different points.

Incidentally, several cases filed by the state government claiming ownership of the land are still pending in the Telangana High Court and a "status quo" order has been in vogue in relation to this land parcel.

Inquiries by DC revealed that the Junior Civil Judge of the City Civil Court found discrepancies in the records submitted by the SN Society in an injunction suit and categorically said the land belonged to the government. The society filed the first appeal before the Additional Chief Judge, who upheld the Junior Civil Judge's order. The society filed a second appeal in the High Court, which is still pending.

In another case on the same land, the society obtained an order from a single judge of the High

Court to not dispossess them from the land but the government filed a

writ appeal before the bench challenging the single judge's orders. That case is also pending. Meanwhile, the Additional Advocate General recommended to the government to initiate a suit for declaration of title in favour of the government and Hyderabad district revenue authorities actively pursued the case. The senior official who lobbied for the layout sanction referred to High Court orders in his memo apparently to justify his action but conveniently ignored that the court had made an observation in the same order that the state government may follow due process — initiate a title suit for ownership — to take possession.

Sources said the Hyderabad district authorities had succeeded in getting the state government to issue orders entrusting the title suitcase to the Advocate General, who had prepared a draft plaint and sent it to the Hyderabad district collector who, in turn, sent it to the Special Chief Secretary, Revenue, for his approval.

Several reminders were sent to Special CS, Revenue, in the last two years, to approve the AG's plea and pursue the case further in the High Court. Yet, the recommendation for sanctioning the layout was sent to the GHMC.

What is intriguing is that one D. K. Narayana Rao, a retired Osmania University employee, applied to obtain for information pertaining to the layout under the Right to Information Act (RTI) but the GHMC information officers categorically asserted in their reply that "it was a 20-year-old record and was not found in the available layout records."

Within days of the officials saying had no records of the land parcel, the GHMC commissioner cleared the same file in favour of SN Society. "When Hyderabad district authorities came to know that the society had applied for layout clearance, the collector wrote to the GHMC to not sanction any layout as the state government was fighting for the prime property," sources said, adding that this correspondence too was ignored and layout approval given to the society.

PM Narendra Modi, UK's Boris Johnson agree to constitute sub-group on countering extremism

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson on Friday expressed "zero tolerance" for terrorism in all its forms and reiterated their condem-

set Diwali deadline for India-UK FTA. It said the two prime ministers called upon all countries to work together to root out terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupt terrorist net-

Counter-Terrorism (JWG-CT), including with regard to information and intelligence sharing on terror entities and individuals. "Within this framework, they agreed to

commitment, in a joint cyber statement, to deepen cooperation across cyber governance, deterrence and strengthening cyber resilience," the statement said. ALSO READ | 'No



nation of Mumbai and Pathankot terror attacks.

In their wide-ranging talks, Modi and Johnson agreed to constitute a sub-group on countering extremism in order to further enhance cooperation between India and the UK in ensuring that all possible actions are taken against groups and individuals based in or operating out of either country.

"Both leaders expressed zero tolerance for terrorism in all its forms - and for all those who encourage, support and finance terrorism or provide sanctuary to terrorists and terror groups, whatever their motivation may be," a joint statement said. PM Narendra Modi, Boris Johnson

works and their financing channels, and halt cross-border movement of terrorists.

It said Modi and Johnson reiterated their condemnation of terrorist attacks in India and the UK, including the Mumbai and Pathankot attacks. "They emphasised the importance of perpetrators of terrorist attacks being systematically and expeditiously brought to justice, and agreed to work together to take concerted action against globally proscribed terrorist entities and individuals," the statement said.

It said the two leaders expressed satisfaction on the ongoing cooperation through the Joint Working Group on

constitute a sub-group on countering extremism in order to further enhance cooperation between the two sides in ensuring that all possible actions are taken against groups and individuals based in or operating out of either country, seeking to incite violent extremism and terrorism and who are involved in financing such activities," it said. In their talks, Modi and Johnson also reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace and welcomed the progress under the enhanced India-UK cyber security partnership to tackle shared cyber threats including to critical national infrastructure. "They outlined

pressure' from UK over India's stance on Ukraine war: Foreign Secy

On the situation in Afghanistan, the two leaders reaffirmed the importance of UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2593 which unequivocally demanded that Afghan territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorist acts.

"Both sides agreed to continue to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan and reiterated the need for a representative and inclusive political system in support of a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan," the statement said.

Maharashtra independent MP Navneet Rana, ISRO chairman S Somanath get CISF cover

NEW DELHI: Maharashtra Member of Parliament,

Rana was provided 'Y' category all India security cover

Home Affairs in its recent VIP security meet.

engineer and rocket scientist Somanath, who also holds charge of secretary of the Department of Space for a joint tenure of three years, recently succeeded Kailasavadivoo Sivan as the new ISRO chairman. Somanath is an expert in a host of disciplines including launch vehicle design. He has specialised in Launch Vehicle Systems engineering, structural design, structural dynamics, integration designs and procedures, mechanism design, and pyrotechnics.



Navneet Rana, and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S Somanath were accorded armed VIP security cover by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), sources said.

on April 14 while Somnath was accorded 'Y+' category all India security cover on April 18. Both Rana and Somnath were provided Central security cover after a threat analysis by the Ministry of

Rana, a former Indian actress who mainly acted in Telugu cinema, is an elected Member of Parliament from Amravati in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate. Eminent aerospace

Boeing to fly 2 Super Hornet fighters to India this summer for operational demonstrations

WASHINGTON: US aerospace giant Boeing is planning to fly two Super Hornet fighter jets to Goa this summer for operational demonstrations before its potential buyer the Indian Navy, according to a senior company executive.

Making a strong sales pitch for F/A-18 Super Hornet, vice president of Boeing's India Business Development Alain Garcia said the aircraft has been specifically designed from its inception for carrier operations, can operate from the Indian Navy aircraft carriers and will meet or exceed the STOBAR performance requirements of the Indian Navy.

STOBAR (short take-off but arrested recovery or short take-off, barrier-arrested recovery) is a system used for the launch and recovery of aircraft from the deck of an aircraft carrier.

sive durability," he argued.

On the P-8I, Garcia said there is clearly a need for long-range maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare (ASW) requirements in the Indian Ocean Region. The P-8Is have demonstrated an excellent record in supporting the Navy's missions and have surpassed 35,000 flight hours since induction in 2013, he said.

The P-8I programme has resulted in significant industrial benefits and jobs for companies in India that are now part of the Boeing supply chain which are manufacturing complex parts and components for BDS products, including the P-8.

"In addition to supporting the P-8I with sustainment and training, we are also planning a 60,000 sq ft training Support and Data Handling Centre set up at INS Rajali, Arakkonam, with a secondary centre at Na-



"This has been proven by our successful ski-jump tests conducted in 2020 and extensive simulation studies. Additionally, we will also prove that further with operational demonstrations in India in May and June," Garcia told PTI in an interview. As New Delhi plans to strengthen its defence capabilities, Boeing has been in talks with its defence customers in India about F/A-18 Super Hornet, P-8I, F-15EX, KC-46 tanker for aerial refuelling and ISR capabilities, he said.

"I really believe the F/A-18 Super Hornet Block III will be a transformative capability for the Indian Navy, the way the P-8I has been. and also the impact that it will have on the aerospace industry," he argued. The senior Boeing executive, who is headed to India for his new assignment in the next few weeks, argued that with the Super Hornet, the Indian Navy will get a proven, multi-role and carrier-compatible fighter while benefiting from the investments, upgrades and knowledge that comes from the US Navy's extensive naval aviation ecosystem.

The US Navy operates more than 800 Super Hornets and EA-18 Growlers, the electronic attack version of the F/A-18.

"With the latest Block III configuration, the Super Hornet is suited to protect India's maritime interests, and we anticipate the Super Hornet and P-8I will open up opportunities for greater interoperability between the two navies for a secure Indo-Pacific," he said.

According to Garcia, with a rapid technology insertion plan, the Super Hornet Block III will outpace threats for decades to come.

"The Block III Super Hornet comes with advanced networking and open architecture design that allows it to work jointly with the Indian Navy's P-8I and other US-origin assets and rapidly accept new technology to stay ahead of emerging threats."

"And lastly, the Super Hornet has an affordable acquisition cost and also costs less per flight hour to operate than any other tactical aircraft in the US forces inventory, including single-engine fighters. This is possible because the fighter is designed for ease of maintainability and offers impres-

val Institute of Aeronautical Technology (NIAT), Kochi. The secondary centre was recently handed over to the Indian Navy," he added.

Maria Laine, vice president of Boeing's International Business Development, said that India is one of Boeing's enduring partners where "we have made strategic investments and will continue to do so in the future".

The company has 3,500 employees in India and more than 7,000 people working with its supply chain partners.

"We are proud to support the many missions of the Indian armed forces that operate multiple Boeing aircraft," she said.

"We've made the latest investment outside of India in Boeing's India Engineering and Technology Center at USD 200 million and have a wholly-owned engineering and technology campus with future avionics manufacturing and assembly capability that is coming up in Bengaluru," Laine told PTI. "In support of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, Boeing sources over USD 1 billion from India and Boeing's Indian supply chain partners are exporting products made in India for the global aerospace market," he said in response to a question.

"Over 275 Indian suppliers deliver components, parts and complex assemblies for Boeing's commercial and defence aircraft, including the F/A-18, F-15, P-8, Apache, Chinook, C-17 and T-7," she said.

Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL), the joint venture between Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems, has been producing aero-structures for Boeing's AH-64 Apache helicopter and recently delivered its 140th AH-64 Apache fuselage from its 14,000 square metres state-of-the-art facility in Hyderabad.

TBAL is also manufacturing 737 Vertical Fin structures, a complex structural part, on a new production line that will utilize cutting-edge robotics and automation, said the Boeing official. "On the defence side, we are delivering services that ensure high availability of our customers' fleets at competitive costs. We work with the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy to provide operational capability and readiness for Boeing aircraft," Laine added.

Tourism Needs Transformative Strategy

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Covid-19 pandemic having inflicted enormous damage to the global tourism industry, the need of the hour is to adopt transformative strategies, seek new technological options and disruptive initiations to put the travel trade back on the road to recovery, Union Minister of State for Education and External Affairs, Dr.

Pointing out that BIMSTEC and ASEAN nations had deep connection with Buddhism, Dr. Singh said Buddhist tourist circuits in India could provide an impetus to tourism as people in those countries were keen to visit those places. The Minister said innovations often came to the fore in response to a problem or need.



Rajkumar Ranjan Singh said on Friday. "As Covid-19 swept the continents, humanity was virtually fighting a world war to save itself and the leisure industry indicated a steep decline amounting to 2.86 trillion US dollars which quantified more than 50 per cent revenue loss," Dr. Singh said while inaugurating a two-day International Conference on 'Trends and Disruptions in Hospitality and Tourism' at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA).

The need was to explore the potential of new avenues in hospitality and tourism sector for reaching out to the customers, he said. Dr. Singh said religious tourism could be used to strengthen India's tourism outreach specifically in the South-east Asia region comprising countries like Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan and Sri Lanka with sizeable Buddhist population. India's relationship with the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, which had immense strategic and economic significance, could be leveraged to revive tourism, he said.

The conference, 'Aatithya- Past, Present and Future 3.0', was organised by the School of Hotel Management (SHM), SOA's faculty of hospitality and tourism management. SOA Chancellor Prof. D.P.Ray presided over the inaugural program which was also addressed by Mr. Hara Prasad Das, eminent poet, essayist and columnist, Prof. S.S.Mantha, former Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Chancellor of K.L. University, Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Nitin Bhalla, Founder and CEO of Kregzo, Delaware, USA and Dr. Tapan Kumar Panda, Director and Professor at Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Hyderabad.

PRI members urge CM Patnaik to revoke kendu leaf trade deregulation

MALKANGIRI: Despite claims that deregulation of Kendu leaf trade would provide free market access to do trade, it has failed to benefit thousands of pluckers in the district. It is time deregulation is revoked and only Kendu leaf wing of Forest department allowed to procure the leaves from the pluckers in Malkangiri, stated PRI members of the district in a letter to the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. On behalf of the pluckers, the members have alleged that the deregulation of Kendu leaf



trade is only benefitting private parties who procure the leaves from tribals at a low price in comparison to government agencies. Though the private parties claim that they are procuring the leaves complying to government guidelines, in real-

ity, all norms are being flouted and pluckers deprived of all other facilities. Such practices only point at exploitation of tribals and lack of social security for them, the letter said. While government agencies pay Rs 4.20 per kerry (one kerry contains 40 leaves) including bonus to the pluckers, private parties pay Rs 3 per kerry. Moreover, government agencies also extend social security benefits like insurance, facilitate marriage and education of their wards, provide slippers and umbrella, the pri-

vate parties do not provide anything. "This is blatant violation of norms and not in the interest of the poor tribal people across the district," the PRI members alleged. Kendu leaf is paramount to the livelihoods of the poor and marginalised forest dependent communities, including tribals of the village. Among those who have signed the letter are ZP Member Muka Madkami, sarpanches of Chalanguda, Tandiki, Matapekka and tribal leaders Era Podiami and other members.

Best Hospital Ranking 2022: KIMS Bhubaneswar in the top league

Bhubaneswar(KCN) Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Bhubaneswar has been adjudged the 5th Best Multi-Speciality Medical Facility in Eastern India by the prestigious English peri-

an All-India 6th rank and Paediatrics Department in 9th place, thus reaffirming KIMS commitment to offering quality and affordable treatment to the community. The ranking has also placed

Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS as a constituent School of Medical Sciences under KIIT Deemed-to-be-University and to-

Best Hospital Ranking 2022



cal college and its constituent hospital comprising 1,500 doctors, 950 highly trained nursing professionals, and 900 paramedics. To add to the existing strength, there are 1,000 in non-medical and support areas like patient care, IT, finance, insurance claims, and others.

Expressing satisfaction at the achievement, Dr. Samanta thanked the doctors and medical staff of KIMS for their hard work and dedication, which resulted in the impressive position of KIMS in this prestigious ranking.

odical Outlook magazine. The Outlook Health Best Hospital Ranking 2022, presented by the Outlook magazine and NEB Research, has put the Orthopaedics Department of KIMS in

both the Gastroenterology and Neurology Departments in the 10th position and Cardiology in the 12th in All-India rank. KIMS made a humble beginning in 2007 under the leadership of Dr.

day with people's trust, goodwill, and wider recognition it has emerged as one of Eastern India's biggest healthcare service providers. Team KIMS has a huge workforce to support the medi-



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RBI's Monetary Policy Committee in meeting expresses concern over inflation

MUMBAI: All the six members of the RBI's rate setting panel expressed concern over inflation and Governor Shaktikanta Das stressed that the central bank will have to constantly re-assess the "dynamic and fast changing situation" and tailor its actions accordingly, as per the minutes of the recent MPC meeting released on Friday. Das-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which held its meeting from April 6-8, unanimously decided to keep the borrowing costs unchanged at a record low for the 11th time in a row in a bid to continue supporting economic growth despite inflation edging higher, especially in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The central bank's MPC has six members, including the governor. Das opined that the current geopolitical situation has led to an upward revision of

RBI's inflation projections for 2022-23, and the estimates now point to inflation remaining above the upper tolerance band in the near-term even as growth projections have undergone downward revisions. "The circumstances warrant prioritising inflation and anchoring expectations in the sequence of objectives to safeguard macroeconomic and financial stability, while being mindful of the ongoing growth recovery," he said, as per the minutes. Further, Das said there was a need to avoid undue disruptions in the financial markets. Given this delicate balance between inflation and growth, he voted for retaining the repo rate at 4 per cent and maintaining the accommodative stance. "The situation is dynamic and fast changing, and we should constantly re-assess the situation and tailor our actions accordingly," he said.

MPC member and RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra opined that in a world in which de-

veloping countries experiencing inflation above 7 per cent, the climb in prices is testing soci-

economic growth forecast to 7.2 per cent for 2022-23 from the previous outlook of 7.8 per cent.

economic growth forecast to 7.2 per cent for 2022-23 from the previous outlook of 7.8 per cent.

said considering the emergence of a different growth-inflation trade-off, it is best to start withdrawing monetary accommodation through liquidity and rate actions that can begin with raising the floor and normalising the corridor. "Monetary policy is not a rocket science but the timing of the launch of the rocket is nevertheless important as monetary policy transmits to its final goals with long and variable lags," he said.

Besides the three RBI officials, Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, and Jayanth R Varma, are three government-appointed members of MPC. Bhide was of the view that the present situation reflects improving conditions with respect to managing the COVID threat, with the scaled-up vaccinations and an understanding of measures to control any further outbreak of infections.

However, improved demand conditions in the face of fresh global supply constraints may lead to increased inflation affecting the growth recovery itself, he said. As per the minutes, Goyal opined

there was room to cut fuel taxes to mitigate the pass through of international prices to consumers. "Excise duty could go back to 2019 levels that were high enough to limit oil consumption, even as other efforts to substitute towards renewable sources continue," she said.

Further, she said both fiscal and monetary policy must use the space available to smooth international shocks while taking unavoidable hits.

Varma said that with inflation projected to breach the upper tolerance limit for several months, it is imperative for MPC to communicate its resolve to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward.

He said that it is also necessary to prepare the markets for the withdrawal of the post pandemic monetary accommodation. Further, Varma said that in the extremely uncertain situation that prevails today, it is very important for MPC not to issue any forward guidance that would tie its hands.

The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled to be held from June 6-8.



globalisation seems imminent, one thing has become globalised and that is the alarm

facing inflation above 5 per cent -- unheard of since the 1980s -- and more than half of

etal tolerance levels," he said during the meeting.

While Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to maintain status quo, it raised inflation forecast to 5.7 per cent for the current fiscal, up from its 4.5 per cent estimated in February. RBI also lowered the

This compares to real GDP growth of 8.9 per cent in 2021-22. RBI Executive Director and MPC Member Mridul K Sagar opined that the Russia-Ukraine war will also have significant detrimental effects on growth.

As per the minutes, he

NBFCs can't issue credit cards without nod: RBI

MUMBAI: NBFCs cannot undertake the business of credit cards or their issuance without prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the regulator said on Thursday. The notification contains significant steps to protect and for the interests of custom-

cally," the regulator said in its notification. The direction also spelt out directions to issuers of credit cards in the interest of customers. Particularly, the issuance of unsolicited cards or upgrade and activation of existing cards without explicit consent of the recipi-

O m b u d s m a n Scheme, i.e., for loss of complainant's time, expenses incurred, harassment and mental anguish suffered by him/her." The RBI also said unsolicited loans or other credit facilities should not be offered to the cardholders without seeking con-

would result in the repayment stretching over months/years with consequential compounded interest payment on your outstanding balance" is to be prominently displayed in all the billing statements to caution the cardholders about the

FM Sitharaman meets heads of FedEx, Mastercard, others during US visit

Continued from page-1

8.5 per cent during the current financial year ending March 2023. The National Logistics Policy announced in the Budget is an important element for the strategy of 'make in India', Subramanian added.

Sitharaman also held a meeting with Accenture Chair and CEO Julie Sweet.

"Ms Sweet lauded the proactive & transparent approach of the GoI & said @Accenture is adding a presence in more Tier-II cities in India & focusing on upskilling talent to prepare for emerging opportunities. Ms Sweet also informed that 47% of their workforce in India are women," the finance ministry said in a tweet.

The Indian government makes it a focus to listen to and support the business community while also taking steps to make India a great place to invest in, Sweet said.

During the meeting with Mastercard CEO Miebach Michael, Sitharaman informed him about the government's commitment to digital financial inclusion with a focus on women and SMEs by developing world-class home-grown technology solutions.

"FM Smt.@nsitharaman enquired from Mr @MiebachMichael @Mastercard on how lessons from India's #FinancialInclusion programme can be used to develop solutions for the world," the ministry tweeted.

Mastercard highlighted its plan to set up huge data centres in India and the company's focus on training and digitisation of small businesses. In another such engagement, she met the global CEO of consultancy firm Deloitte, Punit Renjen.

"Mr @PunitRenjen mentioned that @Deloitte is expanding its India operations to smaller cities like Coimbatore & Bhubaneswar. Besides, he said, @Deloitte has developed tools to improve the access of rural poor to health facilities & also committed for #ClimateAction in India," a separate tweet said.

"The country is an attractive investment destination and this is going to be India's century", Renjen said.

'No pressure' from UK over India's stance on Ukraine war: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla

Continued from page-1

said Modi and Johnson also discussed the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations and cooperation on energy, green hydrogen, trade, and defence. The talks provided an opportunity to discuss regional and global issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, he said.

India welcomed the UK joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative under the maritime security pillar and agreed to cooperate closely in this region towards their shared commitment for maintaining an open, free and secure Indo-Pacific region, Shringla said.

The foreign secretary said both sides felt defence and security was an area of potential cooperation. "As I told you, the UK's recent announcement about providing an open general licence for the export of equipment and technologies to India has been a welcome development. There was a discussion on what we could do... some of the areas that we discussed included electrical propulsion systems that can be used by naval ships, also some work on jet propulsion systems, aviation sector, underwater sea domain etc," he said.

But what is important was that both sides agreed that the two countries would facilitate meetings between their concerned scientists, he said. "In other words the focus is on co-development and co-production in keeping with our initiative of make in India and our policy of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The idea was that there would be greater emphasis on two salient features --which is production in India and transfer of technology. So, what we are looking at is a combination of UK's technology and our production base to make a win-win situation," Shringla said.

ALSO READ| Boris Johnson hails welcome in India, says felt like Sachin Tendulkar, Amitabh Bachchan

Shringla said reference was also made during the talks to easier mobility between the two countries, specifically for students and professionals. "...UK universities could also consider setting up their branches in India, at the same time he (PM Modi) also encouraged UK students to also study in India," he said.



ers. Any company, including a non-deposit taking one, will require a certificate of registration, apart from specific permission to enter into this business, the pre-requisite for which is a minimum net owned fund of Rs 100 crore and subject to such terms and conditions as the RBI may specify in this regard from time to time.

"Without obtaining prior approval from the Reserve Bank, NBFCs shall not issue debit cards, credit cards, charge cards, or similar products virtually or physi-

ent has been strictly prohibited. In case of such occurrence, without consent, for which the customer is billed, the card issuer has to reverse the charges forthwith and also pay a penalty without "demur" to the recipient at twice the value of the charges reversed.

"In addition, the person in whose name the card is issued can also approach the RBI Ombudsman who would determine the amount of compensation payable by the card-issuer to the recipient of the unsolicited card as per the provisions of the

sent. In case an unsolicited credit facility is extended without the written and/or explicit consent of the cardholder and the latter objects to the same, the card issuer has to not only withdraw the facility, but will also be liable to pay a penalty considered appropriate by the ombudsman, if approached. Also, Card-issuers are obliged to inform the cardholders of the implications of paying only 'the minimum amount due'. A legend/warning to the effect that "Making only the minimum payment every month

pitfalls in paying only the minimum amount due.

The most important terms and conditions (MITC) will specifically explain that the 'interest-free credit period' is suspended if any balance of the previous month's bill is outstanding. The card-issuers shall specify in the billing statement, the level of unpaid amount of the bill i.e., part payment beyond 'minimum amount due', at which the interest-free credit period benefits would not be available to cardholders.

F1 champion Lewis Hamilton, tennis star Serena Williams ready to invest in Chelsea takeover bid

IMOLA: Seven-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton said Friday that being part of a con-

sortium led by former Liverpool chairman Martin Broughton. "Chelsea is one of

the biggest clubs in the world and most successful. When I heard about this opportunity, I was like wow, this is one of the greatest opportunities to be a part of something so great," said Hamilton, who professed a life-

long love of football, "the biggest sport in the world". Hamilton, speaking ahead of Sunday's Imola Grand Prix, added that from the age of five or six he had been a supporter of Chelsea's bitter city rivals Arsenal. "But my Uncle Terry is a big Blues fan so I've been to so many games with him to watch Arsenal and Chelsea play," he

said. Hamilton said that he had been contacted by Broughton after the announced sale of

much aligned with my values," said Hamilton. Russian billionaire Abramovich put Chelsea up for sale on March 2 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and was subsequently targeted by UK sanctions. Chelsea have been granted a special government licence to continue operating, though under strict terms. Abramovich cannot profit from Chelsea's sale, but had already vowed to write off the club's EUR 1.5 billion (USD 2 billion) debt.

Aside from Broughton's candidacy, which also has World Athletics president Sebastian Coe -- an avid Chelsea fan -- on board, two other bids have been registered, headed up by Todd Boehly, co-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team, and Steve Pagliuca, co-owner of the Boston Celtics basketball team.

IPL 2022; RR vs DC: Jos Buttler hits season's third ton to power Rajasthan to 222/2

MUMBAI: Jos Buttler smashed his third century in the ongoing IPL to power Rajasthan Royals to the highest team total of the season, 222 for 2, against Delhi Capitals here on Friday.

Buttler, enjoying the form of his life, smashed 116 off 65 balls with the help of nine boundaries and as many hits over the fence to lay the foundation of the imposing total in the company of Devdutt Padikkal, who hit 54 off 35 balls with seven fours and two sixes.

DC skipper Rishabh Pant's decision to field first backfired big time as the duo of Buttler and Padikkal struck 155 runs in 15.5 overs for the opening stand. After reaching 50 in 6.5 overs, the duo opened up. Buttler started slowly before picking up the pace and dealt mostly in fours and sixes against the DC spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel to bring up his fifty in 36 balls.

It was raining fours and sixes for both Buttler and Padikkal as both the batters played confidently to deny success to DC bowlers. Buttler looked in ominous form and was particularly severe on Yadav, hitting the off-spinner for two sixes and one four to pick up 18 runs from the 13th over.

DC's spin attack cut a sorry figure as Axar and Kuldeep too leaked runs with Buttler and Padikkal going hammer and tongs. Padikkal brought up his fifty in 31 balls with a boundary, cutting Axar behind square on the off side.

High on confidence after two centuries in the ongoing edition of the IPL, Buttler continued his onslaught, smacking in-form Kuldeep Yadav for two maximums in consecutive balls and a four in the 15th over. Power-hitting was at its best display as Buttler, in particular, treated all the DC bowlers with disdain.

Padikkal soon perished, caught plumb in front of the wicket by Khaleel Ahmed in the 116th over as DC got their first breakthrough, albeit late in the innings. Buttler finally got out in the penultimate over, holing out to David Warner at long-on off Mutafizur Rahman.

Towards the end, skipper Sanju Samson (46 not out off 19 balls) played a little cameo to help RR cross the 200-run mark and register the highest score of the season.

Brief Scores: Rajasthan Royals: 222 for 2 in 20 overs (Jos Buttler 116, Devdutt Padikkal 54, Sanju Samson 46 not out; Khaleel Ahmed 1/47, Mustafizur Rahman 1/43)



sortium bidding to take over English Premier League club Chelsea was too great an opportunity to pass by. Hamilton, along with American tennis star Serena Williams, could each invest up to EUR 10 million, according to Sky News, as

the biggest clubs in the world and most successful. When I heard about this opportunity, I was like wow, this is one of the greatest opportunities to be a part of something so great," said Hamilton, who professed a life-

long love of football, "the biggest sport in the world". Hamilton, speaking ahead of Sunday's Imola Grand Prix, added that from the age of five or six he had been a supporter of Chelsea's bitter city rivals Arsenal. "But my Uncle Terry is a big Blues fan so I've been to so many games with him to watch Arsenal and Chelsea play," he

said. Hamilton said that he had been contacted by Broughton after the announced sale of

Pogba unlikely to play for Manchester United again, says interim manager Ralf Rangnick

LONDON: Manchester United interim manager Ralf Rangnick believes Paul Pogba has played his final match for the club after suffering an injury just

United and returned from a successful stint with Juventus in 2016 for a then world-record fee. Although Pogba has won the Europa League and League

very likely that he will be able to play again." Rangnick was speaking the day after United confirmed Ajax manager Erik ten Hag would be-

set to line up in defence. The England international had to report a bomb threat to police on Thursday and officers conducted a sweep of the home he



weeks before his contract runs out at Old Trafford. The World Cup winner, who is a free agent from July 1, came off with a calf problem early in Tuesday's chastening 4-0 loss at Liverpool, which makes a top-four Premier League finish unlikely. "With Paul, as it seems after the scan we did the day before yesterday, it is very unlikely he will play until the end of the season," Rangnick said on Friday. The Francemidfielder came through the youth set-up at

Cup in his second spell at United, he has largely been a disappointment, with his lacklustre displays and repeated links with other clubs serving to irritate fans. The 29-year-old was booted off the pitch when he was substituted during the recent win against Norwich. Asked if Pogba has played his final match for United, Rangnick said: "The doctor told me it will take four weeks minimum for him to recover and the last game is the end of May. "I don't think that it is

come the permanent boss at Old Trafford at the end of the season. "I knew that Erik was one of the candidates the board spoke to," he said. "Obviously I told them, at least from what I have seen and known from people who had worked with Erik, that I think he would be a good choice. "I still believe that he is a very good choice." United's immediate focus is on their match against top-four rivals Arsenal on Saturday, with captain Harry Maguire

shares with his fiancée and two young children. "I haven't seen him because I only got to know about this terrible, terrible thing yesterday afternoon," said Rangnick. "Since then I haven't been able to speak with him. "But again this is another bad sign of the crazy world we're living in. "Obviously I feel very sorry for Harry that he had that terrible experience, but he knows that we're all behind him -- the club, everybody, the players, his team-mates."

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