



The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu accepted credentials from the Ambassadors of Ecuador, Somalia, Germany and Suriname at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (August 26, 2022). Those who presented their credentials were: H.E. Mr Francisco Teodoro Maldonado Guevara, Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador, H.E. Mr Ahmed Ali Dahir, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E. Dr Philipp Ackermann, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Mr Arunkoemar Hardien, Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname

Where Ukraine war stands after six months

KYIV(KCN): When Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 in an unprovoked act of aggression, many expected a quick victory. Six months later, the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II has turned into a grinding war of attrition. The Russian offensive has largely bogged down as Ukrainian forces increasingly target key facilities far

them in preparation for a quick triumph. Those hopes were quickly shattered by fierce Ukrainian resistance, backed by Western-supplied weapons systems to the government of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Airborne troops sent to seize airfields around Kyiv suffered heavy losses and armored convoys stretching along the main highway leading to the capital were pummeled by Ukrainian artillery and scouts.

Despite numerous attacks on Ukrainian air bases and air defense assets, the Russian air force has failed to win full control of the skies and suffered heavy losses, limiting its ability to support ground forces. One month into the war, Moscow pulled

its troops back from areas near Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv and other major cities in a tacit acknowledgment of the blitz's failure.

SHIFTING BATTLEFIELDS

The Kremlin then shifted its focus to the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, where Moscow-backed separatists had been fighting government troops since 2014 following Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

Relying on their massive edge in artillery, Russian forces inched forward in ferocious battles that devastated the

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behind the front lines, including in Russia-occupied Crimea.

A look at where things stand: A BOTCHED BLITZ

When Putin declared the start of the special military operation, he urged Ukraine's military to turn against the government in Kyiv, reflecting the Kremlin's belief that the population would broadly welcome the invaders. Some of the Russian troops coming in from Moscow's ally of Belarus, just 200 kilometers (about 125 miles) north of the capital, reportedly brought their parade uniforms with

US wants India to join coalition on Russia oil price cap

NEW DELHI(KCN): The US on Friday pressed India to join a coalition seeking to impose a price cap on Russian oil

Ukraine. India snapped up discounted Russian oil that was shunned by buyers of Europe and other places post

sanctions and nations like India were free to enter into deals using any currency, including local currency.

Adeyemo said during an interaction with media here.

"We think that objective is aligned with our objective, which is to reduce Russia's revenue. So we're providing them with information. We're going to continue the conversation with them," he added.

The G7 countries are inclined towards having a price ceiling on Russian oil.

On the other hand, Russia is discussing cheap long-term oil deals with Asian buyers in an attempt to counter the G7 bid to cap export prices.

Adeyemo said there is no decision on the final price but it should take into account that the oil production does not become unviable for Russia. However, it would reduce revenues earned from export of oil by Mos

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aimed at squeezing revenue streams from Moscow and softening the global energy prices.

US Deputy Secretary of Treasury Wally Adeyemo, who is on a three-day visit to India, discussed with policymakers about economic relations between the two nations as well as measures to limit earnings of Russia post its invasion of

Russia's invasion of Ukraine. India has been guarded in its criticism of Moscow.

With oil prices surging past USD 100/barrel mark, the US along with other G7 nations is looking at imposing some sort of price cap on Russian oil.

Adeyemo said energy and foodgrain trade by Russia has been kept out of

The war has disrupted the global supply chain which has resulted in rising prices of crude oil and some food products. "Indian policymakers are interested in learning more about joining the global price cap coalition to keep Russian fuel prices in check as it is aligned with India's objective of lowering energy prices from consumers,"

Odisha government commits Rs 1,000 crore, land to develop VSSUT

SAMBALPUR(KCN): The Odisha government on Thursday committed Rs 1,000 crore to transform Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla into an institution on par with IIT and NIT. Chief Secre-

VSSUT. He was accompanied by Principal Secretary, Skill Development and Technical Education, Hemant Sharma and Secretary 5T, VK Pandian. The Chief Secretary said a master plan for VSSUT will be pre-

pared as per the instruction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. There is a proposal to invest more than Rs 1000 crore in the university to develop it into

very soon," informed Mahapatra. The team visited VSSUT to review the laboratories, hostels and other infrastructure besides interacting with authorities, staff, teachers and students. The team



ary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, during his visit to Sambalpur, informed the government will provide land additionally for the development of the

has surplus land of 40 acre to 45 acres. An additional 80 acres have already been identified which the Water Resources department will hand over to the varsity

also reviewed progress of SAMALEI scheme during a visit to the shrine. Sambalpur Collector Ananya Das was also present.

Steps taken to make State's education eco-system vibrant: Odisha CM

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday said the government has initiated several steps to develop a vibrant higher education ecosystem in the State. Addressing an in-



terest of the students in sports and help create more national and international players from the State. Welcoming the new employees, Naveen said laboratory assistants and junior librarians have been appointed to give thrust to quality education. He said the role of laboratories and libraries is essential to create a dynamic environment for education in institutions. He hoped that their sincerity and commitment will encourage scientific aptitude among the students.

Stating that 5T is a life skill that can help everyone to succeed in life, he hoped the new entrants in the colleges will create examples for others by following the 5T mantra of the government. Chief Minister said the recent recruitment of over one thousand professors, associates professors, assistant professors and junior lecturers in different government and non-government colleges, has helped in increasing the student-teacher ratio in the colleges, added. Minister of State for Higher Education Rohit Pujari said because of the government's focus on higher education and sports, Odisha has now become an education and sports hub.

Workshop on 'Gender Sensitive Reporting and Writing' organized for scribes

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With an aim to promote equal and sensitive especially since most women do not make it to decision making positions within media organisations.



UNICEF Odisha organized a workshop on Gender Sensitive Reporting and Writing for journalists in Odisha today.

At the outset of this workshop, Ms. Radhika Srivastava, Communication and Advocacy Specialist, UNICEF, Odisha gave the welcome address and set up the context. Dr Monika Nielsen, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha also addressed the media and spoke of UNICEF's commitment to gender equality. Ms. Madhuri Das, Gender Specialist, UNICEF, Delhi delivered key notes on becoming more gender sensitive. Ms. Kasturi Ray, Senior News Editor, The New Indian Express moderated the entire workshop.



discriminatory norms and gendered barriers. Speaking on the role of media on gender, Ms. Srivastava said, "Media plays a crucial role on changing mindsets and perceptions .and a gender sensitive media can promote greater gender equality and challenge patriarchal system of our society."



The workshop started with an informal discussion on what the reporters/ journalists expect from this event. According to global data presented at the workshop, only 23% content in the media related to women while less than half of stories were reported by women. Data also showed that among spokesperson's quoted, only 19% were women'. A checklist for media was presented at the workshop, giving tips to journalists on how they can make their stories more gender sensitive, challenge social norms and ensures that voices of women are equally heard. Legislations such as The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 exists to prohibit indecent portrayal of women through advertisements, publications, writings, paintings etc. The check list also includes gender sensitive methods on reporting on crime against women and emphasizes on publishing follow up stories to write on the issue even as the focus is on the crime survivor. The participants discussed the various challenges and barriers they face within their workspace and in the external environment related to gender sensitive reporting,



and assaulting an elderly lady at Indira colony in ward no 12

Addressing the media Dr Monika Nielsen, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha said, "Gender equality is essential to realizing the mandate of UNICEF to uphold the rights of all children. Gender norms harm both girls and boys. Harmful practices such as child marriage, exploitation, child labour are often a result of behaviours and practices stemming from gender norms. As we recover from the pandemic, it is a critical time to discuss Gender equality, shifting power relations between genders and addressing

discriminatory norms and gendered barriers. Speaking on the role of media on gender, Ms. Srivastava said, "Media plays a crucial role on changing mindsets and perceptions .and a gender sensitive media can promote greater gender equality and challenge patriarchal system of our society."

She urged media houses to include sources who are women and are able to provide a woman's perspective while ensuring equal representation from women. She said it is important to explore an issue from a woman's perspective, and report on how women are impacted by it. This is especially important during disasters which Odisha so often faces, she said. Ms. Das explained the various stages of gender equality. She said, "Gender must be considered at all levels of news production: from the editorial department where decisions are made about what stories to cover, to the field where stories are gathered, to the final publication of the story with headlines and visuals. Our goal is to create a gender equal society and in this the media can play a very constructive role. Charity begins at home. So as a media house, all need to be very mindful of the impact of gender sensitive reporting. Media houses should not do something just for the sake of sensation and high earned TRPs." During this workshop, a group activity was also conducted among the scribes present in the house. The working journalists shared their thoughts and challenges in gender stereotype reporting and writing. The participants were felicitated with participation certificates.

JSW,Odisha Barbil unit extends hand to Combat Dengue



Barbil(KCN):JSW Odisha,Barbil unit extends its support to combat Dengue along with Seva group ,Barbil. Laxman Mahata,Chairman Barbil municipality and Alok Patel ,Tehsildar and executive magistrate, Barbil kick off the programme through unveiling of awareness catalogue packet.Subal Jha,CSR head and K.Sharma of

JSW were present on the occasion. Shankar Konar ,Rajesh Ray,Navin Somani, Vikas Gupta and many other members of Seva group were also present on the occasion. This drive would extend for next fifteen days followed by anti larval spray ,LLIMN distribution and awareness creation in ward no 15 said Subal Jha.

India Post celebrating Sukanya Samridhhi Mahotsav

KOLKATA (KCN): The West Bengal Post Circle is currently conducting the **Sukanya Samridhhi Mahotsav**, a Sukanya Samriddi account opening drive. The Sukanya Samriddi scheme was introduced in the year 2014 as an initiative of the Government of India under 'Beti Bachao Beti Parao' scheme for the welfare of the girl children across the country. The drive is being held from August 22nd to

August 30th and it was announced during a recently held Press Meet conducted by Mr. J. Charukesi, the Chief Postmaster General of the West Bengal circle, India Post in presence of Mrs. Shashi Shalini Kujer, Post Master General (SB Region). Under the Sukanya Samridhhi scheme deposits can be made up to 15 years from the date of opening. Partial withdrawal, up to 50% of the balance standing at the end of the preceding financial year, can be made after the girl child attains 18 years of age or passes 10th class whichever is earlier. The account will mature after completion of 21 years from the date of opening of the account, but if the girl child intends to marry after completion of 18 years of ages, the account can be closed before such completion. Minimum amount of Rs. 250/- and maximum amount of Rs.1,50,000/- can be deposited in a financial year. Currently, the scheme carries 7.6% rate of interest. Deposit in the scheme qualify for deduction from the income under section 80-C of the Income Tax Act up to a limit of Rs.1,50,000/- in a year. A Monthly contribution of Rs.1,000/- for 15 years (total contribution Rs.1, 80,000/-) will earn a maturity value of approximately Rs.5,10,373/- after 21 years.

Odisha doctor gets jail for 30 months over PC&PNDT Act violation

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): In the first of such convictions, a doctor was sentenced to 30-month imprisonment for violating the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act. Court of Judicial Magistrate First Class, Bhubaneswar Bhanupratap Mishra convicted Dr Nabaneeta Padhy, medical director of Femelife Fertility Foundation Private Limited of Gajapati Nagar under Sections 23 and 25 of PC and PNDT Act. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 9,000 on Dr Padhy and failure to pay will lead to five months of additional imprisonment. Another fine of Rs 1,000 was also imposed on

her. The case dates back to August 30, 2019, when the Khurda Collector had asked officials concerned to inquire into clinics in the Capital to ascertain if the rules and provisions of the PC and PNDT Act are being abided by. During verification at Femelife Fertility in Jayadev Vihar, a team found that the PC and PNDT licenses of the clinic had expired on September 15, 2018. This apart, irregularities were detected in Form-F (mandatory record having information like the name, address, and others of a pregnant woman undergoing ultrasound scan) and Form-G (a form of the consent).

Two arrested for assaulting an elderly woman

Barbil(KCN): Two persons have been arrested for allegedly stabbing

house of Sushil Khandayat in an intention to assault, but Sushil managed to escape from the spot. in the mean while they found his elderly mother at his residence and both attacked her with bricks and pointed



and assaulting an elderly lady at Indira colony in ward no 12

under Barbil police station of Keonjhar district. As per information the two friends and for some reason they had developed enmity against each other. On 22nd August the two accused had entered the complainant Sushil Khandayat were accused and the other. On 22nd August the two accused had entered house of Sushil Khandayat in an intention to assault, but Sushil managed to escape from the spot. in the mean while they found his elderly mother at his residence and both attacked her with bricks and pointed arow .The elderly lady was severely injured and taken to CHC,Barbil for treatment. As per locals the accused were ebriated at the time of incident.Sushil had lodged a complain of the incident and Barbil police arrested Augustin Barla and and Bikas Deogam from Indira colony of ward 12..A case under IPC sections pertaining to attempt to murder has been lodged and forwarded them to court.

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On the occasion of Release Day of the film DOBAARAA, Taapsee Pannu and Pavail Gulati visited Kalighat Temple to seek blessings of the Goddess for their movie. Neeraj Bharadwaj is shooting for web series 'Saazish' in Bhopal



Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Film and TV actor Neeraj Bharadwaj is shooting for the web series 'Saazish' in Kalua Khurd, Bhopal, which will soon be airing on Disney Hotstar. It is produced by Col. S S Pattnaik and the director is Hiralal Khatri. About which

Neeraj Bharadwaj says, "I am playing the role of city's famous lawyer Abhay Pratap Singh, who gets the brother of villain Shahbaz Khan punished. After that Shahbaz Khan commits a lot of oppression on my family and me. I am not able to do anything. After that conspiracy is

hatched and then what happens is still a secret. My role in this is different, I hope people will like it, and just like before, I will definitely be able to make a place in the heart of the audience with my performance." By the way, Neeraj Bharadwaj will soon have a webseries named



Madgaon ...A Murder Case. Its shooting has been completed. The main cast of the web series 'Saazish' are Mugdha Godse, Shahbaz Khan, Raza Murad, Mustakh Khan and Dev Manaria

with Neeraj Bharadwaj. Its screenplay and dialogues are by Vinod Vats, Vikas Vashisht and Ajay. Its cameramen are Manish Vyas and Amar Vyas, music is by Manish Bhanushali. It is

produced by Col.S S Pattnaik, co-producer Dev Manaria and executive producer is Anu Madrasi. It will be coming soon on Disney Hotstar. Its shooting is going on in Bhopal followed by Vadodara.

Would it be too odd to say 'burn all law reports to save our justice delivery system'?

The common law, which we adopted by way of Article 372 of the constitution, is the very



foundation of our legal system. Precedent, initially in the form of year books and later in the form of reported judgements is one of the major sources of common law, others being Roman law, statute and custom. The treaties of the laws of England by Chief Justice Coke in the 16th century, by Blackstone in the 17th century and by Halsbury in the 19th century are largely based on case laws. The case laws contain the reasoning and the principles evolved by the best of legal minds, over the centuries, to resolve a controversy before it where none existed. Such principles, when repeatedly and repeatedly affirmed by the Courts, became the settled principle of law. Precedent being reason, the reflection of the most accomplished minds, is such a great treasure, which as a student of law, which lawyer always is, has been a great joy and nourishment for my thought process. However, for the last couple of years, I have been campaigning against the very reliance on case law, for its senseless application has put our justice delivery system to great jeopardy. To bring home my point, today, I am coining a new slogan, "burn the law reports and save the judiciary", as odd as that may sound, in the hope that it will ignite a critical thought process. Precedence being adherence to reason, I am a great devout. The concept of precedent is an extremely useful tool, if understood and applied correctly, in its pristine sense. Precedent is a guarantee for consistency, uniformity and predictability of the judicial decisions. It is a great tool to ensure clarity and certainty, an assurance that like cases will be treated in a like manner.

Let me narrate an incident which I myself experienced recently. I was the lawyer for three entrepreneurs claiming benefit under the MSMED Act. The vacation bench granted an injunction in all the three cases. Later in one of the cases the appeal was allowed and the protection continued. In the second case, the matter was relegated to the trial court but without extending the protection. The third case is still pending.

Going by the fundamental principle, 'in consimili casu consimile debet esse remedium',

i.e. in similar cases the remedy be similar,

Mathews J. Nedumpara

the Court have decided all the three cases in the same manner.

Let me share yet another experience. In the last 10 years, on cases of the same subject, while a certain judges have granted ad interim injunction in all cases, certain other judges have denied relief invariably in all cases. My experience as a lawyer for almost four decades makes me believe that there is no law, as strange as that sounds. The judges being fallible human beings are influenced by their own prejudices, likes and dislikes. Most often they may not even realise it, for subconscious prejudices. The undeniable truth, which most readers may find shocking, is that the no court can assuredly do justice. The Roman lawyers, particularly, Ulpian who lived in the first century AD to whose credit the doctrine of res judicata is attributed realised it probably better than anybody else. One of his writings carry the caption 'Res judicata pro veritate accipitur', meaning that a judicial decision is to be treated as truth, howsoever erroneous it could be. In other words, if a Court of competent jurisdiction, after conducting a fair trial, holds an innocent man guilty and sentences him to be hanged, he shall be hanged. The reason behind this is that it is in the interest of the republic that a judicial decision should be final and binding so that litigation can come to an end. In other words, the finality of judicial decisions in the public interest. It is not conducive to private interest as well to allow parties to re-agitate a matter which has been finally decided. Ulpian, therefore, advocated the doctrine of res judicata. Our justice delivery system is built on the foundation of the concept of res judicata, namely, finality and authoritative-ness of judicial decisions.

Certainty of law and predictability of judicial decisions is the laudable object behind the doctrine of precedent. In the early years of development of law, till the 20th century, the number of reported judgements were few and what was a precedent was the enunciation of a principle where none existed, and its repeated affirmation in subsequent judgements. A settled principle has the equal force of a statute. However, with the proliferation of reported judgements, 2 million in the first half of the 20th century, the case law or precedent has lost most of its value in the United

States. In India, prior to independence, the number of affirmative pronouncements of law by the Privy Council, Federal Court, nay, even the HCs were very limited. But with the advancement of technology and the proliferation of the law reports, today, we are facing the same situation which the lawyers in the US faced in the mid twentieth century. Some portals claim to provide even 2 million citations. The judgments of the Supreme Court, HCs and even tribunals are quoted in Courts as "authoritative pronouncements of law". It has become fashionable to cite a large number of judgements, often of no relevance to the case at hand, while arguing a case. The subordinate judges even face contempt of court/disciplinary action for not relying on the judgements which are cited by the counsels at the bar. Discussion on the actual merits of the case often consume a minor portion of the judgement rendered. Pages after pages are written, extensively quoting judgements cited at the bar.

The lawyers argue even an application for injunction or bail, and for that matter any application of little consequence, referring to a large number of judgements, as if the law to be applied in a specific case has to be culled out from the thousands of pages of citations.

Article 141 is no longer understood as concerning precedent. Every sentence of a judgement of the Supreme Court, often running into hundreds of pages is treated as "law of the land," far more binding than a statute enacted by the Parliament, the supreme law maker. Article 141, misunderstood as it is, has become a calamity. The British, soon after it took over the administration of the dominion of India in 1858, undertook the trying task of codifying the common law (even before they enacted a law for themselves) into statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, CPC, CrPC, Contract Act, Transfer of Property Act, etc. Our legislatures after independence, enacted a large number of legislations concerning every field. It is difficult to imagine an area where there is no statute at all. Our statute books, namely, the laws enacted by the legislatures and the rules and regulations made by the executive itself run into thousands of volumes. With more than 2 million judgements which are all binding precedents within the meaning of Article 141 and other-

wise, the hapless citizen has to cull out the law applicable to him from legislation and judgments running into millions of pages. Most of the judgments are contrary to the first principles and contrary to each other. The scenario, today, is that nobody knows the law. Far from certainty, which is the laudable purpose precedent is supposed to serve, our reliance on precedent has led to a situation of absolute uncertainty of law.

I don't find any room for hope. Our Supreme Court has assumed to itself the role of the ultimate policy maker and legislature. Today, there is no controversy which is not justiciable. The clamour for constitution benches and larger benches is becoming louder and louder. That would mean further addition to the 2million and odd citations, under the weight of which our justice delivery system has been completely crushed. Simple issues, which offer no difficulty in finding a solution, are now made extremely complicated with judgements which run into thousands of pages for no good reason. Today's lawyer needs no skill for reasoning and analytical thinking, all he needs is a database and the knack to find a large number of judgments on a given subject. To conclude, we must listen to what Ulpian has said, no court can assuredly do justice. The reliance on precedent in no way improves the situation, on the contrary, its senseless application has made it worse. Is it then not wiser, to allow judges to decide cases, according to the letter of the statute (except where it leads to gross injustice) giving reasoned judgements based on facts, as is the case with the civil law countries. I am sure the result would be extremely promising, judgements would be brief, it will discuss the actual facts and controversies, arguments will be brief for long hours spent on the mere reading of judgements after judgements on the same point. Today, by authoring a thousand page judgement, a court can literally say 1+1=0, the reasoning being lost in the endless number of pages. In adopting the Civil law system we stand to lose nothing. The Civil law system, though, does not ensure justice in all cases or absolute certainty of law, since the system today is far worse, there is no reason for any apprehension.

(The author is the President of the National Lawyers Campaign For Judicial Transparency And Reforms)

Flavoured Tea Flavour of the Season

Flavoured tea seems to be the flavour of the season. From doodh chai to flavoured chai-



however long haul it may sound, the millennial and the GenY are making it look so easy. Although the size of the flavoured tea market in terms of volume and price may still be approximately 60 million kilograms and Rs 3600 crore respectively, which is nearly 10 per cent of the entire packet tea consumption in India, with a large number of organised players in the industry entering the fray, the flavoured tea market is growing at a very fast pace in India. Some industry reports suggest that the functional tea market in India is nearly 0.5 per cent of India's overall domestic consumption, but the growth in this category can be safely estimated at 40 per cent to 45 per cent per annum.

Interestingly, India is the world's second-largest producer of tea and most of its production is geared to meet domestic demand. Per capita consumption of tea has been growing steadily for the past fifty years and, today Indians consume a whopping 837,000 tonne of their favourite beverage.

"These flavoured or functional teas are particularly popular in the 18- 35 years age group. The high growth in demand for such functional teas can also be attributed to the onset of Covid-19, as tea

augmented with spices and natural herbs is known to

Ritwik Mukherjee

boost immunity. We've seen a growing acceptance towards Herbal Teas, wellness teas and iced teas especially post the pandemic. The pandemic has led to a fundamental shift in consumer's



behaviour towards high quality, natural and organic wellness products," said Madhav Sarda, an expert Tea Sommelier and Managing Director of Golden Tips Tea.

According to industry reports the mov-

ing annual total (MAT) of the packaged tea market in value was growing by around 19 per cent in August 2021, over MAT August 2020 in India. Pre-pandemic, the growth was around 7 per cent (2019 vs 2018).

Indians have experienced a large scale health ailments due to their choice in lifestyle leading to weakness, fatigue, fogginess, irregular periods and sleep cycles and our range of wellness teas like PCOS tea, Cough & Cold Tea, Tulsi good sleep tea, Dandelion root tea and lungs cleanse and Detoxify tea have significantly helped them supplement their lifestyles better, he said.

Different brands are now focussing on holistic wellness which covers an active lifestyle for which such tea blends are gaining popularity. The tea consumers are also increasingly inclined towards trying out innovative flavours and unique blends of hibiscus tea, Apple cinnamon tea, and anti-hangover tea. There are also various quirky tea blends available in the market like giloy and ashwagandha which

cater to the demands and preferences of the consumers ensuring both taste and wellness. Green teas are also being rolled out with different flavours to improve palatability and make them more acceptable, Sarda pointed out.



Mind you that flavoured tea is a tea with tea leaves as a base, and added flavour to it, to make the culinary experience more interesting. Flavour in tea can be included in the form of inclusions such as spices, nuts, flowers, or as added flavour extracts such as essential oils of Ginger, Lemon and Spices.

Pic: Madhav Sarda, Managing Director, Golden Tips Tea

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

Odisha State Open University, Sambalpur organized Webinar on "Role of Social Science & Democracy"

Sambalpur (KCN): Odisha State Open University organized a National Webinar on "Role of Social Science & Democracy" on 24th August, 2022. The webinar was meant for the officers, faculty and staff of OSOU. The webinar was meant for understanding the role of social science in molding and shaping democracy and democratic institutions. Prof. (Dr.) Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Odisha State Open University graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Chief Patron of the National Webinar. Esteemed Registrar Prof. (Dr.) Manas Ranjan Pujari was also present in the webinar. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor provided an introductory understanding as to how the topic is



relevant to modern times and especially in the present context in India. The Chief Speaker of the webinar was Prof. (Dr.) Dipti Ranjan Sahu, an acclaimed academics from Odisha, presently with the Department of Sociology, University of Lucknow. He deliberated upon the usefulness of social science and the future structure of democracy. He also cited some examples as to how social science is responsible for bringing critical voices and concerns in the world over and especially in India. The webinar was coordinated by Miss. Soumya Bhanja, Karisma Sahu and Reeta Singh Academic Consultants of Odisha State Open University.

CBI FIR fake, Centre acting like 'serial killer' to eliminate state govts: Sisodia

NEW DELHI: The BJP-led Centre is acting like a serial killer to eliminate state governments, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia claimed on Friday, as he termed the CBI FIR against him "completely fake" and based on "mere sources". Speaking in the Delhi Assembly, Sisodia said the CBI does not have proof of any corruption in the city government's excise policy. He also alleged that the CBI conducted raids on

"mere sources" as the CBI does not have any proof for any corruption. He said the real reason behind the CBI raid was Delhi government's good works, which were being praised across the globe. The CBI is currently probing alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the Kejriwal government's new excise policy and has named Sisodia, who holds the excise portfolio, as one of the accused in its FIR. The agency conducted a

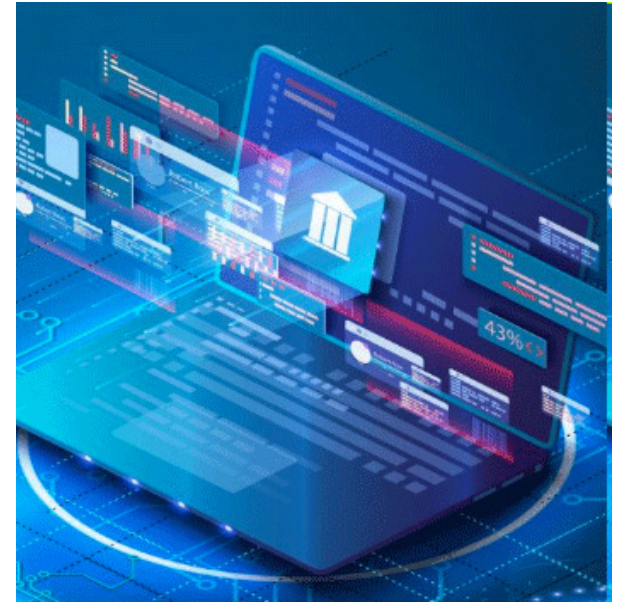


his residence because the Delhi government's good work was being praised across the globe. The deputy chief minister, who is an accused in the CBI case related to the Delhi government's excise policy, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi "feels insecure" seeing good work done by others. "Prime Minister Modi feels insecure seeing good work by others. I have not seen a more insecure person than him. Had Arvind Kejriwal been the prime minister and I the education minister of a state, he would not have done something like this," Sisodia said, participating in a discussion on a government resolution moved by Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot. The deputy chief minister asserted that Kejriwal supported the prime minister in all the Centre's good initiatives but the PM did the opposite. He said CBI officers searched his clothes and even his children's clothes during the 14-hour raid at his house but found nothing. "The FIR against me is completely fake. I have committed no corruption...They (BJP) are acting like serial killer to eliminate other state governments. The effort they are putting to murder state governments, they should have put that much effort into building schools and hospitals," Sisodia said. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday had held a show of strength by summoning all its MLAs at party supremo Arvind Kejriwal's residence where he accused the BJP of trying to topple his government by offering Rs 800 crore to 40 of his legislators for switching sides. Kejriwal also questioned if the money came from GST collections, the PM CARES fund or some of the BJP's "friends". Speaking in the House, the deputy chief minister defended his government's Excise Policy 2021-22, which has now been withdrawn. "There was no burden on the people in the excise policy and the government's revenue also increased, but still the BJP was alleging corruption in it," Sisodia said. He said that the FIR against him was based on

raid at the deputy chief minister's residence last week. Sisodia also alleged that a huge "conspiracy" was at play to topple the state government. He claimed the BJP offered to have cases against him dropped if he joined the party. "They told me to leave Kejriwal, come to BJP and all cases will be shut. But I said I have not done anything wrong and I will be released by court. I have not come here to become the chief minister. You cannot break me and I am not ready to budge in front of them. I assure people that you have bought us with your votes and now no power can buy us," the AAP leader said. Sisodia stressed it was all being done so that children do not get education and can be used for the BJP's hooliganism. Fifty-three MLAs were physically present in the meeting at the chief minister's residence on Thursday, while one -- Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan - attended it over phone. Seven MLAs, Sisodia and Speaker Ram Niwas Goel were out of station and minister Satyendar Jain is in jail. Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, drew parallels of India's average education age of children with that of other countries and said that the nation was lagging in the segment and was only ahead of Pakistan. He said that after 75 years of Independence, the condition of education is such that on an average, children get education for six years in India. "We are ahead of Pakistan where the average age is five years. In US, Britain and Japan, the same figure is 13 years while in South Africa it is 10 years...PM Narendra Modi has small thinking and such thinking is responsible for our poor condition in health and education," Sisodia said. He added that only Kejriwal can increase the average education age of the country and end the high fees charged by private schools.

Digital Tech for Cancer Care

New Delhi: The National Cancer Grid (NCG) has established the Koita Centre for Digital Oncology (KCDO) to promote use of digital technologies and tools to improve cancer care across India. The Centre has been set up with the contributions received from the Koita Foundation, which will support it for five years. The Tata Memorial Centre and Koita Foundation formalized the collaboration by signing an MoU at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai today.



Cancer care is evolving rapidly, and digital tools are becoming indispensable in enhancing cancer care worldwide. KCDO will play an important role in driving digital transformation across the cancer care continuum. KCDO will support NCG hospitals in sharing best practices in digital health, adopting digital health tools, and driving many common technology initiatives including EMR adoption, healthcare data interoperability, reporting and analytics.

KCDO will also enable NCG and NCG hospitals pilot and adopt new technologies - including AI, machine learning, big data, automation, cloud, mobile - which will benefit hospitals, doctors, patients and consumers. Embracing digital tools like telemedicine and remote patient monitoring will help make care more accessible especially in semi-urban and rural areas. AI-assisted clinical decision support tools will help improve doctors' ability to provide better care, and mobile patient engagement apps will help patients with medication management and better compliance with care guidelines. Similarly, use of healthcare data analytics across hospitals will enable tracking and benchmarking of clinical outcomes and effectiveness of different treatment and care pathways. KCDO will also partner with academic and research organizations to promote research and development in cancer care.

Pakistan slaps terror charges against its ex-PM Imran Khan



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court on Monday granted Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan protective bail till Thursday in a terrorism case registered against him for threatening police, judiciary and other state institutions at his Islamabad rally on Saturday. Khan was booked on Sunday under the Anti-Terrorism Act. Earlier in the day, Khan moved the court seeking pre-arrest bail in the case. The petition filed by his lawyers Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry stated that Khan was a target of the ruling PDM (Pakistan Democratic Movement) for his

fearless criticism, and extremely bold and blunt stance against corruption and corrupt politicians, the Dawn newspaper reported. "And to achieve this malicious agenda, acting in a most unfortunate and clumsy manner, a false and frivolous complaint has been registered against him by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police at the behest of the incumbent government," it added. The plea further alleged that the government had decided to cross all limits to arrest Imran under false accusations and was hell-bent to sort out the petitioner and his party at all costs.

Odisha: Caught between two dump yards, BMC struggles

BHUBANESWAR: Indiscriminate dumping aside, waste collection in the State Capital has been hit as transport of trash from the temporary transit station near Sainik School to Bhuasuni dump yard -



the designated place for transferring of City's solid waste - has remained paralysed for over a fortnight, thanks to protest of villagers in Daruthenga. Villagers are not allowing the corporation to shift garbage to the dump yard and seek immediate bio-mining of the waste at the site located in their area. The civic body, however, wants a year's time. "The garbage transfer cannot be stopped at one go. It will be stopped once all the ward-level micro composting centres (MCCs) are made functional. We need at least 10 to 12 months time for that," said a senior official from BMC.

With BMC failing to clear waste from TTS, the entire station is now a massive pile of waste, creating an unhygienic and unhealthy atmosphere in Sainik School and VSS Nagar locality. Vehicles carrying garbage to the TTS are also facing problems in unloading trash at the station due to a lack of space. This has affected waste collection across the city. Though BMC convened a meeting with villagers to resolve the issue last week, sources said it remained inconclusive. Civic officials said the issue will turn acute if the villagers do not cooperate. "Efforts are on to seek support from the local community of Daruthenga in this regard," said BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange. Meanwhile, the protest also delayed the bio-mining project which the civic body planned to start at an investment of 103 crore to clear over a million-tonne waste lying dumped at the site for over a decade. "The bio-mining plant has already been set up and ready for operation. We are hopeful that the villagers will allow it without blocking the civic body from transferring waste to the site," Kulange said.

Uttar Pradesh CM reviews preparations for demolition of Noida towers

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday reviewed

a result of demolition. Sweeping machines will be installed on the roads

will be ensured. He said as per the CM's directions, traffic on the roads

sives being used to demolish the towers. The demolition will result in the genera-



preparations for the demolition of Supertech Twin Towers in Noida, which is scheduled to take place on August 28. According to a statement issued by the government here, Adityanath said people's safety should be ensured at all cost.

He also directed to take care of the environmental challenges in view of the demolition.

Water tankers, sprinklers and smog guns will be used to clear the dust generated as

within two-kilometre radius of the buildings.

After the Chief Minister's review, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner Arvind Kumar issued detailed guidelines.

Kumar said the preparations for the demolition of the towers have been completed. The buildings near the towers will be vacated on August 28 at 7 am.

Alternate parking arrangements and the protection of gardens

around the Twin Towers will be restricted during the demolition.

The Noida-Greater Noida Expressway will be closed for half an hour for safety at the time of demolition. A private firm has partnered with South African Jet Demolitions for the task. The officer said the company has to demolish the towers in such a way that there is no damage to residential buildings nearby. According to the statement, about 3,700 kg of explo-

tion of approximately 80,000 tonnes of debris. Steel and concrete will be separated from the rubble on the spot.

About 50,000 tonnes of debris will be accommodated in the twin towers' two basements. The remaining 30,000 tonnes of debris will be processed scientifically and converted into tiles. According to the plan, the entire process of disposal of debris will be completed in next three months.

Don't burden utilities, pay for freebies from budgets: FM

MUMBAI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said political parties that come to power on pre-poll promises of

of the election, you are looking at a quid pro quo. You should be, as a responsible party, assume after you come to power, make a provision in

discom has not asked for votes. Why should they be burdened? Do they have the power to stop continuing the supply? And similarly the gencos,"

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for giving a perverse twist to the debate. Underlining that we should have a rigorous debate on the issue of freebies,



freebies should pay for those through budgetary provisions.

Citing the example of free electricity being promised in many states, the finance minister said the burden for the freebies should not be thrust upon the power discoms or gencos.

"If a promise has been made to the people at the time

the budget for it," Sitharaman said, speaking at the FE Best Bank Awards event here.

She said in the case of the power sector, there have been cases where states have paid the utilities in parts or not paid at all.

"You end up shifting the burden to the discom which has not gone to the election. The

she said. "The debate is not about what constitutes a freebie, but if you have given a promise, provision for it," she added.

The remarks come amid a heated debate on the subject of freebies, which have seen the BJP and Opposition parties like AAP being divided. Earlier, Sitharaman had blamed Delhi

Sitharaman suggested that the government supports deploying resources to aid one's journey out of poverty and empowering people, but one should not look at such efforts as entitlements.

"This is an important issue for India to debate and all should join the debate," she said.

Alcohol use drops in India, more men are daily drinkers, spike in women tipplers is a myth, says study

NEW DELHI: Indians are drinking less but more men are making alcohol a habit. Rising alcohol consumption among women is a myth even though more females are having country liquor, beer and other beverages, according to a study based on the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). The study published in Oxford Academic journal claimed that drinking among Indian men has come down by 22.37 percent compared to the previous NFHS-4 (2015-16) survey.

In the case of women, there has been a significant 39 percent drop. At the same time, the proportion of men drinking daily has gone up by 24.19 percent and those having it "once a week" has shot up by 7.24 percent.

There has been a jump in women's use of country liquor, beer and stiff drinks. The number of women having 'tadi madi' -- a local concoction -- and wine has come down. The findings cover drinking habits in India between 2016 and 2020 and based its findings on the two NFHS surveys of 4 and 5.

The study also claimed that "over the years, different surveys have reported that an overwhelmingly large proportion of Indians are classified as abstainers. As a corollary, the total alcohol consumed in India is consumed by a relatively smaller proportion of the population." According to Dr Yatan Pal Singh Balhara, Additional Professor of Psychiatry, National Drug Treatment Centre (NDDTC), Department of Psychiatry, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the lead author of the study, the survey findings contradict a popular notion that more women are drinking.

The study shows that the use of alcohol among women has decreased, and even daily drinkers among the female population are also less, he told this newspaper.

The survey said that increasing daily drinkers

among men was a concern.

Although the NFHS does not capture data on alcohol use disorders, it can be inferred that given the pattern of drinking among men in India, those who report almost daily use might be at greater risk of or are likely to have developed problematic patterns of alcohol use, said the report, adding that there is a need to invest in both prevention-oriented and treatment-oriented interventions.

The response rate among men and women has been over 90 percent in the survey.

According to a national study, the age of initiation to alcohol in India is 13.6 years.

The study also found that there was a reduction in the proportion of men across all ages who said they drink daily.

"The Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health 2018 by WHO estimated a 38 percent increase in per capita alcohol consumption among individuals aged 15 years and above in India during 2010-17," said Dr Balhara.

What the study shows:

Drinking among men has come down by 22.37 per cent

The drop in drinking among women is 39.02 per cent

Number of men drinking daily goes up by 24.19 per cent

Number of men drinking once a week jumps by 7.14 per cent

There is a significant increase in the proportion of people drinking country liquor, beer, hard liquor and other alcoholic beverages among women.

There is a decrease in the proportion of women reporting use of "tadi madi" and wine.

Contrary to media reports, NFHS data shows drinking among women is declining



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Biggest growth risk for India is geopolitics, says RBI MPC member

NEW DELHI: The biggest risk to India's growth outlook is an escalation of geopolitical tensions, especially if these tensions spread to the Asian region, RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Jayanth R Varma said on Wednesday.

Varma, in an interview to PTI, said that inflation and inflationary expectations appear to be moderating and high inflation will certainly not become the 'norm' in the country. He is cautiously optimistic about the Indian economy as after the pandemic abated, consumption demand has begun to recover though the recovery is uneven across sectors and industries.

"Capacity utilization has been inching up, and is now approaching levels at which business will have to seriously consider capital expenditure for expansion," Varma added.

He further noted that the MPC is determined to bring inflation down close to the target rate of 4 per cent as quickly as possible without imposing intolerable costs in terms of economic growth.

"I would like to emphasize that high inflation will certainly not become the norm in India," he said.

The Reserve Bank in its latest MPC meeting

in August had decided to increase the benchmark lending rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent to quell inflation.

The central bank has been tasked by the government to ensure that retail inflation remains within the range of 2-6 per cent.

"Finally, inflation and inflationary expectations appear to be moderating (both in India and globally) and this would reduce one of the major headwinds for the Indian economy,"



Varma noted.

Retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased to 6.71 per cent in July but remained above RBI's tolerance level for the seventh month in a row. The Reserve Bank had projected retail inflation to average 6.7 per cent in 2022-23.

Turning to the negative side, he observed that in the current global environment, exports might not be as buoyant as they were in the past and said while India is not an export-

driven economy, an export slowdown would be a drag on growth, if it is sustained.

"The biggest risk to the growth outlook is that of an escalation of geopolitical tensions especially if these tensions spread to the Asian region," he said.

Russia started its military offensive against Ukraine on February 24. Western nations, including the US, have imposed major economic and other sanctions on Russia following the aggression.

Noting that inflation has already peaked, Varma said Inflation would be above the target for several quarters, but there is reason to believe that the worst is over, unless the world is confronted by another unforeseen global shock.

On the other hand, he said any adverse shocks to economic growth (domestic or global) could cause a steeper decline in inflation than is currently expected.

He said in the last three years, India's inflation targeting regime was confronted with two shocks in rapid succession -- the pandemic (which was an unprecedented growth shock) and the Ukraine war (which has caused a global inflation shock).

"By helping maintain credibility of monetary policy, the inflation targeting regime proved its worth in confronting both these shocks," Varma, currently a professor of Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad) said.

According to him, transitioning rapidly from a growth shock to an inflation shock was a severe and unexpected challenge. "It is true that inflation has stayed above the upper tolerance band for too long, and this would have

to be addressed in the ensuing months," he opined.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the Indian economy is forecast to expand at 7.4 per cent in 2022-23, making it one of the world's fastest growing economies. Replying to a question on weakening of the Indian rupee, the eminent economist said exchange rate movements are driven by multiple forces of which inflation is only one.

Varma pointed out that over the last several decades, Indian inflation has tended to be above global levels, and during this period India has witnessed periodic episodes of currency depreciation that serve to reverse the loss of competitiveness arising from the cumulative inflation differential.

"Viewed in this light, the recent weakening of the rupee is not a cause for alarm," he said.

The US dollar, which has risen by over 8.3 per cent since March 31, 2022.

On average, the Indian rupee depreciated 1.9 per cent against the US dollar (m-o-m) in July, even as the US dollar index appreciated by 2.9 per cent.

Where Ukraine war stands after six months

Continued from page-1

region. The strategic port of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov that became a symbol of Ukrainian resistance fell in May after a nearly three-month siege that reduced the city to ruins.

More than 2,400 Mariupol defenders who holed up at the giant Azovstal steel mill later surrendered and were taken prisoner. At least 53 of them died last month in an explosion at a prison in eastern Ukraine that Moscow and Kyiv blamed on each other.

The Russians have taken control of the entire Luhansk region, one of two provinces that make up the Donbas, and also seized just over half of the second, Donetsk. Russia currently occupies about 20% of Ukraine's territory.

Putin will try to bite one piece of Ukrainian territory after another to strengthen his negotiating stand, said Mykola Sunhurovskyi, a military analyst with the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center think-tank. His message to Ukraine is: If you don't sit down for talks now, things will get worse and we will take even more of your territory and kill even more of your people. He's trying to raise not only external but also internal pressure on the Ukrainian government.

The Donbas offensive has slowed as Moscow was forced to relocate some of its troops to Russia-occupied areas in the south to fend off a potential Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Russian troops seized the Kherson region, north of Crimea, and part of the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region early in the conflict. It has installed pro-Moscow administrations there, introduced its currency, handed out Russian passports and launched preparations for referendums to pave the way for their annexation.

But Ukrainian forces recently reclaimed some ground, striking bridges and targeting munitions depots.

Meanwhile, both sides have traded accusations of shelling the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, raising fears of an atomic disaster.

Ukraine has forced Russia to conduct a massive redeployment of forces and spread them all along the front line, from Kharkiv to Kherson, said Ukrainian military expert Oleh Zhdanov. It's very hard to stretch them along such a big distance.

Although Kyiv doesn't have enough weapons to launch a big counteroffensive, time plays in Ukraine's favor, he said. The longer the pause lasts, the more weapons Ukraine will receive from its allies.

UKRAINIAN SUCCESSES

Western weapons, including U.S. HIMARS multiple rocket launchers, have boosted Ukraine's military's capability, allowing it to target Russian munitions depots, bridges and other key facilities with precision and impunity.

In a major symbolic victory in April, the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, the Moskva missile cruiser, exploded and sank while on patrol after reportedly being hit by a Ukrainian missile. That dealt a heavy blow to Russia's pride and forced it to limit naval operations.

Adani group rejects NDTV's assertion of Sebi nod needed for share acquisition

NEW DELHI: Adani group on Friday rejected NDTV's assertion that Sebi's approval is necessary to acquire interests in RRPR, saying the promoter entity is not a part of the regulator's order that restrained Prannoy and Radhika Roy from accessing the securities market.

Terming the contentions raised by RRPR as "baseless, legally untenable and devoid of merit", VCPL said the holding firm is "bound to immediately perform its obligation and allot the equity shares" as specified in the Warrant Exercise Notice.

In a regulatory update, Adani Enterprises Ltd said VCPL has received a reply on behalf of RRPR to the Warrant Exercise Notice dated August 23, 2022.

"RRPR is not a party to the SEBI Order dated 27th November 2020. Consequently, the restraints as pointed out by RRPR in paragraphs

On Thursday, NDTV had said the approval from market regulator Sebi is "necessary" for VCPL to acquire interests in NDTV's promoter entity RRPR Ltd against an unpaid loan.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on November 27, 2020, restrained the founder-promoters Prannoy and Radhika Roy "from accessing the securities market, and further prohibiting buying, selling, or otherwise dealing in securities, directly or indirectly, or being associated with the securities market in any manner whatsoever for a period of 2 years".

This ban expires on November 26, 2022, said NDTV in a disclosure to exchanges.

"Unless pending appeal proceedings were to successfully conclude prior, Sebi approval is necessary for the proposed Acquirer to secure 99.5 per cent interests in the Promoter

of NDTV hit the upper circuit limit for the third straight day in the opening trade on Friday.

The company's shares have been rising after Adani group's hostile takeover bid with the announcement of an open offer on Tuesday to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake.

The scrip opened at Rs 423.85, its highest trading permissible limit for the day as well as the fresh 52-week high level, on BSE. 'Contractual terms of warrants will be crucial in Adani group's hostile bid for NDTV': Legal experts

This was a 5 per cent increase compared to Thursday's closing level of Rs 403.70 apiece. As the session progressed, the shares were trading at Rs 422.10 apiece, a gain of 4.56 per cent.

On NSE too, the company's shares reached the upper circuit limit of Rs 427.95, which was also its 52-week high on the bourse, after opening at Rs 421.90.

US wants India to join coalition on Russia oil price cap

Continued from page-1

cow.

"It is in the best interest of our people to get energy but also to deny Russia revenues that they can use to prop up their economy and further the war in Ukraine. Our goal ultimately is to try and build out a coalition that is going to join us in implementing the price cap," he said.

Earlier in the day, Adeyemo met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and among other topics, they discussed about Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and India's G20 Presidency.

India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023. India will host the G20 summit next year.

G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance.

"During my conversation with the Finance Minister, we did talk about the Indo Pacific Economic Framework that the President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Modi have agreed to," Adeyemo said.

There were also discussions about supply chains and climate change and how the US and India can do more to build supply chain resiliency, he said.

With regard to clean technology, Adeyemo said both the US and India have scope for technology transfer and collaboration.

Stressing that America sees India as one of the premier partners, he said that US financial firms are looking at India increasingly as an investment destination.



111(b) and 112 of the SEBI Order do not apply to RRPR," Adani Enterprises said in the regulatory update.

The Warrant Exercise Notice was issued by its subsidiary Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Ltd (VCPL) under a contract, which is binding on RRPR, it added.

"RRPR is therefore obligated to comply with its contractual obligations," Adani Enterprises said.

NDTV cites regulatory grounds to block Adani takeover

The group also said the performance of obligations by RRPR pursuant to the Warrant Exercise Notice will not result in violation of the Sebi order as "there is no, direct or indirect, dealing in any securities of Prannoy Roy or Radhika Roy" pursuant to the exercise of the warrants by VCPL and allotment of shares by RRPR. VCPL, therefore, does not agree with RRPR that prior written approval from SEBI is required for allotment of shares to VCPL on the exercise of warrants," it added.

Group vehicle, since this would consequently lead to the acquisition of voting rights in respect of 29.18 per cent of the issued share capital of the Target Company held by the Promoter Group vehicle," NDTV said in the regulatory filing.

On Tuesday, the Adani group announced that it has acquired 29.18 per cent shareholding in NDTV and will launch an open offer to buy an additional 26 per cent stake.

The key element behind the takeover bid is an unpaid loan that NDTV's promoter entity RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd had availed from Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt Ltd (VCPL). The entity had taken a loan of Rs 403.85 crore in 2009-10 and against this amount, warrants were issued by RRPR. With the warrants, VCPL had the right to convert them into a 99.9 per cent stake in RRPR in case the loan was not repaid.

Adani group firm first acquired VCPL from its new owner and exercised the option to convert unpaid debt into a 29.18 per cent stake in the news channel company. Shares

Asia Cup: Searching for sweet spot in desert

CHENNAI: Just a tad short of 10 months since they exited the 2021 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates, India – with a different attitude and approach – are back again in Dubai for the Asia Cup. Of course, much has changed since then. There is a new captain, a new head coach and over the past 10 months have shown the world, they can play in a different gear and are not just one-dimensional.

For a team that struggled to set the tone while batting first, they have done a course correction, often pushing their limits. They have rotated their players; have brought in role-specific players who could give them an extra edge over the opponents; have scored quicker (9.24 runs per over) in the last 10 months than they did between 2016 T20 World

Cup to the 2021 World Cup, where they scored only at 8.66.

Their average runs per wicket has declined by 1.49 runs, which shows the batters are taking more risk than before, yet getting the desired results. Their strike-rate which was 135.95 between the last editions of the World Cup has now gone up to 143.49 while batting first. Which is why, with another T20 World Cup around the corner, there is newfound belief and hope.

Since the last T20 World Cup, India have gone from a set template to having a

more flexible one which has seen them use Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Dinesh Karthik – all in squad for Asia Cup beginning Saturday – who all have brought a much needed different approach and attitude that was lacking in T20Is.

And yet, when India walk out for their opening match against Pakistan on Sunday, their top seven could be the same: Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar, Pant, Jadeja, Pandya. But more importantly, India will retain the same top three, who not too long ago, were seen as one-dimensional anchor batters weighing the team down. Among the three, since the last World Cup, only skipper Rohit has played more matches and has been keen on setting the tone early by being an enforcer at the top. Rahul hasn't played a T20I since November and Kohli has played only four. And barring any significant changes, India will have

the same top-three for the T20 World Cup Down Under.

They have invested heavily in this approach over the last 10 months and have carefully invested in



World C'ships: Satwik-Chirag claim India's first men's doubles medal

TOKYO: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Friday became the first Indian pair to win a medal in the men's doubles competition at the World Championships but HS Prannoy's impressive run ended in agony as he went down narrowly in the men's singles quarterfinals here.

Satwik and Chirag, the world number 7 combination, which had claimed the Commonwealth Games gold medal earlier this month, stunned the local favourites and defending champions Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi 24-22 15-21 21-14 in an hour and 15 min-

11-5 at the interval.

Satwik and Chirag then extended the lead to 14-8 before they were called for a fault for touching the net during a return. The duo lost the point but soon managed to put that behind, leading 16-9.

Yugo produced some sensational shots, including a powerful smash and a cross court return, to keep the Japanese duo's chances alive with three points.

Two shots going wide from the Japanese pair put India a couple of points away from the win at 19-13.



utes to claim its maiden medal at the prestigious tournament.

It is India's second World Championships medal in the doubles event with Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa claiming a bronze way back in 2011 in the women's doubles.

Overall, it's India's 13th medal at the showpiece with PV Sindhu winning five, including a gold in 2019, and Saina Nehwal (silver and bronze) claiming two. Kidambi Srikanth (silver), Lakshya Sen (bronze), B Sai Praneeth (bronze) and Prakash Padukone (bronze) were the other medallists.

It could have been double delight for the country but China's Zhao Jun Peng had other plans as he broke Indian hearts with a 19-21 21-6 21-18 win over former world number 8 Prannoy, who went down on one knee with his head hanging in disappointment after the gut-wrenching loss.

Earlier, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila's fine run also ended after the Indian pair lost 8-21 14-21 to three-time champions Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan in another men's doubles quarterfinals.

Having assured themselves of at least a bronze, Satwik and Chirag will now face the sixth seeded Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in the semifinals.

Satwik and Chirag came out with a lot of intent as they dominated the proceedings early on to establish a lead of 12-5 in the first game but the Japanese pair reeled off seven points on the trot to eke out a 16-14 advantage.

However, the Indian duo fought tooth and nail to ensure it had the advantage after the opening game.

Takuro and Yugo made a strong comeback in the second game after breaking off at 9-9 following a tight battle. With the match hanging in balance, the Indian pair once again found its bearings as the two strengthened their defence and mounted an attack to lead

The Indians then grabbed seven match points with another superb return which their opponents failed to negotiate. A tad nervous, Satwik faltered on his serve but Yugo sent the shuttle to the net as Chirag let out a cry in celebration.

In the men's singles, Prannoy had raised hopes of a medal after he outwitted two-time former champion Kento Momota and compatriot and last year's bronze medallist Lakshya Sen.

But it wasn't to be as the 30-year-old squandered an opening game advantage and a slender 11-10 lead in the decider to again sign off at the quarters, following his last eight finish in Spain in 2021.

Prannoy lost four quick points initially but soon got back to a nice rhythm, creating angles to bother his opponent. He grabbed a three-point cushion at the break and kept a firm grip on the rallies to extend his advantage to 19-13 in the opening game.

A series of errors, including a wide smash and three miscued shots, allowed Zhao to claw back to 19-19. However, the Chinese sent one to the net and the Indian then produced his trademark forehand return to pocket the game.

The second game was a forgettable affair as Prannoy looked out of sort. The Chinese took a massive 11-1 lead at the interval as Prannoy decided to conserve his energy.

In the decider, Prannoy looked erratic but managed to keep himself in contention with a slender one-point advantage at the interval. However, errors crept in his game as Zhao eked out a 15-12 lead before moving to 18-13.

A 43-shot rally ended with Zhao unleashing a smash as the Chinese soon grabbed three match points. Prannoy saved one with a backhand whip, before the Chinese produced another winner to realise his dream.



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