

More PS for better Policing

Bhubaneswar(KCN): For better policing in view of rise in population, the State Government has decided to open 36 new police stations in the State.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday approved a proposal in this connection and asked concerned officials to make these police stations operational soon.

The new police stations will be opened at Bagedia and Gopalprasad in Angul district, Gopalpur and Anantpur in Baleswar, Bargarh Rural in Bargarh, Nimakhandi in Berhampur police district, Laxmijore and Agalpur in Balangir, Ghantapada in Boudh and Maitri Vihar in Bhubaneswar Commissionerate.

Similarly, new police stations will be come

up at Maniabandha, Jodum and Bhadreswar under Cuttack rural police district, Laimura in Deogarh, Mahavir Road in Dhenkanal, Beguniapada & Kotinda in Ganjam, Krushnanandpur in Jagatsinghpur, Alkund, Dasarathpur & Brahmabarada in Jajpur.

The Jharsuguda airport area will also get its new police station while two more police stations will be set up in Kalahandi district at Karalapat & Kalampur, Pattamundai rural & Kudangari Korua in Kendrapara, Manoharpur in Keonjhar, Nachuni in Khurda, Sunki in Koraput and Malkangiri Sadar & Korkunda in Malkangiri.

Moreover, Bhanjpur (Mayurbhanj), Maidalpur (Nabarangpur), Charichhak (Puri), Ramnaguda (Rayagada), Bareipali (Sambalpur) and Lachchipur (Subarnapur) will also get one police station each.

All these new stations have been created by dividing the area of existing stations and upgradation of police outposts.

For these new stations, 563 new posts have been created at various levels from inspector to constable.

With the opening of new police stations, the efforts of Odisha police in providing better police services to the people will be further strengthened, said the Chief Minister.

Ukraine war: six months that shook the world

Six months ago this week, Vladimir Putin ordered tens of thousands of Russian troops into Ukraine on a "special military operation" - a mass invasion on a scale unseen in Europe since World War Two.

Since then, tens of thousands of people have been killed, millions have fled and cities have been reduced to rubble by Russia's relentless bombardment.

Here are some milestones from the conflict:

A CHILLING SPEECH

Russia repeatedly denied it would invade Ukraine and once it did, said it sought to "disarm" Kyiv, purge it of "nationalists" and halt the expansion of NATO, not seize territory. But Ukrainians say an address by Russian President Vladimir Putin three days before the Feb. 24 invasion left no doubt he aimed to conquer their country and wipe out their 1,000-year national identity.

"Ukraine is not just a neighbouring country

Noida Supertech twin towers demolition: Timeline of key events

NOIDA(KCN): Supertech's twin towers in Noida were safely demolished on Sunday. The demolition came in pursuance of a Supreme Court order of August 31, 2021 which found that the nearly 100-metre-tall structures had come up in the



premises of Emerald Court housing society in violation of building norms.

The proposed premium residential twin towers with space for commercial activities were built by real estate developer Supertech Group after approvals from the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA), popularly referred to as the Noida Authority, which was constituted under the UP Industrial Development Act and functions under the state government.

A timeline of key events related to twin towers demolition:

2004: Supertech gets land allotted for developing a group housing project by Noida Authority in city's Sector 93A after which work started on 'Emerald Court' society.

2005: Building plan for Emerald Court approved by Noida Authority. Permission to construct 14 residen-

tial towers of 10 floors
2006: Supertech seeks more land for the project and gets approval from Noida Authority. Building plan amended to accommodate one more residential tower - total 15 now. Aster 1 to 8, Aspire 1 to 4 and Emperor 1 to 3.

2009: Developer gets building plan revised once again. Adds two more towers - Apex and Ceyane - with 24 floors and immediately begins construction. Some residents object to it, citing violation of building norms. Just about 40-50 residents were living in Emerald Court at the time.

2012: Developer revised building plan to increase number of floors to 40 in Apex and Ceyane as construction continued full swing.

December 2012: Emerald Court residents' association moves Allahabad High Court. Cite lack of residents' consent for new towers within same housing complex, violation of rules like minimum 16 metre distance between buildings and the new construction coming up in area marked for green space.

2014: Allahabad High Court orders demolition of twin towers. Pulls up Noida Authority for collusion with developer. Construction work stops at site.

May 2014: Supertech moves Supreme Court seeking relief and states all approvals taken.

August 31, 2021: Supreme Court orders demolition within three months, observing violation of building norms in collusion with local officials. Remarks that illegal construction has to be dealt with strictly to ensure compliance with the rule of law.

February 2022: Noida Authority informs Supreme Court demolition to take place on May 22.

May 17, 2022: Supreme Court extends demolition deadline to August 28.

August 28, 2022: Twin towers demolished.

for us. It is an inalienable part of our own history, culture and spiritual space," Putin said. "Since time immemorial, the people living in the southwest of what has historically been Russian land have called themselves Russians and Orthodox Christians."

AN EARLY DEFEAT

Within hours of the invasion, Russia landed commandos at Antonov airfield, a cargo base just north of Kyiv, to secure an air bridge for a lightning assault on the capital.

Within a day, Ukrainians had wiped out the elite Russian paratroops and destroyed the landing strip. While Russia's armoured columns would eventually reach the northern outskirts of Kyiv, the failure to secure a working air field on day one helped wreck Moscow's plan to swiftly seize the capital.

'I'M HERE'

As Russian bombs fell on Kyiv and its residents huddled in metro

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Congress finally decides to hold polls on Oct. 17 to elect new party chief

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, met on Sunday to approve the schedule for the election of the next AICC president and sources said the poll is likely to take place on October 17.

The meeting took place amid a fresh upheaval in the party due to the shock resignation of party veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday and his letter to party president Sonia Gandhi in which he lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for "demol-

ishing the party's entire consultative

nomination would begin on September 24 and continue till

file exits, including that of Kapil Sibal



mechanism". Sources said the notification for the party president's election will be issued on September 22, while the filing of

September 30. The election, if required, will take place on October 17. The Congress, dealing with the fallout of a series of high pro-

and Ashwani Kumar, has attempted to deflect the latest blow by alleging that Azad's DNA had been "Modi-fied" and **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Many had conspired to stop investments in Gujarat, says Modi

BHUJ (GUJARAT)(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said there have been conspiracies to defame Gujarat and stop investments to his home state, but Gujarat ignored them and charted a new path of progress.

He was addressing a rally after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of development works in Bhuj district ahead of Gujarat elections slated later this year. Modi said he can clearly visualise that in spite

of many deficiencies now, India will be a developed nation by 2047.

The PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth about Rs 4,400 crore in Bhuj, including Kutch branch canal of the Sardar Sarovar project, new automatic milk processing and packing plant of Sarhad Dairy, Regional Science Centre at Bhuj, Dr

Babasaheb Ambedkar Convention Centre at Gandhidham, Veer Bal **CONTINUED ON: P-7**



Parties on their Toes

Bhubaneswar(KCN): When Saffron veteran Manmohan Samal indicated about an 'early poll' event, while there are nearly two years to 2024 polls, political observers in Odisha took it with a pinch of salt. However it seems the political parties are not taking any chances for an early war. After all, there's nothing

from their absence.

Anyway, the first indication towards early polls was given by Manmohan Samal during the recent visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Mr. Shah also asked the party leaders to get prepared for the early polls in 2023 instead of 2024. Neither the BJP, nor any other

political parties have so far denied the possibility of holding the general elections in 2023. It is a different factor that Mr. Samal's statement will activate the saffron brigade, but it provided a cue to the rival party like BJD. BJD Vice President Debi Prasad Mishra



wrong in getting ready now.

Odisha's major political parties like the Governing BJD and Opposition BJP and Congress are busy in making their strategies as the Odisha Legislative Assembly polls are to be held along with the general elections.

Governing BJD always remains on its toes as its Supremo does not allow any space for opposition in the State. BJD has always held that simultaneous polls will give rich dividends to the party. The most important factor that helps Naveen's party is that the national parties keep themselves busy in other states for the Lok Sabha polls and the BJD benefits

said the ruling party is all along prepared for the elections at any point of time.

Preparation of the BJP in Odisha also points towards an early poll. The party led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already started working in that direction. BJP brought a hard core and a strong critic of Naveen Patnaik to the helm by appointing Jaynarayan Mishra as the new Leader of Opposition in the Assembly. Mr. Mishra from the 'Day One' of his appointment has declared that the BJP's aim was to make Odisha "BJD Mukta" and India "Congress Mukta".

Mr. Mishra's statement **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Agampreet' of Barbil crowned as Mrs Universe '22

Barbill(KCN): Barbil based Agampreet Siddhu has been crowned as the Mrs Universe 2022. The beauty pageant organised by Enigma Event Management company held at Pataiya of Thailand on 19th August Agampreet raced

their happiness over Agampreet's big win. One of her friend said "She was talented right from her childhood and wanted to achieve big in life. And probably this is the reason why even though she hails from a small town yet Agampreet's



ahead 25 participants from different countries in the contest to win the title. The Mrs Universe went back home today and got a grand reception amid family and friends at the railway station. Her family and friends expressed

undying spirit helped her win laurels for the country." She even talked about growing inclination of the young India towards this type of competition, "She wants to contribute her life for the development of Barbil, she added.

Top Rank for SOA



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, the faculty of medical sciences of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), has been ranked 12th in the country in the ranking conducted by Career 360 for 2022-23.

In the ranking, IMS and SUM Hospital was the highest positioned medical college in Odisha. Similarly, Institute of Dental Sci-

ences (IDS), SOA's faculty of dental sciences, was ranked 7th in the list while the university's faculty of engineering, Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) received AAAA+ rating in the ranking.

The parameters chosen for the ranking included student quality, learning and engagement, Infrastructure, research output and impact.

NHRC asks detention ATR

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action taken report on the alleged detention of some students for five hours by a private school in Bhubaneswar for non-payment of outstanding fees.

The Commission has asked Khordha Collector, Principal Secretary of School & Mass Education Department, and Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner to submit the report within four weeks.

The Commission has issued notices based on a complaint filed by human rights activist Bhajaman Biswal.

The complainant, based on media reports, alleged that one private school in Bhubaneswar had detained, on 23.08.2022, some students for 5 hours in the library for non-payment of outstanding fees. It also alleged that unlawful detention and subjecting the

students to mental torture by the said school amounts to gross violations of their Human Rights.

Hearing the case on Friday, the Commission directed its Registry to transmit the copy of the complaint to the concerned authority calling for an action taken report within four weeks.

The concerned authorities shall also intimate the Commission if any notice, order, etc., has been received by him/them in the instant matter from the State Human Rights Commission. If yes, a copy of such order be also sent to the Commission within four weeks.

The Commission also sent a copy of the complaint to the Secretary of Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC), calling upon him to inform the NHRC of the date of cognizance, if any, taken at their end in the instant matter within four weeks.



Lohani gets Panchayati Raj

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Government today assigned additional charge of crucial Department of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water to Top Mandarin Sushil Kumar Lohani.

1995 Batch IAS Mr.Lohani is now serving as Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Odisha for last three long years.

Mr.Lohani was also handling additional charge of Department of Excise and Commissioner Commercial Tax (CCT) for last three years.

With 1993 Batch IAS Ashok Kumar Meena leaving to join Government of India assignment, CMD Food Corporation of India (FCI), State Government did these appointments on 26 August. Mr.Meena was serving in Department of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water for more than one year and has been successfully handling the crucial as-

signment. Now Mr.Lohani, who has lot of experience in

His experience as Project Director District Rural Development Agency

Balangir and Keonjhar and above all Director Special Projects Odisha will go a long way to help out the State, opine senior officials.

Mr.Lohani, having experience in handling affairs in Government of India, in the Ministry of Fertilizer, Ministry of Labor and in the Ministry of Power will come as a helping hand in dealing with Government of India.

While the State Government is having smooth relationship with the Union Government, however over the issue of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) there is a stalemate like situation with Union Minister Rural Development is having some reservations in helping out the State, though Odisha is one of the best performing states in this sector.

However, a quiet performing Mandarin,

Mr.Lohani will be able to sort out the issue, which an honest Mandarin, Mr.Meena has been able to convince the Top Brass of Government of India that Odisha Government will not tolerate 'Corruption' and taking the errant officers to task. 1993 Batch IAS Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh, who is at present serving as Principal Secretary Steel & Mines, has been assigned additional charge of Department of Excise. Mr.Singh will continue as Chairman OMC, OMECL and IDCOL with additional charge. 1997 Batch IAS Sanjay Kumar Singh, at present Principal Secretary Rural Development and Information & Public Relations is assigned additional charge of Commissioner Commercial Tax (CCT). Mr.Singh will continue as VC BDA and MD Smart City Limited with additional charge.



Panchayati Raj sector will be handling this assignment efficiently.

(DRDA) Bhadrakh, district Collector of three districts, Sambalpur,

Young kickboxers from Barbil shine in national championship

Barbil (KCN): In a glorious win, Keonjhar clinched four medals, sponsored by JSW Foundation, in the WAKO India National, Seniors and Masters Kickboxing Championship held from August

championship. Out of total, 40 participants were from Odisha including 5 from Keonjhar district. Odisha clinched 31 medals in the championships under the guidance of Manjit



18-22 in Chennai.

Five young kickboxers from Keonjhar bagged four medals, including one gold and three bronze, and brought laurels to the district. The winners were— Ashish Rout, Jaspreet Singh, Budhram Munda, Pawandeep Singh and Harihara Barik. Around 1150 kickboxers from twenty-six states participated in the

Singh, the coach. Manjit expressed his gratitude to JSW for the sponsorship support. He was confident enough that the kickboxers would bring laurels to the state if the support continues. JSW authorities welcomed the team congratulated them for their success. The authorities also advised them to hone their talents and reach to the greater heights.

Students Interact with Judges

Cuttack(KCN): Students from DAV Public School, CDA, Cuttack on Saturday visited Orissa High Court building and interacted with Judges, who shared their experience with the kids.

As many as 25 students of Class -XI and XII along with their teachers from the DAV school visited the High Court premises at Cuttack. The students interacted with Justice Gourishankar Satapathy and Justice Chittaranjan Dash who shared with them their experience as lawyers and

courts and chambers in the Heritage Building and the New Building of the High Court, Judges' Library and the Conference Halls. They put queries which were answered by the lawyers. The students were shown video clips of swearing-in-ceremony of Judges and explained the procedure involved therein. Video clip of the hearing of one Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was also played for viewing of the students in the Chief Justice's courtroom. The students also visited Aain Seva Bhawan which houses the Odisha



explained how Civil and Criminal Courts function in effective administration of Justice.

Justice Shri Satapathy discussed the theories of punishment and emphasized on the effectiveness of the reformative theory in the criminal justice system.

Justice Chittaranjan Dash shared his experience as lawyer and explained to the students that Judges are adjudicators and they decide cases on the basis of material evidence. Justice Shri Dash stressed that a Judge should be a good human being otherwise he cannot render justice in its true spirit. Both the Judges encouraged the students to aspire for becoming good lawyers and judges with special mention of hard work as a necessity for the same.

During the visit, lawyers Kajol Sahoo and Benugopal Mohapatra were present on the occasion. They explained various aspects of judicial functioning to the students. The students saw the Chief Justice's

State Legal Services Authority and the High Court's Arbitration and Mediation Centers where they were sensitized about the Alternative Dispute Redressal (ADR) mechanism and its contribution in redressal of the grievances of poor litigants.

At Odisha Judicial Academy, the students were given ideas about various kinds of training programmes designed for the lawyers and Judges.

On Children's Day, 2021, the premises of the High Court were, for the first time, opened for children. Since then, students of many institutions including hearing and speech impaired and visually challenged children have visited the High Court and its allied institutions like Odisha State Legal Services Authority and Odisha Judicial Academy.

The purpose of organizing such visits is to bring transparency about the real functioning of the judiciary which is different from the myths prevailing in the society.

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Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed



NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable

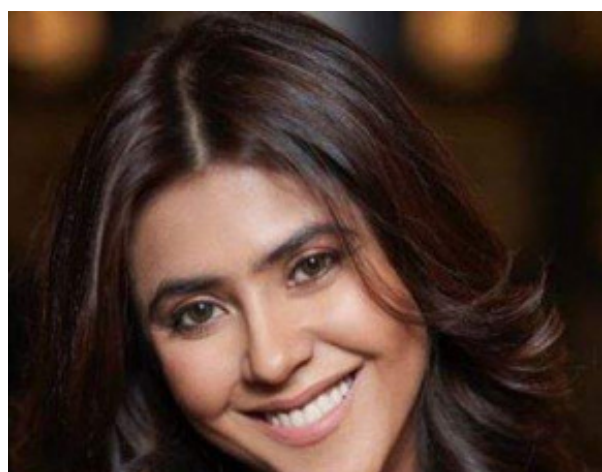
caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or

English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of

the former Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme



Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for al-

leged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to

Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her.

The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

Phenomenal experience: Riteish Deshmukh praises Anil Kapoor, Anurag Kashyap's 'AK vs AK'

NEW DELHI(K-CN): Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the Netflix based film "a phenomenal experi-

ence". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been

blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted Deshmukh. He then went on to

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor_has outdone your entire performance in one scene," the 'Housefull' actor's



daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesterday actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. "AK vs AK," revolves

around the story of a movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's

charge a single

Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interest-

the icing on the cake is that Ajay Sir is directing the film. It's actually happening!



ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team. Aakanksha will essaying the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. She joined the shoot yesterday. Aakanksha says, "It's like a dream come true to be a part of such a big and much-awaited film. I am so excited to share the screen with Ajay Sir and Amitabh Sir; and

It's an important role and I am lucky that the first muhurat shot of the film had me in it." Ajay Devgn took to social media to announce that the shoot had begun yesterday. "Happy to officially begin Mayday in a start-to-finish shooting schedule. Seek blessings from the Almighty and my parents. Nothing is complete without the support of all my fans, family and well-wishers. Releases on 29th April 2022 (sic)" he posted.

'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

MUMBAI(KCN): Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series.

paisa for his voiceover assignment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.

"Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that Shah Rukh didn't

Deduction from capital gains U/S 54 AND 54F Part-3

(Contd. from 22.08.2022)

13. Assessee claimed exemption u/s 54F, on purchase of a residential house property. Whether subsequent use of the said residential house property for non-residential purpose will lead to withdrawal of exemption granted: Where the house property constructed is a residential house property, its use for non-residential purpose, does not make the house property non-residential. The deduction u/s 54 or u/s 54F cannot be denied on said ground - N. Revathi v. ITO. (ITA No.67/Hyd/2013). It was also held that even a residential building can be used as a school or for any other commercial purpose but the relevant factor to judge is whether the construction made is for residential house or for commercial purpose. If the building has been constructed for residential use with all amenities like kitchen, bath room etc., which are necessary for residential accommodation then even if it is used as a school or for any other commercial purpose, it cannot lose its character as a residential building. The Tribunal relied on decision of AP High Court in case of CIT v. Syed Ali Adil, judgment dated 20-12-2012 in ITA No.410 of 2012 (AP).



14. Where assessee sold a house property and purchased another house property vide 4 different deeds for different portions of the house property: If assessee has purchased one residential house property, it is immaterial that four different deeds were prepared for the different portions of the house property. So long there is one residential unit, assessee will be entitled to deduction u/s 54 - CIT v. Smt. Sunita Aggarwal [2006] 284 ITR 20 (Del.).

15. Where assessee owns two house properties, he transfers one house property to his spouse before deriving Long Term Capital gain on transfer of a capital asset other than a house property and invests the LTCG in acquiring another house property. Can A.O. disallow the exemption u/s 54F on the ground of deemed ownership u/s 64: As per sec. 54F assessee is entitled to deduction of LTCG, if he invests the same in acquiring a new House property and on the date of transfer he should not own more than one house property. In the given case assessee had only one house property on the date of transfer of the capital asset other than house property he is entitled to exemption u/s 54F as he acquired a house property within the prescribed time. Section 64 deals with clubbing of Income and it does not make spouse the owner of the transferred asset. As such sec 64 has no application - Smt. Maya A. Ajawani v. ITO 56 taxmann.com 255 (Mum Trib).

16. Whether any capital gain arises on entering into sale agreement without handing over possession of property: As per Sec. 2(47) of the Income Tax Act read with Sec. 53A of Transfer of Property Act immovable property is said to be transferred on the basis of sale agreement, only if the possession of said property is handed over to transferee. Since possession has not been handed over there is no transfer as such no capital gain arises - Godha Realtors (P.) Ltd. v. ACIT [2022] 135 taxmann.com 24 (Bang. Trib.).

17. Whether Agreement to sell amount to transaction of immovable property if sale deed was not executed: Agreement to sell does not amount to transaction of immovable property and, thus, where assessee failed to prove sale of residential property by execution of sale deed there was no capital gain and consequently, assessee's claim for deduction u/s 54F was to be rejected - Smt. Shobha Jain v. CIT [2016] 75 taxmann.com 223 (All.).

18. Where the entire transaction of development of land envisaged in JDA fell through, whether any profits or gains arose from the transfer of capital asset if there was only agreement but no sale deed was executed: The Supreme Court in the case of CIT v. Balbir Singh Maini [2017] 86 taxmann.com 94 (SC), held that if an agreement, like Joint Development Agreement (JDA), was not registered then it shall have no effect in law for the purposes of section 53A of the Transfer of Property Act, in short, there is no agreement in the eyes of law, which can be enforced u/s 53A of the Transfer of Property Act. In order to qualify as a "transfer" of a capital asset u/s 2(47)(v) of Income Tax Act, there must be a "contract" which can be enforced in law u/s 53A of the Transfer of Property Act. Where for want of permissions, entire transaction of development of land envisaged in Joint Development Agreement (JDA) fell through, in those facts of the case, the Supreme Court held that no profits or gains arose from the transfer of capital asset so as to attract sections 45 and 48. The said Supreme Court decision has been followed in the case of Satish Kumar Magon v. ITO ITA No. 2338/Kol/2016 decision dated 15.6.2018. In this case, the assessee entered into an agreement for purchase of flat and acquired certain rights vide an agreement. The flat was not registered in assessee's name. The assessee transferred these rights by way of an agreement to another person "M". The property was registered by the builder in favour of "M". In these circumstances, the assessee is not the owner of the property in question, he has only certain rights in the property as neither the agreement was registered nor any sale deed was executed by the assessee. Under these facts, income in question/ the capital gain cannot be brought to tax by applying sec. 50C.

19. Where assessee owns two house property out of which one is subject to life interest of his mother on the date of transfer of a capital asset other than house property, can exemption u/s 54F be denied on the ground that assessee owns more than one house property on date of transfer: Where one of the house property is subject to life interest of his mother, he cannot be said to be owner of the said house property till the life interest is over and he becomes absolute owner. As such exemption u/s 54 cannot be denied - V.R. Usha v. ITO 70 taxmann.com 340 (Chennai Trib).

20. Where assessee was owner of a residential house property and a commercial property. Can deduction u/s 54F be claimed on acquisition of new residential house property: As per sec. 54F assessee should not own more than one house property on the date of transfer of the capital asset. In the given case assessee has only one residential house property, he can claim deduction u/s 54F if he invests the consideration in acquisition of a residential house property in accordance with provision of section 54F - CIT v. I Iftihaar Ashiq 68 taxmann.com 25 (Madras) [2016].

21. If an assessee derives long term capital gain from transfer of a residential house property and purchases or constructs another house property outside India within the specified period, will he get exemption u/s 54: W.e.f. asst. year 2015-16, section 54 and 54F specifically provides that new residential house must be purchased or constructed in India only. However, prior to the amendment there was no such requirement.

22. An assessee sold his residential house property and purchased another house property in joint name with his father or with wife or with brother or exclusively in name of widowed daughter, but paid the entire consideration himself. Is he entitled to full deduction u/s 54: ITAT in the case of JCIT v. Smt. Arada K. Bhaya 95 ITD 313 (Mum.) held that since the consideration has been paid by assessee, the entire amount of investment will be eligible for deduction u/s 54. Purchase in the joint name shall not disentitle the assessee for claiming the entire exemption. Similar view has been taken in the case of CIT v. Gurnam Gingh 170 Taxman 160 (P&H); ITO v. Saraswati Ramanathan [2008] 114 TTJ 803 (Del.); CIT v. Ravinder Kr. Arora 342 ITR 38 (Del.); [2011] 203 Taxman 289 (Del.); DIT (Int. Taxation) v. Mrs. Jennifer Bhide [2012] 349 ITR 80 (Kar.); Mir Gulam Ali Khan v. CIT [1986] 28 Taxman 572/[1987] 165 ITR 228 (AP); CIT v. Natarajan [2006] 154 Taxman 399m(Mad.); CIT v. Kamal Wahal [2013] 30 taxmann.com 34 (Delhi); Laxmi Narayan v. CIT [2018] 89 taxmann.com 334 (Raj); Krishnappa Jayaramaiah v. ITO, Ward 6(3)(4), Bangalore [2021] 125 taxmann.com 110 (Bangalore - Trib.).

However, a contrary view has been expressed in the case of Prakash v. ITO [2008] 173 Taxman 311/[2009] 312 ITR 40 (Bom.).

(Narayan Jain is former Secretary General of AIFTP and author of the books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice" with CA DilipLoyalka).

Paryushan, the festival of Self-Awareness

Paryushan festival is such a great spiritual festival of eight days of Jain society, which is not only illuminating our body, but can awaken the mind.



This is such a season that not only the atmosphere but also the mind turns into purity. Aadhi, Vyadhi and Upadhi are treated and leads to Samadhi, which is celebrated every year all over the world. This festival has its own unique importance in the sacrificial culture of Jainism. It is not only a festival; it is considered a great festival. Because this festival is a spiritual festival, and is the only inspiring festival of self-purification. That is why this festival is not only a festival, it is a great festival. It is the most recognized festival of Jain people. The real meaning and purpose of Paryushana is to reside in the nature, in the soul, being confined to the sense objects. Paryushan festival is an occasion for many types of rituals like chanting, austerity, meditation, worship, anupreksha etc. This great festival is the festival of spiritual brightness. It is a day of introspection; it is time to look within. The Paryushan festival teaches us to look inward. The one watching outside remains on the edge. But one who dives deep finds priceless gems. Man's mind cannot become weightless until it reaches the depths of the inner being and becomes free from weight. Liberation cannot be attained by merely listening to the sermons. It can be attained through the spirit of ultimate meditation or by the classical knowledge of Aradhana-Viradhana. For this it is necessary to do "Pratikraman". The meaning of Pratikraman is to heal the wounds on daily, fortnightly and samvatsari occasions by treating the mistakes caused due to pramaada and the ulcers or wounds caused by it on consciousness. Pratikraman is the combination of two words, Pra meaning return and atikraman meaning violation. Literally, it means returning from the violations. As Jain householders, we are supposed to observe the twelve minor vows to minimize the violence towards other living beings which in turn minimizes the damage to our own souls. Through pratikraman, the causes of mistakes can be discovered, and they can also be remedied. The essence of Pratikraman is come back to yourself. For example, coming from untruth to truth, from bad to good, moving from enmity to friendship. The root cause of today's man who is so disturbed is the lack of introspection. Everyone is blaming the other, but is not able to take even the slightest initiative in admitting his mistake. Through Pratikraman, mistakes made in one's life or inadvertently can be resolved contemplatively. The main purpose of doing pratikraman is rectification of mistakes. The result of pratikraman is - pratikraman of the past, contemporary to the present and denial for the future. The use of Pratikraman is a spiritual practice for purification of these three times - past, future and present. Soul is the creator of sorrow and happiness and destroyer of them. A soul engaged in good tendencies is a friend and a soul engaged in evil tendencies is its enemy. Therefore, one has to make a friend, find his secret within and destroy his enemies, and then his secret will also be found within. In fact, Paryushana is an infallible remedy for inner cleanliness. The entire Jain society becomes awake and engaged in spiritual practice on the occasion of this festival. In the Digambara tradition, it is recognized as "DashlakshanaParva". Among them, its opening day is Bhadrav Shukla Panchami and the day of prosperity is Chaturdashi. On the other hand, in the Shwetambar Jain tradition, the day of Bhadrav Shukla Panchami is the day of Samadhi which is celebrated as Samvatsari with complete renunciation, fasting, self-study and abstinence. Even people who are unable to take time out during the year also wake up on this day. Even those who never fast are seen fasting ceremonially on this day. The literal meaning of Paryushan festival is to be situated in the soul. The word Paryushana is formed by adding a prefix and a suffix to it. One of the meanings of Paryushana is the destruction of karma. The enemies of Karma will be destroyed; only then the soul will be situated in its form, so this festival of Paryushan gives inspiration to the soul to reside in the soul. Paryushan Mahaparva is a spiritual festival; the central element of it is the soul. Paryushan Mahaparva continues to play an ego role in revealing the pure, luminous form of the soul. 'Adhyatma' means closeness to the soul. This is the festival of connecting human-human and modifying the human heart, it is the festival of opening the windows, skylights and doors of the mind. This is the festival of "Kashaya Shaman". This festival is celebrated for 8 days, in which heat, turmoil has arisen in someone, if a feeling of hatred has arisen towards someone, and then an undertaking is done to pacify him during this time. The 10 gates of religion have been mentioned, in which the first door is forgiveness. Forgiveness means equality. Forgiveness is very important for life, unless there is forgiveness in life, and then a person cannot progress on the path of spirituality. In this festival, everyone tries to make them as pure as possible. A vow of love, forgiveness and true friendship is taken. The mind is strengthened to maintain the purity of food and the decency of conduct and behavior as an integral part of the lifestyle. Human unity, peaceful co-existence, friendship, socialism without exploitation, establishment of international moral values, support of non-violent lifestyle etc. are the main basis of Paryushan Mahaparva. Efforts are expected to make Paryushan Mahaparva a festival of the people, in order that these elements can become a part of the life of the people. Whether a man is called religious or not, whether he believes in self-divine or not, whether he believes in past birth and reincarnation, whether he should resort to non-violence as far as possible in solving any of his problems - this is the heart of the sadhna of Paryushan. Violence cannot be a permanent solution to any problem. Those seeking a solution through violence have only exacerbated the problem. Keeping this fact in front, not only the Jain society, but also the common people should become faithful in the power of non-violence and use it with deep faith. Religion without morality, worship without character and the imagining of a hereafter reform without purification of the present life is a kind of irony. Religious can only be what is moral. The right to worship should be given to those who are of character. The focus should be on the purification of this life before entering the labyrinth of the hereafter. This is the safe way to proceed in the direction of Dharma and this is the basis of the significance of the festival of Paryushan. The last stage of the Paryushan Mahaparva is Kshasmavani or apology, which is organized in the form of Friendship Day. In this way, Paryushan Mahaparva and Forgiveness Day - it is a festival to bring one person closer to another. It is a festival to end the distance between human beings and consider each other as their own. It is also said in the Gita, "Atmoupamyensarvatrah, saamepashyati yorjuna." Shri Krishna said to Arjuna - O Arjuna! Treat the animal as your equal. Lord Mahavira said - "Savvabhavesu in mitti, veramjjhanakenai" I have friendship with all beings; I have no enmity with anyone. Paryushan festival is the festival of worship of the inner soul - it is the festival of self-purification, it is the festival of giving up sleep. In fact, the festival of Paryushan is such a dawn which takes us from sleep to wakefulness. Lead us from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge. So, it is necessary to remove the ego of sleep and get absorbed in the inner soul by doing special penance, chanting, worshipping self-study during these eight days, so that our life will be meaningful and successful.

Letter to Editor Ban Carcinogenic Talcum powder

Most popular company manufacturing talc-based baby powder has been proven in abroad it contain cancer-causing asbestos, but in India, the company blatant marketing of its baby powder is reprehensible. Sadly, company has said that it has no plans to go a step further and withdraw the talc-based powder. When experts questioned the Drug regulatory board of India about the company's decision not to withdraw immediately, the board remained silence and it has raised many doubts. It is ironic that the company has said arrogantly that there is no doubt that the product will be sold in stores until the supply of the talc-based baby powder is exhausted. Even though this company has faced more than ten thousand lawsuits, it has said that it does not shy away for any reason. Besides, there are allegations on other products of this company which also contains carcinogenic chemicals, Company is in no shy away business so therefore central government should immediately take action against this company. Otherwise the health especially of babies is bound to deteriorate.

Yours,
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Lalit Garg

rituals like chanting, austerity, meditation, worship, anupreksha etc. This great festival is the festival of spiritual brightness. It is a day of introspection; it is time to look within. The Paryushan festival teaches us to look inward. The one watching outside remains on the edge. But one who dives deep finds priceless gems. Man's mind cannot become weightless until it reaches the depths of the inner being and becomes free from weight. Liberation cannot be attained by merely listening to the sermons. It can be attained through the spirit of ultimate meditation or by the classical knowledge of Aradhana-Viradhana. For this it is necessary to do "Pratikraman". The meaning of Pratikraman is to heal the wounds on daily, fortnightly and samvatsari occasions by treating the mistakes caused due to pramaada and the ulcers or wounds caused by it on consciousness. Pratikraman is the combination of two words, Pra meaning return and atikraman meaning violation. 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The use of Pratikraman is a spiritual practice for purification of these three times - past, future and present. Soul is the creator of sorrow and happiness and destroyer of them. A soul engaged in good tendencies is a friend and a soul engaged in evil tendencies is its enemy. Therefore, one has to make a friend, find his secret within and destroy his enemies, and then his secret will also be found within. In fact, Paryushana is an infallible remedy for inner cleanliness. The entire Jain society becomes awake and engaged in spiritual practice on the occasion of this festival. In the Digambara tradition, it is recognized as "DashlakshanaParva". Among them, its opening day is Bhadrav Shukla Panchami and the day of prosperity is Chaturdashi. On the other hand, in the Shwetambar Jain tradition, the day of Bhadrav Shukla Panchami is the day of Samadhi which is celebrated as Samvatsari with complete renunciation, fasting, self-study and abstinence. 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Putin orders Russian military to beef up forces by 137,000

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday ordered the Russian military to increase the number of troops by 137,000 to a total of 1.15 million amid Moscow's military operation in Ukraine. Putin's decree, which takes effect on Jan. 1, didn't specify whether the military will beef up its ranks by drafting a bigger number of con-

military operation" in Ukraine, rejecting claims that it was pondering a mobilization. Russian media and non-governmental organizations say Russian authorities have sought to bolster the number of troops involved in the military action in Ukraine by attracting more volunteers, engaging private military contractors and

127,500 last fall. In recent years, the Kremlin has emphasized increasing the share of volunteer contract soldiers as it sought to modernize the army and improve its capability. Before the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24, the Russian military had over 400,000 contract soldiers, including about 147,000 in the ground forces. The

2000s, when poorly trained Russian conscripts were sent into combat and suffered heavy losses. Col. Retired Viktor Murakhovsky noted that Putin's decree on Thursday reflected the pressure of filling the ranks amid the military action in Ukraine. In comments carried by the RBC online news outlet, he charged that the



scripts, increasing the number of volunteer soldiers or using a combination of both. But some Russian military analysts predicted it would rely heavily on volunteers, a cautious stand reflecting the Kremlin's concerns about a possible fallout from an attempt to increase the draft. The presidential decree will boost the overall number of Russian military personnel to 2,039,758, including 1,150,628 troops. A previous order put the military's numbers at 1,902,758 and 1,013,628 respectively at the start of 2018. The Kremlin has said that only volunteer contract soldiers take part in what it calls the "special

even offering amnesty to some prisoners in exchange for a tour of military duty. Regional authorities have also tried to help beef up the ranks, forming volunteer battalions to be deployed to Ukraine. All Russian men aged 18-27 must serve one year in the military, but a large share avoid the draft for health reasons or deferments granted to university students. The share of men who avoid the draft is particularly big in Moscow and other major cities. The Russian military rounds up draftees twice a year, starting April 1 and Oct. 1. Putin ordered the drafting of 134,500 conscripts during the latest spring draft earlier this year and

number of conscripts has been estimated at around 270,000, and officers and non-commissioned officers have accounted for the rest. Military analysts say if the campaign in Ukraine drags on, those numbers could be clearly insufficient to sustain the operations in Ukraine, which has declared a goal of forming a 1-million-strong military. But many observers have warned that a broad mobilization or a sweeping increase in the number of draftees could fuel public discontent and destabilize the political situation in Russia. That happened during the separatist wars in Chechnya in the 1990s and the early

Kremlin would likely try to keep relying on volunteers and predicted that they would account for the bulk of the increase ordered by the Kremlin. Another Russian military expert, Alexei Leonkov, also said the authorities wouldn't expand the draft and would increase the number of troops by hiring more contract soldiers. "The new military equipment has become more complex, and people operating it need training for at least three years," Leonkov was quoted as saying by the state RIA Novosti news agency. "A draft won't help that, so there will be no increase in the number of draftees."

Lanka needs support, not 'unwanted pressure', says India slamming China over spy ship

Colombo: India on Saturday hit back at China for alleging that it was "interfering" in Sri Lanka's internal affairs, firmly telling Beijing that what Colombo needs now was "support, not unwanted pressure or unnecessary controversies" to serve another country's agenda. Hinting at India's objection to the docking of Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship 'Yuan Wang 5' at the Hambantota port, Chinese ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhongon in a statement on Friday said that "external obstruction" based on so-called security concerns without any evidence is a "thorough interference" into the island

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing in New Delhi on August 12. He said that Sri Lanka, as a sovereign country, makes its own independent decisions and noted that India would make its judgment on its security concerns based on the prevailing situation in the region, especially in the border areas, seen as a veiled reference to the eastern Ladakh row with China. The high-tech ship 'Yuan Wang 5' was originally scheduled to arrive at the Chinese-run port on August 11 but it was delayed in absence of permission by Sri Lankan authori-



ties following security concerns raised by India. The Chinese ship arrived in the southern Sri Lankan port of Hambantota on August 16. It was docked there for replenishment. Sri Lanka granted the port access to the vessel from August 16 to 22 on condition that it will keep the Automatic Identification System (AIS) switched on within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Sri Lanka and no scientific research to be conducted in Sri Lankan waters. There were apprehensions in New Delhi about the possibility of the Chinese vessel's tracking systems attempting to snoop on Indian defence installations while being on its way to the Sri Lankan port. China says the ship is used for scientific research, but the US Defence Department says the ship is under the command of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and is capable of tracking satellites and missile launches. The ship's arrival at the Hambantota port became controversial as China leased the port from Sri Lanka in 2017 for 99 years after Colombo failed to pay debts related to the construction of the facility. Colombo's nod to the docking of the Chinese research vessel was crucial as the cash-strapped Sri Lankan government is seeking an early bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). China is a major creditor of Sri Lanka, and is vital to Sri Lanka's efforts to restructure its debt to secure a bailout from the IMF.

nation's sovereignty and independence. "We have noted the remarks of the Chinese Ambassador. His violation of basic diplomatic etiquette may be a personal trait or reflecting a larger national attitude," the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka tweeted. It said Qi's view of India may be coloured by how his own country behaves. "India, we assure him, is very different," the Indian mission here said. The Ambassador's imputing a geopolitical context to the visit of a purported scientific research vessel is a giveaway, the mission said, adding that "opaqueness and debt driven agendas are now a major challenge, especially for smaller nations. Recent developments are a caution". "Sri Lanka needs support, not unwanted pressure or unnecessary controversies to serve another country's agenda," it said, as the island nation is grappling with the worst economic crisis since 1948. In the statement, Qi, said China was happy that matter related to docking of 'Yuan Wang 5' at the Hambantota port was dealt with and Beijing and Colombo jointly safeguard each other's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. "External obstruction based on so-called security concerns but without any evidence from certain forces is de facto a thorough interference into Sri Lanka's sovereignty and independence," the statement said, without directly naming India. India had rejected China's "insinuations" that New Delhi pressured Colombo against the visit by a Chinese research vessel to the Sri Lankan port of Hambantota but asserted that it will take decisions based on its security concerns. "We reject the insinuations in the statement about India. Sri Lanka is a sovereign country and makes its own independent decisions,"

Employees to lay siege to AP CM's house on September 1

VIJAYAWADA: Despite all its efforts, AP government has failed in clearing fears of its employees with regard to the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS). As a result, lakhs of employees are readying to hold their Millennium March and gherao the residence of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on September 1. A group of ministers including Botsa Satyanaryana and Buggana Rajendranath Reddy held several rounds of talks with leaders of various unions and associations. But the latter have refused to budge from their demand of restoring

the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). State government employees had earlier too called for Chalo Vijayawada Millennium March on February 2 this year over the same issue. It turned out to be a big success, as police did not take any serious measures to restrain the march. It led to the transfer of the then DGP. Having witnessed success with Chalo Vijayawada, employee leaders have now called for gherao of CM's residence and the Millennium March. Jagan Mohan Reddy, as then Leader of Opposition, promised to abolish CPS

and restore OPS after coming into power. But it is turning out to be tough and non-feasible due to AP's financial

condition. Incidentally, the new Contributory Pension Scheme was started by central government from

January 1, 2004. Erstwhile Telugu Desam government

protests and agitations had been held during the period for

Jagan Mohan Reddy government has tried to find a way out by proposing Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS) with benefits similar to the Old Pension Scheme. Employees were to get a guaranteed pension of 33 percent of the last drawn basic pay. It enabled an employee to assess the amount of pension in advance, so that s/he could plan his future financially. Market conditions would have no influence on the pension under GPS, leaving no chance for reduction in pension in future. But GPS found no favour with employee unions.

AP United Teachers Federation (AP UTF) president N. Venkateswarlu and secretary K.S.S. Prasad accused police of already imposing restrictions on teachers like never before in history to foil the Millennium March on September 1. Department heads have also denied any leaves during the next 10 days. UTF leaders maintain that Jagan Mohan Reddy had promised to cancel CPS and implement OPS. He should do so, even though it is more than three-and-a-half years since he has become the Chief Minister.



Dr Lingaraj sajuo receives Paribesh Ratna Award

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Every drop of water is precious to us for the sake of future generations. For this, everyone has to conserve water, said Odisha Higher Education Minis-

to respect water resources to overcome water scarcity problems. Chairman, Kalinga Association for Protection of Culture and Heritage (KAPOCH) Sangram Keshari Paikaray attended the seminar as guest of honour. Others



ter Er. Rohit Pujari at a national level seminar titled "Save Water, Every Drop Matters" organized by Suryakhetra Foundation at Jaydev Bhawan in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. In the seminar presided by Foundation Chairman Dr Bipinbhari Mishra, Additional Secretary of Forest, Environment and Climate Change department Manoranjan Mohapatra addressed the guests and participants as chief speaker. He advised the people

guests include Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management Dr. Pramod Kumar Panda, DFO, City Forest Division, Bhubaneswar Ajit Kumar Satpathy, Odisha Environment Society Secretary Dr. Jayakrushna Panigrahi, spiritual leader Brahmakumar

Aparna Behen, noted entrepreneur Suresh Kumar Choudhury and senior official of Maithon Power Limited Sandip Khedwal and Rabindra Kumar Rautray. On the occasion, the Paribesh Ratna Award was conferred on Er. Bipin Bihari Nayak, Professor Jayakrushna Panigrahi, Dr. Lingaraj Sahoo, Dr. Pramod Kumar Panda, Green World and Kapoch organization for their commitment to saving the environment.

Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita urges CM to provide land for Tata Memorial Hospital

BHUBANESWAR: Lok Sabha MP from Bhubaneswar Aparajita Sarangi on Saturday requested Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to extend support for the establishment of Tata Memorial Hospital for cancer on the campus of National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) at Jatni. Sarangi, who visited the campus and reviewed the progress of the project, informed that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has agreed to contribute around 10-13 acre of

land for the purpose.

Since more land is required for the ambitious cancer care project, the MP has



requested the Chief Minister to make provision of around 50 acre of adjoining land and a convenient public transport system from Bhubaneswar Railway Station and airport to the proposed hospital site.

In July, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Tata Trusts had announced plans to establish the cancer hospital at an

investment of Rs 650 crore. While the DAE will provide Rs 400 crore, Tata Trusts will share the balance cost of Rs 250 crore for the project. Stating that Tata Memorial Hospital for cancer in

Bhubaneswar will be a good example of convergence, she has also sought electricity supply from Arugul and Mendhasal Electricity Grid besides regular water supply to the hospital area. "The Ministries of the Centre, the relevant departments of the State government and Tata Trusts need to work together very closely supplementing each other's efforts to see this project through in a record time. Plans are afoot to lay the foundation stone for the project in next three months and once the work gets started, it can be completed within 18 months," she added.

Inauspicious days till Nov ahead for APSRTC

Visakhapatnam: The APSRTC Visakhapatnam district registered 63 per cent of occupancy ratio in August against an annual average of 72 per cent. In June, RTC Visakhapatnam recorded an occupancy ratio of 72 per cent and earned Rs 1.3 crore per day.

Due to summer vacations for educational institutes, weddings and other auspicious events in April, May and June, the RTC got the 72 per cent occupancy ratio.

"Overall, we now run 704 buses in the district. We are almost back to pre-Covid-19 days. We need to reach a normal occupancy ratio of 72 per cent," said Appala Raju.

The occupancy ratio fell below 30 per cent even after resuming services for emergency reasons during the Covid-19 days in 2020 and 2021.

As the fear of Covid-19 is almost over, they are resorting to RTC buses as usual. The occupancy ratio has been increasing since April this year, Appala Raju said and added that monthly performance was 67 per cent in April, 70 per cent in May, 72 per cent in June and 60 per cent in July. Out of 704 buses, 550 of them are city buses. Regular and city buses ply 2.50 lakh kilometres per day. Nearly 86 city buses plying on low-income routes were adjusted to areas with high passenger demand.



Visakhapatnam RTC regional manager A. Appala Raju said the occupancy ratio had dropped to 60 per cent in July due to Ashadam and 63 per cent in August from June's 72 per cent. Appala Raju said, "We have to wait for December to reach 72 per cent as there will be no auspicious days or marriages from September to November. They may get some demand during Dasara, but it will be tempo-

Hyderabad's freelance biryani chefs in big demand

HYDERABAD: Gone are the days when the best of Hyderabad's unmatched delicacy, biryani, was made by a select group of families that continued the tradition for

dependent on how tasty they can make the biryani. Of course, there are many native families in the city who have their regular chefs. Their services are sought whenever there is any

to prepare. The minimum price for one-time cooking starts from a modest Rs 2,000 while the more popular ones are paid around Rs 70,000 as they bring along an entire team.

hire reputed bawarchis.

However, these days many prefer catering services as they make economic sense, he said. Celebrity chef Mona Poordaryaei, who has come from southern Iran for research on authentic Indian cuisines, told Deccan Chronicle "Hyderabadi biryani has a unique taste. Mughals brought biryani from Iran.

However, the local culinary experts have redesigned and created a new blend of rice and meat, flavoured with spices." According to

Dilnaz Baig, connoisseur of authentic Hyderabadi cuisine, "the new-age chefs are tampering with the taste of this delicacy. Moreover, the flavour of 'basmati' rice is not the same. Some three to four decades back, when a household cooked biryani, most from the neighbourhood would get the smell. It is no longer the case because of the basmati rice that is available these days."



centuries together. The culinary skills are getting passed on from generation to generation, including by those away from such families.

Not many may be aware of it, but the fact is that a new breed of biryani specialists has emerged in the twin cities. These biryani bawarchis (chefs) are heavily in demand, all through the year. The wages they command are depen-

occasion in the family and they are paid accordingly.

Today, there are some spots in the city where one can pick these culinary masters or biryani bawarchis. They include MS Maktha opposite Raj Bhavan; near Yousufain Dargah at Nampally or Shahalibanda near Charminar. All these are freelancers, who charge according to the size of the party for which they have

Syed Ahmed, a Hyderabadi biryani specialist from MS Maktha, who has been in the profession for the past five decades, says "I was 12 years old when I started to assist my master 'Ustad' Mohammed Hussain. His family cooked for royal functions. My first salary was Rs five per month." He said that those looking for genuine traditional Hyderabadi biryani



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Ukraine war: six months that shook the world

Continued from page-1

stations for shelter or crammed train stations to flee, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy made clear he would go nowhere.

"Good morning Ukrainians," the former sitcom actor said, with the hint of a smile, in a mobile phone selfie video taken in the early light of the war's third morning. Behind him was a landmark building in central Kyiv. "Ya tut." I'm here.

Zelenskiy went on to rally his country in nightly addresses, his combat fatigues, sparse stubble and casual but firm speaking style becoming symbols of Ukraine's resistance.

Since then, he has used video links to invoke Martin Luther King to the U.S. Congress and the Berlin Wall to the Bundestag. He has been beamed into the streets of Prague, the Grammy awards and the Glastonbury music festival, where he told cheering fans to "prove that freedom always wins".

CARRYING A STRANGER'S CHILDREN

As Russia pounded Ukrainian cities, millions took flight in what the United Nations said was the fastest-growing refugee crisis in generations. More than 6.6 million refugees have been recorded across Europe, most in neighbouring countries, which opened their arms. Kyiv banned men of fighting age from leaving.

"Their father simply handed over the two kids to me, and trusted me, giving me their passports to bring them over," Natalya Ableyeva, 58, said on the border with Hungary two days after the invasion, the arms of the young boy she had known for just a few hours around her neck.

On the Hungarian side of the border, the children were later reunited with their mother, who wept as she hugged them tightly.

GLIMPSES OF HELL

Mariupol, a once-prosperous southern port, was destroyed by Russian forces over three months of what the Red Cross called "hell". Ukraine says tens of thousands of civilians died, with food, water and medical supplies cut and continuous bombing trapping many in basements. The United Nations says the toll is unknown.

On March 9, Russia bombed a Mariupol maternity hospital, killing three people, including a child. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe called it a war crime. Moscow said the building was disused and occupied by fighters.

A week later, a theatre where Ukraine said families were sheltering in the basement was destroyed. The word "children" could be seen in satellite photos painted on the ground outside. Kyiv says Russia bombed it deliberately to break the city's will and that hundreds of bodies are still believed buried; Russia said, without giving any evidence, that the incident was staged.

BODIES IN STREETS

By the end of March, Russia's assault on Kyiv had failed. Its armoured columns, vulnerable to mobile units of Ukrainian defenders with anti-tank missiles and drones, had become bogged down and sustained heavy losses. Moscow announced its withdrawal from northern Ukraine as a "goodwill gesture". But as its troops pulled out, they left evidence of their occupation in ruined towns and villages where bodies lay in the streets.

Scores of victims were found in the once prosperous suburb of Bucha, some with hands tied. Russia denied blame and claimed, with no evidence, that the killings were staged.

'RUSSIAN WARSHIP, GO FUCK YOURSELF'

In the first hours of the invasion, Russian officers on the Black Sea Fleet flagship Moskva radioed Ukrainian guards on the barren but strategic Black Sea outcrop Snake Island, ordering them to surrender or die. One of them radioed back "Russian warship, go fuck yourself."

The phrase became a national slogan, depicted on Ukrainian billboards, T-shirts, and eventually a postage stamp showing a Ukrainian guard standing on the outcrop, giving the flagship the finger.

The day the stamp was released, April 14, two Ukrainian missiles struck the Moskva, the biggest warship sunk in combat for 40 years. Officially, Russia says one sailor was killed in an accident. Western experts say they believe around half of the crew of about 450 perished at sea.

On June 30, Russia abandoned Snake Island after taking heavy losses trying to defend it. It called its withdrawal another "goodwill gesture".

AZOVSTAL

The siege of Mariupol wore on, largely beyond the world's gaze. Reuters reporters who reached the city from the Russian-held side found an eerie, silent wasteland, where bewildered civilians emerged from cellars beneath the ruins to bury their dead in grass by the roadside.

The last Ukrainian troops were holed up in Azovstal, one of Europe's largest steel plants, where underground tunnels served as bunkers. On May 16, Ukraine's general staff told them to surrender to save their lives. Reuters journalists saw them emerging, carrying their wounded on stretchers to buses that took them to a prison camp run by pro-Russian separatists.

Moscow pledged to treat the Azovstal prisoners according to the Geneva conventions but rebuffed Ukrainian calls for a prisoner swap.

On July 29, dozens of the Azovstal defenders were killed in the custody of pro-Russian separatists in a fiery blast that engulfed a prison. Kyiv called it a war crime carried out on Moscow's orders. Moscow said the prison had been struck by a Ukrainian missile, without explaining why no pro-Russian guards had been hurt. Russia's embassy in London said the surviving Azov prisoners should

be executed by hanging, adding: "They deserve a humiliating death."

THE BATTLE OF THE DONBAS

Having failed to take Kyiv, Russia changed its war aims to focus on securing the Donbas, an eastern region formed of two provinces already partly held by its separatist proxies. That unleashed the most devastating ground battles of the war.

In mid-May, an entire battalion of Russian troops was wiped out trying to cross the Siverskiy Donets River. Satellite photos showed dozens of destroyed armoured vehicles scattered across either bank.

The Russians pressed on, using their artillery fire-power advantage to hem in Ukrainian forces on three sides. Throughout June, both sides claimed to have killed thousands of enemy soldiers. After capturing the ruins of the cities of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk, Putin declared a victory in the area on July 4 but battles grinded on.

'HIMARS O'CLOCK'

The war is now focused mainly on the south, where Kyiv has vowed to recapture the biggest swath of territory seized in the invasion that Russia still holds. Russia has rushed in more troops.

Since early July, Ukraine has deployed advanced rockets supplied by the West - the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, HIMARS. It can now target bridges, railways, command posts and ammunition dumps deep inside Russian-held territory and hopes this will shift the course of the war in its favour.

Ukraine's supporters on the internet post daily pictures of explosions in Russian-held territory with the catch-phrase "HIMARS O'Clock". Russia says its operation is going to plan.

Congress finally decides to hold polls on Oct. 17 to elect new party chief

Continued from page-1

linking his resignation to the end of his Rajya Sabha tenure.

The online CWC meeting started at 3:30 PM with Sonia Gandhi, who is abroad for medical check ups, presiding over it, flanked by former party chief Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Among others present were Anand Sharma, who was part of the G-23 dissident group, former prime minister Manmohan Singh, party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry, K C Venugopal, former union ministers Jairam Ramesh, Mukul Wasnik and P Chidambaram and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot along with his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel.

Party sources had earlier said the process of the election of the president will be delayed by a few weeks, not more than that, and the party should have a full-time president in October.

The Congress had announced in October last year that the election of the new party president will be held between August 21 and September 20 this year.

The CWC had last year decided that elections for block committees and one member each of state Congress units will be held from April 16 to May 31, district committee chiefs will be elected between June 1 and July 20, state chiefs and AICC members between July 21 and August 20, and AICC president between August 21 and September 20.

The sources had said the election of the Congress president is likely to be delayed by a few weeks with the party focused on the Kanyakumari to Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' starting September 7 and some state units not completing formalities.

The meeting comes amid several leaders, including Gehlot, having publicly exhorted Rahul Gandhi to return as the party chief. However, uncertainty and suspense continue on the issue.

Several party insiders say Rahul Gandhi is persisting with his stance that he will not be the AICC president.

Gehlot on Wednesday had sought to play down reports about him being the frontrunner for the Congress president's post and said efforts will be made till the last minute to persuade Rahul Gandhi to take over the reins of the party again.

Gehlot's remarks had come a day after he met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, triggering the buzz that the two may have discussed the possibility of him being the next party president. Rahul Gandhi had resigned as Congress president after the party suffered its second consecutive defeat in parliamentary elections in 2019. Sonia Gandhi who took over the reins of the party again as interim president had also offered to quit in August 2020 after an open revolt by a section of leaders, referred to as G-23, but the CWC had urged her to continue.

Many had conspired to stop investments in Gujarat, says Modi

Continued from page-1

Smarak at Anjar and Bhuj 2 substation at Nakhatrana.

"While Gujarat was dealing with natural calamities one after the other, there were conspiracies hatched to defame Gujarat in the country and the world. Repeated attempts were made to stop investment coming to Gujarat," Modi said.

He said Gujarat ignored all efforts to defame it, defied the conspiracies and the state charted a new industrial new path of progress.

After the 2001 Kutch earthquake, in the midst of the destruction, I had spoken about redevelopment of Kutch and we worked hard for it. In that hour of challenge, we had proclaimed that we will turn disaster into an opportunity and we achieved it. Today, you are witnessing the results, he said.

There were many who said Kutch won't be able to recover from the earthquake, but people there have changed the scenario, he said.

"When I say from the ramparts of the Red Fort that India will be a developed country by 2047, though you may see many deficiencies now, I can clearly visualise it. What we resolve today, we will surely realise in 2047," Modi said.

He said Gujarat became the first state in the country to enact the Disaster Management Act.

After drawing inspiration from this Act, a similar law was made for the whole country. This Act helped every government in the country during the COVID-19 pandemic," said.

Highlighting the incredible work done since Kutch's devastation in 2001, Modi said the Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachch University was formed in 2003 and more than 35 new colleges have also been established.

He also talked about earthquake-proof district hospitals and more than 200 functional clinics in the area, and said every household gets clean water of the holy Narmada river, a far cry from those days of scarcity. Speaking about development of the area after the earthquake, Modi said Kutch has the largest cement plants in the world today. It is second in the world regarding welding pipe manufacturing.

"The world's second largest textile plant is in Kutch. Asia's first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) came up in Kutch. The Kandla and Mundra ports handle 30 per cent of India's cargo and Kutch produces 30 per cent salt of the country, he said.

Remembering one of the 'Panch Pran' (five resolves) of "pride in our heritage" that he proclaimed from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the prime minister highlighted the prosperity and rich heritage of Kutch.

The Smriti Van Memorial in Bhuj and Veer Bal Smarak at Anjar are symbols of the shared pain of Kutch, Gujarat and the entire country, said Modi who earlier in the day inaugurated the two memorials dedicated to nearly 13,000 victims of the 2001 Kutch earthquake.

Many emotions went through my heart today at the time of inaugurating the memorial. With all humility I may say that in commemorating the departed souls, the Smriti Van Memorial is at par with the 9/11 memorial in the US and the Hiroshima Memorial in Japan, he said.

Modi said he remembers that when the Kutch earthquake occurred, he reached here on the second day itself. "I was not the chief minister of Gujarat then, I was a simple (BJP) party worker. I didn't know in what way, and how many people I would be able to help. But I decided that I will be here among you all in that hour of grief. And when I became the chief minister, the experience of the service helped me a lot, he said.

Parties on their Toes

Continued from page-1

gives a strong message that the opposition BJP, which is often thought to be hand in gloves with the Naveen's party, would spare no opportunity to fight the BJD. A leader of non-compromising nature, Mr. Mishra has the ability to emerge as the real opposition leader for which the coming days are likely to be full of tussles between the BJP and the BJP.

This apart, the BJP also changed its Odisha in-charge D Purandeswari and appointed Sunil Bansal. Though a suave politician, Mr. Bansal has proved his ability in the Uttar Pradesh elections which was last time very crucial for the BJP in the backdrop of a massive farmers' agitation in the country. Bansal has the ability to get things done through dialogues in a quiet manner instead of jumping into the battlefield.

BJP, in fact, needed this kind of a leader to deal with Naveen's BJD, which is also a dependable opposition party. As BJD has all along bailed out the BJP led Union Government at the Centre, the top saffron leadership picked up Mr. Bansal who fits into the scheme of things in Odisha. BJP wants to form a government in the state and at the same time not annoy Naveen at any cost. This act of balancing could only be performed by Bansal.

After Mr. Shah's visit and several Union Ministers making rounds of Odisha, the BJP looks determined to cover the state more regularly. A lot depends on to what extent the BJP has set its booths strong. Unless there is a strong booth, the BJP cannot win polls.

Getting the whiff of early elections, the BJD also has started its preparation. The party does not want to take any chance as Naveen will seek elections for the sixth straight time. Becoming the Chief Minister of a state for half-a-dozen of time is not a small achievement.

The BJD has already started reconstituting its frontal organizations and appointing new office bearers, mostly young. Three months ago Naveen went for a reshuffle. The regional party is also planning a mega meeting of chief minister Naveen Patnaik with all the MLAs, minister's, office bearers and others soon to ascertain the ability of individual leaders. This proposed meeting is considered as a platform for selection of candidates for all the 147 Assembly segments and Lok Sabha seats.

As BJP could win in eight Lok Sabha seats in 2019, the BJD this time aims at capturing more LS seats in the state in order to increase the party's stake in the national politics. The BJD has to walk an extra mile to ensure that it gets a proper place in national politics. Under such a political situation when the opposition parties are working hard, the BJD has to do additional homework before the next elections.

Similarly, the Congress has also changed its PCC President in Odisha and appointed Sarat Pattnayak, a strong-man from western region of the state. The political strategists, however, feel that elevation of Sarat Pattnayak would impact the growth of BJP in the western region. While the BJD has a strong base in both the coastal region and the southern parts, the votes in western region are likely to be divided among the BJP and the Congress. In the fight between the BJP and Congress in western district, the BJD may gain by using proper strategy, political observers feel.

Sarat Pattnayak has also set a target of winning 90 seats in the State Assembly from the party's existing number of only nine in the state assembly. He argued that earlier during JB Patnaik's tenure, the party had done such a miracle in 1995 by adopting a proper strategy.

Former OPCC President Jaydev Jena has categorically said that the next election is the last chance for Congress to return to power after 23 years. If Congress wins, then it will rule for another 15 years and if it loses, even God cannot save the oldest party in Odisha, he said.

Anyway, all the political parties in Odisha are now gearing up for the next elections, even though none is so far sure whether the polls will be held as per schedule in 2024 or earlier in 2023.

Ten Hag hopes unsettled Ronaldo stays at Manchester United

LONDON: Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag insists he wants Cristiano Ronaldo to stay at Old Trafford despite leaving out the unsettled star for a second successive Premier League game. Ronaldo started on the bench for United's 1-0 win at Southampton on Saturday before making a largely anonymous substitute appearance in the second half. The Portugal striker has been pushing for a transfer since the end of last term after United's failure to qualify for this season's Champions League. But Ronaldo has found it impossible to attract one of Europe's top clubs, with the latest reports linking him with the likes of his former team Sporting Lisbon, as well as Napoli and Marseille.

With Thursday's transfer deadline looming, United remain adamant the five-time Ballon d'Or winner is not for sale in the second season of his second spell with the club.

But the sight of Ronaldo stopping to salute the United fans after the final whistle at St Mary's convinced some observers that the 37-year-old was preparing to say farewell.

The former Real Madrid and Juventus star finished as United's top scorer last season, but Ten Hag's team have looked more threatening with him, beating both Liverpool and Southampton since he was dropped after starting in the humiliating 4-0 loss at Brentford.

AICC polls: Congress veterans say Rahul remains only choice for party chief's post; Anand Sharma raises questions on electoral rolls

NEW DELHI: Rahul Gandhi remains the "number one" and the "only" choice of the Congress rank and file for the party chief's post, senior leader Salman Khurshid said on Sunday after the schedule for the election of the AICC president was announced.

Khurshid also said efforts will be made to persuade Gandhi to take over the presidency of the party once he returns from abroad.

Ending speculation, the Congress after a meeting of the party's working committee, announced that the election for its president will be held on Octo-

ber 17 with the winner being declared two days later.

Asked whether Rahul Gandhi remains the choice of party leaders, Khurshid said, "Frankly from everybody that I have spoken to or I have sensed their opinion, he remains the number one (choice) and he remains the only one."



"We haven't got into any conversations beyond that. We have no indications as to whether he will accept our request. Today, it was not possible to dwell on that because it was just the scheduling and it was all very difficult because it was a hybrid meeting," Khurshid, a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee, told PTI.

"When he comes back I am sure we would want to persuade him," Khurshid said.

The former Union minister said party workers and leaders share the sentiment expressed by senior party leader and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge who said on Saturday that Rahul Gandhi would be persuaded to return as Congress president as there is none in the party other than him who has a pan-India appeal.

Khurshid said "100 per cent" the rank and file of the party wants Rahul Gandhi at the helm.

Echoing similar views, senior party leader and former Uttarakhand chief minister Harish Rawat said party workers feel that Rahul Gandhi should agree to take over the reins of the party.

"We want to say that he should become the president. I am saying this as a Congress worker. This is the sentiment of lakhs and crores of workers," Rawat said.

BJP mocks Congress claim on internal poll as 'joke', likens it to 'Mughal-style' coronation

The CWC meeting was presided over by Sonia Gandhi, who is abroad for medical checkups. She was seen flanked by former party chief Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who are accompanying her.

The meeting came amid several leaders, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, having publicly exhorted Rahul Gandhi to return as the party chief.

However, uncertainty and suspense continue on the issue.

Several party insiders say Rahul Gandhi is persisting with his stance that he will not be the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president.

Gehlot on Wednesday had sought to play down reports about him being the frontrunner for the Congress president's post and said efforts would be made till the last minute to persuade Rahul Gandhi to take over the reins of the party again.

Rahul Gandhi had resigned as Congress president after the party suffered its second consecutive defeat in the 2019 parliamentary elections.

Sonia Gandhi who took over the reins of the party again as interim president had also offered to quit in August 2020 after an open revolt by a section of leaders, referred to as G-23, but the CWC had

urged her to continue. Meanwhile, dissident Congress leader Anand Sharma on Sunday raised questions during the crucial CWC meeting on the preparation of electoral rolls for the AICC president's election and asked whether due process under the party's constitution was followed or not, sources claimed.

AICC general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh, however, asserted that no questions were raised about the party's electoral process and schedule.

Speaking at the CWC meeting before the party's Central Election Authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry listed out the schedule for the election of the Congress president, Sharma claimed he has received complaints that neither any virtual nor any physical meeting was held to finalise the electoral rolls, the sources said.

They said that Sharma, who is among the G-23 dissident leaders, also pointed out that no Pradesh Congress Committee has received any list of delegates who will vote for the Congress president's election and such a process violates the sanctity of the election process.

Addressing a press conference after the CWC meeting, Ramesh said that the election schedule was unanimously approved by CWC members.

"The election schedule that was put forward by Mistry, all CWC members unanimously approved it without raising any questions or demanding an extension of dates," he said.

"This is to make absolutely clear that nobody raised any question or any doubt," Ramesh later said on Twitter.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress leaders downplay resignations in support of Ghulam Nabi Azad

The sources, however, pointed out that Sharma had asked whether the process was duly followed as per the Congress constitution while finalising the list of delegates who will vote for this election.

He claimed that no PCC has received any list and no meeting, either physical or virtual, has been held. The sources said he also called for making public the electoral lists of delegates voting for the election, to which Mistry said the same will be made available to any candidate desiring to contest as well as the PCCs.

The sources further said Congress president Sonia Gandhi asked Mistry to respond while stating that the lists are available for scrutiny.

Mistry said he would provide the list of delegates to all PCCs and urged party leaders to contest this open election.

He said there are over 9,000 delegates who will vote for the Congress president's election and all the lists have been verified and signed by the poll returning officers.

Veteran leader Sharma had a week ago resigned from the chairmanship of the party's steering committee for Himachal Pradesh, saying he was left with no choice after the "continuing exclusion and insults".

Azad exits: Ex-leaders express doubt over Congress' future, fearful of more resignations

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting took place amid a fresh upheaval in the party due to the shock resignation of veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday and his stinging letter to the party president in which he lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for "demolishing the party's entire consultative mechanism".

Azad and Sharma were part of the group of 23 dissident leaders who had written to Sonia Gandhi in 2020 seeking large-scale reforms, including elections at all levels of the organisation.

The online CWC meeting was presided over by Sonia Gandhi, who is abroad for medical checkups.

She was accompanied by Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

IND vs PAK Asia Cup 2022: India win toss and opt to bowl



DUBAI: India won the toss and opted to field against Pakistan in their Asia Cup opener here on Sunday.

Virat Kohli will be playing his 100th T20 International and is the second player in world cricket after Ross Taylor to complete a century of international appearances.

Dinesh Karthik was picked ahead of Rishabh Pant in the playing eleven while Avesh Khan was picked as third pacer alongside Arshdeep Singh and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah will be making his T20I debut.

Teams: India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh.

Pakistan: Babar Azam(c), Mohammad Rizwan, Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Asif Ali, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf, Shahnawaz Dahani.




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