

Construction activity at Puri's Jagannath temple necessary in larger public interest: SC

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Supreme Court missed pleas opposing the work. sic facilities to lakhs of devotees visiting

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Hima Kohli rejected two PILs and imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh each on two petitioners.

on Friday said the construction activity being carried out by A vacation bench of Justices B R Gavai and Hima Kohli re- the temple. The top court said there is no merit in



the Odisha government at the famed Shree Jagannath temple in Puri is necessary in larger public interest as it dis- jected the PIL with costs and said the state cannot be prevented from making necessary arrangements to provide ba-

New Complexes for Fire Services

Cuttack(KCN): Minister of State Home, Cap-



tain Dibya Shankar Mishra inaugurated new building of Range Fire Office, Cuttack on 3 June.

He also inaugurated Berhampur and

Landslide Victory for BJD

Jharsuguda(KCN): Governing BJD once again proved that it doesn't have a strong political opponent in Odisha by ensuring a landslide victory in the by-election to Brajrajnagar MLA seat.

BJD candidate Alaka Mohanty won the election with a thumping majority of 93,953 votes while her rivals in Congress and BJP got 27,831 and 22,630 votes in the by-poll. Alaka, the widow of late Kishore Mohanty has won the seat with a margin of 66,122.

As per Election Commission data, a total of 1,53,398 votes were polled during the by-poll held on May 31. This includes 1,53,096 votes through EVM and 302 through postal

ballot. Alaka got 61.25 per cent of total votes, her



nearest Congress rival Kishore Patel got 18.14 per cent of votes, while BJD candidate Radharani

Panda was in third place with 14.75 per cent of votes.

Ramesh Kumar Tripathy from CPI got 3105 votes whereas 1511 voters have selected NOTA

(none of the above). The ruling BJD has not lost a single Assembly by-poll since 2019. From one after another, the BJD became stronger in the State. The party won the by-election held for Bijepur, Balasore, Tirtol and Pipili MLA seats. Among the four seats, Balasore seat was with BJP.

This is the first time since the 2019 Lok Sabha polls that the BJP clinched the third spot, with the Congress coming up in the second spot. The ruling party workers started celebrations with crackers and beating drums.

The by-poll was necessitated as MLA Kishore Mohanty, the husband of the BJD candidate, died in December last year.

tions are either publicity interest litigation or personal interest litigation.

"We are of the considered view that Public Interest Litigation other than being in the public interest is detrimental to the public interest. In the recent past, it has been noticed that there has been mushrooming growth in PILs. Many such petitions are either publicity interest litigation or personal interest litigation."

"We highly deprecate the practice of filing such frivolous PIL as it is nothing but abuse of the process of the law. They encroach upon a valuable judicial time that could otherwise be utilized for considering genuine concerns. It is

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OBITUARY

1st Death Anniversary



Late Sorojini Mahapatra

Kridaspur, Nayagarh

DoD : 15.06.2021

Bother-in-law: Dr. Gyanendra Mahapatra, **Brother** : Ydhistir, Niranjana, Gobradhan **Sister in Law:** Sanjukta, Bidu **Daughter:** Jyotshna, Rina, Tikina, Anjali, Kabita, Hena, Lucy, Maitri **Son-in-law:** Kunja, Rabi, Chakradhar, Pabitra, Tikina, **Nephew:** Sarata, Praphulla, Papu, Dipu, Juju, Kalu, Babuli, Kalia, Bhalu, Muna, Luna, Pina, Indramani, **Nephew's wife:** Tikina, Kabuli, Pratima, Mita, Mini, Namita, Liku, Sunita, Romi, **Niece:** Bebi, Geeta, Lata, Tushi, Puchki, Aru, Manju, Kelmi, Mina, Bel, Reeta, **Niece's Husband:** Chita, Tulu, Manoj, Raju, **Grand daughter & Son-in-law:** Richa, Pinki, Kanha, Isha, Gudli, Shyam, Kumar, Osin, Sanu, Lipu, Moon, Mahi, Chinu, Disha. **Grand son-in-law:** Tiku, Avinash, Smruti, Sabya, Anush, Premu, Nirlipta, **Great grandson & daughter:** Kunu, Ayush, Sakti. **Friends, Family, Kridasapur villagers, Paryabekhyak & The Kalinga Chronicle family**

Social worker Activist Dr. Nrusinghananda Mahapatra felicitated in Maharashtra (Mumbai)

Mumbai (KCN): Kandhamal district Phulabani a very well known social worker Activist Dr.

guest in the conference along with Acharya Tatnlal Soagra, President All India Marathi Film

for disable persons need artificial limb, blind stick, wheel chair curricular activities the guests

ignited a fire in every heart that dares to dream. You are the pillar of confidence in women empowerment. Youths of Odisha experienced your magnificent contribution in their track of success. The digital revolution of the state, witnessed your valued leadership while positioning the international forum. In this regard he also gave his thanks to all social workers in his district to support him in every need. In a special moments Dr. Mahapatra requested all audiences an guests even to our Odia Community People, rather than saying hello over cell phone we should say Jay Jagannath. However, towards this new achievements the members of Kandhamal districts Social workers federation along with all Kandhamal district conscious senior citizens forum, an education in the local have wished him.



Nrusinghananda Mahapatra this year bagged in Mother Teresa National award in Maharashtra. On occasion of Samata Sahitya Academy's national conference held in Damadr Natya Gruha Ambedkar road, Parel in Mumbai this prestigious award has been honoured to Dr. Mahapatra in presence of notable guests. Social Workers in the country. Sri Megharaj Rajbhosle, a Senior literacy person in the state was the chief

Corporation & Vice President of Film Feration. India. Boywood actor Sri Arjun Yadav ,Hemangi Rao, Goldman Dadus and Dr. Sneha Despnade, an eminent Social worker, Dr. DD Tendeker, President of Maharashtra Bajar Peth and other eminent Personality in the state of Maharashtra were present during the felicitation. Towards Nrusinghananda's solidarity jobs in the field of Social works and social dedicated work charitable trust

and audiences were cheered and extended their great thanks to Nrusinghananda as he was represented from the Lord Jagannath's state, Odisha. Starting from Jay Jagannath in his speech Dr. Mahapatra also extended thanks to the organisation and said this award will give him an energy forth coming days he will add a boost to continue his social services. Your inspirational quotes have brought many social changes. Your innovative style of leadership have

Continuous theft in Barbil creates panic

Barbil(KCN): The number of thefts and robberies in Barbil is on the rise. Over the past two to three months, there have been allegations of robbery and robbery at gunpoint. As per information a theft near old bus stand once again repeat the incident. A motor part shop and an electric shop at Tempo stand were targeted. Thieves broke the lock using a iron road and stole. The involvement of some miscreant of neighbouring state cannot be denied in this case. It is alleged that the involvement of multinational companies have seized the employment opportunities thus unemployment is on rise, thus provoke illegal work like left and robbery. In addition, the young drug addicts may have been involved in petty thefts to meet their requirements. However, Police need to formulate any strategy to counter such problem and has to be more vigilant, says intellectual.

World Menstrual Day Celebrated

Boudha(KCN): Mr. Ritanjali Swain Principal ANM Training Gyanchand Sata-



pathy State President NIFAA Odisha Organised WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY Programme at Women's Higher Secondary School Boudh Odisha. With Collaboration of NIFAA & GYAN PRAKASH. In the programme Chief Guest Dr

Center Boudh, S. Rabindranath Guru, Principal W.H.S. School, Dr Dillip Kumar Khuntia, Lecturer in Education, Mrs. Monarama Mishra, Lecturer in Home Science, Mr Basanta Kumar Sahu Dist President NIFAA and the State President of NIFAA Odisha were present.

Srimandir redevelopment: Odisha Police register case against Puri Collector under AMASR

PURI (KCN): Simhadwar police on Thursday registered cases against

ments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act,

Parikrama project. On April 13, the lawyers had lodged a complaint with

Parikrama project without obtaining necessary permission from the ASI



the Collector, Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation (OBCC) and manager of Tata Projects, the agency executing the Jagannath temple heritage corridor project. Acting on the direction of the sub-divisional judicial magistrate (SDJM) of Puri, the cases were registered under section 30-A and 2, b(c) of the Ancient Monu-

1958. The SDJM had directed Simhadwar police to register cases after hearing a complaint petition filed by lawyers of Puri Bar Association alleging that work is being carried out illegally in violation of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) guidelines in the prohibited zone (100 mtr) of 12th century Srimandir as part of the

Simhadwar police urging it to investigate the matter. Subsequently, they filed a case in the SDJM court alleging that police did not accept their complaint. They prayed the court to direct the police to register a case or conduct hearing in the case. The lawyers had alleged that the administration was undertaking works of the Srimandir

and National Monuments Authority (NMA). In their petition, they also alleged that construction work in prohibited zone of the Centrally protected temple of national importance is likely to cause harm to its structure, they stated. The lawyers had sought prosecution of the Puri Collector, Tata Projects and OBCC, the nodal agency of the project.

Poster Launch & Announcement of Millind Gaba's India Tour

Kolkata (KCN): with Millind Gaba. The announcement &

"She Don't Know" will definitely be an incredible experience and "Yaar Mod Do".



entertainment company, Select brings to you Millind Gaba's India Tour. This will be Millind Gaba's first-ever Live in Concert India tour. The tour would travel to 8 cities over 2 months. This is an initiative of Select. The concerts are designed as a unique, never-seen-before experience, where Millind Gaba will showcase his very best. Fans can sing and dance to their favorite tunes LIVE

poster launch of Millind Gaba's India Tour was held today with the presence of: Millind Gaba, Bollywood Singer; Ravi Agarwal, Managing Director of Select; Gitesh Sharma, Representative of Select. Millind Gaba is an Indian singer, songwriter, music producer and actor associated with Punjabi and Bollywood music. He is known for his songs "Nazar Lag Jayegi",



His popular singles are "Nazar Lag Jayegi", "She Don't Know", "Main Teri Ho Gayi", "Zindagi Di Paudi", "Peele Peele", "Beautiful", "Nachunga Aise" and "Kya Karu". The music video for his song "She Don't Know" was released on 8 January 2019 by T-Series on YouTube. The video became popular with over 500 million views. Speaking to media, Millind Gaba, Bollywood Singer said, "It will be my first integrated and exclusive India tour and I am very grateful to have this opportunity to perform live for my audiences across different cities. This journey along with Select

for me." Speaking on this occasion, Ravi Agarwal, Managing Director of Select & Gitesh Sharma, Representative of Select said, "Select has been playing an integral part in bringing some of the best live musical experiences to fans across India. We are now excited to work with Millind Gaba's first mega India tour to entertain his fans. Millind Gaba, with his soulful melodies, has struck a chord with millions of fans in India making him the voice of this generation. The tour, curated by Select will reach out to major cities, such as Mumbai, Kolkata, Goa, Bengaluru, Hyderabad along with three other cities."

Odisha reels under sweltering heat conditions

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha continued to reel under sweltering heat conditions as 17 places in the State recorded 40 degree Celsius or more on Sunday. Sonepur was the hottest at 44 degree Celsius, followed by Titlagarh 43.8 degree Celsius and Jharsuguda and Balangir 43.4 degree each. Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded 38.2 degree Celsius and 38.8 degree respectively on the day. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said there will be no large change in maximum (daytime) temperature during the next four to five days in Odisha.

"Isolated places in interior Odisha might witness slightly above normal daytime temperature and other places will experience normal temperature in next four to five days due to no significant system and clear sky conditions," said Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Director, HR Biswas.

Shradhanjali to Vidwan Pandit Muralidhar Satapathy at his native place

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : Cuttack Sadar Based cultural organization Saraswati Kala Parisad(SKP) Advisor and belongs to Jagatsinghpur district Biridi Block Ballia Gopinathpur villagers Late Jadumani Satapathy's elder son Pandit Muralidhar



Satapathy 12th days death kriya karma over as per tradition. In this shradhanjali sabha all villagers, some eminent personalities, his relatives paid there tribute and pray God for salvation of the departed soul. Moreover Pandit Muralidhar Ji was one humble & sober person, pious person, social worker, social reformer and much more.

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Pankaj Tripathi Starrer 'Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga' trailer out now

Directed by five times National Award winning Director, Srijit Mukherji, the film also Stars Neeraj Kabi and Sayani Gupta

Mumbai(KCN): T-Series and Reliance Entertainment along with Match Cut Productions unveil the trailer of their film, 'Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga,' a dark humour laced satire.

Inspired by true events, Srijit Mukherji, has brought forth an insightful story about the adverse effects of urbanization, man-animal conflict and poverty leading to a bizarre practice in a village that resides on the edge of a forest.

The trailer interestingly portrays the story of Gangaram, played by Pankaj Tripathi. Gangaram adopts the infamous tiger practice and is willing to give up his life so that the families of his village will benefit from the government scheme money which is promised to the family of any tiger attack victim.. One fine day, he enters the forest and waits for his death. There he meets Jim, played by Neraj Kabi, who is a poacher and what follows next is



a series of unprecedented and interesting

NRI accuses Shilpa Shetty, hubby Raj Kundra of cheating in 'gold scam'

MUMBAI(KCN): Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj

Khar Police Station in Mumbai. When contacted, an official of Khar Po-

lice Station told IANS that "the complaint is currently under investigation" but declined to elaborate. Despite repeated attempts by IANS, Shilpa Shetty was not available for her comment.

payment would be entitled to a Satyug Gold Card, redeemable in stages with prices crossed the Rs 4.40 million per kg mark. However, when

vealed more office addresses at Andheri east, Malad West and Andheri

to the company revealed more shocking details: that Shetty and Kundra



A Non-Resident Indian businessman, currently in Mumbai, Sachin J. Joshi has claimed in a police complaint that he was reportedly lured and then cheated by SGPL's 'Satyug Gold Scheme', launched around 2014. Joshi has lodged a criminal complaint of cheating, fraud and other charges against Shilpa Shetty, Raj Kundra and officials of SGPL such as Ganpati Chaudhary, Mohammed Saifi and others with the

attractive discounts -- 15 per cent after two years, 26 per cent after three years, 30 per cent after four years and 37 per cent after five years. Joshi had purchased One kg gold for nearly Rs 18.58 lakhs in March 2014 at the then prevailing rates. It would be redeemable on or after March 25, 2019 at the promised discount on presentation of the Satyug Gold Card to the SGPL, his spokesperson told IANS.

Joshi attempted to redeem his one-kilo golden asset on the due date in March last year, he discovered that the SGPL office in Bandra Kurla Complex, suburban Mumbai, was shut with no employees or representatives available at its address. Upon enquiring he learnt that the office had been closed down a long ago, the SGPL website showed a new office address, at Shalimar Morya Park in Andheri west. When Joshi's team visited the new office, they were informed that the address did not belong to SGPL. Further online searches and scanning the company's annual returns re-

West, but again he encountered the same reply that these addresses did not belong to SGPL. Ditto was the experience with the company's helpdesk and customer care numbers (18002679090) which elicited no response, Joshi said. In November 2019, Joshi's representative happened to meet one of the company officials at the Malad West address who claimed that it was not possible to redeem the claim as the company was processing multiple claims, and suggested he should return in December 2019. A search on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) website pertaining

had resigned as the company directors in May 2016 and November 2017 respectively. "It became clear from all these facts that SGPL was a fraudulent entity being used to run the fake 'Satyug Gold Scheme' using the name of celebs like Shilpa Shetty. I have suffered a loss of Rs 18.58 lakh on my gold investment," Joshi said. Sources in the gold industry hinted that many more such investors may have been lured by SGPL and only a detailed police investigation would reveal the extent of the alleged scam. SGPL was formerly known as Aavyaan Gems & Jewellery Pvt Ltd with its offices in Bandra Kurla Complex.

Appreciating the Harbingers of Peace: International Day of UN Peacekeepers

The United Nations Peacekeeping Forces are used by the United Nations to keep or restore peace in areas where there is armed conflict. The UN has the authority to intervene in both inter-state and intra-state conflicts. The United Nations serves as an unbiased third party in order to provide the groundwork for a peaceful resolution of the issues that have led to armed conflict. If a peaceful settlement is impossible to achieve, UN forces may be able to help reduce the degree of hostilities. Only when both parties to a conflict agree to their presence can the UN Peacekeeping Forces be deployed. As a result, they may be employed by the fighting parties to prevent the escalation of a conflict and, in this case, to end a struggle. The United Nations' leadership is in charge of the Peacekeeping Forces. They are usually sent out in response to a Security Council decision. The General Assembly, on the other hand, has taken the lead on occasion. The Secretary-General and his secretariat are in charge of operational control. There is a distinction between unarmed observation groups and lightly armed military forces in peacekeeping operations. They are only permitted to use their guns in self-defence. In total, 14 UN operations have taken place. Observer groups and military units are evenly distributed. The UN observer groups are tasked with gathering information regarding actual conditions in a certain area, such as whether both parties are adhering to an armistice deal. Military troops are tasked with more complex tasks, such as separating conflicting parties and preserving order in a certain area.

In the Middle East, UN interventions have been particularly popular, both in terms of observer groups and military personnel. In 1948, the United Nations was tasked with sending observers to supervise the armistice between Israel and the Arab states. Following the wars of 1956, 1967, and 1973, observer group activities was resumed. Following the 1956 war, the first armed UN force was deployed in the Sinai to act as a buffer between Israeli and Egyptian forces. Soldiers came from ten different countries. With presence in eight of the 14 (present)

United Nations Missions throughout the world, the Indian

Army continues to play a leading role in UN Peacekeeping, with over 5,400 military troops deployed in difficult conditions under the UN flag. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, South Sudan, the Golan Heights, Syria, Western Sahara, Abyei, and Cyprus, the Indian Army maintains a significant presence. India is also participating in UNISFA with an infantry battalion group (Abyei). India has sent 15 Force Commanders, two Military Advisors, one Deputy Military Advisor to the UN Secretary-General, two Division Commanders, and eight Deputy Force Commanders to various UN missions. In defence of the mandate and in the cause of world peace, Indian army contingents have carried out a variety of acts, earning the respect of the UN, the international community, and the local population. The United Nations has praised India's peacekeepers for their professionalism and bravery. India is a founding member of the United Nations, and its participation in UN peacekeeping missions dates back to 1950, when it joined the United Nations Multinational Force in Korea. Since then, India has participated in 51 of the 71 United Nations peacekeeping deployments, contributing over 2,64,000 personnel and making it one of the world's top contributors of peacekeepers. India has always participated in United Nations peacekeeping missions without any hyperbole or symbolism but in plain pursuit of the United Nations Charter's purposes. This devotion is true, even if it means accepting personnel casualties, and 159 Indian Army soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom.

This dedication is real, even if it means accepting personnel casualties, and 159 Indian Army soldiers have sacrificed the ultimate sacrifice in defence of the United Nations mandate. In the next lines, the rich history and tale of India's participation in India's military troops have been praised for their professionalism and experience in UN peacekeeping missions (UNPKOs). "The courageous soldiers on the battlefields of the Second World War laid the foundations of the United Nations," Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said during the September 2015 Leaders' Summit on UN Peacekeeping in New York. By 1945, the Indian Army had grown to 2.5 million soldiers, making it the world's largest volunteer army. "India is quickly becoming the UNPKO's most

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

important supplier of troops." Nearly 200,000 Indians have

served in 49 of the 71 UNPKOs that have been deployed so far.

As a "founding" member of the United Nations, India has never hesitated to respond to UN demands for troops to assist in the maintenance of world peace and security. The Indian Army's 60 Parachute Field Ambulance was despatched to provide medical support to US/ROK and UN forces fighting in the Korean War shortly after India's independence in 1950. The unit served in Korea for three and a half years, from November 1950 to May 1954, the longest term of service by any UN military unit. From 15 November 1956 to 19 May 1967, eleven Indian infantry battalions rotated through the UN Emergency Force (UNEF I) to supervise the withdrawal of France, the United Kingdom, and Israel from Egyptian territory and to keep the peace between Israel and Egypt.

When Belgian rule dissolved in 1960, the Congo urged UN soldiers to prevent secession and reconcile the country. From 14 July 1960 to 30 June 1964, two Indian brigades participated in the ONUC UNPKO. The rules of engagement were altered to permit the use of force in the defence of the mandate, humanitarian missions, and counter-mercenary operations. A total of 39 Indian troops were killed in the action. For laying down his life in defence of the UN mandate in the Congo, Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria received India's highest military honour, the Param Vir Chakra. A growing pool of Indian military commanders has been seconded to the UN as a result of India's participation in the initial UNPKOs, whose professionalism and expertise have aided UN peacekeeping doctrine. In this sense, Major-General I.J. Rikhye, who served as the UN Secretary-Military General's Adviser from 1960 to 1967, made an important contribution. The three essential principles of effective UN peacekeeping were formulated based on UNPKOs' on-the-ground experience. These include deployment with the parties' participation, operations that are impartial, and the use of force solely in self-defence or to defend the mandate.

The end of the Cold War set off a chain reaction of disasters. More than 20 further UNPKOs were deployed between 1989 and 1994. India's contribution to these new firms grew considerably. In three areas, India's initiatives have made a big difference. UNPROFOR in

the former Yugoslavia, which had India's Lt. General Satish Nambiar as its first Force Commander; UNTAC in Cambodia; ONUSAL in El Salvador; ONUMOZ in Mozambique; UNOSOM in Somalia; UNAVEM in Angola; UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone; UNMEE in Ethiopia-Eritrea; and UNMIT in East Timor are examples of UNPKOs. The third area is leading the ground-level response to emerging issues, while the UN Security Council continues to be ineffectual in enforcing its decisions, due to reasons outlined unanimously by world leaders at the 2005 UN World Summit, which demanded Security Council reforms. One problem where India's UN troops have made a significant influence is the protection of civilians involved in intra-state conflicts, particularly in complicated UNPKOs like MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo and UNMISS in South Sudan. Indian UN peacekeepers have donated medical services, including veterinary support, and engineering services in various UNPKOs, going above and beyond the call of duty to help conflict-affected local residents maintain their livelihood.

Terrorist threats to the UN by non-state actors are among the issues encountered by India's forces today, which have contributed to UNPKOs. Indian UN military soldiers based on Syria's Golan Heights were the first to face such obstacles from the Jabhat al-Nusra terrorist organisation, which kidnapped UN peacekeepers in 2014. The refusal of permanent members of the Security Council to participate in "decisions of the Security Council" concerning the deployment of India's troops, as called for in Article 44 of the UN Charter, is a greater difficulty for troop-contributing countries like India. Between 1948 and 2018, 3802 UN member-state troops gave their lives upholding the UN Charter. India had the biggest number (164) of participants. India has established a virtual memorial for its peacekeepers. The United Nations General Assembly has approved the construction of a memorial to all UN peacekeepers who have died in the line of duty. "It would be most suitable if the proposed memorial wall to the slain peacekeepers is created immediately," Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said.

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Military should be excluded from RTI

Just pay attention as to why are a specific section of society taking undue special intention in

Right to Information about Defence establishments and unnecessarily curious and concerned about the war preparations of military? Is the operations and working of military should be made public

? Who are those people who in the name of right to information (RTI), asking for military strategy and preparations related information from different units of army, agencies and cantonment? These questions became important these days as it has been seen that some specific elements are interested in extracting highly sensitive and important information, which is not concerned in anyway to them. For all this reason system of military has attain the alert mode. They are monitoring all such situations. They have demanded to exclude the army from RTI act. This demand is significant most logical and should be seriously considered.

On 28th April last, a meeting headed by central cabinet secretary was held in which serious concerns were expressed about the extraction of important information of military in the name of RTI. This meeting was held two days before the retirement of army chief Manoj Mukund

Narvane. The meaningful demand by

the military must be addressed sincerely. The government should make firm decision in order to protect the internal security and to maintain confidentiality of the functioning of military. The information procured by the citizens through the RTI admittedly has some limitations. With the RTI, nation informs its citizens about the working and administrative system. In a democratic setup, people mandate persons to form government, to rule over themselves and in return, expect the government to be honest and conscientious in performing its responsibilities. But the citizens cannot be allowed to procure information related to national security and defense. It is evident that these are the people with vicious intentions.

It is obvious that India has many disguised enemies like Jaichand and Mir Zafars. This consists of some hidden traitors inside the military and some so-called journalists also. They always try to procure information with the RTI tool. In return they are credited a hefty amount in cash and kinds. That's why they don't hesitate to sell the interest of their motherland. They have lost their conscience. Along with this another significant demand is arising to exclude some other government departments like Intelligence Bureau, RAW, National Security Guards (NSG), Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force etc. from the RTI gamut

R.K. Sinha

or to limit the types and extent of information to be procured through RTI. Means people working or retired from these departments should only be allowed to get job and pension related information. Last year the arrest of so-called senior journalist Rajiv Sharma in Delhi made headlines, he was indulged in espionage to China. It was found that he procured information through RTI and shared it with China. He was detained under 'Official Secret Act' (OSS). Many sensitive information from national security point of view, was handed over to China by him. He was paid a big amount for it. Actually, some vicious elements have started misusing this magnificent act. In the judgement given by Supreme Court in December 2019, stated that "In order to stop misuse of RTI act and prevent the 'criminal intimidation' through it, guidelines should be made for RTI act". Then bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde, Justice B R Gavai and justice Suryakant said that "We are not against the RTI act, but we are feeling that a set of guidelines must be made for its regulations". The bench added that some people are no way involved in filing RTI petition. It is sometimes used as criminal intimidation or blackmail.

See, the government is aware about the surge in RTI petitions. Many people ask nonsense questions. It must be assured that the act is not misused. Once an officer of Central Cultural

ministry said to me that every year dozens of application are submitted in his department asking for the person who said Gandhiji 'mahatma' for the first time. Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti works under cultural ministry. Means a considerable amount of time of government employees are wasted in answering these meaningless RTIs. But here the matter is related to military and sensitive government department responsible for national security. These are highly sensitive and important departments of country. There is no dearth of enemies inside and outside India. India has to consistently combat China and Pakistan. New Chief of army staff general Manoj Pande said that Indian troops are stationed with China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). There is no clarity from China side on border disputes. Some devil in disguise are working for the same China which is number one enemy of India. These people should be treated with right medicine. Along with it the government should think and verify the candidature of the applicants before sharing any information related to national security in order to prevent it from reaching it in the hands of anti national elements. Individual character and background of such persons asking for these information should also be cross checked.

(The author is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP)

Joe Biden appeals for tougher gun laws: 'How much more carnage?'

WASHINGTON: "Enough, enough," President Joe Biden exclaimed over and over as he delivered an impassioned address to the nation imploring Congress to take action against gun violence after mass shootings he said had turned schools, supermarkets and other everyday places into "killing fields." If legislators fail to act, he warned, voters should use their "outrage" to turn it into a central issue in November's midterm elections. Speaking at the White House on Thursday night, Biden acknowledged the stiff political headwinds as he sought to drive up pressure on Congress to pass stricter gun limits after such efforts failed following past attacks.

He repeated calls to restore a ban on the sale of assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines and said if Congress won't embrace all of his proposals, it must at least find compromises like keeping firearms from those with mental health issues or raising the age to buy assault-style weapons from 18 to 21. "How much more carnage are we willing to accept?" Biden asked after last week's shootings by an 18-year-old gunman, who killed 19 students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, and another attack Wednesday in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where a gunman shot and killed four people and himself at a medical office. "Don't tell

me raising the age won't make a difference," he said.

The most recent shootings came close on the heels of the May 14 assault in Buffalo, New York, where a white 18-year-old wearing military gear and live streaming with a helmet camera opened fire with a rifle at a supermarket in a predominantly Black neighbourhood, killing 10 people and wounding three others in what authorities described as "racially motivated violent extremism."

"This time we have to take the time to do something," Biden said, calling out the Senate, where 10 Republican votes would be needed to pass legislation. For all the passion of Biden's address, and for all his big asks and smaller fallback alternatives, any major action by Congress is still a long shot.

"I know how hard it is, but I'll never give up, and if Congress fails, I believe this time a majority of the American people won't give up either," he added. "I believe the majority of you will act to turn your outrage into making this issue central to your vote."

Adding a stark perspective to young people's deaths, he noted that Centers for Disease Control data shows "guns are the number one killer of children in the United States of America," ahead of car crashes.

ALSO READ | Gunman kills four at Tulsa hospital in US mass shooting: Police

"Over the last two decades, more school-age children have died from guns than on-duty police officers and active-duty military combined," he said.

Aware of persistent criticism from gun-rights advocates, Biden insisted his appeal wasn't about "vilifying gun owners" or "taking away anybody's guns."

"We should be treating responsible gun owners as an example of how every gun owner should behave," Biden said. "This isn't about taking away anyone's rights, it's about protecting children, it's about protecting families."

He called on Congress to end "outrageous" protections for gun manufacturers, which severely limit their liability over how their firearms are used, comparing it to the tobacco industry, which has faced repeated litigation over its products' role in causing cancer and other diseases.

"Imagine if the tobacco industry had been immune from being sued, where we'd be today," Biden said. All major broadcast networks broke away from regular programming to carry Biden's remarks at 7:30 p.m. EDT, before the start of prime-time shows.

Biden has given major speeches on the coronavirus pandemic and the chaotic withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan. But the president has used such addresses sparingly during his nearly 18 months in office,

especially during evening hours.

Earlier Thursday, Vice President Kamala Harris spoke about the Oklahoma shooting, saying, "All of us hold the people of Tulsa in our hearts, but we also reaffirm our commitment to passing commonsense gun safety laws."

"No more excuses. Thoughts and prayers are important, but not enough," Harris said. "We need Congress to act."

Visiting Uvalde on Sunday, Biden mourned privately for three-plus hours with anguished families. Faced with chants of "do something" as he departed a church service, the president pledged, "We will." In his address, he spoke of being passed a note by a woman in a Uvalde church grieving the loss of her grandchild, calling on people to come together and act.

His Thursday night address coincided with bipartisan talks that are intensifying among a core group of senators discussing modest gun policy changes. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said the group is "making rapid progress," and Biden has spoken to Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, among those leading Democrats' efforts on the issue.

Democrats are hoping Biden's remarks encourage the bipartisan Senate talks and build pressure on the Republicans to strike an agreement. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden is "encouraged" by congressional negotiations but the president wants to give lawmakers "some space" to keep talking.

ALSO READ | US House panel taking up gun bill in wake of mass shootings

The private discussions in the Senate, which is split 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans, are not expected to produce the kinds of sweeping reforms being considered by the Democratic-led House — which has approved expansive background checks legislation and will next turn to an assault weapons ban.

A House package debated Thursday and approved by a committee, 25-19 is less sweeping but includes a provision raising the required age for buying semi-automatic firearms to 21. It still faces slim chances in the Senate. Instead, the bipartisan senators are likely to come up with a more incremental package that would increase federal funding to support state gun safety efforts with incentives for bolstering school security and mental health resources. The package may also encourage "red-flag laws" to keep firearms away from those who would do harm.

While the Senate approved a modest measure to encourage compliance with background checks after a 2017 church mass shooting in Texas and one in Parkland, Florida, the following year, no major legislation cleared the chamber following the devastating massacre of 20 children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik tells panchayat representatives to work for poor and needy

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has been ment has been achieved as a large



ter Naveen Patnaik on Thursday advised the panchayat representatives to consider problems faced by their villages as their own and try to resolve them.

Addressing the orientation programme for the newly elected panchayat representatives of over 1.6 lakh, the Chief Minister said that Biju Patnaik's dream of women empower-

number of women have won the panchayat election this time. He said that the representatives should pay special attention to people belonging to the deprived section. Stating that panchayats play a key role in the State's governance system and development agenda, Naveen said that these are service centres. The repre-

sentatives should pay attention to the fact that people are never disappointed by getting deprived from government's welfare programmes. He asked them to create their identity in their areas as messengers of development.

The 5T initiative of the government can transform the panchayats and should be utilised properly, he said and added that the grassroots democratic bodies can be turned into model institutions through the programme.

Panchayati Raj Minister Pratap Jena said that panchayats play a key role in the development of the

State while Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said existing infrastructure in the panchayats have been mapped to facilitate different welfare schemes. Mission Shakti Minister Tukuni Sahu and Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo said that panchayats are the first step for successful implementation of different development programmes. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said as the responsibilities of the representatives have increased manifold, their training is very important.

Sidhu Moose Wala murder: CCTV footage shows suspects in Bolero at Fatehabad fuel pump

CHANDIGARH: A CCTV footage from a petrol pump in Haryana's Fatehabad district has surfaced on social media purportedly showing two suspects in the Moose Wala murder case in a Bolero car. It is suspected that the

have been procured from Bappiana village of Mansa district. The assailants had fled in an Alto car after murdering the singer. The car was found abandoned in Moga. Meanwhile, the

assailants. The police had also brought two gangsters on production warrants from Bathinda and Ferozepur prisons for questioning in the Moose Wala murder case. On May 29, Moose

Jawahar Ke village. Then a Bolero stopped in front of Moose Wala's vehicle, and its occupants, along with those in the Corolla, opened indiscriminate fire at the singer. Shubdeep Singh Sidhu, known as



same vehicle was used by the assailants. The footage is learnt to have been procured from a fuel pump located at Bisla village in Fatehabad where the car had halted for refuelling. Another CCTV footage has appeared on social media in which the assailants can be purportedly seen fleeing in the Bolero and an Alto car after killing the singer on Sunday. This footage is said to

Punjab Police has detained two men from Fatehabad district, the sources said, adding that they would be questioned in connection with the case. A senior official of a special investigation team formed to probe the murder on Friday said they have got important leads and were working on it. Earlier, the Punjab Police had arrested Manpreet Singh for allegedly providing logistic support to the

Wala was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district, a day after the state government curtailed his security cover. His cousin and a friend, who were travelling in a jeep with him, were also injured in the attack. A CCTV footage, which later emerged on social media, showed Moose Wala's vehicle was being followed by a Corolla car in

Sidhu Moose Wala, was among the 424 people whose security was withdrawn or curtailed by the Punjab Police on a temporary basis. The state police termed the incident a case of inter-gang rivalry and said the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was behind the murder. Canada-based Goldy Brar, a member of Bishnoi gang, has claimed responsibility for the killing.

Centre accords 'Z' category security to Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh, he declines

NEW DELHI: Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh was Friday granted 'Z' category security by the Union Home Ministry, but he declined the offer saying it would have hindered his work as a religious leader.

Home Ministry officials said in Delhi the decision to accord the 'Z' category security, the country's second highest, to the Sikh religious leader was taken in view of the enhanced threat perception.

"Z category security has been provided to Jathedar of Akal Takht Giani Harpreet Singh. The CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) commandos will be in charge of his security," an official said earlier in the day.

However, the Jathedar said later in Chandigarh that he did not know "what

input the government has". He, however, thanked the government for

the Centre's decision through the media. Singh said that being the Jathedar of Akal

feasible for me. There will be many problems for me," he said. "I want to say that



its offer. "I respect the sentiments of the Centre," he said, urging it to withdraw the order. A 'Z' category protectee is secured by about 16-20 armed CRPF commandos who are deployed round-the-clock in shifts. Akal Takht is the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, and Jathedar is its appointed head. The Jathedar said he came to know about

Takht his area of work is to propagate the Sikh religion, it principles and tenets and that he has to travel within and outside the country for the purpose. During the discharge of this duty, he said, he often has to meet a lot of people and sometime he needs to stay at somebody's residence. "In such situations, travelling with 'Z' category security is not

with this 'Z' security, some problems in the area of propagation by me are natural," he said. The Akal Takht Jathedar was one of 424 people whose security were pruned by the newly formed AAP government in Punjab. Even though his security was later restored by the state government, the Jathedar had refused to take it.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik announces Rs 42 crore for Sarala temple development

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday approved the master plan for the overall development of the Sarala Temple at Jhankad in Jagatsinghpur district for which Rs 42 crore will be spent in the first phase. The work will be completed within a year.

The master plan includes construction of four

gates in the east, west, south and north direction and a heritage wall around the temple. Other temples on the premises will also be developed. The temple pond will be renovated while the kitchen, anand bazaar and godown will be reconstructed.

Mahavir temple within the premises will be rebuilt while a dola bedi (altar) and mundan

mandap would be constructed. The plan also includes laying of a footpath for the convenience of the devotees. Besides, bhoga and

guage as it was here under the Nanda Deula banyan tree Adi Kabi Sarala Das had siddhi (self realisation) and wrote Sarala

I'm in favour of strong Opposition, people misunderstand my views on dynastic politics: PM Narendra Modi

KANPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said he favours a strong opposition in the country but slammed dynastic politics, saying it kills talent.

He also said his statements on dynastic politics are often misunderstood by people, and added his criti-

ALSO READ: Will the BJP walk the talk on dynastic politics?

President Kovind, who is on a visit to his village, came to the Kanpur airport to welcome PM Modi.

"I felt ashamed that President Ram Nath Kovind came to the airport to welcome me. We work under

cables are being laid and houses being constructed for the poor, he said.

"Our villages are capable, have manpower and are well to do. Empowerment of villages is the primary objective of our government.

ALSO READ: Dynastic political parties 'threat' to de-

nor Anandiben Patel along with ministers, MPs and MLA of nearby area attended the event.

ALSO READ: Blind opposition to issues and negativity political ideology of dynastic parties, says PM Narendra Modi

In his address, Adityanath said, "The president and



deepa mandap will be constructed for the benefit of sevayats and devotees. Administrative office of the temple, police control room, a rest room, toilet and a shoe stand will be covered in the master plan.

All the shop owners near the temple will be rehabilitated. The existing shopping complex will be reconstructed for rehabilitation of 72 shop owners and those who have opened other business near the temple. A vehicle parking having toilet facility will be constructed near the shopping complex.

It was also decided that a bronze statue of Adi Kabi Sarala Das will be placed near the Nanda Deula banyan tree. The Jhankad Peetha played a key role in the development of the Odia lan-

Mahabharata. The Sarala Mahabharata started a new age in Odia language.

The Works department made presentation of the master plan to the Chief Minister at a high level meeting here. The temple has been included in the Integrated Development of Heritage and Monuments and Tourist Destination programme under the 5T initiative. In the second phase of the temple development, the road leading to the Peetha will be widened.

5T secretary VK Pandian recently visited the temple and discussed with sevayats and others stakeholders on the temple development plan. The temple constructed by Bhoumakara kings in the eighth century attracts a large number of devotees and visitors every year.



cism of "pariwarvad" was not aimed at any party or individual. "I am not talking about any political party or individual. I see that the people who fit my definition of pariwarvad are angry with me. These dynasts are uniting against me across the country. They are angry why the youth in the country are taking Modi seriously," he said.

"I must tell you that people misunderstand my statement. I want that there must be a strong opposition in the country and that political parties must come out of dynastic politics," he said.

It will strengthen the democracy in the country and youths will get more opportunities in politics, he said, but wondered if "I am expecting a lot from dynastic political parties".

He was addressing an event at President Ram Nath Kovind's ancestral Paraunkh village in Kanpur Dehat district.

his guidance. When I asked about it, the president replied that 'I have come to welcome you not as the President of the country but as a native of the village as per my values'," Modi said.

He said those gripped with "pariwarvad" (dynastic politics) are uniting against him, while people flay its ills.

He said dynastic politics must stop so that anyone born in a village can become the prime minister or the president.

"We must be alert to the challenges of democracy like pariwarvad. Pariwarvad kills talent not just in politics but in every sphere," he said. Earlier in his address, the PM shared his experience of visiting the Paraunkh village and interaction with locals.

The PM said the country is working for the development of farmers, women and youth.

Today in rural India, roads are being made, fibre optic

mocracy in India, says BJP chief JP Nadda

He said that his government's aim is to ensure that benefits of schemes reach to all intended beneficiaries, which means "cent percent empowerment without discrimination". "By doing so we are fulfilling the dream of equality of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar," he said. The prime minister urged the villagers to contribute to the development of the villages and the country.

In his address, President Kovind thanked Modi for visiting the village and for backing him for the post of president.

"Uttar Pradesh realised the dedication of the PM towards democracy when he initiated to make a person like me the president of the country," said Kovind.

"The credit for making a person from UP the president of the country goes to the prime minister," he said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Govern-

the prime minister by being together in a small village of Kanpur Dehat are also giving a message of 'gram swaraj' envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and encouraging the people to join with the Amrut Mohotsav to celebrate 75 years of Independence.

Adityanath said that Paraunkh village has become an example of ideal village in the state.

"Whatever we are able to do in the state, the support of the Prime Minister is essential. With his support and guidance, UP has been able to move towards a new era of development," said the CM.

Before their address at the public function, the dignitaries visited the Pathri Mata temple at Paraunkh village.

They also visited Dr B R Ambedkar Bhawan which was to be followed by a visit to Milan Kendra (community center). The Kendra is the president's ancestral house that has been donated for public use.




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Government amends norms for appointment of directors

NEW DELHI: The government has put in place stricter norms for appointment of individuals from certain

Putting in place a stricter framework, the ministry has now mandated security clearance for individuals

try of Home Affairs, Government of India shall also be attached along with the consent," the notification,

declaration in connection with FEMA mandatory for entities from such countries involved in amalgamations with Indian companies.

In this regard, the rules governing compromises, arrangements and amalgamations were amended.

On May 5, the ministry amended rules governing companies with respect to prior approval being mandatory for investments

by entities and individuals from countries that share a land border with India. Amendments were made with respect to rules for the prospectus and allotment of securities.

In April 2020, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had issued Press Note 3 regarding foreign investments.

With the press note, the government had

made its prior approval mandatory for foreign investments from countries that share land border with India to curb opportunistic takeovers of domestic firms following the coronavirus pandemic.

Countries which share land borders with India are China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

As per the decision, FDI proposals from these countries need government approval for investments in India in any sector.

New Complexes for Fire Services

Continued from page-1

cted by OPHWC at an estimated cost of Rs.3.83 Crore under 13th FC Award 2014-15 having plinth area 15,924 Square Feet.

Aforesaid building is a four storied building consisting of ground floor (reception, parking, store room, electrical room, Drivers rest room with toilets), first floor (conference hall, Office chambers of Fire Officer, Deputy Fire Officer, Assistant Fire Officer and Station Officer), second floor (different sections for office staff) and third floor (Control room, Barrack, MV Section, Computer Section etc.). Fire Alarm System, Fire Hydrant System, Lightning Arrester, an elevator and water vat etc. have been provided in the aforesaid building. The Central Range office building is also a Model building on Fire Safety and Protection for high rise structures depicting separate block for staircases and emergency exits. Central Range covers ten districts i.e. Cuttack, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Nayagarh, Khordha, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak. Central Range has four territorial Deputy Fire Officers working at Balasore, Puri, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. There are 129 Fire Stations functioning under Central Range, Cuttack.

Southern Range Fire Office building, Workshop, Control room and Transit Hostel for 20 persons at Berhampur has been constructed by OPHWC at an estimated cost of Rs.3.04 Crore under 13th FC Award 2014-15 having plinth area 13468 Square Feet.

Aforesaid building is a four storied building consisting of ground floor (workshop, officer room for workshop, store rooms, communication room), First floor (Office chamber for Fire Officer, Deputy Fire Officer, Assistant Fire Officer, Station Officer and staff of Range Office), Second floor (control room) and third floor (transit hostel for 20 persons).

Southern Range covers ten districts i.e. Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Boudh, Koraput, Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Malkangiri. Southern Range has three territorial Deputy Fire Officers working at Berhampur, Koraput and Bhawanipatna. There are 109 Fire Stations functioning under Southern Range, Berhampur.

Northern Range Fire Office building with Transit Hostel for 30 persons at Sambalpur has been constructed by OPHWC at an estimated cost of Rs.1.90 Crore under 13th FC Award 2011-12 having plinth area 10540 sft.. Aforesaid building is a three storied building consisting of ground floor (workshop, officer room for workshop, store rooms, communication room), first floor (Office chamber for Fire Officer, Deputy Fire Officer, Assistant Fire Officer, Station Officer and staff of Range Office), Second floor (transit hostel for 30 persons).

Northern Range covers ten districts i.e. Sambalpur, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Baragarh, Dhenkanal, Angul, Balangir, Subarnapur, Sundargarh and Keonjhar. Northern Range has three territorial Deputy Fire Officers working at Angul, Sambalpur and Rourkela. There are 103 Fire Stations functioning under Northern Range, Sambalpur.

Lawmakers and District Collectors also graced the occasion. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by I/c Chief Fire Officer, Bichitra Kumar Panda.

Services activity expands at strongest rate in over 11 years in May amid mounting price pressures

NEW DELHI: India's services sector activities improved further and expanded at strongest rate in over 11 years in May, supported by a substantial pick-up in new business growth, even as input cost inflation climbed to a record high, a monthly survey said on Friday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index jumped to 58.9 in May, up from 57.9 in April, amid better underlying demand and strong inflows of new work.

For the tenth straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output.

In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The reopening of the Indian

economy continued to help lift growth in the service sector. Business activity rose at the quickest pace in over 11 years in May, supported by the fastest upturn in new orders since July 2011," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The upturn was supported by a substantial pick-up in new business growth as demand continued to recover following the reopening of the economy after COVID-19 lockdowns, the survey said.

The latest results, however, continued to signal subdued global demand for Indian services, with new business from abroad having now declined in each month since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020.

On the prices front, the rate of inflation climbed to the highest in 16-and-a-half years of data collection.

Construction activity at Puri's Jagannath temple necessary in larger public interest: SC

Continued from page-1

high time that such petitions are nipped in the bud so that development work is not stalled," the bench said.

The top court said that a hue and cry was made that the construction carried out is contrary to the inspection report carried out by ASI.

However, the note of the Director-General of ASI clears the position.

"It can thus be seen that even if the appellant had genuine concern the same is already taken care by the high court in the impugned order.

In spite of that matter was mentioned for obtaining urgent orders before the vacation bench on Monday. Till the matter was not listed again a hue and cry was made as if heavens are going to fall if the matter is not heard. Activity undertaken is in sync with our earlier orders," the bench said.

Earlier, senior advocate Mahalakshmi Pavani, appearing for the petitioner, had said there's a clear embargo and there can be no construction in the prohibited area.

"They (state government) did not even take permission to construct in the regulated area," she had submitted.

The state, she had said, got a no objection certificate from the National Monuments Authority (NMA) and went ahead.

She said the NMA could not have granted a valid certificate and this is something only the director of archaeology in the Central or the state government can do.

Advocate General for Odisha Ashok Kumar Parija had submitted that under The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, the authority is the NMA, and the competent authority has been notified to be the Odisha government's director culture.

"Construction does not mean repair or remake existing structures or clean the sewage, drains etc.

This is how it is understood and DG ASI also understands the same way.

"Grant of the permission was by director culture. The director culture of the government of Odisha is the competent authority. What was prohibited within 100 metres was construction. The concept plan of the state aims to provide amenities and beautify the temple," he had said.

He added that 60,000 people visit the temple everyday and there is a need for more toilets. "The amicus curiae in the case pointed out there was a necessity of more toilets and the court had issued directions in that regard," he had added.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Ardhendu Kumar Das and others alleging illegal excavation and construction work by the Odisha government at the temple.

According to the petition, state agencies have been working in gross violation of Section 20A of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

The plea alleged that the Odisha government is carrying out unauthorized construction work.

This poses a serious threat to the structure of the ancient temple, it said.



countries, including China, as directors on the boards of Indian companies, by making security clearance mandatory for such individuals.

In recent weeks, the corporate affairs ministry has made various amendments to rules in terms of applicability for companies and individuals from countries that share land borders with India.

from countries sharing land borders with India to be appointed as directors on the boards of Indian companies.

Amendments have been made in rules pertaining to appointment and qualification of directors under the Companies Act, 2013.

"In case the person seeking appointment is a national of a country which shares a land border with India, necessary security clearance from the Minis-

dated June 1, said.

Besides, for such persons, the application number will not be generated when they apply for the Director Identification Number (DIN) unless the application is submitted along with necessary security clearance from the home ministry, as per the notification.

The latest move comes after the ministry, on May 20, made

Amidst ED probe, Xiaomi India announces leadership rejig

CHENNAI: Xiaomi India, which is being probed extensively by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) and other government agencies, on Friday announced various organizational changes "for the next phase of growth".

wants fair inquiry into Xiaomi matter. These developments also come amidst a worsening relationship between India and China and crackdown of Chinese tech companies in India by the central government. India has banned numerous

his leadership that the company became the number 1 player here. Since the transition of Manu Jain, Xiaomi India leadership team i.e., Muralikrishnan B, Chief Operating Officer;

Raghu Reddy, Chief Business Officer, and Sameer BS Rao,

zen, Alvin has helped Xiaomi expand successfully into many global markets.

To further strengthen the India leadership team, Anuj Sharma, who was previously appointed as Poco India's Country Director, will be rejoining Xiaomi India as



Last month, the ED seized ₹5,551.27 crores from the bank accounts of the smartphone makers in connection with the 'illegal outward remittances'. The order, however, was stayed by the Karnataka high court. Xiaomi India maintains that it acts according to the local laws and hasn't been involved in any wrongdoing. It has also accused the government agencies of making threats of physical violence during the investigation.

ALSO READ: 'Closely following the situation': Beijing

China-origin apps in the last two years, citing national security issues.

Xiaomi India said after 7 years in India, last year Manu Kumar Jain

transitioned to a global role as Group Vice President and is currently responsible for International Strategy including International Marketing and PR.

In April this year, Jain had appeared before the ED in connection with a probe linked to the alleged contravention of foreign exchange law. Jain has been heading Xiaomi in India since 2014 and it is under

Chief Financial Officer have been leading the India business fairly independently and will continue to be a strong driving force behind the brand.

Alvin Tse, a Xiaomi Global founding team member, POCO founding member, and former General Manager of Xiaomi Indonesia, will assume the role of General Manager, Xiaomi India. Post his transition, Alvin will join hands with the Xiaomi India leadership team and support the company's next phase of growth. Being a British national and true global citi-

its Chief Marketing Officer. In his role, Anuj Sharma will spearhead the overall brand and marketing strategy. He will play an instrumental role in bolstering Xiaomi's connect with consumers across the nation.

"With their guidance, Xiaomi India will continue to stay true to its core philosophy of relentlessly building amazing products with honest prices such that everyone in the world can enjoy a better lifestyle through innovative technology," said the smartphone company.

Madrid wants answers after Champions League final disorder

MADRID: Real Madrid said Friday it wants an explanation for the causes of the disorder that left its fans "abandoned and defenceless" at the Champions League final.

The club's call for answers came six days after problems occurred outside the Stade de France in

"We would like to know the reasons which led to this venue being chosen to host the final and the criteria used, taking into account the experiences of the day," Madrid said.

Liverpool had already complained about those involved in organizing the event shortly after the

supporters being "attacked, harassed, assaulted and robbed in violent fashion. These occurrences continued as they moved in their cars or busses, causing concern for their physical well-being. Certain fans even had to spend the night in hospital as a result of injuries."

vided for the supporters or the players' relatives before and after the match.

According to the French Football Federation (FFF), 35,000 people without tickets or with "fake" tickets made their way to the Stade de France, creating disorder by blocking access to the stadium



suburban Paris, where Madrid won the European title by defeating Liverpool 1-0.

"We call for answers and explanations in order to determine those responsible for leaving the fans abandoned and defenceless," Madrid said in a statement. "Fans who in general terms showed exemplary conduct at all times."

The Spanish club questioned the decision to pick suburban Paris as a replacement for the Russian city of Saint Petersburg, which was originally scheduled to host the final before Russia invaded Ukraine.

final. Most of the attention at the time went to the access problems faced by the English club's fans, but later there were also reports of disorder on the Madrid side.

The Spanish club was upset with the violence that occurred outside the stadium after the game. It said that "something which should have been a wonderful festival of football" for fans "quickly turned into a series of unfortunate events which have caused a sense of outrage around the world."

It mentioned the "revealing images" published by the media that showed several

Authorities said the problems after the match occurred because police officers were moved closer to the stadium gates to help disperse fans, leaving other areas without surveillance. Liverpool said it collected more than 5,000 testimonies from supporters who travelled to France. Chief executive Billy Hogan said he was "horrified by the way some men, women, children — able-bodied, less able-bodied — have been indiscriminately treated." Madrid defender Dani Carvajal said it was "a pretty big mess" for his club's fans and that security was not property pro-

and preventing fans who had real tickets from getting in.

European soccer's governing body, UEFA, has also started to gather evidence about issues outside the Stade de France that marred one of the world's biggest sporting occasions. "Football has transmitted an image to the world which is far away from the values and goals which it should pursue," Madrid said. "Our fans and supporters deserve a response and those responsible to be held accountable in order for events like these to be eradicated from football and sport in general."

Bopanna-Middelkoop suffer heartbreaking defeat to bow out of French Open

PARIS: India's Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwé Middelkoop saved two match points but their dream run at the French Open ended with a semifinal defeat at the hands of Marcelo Arevalo and Jean-Julien Rojer, here on Thursday. The



16th seeds, Bopanna and Middelkoop, who have played some exhilarating tennis throughout, lost 6-4 3-6 6-7 (8-10) to the 12th seeded pair from El Salvador and the Netherlands in the men's doubles match that lasted two hours and seven minutes.

No Indian has played in a Grand Slam men's doubles final since Leander Paes' 2013 US Open triumph and Bopanna was bidding to become the first Indian in nine years to achieve the feat.

The first and last time Bopanna featured in a Grand Slam final was in 2010 with Pakistani partner Aisam-ul-haq Quereshi, losing the title clash to legendary Bryan brothers -- Bob and Mike. Rojer's first serve accuracy was a huge factor in the outcome of the match.

While serving for the opening set, Middelkoop was down by two break

chances but saved both to make it deuce. The Dutch player then fired an ace to get to advantage point and Bopanna sealed the set with a backhand volley winner. Bopanna sent forehand on net at 30-all to face a break point but served big to save that.

The Indian's second serve was attacked again in the sixth game that resulted in him facing another break chance but saved that too.

He sealed that game with a stunning cross-court forehand winner that passed Rojer, who was standing in the middle of the court.

The Indo-Dutch pair too earned a break chance when Bopanna found a service return winner off Rojer but their opponents saved it.

The 12th seeds though did not miss the crucial chance in the eighth game as they broke Middelkoop for a 5-3 lead.

Arevalo served out the set at love to force a decider.

There was no break of serve in the deciding set and Super tie-breaker was required to decide the winner.

Bopanna and Middelkoop fell behind 2-5 with the Indian making three errors -- first an overhead smash, a forehand return error and then a backhand return.

Bopanna and Middelkoop logged four straight points from 2-7 to make it a close affair and even saved two match points but Arevalo converted the third.

With this defeat, India's challenge ended at the clay-court major.

Anjum clinches silver, India moves up to third spot in Baku Shooting World Cup

NEW DELHI: Experienced Indian shooter Anjum Moudgil clinched a silver in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions as India moved up to the third spot in the medal tally at the ISSF World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Friday.

Anjum went down 12-16 in the gold medal match to Denmark's Rikke Maeng Ibsen.

Anjum, also a world championship silver medallist, had on Thursday qualified for the top-eight ranking round with a score of 587 out of 600, which gave her a fourth place in a field of 60 shooters. On Friday, she finished second to Ibsen in stage two with a 406.5 to the Norwegian's 411.4.

She then put up a strong challenge in the final but could not put it across the Dane. It is Anjum's second individual World Cup silver in the event.

The Men's 3P trio of Swapnil, Deepak Kumar and Goldie Gurjar also won a silver in the team competition.

The trio came through two rounds of qualifying to make it to the gold medal match which they lost 7-17 to Croatia. Ukraine picked up the bronze.

Swapnil Kusale had also finished second

in the corresponding Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions on Thursday.

India now has one gold and three silver



medals in the tournament and stands in third place behind Korea and Serbia.

There was heartbreak for the other two Indian women in the fray as Ayushi Podder finished 16th with a score of 585, just one point away from the final top-eight mark and Ashi Chouksey ended 20th with a score of 584. The women's 3P team comprising Anjum and Ayushi won their first qualifying round with an aggregate of 1316 to make it to stage two. However, they could not get into the reckoning for a medal, finishing sixth in the ranking round with a score of 867, falling short of the medal rounds by a point. India fielded a 12-member Rifle squad in the Baku World Cup.



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