

Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn in as Lanka's new PM amid worst economic crisis

COLOMBO(KCN): Opposition leader and former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn-in as

its commitment to the Sri Lankan people. Wickremesinghe was sworn-in as prime minister by President

over as the prime minister as the country was without a government since Monday when

against Rajapaksa loyalists, leaving nine people dead and wounding over 200 others.

"My best wishes to the newly appointed PM of #LKA, @RW_UNP, who stepped up to take on the challenging task of steering our country through a very turbulent time. I look forward to working together with him to make Sri Lanka strong again," President Gotabaya Rajapaksa tweeted along with a picture of him and Wickremesinghe. Mahinda was quick to congratulate Wickremesinghe, saying that he wishes him all the best as he navigates "these troubled times."

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Sri Lanka's 26th prime minister on Thursday to stabilise the country's debt-ridden economy and end the political turmoil, a development welcomed by India which said it looks forward to working with the new government and reaffirmed

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, days after his predecessor Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign following violent protests over the worst economic crisis in the island nation.

The 73-year-old United National Party (UNP) leader took

Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother and prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned after violence erupted following an attack on the anti-government protesters by his supporters. The attack triggered

widespread violence

'Hindu Rashtra' doesn't mean no room for non-Hindus: BJP MLA

AMBALA(KCN): Ruling BJP MLA Aseem Goel has de-

Haryana Assembly, recently took an oath at an event vowing to

Goel said, "We should be ready for any sacrifice for the

Rashtra never justifies no room for non-Hindus. "Scores of



fended his call to declare the country a Hindu nation, saying it stands for inclusivity and does not mean excluding Muslims or any other community.

Goel, who represents Ambala city in the

make India a "Hindu Rashtra". "Isn't it justified to make India a 'Hindu Rashtra' where 100 crore Hindus live," he said.

Addressing a gathering in Mullana in Ambala district on Wednesday evening,

Hindu Rashtra." He, however, said that 'Hindu Rashtra' does not mean it has no place for Muslims or other communities as this concept is inclusive of all faiths and religions.

Goel said that Hindu

our fellow Indians live in Islamic nations in the Gulf region or in Catholic countries in Europe," he said. The event was organised by the BJP to mark the birth anniversary of Mewar king Maharana Pratap.

Helicopter crash at Raipur airport; two pilots dead



RAIPUR(KCN): A state government helicopter crashed at Raipur airport on late Thursday, leaving two pilots dead, police said. The accident oc-

curred when the training pilots were trying to land the helicopter, they added. Taking it to Twitter, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that both the pilots,

Captain Panda and Captain Srivastava have died in the accident. He expressed condolences to the bereaved families. Further details awaited.

Jagannath temple heritage corridor: 'Register case against Puri Collector', court tells police

PURI: The sub-divisional judicial magistrate (SDJM) of Puri on Wednesday directed Simhadwar police to register criminal cases against the district Collector, Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation (OBCC) and Tata Projects, the agency executing the Jagannath temple heritage corridor project.

The SDJM passed the order while hearing a complaint petition filed by lawyers of Puri bar association alleging that illegal work is being carried out in violation of the Archaeological Survey of India guidelines in the protected and prohibited areas of the national heritage site of Srimandir.

Earlier on April 13, the lawyers had lodged a complaint with Simhadwar police. They urged the police to register a case and investigate the matter but in vain.

The aggrieved lawyers then filed a complain 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.

Complainant advocate Sarat Kumar Raiguru said a fact-finding team of lawyers visited the heritage corridor project site and came to know that the work was being carried out within the protected zone of Srimandir without permission from the competent authority.



"We had lodged a complaint with the SP and Simhadwar police requesting to conduct an inquiry and take steps as per law. Since nothing happened, we filed a case in the court of SDJM. The magistrate accepted our plea and directed Simhadwar police to register a case against the Collector, OBCC and Tata Projects under section 30-A of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act and 166-A of IPC and conduct investigation," Raiguru told mediapersons.

Rahul takes train to Udaipur to attend Cong's 3-day Chintan Shivir

NEW DELHI(KCN): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on

Thursday boarded a train for Udaipur from Delhi's Sarai Rohilla railway station along with some other senior leaders of the party as he headed to the party's three-day 'Chintan Shivir'.

Gandhi was greeted with flowers and slogans by party workers as he reached the railway station in the evening. The former Congress chief was also welcomed by coolies at the Sarai Rohilla station and their delegation shared its concerns with him.

The Congress had

booked two bogies of the train as many party leaders, including

in the backdrop of a string of electoral defeats and dissent in the party for the

legates will discuss subject-specific issues across six groups.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former Union minister Jairam Ramesh, were travelling along with Gandhi in the train to attend the session from May 13 to May 15. The three-day 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir' is being held

past many years. The Shivir will focus on time-bound party restructuring, finding ways to combat politics of polarisation and getting battle-ready for upcoming electoral challenges.

It will begin Friday afternoon following which over 400 del-

These discussions will continue on the first and second day and the conclusions will be recorded in the form of a declaration, a draft of which will be discussed at the CWC meeting to be held there on the third and last day.

Senior opposition leader told me becoming PM twice is enough: Modi

BHARUCH(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Thursday that he has no intention of slowing down while recalling an opposition leader's observation that becoming PM twice was enough accomplishment.

Modi was addressing via video link beneficiaries of Gujarat government's financial assistance schemes for widows,

elderly and destitute citizens.

"One day a very big leader met me. He regularly opposes us politically, but I respect him," Modi said. He was not happy over some issues, so he had come to meet me, the PM added.

"He said, Modi ji, the country has made you prime minister twice, so what more do you want now. He was of the opinion

that if one becomes prime minister twice then he has achieved everything," the PM said.

has made him. That's why I do not believe in taking it easy, like whatever has happened has happened



"He doesn't know that Modi is made of a different mettle. The land of Gujarat

and now I should rest. No. My dream is saturation, 100 per cent coverage of the

welfare schemes," he said.

Modi did not mention anybody's name during his speech, which came a month after NCP chief Sharad Pawar met him in Delhi and raised the issue of the central agencies' action against Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut and the family members of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Group Center, CRPF Langjing, Imphal conducts 3 days Khadi and Handicraft Skill Training from 10.05.2022 to 12.05.2022 for Handicapped Children of general public of Imphal (Manipur)

Imphal (KCN): Taking a unique and excellent initiative, Shri Madan Kumar, DIG, Group Centre, Imphal started a 3 days Khadi and Handicraft Skills Training Program for unemployed disabled children of general public of Imphal from 10/05/2022 to 12/05/2022 and today the training concluded. Shri

nowadays is the age of technology. He handed over honorarium to Handicapped Development Foundation, Manipur for imparting training to handicapped children. He also handed over Charkha and cotton to the disabled children and Cash reward to the disabled children who presented excellent



Manish Kumar Agrawal, IPS, Inspector General, Manipur and Nagaland Sector was the chief of the closing ceremony. Shri Madan Kumar, DIG, Group Centre, Langjing, Imphal, All senior officers, officers, Subordinate Officers, Jawans, families of Jawans, invited eminent guests personality were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Guest Shri Manish Kumar Agrawal, IPS, Inspector General, Manipur and Nagaland Sector encouraged all Handicapped Children and blessed them for completion of successful training for making cotton to thread, bag from paper and weaving carpet under above training. The Chief Guest said that that all children can do anything if he wants because

song and dance. He also thanked Shri Madan Kumar, DIG, GC, Imphal and said that such training should be done by all our battalions deployed in Manipur so that differently disabled children of all places of Manipur can get support.

Shri Madan Kumar, DIG, GC, Imphal in his speech said that Group Centre, CRPF, Langjing, Imphal is always on the path of humanitarian works and he also encouraged all disabled children and presented cash rewarded who have presented song and dance. He welcomed to Chief Guest and all officers' for participating in closing ceremony.

Shri Satyendra Singh Asst. Commandant (OL) welcomed to all and presented vote of thanks.

"There is an effort to take Rahul Education to the whole country slowly." - Anil Davda

Kolkata (KCN): For more than 2 years, versatile and talented Anil Davda has been

started in Pune. Now their schools will open soon in Borivali, Nashik,

many years, then came to the education sector and joined Zee Learn. He has also

whole country. This will bring progress in the society and the country. We get satis-



striving to take 'Rahul International School' (Mira Road) to new heights. Business Head Anil Davda is working to expand Rahul Education all across India. Under which three new branches have been

Nagpur, etc. Anil Davda has studied in Mumbai only, but he is a resident of Bharwad near Porbandar, Gujarat. He also did interior designing for various malls, hotels and buildings in Surat for

worked with Aakash Institute, Narayana Group, etc. and now working at Rahul Education. Anil Davda says, "In the coming years, there is an effort to gradually take Rahul Education to the

faction that we are doing good work by educating the youth. Education is very important today and we want to reach maximum students with this effort."

Paradeep Phosphates Limited initial public offering to open on May 17, 2022

- Price Band fixed at ¹ 39 per Equity Share to ¹ 42 per Equity Share of face value of ¹ 10 each
- Offer to remain open from May 17, 2022 to May 19, 2022
- Bids can be made for a minimum of 350 Equity Shares and in multiples of 350 Equity Shares thereafter

Mumbai (KCN): Paradeep Phosphates Limited (The

Facility; (ii) GoI Selling Shareholder) The Equity Shares offered in this Offer



"Company") to open its initial public offering (the "Offer") on May 17, 2022. The Anchor Investor Bid/Offer Period is one Working Day prior to Bid/Offer Opening Date, that is, May 13, 2022. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ¹ 39 per Equity Share to ¹ 42 per Equity Share of face of ¹ 10 each. Bids can be made for a minimum of 350 Equity Shares and in multiples of 350

comprises (i) fresh issue of equity shares face value ¹ 10 each share aggregating to ¹ 10,040 million (The "Fresh Issue") and (ii) Offer for Sale up to 118,507,493 equity shares by Promoter Selling Shareholders and GoI Selling Shareholder (The "Offer for Sale"). The Company intends to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue towards (i) Part-financing the acquisition of the Goa

General corporate purposes. The offer for sale comprises of up to 6,018,493 equity shares by Zuari Maroc Phosphates Private Limited and up to 112,489,000 equity shares by The President of India, acting through the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. (The "Promoter Selling Shareholders" and

are proposed to be listed on both BSE Limited ("BSE") and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE", together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges"). Axis Capital Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, JM Financial Limited and SBI Capital Markets Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the Offer.

Record Seizure and Arrest by Excise Department in the Month of April-2022

Khordha (KCN): The Review Meeting for the month of April -2022 is held on 11.05.2022 under the Chairmanship of Sri. Ashish Kumar Singh, Excise Commissioner, Odisha through virtual mode where in Dy. Commissioner of Excise (CD, Cuttack) Head

four Wheelers & heavy vehicles are seized. Total approximate value of seized property is Rs. 4.5 Crores. Major raids 01.05.2022 to 10.05.2022. On 05.5.22 Sambalpur excise team and EI & EB Unit Sambalpur busted one duplicate IMFL unit in



Sambalpur and seized 38 litres of duplicate liquor IMFL, 86,233 nos of duplicate EAL, 74,989 pieces of corks, 2 motorcycle and arrested 7 accused persons. On dt. 05.05.22 state flying squad have seized 200 gram's brown sugar with a sales proceeds of Rs. 5000/ at Saliyasahi Basti, Bhubaneswar. Once local seller has been arrested in this case. On dt. 06.05.22 EI & EB cuttack II detected

Quatre and Superintendent of Excise, Enforcement Cell were attended from the conference hall of the Excise Directorate and all the Dy. Commissioner of Excise and Superintendents of Excise of the Districts and Unit head of EI & EB units were connected online. The objective of holding this meeting is to formulate plan of action & strategy for enforcement work for the coming days. The comparative monthly Enforcement figure of April 2022 in comparison to April -21. Case Detected, in the year April-2022- 4213, 2021-2732, % of growth in April-2022 over April -21, percentage -54.21. Person's arrested April-2022- 3531, 2021-2270, Percentage -55.55. ID Liquor (In Ltrs) April-2022, 102706, 2021-53387.4, Percentage -92.38. Wash (In Ltrs) April -2022- 864670, 2021-528445, Percentage -63.63. Country Liquor (In Ltrs) April -2022--1108, 2021--568.8, Percentage -94.80. Bhang (In kg) April -2022-1293, 2021-412.37, Percentage -213.55. Mohua Flower (In Qntl) April-2022- 1513, 2021-1382.259. Percentage -9.46. Non-Duty Paid IM (In LPL) April-2022- 21.75, 2021-6.93, Percentage -213.85. Duplicate IMFL (In LPL) April-2022- 661.14, 2021-477, Percentage -38.60. April-2022- Vehicle, in Nos-184, 2021-80, Percentage -130. NDPS case detected in April-2022- 233, 2021-75, Percentage -210.67. Persons arrested April-2022- 250, 2021-87, Percentage -187.36. Ganja (in kg) April-2022- 4939, 2021-3094, Percentage -59.63. Brown Sugar (in Gram) April-2022- 1425, 2021-900.5, Percentage -58.25. Cough Syrup (In Ltr) April-2022- 176, 2021-15, Percentage -1073.33. April-2022- Total approximate value -Rs. 16 Crores, 2021-10 Crores, Percentage -60. During first 10 days of may -01.05.2022 to 10.05.2022 field officers of Excise department have detected 1245 Nos. of cases, arrested 1076 persons and seized 36468 litres ID liquor, 377980 kgs of ID Wash, 80 Litrs of duplicate IMFL, 1407 kgs of Ganja, 385 grams brown sugar, 3702 litre BERR, 380 litre IMFL & 50 nos of vehicles including bikes,

two NDPS cases and seized 130 grams of brown sugar, 125 kgs Ganja & One car. On 10.05.22 Koraput Excise District detected one NDPS Ganja case at Dumuriguda & seized 9 quintals Ganja, one truck & outside accused person belongs to UP. The Excise Commissioner appreciated the performance /achievements of Excise Officers for the month of April-2022. He instructed all superintendent of Ex-



cise & EI EB units to strengthen, & enhance the enforcement measures in coming months and to conduct frequent raids against the illegal manufacturing, distributing and sale of ID liquor, duplicate IMFL, Non duty paid IMFL and NDPS item's.

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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

blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor_has outdone your entire performance in one

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



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

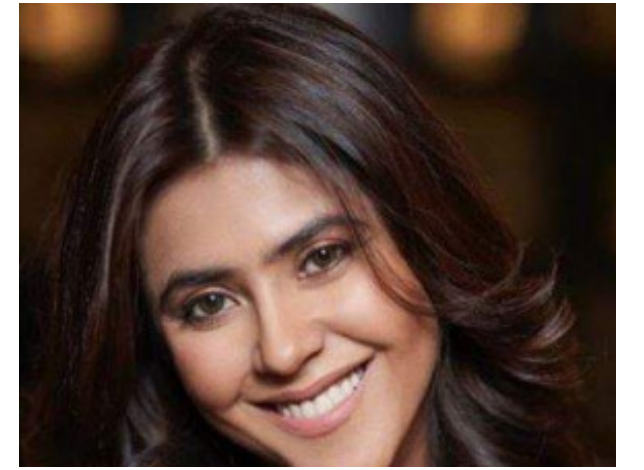
Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

scene," the 'Housefull' actor's 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

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.

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

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme Court granted interim protection to Ekta Kapoor.



preme Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for alleged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted in-

terim protection to Ekta 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.

Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed book



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 caption, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon.

Warner Bros announces Chocolate Factory prequel titled 'Wonka' to release on March 17, 2023

(GNS Bureau) Moving ahead with

The project, which has a script from

Based on Roald Dahl's popular



"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" prequel, titled "Wonka", Warner Bros has declared the release date of movie. As per media reports, Paul King of "Paddington" fame will tackle the movie, which will debut in theatres on March 17, 2023.

Simon Rich, will follow "a young Willy Wonka and his adventures prior to opening the world's most famous chocolate factory." David Heyman, whose credits includes the "Harry Potter" franchise and "Paddington", is backing the movie.

children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", the classic story follows a poor boy named Charlie, who is one of five youngsters to win a golden ticket to tour the world-renowned, yet highly secretive, chocolate factory run by Willy Wonka.

Katrina's sister Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in 'Suswagatam Khushaamadeed'

(GNS Bureau) Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in Suswagatam Khushaamadeed. Its a social entertainer with an

sister of actress Katrina Kaif, she took to Instagram to announce her upcoming project. She wrote, "Namaste - Aadaab Ab hogi

our chemistry is quite dhamakadaar. People on the set say that we look like a patakha together. Isabelle has brought fresh



underlying message on social harmony. In this film, Pulkit will essay the role of a Delhi boy, Aman, with Isabelle playing the role of Noor who hails from the city of Agra. Isabelle Kaif is a

jaldi aapse mulaqaat! So excited to share with you guys the first look of Suswagatam Khushaamadeed." Actor Pulkit Samrat said that, "I must say that

energy on the set. She's extremely hard-working and has impressed everyone on the set. She is stunning and brings a streak of innocence to her character. She has left me mesmerised."

Shameful its create rift between Gujarat and Maharashtra

Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has a lot to learn about Maharashtra-Gujarat close relationship. IIT doesn't teach these issues, then how could he know such commons things of political history, during his recent Gujarat tour,



taunting over Bharatiya Janta Party, said that "Gujarat BJP President is a Marathi. Doesn't BJP get a suitable Gujarati for its state President seat?"

People say that, he is not just the President, instead he runs the Gujarat government from backdoor. He is indeed the real CM. It is a humiliation of the people of Gujarat". He was pointing to the head of Gujarat unit of BJP Mr. C.R.Patil. Kejriwal could have even a little knowledge of collective history of Maharashtra and Gujarat, he would have abstain himself from such comments.

He himself being a Haryanvi, shamelessly commented such words even after he is holding the office of CM of Delhi. Isn't it also an insult to the Pandits, Thakurs, Jaats, Gujjars, Mathurs and Shrivastavas of ancient Delhi?

Kejriwal ji, understand the fact that Maharashtra and Gujarat came on Indian map on 1st May 1960 on language basis. Formerly both were part of Bombay province. Both these states set an example for other states who continue to have disputes. Gujarati and Marathi from beginning, lived with mutual harmony and brotherhood. Both in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Both these state are supplementary to each other. Gujarati desperately aspired to become businessmen, Marathi more or less confined themselves to the service sector. Both respected spaces of each other and forbid themselves from encroaching others territory. Marathi people are greatly interested in arts, culture and music etc. whereas Gujarati society showed true and good business qualities.

Both has mutual understanding for each other. This

R.K. Sinha

way both collectively continued to prosper.

When you walk on Ghatkopar, Andheri and Mulund are as of Mumbai, you will get vibes of Surat, Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad of Gujarat. Here most of the dwellers are Gujarati. Mumbai based Gujarati, with their proficient entrepreneurship capabilities prospered in

and Hindi.

If we talk about the Marathi society in Gujarat, they have also secured a different place for themselves. Marathi tongued people are considerate in numbers in Gujarat's Surat, Badodra, Ahmedabad, Nawsari and others. C. R. Patil, the leader on whom Arvind Kejriwal has attacked is the Member of Lok Sabha from Navsari constituency. He is widely accepted leader of Gujarat. Once he said" the big

none of them have haughtiness Or ego. Both have assimilated the festivals of one another. Gujaratis celebrate Ganeshotsav with the same joy and enthusiasm as the Marathi celebrate Navratri. That's why despite two states separation, both the states and societies haven't seen distances. It is highly unfortunate that CM of a state trying to create rift between two old and prosperous states. He must keep in mind that Gujarat and Maharashtra are major industrial hubs. Their economic progress has boosted and provided



this metropolis. They continued to flourish their business after 1960 also like before. Gujarati have major stake in grains, clothes, paper and metal market of Mumbai. 90 percent of Diamond merchants are Gujarati. Mumbai stock exchange can not be even imagined without Gujarati brokers. In Mumbai, we cannot differentiate Marathi and Gujarati people. Both are souls of Mumbai. Mumbai, the money capital of India. Mumbai has dozens of colleges, schools, Dharmshalas, Gaushalas, cultural institutions etc. of native Gujaratis. Gujarati of Mumbai are Gujarati by emotions only. They have diffused in the atmosphere of Mumbai similarly as sugar dissolves in milk. Almost 35 lakhs Gujarati lives in Mumbai. Dhirubhai Ambani, Gautam Adani, Ajim Premji, Ratan Tata, Aadi Godrej, Sameer Somaya like people who secured places on international level also came to Mumbai from Gujarat and thrived. Almost all the Gujarati living in Maharashtra speaks atleast three languages Gujarati, Marathi

hearted Gujaratis are a major factor behind close relationship of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Gujarati have never discriminated Marathi people as outsiders. Welcomed everyone. Similarly they didn't treat me as an outsider. Now I have also become Gujarati, and speaks Gujarati", said CR Patil Proudly.

Even Parsis landed first in Navsari in India, means they are also Gujarati. It is also true that rich Parsis like Wadia, Tata, Godrej are natively Gujaratis. They speak Gujarati in their homes. In Gujarat, Surat has the maximum number of Marathis. They have completely become Gujarati in all respect. But, they still converse in Marathi in their homes.

Countering the comments of Arvind Kejriwal, C. R. Patil stated that" Kejriwal is a threat to national security. He has active connections with Khalistanis and Naxals. He is a scholar of lies. "

Who will tell Kejriwal that Maharashtra and Gujarat will continue to have mutual friendship and cooperation. Both these societies enjoys mutual respect because

strength to the economy of India. Grabbing the opportunity of economic liberalization of 90s both these states strengthen their GDP and at present Maharashtra is the leading state of country in terms of GDP. Even if the GDP of Gujarat is slightly less than Maharashtra, it is overpowering Maharashtra in terms of growth rate.

Everyone knows that Maharashtra and Gujarat were part of same Bombay province. But even after separation both these states haven't faced any dispute on any issue. Chinese saying that "neighbors cannot coexist in atmosphere of peace and harmony" is proved wrong by these two Indian states. But this is never the case in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Arvind Kejriwal is a political person and he should do politics in manner. Nation also wants this. Instead he for his political gains, trying to create a rift between two states. He must abstain himself from these cheap ideas else mandate will teach him the lesson.

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

Big Challenges for European security

The war of Russia & Ukraine gives no signs of coming to an end even after two



and half months of deaths and destruction. So far Russia couldn't advance considerably inside Ukraine as it has expected, due to

fierce resistance from the Ukrainians and strong Western support. Having failed to achieve its objectives of a blitzkrieg victory in the early days of its invasion, Russian military now appears to be settling in for much longer war, " a deliberate, cynical strategy to besiege Ukraine cut them off, bomb them and starve them in to submission" immediately. Anything but victory could be perceived by Putin as an existential threat. That is why it is quite probable he'd claim victory over Ukraine during the victory day celebration to commemorate the victory over Germany

in World War ii. As Vladimir Putin is

Uma Sankar Prasad

determined to win, so are Ukrainians. Having failed to achieve instant victory Putin showed his willingness to deploy scorched earth tactic in Ukraine like he did in Syria and Chechnya beforehand. Both in Washington DC and Moscow there is a common acknowledgement that this war is far more than Ukraine and may be opening engagement in a prolonged and wider geopolitical struggle; one that extends far beyond the grounds of Donabs and could define Europe's Landscape well in to future. From warning of going nuclear to stocking energy crises and perhaps still fresh territories to invade. Russia has ramped up threats recently; but so has the West. The US and NATO are readying huge shipments of heavy weapons and military equipment to help the Ukrainian forces on the ground. An aid package of 33 billion dollars for Ukraine is proposed and going to pass in the US Congress. This aid would help

Ukraine to withstand months more of

Russian aggression that followed a remark by Defence Secretary- Llyod J. Austin this week. US wants to see Russia weakened to the extent that it could not do the kind of things that it has done in invading Ukraine. Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrovs warning that western arms shipment in Ukraine are a 'legitimate target', raising the prospect of a direct conflict between Russia and NATO members. Russia, under Putin, believes quite rightly that threats often work to compel their foes towards inhibition and limit their decision-making. It worked before for Moscow in 1999 after the NATO bombing Yugoslavia during the 2008 Georgia war and most recently when Denmark tried to join NATO's missile shield.

The US and NATO are under no illusion that Putin was evaluating the possibility of widening the war. In addition to redoubled US support to Ukraine and

more stringent economic sanction on Russia, E.U countries- notably Germany appear to have overcome the initial reluctance and hesitation to provide Ukraine with lethal military weapons even after Lavrov's nuclear warning , to cope up with the war's changing dynamics. The war is in a different phase now than it was late February to early April. After shooting international stardom for his response to the invasion. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was unlikely to accept any settlement that would allow Russia to keep the territory it has seized. Nor is Putin likely to accept any demand to return it specially the Donbas area. The best case scenario might involve a ceasefire and a protracted line of control, where areas under Russia's top brass also recognise the fallout of the Ukrainian war. Russian general Minnekaev recently commented - ' Now we are at war with the whole world'. But The entire world is watching its outcome wearily with peaceful ending.

The Author is Columnist, Khordha

Odisha Urges Subsidy Release State warns NHAI

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain on Wednesday urged Union Minister Piyush Goyal to release food subsidy of Rs 10,334 crore due till April, 2022.

Writing a letter to the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Mr.Swain also requested to resolve issues regarding evacuation of surplus rice, lifting of wheat from FCI and allocation of 100 per cent rice under public distribution system.

In his letter, Mr.Swain raised concern over delayed release of food subsidy by the Government of India.

As per MoU with Government of India, there has to be zero financial liability on the State Procuring Agency with regard to permissible items of cost for procurement of rice to be borne by Government of India.

Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC), the major procuring agency of the State Government is to receive Rs.7931.90 crore as provisional subsidy and advance subsidy of Rs.2402.19 crore. So, the total subsidy claim standing at about Rs.10334 crore by the end of April, 2022, he pointed out.

The additional interest incurred till March, 2022 because of delay in release and short release of subsidy comes to around Rs.5454.67 crore which remains un-recouped and should be paid by Government of India, wrote Mr.Swain.



In the ensuing Kharif Marketing Season 2021-22, out of 52 lakh MT of estimated procurement of rice, Odisha's own consumption is about 39 lakh MT under PDS and other welfare schemes and the State is likely to have a surplus of 13 lakhs MT of rice which should be lifted immediately for smooth procurement operation.

In addition to this, the State Government has taken all necessary steps to deliver 5 lakh MT of fortified parboiled rice to FCI as per target given by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

He further said that the State is in a position to deliver a higher quantity of fortified parboiled rice and the Central Department has been requested to give additional targets of fortified parboiled rice during KMS 2021-22. Minister Mr.Swain also requested Union Minister Mr.Goyal to

make available the required wheat stocks for Puri, Khordha and Nayagarh districts at FCI Depot at Jagatpur, Cuttack.

Besides, the Minister also requested for allocation of 100 percent rice to Odisha under NFSA/PMGKAY for distribution to the beneficiaries as is done in case of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Telangana. Mr.Swain sought personal intervention of Union Minister for early resolution of the pending issues of Odisha.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary Commerce & Transport has warned the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for its non-cooperation and negligence in maintaining the road at Dwarsunighat in Mayurbhanj district. Mr.Sethi has written a strong letter to the Chief General Manager & Regional Officer of NHAI, Odisha, on this issue. "You are aware of the fact that, reduction of road accidents and fatalities is a matter of great concern for all of us. During the last decade about 45,000 people have died due to road accidents in the State. Most of them are the young people and bread earners of their families," he said.

Mayurbhanj District is one of the vulnerable districts from the point of road safety. During 2021, 540 accidents occurred in the district in which 312 people died. There are 13 Black Spots in the district as per the accident data for 2017-2019, he said. The Principal Secretary pointed out that Dwarsunighat is a hazardous spot in the district, on which 2/3 accidents occur every month.

As per the information provided by the Mayurbhanj Collector, this issue is regularly discussed in the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meeting. In spite of Dwarsunighat and photographs of various locations have been taken, which indicate that there are many potholes, no crash barriers/damaged crash barriers, dangerous road shoulders, no signages, no reflective tapes etc. on the road. The photographs show a gloomy situation on the road. This stretch is very poorly maintained, although it is an important road of the district and a ghat road. "You are aware of the fact that, State Government accords top-most priority on road safety with the intention to reduce accidents and fatalities in the State. The MoRT&H also ac-

corded priority for reduction of accidents and fatalities in the country. But the attitude of NHAI, Odisha towards road safety is quite discouraging," the Principal Secretary said expressing strong dissatisfaction.

The NHAI regional head has been urged to instruct Technical Officers from his office and the PD, NHAI, Balasore to visit the Dwarsunighat, conduct a survey, find out the defects and rectify them in consultation with the Mayurbhanj Collector and RTO. He was also asked to submit a compliance report to the Transport Department at the earliest for the kind perusal of Chief Secretary. "The PD, NHAI, Balasore may be instructed to attend the meeting of DRSC regularly," Mr.Sethi ended his letter with this note.



Curtains come down on women's business mela in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: The five-day Women's Business Mela organised at Janata Maidan here to promote women

place women can create in the society. He also spoke on the equality women in our society deserve. A number of

actors Lara Dutta, Arjun Rampal, director Imtiaz Ali, speaker Gauranga Das, were the prime attraction at the event.



entrepreneurship in Odisha concluded on Sunday. Women entrepreneurs from both urban and rural parts of the State made a mark with their new businesses and startups at the Mela. Women entrepreneurs and businesses, including PG and SHG groups, had put up more than 100 stalls at the event, organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Women's Entrepreneurship Council (IWEC).

Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal who attended the closing ceremony spoke about the special

tribal SHG groups supported by ITDA and women SHGs supported by Mission Shakti had also put up stalls to sell products ranging from food to traditional handicraft and textile products. "The mela gave us the opportunity to improve our sale and strengthen livelihood by reaching out to a wider market," said Rita Parida, project coordinator of a women artisan group from Jagatsinghpur that makes home decor and office stationery products using golden grass. Bollywood

Costlier fuel, food drive retail inflation to eight-year high of 7.79% in April

NEW DELHI: Driven by rising food and fuel prices, retail inflation soared to an eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April this year, which may prompt the Reserve Bank to go in for another interest rate hike in the next month policy review to tame price rise.

Worried over the rising inflation, the RBI in a surprise move raised the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40 per cent last week. Inflation has remained above the RBI's comfort zone of 6 per cent for four months in a row mainly due to the Russia-Ukraine war which has impacted the prices of commodities across the globe.



The previous high in the consumer price index (CPI)-based retail inflation was recorded at 8.33 per cent in May 2014. CPI inflation was 6.95 per cent in March this year and 4.23 per cent in April 2021.

Inflation in the food basket rose to 8.38 per cent in April from 7.68 per cent in the preceding month and 1.96 per cent in the year-ago month, showed the data released by National Statistical Office (NSO) on Thursday.

ALSO READ | World on fire with inflation, RBI hems and haws

The rate of price rise in 'fuel and light' category in the retail inflation basket

quicken to 10.80 per cent in April this year from 7.52 per cent in the preceding month. In the 'oils and fats' category, inflation remained at an elevated level of 17.28 per cent (18.79 per cent in March 2022) during the month, as Ukraine is one of the major sunflower oil producers in the world and India imports a major portion of the commodity from the war-ravaged country.

Besides, Ukraine is a key supplier of fertiliser to India. Vegetables witnessed an

remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

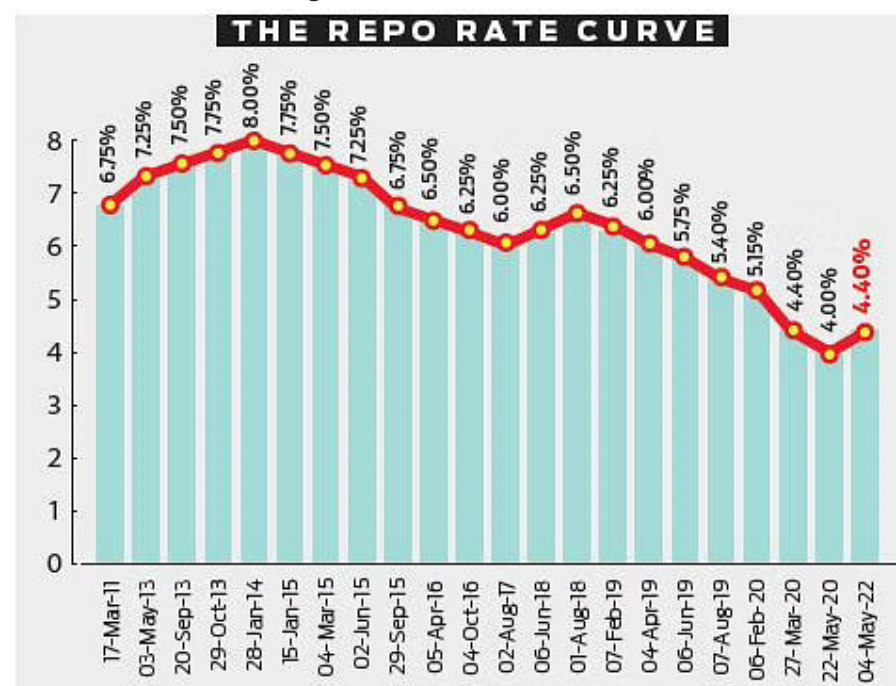
After the off-cycle Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting of RBI last week, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the adverse effects of the unprecedented high global food prices due to the ongoing geopolitical situation are reflected in the domestic market as well, and going forward inflationary pressures are likely to continue.

Meanwhile, according to sources, the central bank is likely to raise inflation projections in the MPC meeting due next month. It may also consider a rate hike to tame inflation which is above its comfort level.

Earlier this month, the MPC raised the key policy rate (repo) by 40 basis points with an aim to tame the rising inflation. It was the first rate hike after August 2018.

"The surge in the CPI inflation has clearly justified the off-cycle rate hike last week, and significantly raised the likelihood of a back-to-back rate increase in June 2022.

"We see a higher base softening the May 2022 CPI inflation print, although it will remain above 6.5 per cent," Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said.



inflation print of 15.41 per cent during the month as against 11.64 per cent in March, the data showed.

Notably, retail inflation has remained above 6 per cent since January 2022. The Reserve Bank of India has been mandated by the government to ensure that inflation

Bengal Tech colleges showcased solutions to human problems at the 5th ICCPDM

Kolkata (KCN): Ideas & imagination married with the spirit of innovation and implementation was the motto for this year's

encouraged the students to participate in such a programme which is an eye opener to the real world of engineering & technol-

pend largely on other countries. This platform will give the students ample opportunities to explore various ways to give solutions to human problems. For this a right skill and attitude is equally important and also an urge to become knowledge based entrepreneurs who will contribute in generating employment for our country," said Prof. Saikat Maitra as the Chief Guest for the inaugural session.

The competition was participated by Netaji Subhash Engineering College, MCKV, Future Institute of Engineering and Manage-

ment, RCC Institute of Information Technology, Techno India Engineering College, New Town, Haldia Institute of Technology, Asansol Engineering College and many more. Exciting projects like Water level Indicator & Buzzer, Wireless charger for Android

prevent road accidents based on sensor technology," said Suryanath Tripathy B.Tech-AEIE 3rd Year from Techno India Main Saltlake "Our team worked hard to make this wireless android mobile charger successful," said Ankit Kumar Ray from B.Tech-ECE 1st year from Asansol Engineering College "We made Automatic Indoor Air Quality Monitor for Covid-19 facilities which can be used in hospitals. It works on sensor based technology and Covid-19 encouraged us to make such a solution," said Ankarit Ghatak from B.Tech-AEIE 4th Year Heritage Institute of Technology.

The competition was judged by Mr. Ramchandra Chakraborty, MD, TSI Metals India Pvt. Ltd, Prof. Radhaballab Bhar, Ex-Professor, Jadavpur University, Mr. Chanchal Chakraborty, Chief Technology Officer, Reliance JIO and Dr. Tapas Chakravarty, Principal Scientist, TCS Research.

The winner was Swarnadeep Bhattacharya from B.Tech-AEIE for Smart Soil Health monitoring and management system with auto irrigation water pumping system followed by First runners-up from RCC Institute of Information Technology for their Project 'Mobi-cool' which is an automated cooling system for vegetables and the second-runners up position was grabbed by Techno India Main Saltlake for their project on Smart classroom automation system.



5th Inter-college Competition on Prototype Design for Mankind 2022 organized by Department of Applied Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering, Heritage Institute of Technology (HITK) on 6th May at the HITK campus.

The competition was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Saikat Maitra, Vice-Chancellor, MAKAUT, West Bengal as the Chief Guest followed by Dr. Jaspreet Singh, Head, MEMS Fabrication, SCL, Chandigarh, ISRO and Prof. (Dr.) Krishnendu Chakraborty, Principal, Government Ceramic Engineering College & Technology as the Guests of Honour. Shri Surinder Singh, Director, SCL, Chandigarh, ISRO was also present virtually as a special guest

ogy. "From the stage of imitation to the stage of innovation, bring your ideas which are ready to be implemented to find real solutions to human problems is what matters a lot and HITK is giving you the right platform for the same in today's competition," said Prof. Basab Chaudhuri.

"A survey has been conducted by Harvard University recently which says that whenever a person gets a job, it contributes to 85 percent of his attitude and remaining 15 percent to his smartness and subject knowledge. Here in the classrooms, we focus on the 15% but this competition is contributing to the remaining 85%. Here attitude is focused and innovation comes from the right atti-



ment, RCC Institute of Information Technology, Techno India Engineering College, New Town, Haldia Institute of Technology, Asansol Engineering College and many more. Exciting projects like Water level Indicator & Buzzer, Wireless charger for Android



for the inaugural ceremony. Moreover the same was also contributed by Prof. B.B.Paira, Founding Director, HITK, Dr. Madhurima Chattopadhyay, Head of the Department, Applied Electronics & Instrumentation Department, HITK and Mr. P.K.Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

During the inaugural session, Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Former Vice-Chancellor, WBSU and presently Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology

tude," said Prof. Krishnendu Chakraborty during his address at the inaugural session.

"Students should make innovative projects that can be implemented at a minimum cost and should have societal benefits. Instrumentation engineering and sensor based technology is pervasive in all the fields of engineering," said Dr. Jaspreet Singh.

"In our country, how to design machines and how to fabricate items is hugely missing. For such, we de-

Phone, Smart Walking Stick for blind people, Smart Cleaning Robot, Sleep detection Helmet, Autonomous Environmental Monitoring Robot, Radar technology, Real time water quality monitoring system, Mobi Cooler, Automatic Plant Watering System, Automatic Indoor Air Quality Monitor for Covid-19 facilities, Automatic Temperature Screening & Alert system for symptomatic covid-19 detection, Cardioxy-Portable ECG device and many more. "We made a mobi

1972 Matric batch Golden Jubilee celebration with inauguration of Utkal Mani Gopabandhu Das statue

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : Cuttack Sadar Nayak, Bidyapith Headmistress Jaishree Kandarpur GP historical school Gopal Biswal, Kali Prasad Mohapatra, Secretary



Smruti Bidyapitha at Sidheswarpur 1972 Matric Batch(BSE Odisha) golden jubilee celebration with inaugurate Utkal Mani Gopabandhu Das statue by Lok Sevak Mandal Odisha branch adhyaksh Niranjana Rath at school park which made by Mo School Abhiyan. 1972 Matric Batch published one Magazine named "Smruti Manjusha" which innurate by guests. This program observed with grand success in presence of golden jubilee committee President Raghunath Prusty, Retired Comisonner Trailokya Nath Jena, Cuttack Jilla Adhikari Krushna Chandra

Rabindra Kumar Mishra, Cuttack Sadar block ex chairman Sadhu Charan Jena, Basudev Pradhan, Achutananda Baisakha, Sulochana Biswal, Balaram Sahoo, Narayan Chandra Sinhu, Banshidhar Lenka, Kailash Sahoo all old students mass, Journalist and local intellectual personalities. On the great occasion old teacher Akul Nanda Mallick, Dharanidhar Behera, old working staff Jagannath Mohanty, Eminent Social Worker Tapan Ojha, renowned Journalist Tapash Routray and some students were felicitated.




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'Fiery' Psaki ending tenure as a top White House messenger

WASHINGTON: Jen Psaki had been White House press secretary less than two weeks when a reporter asked whether Twitter's ban of Donald Trump had made President Joe Biden's life easier.

"We don't spend a lot of time talking about or thinking about President Trump here," she responded, then added for emphasis: "Former President Trump." It was an early indication of what was to come with this press secretary. Her briefings were professional and typically congenial but could turn pointed in a hurry. The sessions were informative but generally lacked the drama to draw big ratings on cable television.

Psaki, whose last day on the job is Friday, has answered reporters' questions nearly every weekday of the almost 500 days that Biden has been in office. That makes her a top White House communicator and perhaps the administration's most public face after only the president and Vice President Kamala Harris. Her departure could complicate how Biden's message gets out at a critical time for him, at least in the short term.

"Anybody with a brain would want her to stay because she's so good," said Martha Joynt Kumar, a political science professor emerita at Towson University and director of the White House Transition Project, a nonpartisan group that tries to help streamline the transfer of power from one administration to the next.

Successing Psaki is Karine Jean-Pierre, the first Black woman and openly LGBTQ person to be White House press secretary. She takes over as the administration is navigating inflation and Russia's war with Ukraine, and as the Democratic Party is bracing for November election losses that could erase its control of Congress.

The White House says Jean-Pierre, who has been Psaki's chief deputy, will bring strong personal expertise and personality to the briefing room. She knows Biden well and has been a longtime adviser. "I've had the honor of working with many White House press secretaries and no one has done the job as well as Jen Psaki," White House chief of staff

Ron Klain, a veteran of the Obama and Clinton administrations, said in a statement. "I will miss her terribly as a colleague and friend, but I know we are in great hands with Karine following her lead." Psaki has not denied reports she is heading to MSNBC, where on-air personalities are mostly sympathetic to Biden and where Jean-Pierre herself is a former analyst. Such a move will do little to alter perceptions of Psaki on the left or right. Democrats see her as a champion of their causes; conservatives says she is standoffish.

Groups cheering Psaki are common across social media, including #Psakibomb, which has more than 22 million views on TikTok. Psaki's sisters wore sweatshirts with the slogan during family Zoom calls, though it was more about gently poking fun at their sibling than making a political statement.

But Psaki angered Republicans by likening the party's supporters who adhere to Trump's fabrications about the 2020 election to "silent lemmings." When she quipped early in her tenure that she did not know who at the White House could answer questions about Space Force, House Republicans said she was belittling a new branch of the armed services that is working to counter Chinese threats. More recently, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, a former Trump press secretary now running for Arkansas governor, said Psaki's failure to urge people to stop protesting outside the homes of judges represented "mind-boggling hypocrisy." A New York Post columnist called Psaki "the condescending face of the Biden administration."

Colleagues say Psaki is an encouraging and selfless office leader who digs deep into policy, seeking an understanding that goes far beyond talking points. Psaki begins her mornings writing long, sometimes pre-dawn emails to her staff, laying out what news is likely to drive the day. She later holds pre-briefing prep sessions, which are often long enough to be interrupted by other meetings, where White House press staffers assigned to track different issues talk about major themes in their areas.

"At the end of the day, she is a policy wonk," said

Jeff Zients, Biden's former COVID-19 response coordinator. He called her a "once in a generation talent" adept in both policy and communication.

"She is intellectually curious, she asks the right questions and doesn't stop asking questions until she's satisfied that she's gotten to the bottom of the issue," he said.

A 43-year-old native of Stamford, Connecticut, Psaki is the mother of children ages 6 and 4. She served as State Department spokesperson as well as deputy press secretary and White House communications director for President Barack Obama. Facing reporters mere hours after Biden was sworn in on Jan. 20, 2021, Psaki stressed the importance of "bringing truth and transparency back to the briefing room." Trump went through four press secretaries, including Stephanie Grisham who never held a briefing, and her successor, Kayleigh McEnany, who was fond of lecturing the media and simultaneously served as a campaign adviser. Trump preferred to engage directly with the public, through rallies and tweets before he was banned from that social media platform. He also sometimes held his own briefings and routinely spread falsehoods while openly antagonizing reporters.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, said the job of press secretary has "been done well both on the right and the left" and requires respecting the media while answering questions in ways that provide real information.

She said Psaki had a "facticity to her work that is characteristic of good press secretaries and it presupposes confidence. It presupposes access to the president. It presupposes an understanding of what the administration's position is that proves to be true." Psaki, who got COVID-19 twice while on the job, showed that striking a balance between transparency and advancing the administration's message could sometimes mean literally keeping her balance. While aboard Air Force One, she sometimes stood in the aisle taking reporters' questions right through landing.

Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn in as Lanka's new PM amid worst economic crisis

Continued from page-1

"Congratulations to the newly appointed Prime Minister of #lka, @RW_UNP. I wish you all the best as you navigate these troubled times," tweeted Mahinda, who is under protection at a naval base following violent attacks on his aides.

The High Commission of India in Colombo said it looks forward to working with new Government of Sri Lanka formed in accordance with democratic processes.

"High Commission of India hopes for political stability and looks forward to working with the Government of Sri Lanka formed in accordance with democratic processes pursuant to the swearing in of Hon'ble @RW_UNP as the Prime Minister of #SriLanka," it tweeted. It said that India's commitment to the people of Sri Lanka will continue.

Members of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), a section of the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and several other parties have expressed their support to show majority for Wickremesinghe in Parliament, sources said.

However, several factions opposed the move to appoint Wickremesinghe as the new Prime Minister.

Wickremesinghe, a lawyer-turned politician who has been in Parliament for 45 years, has served as the prime minister on four previous occasions. He was fired from the post of prime minister by then President Maithripala Sirisena in October 2018.

However, he was reinstated as the prime minister by Sirisena after two months. He is widely accepted as a man who could manage the economy with far-sighted policies, and is perceived as the Sri Lankan politician who could command international cooperation.

The UNP, the oldest party in the country, had failed to win a single seat from districts, including Wickremesinghe who contested from the UNP stronghold Colombo in 2020 parliamentary polls. He later found his way to Parliament through the sole national list allocated to the UNP on the basis of cumulative national vote. His deputy Sajith Premadasa had led the breakaway SJB and became the main Opposition.

Premadasa, a former deputy to Wickremesinghe, had rejected the President's original invitation to be prime minister. He had insisted that the President must resign as a precondition. Premadasa later softened his stance and demanded the President to give a time frame for stepping down.

However, the President replied that he would appoint Wickremesinghe as the new premier. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948.

The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

In a late night televised address to the nation, President Gotabaya on Wednesday refused to quit but promised to appoint a new Prime Minister and a young Cabinet which would introduce key constitutional reforms to curb his powers.

Gotabaya had said that after appointing the new Prime Minister, and Government a constitutional amendment will be moved to enact the content of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which will vest more powers with Parliament.

Security forces in armoured vehicles patrolled across the country on Wednesday with orders to shoot at sight amid continuing protests at the government's handling of the worst economic crisis. Army Special Forces' Combat Riders were also deployed on mobile patrol in Colombo and suburbs.

President Gotabaya earlier urged the public to reject subversive attempts and said it is the time for all Sri Lankans to join hands as one, to overcome the economic, social and political challenges. The powerful Rajapaksa clan has dominated Sri Lankan politics for years. Gotabaya is the last Rajapaksa family member in office and the resignation of his brother as prime minister did nothing to placate demonstrators or bring calm in the island nation. As the crisis erupted, Gotabaya sacked his younger brother Basil Rajapaksa. Later, the entire Cabinet resigned, forcing the eldest Rajapaksa, Chamal to quit.

Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn in as Lanka's new PM amid worst economic crisis

COLOMBO: Opposition leader and former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn-in as Sri Lanka's 26th prime minister on Thursday to stabilise the country's debt-ridden economy and end the political turmoil, a development welcomed by India which said it looks forward to working with the new government and reaffirmed its commitment to the Sri Lankan people.

Wickremesinghe was sworn-in as prime minister by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, days after his predecessor Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign following violent protests over the worst economic crisis in the island nation.

The 73-year-old United National Party (UNP) leader took over as the prime minister as the country was without a government since Monday when Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother and prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned after violence erupted following an attack on the anti-government protesters by his supporters.

The attack triggered widespread violence against Rajapaksa loyalists, leaving nine people dead and wounding over 200 others.

"My best wishes to the newly appointed PM of #LKA, @RW_UNP, who stepped up to take on

the challenging task of steering our country through a very turbulent time. I look forward to working together with him to make Sri Lanka strong again," President Gotabaya tweeted along with a picture of him and Wickremesinghe.

Mahinda was quick to congratulate

looks forward to working with the Government of Sri Lanka formed in accordance with democratic processes pursuant to the swearing in of Hon'ble @RW_UNP as the Prime Minister of #SriLanka," it tweeted. It said that India's commitment to the people of Sri

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Army Special Forces' Combat Riders were also deployed on mobile patrol in Colombo and suburbs.

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Wickremesinghe, saying that he wishes him all the best as he navigates "these troubled times."

"Congratulations to the newly appointed Prime Minister of #lka, @RW_UNP. I wish you all the best as you navigate these troubled times," tweeted Mahinda, who is under protection at a naval base following violent attacks on his aides.

The High Commission of India in Colombo said it looks forward to working with new Government of Sri Lanka formed in accordance with democratic processes.

"High Commission of India hopes for political stability and

Lanka will continue. Members of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), a section of the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and several other parties have expressed their support to show majority for Wickremesinghe in Parliament, sources said.

However, several factions opposed the move to appoint Wickremesinghe as the new Prime Minister.

Wickremesinghe, a lawyer-turned politician who has been in Parliament for 45 years, has served as the prime minister on four previous occasions. He was fired

from the post of prime minister by then President Maithripala Sirisena in October 2018.

However, he was reinstated as the prime minister by Sirisena after two months. He is widely accepted as a man who could manage the economy with far-sighted policies, and is perceived

rejected the President's original invitation to be prime minister. He had insisted that the President must resign as a precondition. Premadasa later softened his stance and demanded the President to give a time frame for stepping down.

However, the President replied that he would appoint Wickremesinghe as the new premier. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948.

The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

In a late night televised address to the nation, President Gotabaya on Wednesday refused to quit but promised to appoint a new Prime Minister and a young Cabinet which would introduce key

constitutional reforms to curb his powers. Gotabaya had said that after appointing the new Prime Minister, and Government a constitutional amendment will be moved to enact the content of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which will vest more powers with Parliament.

Security forces in armoured vehicles patrolled across the country on Wednesday with orders to shoot at sight amid continuing protests at the government's handling of the worst economic crisis. Army Special Forces' Combat Riders were also deployed on mobile patrol in Colombo and suburbs.

President Gotabaya earlier urged the public to reject subversive attempts and said it is the time for all Sri Lankans to join hands as one, to overcome the economic, social and political challenges. The powerful Rajapaksa clan has dominated Sri Lankan politics for years.

Gotabaya is the last Rajapaksa family member in office and the resignation of his brother as prime minister did nothing to placate demonstrators or bring calm in the island nation. As the crisis erupted, Gotabaya sacked his younger brother Basil Rajapaksa. Later, the entire Cabinet resigned, forcing the eldest Rajapaksa, Chamal to quit.

BCCI is run by BJP government, claims former Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani

Former Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani blamed BJP for its influence within the BCCI and said that it

never turned them down but I did not want to sacrifice our integrity." Speaking about the former Pakistan PM

failed in trying to ensure that Patron should not have any nominee." Ehsan Mani also made some remark-

ers were only paid for the season and were not employed throughout the year – with some exceptions of star players."

He labelled the entire departmental cricket system to be a fraud.

"The system (departmental cricket) was fraudulent; we had two divisions and players from the first division were representing departments in the second division. I remember Faisalabad qualified for the first division and it was later revealed that 9 out of 12 players in that team were already representing departments in the first division. There couldn't have been a more flawed system in place," Ehsan claimed.

He also said that people were wrong in claiming that getting rid of departmental cricket put the cricketers at a disadvantage.

"A first-class cricketer earns around PKR 3.2 million per year; this does not include the tournament prize money or personal endorsements," he said.



is not easy to sustain communication with the Indian board because of it.

Ehsan Mani, during an interview with Cricket Pakistan, said "Although BCCI have Sourav Ganguly but has anyone ever wondered who their secretary of the board is? Jay Shah, son of Amit Shah. The BCCI treasurer is the brother of a BJP Minister. The real control lies with them and BJP dictates to the BCCI which is why I did not pursue patching ties with them. I

Imran Khan's departure, Ehsan said, "When I was the PCB chairman, we amended the law such that the Patron-in-Chief cannot directly interfere if the chairman's performance is questionable. Only the board has the authority to do something about it. The Patron-in-Chief only has the authority to recommend two out of eight board members and it is then up to the board to determine who they would want to appoint as the next chairman. I tried but

able claims on departmental cricket. He said, "If departmental cricket method was functional then other countries would have also adopted it. People should think about the reasons why they haven't and didn't. The banks were pulling out before my arrival and before the new system was introduced. Only one local pulled out after I took over. Rest of the departments only used to prefer cricketers that were trained by PCB. The majority of the play-

IPL gives India more finishing options in Dinesh Karthik and Rahul Tewatia

NEW DELHI: IPL form can't be the sole criteria for a national call-up but Dinesh Karthik and Rahul Tewatia with their stellar shows as finishers for their respective franchises have certainly made a strong case for themselves in the coming months leading up to the T20 World Cup. The ICC event in Australia is still more than four months away but the selectors and team management will soon have to decide on their core group of players, starting with the five match home series against South Africa next month.

The finisher's job is only gaining significance in the power-packed modern game and the Indian team is definitely in need of players who can go ballistic from ball one.

In the absence of Hardik Pandya due to fitness issues, the Indian team management tried out Deepak Hooda and Venkatesh Iyer in the middle-order post World Cup debacle last year but they haven't yet found closure as far as their search is concerned.

Hardik, who has done well in the IPL in what has been his comeback competition, too has thrown himself back into national contention. However, Hooda and Hardik have been batting higher up in the order for their respective IPL teams but are expected to play lower down for the national team.

Venkatesh has had a tough second year in the IPL and has gone down in the pecking order of finishers.

With Ravindra Jadeja being the only established finisher in the Indian team, IPL performers like Karthik and Tewatia sensed an opportunity and have made full use of it.

Tewatia has built a reputation of winning games from improbable situations while Karthik, who had made his India debut way back in 2004, has shown insatiable hunger to make another comeback.

Former India chief selector MSK Prasad feels both Karthik and Tewatia must be tried in the series against South Africa beginning on June 9 besides calling for Hardik's return.

"Hardik, Jaddu, Karthik and Tewatia are my top

four for the finisher's role. DK and Tewatia has been brilliant in this IPL and Hardik has made a good comeback. The World Cup is still some time away but the likes of DK and Tewatia should get their opportunity.

"If you look at DK, he has consistently done well for India in the T20 format, Nidahas Trophy being the highlight," Prasad told PTI.

On Hardik, he said: "He will be one of your main players in Australia where the T20 World Cup is. But I also want to see him bowling regularly. We will need his all-round skills Down Under." Hardik has not been bowling for Gujarat Titans in every game but has bowled closed to 20 overs during the course of the season besides getting crucial runs at number four.

Prasad's former colleague, Sarandeep Singh, said the Baroda all-rounder has to bowl regularly to be in the scheme of things.

"He can't just play as a batter in the side. You lose out on a crucial bowling option that way. DK can be given a go but can he play only as a batter with Rishabh donning the gloves, I am not so sure about it. But he has certainly made a case and he has got all the experience.

"He also has the ability to change his role if wickets fall in a heap. Tewatia too has done well in the IPL but I doubt if he could replicate his form in Indian conditions in Australia. The bowlers are likely to bounce him out I feel," said the former India spinner.

Tewatia had received an India call up last year but failed a fitness test.

He added that Venkatesh should be persisted even if he is having an ordinary IPL.

Among other players who should be tried in other roles against South Africa including young pacer Umran Malik, reckons Prasad.

"Shami and Bumrah are your frontline pacers but you also need a bowler who can regularly clock 150 kmph. Umran has been doing that. It is also heartening to see Kuldeep and Chahal doing well for their IPL and should be back bowling together for India," said Prasad.

Rafael Nadal brushes aside John Isner to enter third round of Italian Open



ROME: Rafael Nadal demolished John Isner in a comfortable straight-sets win to enter the third round of the Italian Open.

The opening set swung in Spaniard's favour in the eighth game when the 10-time Italian Open champion broke the world number

27 Isner before serving out to take one set lead.

In the second set, he was even more dominant winning it in a commanding fashion to seal the match 6-3 6-1 in his favour. The 21-time grand slam champion will next face Denis Shapovalov of Canada. The Canadian

World no. 16 beat Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-4 7-6 (7-5) in his second-round match. Fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece saved two match points and went on to beat Grigor Dimitrov 6-3 5-7 7-6 (7-4) to enter the third round. The Greek will now take on Karen

Khachanov of Russia.

On the other hand, second seed Alexander Zverev of Germany beat Argentina's Sebastian Baez 7-6 (8-6) 6-3. The reigning Olympic men's singles champion will now lock horns against Alex de Minaur of Australia.

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