

OPINION 6

FIGHTING TERROR
THE HUSAIN WAY

WORLD 8

CHINA CONTINUES DRILLS
AROUND TAIWAN

MONEY 10

SENSEX CLIMBS 465 POINTS;
NIFTY ABOVE 17,500

RAIPUR, TUESDAY AUGUST 9, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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RJD, Cong ready to back Nitish if he ‘dumps’ NDA

JD(U), RJD call MLAs’ meetings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA

Bihar is agog with speculation of yet another political volte-face by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has convened a meeting of all Janata Dal(U) legislators on Tuesday, conceding with a similar meeting called by the RJD.

JD(U) national president Lallan Singh on Sunday set the cat among the pigeons by claiming that there was a conspiracy to weaken the JD(U) and his party will expose it soon. He called it Chirag Model 2. Chirag Paswan’s party fielded scores of candidates against the JD(U) in Bihar Assembly polls 2020, which led to confusion and cost the JD(U) several seats. Lallan Singh said a similar conspiracy was on now.

Sources in the JD(U) said they have an audio recording of conversations where attempts were made to break JD(U). A senior JD(U) leader said that Nitish Kumar suspects that there was a design to repeat a Maharashtra in Bihar, and this may force him to walk out of the NDA and join hands with the RJD.



The Bihar Chief Minister skipped the farewell of former President Ram Nath Kovind and the swearing-in of Droupadi Murmu and, more recently, the NITI Aayog meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday.

Sources said that in the event of Nitish and the RJD reviving the Mahagathbandhan of 2015, the Congress, and the Left will be part of such a formation and Nitish Kumar will continue to be the Chief Minister till 2025. “After that RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav will be projected as CM in the Assembly polls,” said a leader privy to negotiation going on between the RJD and the JD(U).

Amid the brewing political storm in Bihar, the Opposition RJD on Monday said it was

ready to “embrace” Nitish and his JD(U) if he breaks ranks with the BJP. RJD national vice-president Shivanand Tiwary said that convening meetings of legislators by both parties on Tuesday were a clear indication that the situation was extraordinary.

“Personally, I am not aware of the goings on. But we cannot ignore the fact that both parties, which together had sufficient numbers to muster a majority, have convened such meetings when an Assembly session is not round the corner,” Tiwary told reporters.

“If Nitish chooses to dump the NDA, what choice do we have except to embrace him (gale lagayenge). The RJD is committed to fighting the BJP. If the Chief Minister decides to join this fight, we will have to

Take on BJP directly: Chirag attacks Nitish over ‘conspiracy’ accusation

Patna: Former Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Chirag Paswan on Monday hit out at the JD(U) and dared it to take on the BJP directly instead of accusing him of involvement in a conspiracy to dent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s popularity.

Detailed Report on Page 5

take him along,” said Tiwary.

He was also asked whether the RJD would be willing to forget bitter episodes of the past, like Kumar’s return to the NDA in 2017, citing allegations of corruption against Lalu Prasad and his family members, including younger son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav, who was then his deputy.

The Congress, principal rival of the BJP nationally but a spent force in Bihar, also went into a huddle. “All party MLAs have unanimously resolved to support the new formation that comes into being if Nitish Kumar breaks away from the BJP,” AICC secretary and MLA Shakil Ahmed Khan said.

Birmingham CWG one of most memorable editions for India

Shuttlers dazzle as India finish 4th with 22 gold

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Led by the iconic PV Sindhu, Indian shuttlers owned the badminton arena by winning all three titles on offer on the day while paddler Sharath Kamal yet again reminded everyone of his class and awe-inspiring longevity with a coruscating show, as the country wrapped up its CWG campaign with 61 medals to finish a creditable fourth.

It was expected that Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and the formidable pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy would end up on top of the podium but what provided the icing on the cake was the 40-year-old Sharat Kamal’s gold medal-winning show against an equally good opponent in Liam Pitchford.

That performance took India’s gold medal count to 22, which is four less than the 2018 edition, but this time the sport of shooting was missing from the roster. The shooters had contributed seven golds in Gold Coast’s 66-medal haul, and considering that, India certainly put up a good show.

India’s final tally read 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze and they stood behind third-



PV Sindhu reacts after winning the Women’s Singles Final Badminton match against Canada’s Michelle Li at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Monday; (Right) Lakshya Sen plays a shot against Malaysia’s Ng Tze Yong in the Men’s Singles Final Badminton match at CWG, winning the Gold



PTI

Heartbroken Hockey India consoled with silver medal



Silver medalist Indian team poses for photographs during the presentation ceremony of the men’s hockey, at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Monday

PTI

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

In one of its worst performances in recent times, the Indian men’s hockey team suffered an embarrassing 0-7 drubbing at the hands of defending champions Australia to settle for a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games here on Monday.

Australia blew away India with their whirlwind speed and relentless attacks, extending their dominance of the CWG stage.

Since hockey’s introduction at the Games in 1998, Australia has always stood on top of the podium. This is India’s third defeat against Australia in a CWG final, having lost to them in the 2010 and the 2014 editions of the Games.

Nathan Ephraums and Tom Wickham scored a brace each while Blake Govers, Jacob Anderson, and Flynn Ogilvie also found the net in the lop-sided contest.

It was a far cry from what was expected in a gold medal clash as a dominant Australia pumped in five goals in the first half to take the game away from India.

The other time India suf-

fered such a heavy defeat in CWG was in 2010 edition in New Delhi, where Australia hammered the hosts 8-0.

The Indians looked rusty and clueless as they conceded too much space to the Australians in the mid-field, which allowed the Kookaburras to make inroads.

The structure which the Indians are known for was nowhere to be seen. The defence looked shaky, while there was no co-ordination between the midfield and forward-line.

The past problem of mis-passing and trapping returned to haunt the Indians. It allowed Australia to play free-flowing hockey.

The Indians made very few circle penetrations and whenever they did, they lacked the final pass or looked out of sorts. Such was India’s struggle that the team could not secure a single penalty corner.

Australia secured their three penalty corner inside the first 10 minutes and broke the deadlock from the third through Govers, whose flick went in between India custodian PR Sreejesh’s legs.

‘Stormy’ Monsoon Session ends 4 days before schedule

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ DELHI

Four days ahead of the scheduled conclusion of the Monsoon Session, both the Houses of Parliament — which witnessed stormy and unrelenting protest from the Opposition on the price and GST increase leading to suspension of 24 MPs — were adjourned sine die on Monday.

For the larger part of the session, which began on July 18, the Government and Opposition have been accusing each other over a host of issues, including inflation, alleged misuse of Central agencies against Opposition leaders and “insulting” the new President of the country.

During the second week, as many as 24 MPs (20 from Rajya Sabha and 4 from Lok Sabha) were suspended. However, the suspension of the Lok Sabha members — all from Congress — was later



Opposition MPs stage a walkout from the Lok Sabha during ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

revoked.

While Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House sine die, saying it met for 16 days and passed seven legislations, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu,

whose tenure will end on August 10, adjourned the House sine die, saying that detailed statistics pertaining to the session will be circulated during the course by the Rajya Sabha secretariat.

Bulldozer justice for leader who assaulted Noida society woman

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NOIDA

The Noida authorities on Monday demolished illegal constructions and encroachment at the residence of absconding politician Shrikant Tyagi, who is the main accused in the Grand Omaxe Housing Society fracas in Noida’s Sector 93. The Gautam Buddha Nagar police has suspended six police men, including chowki in-charge of the area, for laxity and also announced a reward of ₹25,000 on information leading to Tyagi’s arrest. Police sources said that his last location was traced in Uttarakhand near Haridwar.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has sought a report from the Home Department in connection with Tyagi’s case. The CM called for a detailed investigation into the case as well as stern action against Tyagi.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday targeted the BJP amid controversy over the inci-



Residents gather as Noida authority carries out demolition of illegal construction at the Grand Omaxe society in Noida on Monday

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dent at the Noida society, which has now caught the national attention. Priyanka called the Noida authorities’ action a “pretence”.

Priyanka also shared pictures of the politician with BJP leaders even as the party distanced itself from him. After the party shared a video of BJP MP Mahesh Sharma talking on phone and saying “We are

ashamed that our Government is here”, in reference to the Noida incident, Priyanka shared a collage that shows Tyagi with top BJP leaders. “Did the BJP Government not know for so many years that the construction of the Noida BJP leader was illegal? The bulldozer action is just a pretence”, tweeted Priyanka.

Amid SC dilemma, Shinde to expand Cabinet today

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

More than five weeks after he was sworn into office along with Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will expand his Cabinet on Tuesday by inducting “anywhere from 12 to 15 ministers” from both his faction of the Shiv Sena and the BJP.

Hamstrung hitherto by the uncertainty arising out of the pending cases in the Supreme Court over the disqualification of the rebel Sena MLAs and other constitutional issues involving the formation of his Government in the State, Shinde has finally decided to bite the bullet by opting for his first Cabinet expansion ahead of a ruling in the litigation in the apex court.

Under pressure from the

BJP and his own camp MLAs, Shinde and Fadnavis had attempted to expand the State Cabinet on at least five occasions. However, they had shelved the plans owing to the developments in the Supreme Court or due to the fear of being reprimanded by the apex court for showing haste in the formation of a full-fledged State Cabinet in the pendency of the litigation before it.

However, on Monday, Shinde gave indications of a possible Cabinet expansion on Tuesday, when media persons buttonholed him for a comment during his tour of Nanded district in Marathwada region. “A cabinet expansion will happen very soon. The names of his new ministers will be finalised either tonight or tomorrow,” Shinde said, while replying to a query.

Your every word is heard & revered: PM to Naidu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha bade an emotional farewell on Monday to Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu. Naidu demits office as Vice President on Wednesday and his successor Jagdeep Dhankhar will take the oath of office on August 11.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of Opposition M Mallikarjun Kharge and several other MPs cutting across party lines paid tributes to Naidu for his stint as the Chairman. Many of them also fondly remembered him as an excellent host serving sumptuous food.

Naidu turned emotional when Derek O’Brien (TMC) recalled how Naidu lost his mother at the age of one when a bullock attacked her.

Recalling the incident of his mother’s death, Derek O’Brien(TMC) said a bullock attacked Naidu’s mother in the stomach when she was carrying Naidu in his arms. She later died in hospital and left behind Naidu to find his own destiny.

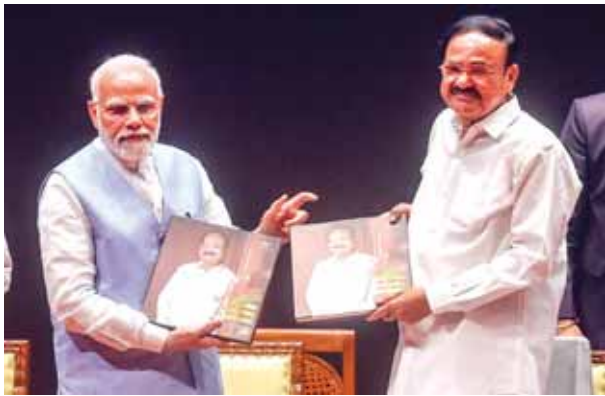
The Prime Minister hailed his contribution to Parliament and recalled his witty one-liners. Modi also praised Naidu for ensuring productivity of the Upper House in his five year tenure and said it increased 70 per cent.

Addressing the Upper House after farewell speeches, Naidu said, “We are not enemies, we are rivals.”

On the functioning of the House, Naidu said he tried to accommodate and give opportunities to all sides — South, North, East, West, North-East. “Each one of you has been given time,” he said. He also appealed to the members to maintain decorum and decorum of the House.

On his selection for the post of the Vice President, Naidu said the day the Prime Minister told him about this decision he was in tears. “I didn’t ask for it. Party had given the mandate, I obliged and resigned from the party. Tears were because I had to leave the party,” he said.

Most MPs besides the Prime Minister also appreciat-



Outgoing Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a farewell function organised for him in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

ed Naidu’s efforts to encourage the Members to articulate their points in their native languages in the House.

Touching upon his one-liners, the PM said, “They are win-winners too. It means nothing more needs to be said after those lines. Your every word is heard, preferred and revered and never countered.”

He also said Naidu worked on the principle that ‘let the Government propose, let the

Opposition oppose, let the House dispose.’

On productivity of the House, Modi said 177 bills were passed or discussed during Naidu’s tenure.

Modi said Independence Day this year will be celebrated with the President, Vice President and Lok Sabha Speaker all born in independent India. “And each of them comes from very humble backgrounds,” he added.

CAPSULE

TERROR-FUNDING: NIA RAIDS IN DODA, JAMMU
Jammu/Doda: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday carried out searches at multiple places in Jammu and Doda districts of Jammu & Kashmir against members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel) in a terror-funding case.

INDIAN WOMAN FOUND IN PAK AFTER TWO DECADES
Karachi: An Indian woman, who went missing 20 years ago after a recruitment agent in Mumbai promised her a job in Dubai but trafficked her to Pakistan, has been found with the help of a video on social media and is appealing to the Indian government to help her reunite with her family.

MARSHAL’S SUICIDE BID: DCW NOTICE TO POLICE
New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Monday issued notices to the city police and the Delhi Transport Corporation, claiming that a woman bus marshal allegedly attempted suicide after sexual harassment at work.

Jharkhand Tribal Festival begins today



Workers giving final shape to the Pandal for "Jharkhand Tribal Festival" on the evening of the World Tribal Day, at Morhabadi Ground in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Ratan Lal

CM, top officials take stock of preparations

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren inspected the preparations for the 'Jharkhand Tribal Festival' to be organized on 9th and 10th August 2022 at the historic Morhabadi ground of Ranchi on the occasion of World Tribal Day here on Monday. The CM, while closely inspecting all the necessary aspects including decoration of the main stage, information about various stalls, other furnishings, seating arrangements, food centers, security arrangements, gave many important guidelines to the officers.

The CM said that the guests arriving from Jharkhand and other states in the festival, welcome and security of the participants par-

ticipating in the cultural programme should be ensured properly. He said that sufficient number of chairs should be installed for the seating of the visitors. He asked to take special care of the safety of the people and ensure that the LED screen and sound quality in the venue is good.

The CM directed the officials to keep all the preparations for the festival solid. Maintain proper arrangement of entry and exit points of the vehicles coming to the venue and the arrangement of parking places should also be maintained properly. The Chief Minister asked the officials to ensure that the entire pandal is waterproof in view of the possibility of rain, so that even if it rains, no one has to face any problem.

Earlier, Secretary to Chief Minister Vinay Kumar

Choubey and Welfare Secretary KK Soan inspected the site of preparations for Jharkhand Tribal Festival organized on the occasion of World Tribal Day on Tuesday, 9th August at Morhabadi Maidan. They instructed the officials to keep all the preparations tight. Maintain proper arrangement of entry and exit points of guests.

Secretary to the Chief Minister, Vinay Kumar Choubey directed that the stage, VIP lounge, exhibition gallery, media gallery and seating arrangement of the people should be maintained properly. Along with him asked to make the exhibition gallery attractive. He directed to put up display boards for all the information in the stalls to be built in the gallery.

People will be able to enjoy the cuisines of Jharkhand in the food pavilion of Jharkhand Tribal Festival. On the occasion of World



Chief Minister Hemant Soren inspects the preparations work for the "Jharkhand Tribal Festival" on the evening of the World Tribal Day, at Morhabadi Ground in Ranchi on Monday. Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Rajiv Arun Ekka, Secretary to Chief Minister Vinay Kumar Choubey, Secretary to Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes Welfare Department K.K. Soan, Tribal Welfare Commissioner Mukesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar Sinha, Municipal Commissioner Shashi Ranjan, Director of Information and Public Relations Department Rajiv Lochan Bakshi and other officials of the concerned department officials are also seen. PNS

Tribal Day, a food court is also being constructed in the Jharkhand Tribal Festival to be held at Morhabadi Maidan, where people will be able to enjoy Jharkhandi cuisine. Secretary to the Chief Minister, Vinay Kumar Choubey instructed to keep all the arrangements here. Special emphasis was laid on taking special care of cleanliness. People will be able to get acquainted with the art and culture of Jharkhand in the exhibition gallery to be built in the programme. All the information related to Jharkhand and its tribes will be displayed in the stall to be built here.

Seminars and panel discussions will also be organized in the Jharkhand Tribal Festival to be held for two days. Seminar and Panel Discussion will be held on 9th and 10th August at Tribal Research Institute and

Hockey Stadium, Morhabadi. Eminent speakers will participate in this seminar and panel discussion.

Tribal Welfare Commissioner Mukesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar Sinha, Municipal Commissioner Shashi Ranjan and officials of the concerned department were present on the occasion.

Notably, the Government of Jharkhand this year is celebrating the International Day of World's Indigenous people in the form of a two-day Tribal fest on August 9 and 10. The government has made elaborate arrangements for the festival, which will be graced by Rajya Sabha MP cum Chairperson of State Coordination Committee, Shibu Soren, Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel among other prominent personalities.

AG finds irregularities in RIMS dental equipment purchase

260 electrified and 678 non-existent villages were part of JBVNLR DPRs

ROSHAN KUMAR ■ RANCHI

State's biggest health hub—Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) procured dental equipment valued at Rs 27.17 crore during 2014-19, which was 400 per cent of the budget. Against an original proposal of Rs 5.80 crore for procurement of dental equipment and approved by the Governing Council, the RIMS director submitted a detailed budget of Rs 9.49 crore, but the procured equipment valued at Rs 37.17 crore.

The health hub's financial irregularities were detected by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) annual report. In the Audit report of the CAG, social and economic and revenue sectors including SPSEs, Jharkhand for the year ended 31 March was presented to the state legislature. The CAG was asked to carry out the audit report

of RIMS as there were reports of financial irregularities by the health hub.

Principal Accountant General (A&E), Anup Francis Dungdung said, "There were several financial irregularities/ negligence in the procurement of machines, equipment and accessories for Dental Institute of RIMS. Though instructed by the health minister, the director RIMS neither cross verified the compliance submitted by the accused supplier nor surveyed the market price or procurement price of similar equipment in other medical institutions prior to payment of outstanding bill of Rs 5.40 crore and further procured equipment valued Rs 11.40 crore from the same supplier without obtaining the approval of the health minister."

The CAG apart from audit of health hub also carried out detailed audit of rural electrification schemes in Jharkhand. The CAG in its report detected that there were several discrepancies in planning by Jharkhand



Principal Accountant General (Audit) Jharkhand Anup Francis Dungdung addresses a press conference in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Ratan Lal

Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd (JBVNLR) as the power supplier company did not maintain a database regarding the status of electrification of villages except consumer database. While conducting field surveys in the seven tests checked districts before commencing the electrification works, the Turnkey Contractors (TKCs) found that 260 electrified villages and 678 non-existent villages were included in the DPRs.

Also the Atal Gram Jyoti Yojana (AGJY) was foreclosed after providing free households electric connection to 1.86 lakh APL households against the target of 3.64 APL households as JBVNLR could not provide list of beneficiaries to the Turnkey Contractors (TKCs).

In the State Finances Audit Report of the CAG, anomalies were detected in projects of state government departments.

As many as 125 projects of the road construction department are incomplete in Jharkhand while the state spends more than Rs 2800 crore on it. The blocked amount is more than 50 per cent of the estimated cost of the incomplete projects.

This is the highest figure in the department wise list of incomplete projects. The department is followed by the rural development department with 102 incomplete projects, water resource department with 84 incomplete projects, the drinking water and sanitation department with 42 in-

complete projects and the building construction department with 21 incomplete projects.

The blockage of funds in incomplete projects not only exposes the poor quality of expenditure but also deprives the state of intended benefits for prolonged periods. Apart from this, it is also leading to extra burden in terms of servicing of the debt and interest liabilities on funds borrowed for implementation of the project. But officially no one is available to comment on it.

The CAG report highlighted that the State had a revenue deficit of Rs 3,114 crore in 2020-21. The fiscal deficit of the State was 4.70 per cent of GSDP at the end of March 2021.

Post audit, the revenue deficit and fiscal deficit was understood to be Rs 188.18 crore. Thus the revenue deficit and fiscal deficit stated as Rs 3,113.86 crore and Rs 14,910 crore in the finance accounts, would actually be Rs 3,302.04 crore and Rs 15,098.92 crore respectively.

JEE Main State topper secures 100 percentile

Students from state shine in JEE Mains examination

PNS ■ RANCHI

Kushagra Srivastava topped the JEE Main 2022 exam this year from Jharkhand, with a perfect 100 percentile. Srivastava scored 99,946 in Physics, 100 in Chemistry and 99,976 in Maths. For him, the key success mantra is attempting mock tests and NCERT books. Srivastava, who has carried out the preparations from Bhardwaj classes, has received 23 AIR rank and is State topper.

Srivastava's father Santosh Kumar is an engineer in State Government while his mother Neelam Lata is joint secretary in State Government. Srivastava has done his Class X from St Xavier's School while XIIth from Bridgeford School, Tupudana. Srivastava aspires to study Computer Science from either IIT Delhi or IIT Mumbai.

The National Testing Agency announced the result for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2022 today, August 8. A to-



tal of 24 students secured 100 percentile in the JEE Main exam this year; Telangana has the maximum top scorers followed by Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh. Two candidates from Uttar Pradesh secured rank 1 in JEE Main 2022, while each from states of Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Assam and Bihar.

Also, exhibiting exemplary performance, students of DPS Ranchi have proved their mettle once again in Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) MAIN 2022. Rising to the occasion Aditya Prakash with AIR 26 brought laurels to the school by being the TOPPER.

Students who were flying the flag for their phron-

tery and bagged AIR below 1000 are Vikash Kumar Ojha (AIR 45), Sheersh Sen (AIR 300), Suryansh Srijan (AIR 398), Samridhi Sahay (AIR 995). More than 200 students qualified for JEE Advanced.

In continuation of creating State Toppers for the last 3 years DPS Ranchi students have left their mark with excellence in JEE MAIN 2022. Also, Aditya Prakash was the Second State Topper in JEE MAIN 2022 (JUNE Session).

Principal Dr. Ram Singh shared the prized moment with the students and congratulated the parents and teachers for the commendable performance of Ranchi Dipsites. He also extended his best wishes to the stu-



dents for their success in JEE Advanced.

The students of Sarala Birla Public School also brought laurels to school in the JEE mains examination. Devanshu Priy of school added to the school's glory by securing with 98.0521028 percentile followed by Adarsh Khetan 97.7200375 percentile, Smriti Shanaya with 95.1970753 percentile, Himanshu Lodha with 94.1423706 percentile, Apurv Harsh Mehta with 92.3510674 percentile, Aditya Vikram Singh with 91.0555754 percentile and Raj Vardhan Singh with 90.7199277 percentile.

School Head Personnel and Admin, Dr. Pradip Varma congratulated the stu-

dents for the great achievement and appreciated their hard work. Principal Paramjit Kaur asserted that hard work and determination amount to success. She appreciated the efforts of the parents and the teachers and wished the students good luck for the next level.

The students of Oxford Public School too have shined in the JEE mains examination. School student Rakesh Kumar has secured 99.14 percentile in the examination. Rakesh has secured 99.87 in physics, 99.30 in chemistry and 98.20 in mathematics. More than 50 students from Oxford Public School have qualified in the JEE mains examination.

Agri Secy directs banks to provide KCC benefits to farmers

PNS ■ RANCHI

In an attempt to provide help to farmers from the prevailing drought like situation in the State, Secretary, Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Cooperation, Abu Bakr Siddiqui, on Monday, has instructed all the banks that any farmers, whether they are involved in agriculture, animal husbandry, milk, fish production, should be given the benefits of KCC in view of the drought, instructions have also been given to verify the beneficiaries PM Kisan Yojana under this.

Siddiqui was giving instructions to the senior officials of NABARD and various banks in the second meeting of the Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Allied Activities of the State Level Bankers Committee in the auditorium of Nepal House in the year 2022-23. The second meeting of the State Level Bankers Committee under the chairmanship of Agriculture Secretary, 2022-23, guidelines regarding drought. Expressed displeasure over



Agriculture Secretary Abu Bakr Siddiqui holds a meeting with senior officials, SLBC members and others in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

the laxity of banks

The Jharkhand Agriculture Loan Waiver Scheme was also reviewed during the meeting. Siddiqui asked the officials of the bank to review their branch wise plan at the district level, and give a certificate to the farmers under the scheme of the State Government. "The loans that were to be forgiven have been forgiven. Under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, the beneficiary submitted the plan proposal, that proposal was screened and approved by the PMU of the Government of India, although the bank has not provided loans to the beneficiaries yet, the departmental secretary ex-

pressed displeasure. He said that new FPOs formed in Jharkhand should be given fertilizer licenses," he added.

The Secretary expressed displeasure over the term loan given to farmers other than KCC not in line with the target. The Department's Secretary also said that the achievement of some banks in the first quarter is not satisfactory; they should achieve a 100 per cent target in the coming time.

Agriculture Director Nesha Oraon, Special Secretary Pradeep Hazare, Directorate level officials, CGM of NABARD and senior officials of various banks were present in the meeting.



Devotees perform 'Jalabhishek' of Lord Shiva at a temple during the Last Sannar of Sawan, in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Vinay Murmu



Devotees queue up for 'Jalabhishek' of Lord Shiva at a temple in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

CM promises welfare and prosperity of less privileged

Pays tribute to Nirmal Mahto on his 35th death anniversary

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

The JMM observed slain leader Nirmal Mahto's 35th death anniversary on Monday. Floral tributes were paid to the statue of the departed leader, who was gunned down in 1987 in front of the Chamaria guest house at Bistupur area here and Kadma.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren pays tribute to Saheed Nirmal Mahto on his 35th death anniversary at Kadma area in Jamshedpur, on Monday. PNS

Several leaders cutting across party lines today paid homage to slain Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Nirmal Mahto on his death anniversary. Thousands of people also thronged Kadma to pay floral tributes to Nirmal Mahto at his mausoleum on his death anniversary.

Addressing the gathering Soren said, "The need of the hour is to work genuinely for the development of the State as Nirmal Da laid his life for the creation of a separate state to make tribals of this region earn livelihood with dignity."

The CM said the Government in the State would ensure the development of Jharkhand. We are launching several development projects that would help in improving the present living standard of the people of Jharkhand.

Later, in the day senior functionaries of JMM including Transport Minister Champai Soren, reached the venue to pay their homage to one of the most popular

leaders of Kolhan.

Thousands of people thronged Kadma to pay floral tributes to Nirmal Mahto at his mausoleum on his 35th death anniversary. On this occasion, tributes were paid to him at his Samadhi Sthal at Uliyan in Kadma and Martyrdom Sthal at Chamaria Guest House in Bistupur. There was an influx of veterans of Kolhan arriving here one after the other.

Apart from Minister Champai Soren, senior leaders associated with the party were also present on the occasion. Along with him, a group of party workers reached the site one after the other. The whole atmosphere reverberated with the slogans of Jai Jharkhand and Veer Shaheed Nirmal Mahto Amar Rahe. At the same time, the entire martyrdom site was covered with flags and banners of the JMM.

On this occasion, Soren said in his address that the present Hemant Soren government is serious about the creation of Jharkhand based on Nirmal da's dreams. Work is being done rapidly

in that direction. It is the moral duty of every Jharkhandis to take a pledge to make Jharkhand their dreams by remembering them on this day. Earlier, Minister Champai Soren paid homage to the late Nirmal Da's statue installed at the Chamaria Guest House main gate and paid his respects.

Ichagarh MLA Savita Mahto, former MLA Ramdas Soren, party leaders Sheikh Badruddin, Mahavir Murmu, Kablu Mahto and other party leaders and workers.

The gathering this year was relatively high with people from Odisha and West Bengal coming in huge numbers, a first of its kind in recent years, while, party members from districts like Dumka, Sahibjang and Pakur too, have turned up in impressive strength.

Mahto maintained that with the increase in the reach of Nirmal Da's ideology amongst the party workers of neighbouring states particularly, West Bengal and Odisha their turnout is on increase over the years.

Now other states are adopting Godhan scheme: CM Baghel

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that Chhattisgarh is doing a good job through the Godhan Nyay Yojana. Other states are now adopting it, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Monday.

He was interacting with the media on his return to Raipur after a three-day visit to New Delhi.

He said he briefed the Prime Minister about the Godhan Nyay Yojana through which cow dung is procured and converted into vermi-compost.

Chhattisgarh's scheme is now a successful model as Uttar Pradesh is adopting it, Jharkhand has implemented



it as it is. Now, Madhya Pradesh is going to begin the procurement of cow dung, he said.

On Naxalite rallies in the

state, he said similar rallies had been held even during the BJP tenure. But now the security forces have pushed the Maoists into a corner.

He said that he raised the demand of Rs 17,000 crore which includes 13,000 crore tax and Rs 4,000 crore coal royalty at the NITI Aayog

meeting in New Delhi.

The issue of increasing the royalty and commencement of cargo service was also raised.

No irregularities in recruitment process: NHM

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The recruitment process of Community Health Officer by the National Health Mission (NHM), Chhattisgarh, is as per rules, it was announced on Monday.

It was conducted in a transparent manner and as per the rules published in the advertisement, a communication issued by NHM said.

It said the advertisement was released for recruitment for 800 posts for Community Health Officer. The minimum qualification was B.Sc. Nursing/Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing/GNM

“It was conducted in a transparent manner and as per the rules published in the advertisement”

degree/diploma.

The NHM officials stated that a total 17,784 applications were received.

Based on the marks obtained by the candidates, the selection list of the candidates was issued.

Claims and objections were invited from the candidates based on the list. A total of 620 applicants submitted their claims and objections through email.

The advertisement clearly mentioned that against the total posts, only one-third candidates would be invited for the written examination on the basis of merit.

BJP state spokesperson Sanjay Srivastava had accused the government of rigging the recruitment process.

Minor dies of swine flu

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

A four-year-old girl has died of swine flu while undergoing treatment in Raipur.

She was undergoing treatment for pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and H1N1 virus (Influenza A). A death audit is being conducted, Dr Subhash Mishra, Director (Epidemic), said on Monday.

Mishra said the child was from Kaberdham and was admitted in a private hospital in Raipur.

He said on Monday, contact tracing of the family members of the deceased in Kabirdham and neighbourhood was conducted. The report has been received, and no cases of swine flu



“Chhattisgarh has recorded 28 cases of swine flu. All are undergoing treatment”

were detected.

He said Chhattisgarh has recorded 28 cases of swine flu. All are undergoing treatment.

Mishra urged people who suffer from symptoms of swine flu to immediately seek medical help. This, he said, will help to save lives.

He also wanted everyone to follow the precautions related to Covid-19. Regular washing of hands, use of mask and keeping social distance can help, he added.

Chhattisgarh set to dedicate ‘Krishna Kunjs’ on Janmashtami

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh is all set to dedicate ‘Krishna Kunjs’ and commence a mega plantation drive at earmarked places in all urban areas to promote plantation of heritage trees like banyan, peepal, kadamb and neem.

An official communiqué said the plantation drive will simultaneously start on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami falling on August 19.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had announced this in his Bhent Mulaqat programme at Surajpur.

He said that oxygen supplying trees will be planted in the Krishna Kunj.



“To accord uniformity in Krishna Kunj, a logo and design of the gate has been prepared”

Following the Chief Minister's announcement, instructions were given to all District Collectors to immediately allocate at least one acre of land to the Forest Department for tree plantation. To accord uniformity in Krishna Kunj, a logo and design of the gate has been prepared by the office of Principle Chief Conservator of Forest.

BSF to hold walkathon on Aug 12

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

To mark the occasion of Azadi Ka Amritotsava, the Border Security Force (Special Operation) will hold a walkathon at Atal Nagar here on August 12.

An official communication said the walkathon will start at Sector 30, Sadbhawna Hospital, and end at Sector 28. It will go through Navagaon and Mini Market.

BSF personnel, school and college students, government officials and employees as well as common people will take part.

Scout-Guide teaches discipline with patriotism: Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Scout-Guide movement teaches discipline and patriotism to children. An action plan is required to bring coordination among schools to strengthen the movement, Chhattisgarh Education Minister Dr Premsai Singh said on Monday.

The Minister, who is President of the Bharat Scouts and Guides Council, was addressing a state-level meeting here.

Tekam said the



activities of Scouts and Guides can help develop the spirit of social service, discipline and patriotism.

Apart from it, 2,000 students every year from the state participate in the

events held at Pachmarhi, Kullu Manali and Darjeeling. They also participate in disaster management and adventure courses free of cost every year, he said.

The Minister said during the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign from August 11, the Scouts and Guides should hoist the national flag at their residence in full uniform.

Over 700 tribal youths participate in Khel Madai

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

A two-day Chhattisgarh-level traditional tribal sports event, Khel Madai, was held at the Swami Vivekanand Stadium here to mark the World Indigenous Day.

Over 700 from across the state participated in the event organised for the special backward tribes, which concluded on Monday.

The events included archery, gulel, gilli danda, fuggi, gedi race, sack race, bhaura (spinning top), needle-thread race, rassakashi (tug of war), pot



race, three leg race, and boat-racing among others. Archery was a centre of attraction.

The event was held at two levels: for age 14-18 years while the second was open. Men and women events were

held, an official communiqué said.

This was the first grand sports event organised at the state level under the supervision of Tribal Welfare Minister Premsai Singh.

Seven held for killing

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIGARH

A couple was killed in Chhattisgarh on suspicion that they practiced black magic, and among the seven persons arrested for the crime is one of their sons, a teenager.

The arrests were made on Monday from Jashpur and they brought here on charges of killing Sukru Ram Yadav (40) and his wife Manwati (35), who hailed from Jashpur. They lived in Raigarh district.

Raigarh Superintendent of Police Abhishek Meena told The Pioneer that their 17-year-old son, his brother-in-law Nar Singh and his cousin brothers Rajuram Yadav, Bhole Shankar Yadav, Shankar Yadav, Khageshwar



Yadav and Ishwari Yadav have been taken into custody.

Efforts were on to nab another cousin, Dashrath Yadav, and a self claimed tantric, Chhatramohan Yadav, who conspired the killing.

The minor told the police that the tantric told him that the reason behind his elder brother's mental

instability was black magic practiced by his parents. The tantric instigated the boy to kill his parents.

The son and his relatives strangled and then crushed the couple to death on July 30 night in Bhagwanpur village in Raigarh. The police have seized stones, two towels, a rope and a Bolero car used in the crime.

IIT Chairman hails AIIMS-IIT association

STAFF REPORTER ■
BHILAI

K. Venkataramanan, Chairman of the Board of Governors, IIT Bhilai, on Monday hailed the association of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai, calling “a great move towards innovation”.

He was addressing the 7th Foundation Day of IIT Bhilai which was observed with great enthusiasm and fanfare.

The function commenced with the lighting of



a traditional lamp followed by the Saraswati Vandana and felicitation of the dignitaries.

The chief guest on the occasion was Prof. Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director, AIIMS in Raipur.

In his welcome address, Prof. Rajat Moona, Director, IIT Bhilai, threw light on the achievements of IIT Bhilai and its remarkable journey since inception.

Among the institute's achievements, he spoke about the high placement percentage which has led to several alumni of IIT Bhilai to become well established.

“Today, the institute is proud to have 900 students, state of the art equipment and innovative education techniques,” he said.

Venkataramanan said they respect the achievements of the past and were ready for the challenges of the future.

Prof. Nitin M. Nagarkar and Prof. Rajat Moona released a magazine ‘IIT Bhilai: In Press 2021-22’, highlighting the Institute's achievements published by the media.

Awards for the best performing employees of the year were presented.

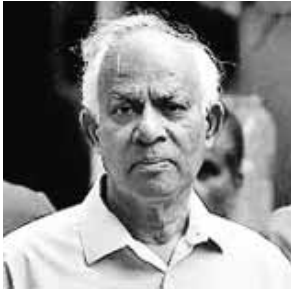
3-year prison term for ex-Secy in coal scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi Special Court on Monday awarded a three-year jail term to former Coal Secretary HC Gupta in a coal scam case related to irregularities in allocation of a coal block in Maharashtra, a lawyer associated with the case said.

Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj also awarded two year imprisonment to former joint-Secretary in the Ministry of Coal (MoC), KS Kropcha in the case and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000, while Gupta was asked to pay a fine of Rs one lakh.

The court had convicted both for criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, cheating and corruption in the case related to allocation of Lohara East coal block. The court, meanwhile, awarded four year jail term to Mukesh Gupta, the director of convicted company, Grace Industries Ltd. (GIL), for



criminal conspiracy and cheating and imposed a fine of Rs two lakh on him, while the company was also directed to pay a fine of Rs two lakh separately.

Both were convicted for criminal conspiracy and cheating. The trial of the case was conducted by senior advocate RS Cheema, Deputy Legal Advisor for the CBI Sanjay Kumar and senior public prosecutor A P Singh. HC Gupta was earlier convicted in three other coal scam cases and his appeal against those convictions is pending before the

Delhi High Court. He is currently on bail along with other convict persons in the case.

According to the CBI, between 2005 and 2011, the accused persons hatched a criminal conspiracy and cheated MoC, Government of India by dishonestly and fraudulently inducing the MoC to allocate 'Lohara East Coal Block' in favour of GIL on the basis of false information about net worth, capacity, equipments and status of procurement and installation of plant.

The CBI also stated that the company, in its application, claimed its net worth as Rs 120 crore whereas its own net worth was only Rs 3.3 crore, and that the company also falsified its existing capacity as 1,20,000 TPA against 30,000 TPA. The Supreme Court had on August 25, 2014 cancelled the entire allocations of coal blocks. This is the 11th conviction in coal scam cases secured by prosecution.

DefExpo set be held in Guj from Oct 18 to 22

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The 12th edition of India's international defence exhibition DefExpo on land, naval and homeland security systems will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from October 18 to 22.

Earlier scheduled to be held in March, it was postponed as many countries were not able to reach India due to logistical issues arising out of the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

The five-day event will witness three business days followed by two public days. Live demonstrations showcasing the equipment and skill set of the armed forces, defence public sector undertakings and industry will be held on all five days at Sabarmati River Front through active participation and synchronized efforts at all levels, the defence ministry said here on Monday.

DefExpo- 2022 will be held in a three-venue format across an area of 01+ lakh square metres at Helipad Exhibition Centre, inaugural event and seminars at Mahatma Mandir

Convention and Exhibition Centre and live demonstration at Sabarmati River Front.

The exhibition is being planned with events such as Bandhan for forging of partnerships between companies, seminars and webinars showcasing of start-ups including cutting-edge technology solutions for future battlefield, artificial Intelligence in defence, student visits and showcasing Gujarat as an investment destination for aerospace and defence sector.

DefExpo 2022 is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve self-reliance in defence and achieve export of \$5 billion by 2025.

India has successfully established itself as an emerging defence manufacturing hub with numerous international orders being bagged by Indian companies in recent years.

The Indian Defence industry has been keenly anticipating DefExpo-2022 which is Asia's largest event in the defence sector. It was postponed in March 2022 due to logistical problems being faced



by the participants.

As India celebrates its 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', DefExpo 2022 gains further significance with its theme 'Path to Pride' invoking nationalistic pride and encouraging citizens to partake in nation building through establishing a capable indigenous defence industry.

The reforms in defence manufacturing are attracting greater interest from Indian Defence manufacturers and it is therefore anticipated that DefExpo-2022 would attract active participation from Indian companies.

At DefExpo-2022, the participants will get an opportunity to showcase their equipment and platforms and also be able to explore the strengths and capabilities of the expanse of Indian defence industry for

forging business partnerships.

The event will help boost investment, expand manufacturing capacities and capabilities, discover avenues for technology absorption. The DefExpo-2022 website (www.defexpo.gov.in) is available providing online services to exhibitors, besides hosting informative content about the various indigenous defence products and promoting heritage and leisure at Gujarat.

The exhibitor booking would be available for Indian companies which will include Indian subsidiaries of Foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers(OEM) and joint ventures between Indian and foreign companies.

The website will be the first interface making the process of booking and information access effortless.

Jaishankar, Dmytro Kuleba discuss Ukraine war, global impact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Ukraine on Monday discussed the ongoing conflict there since February and its global repercussions during talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba.

Jaishankar assured Kuleba that the next consignment of Indian humanitarian assistance will reach Ukraine very soon.

"Appreciated the conversation today with FM @DmytroKuleba of Ukraine. Discussed recent developments in the conflict and its continuing global repercussions," Jaishankar said in a tweet. "Assured that the next consignment of Indian humanitarian assistance will be reaching very soon," he said. India has maintained that the crisis in Ukraine due to the continuing Russian military action there must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

India-US commence joint drill in HP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The elite Special Forces of India and the US on Monday commenced their joint exercise 'Vajra Prahar' at the Special Forces Training School(SFTS)in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. It is the 13th edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise and will last for 21 days.

The US contingent is represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) and Special Tactics Squadron (STS) of US Special Forces and the Indian Army contingent is formed by drawing Special Forces personnel under the aegis of SFTS, officials said here on Monday.

The 'Vajra Prahar' series of joint exercise aims to share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics

as also to improve interoperability between the Special Forces of both the nations. This annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the United States.

The 12th edition was conducted at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington (USA) in October 2021.

During the course of next 21 days, teams of both armies will jointly train, plan and execute a series of special operations, counter terrorist operations, air borne operations in simulated conventional and unconventional scenarios in mountainous terrain.

This joint exercise is a significant step in strengthening the traditional bond of friendship between the special forces of both nations. It also improves bilateral defence cooperation between India and the USA.

Army signs MoU with Drone Federation of India

New Delhi: With increasing role of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles(UAV)in modern day warfare, the Army Design Bureau has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Drone Federation of India to collaboratively work towards promoting research, development, testing and manufacturing of drones, counter-drone and associated technologies.

This MoU also signifies unwavering commitment of Indian Army in supporting Indian industry and complete eco system to develop indigenous equipment and weapon systems in line with Atmanirbharta in defence manufacturing, officials said here on Monday. The Army Design

Bureau is nodal agency of Indian Army to be facilitator for research and development efforts with industry, academia, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and defence public sector undertakings to enable them to understand and appreciate user requirements in depth.

The Drone Federation of India promotes drone industry by bringing about policy change, creating business opportunities, developing a robust skilling infrastructure, facilitating tech and knowledge transfers, developing standards, and promoting research and development efforts with industry-academia collaboration.



Times Now editor granted interim protection from arrest by SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday granted interim protection from arrest to Times Now TV channels' editor Navika Kumar in connection with FIRs lodged against her over controversial remarks made by former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Mohammad during a TV debate moderated by the news anchor.

A Bench of Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli issued notices to the Centre, West Bengal government, and others on Kumar's plea seeking quashing of proceedings initiated against her. "As an interim measure, no coercive action shall be taken against the petitioner pursuant to the impugned FIRs/complaints or future FIRs/ complaints which may be registered with respect to the broadcast of May 26", the bench said. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Kumar, submitted that debate was going on over Gyanvapi mosque and suddenly one of the speakers said something, and then another retorted.

Rohatgi stated that the news anchor did not say anything and several FIRs were lodged against her. She in fact doused the fire by saying "we have to go by the Constitution", Rohatgi added. Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for the West Bengal Government, said the first FIR was registered in Kolkata and the FIR in Delhi is not connected with this.

At this juncture, Rohatgi said, "What is the special interest of the State of West Bengal in this matter? The bench then issued a notice in matter and sought replies in two weeks.

'Boarding gates too far, not enough buggies at T3'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee in its report has said that many boarding gates in Delhi airport's T3 terminal are very far from the security gates and not enough battery-operated buggies are operating between the two points.

The members of the Parliamentary Committee on Estimates, headed by GB Bapat, visited T3 with the representatives of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on September 26 last year. Its report was tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday.

The Delhi airport, which is operated and managed by GMR Group-led DIAL, has three terminals."The committee had observed that many of the boarding gates at this (T3) terminal were very far from the security gates which made it difficult for the passengers, especially old age, female and child passengers, to reach the boarding gates," the report mentioned.

Handheld electrostatic disinfection device developed by CSIR scientists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A team of CSIR scientists has developed a portable handheld electrostatic disinfection device that can be used in all kinds of public places by the small shopkeepers, households, and small businesses for effective disinfection and sanitization to fight the spread of pathogenic infections.

CSIR-CSIO Chandigarh transferred 'Portable Handheld Electrostatic Disinfection Device' to M/s. Rite Water Solutions (I) Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur, Maharashtra

Dr. Manoj K Patel, Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIR-CSIO), Chandigarh, who led the team in designing developing the innovative and advanced technology for effective disinfection and sanitization to fight the spread of pathogenic infections, said that the technology has been transferred to Rite Water Solutions (I) Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur, India for commercialization and large-scale production.

"The technology is very efficient and effective to stop the spread of the CORONA virus and pathogens," said Dr Patel.

The technology works on two fronts. First, the charged droplets kill the virus in the air due to highly charged droplets. Secondly, the charged droplets reach the hidden areas of any target where the viruses hide. The device is very handy, portable, and handheld, which can be used by the small shopkeeper, households, and small businesses, further added by the innovator, explained Dr Patel.

On behalf of Rite Water Solutions, the Transfer of Technology (ToT) pact was inked by its Director Abhijeet Gan, Director, while Dr. A.K. Shukla, Senior Principal Scientist & Head, Business Development & Project Management (BDPM) represented CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh in presence of Prof. S. Anantha Ramakrishna, Director, CSIR-CSIO among others.

Take suo motu action in Ayodhya land scam: Cong urges SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognisance of an alleged "land scam" in Ayodhya and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi break his 'silence' on the issue.

The Congress' attack came after the Ayodhya Development Authority accused 40 people, including the City mayor, a local BJP MLA and a former party legislator, of illegally trading plots and building infrastructure there. While Congress general secretary and chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh questioned the silence of Home Minister Amit Shah in the BJP led govern-

ment's scam in the name of Maryada Purushottam Lord Ram, party spokesperson, Congress spokesman Supriya Shrinete alleged a "huge property scam" is happening in Ayodhya.

"We have been saying this since June 2021 when things came to light on how the land scam is happening in Ayodhya but now the Ayodhya development authority has put out a list of 40 people who have been involved in a land scam in the building of the Ram temple and prominent among those are the Ayodhya's BJP MLA Ved Prakash Gupta BJP mayor Rishikesh Upadhyay, former BJP MLA Gorakhnath Baba and multiple officers in the UP government whose rel-

atives have bought land," Shrinete said at a AICC press conference. She said people donated out of faith, but when their money is "played around" it is like "stealing from that donation". "Why are BJP leaders acquiring more land at low cost and then selling it at steeply high prices to the temple trust with the cognisance of temple trust members," she asked.

"The only probe that is happening into the land scam is at the district magistrate-level. How can DM probe the MLA, the ex-MLA, the ministers in the UP government," he said. Shrinete also questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah on matter.

Lok Sabha passes Bill to rename arbitration centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha on Monday passed a Bill to rename the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre as the India International Arbitration Centre.

Piloting the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said the objective of the amendment is to have world-class arbitration in the country.

He said that though it is a small Bill, sometimes "a small step can be a giant leap". The minister further said arbitration would also help in reducing pendency of cases in the country.

According to the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, "it is considered imperative to change the name of the Centre from New Delhi International Arbitration Centre to India International Arbitration Centre so that a unique identity of the institute of national importance as con-

ferred on it by law is evident and reflects its true objective".

"It has been felt that the (New Delhi International Arbitration) Centre, being an institution of national importance, gives an impression of being city centric whereas it should be reflective of the aspirations to promote India as a hub of institutional arbitration and establish itself as a centre of international commercial arbitration," the statement said.

On remarks by some members that corporates prefer Singapore and London for arbitration, the minister said work was going on and India would "definitely" become a global hub for international arbitration. "Businesses will come to India also," he added. On increasing pendency of court cases, Rijiju said judges were working to dispose cases at a faster pace now.

Participating in the debate, Amar Singh of the Congress said all big corporates were going to Singapore and London for arbitration. BJP's Ramesh

Bidhuri suggested that cases should be resolved within their stipulated time. Saugata Roy of the TMC described the Bill as a "superfluous legislation". He said international businesses, including those of Indian industrialists Ambanis and Adanis, go to Singapore for arbitration.

"Why has the government not made any progress to make New Delhi a major centre for arbitration," he asked. Supriya Sule of the NCP stated that the Bill talks only of a name change and is a "colossal" waste of Parliament's time.

There is really nothing else in this Bill and this is appalling, she said. Sule added that intellectual lawyers and high-net individuals were leaving India. "Why do you not introspect to improve and strengthen the system instead of bringing a law of just changing names?" BSP MP Kunwar Danish Ali flagged issues on the current judicial infrastructure in India, and referred to the case of journalist Mohammed Zubair's arrest.



JEE-Main: 24 candidates score perfect 100, result of 5 students withheld for using unfair means

New Delhi: Twenty four candidates have got the perfect score in the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main, results of which were announced on Monday, according to the National Testing Agency (NTA). Result of five candidates has been withheld by the agency for using unfair means.

Maximum candidates bagging top score in first edition of JEE-Main, 2022 are from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (5) followed by Rajasthan (4) and Uttar Pradesh (2). One candidate each from Haryana, Maharashtra, Assam, Bihar, Punjab, Kerala, Karnataka, Jharkhand, has bagged the perfect score.

PTI



Street vendors were seen selling national flags on roads ahead of Independence Day celebrations in Delhi on Monday.

RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

Jamaat-e-Islami J&K raided over terror financing case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday conducted searches at Doda and Jammu Districts of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the Jamaat-e-Islami J&K Terror Financing Case.

The NIA said it conducted searches at premises of six suspects in Doda and one suspect in Jammu in the case relating to Jamaat-e-Islami J&K, which even after its declaration as Unlawful Association in 2019, continues to raise funds in various forms purportedly for charitable purposes.

"These funds are however being diverted to terrorist organisations, such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Toiba etc for promoting terrorist activities in Kashmir valley as well as

the rest of India," the agency said in a statement. The case was registered suo-moto on February 5, 2021. Earlier, the agency had filed a chargesheet against four persons in the case. The searches conducted during the day led to recovery of incriminating literature, receipts of funds raised by JEI J&K, bank and property related documents, and electronic devices. Further investigations in the case are in progress, it added.

The case relates to the activities of the JEI members, who have been collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations, particularly in the form of 'Zakat, Mowda and Bait-ul-Mal' purportedly to further charity and other welfare activities, but are using the money for "violent and secessionist" "JEI has also been moti-

2 Bangladeshi nationals held for propagating Jihad in India

New Delhi: Two "highly radicalised" Bangladeshi nationals, allegedly involved in propagating 'Jihad' in India by posting hateful and incriminating materials online, were arrested from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, a NIA spokesperson said on Monday. Hamidullah alias 'Raju Gaji' of Narayanganj district and Mohammad Sahadat Hussain alias "Abidullah" of Madaripur district in Bangladesh were arrested on Sunday.

PNS

ED attaches deposits, shares worth ₹1.12 cr in Arunachal investors' cheating case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has attached bank deposits and shares worth Rs 1.12 crore in connection with a money laundering probe linked to a case of cheating people in Arunachal Pradesh after promising high returns on investments.

The agency issued a provisional attachment order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Algo Academy and some others, the agency said.

"Proceeds of crime generated by the accused have been layered by transferring amount to various bank accounts and thus (the accused) used banking channels to conceal the actual origin of tainted money.

Bihar politics: Cong hopes to be bridge between JD(U) and RJD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

The swift political developments in Bihar have given a fresh hope to the Congress that it may emerge as the 'bridge' between the ruling JD (U) led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the partners of the Mahagathbandhan comprising major stakeholders Lalu Yadav's RJD, Left and the party itself, in case a new alliance is forged during the next couple of days. AICC sources said in any case whatever the role the grand old party would play, it is likely to not go beyond the popular opinion of Nitish Kumar as the CM of Bihar. The development is crucial as the Congress just recently lost power in Maharashtra as the Eknath Shinde-led revolt split the Shiv Sena and the MVA government was ousted.

The RJD with 80 MLAs, after four AIMIM MLAs joined it a couple of months ago, is the largest party in the Bihar Assembly while the BJP is the second largest with 77 legisla-



tors.

While the top leadership of Congress will take a call after the separate meetings of JD(U) and RJD in this regard on Tuesday, the State unit of the party has been asked to meet to discuss the political situation in the state and to "accept" Nitish Kumar into the opposition camp if he chose to sever ties with BJP. Sources said Nitish has already done his homework and spoken to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in this regard.

Nitish has convened a meeting of JD(U) MLAs and MPs on Tuesday to discuss the scenario that emerged following the exit of former national president RCP Singh. Talking to media, JDU chief Rajiv Ranjan Singh

alias Lalan did not react to speculations that Nitish was planning to walk out of the NDA but took exception to the claim that the BJP had decided who would be a minister from the JD(U).

"The chief minister has called the meeting of party MLAs to know their views about the situation that has emerged in the wake of the RCP episode," said Lalan.

Amid the brewing political storm, RJD said it was ready to "embrace" Nitish and his JD(U) if he broke ranks with the BJP. RJD national vice-president Shivanand Tiwary said that convening meetings of legislators by both parties on Tuesday were a clear indication that the situation was extraordinary.

"If Nitish chooses to dump NDA, what choice do we have except to embrace him. RJD is committed to fighting the BJP. If the chief minister decides to join this fight, we will have to take him along," said Tiwary.

AICC secretary Shakil Ahmed Khan, who is also a party MLA, said the meeting will be held at the residence of

Congress legislature party leader Ajeet Sharma and is likely to be attended by the party's in charge of Bihar, Bhakt Charan Das, who would reach from Delhi.

"We always believe that parties with similar ideologies (samaan vichardhara) should come together. If the CM's JD(U), which believes in socialist ideology, quits BJP we will definitely welcome it. But these are early days. We will discuss the unfolding situation at the meeting in the evening," said Khan when sought for his comments on the sudden developments.

Asked to comment on reports that Kumar had spoken to Sonia Gandhi over phone, Khan said "I cannot confirm it. Only top leaders of the party can comment on such matters". He dismissed queries about any realignment hitting a roadblock on account of the Congress' estrangement with RJD and the Left. "We wholeheartedly participated in Sunday's 'Pratirodh march' in the State by the combined opposition," he said.

Don't accuse me of conspiracy, take on BJP, Chirag tells JD(U)

PTI ■ PATNA

Former Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Chirag Paswan on Monday hit out at the JD(U) and dared it to take on the BJP directly instead of accusing him of involvement in a conspiracy to dent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's popularity.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr Paswan claimed the chief minister faced "greater danger from his close aides than from me" even as he alleged that Kumar has insulted former JD(U) national president RCP Singh, and had previously humiliated Sharad Yadav and George Fernandes.

"Never before has one heard of a party accusing its own former national president of corruption. But, this is Nitish Kumar for you," Paswan said.

Paswan, who had in the 2020 assembly polls fielded candidates, many of them BJP rebels, in all seats fought by the JD(U) which saw its tally plummet from over 70 five years ago to under 45, bristled at the term "Chirag model" coined by Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan, the party's current national president.

"If there is a Chirag model, it stands for our call for 'Bihar First Bihari First', our vision for the state which the CM never respected. He should stop blaming



me for his party's debacle. The Janata Dal (United) is, indeed, a divided house. RCP has been made to quit. But Nitish Kumar needs to be wary of people like Lalan and Upendra Kushwaha," he alleged.

Paswan mocked the JD(U)'s claim of Kumar having transformed Bihar during the more than a decade and a half he has ruled the state and cited the state's poor rankings in reports of the NITI Aayog.

"And when the NITI Aayog met yesterday, our CM refused to attend the meeting. It was an opportunity for him to air the state's demands before the prime minister. In the process, Bihar suffers on account of his arrogance," alleged the son of late Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan.

"What problem did Nitish Kumar have in attending the meeting even if he wants to oppose the BJP? Can he be a more vehement opponent than Mamata

Bannerjee and Arvind Kejriwal, both of whom were present," Paswan asked.

He said that because of the "tantrums of the Bihar CM", the spotlight is on whether he will continue in chair when it should have been on the floods and the droughts that affect different parts of the state.

The Jamui MP, whose father's party was split by rebellious members of his family last year and who now heads a splinter group called LJP (Ram Vilas), seethed at the JD(U)'s allegation that he had worked as a "mohra" (pawn) in the last assembly polls.

"I act as per the values I have imbibed from my late father whom the chief minister never gave due respect. The JD(U) should stop making allegations against me and if it suspects BJP of having hatched a conspiracy, it should take on the ally directly," he said.

Paswan, who has remained consistent in his admiration for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, deplored the JD(U) for appearing sympathetic towards the opposition's allegations of corruption and price rise.

"When they had run short of issues to fight the last assembly polls, they raised the bogey of jungle raj, to dissuade people from voting for the RJD. Now, they seem to be in a mood to join hands," he said.

TMC wants Governor post scrapped

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Senior Trinamool Congress leader and Bengal Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay on Monday demanded abolition of Governor's office saying it was not only redundant but also a burden on the exchequer.

The Bengal Minister said, "Our party has been bringing up this issue for quite some time that the office of the Governor has long lost its relevance and should be discontinued."

Chattopadhyay who replaced jailed minister Partha Chatterjee said in the State Assembly that the post of Governor was an "unnecessary burden on the State exchequer and should be discontinued... not only because it is a burden on the exchequer but also because it has outlived its utility ... it has been referred to in the

Sarkaria Commission report ... the Governor's office is a hindrance in a federal democracy ... at the most the functions of the Governor can be performed by the Chief Justice of the State."

The Trinamool Congress Government had been at constant loggerheads with the Raj Bhavan when former Governor and vice president designate Jagdeep Dhankhar was in office accusing the then Governor of playing in the hands of the opposition BJP.

Reacting sharply to Chattopadhyay's statement State BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said that it was the same Trinamool Congress that repeatedly fell back on the Governor during the Left rule.

"Today the Trinamool Congress is talking like Marxists ... but once upon a time when they were in the opposition and they were fighting against the Left



Government it was the same party that repeatedly rushed to the Governor's House ... like they did during the Singur and Nandigram movements," Bhattacharya said.

CPI(M)'s Sujan Chakrabarty accused the TMC of double speak saying "when we used to raise the issue of how the post of the Governor was misused by the Centre Mamata Banerjee not only opposed us but contributed to that misuse ... but today they are only following our path."

Kerala Guv, CM on collision course over university appointments

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The stand off between Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala and the CPI(M) led State Government has reached a flash point by Monday as the former has expressed his displeasure over the goings in the institutions of higher learning in the State.

The Governor, who is also the chancellor of the Universities in the State is upset over the callous attitude shown by Gopinath

Ravindran, vice-chancellor of Kannur University for ignoring the letter from Raj Bhavan seeking explanation over the appointment of the wife of K K Ragesh, a CPI(M) leader who is also the private secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Priya Varghese, wife of Raagesh, was appointed as assistant professor, in violation of all norms and the Governor had asked the vice-chancellor to explain how norms were violated in her appointment. "Though the Governor had given ten days

time to the vice-chancellor to submit his explanation, the latter preferred to ignore the directive. This has upset the Governor and he is sure to initiate disciplinary action against the vice-chancellor, who is also a CPI(M) activist," said sources close to the Governor. The source who did not want to identify himself, said the Governor has taken note of the complaints against such appointments seriously. This is not the first instance when the relatives and associates of CPI(M) leaders have been

appointed in all the universities in the State violating all basic norms," said the source.

He also said that the Governor is convinced that the vice-chancellor has committed serious violation of the law of the land and nepotism in the appointments. "The situation in Kannur University is similar to the phenomenon of the fence installed to save the crop itself is eating the crop. The Governor feels that this is blatant violation of all laws and can never be ignored" the source said.

Sanjay Raut remanded in judicial custody till Aug 22

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Court on Thursday remanded Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha member and chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut to judicial custody till August 22 in a money laundering case linked to alleged Rs 1,034 crore Patra Chawl redevelopment scam.

After the Enforcement Directorate (ED) made a submission to him that it did not want to seek further custody, Judge MG Deshpande of Special PMLA court sent Raut to 14 days' judicial custody.

Having gone through the medical papers submitted by Raut indicating his heart disease, the court allowed home-cooked food and medicines to

the Sena MP while in judicial custody.

"ED has prayed to remand the accused (Sanjay Raut) to judicial custody. Accordingly, the accused is remanded to judicial custody till August 22", the Court said in its order.

Raut, who was detained by the ED on July 31 after a raid on his Bhandup residence and his questioning that lasted for more than nine hours, was formally placed under by the investigating agency at 12.05 am on August 1 under sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The PMLA court had earlier remanded Raut to ED custody till August 4.

The ED is investigating the alleged irregularities in a money laundering case pertaining to the redevelopment of

Patra Chawl by Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd a subsidiary of Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL).

The ED's action against Raut came nearly two months after the investigating agency attached provisionally properties worth Rs 11.15 crore belonging to three persons, including Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut, under the PMLA in a case relating to the alleged irregularities in the Patra Chawl redevelopment project in Mumbai.

The ED's action came as a follow-up of the arrest of Pravin Raut under PMLA on February 4 this year in connection with an alleged finding that Pravin Raut had received Rs 100 crore from the HDIL and "diverted" it to various

accounts of "his close associates, family member, his business entities" including the family of Sanjay Raut.

The ED's allegation is that in 2010, a part of the proceeds of crime of Rs 83 lakh was transferred to Varsha Raut from Madhuri Raut, wife of Pravin Raut. "This amount was utilized by Varsha Raut for purchase of a flat at Dadar. It is also revealed that after initiation of ED investigation, the amount of Rs 55 lakh was transferred by Varsha Raut to Madhuri Raut," the ED has said.

The ED's another allegation is that eight plots of land at Kihim beach at Alibaug were also purchased in the name of Varsha Raut and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar, a close associate of Sanjay Raut. Among other things, the

ED had told the court earlier that it had traced the amount of Rs 1,06,44,375 being transferred to the bank account of Sanjay Raut with his wife Varsha Raut

The ED counsel also told the court that the second allegation against Sanjay Raut related to the the purchase of certain parcels of land at Alibaug.

"Investigations have revealed that Sanjay Raut has infused/ utilised considerable amount of cash in the purchase of the land at Alibaug which has been confirmed by some other sellers and the cash component has been sourced from Pravin Raut," the ED counsel had told the court earlier..

It may be recalled that on April 5 2022, the ED had attached immovable properties worth Rs 11,15,56,573 under

PMLA in connection with the alleged irregularities in the Patra Chawl redevelopment project undertaken by Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd at Goregaon in north Mumbai.

Apart from that of Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut, the other individuals -- whose assets have been provisionally attached -- are businessman Pravin Raut, a relative of Sanjay Raut, and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar who is a close associate of Sanjay Raut.

According to the ED, the attached assets are in form of lands held by Pravin M Raut, former director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, Mumbai at Palghar, a flat at Dadar of Varsha Raut and eight plots at Kihim beach at Alibaug jointly held by Varsha Raut wife of Sanjay Raut and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar.



Soon PoJK displaced people will unfurl Tiranga in their homes: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A senior leader of the Bharatiya Janta Party's Jammu and Kashmir unit and former Member of the Legislative council Vibodh Gupta Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will execute the 1994 resolution shortly and the world will witness India's collective will to reintegrate PoJK.

Gupta asserted that soon PoJK displaced people will unfurl 'Tiranga' in their homes in PoJK.

Gupta, currently holding the charge of General Secretary, also took out a Tiranga Yatra along the Line of Control at Chakan- Da-Bagh in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign on Monday. While addressing the gathering Vibodh said that the entire country is celebrating Aazadi ka Amrit Mahautsav-75 years of Independence enthusiastically which has illustrated the example of India's unity and



integrity. Hailing PM Narendra Modi, he said that his vision and model of governance have brought people together. "Har Ghar Tiranga programme has given a clear message to the world that India is united to usher into a new era of development, prosperity, security and culture", added Vibodh.

Referring to the resolu-

tion of Parliament passed in February 1994 wherein it was unanimously accepted that Pakistan was to vacate PoJK, Vibodh asserted that BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji will execute the 1994 resolution shortly and the world will witness India's collective will to reintegrate PoJK.

He asserted that soon

PoJK displaced people will unfurl Tiranga in their homes in PoJK.

Speaking on the occasion District President Poonch Mohd Rafiq Chistee said that Azadi Ka Amrit Mahaotsava is being celebrated across the nation in the 75th year of independence and the people of Poonch are also enthusiastically participating in it.

BJP's bulldozer action on Tyagi a sham: Priyanka

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday shared photographs of Srikant Tyagi, accused of indecency with a woman in Noida, with several Bharatiya Janata Party leaders and tweeted that the action of the bulldozer was just an "eyewash" in the name of stern action.

She also asked who had come to save Tyagi and did the BJP government not know that he had got illegal constructions done?

Priyanka tweeted, "Didn't the BJP government know for so many years that the construction of the Noida BJP leader is illegal? Bulldozer action is a sham."

She alleged, "The government is avoiding answering these questions. Who is giving a man the courage to openly hurl indecent remarks and threaten women by sending 10-15 goons? Who is it that is coming to save him?"

Priyanka asked, "Under whose protection did his hooliganism and illegal business



flourish?"

A case has been registered against Tyagi, who claims to be a BJP leader, for indecently assaulting a woman from the Grand Omaze Society. It is being said that the woman had objected to Tyagi planting saplings in the common area of the society, which enraged her.

The Noida authority demolished an "illegal" construction built outside Tyagi's residence in the city on Wednesday. Tyagi is still absconding and the Noida police have sought the help of Special Task Force (STF) in searching him.

A cash reward of Rs 25000 has also been announced for helping the police in getting Tyagi arrested.

Ayodhya residents facing demolition of houses by ADA meet Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The residents of Ayodhya facing the onslaught of demolition of their residential buildings by the Ayodhya Development Authority met the leader of opposition in UP Assembly, Akhilesh Yadav, here on Monday and sought his intervention for protecting their assets.

They demanded that the illegal drive by the development authority for demolishing their houses be immediately halted.

Most of the residents facing the wrath of demolition are retired and serving officers of the Indian army. The wives of the serving army men were also part of the delegation which met Akhilesh Yadav, the former chief minister of UP.

They told the Samajwadi Party chief that they purchased the plots from their savings and even borrowed money to construct the house and suddenly the Ayodhya Development Authority was saying that their houses were



illegal and unauthorised and had issued notice for demolition.

Several houses have already been demolished.

The residents told Akhilesh Yadav that in revenue records the land where they had constructed the houses was registered as housing land and the Ayodhya Nagar Nigam had provided all municipal facilities like sewage and water. They said they were regularly paying the electricity bills and municipal taxes.

The delegation was led by former SP MLA from Ayodhya, Pawan Pandey. The SP chief assured the delegation that he would look into the matter.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Justice at last

The long arm of the law finally reached Shrikant Tyagi but it took longer than it should have

The Yogi Adityanath Government's order—to bulldoze the illegal structures the absconding politician Shrikant Tyagi had built outside his residence in Noida—will restore some faith in the system. It's a case of better late than never, for Tyagi, who has reportedly been terrorising the residents of a posh housing society, claimed to be a leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (The BJP denies that he was ever a party member). The claim was loud and clear, complete with his photographs with important BJP leaders on his social media posts. Also loud was the message in parenthesis: don't mess with me; I am well-connected. This was perhaps the reason that the local police and administration took little, if any, action against him and his shenanigans, including encroachments and violence, for a long time. Tyagi had occupied a part of the common area in front of his flat by constructing structures using pillars and tiles, despite objections raised by the residents' welfare association. While the Uttar Pradesh Government must be lauded for acting against Tyagi,



it must also be questioned as to how he could continue with his rowdy ways in the housing society for so long. After all, one of the key planks of the Yogi administration has been its ability to tame goons and mafia dons; and yet there was Tyagi in Noida—which is in the vicinity of the national capital and not in some faraway place like, say, Bundelkhand—who was not just intimidating the neighbours and violating all rules and regulations but also brazenly claiming to be a member of the ruling party. Would there have been any action had the video in which he is shown badmouthing and manhandling a woman not gone viral? The answer may not be very comforting.

The entire episode highlights four points. First and foremost, governance and maintaining law and order are reactive rather than proactive. Action should have been taken against him not after but before the video became viral. About half a dozen cops have been suspended on grounds of dereliction of duty; it's a good decision. But even better would be efforts to bring about a system which precludes dereliction of duty in the first place. Second, sloganeering and rhetoric are not substitutes for statecraft and policing. Setting narratives, smart one-liners, and clever memes have their importance in politics, but to keep public opinion on their side—or at least not opposed to them—the powers that be have to do something more substantive than continuous messaging. Third, social media, often blamed for a lot of bad things, can also help ensure justice. It was after all the viral video that led to action against Tyagi. And, finally, we come to... well, a cliché: the power of one. The guts and gumption of one woman will bring him to justice. The citizens of India need not shout or fight like Sunny Deol to get justice. They just have to take a stand.

PICTALK



Under-15 and 17 hockey players make a formation of '75' to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in Mumbai

PTI

Is religious freedom waning?

India's image as a tolerant society is under duress due to untoward incidents happening rather frequently

The Indian government has sharply reacted to the comments made by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that religious freedom is being undermined in India and the attacks on a place of worship were on the rise. Losing no time MEA spokesperson debunked the statement saying 'vote bank politics was being practiced in international relations and that the comment was ill-informed and advised the US to 'avoid making an assessment based on biased views.' Indeed the MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi did the right thing by rejecting the report on international religious freedom on which Blinken made a statement. Though it will take some time to decipher what he actually meant by saying 'vote bank politics is at play in international relations.' The report on international religious freedom was released some time back and took a serious note of religious intolerance manifesting in attacks on minorities and places of worship in India. We have to make it clear to everyone in unequivocal terms that it is nobody's business to tutor us. India is a sovereign country capable of dealing with such incidents if any. It has been our long-standing policy. We have maintained that no one has the right to interfere in our internal affairs. But now it seems we are wobbling in our approach. When Nupur Sharma made comments that didn't go down well with the gulf countries, she was quickly admonished and an FIR was filed against her.



The fact of the matter is that today the old plank of 'don't meddle in our internal affairs' doesn't work. Several human rights organizations and individuals take it to the international fora and that becomes an embarrassing situation for the government. In today's world nothing can remain under wraps for long and becomes headlines around the world. Besides, no country can survive in isolation, sanctions and boycott by the world community can hurt. The best way to avoid it is to not let such things happen in the first place. The government should take strict steps so that religious freedom is protected. Let's face it no matter how hard we try to sell that everything is hunky-dory in the country but there aren't buyers for it. Reason, it is not. We all know it and sweeping it under the carpet doesn't help. If we can criticize Pakistan for the plight of minorities and religious intolerance there, we cannot stop others from pointing fingers at us. The world has changed and it is becoming difficult for all governments to hide their dirty secrets. Even the US has a lot to explain when it comes to human rights abuses there.

Fighting terror the Husain way

We can draw lessons from the life of Imam Husain to deal with the people who revel in hatred and have scant regard for humanity and human life



HASAN KHURSHID

John Bradshaw once said, "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." Can man stand up to these conditions? "Man can but not necessarily with ease", Imam Husain managed to say daringly from the battlefield of Karbala (Iraq).

From Plato to Locke, all philosophers have been concerned about the danger of power being cornered by unscrupulous elements. The lust for power has been the seed of all-around corruption. There are certain crucial moments in the evolution of the human race, in which according to Ludwig Beethoven, "fate knocks at the gate of existence." These are instances in which socially active individuals are called upon to defend what is right and true, even risking their lives. Virtuous people who were endowed with sagacity and foresight always disliked sitting on the fence just listening to scheming, transgressor, and libertine despots. They acted as if they were the people who valued rectitude and struggled hard to preserve righteousness.

One such most critical situation arose when after the demise of Holy Prophet Mohammad, the school of Islamic thought, philosophy, culture, and administration was shifted to Caliphate with temporal and ecclesiastical powers. The four caliphs were Abu Bakar, Umar, Usman and Imam Ali Murtaza. Ali was assassinated by the henchman of the conspirator and hypocrite Muawiya son of Abu Sufian while Imam Ali was prostrating before Allah in the mosque. Subsequently, Muawiya deceitfully usurped the seat of the Caliphate in Syria and with the might of a sword declared himself the self-appointed caliph. Muawiya, the first ruler of the House of Umayyads displaced the democratic Islamic rule by oligarchical and barbaric despotic rule.

After the death of Muawiya, his son accursed Yazid ascended to the Caliphate seat of Syria. He was a heartless brute and had surpassed all his ancestors in practicing evil and vices. Yazid ibn Muawiya was a hard-core terror-



ist and libertine. The barest mention of Yazid's objectionable character is taboo in this civilised society. Yazid was the mammon of unrighteousness whose lust for power prompted him to beat society into the mould he favoured. Yazid's criminal behaviour indicated the extreme occurrence of vulgar, inhuman innovations in the established Islamic values.

On the contrary, Husain was recognised throughout the Arab world for his excellence of behaviour, wisdom, compassion, and piety. Yazid instructed his governor Walid in Medina to force Husain to pledge allegiance to Yazid. Husain refused.

Husain's patience snapped when Yazid firmly demanded homage from him. Husain refused to subscribe to Yazid every time he was asked for allegiance as caliph and the leader of the faithful. Husain realized that the consequences of this prolonged anarchy in Islam and a wrecking triumph for immorality will permanently deface the true faith and a distorted pseudo-religion will emerge in the guise of Islam. Yazid bargained hard to choose between allegiance to him or facing death. Husain had a clear choice: either stand

“THE HEADS OF 72 MARTYRS, INCLUDING THE SIX-MONTH-OLD ASGHAR, WERE SEVERED FROM THEIR BODIES AND RAISED ON LANCERS. THE BODIES WERE TRAMPLED BY HORSES. THE TENTS OF HUSAIN'S REMAINING FAMILY MEMBERS WERE TORCHED.

aside and let Yazid act according to his whims, justifying his abominable escapades, or counter and confront his lurking menace and acrimonious campaign. Husain who had to ensure the pristine purity of Islam refused allegiance.

The Karbala episode dates back to the 10th of Moharram, 61 Hijri (October 10, 680 AD), when there unfolded a grim spectacle. Husain be sought Yazid's commander-in-chief to let him go to 'Hindustan' but the proposal was rejected. On the morning of 10th Moharram, Husain and 72 immediate family members, including the children and a few companions were mercilessly massacred. Youngest among the martyrs was Husain's infant son, Ali Asghar.

The heads of 72 martyrs including the six-month-old Asghar were severed from their bodies and raised on lancers. The bodies were trampled by horses. The tents of Husain's remaining family members were torched. The children and ladies were made prisoners, paraded handcuffed, and fettered through the bazaars of Kufa and Syria until produced before the tyrant Yazid who was Satan in human form.

To remember the great sacrifice of the Lord of Martyrs, Imam Husain, men, and women, young and old, not only from the Muslim community but also from other faiths gather in homes and Imam bargahs to conduct majlis (congregation), where mournful tributes are paid to Husain through elegies called salam, soz, marsia, nauha and lyrical dirges. The congregation moves inexorably towards a crescendo of grief. The audience groaning heartbreakingly with tears, "Wa Mohammada, kushtashud Husain (O Mohammad, Husain has been assassinated).

Imam Husain is revered not only by Muslims but people of other faiths. The painting by Italian artist Bruno Cabrini shows how Muharram processions had tazias (relicas of Imam Husain's mausoleum in Iraq), during the 18th and 19th centuries in Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. Not only this, the Scindia of Baroda and Holkar of Indore conducted majlis. Even today, in Lucknow and heart of the Hinduism, Varanasi, Hindus join Muslims in mourning sessions.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AKASA AIR IN THE SKIES

Sir — Akasa Air, India's newest airline backed by billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala expects to start operations in one of the world's most competitive aviation markets later this month.

Akasa received its flying license from the Indian aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation after successfully operating test flights. Chief Executive Officer Vinay Dube hailed Akasa Air's entry as India's greenest, most dependable and most affordable airline.

Akasa is trying to stand out from rivals by taking an unusual approach of offering stock options to a larger pool of top employees, rather than a select group of senior executives. With a focus on sustainability, Akasa's cabin crew will wear clothes made from recycled fabrics such as plastic bottles recovered from marine waste.

Sadiksha Agrawal | Ujjain

DHANKHAR WINS HANDS DOWN!

Sir — Dhankhar's huge victory margin indicates that he managed to draw support even from the Opposition ranks. The VP, who is mandated by the constitution to serve as the Rajya Sabha's ex-officio chairperson, has the difficult task of conducting important legislative business in a polarised House. Since as a Governor, he often exceeded his brief, leading to conflicts with the duly elected West Bengal Government, there is every doubt that under his chairmanship it is unlikely to be a genuine forum for the voice of opposition. The best way for him to do so is to remain tuned to the legacy of his distinguished predecessors.

He should neither allow himself to be dictated to by the Treasury benches nor be guided by the pressure of the Opposition. He should be mindful of the illustrious personalities who have occupied that high constitutional office and set an exemplary benchmark of excellence while performing their duties and conducting the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha with

WILD SPECULATION ON MAMATA-PM MEET

Speculation is rife on the Mamata-PM meet. Former Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy has asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convince people that there is no 'setting' between him and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. There is indeed no permanent friend or permanent enemy in politics. The apprehension of Roy is that the 'thieves of Trinamool and/or the murderers of BJP workers' would go scot-free. The abstention of TMC from voting in the Vice Presidential election gives fillip to the suspicion that there is a 'setting' between the PM and CM (of West Bengal). Roy has missed the point that the meeting between Modi and Mamata has not taken place secretly. TMC sources said that Mamata took up various issues like MNGREGA dues and GST with the submission of a memorandum quantifying the total dues at ₹1,00,968.44 crore. This could be true also. But BJP's Dilip Ghosh has alleged



that Mamata uses these meetings to send out a signal that a setting has been made. He has advised that the center realize this and not fall for it. Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has felt consternation after the meeting fearing rapprochement between the two ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election. He has alleged that both of them want a Congress-mukt Bharat. CPI(M) has also echoed the voice of Congress. Commonly, political opponents make allegations.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

impartiality, dignity, and decorum. He should rise to the challenge by deriving appropriate lessons from the legacy of Shekhawat, who, while hailing from the BJP, acted in a highly bipartisan manner and emerged as a role model.

KV Chandra Mouli | Mysuru

IT IS A GOLD RUSH

Sir — India's gold rush, so to say, in the Commonwealth Games event can largely be attributed to athletics, boxers, and other field sports. The Indian contingent is participating for the 18th time in the Commonwealth Games and has attained position 5 in the medal tally table. It all started when the famous Indian weightlifting champion, Mirabai Chanu, won the first gold medal for India in the Women's Weightlifting Championship (49 kg). Sanket Sagar was the first Indian athlete to win a silver medal in men's weightlifting (55 kg) at CWG 2022 Birmingham. Sudhir won the first gold medal for India in para-sports. In the last edition of the games, when it was held on Gold Coast,

India finished third with 66 medals including 26 gold medals. Now, with the country excelling in other sports like table tennis and shuttle badminton, a bigger medals tally is expected at the Commonwealth Games 2022.

Krishnan S Maniam | Calicut

BRIBE GIVER IS EQUALLY GUILTY

Sir — Saddened to read the article "Pandora's box of corruption" published in the August 8 issue that 269 government primary teachers were not eligible for the post of teacher. They got this job by giving bribe. Recently, the way Kubera's treasure was found in the house of Bengal's Education Minister and one of his female friends, it became clear why such parties want to come to power and why the MLAs of these parties want to become ministers. Bribing must be condemned as it is a social evil as well.

Rajender Kumar Sharma | Rewari

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Every state has played a 'crucial role' in fight against Covid and the country's federal structure has emerged as a "model for the world"



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



As the climate crisis gets worse, extreme weather will pose a rapidly growing danger... we are investing more than \$1 billion to fund climate resilience projects.

US Vice President

—Kamala Harris

I think they've run out of new things to write about me. So when I got married, I was newly-wed Alia.



Now, I'm pregnant Alia, pregnancy glow Alia, or mom-to-be Alia, baby bump hiding Alia and, baby bump flaunting Alia.

Actor —Alia Bhatt



"I want to thank my teammates (Paul and Chithravel). We are all supporting each other. We have been training together. Now we all will celebrate together.."

Athlete

—Abdulla Aboobacker

I believe Government will complete the incomplete you (Naidu) are leaving behind.



Congress Leader —Mallikarjun Kharge

FIRST COLUMN

SHARING HAPPINESS
GIVES GREATEST JOYS

Happiness need not be outside;
it is an expression of self



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

As per World Happiness Report 2021 released by New York based Sustainable Development Solutions Network, India stands at rank 92 in the global happiness ranking list. Happiness is an aspiration of every human being, and it can also be a measure of social progress. Search for happiness is said to be as old as mankind. However, most of us tend to look outside for happiness, feeling that it must be lying somewhere else since we are not experiencing it within ourselves.

Happiness actually is an innate quality of the soul. Hence, each one of us should be experiencing it all the time. But most of us do not. Right? Why is that so? Simply, because we are more focused on the external aspects of our life – our body, roles, responsibilities, possessions, etc., as a result of which we lose our connection with this inner resource of happiness.

When our focus is external, we also tend to blame other people and situations for our state of unhappiness. We think that if the people or circumstances that make us unhappy go away, we will be happy. In doing so, we forget that whether to be happy or not is a matter of our choice. People or situations cannot alter the state of my mind unless I allow them to. So, if I decide to be happy, come what may, I can be so all the time. How we feel in any situation is decided not by the situation but by how we choose to respond. So, if things are going my way, I will certainly have no reason to be cross. But if they are not, I need not get upset, because I can see what I can do about it and get things done differently next time.



And even if there is nothing I can do about it, I can learn from the experience and move on. Then why do we get disappointed and irritated? It only takes away our happiness and reduces our ability to deal with the situation. That is why one must remember this forever, 'Happiness is my property, why should I allow any person or situation to rob me of it?'

Having faith in the intrinsic goodness of every human soul, and understanding that everyone is playing his or her role in this world, also helps us accept all kinds of situations and appreciate different types of people. It saves us from being judgmental, which can make our attitude towards others very negative and damage our relationships.

The biggest secret to happiness is to have good wishes and pure feelings in our heart for everyone. When we hold pure, good wishes in the heart for others, we can maintain a state of constant happiness, because good feelings are like a bouquet of flowers in our heart that spreads its fragrance inside and keeps ourselves happy.

We need to go within ourselves to tap the eternal source of happiness and for that firstly we need to be true to the self, know the self and be the self. Once we have understood the happiness that comes from within and as a result of the manner in which we conduct our lives and ourselves then it is possible to understand how to share that happiness with others. Increasing the happiness of others brings happiness to the self. So, keep distributing it to everyone, as this is the wealth that multiplies by giving, and brings the giver the added bonus of the good wishes and blessings of others.

(The author is a spiritual educator)

Unstable world energy market worries India

India has to tread cautiously to protect energy security amid growing global order uncertainty in fossil fuels



SHIVAJI **SARKAR**

The unstable world energy market, volatile prices and uneven supplies may have repercussions on India's energy security. The first to take the hit is the GAIL LNG deal followed by Russian demand for payment in the UAE dirhams converted in dollar terms.

The GAIL's troubles are traced to the German energy regulator taking over Gazprom Germania, which operates gas to storage and supplies to industries. The move followed Gazprom moving out of the subsidiary so that it could continue business without attracting sanctions. It has led to the default in delivery of five cargoes as per a 20-year-deal agreed in 2012 for 2.5 million tonne LNG a year.

It is dicey on oil supplies as well though Russian oil in April was about 10 per cent of India's oil basket. As much as 40 per cent of the Russian oil has been bought by private refiners—Reliance Industries and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy.

Russian Rosneft is dithering on supplying crude oil to two Indian state refiners, BPCL and Hindustan Petroleum, as it has committed sales to other customers. The stoppage of supply becomes a problem for GAIL, which meets 50 per cent of the nation's LNG needs. It is scouting for alternative fuel. But it faces the problem of Russia stopping supplies to Gazprom Marketing & Trading that owned the future gas contracts for supplying to Gazprom Germania and other subsidiaries. It used to supply from the Yamal LNG facility. After Russia's stoppage of supplies, Gazprom GM&T initially managed supplies from its floating international portfolio.

As prices rose to \$40 a unit and supplies to Europe became lucrative, it diverted supplies leaving GAIL in the lurch. In fact, the prices are so high that Gazprom Germania is said to have margins after paying damages under the take-or-pay clause. The GAIL has the option to take legal recourse but it is cumbersome, may take years and would not address the problems of the Indian consumers.

The GAIL has long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply contracts from the US to Australia supplementing domestic gas supplies though it may cost a bit more in the prevailing circumstances. Prior to the war, the US LNG used to cost one-third of the price of gas available in the spot or current market.

GAIL has a 5.8 million tonnes per annum LNG contract with US suppliers. These are all linked to the US gas market, where the current rate is \$10 per million British thermal unit. In comparison, the spot price of LNG in Asia is between \$37 and \$40 per million British thermal unit.

The GAIL and the petroleum ministry are scouring the markets for ensuring the supply. The Asian LNG prices are rising with intense demand from Japan, Korea and India. Trading activity in the Asia



THERE HAVE BEEN LONG QUEUES AROUND FUEL PUMPS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. SEVERAL PETROL PUMPS IN AND AROUND SRINAGAR AND RAJASTHAN HAVE ALSO FACED SHORTAGES.

(The author is a policy analyst)



LNG market rose as traders and end-users dipped back into the spot market to secure cargoes amid increasing global supply uncertainty as the Gazprom reduction of gas flow into Europe spooked an already fractured market due to the Freeport outage.

The world energy markets are seeing too many oddities. Domestic exports though have seen curtailment but of late with Russian crude being supplied to the private refiners, it is being exported again. The cap through an export tax clamped on July 1 for ensuring at least 50 per cent of the private refiners' production has been removed. The duty, imposed following fuel shortage in a number of states, has been waived off on petrol, and cut by a third on diesel and brought down the wind-fall tax by 27 per cent. The tax has been reduced from Rs 6 to Rs 4 on diesel and done away on petrol. The duty has been waived off on refined products and shipped from SEZs. This will give a big boost to mainly two private refiners Nyara and Reliance. A major benefit will be to the latter, as its refining is based in an SEZ in Jamnagar.

The duty reduction is also said to benefit ONGC and Oil India and Vedanata. Of late, according to tenders by Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum, diesel imports are expected to rise to its highest since February 202 at over 48,000 barrels per day. India's increased imports are telling on Asian fuel supply as planned petroleum supplies from China have been decreasing.

India is the world's third-largest oil consumer at about 5 million barrels a day. It is growing at 3-4 per cent a year and the demand is likely to go up to 7 million barrels a day in a decade. According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), India's oil import dependence was 85 per cent in 2019-20, which marginally declined to 84.4 per cent in 2020-21 and again rose to 85.6 per cent in 2021-22, while in April 2022 it rose to 86.6 per cent. This year's imports are to surge beyond the 212.2 million tonnes of crude last year.

The new exploration licenses announced are a good move but it may take a decade to start new production. The aim is to reduce imports to 50 per cent, which is too ambitious, by 2030. Apart from long gestation, the capital requirement is extremely high. India, despite odds, remains dependent on Russian oil. India's crude oil imports from Russia have jumped over 50 times since April and now make up for 10 per cent of all crude bought from overseas. Russian oil made up for just 0.2 per cent of all oil imported by India prior to the Ukraine war.

Unwillingness of Rosneft to give crude to three Indian state refiners—Indian Oil Corp (IOC.NS), Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCL.NS) and Hindustan Petroleum—is pushing Indian refiners to turn to the spot market for more expensive oil.

The country is facing some petrol and diesel shortages as fuel pumps are reportedly in several

states, including Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh and some parts of eastern and north-eastern states.

There have been long queues around fuel pumps in several parts of the country in the last few days. Several petrol pumps in and around Srinagar and Rajasthan have also faced shortages. The US-led sanctions on the energy tie-up with Russia have been contested by a number of gas-starved NATO members, including Germany, Europe's largest economy. Even Japan, the world's third largest economy after the US and China, says it will maintain oil and gas projects in Russia, citing the country's energy security concerns as the reason.

Germany and Japan are the most important US strategic partners in Europe and Asia, respectively. Only a week ago, Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Koichi Hagiuda made an emphatic statement that his country "does not intend to withdraw" from oil and liquefied natural gas development projects in Russia as they make a choice between energy security and tightening sanctions on Russia for the war in Ukraine.

Several Japanese trading and other firms have invested in the Sakhalin-1, Sakhalin-2 and Arctic LNG 2 (ARC 2) projects. Each has been deemed essential to Japan's energy security. A neutral India has to trudge through a difficult phase to maintain supplies from Russia and the West as well as keep the domestic prices low.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

NO HOPE LEFT IN SUPREME COURT, SENSITIVE CASES ASSIGNED TO ONLY CERTAIN JUDGES.
—ADVOCATE & RAJYA SABHA MP KAPIL SIBAL



JUDGMENTS CAN BE CRITICISED BUT INSTITUTIONS SHOULDN'T BE DENIGRATED.
—ADVOCATE & RAJYA SABHA MP MAHESH JETHMALANI



Rising US-China tensions can boost Indian manufacturing

While the US and China spar, India should seize the opportunities in the global supply chain shifts



NEERAJ SINGH **MANHAS**

The Indian economy has the world's most remarkable growth rate and is projected to grow at 7.1-7.6 per cent in 2022. The rising fuel prices caused by the Russian-Ukraine war have created instability worldwide. The South Asian nations like Sri Lanka and Pakistan are already experiencing the consequences, and even Bangladesh is now requesting a bailout loan from the IMF.

A recent report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected India has a zero per cent chance of getting into recession. Whereas a country like the U.S. has a 40 per cent chance, and China has a 20 per cent chance of getting into recession. So, it's important to note how the US-China rivalry could affect India's economy in the long term.

(The author is Director of research in the Indo-Pacific Consortium at Raisina House, New Delhi)

The rivalry started more recently on Donald Trump's last day in office. The US raised the issue of China's crime against humanity and genocide in the Xinjiang region against the Uyghurs and banned all imports from the area.

Second, the Joe Biden administration continued some of Trump administration policies, with more focus on action. It maintained the tariffs on Chinese imports and sanctioned Chinese officials over policies in Hong Kong and Xinjiang. The US banned dozens of Chinese companies and stressed competing with China.

Third, the collaboration on climate change and agreed to boost cooperation and work together on increasing renewable energy as both the countries are the world's top emitters of



Congress member Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan. China warned that US support for Taiwan is like playing with fire. The current situation of small-scale war between both countries arose. Biden has clearly stated that he would come in support of

Taiwan if China attacks it. The US deployed their nuclear warships, men in the Taiwan strait, for regular patrolling as China saw it as their internal matter, even supported by Russia. It will be essential to see further development in China's invasion of Taiwan.

India is one of the developing countries, so bad trade and tariff policies hurt India. India is seeking to give a boost to the manufacturing sector. This could be an excellent chance for India, as a report from the United Nations said that a few countries would benefit from the trade tension, and India is one of them.

The impact on India is both an opportunity and a threat. Everything has two sides, good and evil, and the trade problems between the two countries can

be a good thing for India. It will be an excellent chance for those who sell goods abroad. Since the US taxes Chinese goods heavily, Indian traders can fill the gap and take advantage of the opportunity.

Trade tension between the US and China has some adverse effects on India. Because of the trade tension between the US and China, other countries like India are also affected because they have to deal with the constant changes and can run out of finished goods or raw materials if demand increases. Also, taxes and fees became more expensive in the country.

At 80 rupees per dollar in July 2022, the value of rupees has already gone down. This happened simultaneously with Biden's threat of a new round of export tariffs, which automati-

cally hurt India's trade deficit. Investors are being more careful because of the global trade war.

As trade tensions between the US and China continue, the world economy and India's economy become less stable. Indian traders can fill the gap, and companies that make iPhones can establish factories in India, which is good for the country's growth. As the value of a country's currency falls, trade tensions are likely to rise. The CEOs of Indian companies need to come up with a business-friendly strategy and other plans to help the economy. If the US and China want to avoid a trade war, they must cut taxes as the economic growth of each country depends on trade, which is the backbone of every country.

Grain ship from Ukraine docks in Turkey, nuke plant shelled

AP ■ DERINCE (TURKEY)

The first of the ships to leave Ukraine under a deal to unblock grain supplies and stave off a potential global food crisis arrived at its destination in Turkey on Monday, as Russia again accused Ukraine of shelling Europe's largest nuclear power station.

The Turkey-flagged Polarnet docked at Derince port in the Gulf of Izmit after setting off from Chornomorsk on Aug. 5 laden with 12,000 tons of corn. "This sends a message of hope to every family in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia: Ukraine won't abandon you," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted. "If Russia sticks to its obligations, the 'grain corridor' will keep maintaining global food security."

Polarnet Captain Ahmet Yucel Alibeyler highlighted the risks faced by the three grain-carrying ships that left Ukraine.

"These were, of course, dangerous areas, corridors that had been cleared, demined," he said, adding that the convoy was escorted by a harbor pilot ship until it left the risky waters.

A total of 12 ships have now been authorized to sail under the grain deal between Ukraine and Russia, which was brokered by



Turkey and the United Nations - ten outbound and two headed for Ukraine. Some 322,000 metric tons of agricultural products have left Ukrainian ports, the bulk of it corn but also sunflower oil and soya.

Four ships that left Ukraine on Sunday are expected to anchor near Istanbul on Monday evening, Turkey's Defense Ministry said. They are due to be inspected on Tuesday.

Ships leaving Ukraine are checked by officials from the three countries and the U.N. To make sure they carry only grain, fertilizer or food and not any other commodities. Inbound vessels are checked to ensure

they are not carrying weapons.

But the grain deal remains far from plain sailing. The first ship to leave Ukraine, the Sierra Leone-flagged Razoni, which left on Aug. 1, will no longer dock in Lebanon and will change course, the director of the Tripoli Port told The Associated Press on Monday.

The Sierra Leonian-flagged Razoni ship, carrying 26,000 metric tons of corn for chicken feed that departed from Odesa last Monday was set to dock in the northern Lebanese port on Sunday. But according to Marine Traffic, it changed its status on Saturday to 'order,' meaning the ship was waiting for someone to

buy the corn.

"All that I know is that the ship is no longer coming here," Tripoli Port director Ahmad Tamer said.

Ukraine's embassy in Beirut tweeted Monday that the corn's final buyer in Lebanon refused to accept the cargo due to delivery delay beyond a contractual limit and that the shipper was now looking for another buyer.

The shipment had been a grain of hope for the economically-shattered tiny Mediterranean nation, also suffering from a food security crisis. Soaring food inflation, wheat shortages, and breadlines have crippled a population, of which

about half are food insecure, according to the United Nations World Food Program.

Meanwhile, Moscow again accused Ukrainian forces of shelling the territory of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station from Marganets on the opposite bank of the Dniper River on Sunday.

The station, occupied for months by Russian forces, also came under fire late Saturday and each side accused the other of the attack.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a statement Monday that the Ukrainian attack a day earlier caused a power surge and smoke erupted at the power plant's switch facility, causing an emergency shutdown.

Fire teams extinguished the fire, and the plant's personnel lowered the output of reactors No. 5 and No. 6 to 500 megawatt, Konashenkov said.

Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, recently warned that the way the plant was being run and the fighting going on around it posed grave health and environmental threats.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov urged Western powers to force Kyiv to stop attacking the plant.



Water crisis looms for eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk

AP ■ SLOVIANSK (UKRAINE)

The echo of artillery shells thundering in the distance mingles with the din of people gathered around Sloviansk's public water pumps, piercing the uneasy quiet that smothers the nearly deserted streets of this eastern Ukrainian city.

The members of Sloviansk's dwindling population only emerge — a few minutes at a time — to fill up at the pumps that have been the city's only water source for more than two months. Fighting between Ukrainian and Russian forces near the key city in the Donetsk region has damaged vital infrastructure that has cut residents off from gas and water for months.

The water flows for now, but fears grow that come winter the city only seven miles (12 kilometers) from Russian-occupied territory could face a humanitarian crisis once the pipes begin to freeze over.

"The water infrastructure was destroyed by the constant

battles," said Lyubov Mahlii, a 76-year-old widow who gathers 20 liters (around five gallons) of water twice a day from a public tank near her apartment, dragging the plastic bottles up four flights of stairs on her own.

"When there are bombings and sirens, we keep carrying it," she said on Sunday. "It's a great risk for us, but what can we do?"

Only a fifth of the city's pre-invasion population of 100,000 remains. With heavy fighting raging only miles away as Russian forces continue their push on Donetsk — part of the industrial Donbas region where Moscow-backed separatists have been battling Ukrainian troops since 2014 — residents defy the shelling to make do with the only water source left. And local officials believe things will only get worse once the cold sets in.

Locals fill their bottles with hand pumps or from plastic tanks at one of five public wells before hauling them home in bicycle baskets, wheeled carts and even children's strollers.

Myanmar's ambassador to China dies



AP ■ BEIJING

Myanmar's ambassador to China has died, the Chinese government said on Monday.

"I can confirm what you mentioned," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in response to a question about the reported death of Ambassador Myo Thant Pe.

He did not say when the diplomat had died or what the cause of death was.

Myo Thant Pe had been ambassador to China since 2019, Wang said.

"He dedicated himself to the development of China-Myanmar relations," he said. "We express our deep condolences and regret over his sudden passing and our sincere sympathies to his family."

China is one of Myanmar's closest allies and has expressed unequivocal support for the country's ruling military that seized power last year.

Fragile ceasefire between Israel, Gaza militants holding

AP ■ GAZA CITY

A fragile cease-fire deal to end nearly three days of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza held into Monday morning - a sign the latest round of violence may have abated.

The flare-up was the worst fighting between Israel and Gaza militant groups since Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers fought an 11-day war last year, adding to the destruction and misery that have plagued blockaded Gaza for years.

Since Friday, Israeli aircraft had pummeled targets in Gaza while the Iran-backed Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group fired hundreds of rockets at Israel. Over three days of fighting, 44 Palestinians were killed, including 15 children and four women, and 311 were wounded, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. Islamic Jihad said 12 of those killed were militants and Israel said some of the dead were killed by misfired rockets.

Israel on Monday said it was partially reopening crossings



into Gaza for humanitarian needs and would fully open them if calm was maintained.

Fuel trucks were seen entering a cargo crossing for the first time since crossings with the strip were closed last week, prompting a fuel shortage that ground Gaza's lone power plant to a halt on Saturday. The plant was set

to resume full operations later Monday. Gaza suffers from a chronic power crisis.

Life for hundreds of thousands of Israelis was disrupted during the violence. Security precautions imposed in recent days on residents of southern Israel were being gradually lifted Monday, the military said.



'Senseless to pressure' Lanka, says China after Colombo asks it to defer high-tech ship arrival

PTI ■ BEIJING

Riled by Sri Lanka's request to defer the planned docking of a high-tech Chinese research vessel at the strategic Hambantota Port, China on Monday took a dig at India, saying it was "senseless to pressure" Colombo by citing the issue of security concerns.

According to reports from Colombo, Sri Lanka has asked Beijing to defer the arrival of the Chinese space and satellite tracking research vessel 'Yuan Wang 5' which was scheduled to dock at the Hambantota Port from August 11 to 17 due to security concerns expressed by India.

Responding to the reports, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that Beijing has taken note of the reports and asserted that "the cooperation between China and Sri Lanka is independently chosen by the two countries and meets common interests. It does not target any third party".

It is "senseless to pressure Sri

Lanka" by citing the issue of security concerns, he said, in reference to the reports that Sri Lanka's move was attributed to concerns expressed by India.

"Sri Lanka is a sovereign state. It can develop relations with other countries in the light of its own development interests," he said.

"China urges relevant parties to see China's scientific explorations in a reasonable and sensible way and stop disturbing the normal exchange between China and Sri Lanka," Wang said.

Sri Lanka is a transport hub in the Indian Ocean. Many scientific exploration ships including those from China have stopped at the port of Sri Lanka for resupplies, he said. "China has always exercised the freedom of navigation in the high seas and fully respects the jurisdiction of coastal states for the scientific exploration activities within their waters," he said.

According to media reports, India informed Sri Lanka that the docking of the high-tech Chinese research vessel could pose a threat to its national security.

Sri Lanka received strong messages of protests from India as the ship was said to have the capability to track satellites and intercontinental ballistic missiles, the reports said.

UN chief urges nuke powers to abide by no-first-use pledge

AP ■ TOKYO

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday urged countries with nuclear weapons to stick to their no-first-use commitment of their atomic arsenals, warning that the nuclear arms race has returned amid growing international tension.

"This is the moment ... to ask the nuclear-armed countries to commit to the principle of non-first-use and to commit to not use and not threaten the non-nuclear countries," Guterres said at a news conference in Tokyo, two days after he visited Hiroshima to commemorate victims of the August 6, 1945, atomic bombing.

"I think that nobody, nobody can accept the idea that a new nuclear war would happen. This will be the destruction of the planet," Guterres said.

"What is clear is if nobody



uses for the first time then there will be no nuclear war."

Fears of a third atomic bombing have been on the rise amid Russia's threats of a nuclear attack since its war on Ukraine began in February.

On Thursday, Moscow shelled the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, which holds Europe's largest nuclear plant. When asked about the attack, Guterres said, "Any attack to a nuclear plant is a suicidal thing." He said he fully supports the International Atomic Energy Agency in their effort to stabilise the plant and have access to the facility to exercise its mandate.

Two more Lankan protesters arrested as they brace for national day of protest on Tuesday

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police on Monday arrested two more anti-government public protest leaders as they were preparing for a national day of protest on Tuesday, marking one month since the ouster of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

August 9 marks one month since the ouster of Rajapaksa. He fled the island nation two days later and sent in his resignation from Singapore on July 14.

On July 9, the anti-government protesters stormed Rajapaksa's office-cum-official residence forcing him to flee after continuous protests since early April calling for his res-

ignation for his handling of the worst economic crisis faced by the island nation since 1948. At least two of the protesters who had defied a court order in May were arrested on Monday while a prominent trade union leader who was arrested last week and had been ordered remand till August 12 was given bail by the court. Mangala Maddumage and Piyath Nikeshala are the two protesters arrested on Monday.

The police said the magistrate's court had refused two applications to ban the protest action scheduled for Tuesday. The court while refusing the orders said the police have the necessary power to crack down on any unruly protests.

The Nawanshahr Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd.; Nawanshahr
(Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar)
Ph.: 01823-222021, E-mail : desm_nar@yahoo.com;dcsmnsr@gmail.com
Website : www.nawanshahrsugar.com GSTIN No. 03AAAFD5602K2ZV
ON LINE SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
E-tender are invited from registered nominal members of the mills for the sale of 123100 qtls. Molasses of season 2021-22 lying with various cooperative Sugar mills in the state of Punjab. Tender can be submitted up to 16.08.2022 upto 11:00 AM & the same will be opened on 16.08.2022 at 02:00 PM. The Earnest money is @Rs. 50.00 per qtls. For participating in the above E-tendering process, Bidders shall have to get themselves registered with <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get user ID, Password, digital signature which is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. For any clarification regarding e-tendering process flow, please contact us on 9463284703, 8146556014, 0172-2791226. The undersigned reserve the right to reject any or all tender, without assigning any reason. DNIT, terms & conditions and molasses sale policy can be downloaded from website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Corrigendum if any, will be uploaded on the above said website only.
General Manager

Public Notice
TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN
It is informed to public at large that I, Asad Farooqi, was director in a company Ambar Infratech Pvt Ltd, till 26.07.2021. It is also informed to general public that I was never an active director in the above said Company and I did not take part in the management of the affairs of the Company. Anyone dealing with the said Company shall deal with them at their own risk and cost, the undersign will not be responsible for any loss suffered by anyone. The undersign also informs that Amber Infratech Pvt. Ltd is in possession of various documents belonging to undersign which might be misused, therefore the general public must ensure all the precautions before dealing with the company.
Date: 08.08.2022 (Asad Farooqi)

LOST & FOUND
Lost our original documents of form 38.
2013-2014/1801102994406, 2013-2014/18012101742511,
2013-2014/18012901477295, 2013-2014/18013902152606,
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2014-2015/18019000447077, 2014-2015/18019500484396
Bright Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida, L-20, Sector 18, Noida, UP, 201301
UPTD No : ND0113105 Dt. 12/10/2020
CST No : ND5107167 Dt. 12/10/2020
TIN No : 09965701195
Finder please contact Rahul Bhargav # 9718436765

OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED
CIN : L28219HR1988PLC030347
Regd. Office: Plot No. 17, Roz-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District - Mewat, Haryana -122103, India
E-mail : investor.relations@okplay.in, Website: www.okplay.in
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th JUNE, 2022
(Rs.in lacs)

Sl No	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated	
		Quarter Ended 30.06.2022 Unaudited	Year ended 30.06.2021 Audited	Quarter Ended 30.06.2022 Unaudited	Year ended 31.03.2022 Audited
1	Total Revenue from operations	3,076.41	1,038.84	7,640.77	4,111.81
2	Net Profit/(Loss) before Exceptional items and tax	(186.76)	(765.08)	(1,124.10)	(784.66)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	(198.13)	(768.54)	(1,132.26)	(788.17)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	(198.13)	(768.54)	(821.88)	(771.83)
5	Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the period (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	(202.23)	(768.54)	(817.78)	(767.73)
6	Equity Share Capital	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81
7	Other Equity (Reserves excluding revaluation reserve)	-	-	2,483.17	-
8	Earning per share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	(1.05)	(4.00)	(1.62)	(4.00)
	(a) Basic (in Rs.)	(1.05)	(4.00)	(1.62)	(4.00)
	(b) Diluted (in Rs.)	(1.05)	(4.00)	(1.62)	(4.00)

NOTES:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of quarterly financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.okplay.in).
2 The above standalone and consolidated financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on Monday, the 8th day of August, 2022.

for OK Play India Limited
Sd/-
RAJAN HANDA
MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIN - 00194590

Place : New Delhi
Date : 8th August, 2022

Protesters block roads in Iraq after third day of power cuts

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Demonstrators blocked roads as protests broke out in southern Iraq on Monday after power outages left many without electricity during scorching peak summer heat. Temperatures reached 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit), nearly matching last year's record high. Southern provinces, where the heat wave is most intense in Iraq, suspended working hours.

The Electricity Ministry last week announced a state of alert, anticipating outages as temperatures rise.

In the oil-rich province of Basra, dozens of people took to the streets for a third straight day and burned tires, blocking the main road to the provincial capital, to protest the power cuts.

While protests against power cuts took place in the south, the followers of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr entered their ninth day of a sit-in outside the Iraqi parliament building to demand early elections.

Many protesters in Basra said they



supported al-Sadr's protest and demands and said they were tired of rampant government corruption. Protests in the south are common in the summer. In 2018, protests over the lack of basic services turned violent. In 2019, they paved the way for mass anti-government demonstrations in the capital.

"It's not the first time we protest and it won't be the last," said Ali Hussein, 35, in Basra. "We are continuing our protests for electricity and water, which are very basic demands."

China continues unprecedented military drills around Taiwan even after end of 4-day schedule

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Monday continued its unprecedented military drills around Taiwan, extending the schedule of war games launched in retaliation to the visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the breakaway island which Beijing claims is part of its territory.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command, which oversees Taiwan, said on Monday it would continue drills in waters near Taiwan island, focusing on anti-submarine and air-to-ship strikes, state-run Global Times reported.

The PLA conducted joint drills involving all wings of its armed forces in six areas around the island from August 4 to 7.

The PLA's latest announcement notice did not specify the location of the exercises nor did it mention when they would end.

The PLA on Sunday proceeded with the plan and continued realistic combat-scenario joint exercises in the sea and air space around the island of Taiwan practicing island capturing drills and bomber deterrence flights in



Taiwan Strait, a rehearsal for real operation, state-run Global Times reported on Sunday.

The PLA Command in a late last night press release said its forces continued its joint combat training exercises as scheduled on Sunday in the waters and airspace around the Taiwan island.

The focus on Sunday was set on testing the capabilities of using joint fires to strike land targets and

striking long-range air targets, an early Monday state-run Xinhua news agency report said.

The air force under the theatre command deployed multiple types of warplanes, including early warning aircraft, bombers, jamming aircraft, fighter-bombers and fighter jets, to conduct drills on such combat missions as joint reconnaissance, airspace control operation, strikes

Australia calls for cooling off Taiwan Strait tensions

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong on Monday called for a cooling of tensions after Beijing accused her of "finger-pointing" in her criticism of China's military exercises in response to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

Wong criticised China's launch of ballistic missiles during the ongoing air and sea drills around Taiwan, which Beijing claims as part of its territory.

She also signed a joint statement with the US and Japan on Saturday that condemned firing of missiles into Japanese exclusive economic zones and accused China of "raising tension and destabilising the region". The Chinese Embassy in Australia replied to the trilateral statement, saying: "It is absolutely unacceptable for the finger-pointing on China's justified actions to safeguard state sovereignty and territorial integrity."

on ground targets, and air support and cover.

Supported by naval and air combat systems, the air strike forces, together with long-range multiple launch rocket systems and conventional missile troops, conducted drills of joint precision strikes on targets.

Multiple bomber formations flew across the Taiwan Strait from north to south and from south to

north, while several fighter jets conducted joint drills with destroyers and frigates.

The operation has tested the tactics of systems warfare under information-based conditions, and honed and improved the capabilities to destroy crucial island targets with precision strikes, Zhang Zhi, an air force officer of the PLA Eastern Theatre Command, said according to the report.

US-China relationship unlikely to improve soon: Singapore PM

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

The relationship between the US and China is unlikely to improve soon and the world is not likely to return to the low levels of inflation and interest rates it has enjoyed in recent decades, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Monday, warning that a "storm is gathering around us".

China has announced halting of cooperation with the United States in a number of

areas, including dialogue between senior-level military commanders and climate talks, in retaliation to US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

Last week, Pelosi visited Taiwan, prompting Beijing to hold military exercises in waters around the self-ruled island.

"Around us, a storm is gathering. US-China relations are worsening, with intractable issues, deep suspicions and limited engagement between



them," said Lee in his National Day message.

Singaporeans also have to be prepared that the region may not be as peaceful and stable as it has been so far, he said on the eve of Singapore's 57th National Day. He said the world is not likely to return to the low levels of inflation and interest rates it has enjoyed in recent decades.

While Singapore has weathered the test of the COVID-19 pandemic, the road ahead will not be easy and Singaporeans have to stand united, Lee said.



Top TTP commander Omar Khorasani, 3 others killed in mysterious blast in Afghanistan: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A top commander of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Omar Khalid Khorasani and three other top militant leaders have been killed in a mysterious blast in eastern Afghanistan's Paktika province, a Pakistani media report said on Monday.

A vehicle carrying senior commanders of the militant group, including Khorasani, was on Sunday targeted with a mysterious explosive device, according to Afghan officials and local sources, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

The top militants were travelling in the Birmal district of the province for a meeting when their vehicle hit a roadside mine, the report said.

All aboard the vehicle, also carrying other TTP commanders such as Abdul Wali Mohmand, Mufti Hassan, and Hafiz Dawlat Khan, were killed in the explosion, The Express Tribune quoted a senior Afghan official as saying.

According to a local source, the TTP leaders were travelling "for consultation" when their vehicle hit a roadside mine on Sunday.

Khorasani, who belonged to the Mohmand tribal district, was considered a top member of the TTP — the militant group which wants to impose the law of Sharia across Pakistan. Khorasani, who carried a bounty of Rs 10 million on his head.

Hafiz Dawlat from the Orakzai tribal district was an important member of the group and a close trustee of Khorasani, while Mufti Hassan hailed from the Malakand division and pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the deceased leader of the Islamic State terrorist organisation.

TTP intelligence chief Abdul Rashid alias Uqabi Bajauri was also killed in a landmine blast in Kunar province of Afghanistan on Sunday morning, according to local Afghan sources.

The TTP is yet to confirm these targeted killings of its top commanders, an incident that would certainly undermine the Afghan Taliban-brokered peace negotiations between the TTP and the Pakistan government.

Allies accuse UK Parl panel of Johnson's 'witch-hunt'

PTI ■ LONDON

The allies of Boris Johnson have accused a UK Parliament committee of conducting a "witch-hunt" against the outgoing British Prime Minister.

Johnson, who resigned in early July triggering a leadership election for the governing Conservative Party to pick a new party leader and the Prime Minister, continues to be investigated by the House of Commons Privileges Committee over whether he knowingly misled Parliament when he denied any breaches of COVID lockdown laws at Downing Street - known as the Partygate scandal.

The members of Parliament close to the 58-year-old outgoing leader believe that probe must now be dropped as he is on his way out.

"If this witch hunt continues, it will be the most egregious abuse of power witnessed in Westminster," said UK Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries, one of Johnson's staunchest allies.

One year after Afghanistan, spy agencies pivot towards China

AP ■ WASHINGTON

In a recent closed-door meeting with leaders of the agency's counterterrorism center, the CIA's No 2 official made clear that fighting al-Qaida and other extremist groups would remain a priority — but that the agency's money and resources would be increasingly shifted to focusing on China.

The CIA drone attack that killed al-Qaida's leader showed that fighting terrorism is hardly an afterthought. But it didn't change the message the agency's deputy director, David Cohen, delivered at that meeting weeks earlier: While the US will continue to go after terrorists, the top priority is trying to better understand and counter Beijing.

One year after ending the war in Afghanistan, President Joe Biden and top national security officials speak less about counterterrorism and more about the political, economic and military threats posed by China as well as Russia. There's been a quiet pivot within intelligence agencies, which are moving hundreds of officers to China-focused positions, including



some who were previously working on terrorism.

The last week makes clear that the US has to deal with both at the same time. Days after Ayman al-Zawahri was killed in Kabul, China staged large-scale military exercises and threatened to cut off contacts with the US over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

The US has long been alarmed by China's growing political and economic ambitions. China has tried to influence foreign elections, mounted campaigns of cyber and corporate espionage, and detained millions of minority Uyghurs in camps. Some experts also think Beijing will in coming years try to seize the self-ruled democratic island of Taiwan by force.



US Secretary of State Blinken sees South African counterpart

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's stance on Russia's war in Ukraine and the adverse effects of the conflict on African countries are expected to feature in a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and South Africa's Minister of International Relations Naledi Pandor on Monday.

Blinken is in South Africa as part of a three-nation tour of Africa including Congo and Rwanda in what is seen as a contest between Western nations and Russia to win support from African countries over the war in Ukraine. Blinken's tour follows similar trips to African countries by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and French President Emmanuel Macron. South Africa is among many African countries that have taken a neutral stance on the Ukraine war and avoided public criticism of Russia.

Singapore's Padang from where Netaji 'Delhi Chalo!' call to be declared nt'l monument



PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore's iconic green site Padang from where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose gave the slogan of 'Delhi Chalo!' in July 1943, will be declared a National Monument of Singapore on the city state's National Day on Tuesday.

The iconic site will be the first green, open space to join a list of 74 other national monuments of Singapore.

The monument will be preserved and accorded the high-

est level of protection in Singapore under the Preservation of Monuments Act in view of its "strong national, historical and social significance", said the National Heritage Board (NHB) on Monday.

"The Padang stands as a testament to Singapore's historical journey, anchoring our Singaporean identity and reflecting our place in the world," said Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, who attended a preview of some of the commemorative initiatives

on Monday.

The historic site is associated with key milestones in Singapore's history, including the victory parade celebrating the formal surrender of the Japanese in Singapore on September 12, 1945; the victory rally of the first fully elected Legislative Assembly on June 3, 1959; the installation of Yusof Ishak as the first Malayan-born Yang di-Pertuan Negara (head of state) and the unveiling of National Symbols on December 3, 1959 as well as the inaugural National Day Parade on August 9, 1966.

The Padang is also one of Singapore's oldest spaces for public recreation and celebrations, and has been hosting sporting events from the early colonial period. Professor Rajesh Rai, Head, South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore, elaborated on the Padang's link to Indian National Army (INA).

Fire engulfs historic wooden bridge in southern China



AP ■ BEIJING

Authorities are investigating the cause of a fire that engulfed a covered wooden bridge with 900 years of history in southeastern China over the weekend.

The entire length of the Wan'an Bridge appeared to be in flames in video and photos of the Saturday night fire in Fujian province's Pingnan

county. No one was reported injured in the blaze.

The 98-metre bridge is the longest of its kind in China. It has been rebuilt many times over the centuries, most recently in 1932.

The wooden structure, standing on five stone pillars, crosses a river and had a roofed, open-air walkway.

The original bridge was built during the Song dynasty.

UK PM race: Sunak, Truss feel heat over cost-of-living crisis



PTI ■ LONDON

The race to elect a new Conservative Party leader, who will take charge as British Prime Minister early next month, heated up on Monday as the two finalists - Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss - clashed over their proposals to tackle the soaring cost-of-living crisis across the country.

The issue of inflation and how best to curb it has emerged as the main battle line in the race to 10 Downing Street, with both candidates offering different approaches. While Truss has pledged immediate tax cuts if elected, Sunak has promised more targeted support for the

most vulnerable households and tax cuts further down the line.

A fresh row brewed out over the weekend after Foreign Secretary Liz Truss told 'The Financial Times' that her plan to lower taxes rather than offer handouts was more Conservative. This prompted an immediate rebuke from former Chancellor Rishi Sunak that it is "simply wrong to rule out further direct support" for struggling families this winter.

"Families are facing a long, hard winter with rising bills. Yet Liz's plan to deal with that is to give a big bung to large businesses and the well-off, leaving those who most need help out in the cold," Sunak writes in 'The Sun'.

"Worse still, she has said she will not provide direct support payments to those who are feeling the pinch most. We need clear-eyed realism, not starry-eyed boosterism. That means bolder action to protect people from the worst of the winter. I have the right plan and experience to help people through," he said.

RATHI STEEL AND POWER LIMITED	
CIN: L27109DL1971PLC005905	
Regd. Off.: 24/1, Block A, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi- 110044	
Email ID: investors@rathisteelandpower.com, Website: www.rathisteelandpower.com	
Notice and Agenda of Board Meeting	
This is to inform you that pursuant to the Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations And Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors of M/s Rathi Steel and Power Limited is to be held on Saturday the 13th Day of August 2022 at the Registered office of the Company at 12:30 PM to consider and approve following businesses as under :-	
ITEM NO. AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION	
Take note and confirm the following:-	
1.	To appoint Chairman of the meeting to call the meeting to order.
2.	To Ensure Quorum of the Meeting
3.	To grant leave of absence, if any.
4.	To take note and confirm the minutes of previous meeting of board of directors of the Company.
Consider and Approve following:-	
1.	To consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended on June 30, 2022
2.	Any other businesses with permission of the Chair.
For and on behalf of Board	
Sd/- (PREM NARAIN VARSHNEY)	
MANAGING DIRECTOR DIN: 00012709	
Place: New Delhi	
Date: 04-08-2022	

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED				
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC059252				
Regd. Office: 110, Babar Road, New Delhi - 110001				
EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30.06.2022				
(Rs. in Lacs)				
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended
		30.06.2022	31.03.2022	31.03.2022
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited
1	Total Income from Operations	-	20.37	-
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary items#)	-5.22	20.45	-5.04
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary items#)	-5.22	20.45	-5.04
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary items#)	3.39	33.87	-6.35
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	4.22	34.14	0.86
6	Equity Share capital	300.89	300.89	300.89
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	494.24	491.59	450.76
8	Earning per Share (face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)			
1. Basic		-0.21	1.13	-0.21
2. Diluted		-0.21	1.13	-0.21
NOTE :				
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com. The same is also available on the Company's website www.jltd.co.in.				
2. The above results duly reviewed by the Audit Committee, were approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 08.08.2022.				
For Jindal Leasefin Limited				
Sd/- (SURENDER KUMAR JINDAL)				
Managing Director				
Date : 08.08.2022				
Place : New Delhi				

ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED				
Regd. Off.: OSE Commercial Block, Asset 5B, Aerocity, Hospitality, District, IGI Airport, New Delhi-110037, Tel: 91-11-46044604,				
Email: spv.ose@gmail.com CIN: U45400DL2010PLC203649				
FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2022				
(Amount in Lakhs)				
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Year Ended
		30.6.2022	30.06.2021	31.03.2022
		(Un audited)	(Un audited)	(Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	12,671.00	13,179.00	126,032.50
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	5,651.00	6,118.00	24,289.08
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	5,651.00	6,118.00	24,289.08
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	10,482.00	3,927.00	16,499.19
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	10,482.00	3,927.00	16,499.19
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,813.45	1,813.45	1,813.45
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	121,193.29	117,239.90	121,721.60
8	Securities Premium	34,436.55	34,436.55	34,436.55
9	Net Worth	123006.74	119,053.35	123,535.05
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	232,493.98	251,929.96	232,440.00
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	0.00
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.89:1	2.12:1	2.11:1
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)			
1. Basic:		57.80	21.65	90.98
2. Diluted:		57.80	21.65	90.98
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Debt Redemption Reserve	19,231.40	0.00	19,231.40
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.05:1	1.12:1	1.32:1
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.01:1	2.02:1	2.03:1
18	Asset Coverage Ratio:	1.92:1	1.76:1	1.61:1
19	Current Ratio	3.08:1	4.60:1	4.01:1
20	Debtor Turnover Ratio	0.04:1	0.04:1	0.15:1
21	Inventory Turnover Ratio	NA	NA	NA
22	Long Term Debt to Working Capital	2.36:1	2.42:1	2.43:1
23	Bad Debts to Accounts Receivable	NA	NA	NA
24	Current Liabilities Ratio	0.11:1	NA	0.11:1
25	Total Debts to Total Assets	0.61:1	0.67:1	0.68:1
26	Operating Margin	0.53:1	1.07:1	0.21:1
27	Net Profit Margin	0.98:1	0.35:1	0.14:1

Note:

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly un-audited financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the quarterly audited financial results are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity (http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in).

b) For the other line items referred to in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity (http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in).

c) These quarterly un-audited financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on August 08, 2022. The Statutory Auditors have carried out limited review of the aforesaid results.

d) The financial results of the company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting standard prescribed under sec 133 of companies Act 2013.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of Oriental Nagpur Betul Highway Limited

Sd/-

Nikhil Dhangra

Director

DIN - 07835556

Place: New Delhi

Date : 08.08.2022

Verify transitional credit claims, CAG asks CBIC

New Delhi: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on Monday recommended that the indirect tax department should complete the verification of transitional credit allowed under the GST mechanism.

As part of transition to GST with effect from July 1, 2017, taxpayers were allowed to file Form TRAN-1 and avail tax credit on the basis of closing balance of the credit declared in the last return under the pre-Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime

In the Compliance Audit Report on GST for the year ended March 2021, tabled in Parliament on Monday, the CAG said audit review disclosed significant irregularities in the transitional credit claims of taxpayers.

It said that though the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in 2018-

19 had identified top 50,000 cases which claimed maximum transitional credit for verification, the exercise was not yet completed, and the department was yet to verify 8,849 cases.

“The rate of recovery of detected irregularities was low. Cross jurisdictional issues and lack of co-ordination in central tax jurisdictions in some zones impeded verification and initiation of recovery actions,” the CAG said.

Irregularities noticed were relatively higher in four categories viz; ineligible credit of duty paid goods in stock without documents, irregular claim on unavailed credit on capital goods, ineligible credit on inputs or input services in transit, and irregular claim on closing balances.

The audit recommends “ensuring verification of the high risk claims reflected in

Table 7aB of Tran 1 (credit on duty paid stock without invoices) and the cases where the transitional credit claim under Table 5a (closing credit balance of legacy returns) was in excess of the closing balance of legacy return.”

The CAG audit also found significant data inconsistencies between the taxable value and declared tax liability.

Inconsistencies were also noticed between the CGST and SGST components of GST, and between ITC figures captured in GSTR-3B and GSTR-9 returns.

“Due to significant inconsistencies in the GST data, audit could not establish the reliability of data, for the purpose of finding audit insights and trends in GST revenue, and assessing high risk areas such as tax liability and ITC mismatch at the pan-India level,” the CAG said. **PTI**

Sensex climbs 465 points; Nifty above 17,500



Mumbai: Equity benchmark Sensex jumped over 465 points on Monday, tracking gains in index majors HDFC twins and Reliance Industries amid positive global market trends.

The 30-share BSE gauge climbed 465.14 points or 0.80 per cent to finish at 58,853.07. During the day, it jumped 546.97 points or 0.93 per cent to 58,934.90. The broader NSE Nifty gained 127.60 points or 0.73 per cent to end at 17,525.10. Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest gainer from the Sensex pack, climbing 3.13 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, HDFC, Dr Reddy's, IndusInd Bank and Reliance Industries.

State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement, Nestle, Wipro and Power Grid were among the major laggards.

In Asia, markets in Seoul,

Shanghai and Tokyo ended higher, while Hong Kong settled with losses.

European bourses were trading in the green during mid-session deals. The US markets had ended mostly lower on Friday. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.68 per cent to USD 94.32 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital markets as they bought shares worth Rs 1,605.81 crore on Friday, as per exchange data.

“Sustained FII buying and falling oil prices are the major drivers for the ongoing market rally. Heavyweights played a significant role in today's rise, while PSU banks remained under pressure following weak results of the PSB major,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. **PTI**

Rupee falls 40 paise to close at 79.64 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee fell 40 paise to close at 79.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid waning risk appetite among investors.

Lower global crude prices and a rally in domestic equities restricted the losses to some extent, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened weak at 79.50 per dollar. It oscillated between a high of 79.45 and a low of 79.65 during the session.

It finally settled at 79.64, down 40 paise over its previous close of 79.24.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.25 per cent to 106.57.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.54 per cent to USD 94.38 per barrel.

On the domestic equity



market front, the BSE Sensex ended 465.14 points or 0.80 per cent higher at 58,853.07, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 127.60 points or 0.73 per cent to 17,525.10.

Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital market on Friday as they purchased shares worth ₹1,605.81 crore, as per exchange data.

After turning net buyers last month, foreign investors continued their positive stance on Indian equities and invested over ₹14,000 crore in the first week of August amid softening of the dollar index. **PTI**

Gold gains ₹97; silver jumps ₹527

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Monday rose by ₹97 to ₹52,490 per 10 gram amid rise in international precious metal prices along with depreciation in rupee, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at ₹52,393 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

Silver also jumped by ₹527 to ₹58,465 per kg from ₹57,938 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee depreciated 22 paise to 79.46 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, tracking subdued sentiment in the domestic equities.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,777 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 20.07 per ounce. “Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading at USD 1,777 per ounce,” said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. **PTI**

JSW Steel outlays ₹20,000 crore capex for FY23: CMD Sajjan Jindal

New Delhi: JSW Steel will invest over ₹48,000 crore in the next three years as part of its capex plan, the company's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Sajjan Jindal has said.

Out of ₹ 48,700, ₹20,000 crore capex (capital expenditure) is for the 2022-23 financial year, he said.

Besides, JSW Steel is also eyeing to amalgamate JSW Ispat Special Products with it by the end of the ongoing fiscal.

According to a regulatory filing on Monday, Jindal addressing a shareholder's query said: “The total planned capex for the next three years is ₹48,700 crore, which includes ₹20,000 crore planned for this current financial year.”

The composite scheme of amalgamation between the company and JSW Ispat Special Products Limited (Monnet Ispat) is expected to be completed during this financial year, he said.

In August 2018, a joint consortium of AION Investments Private II Ltd (AION) and JSW Steel Limited acquired controlling stake in JSW Ispat Special Products



Limited (formerly known as Monnet Ispat & Energy Limited).

The consortium was the sole bidder for the 1.5-million-tonne asset in Chhattisgarh. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had approved a ₹2,875-crore bid to acquire the bankrupt Monnet Ispat & Energy, which owed over ₹11,000 crore to a clutch of lenders.

As per JSW Steel, “The 5 MTPA (million tonne per annum) brownfield expansion at Vijayanagar is progressing well, with civil works underway at the site. The project is expected to be completed by the end of FY2024.”

The remaining downstream projects at Vasind and Tarapur are expected to be completed in the second quarter of FY23. **PTI**

IOC's ₹169 crore LPG plant in Agartala launched

Guwahati: PSU major Indian Oil Corporation has inaugurated its latest greenfield LPG bottling plant at Agartala, set up at an investment of Rs 169.11 crore, a senior official said on Monday.

The foundation stone for the plant was laid in 2017 and the project got completed as per schedule in February 2020, Indian Oil Corporation Executive Director (Indian Oil AOD) Ganesan Ramesh said.

“The Agartala bottling plant started commercial production in November 2021. The futuristic plant was built keeping in view the rising energy demand in Tripura and is designed using industry best



practices over a sprawling 40 acre land,” he said.

The plant was officially inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli and Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Pratima Bhoomik on Sunday. Ramesh said the company

Paddy acreage down 13% so far this kharif season; oilseeds, coarse cereals area up

New Delhi: Area sown with paddy is down 13 per cent till August 5 of the ongoing kharif season as acreage continues to lag in states like West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh due to deficient rains.

As per the data of the agriculture ministry, the area covered under paddy stood at 274.30 lakh hectare (LH) as on August 5, as against 314.14 LH in the year-ago period.

Less paddy acreage is reported from West Bengal (12.28 LH), Jharkhand (9.34 LH), Bihar (4.85 LH), Chhattisgarh (4.39 LH), Uttar Pradesh (3.82 LH), Madhya Pradesh (3.72 LH), Odisha (3.56 LH) and Telangana (2.89 LH).



India is the world's second largest producer and top exporter of rice. The country commands 40 per cent share in the global trade.

Rice output stood at record 129.66 million tonne in the 2021-22 crop year (July-June). India exported 21.2 million tonne of rice in 2021-22 fiscal year, of which 3.94 million tonne was basmati rice.

Apart from paddy, area sown with pulses is down marginally to 116.45 LH from 119.43 LH.

However, the acreage of coarse cereals, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane and jute & mesta is higher. The data compiled by the ministry showed that the acreage of coarse cereals increased to 160.37 LH from

154.40 LH, while oilseeds sowing area was up at 174.79 LH from 173.82 LH.

Cotton sowing increased to 121.12 LH from 113.50 LH, while sugarcane area rose to 54.67 LH from 54.42 LH. Jute and mesta area declined to 6.92 LH from 6.94 LH.

Total area under coverage is down at 908.61 LH so far this kharif season as against 936.65 LH in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Lower acreage of paddy has raised concern about rice output and prices in the kharif season, which accounts for about about 80 per cent of the total production.

On the back of bumper production and high procurement in the last few years, the Centre is sitting on a stock of 47 million tonne of rice (including rice equivalent of unmilled paddy) as on July 1 as against the buffer norm of 13.5 million tonne.

The Centre can use rice

SBI shares fall over 3 pc after Q1 earnings



New Delhi: Shares of State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday fell over 3 per cent in the morning trade after it posted a 7 per cent decline in standalone net profit for the first quarter of the current financial year.

The stock declined 3.13 per cent to ₹514 on the BSE.

At the NSE, it went lower by 3.23 per cent to ₹513.85.

The country's biggest lender State Bank of India on Saturday posted a 7 per cent

decline in standalone net profit to ₹6,068 crore for the first quarter of the current financial year due to a fall in income.

The bank had reported a net profit of ₹6,504 crore in the April-June quarter of 2021-22.

Its standalone total income declined to ₹74,998.57 crore in the first quarter of 2022-23 against ₹77,347.17 crore in the same period a year ago, SBI said in a regulatory filing. **PTI**

NTPC seeks shareholders' nod to raise up to ₹12K crore via bonds



New Delhi: NTPC will seek shareholders' approval to raise up to ₹12,000 crore through issuance of non-convertible debentures in annual general meeting on August 30.

The funds to be raised in one or more tranches (not exceeding 12) through private placement will be used as capital expenditure, working capital and for general corporate purposes, as per the notice for the AGM.

As the company is under capacity expansion mode, major portion of the capital expenditure requirement has to be funded by debt.

The company's board approved the proposal on July 29, 2022. **PTI**

BUSINESS BRIEFS



Union Minister of Power, New & Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh releasing the “Ranking & 10th Integrated Rating of State Distribution Utilities” in presence of Alok Kumar, Executive Director, Indushekar Chaturvedi, Secretary (MNRE), R.S. Dhillon, CMD, PFC and other senior officers of Ministry of Power, in New Delhi

BEST AGROLIFE REVENUE JUMPS
New Delhi: India's fastest-growing agrochemical company Best Agrolife Ltd has reported strong financial results for the first quarter. It posted a multi-fold jump in its consolidated revenue at Rs 463.7 crores jumping 49.9% QoQ.

NOMINATION SOUGHT FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN AWARDS
New Delhi: Terming the 13th edition of its Universal Design Awards as special as it coincides with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) has appealed to innovators to send their nominations, the last date for which is August 10. NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards were instituted to recognize innovative efforts that create an impact in the area of accessibility and thus ensuring a life of equality and dignity for people with disabilities. Entries can be made on NCPEDP's website www.ncpedp.org. “As India celebrates 75 years of her independence, it's time to step up efforts to ensure absolute freedom for the disabled. The Universal Design Awards is an attempt to celebrate ideas and innovations that promote accessibility and universal design - be it in physical infrastructure, transport, ICT, products or services. It is given to those individuals or organisations who are doing exemplary work to create a level playing field for people with disabilities to access the same opportunities and rights as all other citizens of India,” said Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP. A concept intrinsic to any kind of access is ‘Universal Design’, which means a design usable to the greatest extent possible by everyone, regardless of age, ability, or situation. To spread awareness about Universal Design and to popularise this concept, NCPEDP, in association with Mphasis, instituted The NCPEDP – Mphasis Universal Design Awards in 2010. “Awareness of Universal Design is close to none and there have been very few attempts to educate stakeholders about this.

Bharti Airtel Q1 profit rises 5-fold to ₹1,607 crore

New Delhi: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Monday reported an over five-fold rise in its consolidated profit to ₹1,607 crore for the first quarter ended June 30.

The company had posted a profit of ₹283.5 crore in the year-ago period.

Its consolidated revenue from operations increased by about 22 per cent to ₹32,805 crore during

the reported quarter from ₹26,854 crore a year ago.

The company's revenue rose 24 per cent to ₹23,319 crore in June 2022 quarter from ₹18,828.4 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Bharti Airtel's mobile services revenue in India grew 27 per cent year-on-year to ₹18,220 crore for the first quarter from ₹14,305.6 crore. **PTI**

Adani Ports Q1 net profit drops 17 pc to ₹1,091.56 cr

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) on Monday reported a 16.86 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹1,091.56 crore for the first quarter of the current financial year despite record cargo volumes.

The country's largest integrated logistics player had clocked a consolidated net profit of ₹1,312.9 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

Its total income during the June quarter rose to ₹5,099.25 crore, as against ₹5,073 crore in Q1 FY22.

The company's total expenses also increased to ₹4,174.24 crore from ₹3,660.28 crore earlier.

APSEZ said it recorded its highest-ever quarterly cargo of 91 MMT (million metric tonnes).

The growth in cargo volume was led by dry cargo (11.2 per cent increase), followed by containers (3.2 per cent), and liquids including crude (5.6 per cent). The automobile segment, though a small proportion of overall volumes, saw a 120 per cent jump in volumes. **PTI**

Asian stocks mixed after US job gain paves way for rate hike

Beijing: Asian stocks were mixed on Monday after strong US jobs data cleared the way for more interest rate hikes and Chinese exports rose by double digits.

Shanghai and Tokyo advanced while Hong Kong and Seoul retreated. Oil prices edged higher.

Wall Street's benchmark S and P 500 lost 0.2 per cent on Friday after government data showed American employers added more jobs than expected in June. That undercut expectations a slowing economy might prompt the Fed to postpone or scale back plans for more rate hikes to cool inflation.

“Now it seems they will be

debating whether they need to be even more aggressive,” Edward Moya of Oanda said in a report.

The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.2 per cent to 3,233.07 after China's July exports beat forecasts. Exports in July surged 18 per cent compared with a year earlier while imports rose just 2.3 per cent, reflecting weak global demand, Chinese customs data showed on Sunday. The country's global trade surplus swelled to a record USD 101 billion. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong fell 0.8 per cent to 20,040.21 while the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo gained 0.2 per cent to 26,230.90. **PTI**

SINDHU’S WAIT IS OVER

Indian superstar wins her maiden Commonwealth Games Gold medal

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Glasgow 2014 bronze, Gold Coast 2018 silver and Birmingham 2022 gold, PV Sindhu has finally achieved what she has been longing for at the Commonwealth Games.

But the yellow metal didn't come easy for Sindhu. It took her three attempts, 13 years of toil, and many sacrifices to claim the top prize at the multi-sport event.

Sindhu had won a gold in the mixed team event at the CWG in 2018, but it has been eluding her in singles since her Games debut.

But on Monday, the world number seven outplayed 13th ranked Michelle Li of Canada 21-15, 21-13 in front of a packed crowd at the NEC arena to fulfil her long-cherished dream.

"I've been waiting for this (gold) for a long time now. Of course I'm super happy. I've finally done it. From day one it was important to keep my tempo high and be confident that I can do it," an elated Sindhu said after claiming the top honour.

"We've waited four years now and we're finally here. The Commonwealth Games was really good for me, it was a good tournament."

Contrary to the final scoreline, Sindhu said overcoming Li was not an easy task.

"It was very important to be very focused and in the rhythm. We know each other's game.

There are no easy points so even though I was leading I made sure I was very focused."

The double Olympic medallist said she would take a short break now to re-energise herself before her next goal -- the World Championships -- to be held in Tokyo from August 21 to 28.

"I have the world championships soon, so I'm hoping for the best there. I need to enjoy this moment, take a bit of a break and come back stronger again," Sindhu said.

Sindhu said she can't wait to return home and celebrate her success with her parents.

"Definitely I'm going to celebrate. We will just go out as a team or something like that. I'll go back to India and celebrate with my family members.

"Soon we're going to go back home and I'm going to celebrate with my parents. They've really supported me and they're back there watching the match. It will really mean the world to meet them, it's their hard work and dedication, too," she said.

Lakshya Sen, who won the men's singles gold, rated the CWG medal as one of the "top ones" in his short inter-



national career so far.

"Each one of them has its own importance but this is one of the top ones," said Sen, who has a World Championships bronze and a Youth Olympic Games gold to his kitty.

Sen threw his racket in the crowd after claiming the gold and he said it was just an instantaneous reaction.

"I didn't really plan it well, everything was just coming to me, I just did it."

The 20-year-old shuttler from Almora lost the first game before getting his act right to emerge 19-21, 21-9, 21-16 winner over Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong.

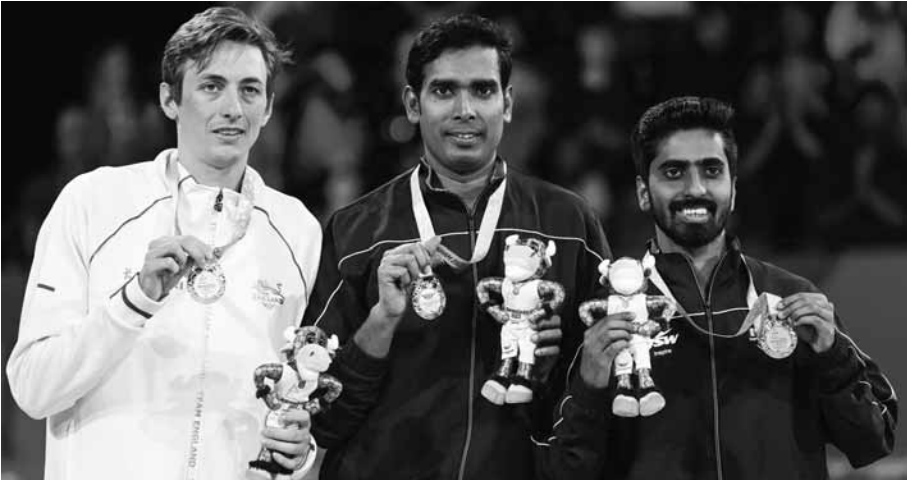
"The length was not very good in the first game. In the second game I got a good length and tried to play more freely. That worked. The third

game was all about keeping the nerves and maintaining that three-point lead the whole time," Sen said. "He (Young) won the first set and he had an advantage or luxury to not play that second set and to focus on the third game if he was not doing so well.

"I just focused on getting the lead and keeping the lead. When I got it I thought, 'now I have to not give him any easy points', and as the lead grew he gave up on the points and that gave me a lot of confidence," he said.

"The first five, six points were very important. Then he just gave up, he was trying to conserve his energy for the third game because I don't think he could see a light at the end of the tunnel for the second set. Then he came back very motivated for the third set."

Sharath wins singles Gold after 16 years



PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Sharath Kamal showed age is just a number as the 40-year-old capped his best ever performance at the Commonwealth Games by winning the men's singles gold here on Monday.

After losing the first game that he should have closed, Sharath beat a much younger yet experienced Liam Pitchford of England 11-13, 11-7, 11-2, 11-6, 11-8 at the NEC arena.

Sharath, who had first won the singles gold back in 2006, had already claimed two golds here in the team and mixed doubles event alongside Sreeja Akula.

With this yellow metal, he increased his tally to a staggering 13 medals across five CWG appearances.

In the final, he was at his finest, firing winners from both sides. Long rallies away from the table was the order of the day and Sharath won majority of them. He was also brilliant in cutting the points short with perfectly placed backhand winners.

In what turned out to be the final game of the title clash, Sharath led 6-1 before Pitchford reduced the deficit to 5-6 by winning the best rally of the match. Sharath absorbed the pressure to make it 10-6 after time out.

He thought he had converted his second match point but the umpires awarded the point to his opponent as the ball was close to Sharath's body at the time of his retrieve.

He converted the next

one to complete a memorable run in Birmingham.

G Sathiyan secured the bronze after a marathon battle against England's Paul Drinkhall.

Sathiyan bagged his maiden CWG singles medal after beating home-favourite Drinkhall 4-3 in front of a packed crowd.

The Indian thus avenged his men's doubles final loss against the same opponent by winning 11-9 11-3 11-5, 8-11, 9-11, 10-12 and 11-9.

The bronze was Sathiyan's sixth overall medal at the CWG since Gold Coast 2018.

On Sunday, Sathiyan paired up with the Sharath to claim the men's doubles silver after going down to the English duo of Drinkhall and Pitchford.

Sagar wins Silver on international debut

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Fast-rising Indian boxer Sagar Ahlawat concluded an impressive Commonwealth Games campaign by clinching the silver medal in the super-heavy weight (+92kg) division here.

Competing in his maiden international event, Sagar lost the gold medal bout to home favourite Delicious Orié via a 5-0 unanimous decision late on Sunday.

The 20-year-old, who surprised everyone with his powerful performance in the early



bouts, was forced to defend in the opening round as Orié assumed the role of the aggressor.

But the Indian defended well and also managed to land some counter punches with all five judges ruling in his favour.

However a minute into the second round, the Haryana

pugilist, who belongs to a family of farmers, seemed to have tired as he repeatedly resorted to clinching, which also earned him a warning by the referee.

By the third round, Sagar looked completely spent but managed to land a few jabs. He also started bleeding as one of Orié's punches left a cut above his left eye. The Englishman took full advantage of that connected a flurry of upper cuts to take the title.

Despite the loss in the final it was a successful campaign for the youngster, who took up the sport five years ago.

India 'A' crush Kazakhstan in women's event

PTI ■ MAMALLAPURAM

The top-seeded India 'A' team outclassed Kazakhstan 3.5-0.5 for a crucial win in the 10th and penultimate round of the women's section in the 44th Chess Olympiad here on Monday.

Top player Koneru Humpy returned to winning ways, beating Zhansaya Abdumalik while Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni scored over Xeniya Balabayeva and Gulikshan Nakhbayeva respectively. R Vaishali drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva on the second board.

In the Open section, the India 'B' team, which has been in sparkling form, had to settle for a 2-2 draw against Uzbekistan as the in-form D Gukesh lost to Nodirbek

Abdusattorov, the reigning world rapid chess champion.

The teenaged GM Gukesh, who had scored 8.5 points from nine rounds leading into Monday's match, faltered against fellow teenager Abdusattorov in a 72-move match.

Gukesh's talented compatriot R Praggnanandhaa defeated Javokhir Sindarov after Nihal Sarin and B Adhiban had drawn their respective games against Nodirbek Yakubboev and Jakhongir Vakhidov.

The India 'A' team, the second-seeds, overcame a loss for P Harikrishna on the top board to Param Maghsoodloo to beat Iran 2.5-1.5 and improve the chances of a podium finish.

The India 'C' team (seeded 16) was held to a 2-2 draw by 34th-ranked Slovakia.

Armenia, who were in the lead after the eighth round, roared back to join Uzbekistan again following a 3-1 demolition of Azerbaijan. Both Armenia and Uzbekistan moved up to 17 match points with a round to play.

India 'A' has 16 match points. The top-seeded USA roared back into contention with a convincing 3-1 defeat of Turkey and joined India 'A' on 16 points.

Important results: Open: India 'B' drew with Uzbekistan 2-2 (D Gukesh lost to Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Nihal Sarin drew with Nodirbek Yakubboev, R Praggnanandhaa beat Javokhir Sindarov, B Adhiban drew with J Vakhidov).

India 'A' beat Iran 2.5-1.5 (P Harikrishna lost to Param Maghsoodloo, Vidit S Gujrathi



Sindhu 'phenomenal', Sen 'India's pride': PM Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday heaped praise on India's medal winners at the Commonwealth Games, lauding P V Sindhu as "phenomenal" and Lakshya Sen as "India's pride" after both won gold in women's and men's singles in badminton.

He also praised the women cricket team for fetching silver, saying the first-ever CWG medal in cricket will always be special.

Congratulating Sharath Kamal for winning the gold medal in table tennis, the prime minister said it will be recorded in history as a very special one. "He has shown the power of patience, determination and resilience and also demonstrated great skills," Modi said, adding that this medal is a big boost for Indian table tennis.

Hailing Sharath Kamal and Sreeja Akula for winning the gold in mixed doubles table tennis, Modi lauded their grit and tenacity and said "they showed superb teamwork".

"Playing and winning together has its own joys," he said.

Sharath reaching the finals of all CWG events he competed in is outstanding, Modi added.

"Proud of the men's hockey team for a spirited performance through the CWG and winning a silver medal. I am confident this team will keep making India proud in the times to come and also inspire youngsters to pursue hockey," he said.

After ace badminton player Sindhu clinched gold with a convincing straight-game win over Canada's Michelle Li, Modi said, "The phenomenal P V Sindhu is a champion of champions! She repeatedly shows what excellence is all about. Her dedication and

commitment is awe-inspiring. Congratulations to her on winning the Gold medal at the CWG. Wishing her the best for her future endeavours."

"Elated by the accomplishment of Lakshya Sen. Congratulations on winning the Gold medal in Badminton. He's played excellently through the CWG and showed outstanding resilience during the Finals," Modi said in a tweet.

"He is India's pride. Best wishes to him for his future endeavours," he said after Sen came from behind to end Ng Tze Yong's giant-killing run in the men's singles badminton competition. The 20-year-old defeated the world number 42 from Malaysia 19-21, 21-9, 21-16.

Congratulating Kidambi Srikanth for winning a bronze medal in badminton, the prime minister called him "one of the stalwarts of Indian badminton".

"This is his fourth CWG medal thus showing his skill and consistency. May he keep inspiring budding athletes and make India even prouder," the prime minister added.

Praising the women cricket team, he tweeted, "Cricket and India are inseparable. Our women's cricket team played excellent cricket through the CWG and they bring home the prestigious silver medal. Being the first ever CWG medal in cricket, this one will always be special."

Lauding Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand for winning bronze in badminton doubles, Modi said he is proud of them.

"Before leaving for the CWG, Treesa told me about her friendship with Gayatri but she was not sure about how she will celebrate if she won a medal. I hope she's made her plans now," Modi said in a lighter vein with a video clip of their interaction ahead of the Games.

Australia hammer India 7-0 in men's hockey final

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

In one of its worst performances in recent times, the Indian men's hockey team suffered an embarrassing 0-7 drubbing at the hands of defending champions Australia to settle for a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games here on Monday.

Australia blew away India with their whirlwind speed and relentless attacks, extending their dominance of the CWG stage.

Since hockey's introduction at the Games in 1998, Australia has always stood on top of the podium.

This is India's third defeat against Australia in a CWG final, having lost to them in the 2010 and the 2014 editions of the Games.

Nathan Ephraums and Tom Wickham scored a brace



each while Blake Govers, Jacob Anderson, and Flynn Ogilvie also found the net in the lop-sided contest.

It was a far cry from what was expected in a gold medal clash as a dominant Australia pumped in five goals in the first half to take the game away from India.

The other time India suffered such a heavy defeat in CWG was in 2010 edition in New Delhi, where Australia hammered the hosts 8-0.

The Indians looked rusty and clueless as they conceded too much space to the Australians in the mid-field, which allowed the Kookaburras

to make inroads.

The structure which the Indians are known for was nowhere to be seen. The defence looked shaky, while there was no co-ordination between the midfield and forward-line.

The past problem of mis-passing and trapping returned to haunt the Indians. It allowed Australia to play free-flowing hockey.

The Indians made very few circle penetrations and whenever they did, they lacked the final pass or looked out of sorts.

Such was India's struggle that the team could not secure a single penalty corner.

Australia secured their three penalty corner inside the first 10 minutes and broke the deadlock from the third through Govers, whose flick went in between India custodian PR Sreejesh's legs.

A minute before the first quarter, Ephramus scored from a counter-attack from the right flank.

It was raining goals for Australia with Anderson making it 3-0 in the 22nd minute, scoring of a rebound, tapping in from close range after Sreejesh made the initial save.

Australia added two more goals to their tally in a span of two minutes before half time through Wickham (26th), who deflected in Tim Brand's pass, and Anderson (27th) to take complete control of the match at half-time.

In the 42nd minute, Ephramus scored his second goal with a neat deflection before Ogilvie added another four minutes later.

Six minutes later, Australia scored another but the goal was disallowed for backstick after India went for the referral.

Time to do more for chess in India: FIDE deputy president Anand

PTI ■ MAMALLAPURAM

Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand, who has been elected deputy president of FIDE, on Monday said it is time to do more for the sport in the country.

"We are going to work as a team... Especially do more for India. There are plans to hold more tournaments. Our youngsters are playing very well. We have to use that momentum and do something."

"We have to see what we can do in association with the Tamil Nadu government," Anand, who was part of incumbent FIDE president Dvorkovich's team that contested the elections to the world chess body, told reporters here.

Dvorkovich won the elections convincingly on Sunday to retain his post.

"It is a good time for India, when everybody is talking about chess to do more for the sport,"



the five-time world champion said and underlined the presence of numerous players from Tamil Nadu in the various Indian teams competing at the 44th Olympiad.

Anand further said he was happy because the Olympiad was happening in Chennai and added that "it (the Olympiad) has been an out and out success."

Asked about his vision for India now that he has been elected as FIDE deputy president, he spoke about the need to push the game in schools and various other programmes that are already in place.

"In a sense, we are already one of the top (chess) nations. Now we are one of the top organising nations... With the Olympiad. The next step is to see how to cover the gaps. We need to push it in schools, social programmes that the president spoke about. "We are strong in some areas. Very happy with the way this Olympiad has been organised," Anand added.

HARMAN RUES TREND OF MISTAKES IN BIG FINAL

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Heartbroken after a gold medal slipped out of their hands, India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur harped on the need to stop repeating same mistakes in 'title clashes', saying the "mental block" has to be broken, going forward.

Indian team came to close winning coveted gold on women cricket's CWG debut but fell short by nine runs after being in a dominant position against mighty Australia. It was deja vu for Harmanpreet and Co. who had suffered a similar inexplicable batting collapse during the T20 World Cup finals defeat against Australia in 2020 and the 2017 ODI World Cup final in England.

"Every time in big finals, we make the same mistakes again and again (with the bat), that is something we have to improve," Harmanpreet said after the match on Sunday.

"We don't do these mistakes in the league phase or in bilateral. That is blocking our mind somewhere," the skipper added.

With 50 needed off the last six overs with eight wickets in hand, India seemed to be on course to title triumph but lost last five wickets for 13 runs owing to some poor shot selections.

Harmanpreet and Jemimah Rodrigues strung a 96-run partnership but both ended up playing some poor shots to make their way back to the dugout. "I am someone who is always looking for one more batter in the side. Unfortunately, we're working on that. Once we get that, this thing [collapsing] will go away."

"After losing two crucial wickets, the way Jemi (Jemimah Rodrigues) and I batted was much needed at that time. You need to hold your nerves. We were nearly there."

"Maybe if Pooja (Vastrakar) or I were around, we could've won the game. But that is part of the game;



Women cricket stars now eye Olympic chance after CWGs

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Women cricketers say they would "love to go to LA" to chase Olympic glory after a strikingly successful debut at the CWG.

Women's cricket was on the CWG programme for the first time in Birmingham and had the spotlight to itself, with no matching men's tournament. It is no secret that cricket chiefs wanted to get the T20 game — the version played in Birmingham — on the list of Olympic sports, even as early as the Los Angeles Games in 2028, although that is a long shot.

ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said the Commonwealths had been a "fantastic 10 days of com-

petition" in front of packed-out crowds, describing it as a "superb advert for the women's game".

England captain Nat Sciver agreed that the tournament in Birmingham had been a huge shot in the arm for the women's game.

"This CWG has been an incredible experience and I think the crowds have shown that people really love coming to watch whatever team it is," she said.

"Having that new audience from the CWG where everyone's happy to go and watch any sport is something really special and something that can only help women's cricket. To love for cricket to be in an Olympics."

Australia's Ash Gardner, who

took three wickets in Sunday's final, would also relish the chance to play on the biggest sporting stage.

"Being involved in a few world cups myself and now the CWG, it was something that us cricketers probably never thought that we'd ever be involved in but we're certainly pretty pleased coming away with a gold medal," she said.

New Zealand captain Sophie Devine said the women's cricketers had put on a "hell of a show".

"Having played in a lot of world events, this was certainly something really different and really special," she said. "Fingers crossed, we've got our foot in the door and there's a few more CWG and the Olympics too."

Bumrah ruled out of Asia Cup 2022 due to back injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former skipper Virat Kohli and a fit-again vice-captain KL Rahul were back in the 15-member Indian squad for the Asia Cup while senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah missed out owing to back injury.

Rahul, who did not feature in the T20 series against West Indies due to COVID-19, has recuperated from sports hernia surgery and is back as vice-captain.

The notable names dropped from the main squad are batter Shreyas Iyer and left-arm spinner Axar Patel. Seamer Deepak Chahar, who has had a four month lay-off due to hamstring tear and back injury was also among reserves.

The other absentee from the squad is pacer Harshal Patel owing to rib injury.

India: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (VC), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, R Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, R Jadeja, R Ashwin, Y Chahal, R Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan.

BUMRAH OUT

Senior fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah is set to be ruled out of the Asia Cup T20 tournament with a back injury, which would require some time to heal.

"Jasprit Bumrah has a back injury and will not play in the Asia Cup. He is our main bowler and we would like him to be back in action before T20 World Cup. We can't risk him in Asia Cup and the injury could aggravate," a senior BCCI official told PTI on the



condition of anonymity.

Bumrah last played in the ODI away series against England before being rested from the rubber against West Indies and the upcoming one against Zimbabwe.

However, it is understood that the back issue will keep him out for some time and he will need to do rehabilitation work at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru before being deemed fit for the white-ball home series against Australia and south Africa in September-October.

Bumrah had similar issues few years ago and was out for a considerable amount of time.

Currently, the pacer is holidaying with his family in the United States.

Bumrah's injury is a setback for the Indian team as he would need some matches to get into the groove after a long lay-off which will be more than two months.

While he is an automatic choice as and when he makes a comeback, the same can't be said about someone like Avesh Khan, who had to prove his worth to remain in the mix.

Jayasuriya, Lamb win ICC Player of Month honour

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sri Lanka spin sensation Prabath Jayasuriya and England women's cricket team's emerging all-rounder Emma Lamb were on Monday voted ICC 'Player of the Month' for July.

The 30-year-old Jayasuriya faced off competition from England's in-form batter and June's Player of the Month winner Jonny Bairstow and French youngster Gustav McKeon to claim the honour.

Jayasuriya, who made his Test debut in Sri Lanka's final Test match against Australia in Galle earlier in July, picked up 12 wickets and guided the Lankans to a series-levelling victory.

He also scalped another 17 wickets in the recently-concluded two-match Test series against Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Lamb was rewarded after an extraordinary three-match ODI series against South Africa.

The 24-year-old youngster beat compatriot Nat Sciver and India pacer Renuka Singh to win the award.

Lamb amassed 234 runs in three matches, including a match-winning century (102 off 97 balls) followed by two half-centuries (67 off 65 balls and 65 off 66 balls) in the next two games.



Lewandowski scores his first Barca goal

AP ■ BARCELONA

Robert Lewandowski scored his first Barcelona goal in a 6-0 rout of Mexican side Pumas in the Joan Gamper Trophy pre-season clash on Sunday.

On his Camp Nou bow, the Polish international, who switched from Bayern Munich in the summer, scored after three minutes from a particularly tight angle.

Pedri added the second and fourth goals in the fifth and 19th minutes, sandwiching a strike from Ousmane Dembele.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Frenkie de Jong completed the rout in the second half.

Lewandowski also played a key part in Pedri's second goal with an inspired pass to

set up the midfielder.

Barcelona begin their La Liga season at home to Rayo Vallecano on Saturday.

GIGGS GOES ON TRIAL FOR ASSAULT

Former Manchester United star Ryan Giggs stands trial Monday on charges of attacking and coercively controlling his ex-girlfriend, in a case that has upended his managerial career.

The 48-year-old, who until recently served as coach of the Wales national team, has pleaded not guilty to the charges, which carry a maximum jail term of five years.

The jury trial at a crown court in Manchester was set to open at 10:30 am (0930 GMT), presided over by judge Hilary Manley. It is expected to last 10 days.

Kyrgios wins 1st ATP title in 3 years



AP ■ WASHINGTON

Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios won his seventh ATP title and first in three years by defeating Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in Sunday's men's final at the ATP and WTA Washington Open.

The 27-year-old Australian downed 96th-ranked left-hander Nishioka 6-4, 6-3 for his first ATP title since capturing the 2019 Washington crown.

"It's emotional for me to be back here again and claim another title," Kyrgios said.

Kyrgios, who lost to Novak Djokovic last month in his first Grand Slam final,

made back-to-back tour-level finals for the first time in his career and didn't allow a service break all week.

"It's just very emotional for me to see where I was at last year

to now. It's just an incredible transformation," Kyrgios said.

In the women's final, Liudmila Samsonova won her second career WTA title by beating Estonia's Kaia Kanepi 4-

6, 6-3, 6-3. Her first title came at last year's German Open on Berlin grass.

Kyrgios became the first man to sweep singles and doubles titles in the event's 53-year

history — a feat he called "super special" — by joining American Jack Sock to beat Croatian Ivan Dodig and American Austin Krajicek 7-5, 6-4 in the final.

ICICI Home Finance

Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059

Branch Address: Sky Park, Ground floor, Unit No.1, Near Canal Road Raipur- 492001

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Maneeshkumar Tiwari (Borrower), Neha Tiwari (Co-Borrower), Sarawati Press Shed No 80, Sec-C Industrial Area, Sarora Uria Raipur C G, Chhattisgarh 492001 LHRP00001284628	Ph No.31, Harshit Harmony Project Kh No-36444, Plot No-452, Village- Gunga & Bana Raipur Raipur Chhattisgarh 493196. Bounded By- North: Plot No 451, South: Plot No. 453, East: Plot No. 438, West: Road.	29-07-2022 Rs. 3,94,151/-	09-Mar-2022
2.	Kiran Pritwani (Borrower), Ganesh Kumar Prithwani (Co-Borrower), Vishal Pritwani (Co-Borrower), C-14 Palash Vihar Almidhi Chhattisgarh 492001. NHRP00001273052	82 Part of Kh No. 8/1(p)8/3/4, 10/1-6, 11/1-11, 12/1-8, 19/1-17, 20/1/2, 21, 22/1-2-12, 23/1-4, 24/1-3, 26/1/5/6-8. Situated At Kolar Abhanpur Kh. No4 1 Part 4 2 5 125 6 61714 Abhanpur-493661. Bounded By- North: Plot No. 83, South: Plot No. 81, East: Road, West: Plot No. 81.	29-07-2022 Rs. 70,40,682/-	05-May-2022

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : August 09, 2022
Place : Chattisgarh, Abhanpur

Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix – IV A) (Rule 8(6))

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98,Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV,Gurgaon-122015.(Haryana) and Branch Office at- 1st Floor, Lal Ganga City Mart, Banjari Chowk, Opposite Hotel Amit Regency, Raipur, CG 492001 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospectus, with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.bankauctions.com.

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ properties	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
1. Mr. RAJENDRA KUMAR MAHLANGE (Prospect No. 707829)	18-Oct-2019 Rs.44,34,681/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty one Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Part of Kh. No-174332, 175332, Kowda, Dr. Bhm Rao Ambekar Ward No-27, P.C. No-109, R.T.C.-Raipur-1, Raipur, Tehsil & Distt.-Raipur (C.G.). (Area: 1500 Sq. ft.)	22-Oct-2021 Total Outstanding As On Date 2-Aug-2022 Rs. 65,33,098/- (Rupees Sixty Five Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Ninety Eight Only)	Rs. 22,78,100/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.2,27,810/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ten Only)

Date of Inspection of property	EMD Last Date	Date/ Time of E Auction
18-Aug-2022 1100 hrs -1400 hrs	22-Aug-2022 till 5 pm.	24-Aug-2022 1100 hrs-1300 hrs

Mode Of Payment :- All payment shall be made by demand draft in favour of "IIFL Home Finance Limited" payable at Gurugram or through RTGS/NEFT. The accounts details are as follows: a) Name of the account- IIFL Home Finance Ltd., b) Name of the Bank- Standard Chartered Bank Ltd., c) Account No.-53105066294, d) IFSC Code -SCBL0036025 or through Payment Link: <https://quickpay.iiflfinance.com>.

Terms and Condition
1. For participating in e-auction, Intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider <https://www.bankauctions.com>, well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increment Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will be automatically extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cost, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates and outgoings relating to the property.
5. Bidders are advised to go through the website <https://www.bankauctions.com> and <https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction> for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
6. For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E Mail: support@bankauctions.com, Support Helpline Numbers: 07291981124/25/26 and any property related query Mr.Jitendra.gupta@iifl.com or 9372258003 Email: jitendra.gupta@iifl.com ,
7. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
8. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
9. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
10. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason therefor. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE RULE 9 SUB RULE (1) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002
The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.
Place : Raipur
Date : 09-Aug-2022

Sd/-Authorised Officer,
IIFL Home Finance Limited

Duleep Trophy back in old format, Irani Cup slotted in calendar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Duleep Trophy, back in the calendar in its old zonal format after three years, will kick-start the Indian domestic season from September 8 with 1500 games across all age-groups over a period of six months, the BCCI said on Monday.

"The prestigious Duleep Trophy will mark the start of a full-fledged season, which will also see a return of the Irani Cup," BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted as saying by media release.

"The Duleep Trophy (September 8-25) will be contested between six zones (North, South, Central, West, East and Northeast) on a knockout basis," Shah added.

The BCCI was not following the zonal format for the last few seasons, fielding the India Red, Blue and Green teams instead. With the zonal format making a comeback, it will have one extra zone in northeast, besides the existing five.

The two multi-day tournaments will be followed by the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (October 11-November 5) and the Vijay Hazare Trophy (November 12- December 2).

The two white-ball tournaments will be contested between 38 teams split into three groups of eight teams and two groups comprising seven sides. The Ranji Trophy will be back to its old format and starts from December 13 and ends on February 20.

The elite and plate groups will be back. The elite group will comprise 32 teams and will have four groups of eight teams in a home and away format with each team playing seven matches in the league stage.

The top two teams from each of the four groups will directly qualify for the quarter-finals.

The plate group will comprise six teams with 15 league matches and the top four will directly qualify for the semi-final while the bottom two will play against each other for the 5th/6th place.

Both the elite group and plate group league matches will start on December 13 with the plate league concluding on January 29 and the elite group finishing on February 20.

न्यायालय जिला दण्डाधिकारी, रायपुर

नोटिस

क्रमांक/182/ब-121/2019-20/937 रायपुर, दिनांक 12 जुलाई, 2022

प्रति,

1. राजेश आहुजा पिता रमेश आहुजा

2. सोन्या आहुजा पति राजेश आहुजा

3. विकास आहुजा पिता रमेश आहुजा

4. रमेश आहुजा पिता पेरुमल आहुजा

निवासी म.नं. बी-80, कविता नगर, एसएसडी आटा चक्की के पास रायपुर

आवेदक प्राधिकृत अधिकारी आई.डी.एफ.सी. फर्स्ट बैंक लिमिटेड शंकर नगर जिला रायपुर

को ओर से सुमित गिरधारी अधिकवक्ता द्वारा आवेदन पत्र/शपथ पत्र मय दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत कर, आवेदन पत्र के द्वारा आपको कैपिटल फर्स्ट लिमिटेड के शाखा कार्यालय रायपुर से 26,94,000.00 रुपये का ऋण दिया जाकर राजेश आहुजा के स्वामित्व को संपत्ति कंपनी के पक्ष में बंधक रखी गयी थी। किन्तु आप ऋण की अदायगी नहीं कर रहे हैं। जिसके कारण आपको कंपनी द्वारा अधिनियम की धारा 13 के तहत नोटिस जारी किया गया कि आप ऋण की अदायगी मय व्याज एवं अन्य शुल्क रुपया 23,88,867.00 अदा करें, अन्यथा आपके द्वारा लिये गये ऋण के एक्जन् में बंधक रखी गई संपत्ति कंपनी अपने हक में प्राप्त कर लेगी, वर्तमान में कैपिटल फर्स्ट लि. संस्थान का विलय आवेदक कंपनी में हो गया है, कि जानकारी दी जाकर कंपनी के पक्ष में बंधक रखी संपत्ति का कब्जा हिलाने जाने का निवेदन किया है।

2/ आपने कैपिटल फर्स्ट लि. के शाखा कार्यालय से 26,94,000.00 रूपयें का ऋण प्राप्त कर राजेश आहुजा के स्वामित्व की संपत्ति ग्राम कोटा, प.ह.नं. 107 जिला रायपुर स्थित ख.नं. 129/2, 129/5 का भाग रकबा 1000 वर्गफीट पर निर्मित मकान कंपनी के पक्ष में बंधक रखी गई है। वर्तमान में कैपिटल फर्स्ट लि. संस्थान का विलय आवेदक कंपनी में हो गया है।

3/ अतः आपके द्वारा लिये गये ऋण के पक्ष में राजेश आहुजा के स्वामित्व की बंधक रखी गई अवचल संपत्ति को वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिपूतिकरण और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिपूति श्रित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 की धारा 14 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुये क्यों न आधिपत्य में लेने की कार्यवाही की जावे। आप स्वयं अथवा अपने नियुक्त अभिभाषक के माध्यम से ऋण से संबंधित एवं बंधक रखी गई संपत्ति से संबंधित दस्तावेज लेकर पक्ष प्रस्तुत करने हेतु इस न्यायालय में पेशी दिनांक 22.08.2022 को ठीक 3.00 बजे उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें। नियत तिथि में उपस्थित नहीं होने की दशा में आपके विरुद्ध एक पक्षीय कार्यवाही की जाकर, प्रकरण में निर्णय ले लिया जावेगा।

अज्ञ दिनांक 12 जुलाई, 2022 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की मुहर से जारी किया गया।

मुहर

हस्ता/-

न्यायालय जिला दण्डाधिकारी, रायपुर