

OPINION 6FIGHTING TERROR
THE HUSAIN WAY**WORLD 8**CHINA CONTINUES DRILLS
AROUND TAIWAN**MONEY 10**SENSEX CLIMBS 465 POINTS;
NIFTY ABOVE 17,500

RANCHI, 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' meetingsPIONEER 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 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 lagavenge). The RJD is committed to fighting the BJP. If the Chief Minister decides 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

join this fight, we will have to 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 Shakti Ahmed Khan said.

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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

and they stood behind third-placed Canada, which was far ahead with 92 medals (26-32-34). Australia (67-57-54) finished on top ahead of hosts England (57-66-53).

Coming back to TT, Sharath and G Sathian had lost to England's Pitchford and Paul Drinkhall in the men's doubles gold medal match, but on Monday, both the Indians had their revenge. This was after Sathian beat Drinkhall 11-9 11-3 11-5 8-11 9-11 10-12 11-9 in an exciting but nerve-jangling bronze play-off.

Sharath outsmarted the 29-year-old nimble-footed Briton 11-13 11-7 11-2 11-6 11-8 to claim his second CWG singles gold after 16 years.

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 ■ BIRMINGHAM

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 missing 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

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.

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

incident 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.

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.

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 and never countered."

Most MPs besides the Prime Minister also appreciated 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 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

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 Oxane 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.

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

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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.

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Amid SC dilemma, Shinde to expand Cabinet today

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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 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.

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10k students felicitated in talent award ceremony

PNS ■ RANCHI

In a historic moment for the State with a first of its kind of event, around ten thousand student got felicitation in mega State-level student talent award ceremony organized by Private School and Children Welfare Association (PASWA) at Harivansh Tana Bhagat Stadium in Kharagpur in the State Capital on Monday.

State Finance Minister, Dr Rameshwar Oraon, Padma Shri Mukund Nayak, PASWA National Chief, Syed Shamayel Ahmed and the State Chief, Alok Kumar Dubey awarded the students performed well in 10th and 12th examinations conducted by CBSE, ICSE and JACK Board. PASWA State Vice President, Lal Kishore Nath Shadu and Rajesh Gupta were also present on the occasion.

During the function, the students of class 10th and 12th, who topped in examinations in various board examinations, were rewarded with cash money



Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon honouring a student during State level Student Talent Award Ceremony, in Ranchi on Monday. Senior Congress leader Alok Kumar Dubey, Padma Shri recipient Mukund Nayak and others are also seen in the picture. Pix by Vinay Murmu

and medals and citations, while students who scored 80 per cent or more were awarded with medals and citations.

Addressing the huge crowd of students, parents, teachers and members of school management on the occasion, Oraon said that for the first time in Jharkhand, the State level student talent award ceremony was organized on such a large scale. He said that this was the first unique event of its own in Jharkhand to encourage the students. He said that in his life, he had never seen this program being organized to honour the students on such a large scale in Jharkhand, but by organizing such a grand event on behalf of PASWA an example has been set before the State.

The purpose of this programme is mainly to encourage such talented students who could not become the top, but they also have hidden talent, that is why these children may not succeed in getting their name in toppers list but the way they scored 80 percentile and above it shows their talent and their success should not be underestimated in any sense, it is

the children who will work to create new records in future. Toppers are limited in any examination, but due to various reasons, students who fail to become toppers by scoring some marks, they have to be encouraged so that these children can also become toppers in future, said Oraon.

Ahmed said that within a year under State Chief Dubey's leadership the organization has raised the voice of students, parents and teachers and private school operators in the direction of improving the quality of education. Speaking on the occasion Dubey said that for the first time in the 22 years of the formation of the separate Jharkhand, such a large-scale State level function was organized to honour the students, possibly this would be the biggest event across the Country to honour the students.

At the same time, cultural programmes were presented by many schools during the function.

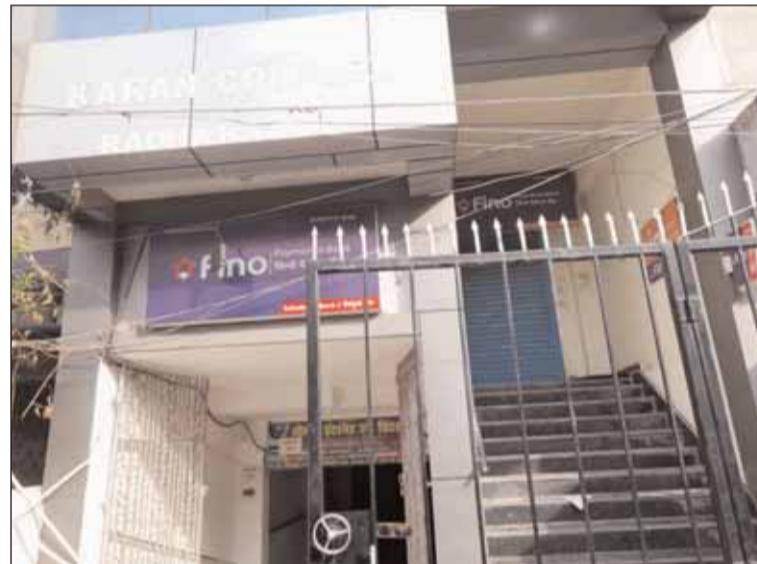
FIR lodged for bungling of Rs 27 lakh in Daltonganj

M FAIZ AHMAD ■ DALTONGANJ

An RBI approved Fino (Financial Institution Network and Operations) payments bank here in Daltonganj is in thick soup, said sources. The Fino payment bank is caught in its own internal fraud leaving its regional manager and others in a quandary, according to sources.

The Fino payments bank is no loan lending bank nor does it issue any credit card. It just does FD (fixed deposit) and RD (recurring deposit) only. Officer in charge of the town police station Daltonganj Abhay Kumar Sinha has confirmed the lodging of a criminal case in regard to this bank.

Police officer Sinha said the regional manager of the Fino payments bank R Mishra has lodged the criminal case against two of the



bank's personnel one a manager and the other a cashier.

The bank money to the tune of Rs 27 lakh is alleged to have been bun-

gled, said the police officer adding we have begun the investigation.

An FD is a term deposit and on maturity with the consent and signature of the customer the matured value of the sum is digitally transferred to the savings account of the said customer. It is similar to the RD account as well. However it means the money generated for FD and RD ought to be in Fino payments bank which is not and it is worth 27 lakhs of rupees.

Sources said this internal fraud in the bank is the second in this year as months ago the United Bank of India here in Daltonganj had a criminal case of breaking open of the lockers and removing of the precious gold contents of half a dozen locker holders leading to the arrest of 16 or 17 officials including driver and key mechanic as well.

Writer Ansuman Bhagat puts spotlight on Jamshedpur

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR



Although there have been many great writers, in today's busy life, young writer Ansuman Bhagat of Jamshedpur city remains in a lot of discussion due to his writings. His name also came in the category of famous writers of Jharkhand in a very short time and which are the books written by Ansuman which his readers have started liking a lot. So let us know today how Ansuman gave himself a

position by adopting writing, due to which he is in the headlines today.

Every writer has his own story and his ideology is also very different from other people, on the basis of which he further tries to give something

new and different among the people through his writing. There was a time when many people left their mark in literature and writing, but with the changing race, it is seen a little less than before, yet there are many such young people who still give importance to writing, one of them is Ansuman Bhagat.

A writer always tries to understand his readers what they like to read. Generally seen, readers like to read books on dif-

ferent topics. Like sports, entertainment, fantasy, business or politics etc. The same Ansuman Bhagat tries his best to write books on every subject in every field. While his books "Your Own Thought" are full of motivation, the same "Art of Making Side Income" attracts readers in the field of business. Whether you talk about Ansuman's book "Ek Safar Mein", which shows the truth of the Bollywood TV industry based on the field of

entertainment or his upcoming book "Rajneet Gherav", Ansuman writes on every topic. And he also got a lot of popularity with his book "Ek Safar Mein".

The way he is leaving his mark among the people through his writings.

There's only one reason why readers of all kinds

Ansuman's book where he is getting everything together. This is the reason that today he is making headlines among the people.

Shrijan Ranjan crowned Kolhan's JEE Main-2022 topper

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Vidya Bharati Chinmaya Vidyalaya Shrijan Ranjan has achieved All India Rank 491 rank in JEE (Main)-2022 results that were declared today. Students of the leading engineering and medical coaching institute Narayana IIT/NEET Academy, Jamshedpur located in Sakchi have achieved immense success in JEE (Main)-2022.

Shyam Bhushan, director, Narayana Jamshedpur Center said that a total of 158 students have been successful for JEE (Advance)-2022 from Jamshedpur Center in the result of JEE (Main)-2022, the calculation of which is still going on in which more students is likely to be successful. A total of 72 students have secured ranks in JEE (Main)-2022 within the All India Rank of 50 thousand so far.

Bhushan informed that Shrijan Ranjan and Kashish Agarwal are students of a five year classroom programme of Narayana Jamshedpur Centre. Simultaneously, Srijan Ranjan and



Kashish Agarwal are also students of Vidya Bharati Chinmaya Vidyalaya (Telco).

The list of students who got rank within All India Rank 25000 in General Category is Shrijan Ranjan (Rank 491), Kashish Agarwal (Rank 1514), Aditya Arya (Rank 1992), Saurabh

Dubey (Rank 4822), Rishiraj Kundu (Rank 6211), Jaideep Tripathi (Rank 6229), Shruti Arpana (Rank 8499), Pranshu Raj (Rank 9836), Rajpriya Rani (Rank 12056), Siddharth Raj (Rank 15360), Abhinav Ji (Rank 19045), Adarsh Kumar (Rank 19113), Vishnukant (Rank 20733), Harsh

Srivastava (Rank 21011), Stuti Banerjee (Rank 21011) Rank 23655.

Giving best wishes for the bright future of the students, Bhushan further said that these students will be appearing for the upcoming JEE (Advance). In the examination of 2022 will also be the topper of the city.

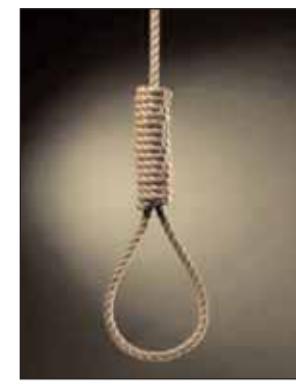
Narayana IIT/NEET Academy is not only well known for its superior teachers, course materials, but also for better disciplined academic environment and a complete library, most importantly for all India level planning by Narayana on an academic calendar. Preparation is done from

Bhushan said that every weekly test at Narayana Jamshedpur Center is also being organised at all India level. Due to which the students get to know about their ranking at All India level for their self observation every week i.e. students studying in Jamshedpur center not only compete with the students studying in their class but their competition at all India level.

Again he said that Narayana not only as an engineering and medical institute but as a group, Narayana holds an important place in all over India for its engineering college, medical college, nursing college, dental college, junior college etc.

Body of girl found hanging from noose in room

SURESH NIKHAR ■ BERMO



er sister of the deceased told that when she woke up in the morning, she went to another room in order to sweep. Then she saw his sister hanging from the noose.

Hearing the noise, the neighbors reached and got Pumpi down but by then she had died. Police said that something can be said only after the post-mortem report comes.

During this, many people including Mukhiya's representative Imtiaz Ansari, Pans Aruna Kumari, up mukhiya's representative Shyam Kumar, Ward Members Manish Kumar and Pradeep Kumar were present at the spot.

Hazaribag collectorate to be decorated with Sohrai, Kohbar arts

PNS ■ HAZARIBAG



Hazaribag district administration has decided to decorate the boundary wall and the pillars of collectorate with Sohrai and Kohbar art forms. The administration has invited famous artists of Barkagaon block of the district. The artists have started their work of painting.

Deputy commissioner Nancy Sahay said that there are so many offices, which are decorated with this art. The old building of collectorate was also furnished with the sohrai art. The government buildings are also decorated with this already.

She further said, □We have already issued the letter to all the government, semi-government offices to be decorated with this art. We have also requested the public undertaking offices for the same.□

She said that this art is al-

ready famous at the National and International level. This is our duty to give full honour to this art. In the art the artist shows the cows, horse, botanical aspects, birds, jungle and tribal culture and others in the art.

The building of the new collectorate has three floors. All the floors will be decorated with the Sohrai and Kohbar arts. The artists are using the black, white,

NEWS IN PIX



Students from PVTG community in a happy mood as they are taught under project Udaan in State. PNS

Lohardaga Chamber of Commerce committee constituted

PNS ■ LOHARDAGA



Under the guidance of Election Officer Kamal Prasad Keshari, Chandrashekhar Prasad Agrawal, Lalmohan Prasad Keshari, Ajay Mittal and Lalmohan Prasad Keshari, the final phase of the new session 2022-24 of Lohardaga Chamber of Commerce and Industries was completed and 19 newly elected executive members took charge.

Ritesh Kumar was elected President and Pankaj Kumar became senior vice-president by getting 15 votes each out of nineteen votes, while executive member Deepak Saraf, who lost in president's post, got 4 votes and executive member Purushottam Nath Tiwari, who lost in senior vice-president, also got 4 votes.

Again he said that Narayana not only as an engineering and medical institute but as a group, Narayana holds an important place in all over India for its engineering college, medical college, nursing college, dental college, junior college etc.

While vice-president

Dhananjay Prasad, secretary Rakesh Kumar Sinha, treasurer Deepak Poddar, co-secretary Anish Kumar were elected unopposed. While addressing the programme, all the guests and election officials mainly talked about strengthening the unity of traders and creating a strong organization with emphasis on safe trade. The main objective of the Chamber of Commerce should also be to create mutual harmony between the administration and the traders.

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 guests. He told the officials that the road fixed for 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

Choubey and Welfare Secretary KK Soan inspected the site of preparations for 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, Director of Information and Public Relations Department Rajiv Loham Bakshi and other officials of the concerned department officials are also seen.

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 JBVNL 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



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

Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd (JBVNL) 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 JBVNL 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 incomplete projects.

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.

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 percent of GSDP at the end of March 2021.

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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 her 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. Aditya Prakash was the Second State Topper in JEE MAIN 2022 (JUNE Session).

Principal Dr. Ram Singh shared the prizéd 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, Apurva 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 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 forgivable. 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-

NEWS IN PIX



Devotees perform 'Jalabhishek' of Lord Shiva at a temple during the Last Somvar 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.

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 tribal 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 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 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, Sahebganj 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.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren pays tribute to Saheed Nirmal Mahto on his 35th death anniversary at Kadma area in Jharkhand on Monday. Pix by Vinay Murmu



dents for their success in JEE Advanced.

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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 go no 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 Ajeeet 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 blam-

ing 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

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."

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 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.

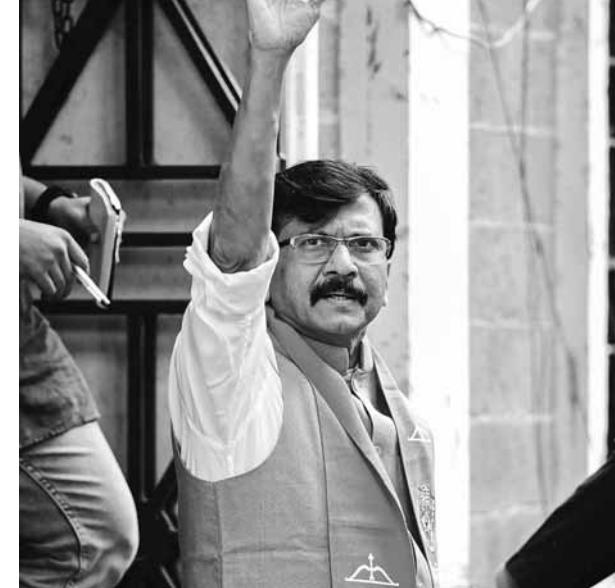
Apart from that of Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut, the other individuals -- whose assets have been provisionally attached -- are businessman Pravin Raut, a relative of Sanjay Raut, and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar who is a close associate of Sanjay Raut.

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.

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.



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

time to the vice-chancellor to submit his explanation, the latter preferred to ignore the direction. 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

Kerala Govt, 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.

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

to the vice-chancellor to submit his explanation, the latter preferred to ignore the direction. 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

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.

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 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 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.

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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.

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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'



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, sloganizing 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 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.

PIC TALK



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 manifested 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 wobbly 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 figures 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 Bakr, 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 accused 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 bin Muawiya was a hard-core terrorist

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

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 besought 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 lances. 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 Mohammad, kushashud 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 Muhamarr processions had tazias (replicas 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

BRIE GIVER IS EQUAL GUITY 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 Kuber'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. Bribery must be condemned as it is a social evil as well.

Rajender Kumar Sharma | Rewari

SOUND BITE

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 going 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 Aboabacker

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



Congress Leader —Mallikarjun Kharge

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



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 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

66

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 windfall 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 Nayara 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 Vedanta. Of late, according to tenders by Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum, diesel imports are expected to rise to its highest since February 2021 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.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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

greenhouse gases. But, the collaboration on climate change got more tension.

Fourth, the US imposed a diplomatic boycott on the Beijing Winter Olympics, citing the Chinese government's human rights abuses in Xinjiang and elsewhere.

Fifth, amid the Russian-Ukraine war, Biden pressed Xi Jinping on Russia's war in Ukraine. China refused to condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin for the war and the resulting humanitarian crisis.

Sixth, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasised the importance of strengthening the US competitiveness toward China and called China the most serious long-term challenge to the international order. Seventh, the visit 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 automatically

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 Odessa 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

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

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.

"The water infrastructure was destroyed by the constant



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.

Water crisis looms for eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk

AP ■ SLOVIAKSK (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 Mahlia, 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.

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.

"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 resupply, he said. "China has always exercised the freedom of navigation in the high seas and fully respects the jurisdiction of 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.

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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-air 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 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.

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

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 tri-lateral 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.

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.

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 Rathih 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 business with permission of the Chair.

For and on behalf of Board

Sd/- (PRAVIN VARSHNEY)

MANAGING DIRECTOR DIN: 00012709

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED

CIN: L74899DL1994PLC005925

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 30.06.2022		Year Ended 31.03.2022			
		31.03.2023	Unaudited	30.06.2021	Unaudited	31.03.2022	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	-	20.37	-	19.92		
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	-5.22	20.45	-5.04	8.97		
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	-5.22	20.45	-5.04	8.97		
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	3.39	33.87	-6.35	19.47		
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	40.1		
6	Equity Share Capital	300.89	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	491.59		
8	Earning per Share (face value of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)						
1. Basic		-0.21	1.13	-0.21	0.65		
2. Diluted		-0.21	1.13	-0.21	0.65		

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.jlfd.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.

Date : 08.08.2022

Place : New Delhi

For Jindal Leasfin Limited

Sd/- (SURENDER KUMAR JINDAL)

Managing Director

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 30.06.2022 (Un audited)		Quarter Ended 30.06.2021 (Un audited)		Year Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)	
		30.06.2022	31.03.2023	30.06.2021	31.03.2022	30.06.2020	31.03.2021
1	Total income from operations (net)	12,671.00		13,179.00		126,032.50	
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary 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	123,006.74		119,053.35		123,335.05	
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	Debtenture 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			

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

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

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PTI

February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore. All the equity-oriented categories received net inflows in July with the Small Cap Fund category being the biggest beneficiary with a net inflow of ₹1,780 crore. This was followed by the Flexi Cap Fund fund that witnessed ₹1,381 crore net infusion. Besides, Large Cap Fund, Large & Mid Cap Fund and Mid Cap Fund witnessed over ₹1,000 crore net inflow each.

Apart from equity, debt mutual funds witnessed an inflow of ₹4,930 crore last month after witnessing a net outflow of ₹92,247 crore in June. However, Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) experienced a net outflow of ₹457 crore, which was in sharp contrast to a net inflow of ₹135 crore seen last month. PTI

PTI

Although, this was the 17th straight month of positive inflow in equity schemes.

The net inflows in July were lower compared to the net inflow of ₹15,495 crore seen in June, ₹18,529 crore seen in May and ₹15,890 crore in April, according to data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) on Monday.

Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021, highlighting the positive sentiment among investors. Prior to this, such schemes had consistently witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to

February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore. All the equity-oriented categories received net inflows in July with the Small Cap Fund category being the biggest beneficiary with a net inflow of ₹1,780 crore. This was followed by the Flexi Cap Fund fund that witnessed ₹1,381 crore net infusion. Besides, Large Cap Fund, Large & Mid Cap Fund and Mid Cap Fund witnessed over ₹1,000 crore net inflow each.

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February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore. All the equity-oriented categories received net inflows in July with the Small Cap Fund category being the biggest beneficiary with a net inflow of ₹1,780 crore. This was followed by the Flexi Cap Fund fund that witnessed ₹1,381 crore net infusion. Besides, Large Cap Fund, Large & Mid Cap Fund and Mid Cap Fund witnessed over ₹1,000 crore net inflow each.

Apart from equity, debt mutual funds witnessed an inflow of ₹4,930 crore last month after witnessing a net outflow of ₹92,247 crore in June. However, Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) experienced a net outflow of ₹457 crore, which was in sharp contrast to a net inflow of ₹135 crore seen last month. PTI

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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," 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 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."

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.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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 Young'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 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 Sreja 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 PV Sindhu is a champion of champions! She repeatedly shows what excellence is all about. Her dedication and

Sharath wins singles Gold after 16 years



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 earli-



puglist, 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

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 Abdusattarov, Nihal Sarin drew with Nodirbek Yakkubboev 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 'B' beat Xeniya Balabayeva, Bhakti Kulkarni beat Gulikshan Nakhbayeva, India 'B' beat (Vantika Agrawal lost to Zhaoqin Peng, Padmini Rout beat Machteld van Forrest, Mary Ann Gomes beat Rosa Ratsma, Divya Deshmukh beat Tea Lachava).

India 'C' beat Sweden 3-1 (Easha Karavade drew with Pouya Idani, S L Narayan beat Bardiya Daneshvar).

India 'C' beat Slovakia 2-2 (SS Ganguly drew with Jerges Pechac, S P Sethuraman lost to Viktor Gazik, Karthikeyan Murali drew with Juraj Druska, Abhimanyu Puranik beat Christopher Repka).

Azerbaijan lost to Armenia 1-3, USA beat Turkey 3-1, Serbia drew with the Netherlands 2-2, Spain beat Czech Republic 2.5-1.5, Hungary drew with Ukraine 2-2, Germany beat Israel 3-1, England beat Italy 3-1, France drew with Lithuania 2-2.

Women: India 'A' beat Kazakhstan 3.5-0.5 (Koneru Humpy beat Zhansaya Abdumalik, R Vaishali drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva, M Amin Tabatabaei, Arjun Erigaisi drew with Pouya Idani, S L Narayan beat Bardiya Daneshvar).

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Georgia drew with Poland 2-2, Germany lost to Ukraine 1.5-2.5, Armenia lost to Azerbaijan 0-4, USA beat Indonesia 3-1, Cuba lost to Slovakia 1.5-2.5, Mongolia drew with Bulgaria 2-2, Hungary beat Italy 3.5-0.5.

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.

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 Abdusattarov, Nihal Sarin drew with Nodirbek Yakkubboev and Jakhongir Vakhidov.

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Abdusattarov, 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 Abdusattarov 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 Yakkubboev and Jakhongir Vakhidov.

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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 Oglivie also found the net in the lopsided 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 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 missing passing and trapping returned to haunt the Indians. It allowed Australia to play free

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 déjà 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 want 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. I'd 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 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."

sometimes some things you can't control. It is great learning for us," she added.

Although India ended on the losing side in the summit clash, Harmanpreet is "happy and satisfied" with her side's CWG campaign.

"I know we were close to winning gold, but all around our performance was great. This is the first time we got to play in this tournament and we're happy to have won a silver medal."

"A medal is something people back home will get inspired from and they could start playing cricket. As a team, we want to inspire young girls. Doing well on this platform will motivate a lot of people back home."

All-rounder Tahlia McGrath was a part of the Australian playing XI despite testing positive for COVID-19.

"They informed us before the toss. That was something not in our control. The CWG had to take a decision and we were okay with it since she wasn't very ill, so we decided to play. We had to show sportsman spirit."

"I'm happy we didn't say no to Tahlia, it (missing the final) would've even been very hard-hitting for her."

India put up a spirited fielding display that helped them restrict Australia 161 for 8.

"If you want to beat this Australian team, you have to field well. If you give them easy runs, they can easily take the game away. We discussed it in the team meeting and Radha (Yadav) set the example for us."

"The effort we put up today is something we wanted to do. I know the last 2-3 overs [in the chase] were not in our favour but throughout the game, the way we played was outstanding to watch."

"We've been working on our fielding for a long time. I'm happy with the way we fielded today. That is something we wanted to do as a team," Harmanpreet said.



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 had similar issues few years ago and was out for 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.

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

Kyrgios wins 1st ATP title in 3 years

Medvedev retains top spot

AP ■ PARIS

Daniil Medvedev, who won his first tournament of the year at the weekend, retained his position at the top of the ATP rankings published on Monday while Nick Kyrgios climbed to his highest rank in two and half years.

Medvedev, who is over 1,000 points clear of the injured Alexander Zverev, won his first title since claiming the US Open almost a year

ago, when he roared past defending champion Cameron Norrie in the final of the hardcourt tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Medvedev snapped a five-match losing streak in finals -- a stretch that included his agonising five-set loss to Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final in February.

In spite of losing his title Norrie still moved up a place to 11 with the Pole Hubert Hurkacz nudging up to 10.

The man on the slide, down two places, is Jannik Sinner, who chose to skip the event in Washington, losing the points he gained last year when he won it.

Sinner's absence left the door open for Australian Nick Kyrgios who followed his journey to the Wimbledon final with his first title in three years.

The Australian climbs 26 places to 37th, his best ranking since February 2020.

Kasatkina beat Rogers in WTA San Jose final

9AP ■ SAN JOSE



Daria Kasatkina rallied to beat Shelby Rogers in three sets on Sunday, capturing her fifth WTA title at the hardcourt tournament in San Jose, California.

Kasatkina, ranked 12th in the world and seeded seventh, triumphed 6-7 (2/7), 6-1, 6-2 as she went one better than her runner-up finish to Danielle Collins in San Jose last year, lifting her first WTA trophy since St. Petersburg last year.

The victory will move the 25-year-old back into the top 10 in the tennis world rankings.

Kasatkina denied the 45th-ranked Rogers a maiden

title. The 29-year-old American was playing in just her third WTA final, and her first since Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

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