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BENTHAMITE APPROACH
TO GOOD GOVERNANCE

WORLD 8

UN INSPECTORS HEAD TO UKRAINE
NUCLEAR PLANT IN WAR ZONE

MONEY 10

CORE SECTOR OUTPUT CONTRACTS TO
SIX-MONTH LOW OF 4.5% IN JULY

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CAPSULE

GORBACHEV, WHO ENDED
COLD WAR, DIES AT 91

Moscow: Mikhail Gorbachev, who set out to revitalise the Soviet Union (USSR) but ended up unleashing forces that led to the collapse of communism, the breakup of the state and the end of the Cold War, died on Tuesday. The last Soviet leader was 91. Though in power less than seven years, Gorbachev unleashed a breathtaking series of changes in the USSR. However, the changes quickly overtook him and resulted in the collapse of the authoritarian Soviet state.

P9

ANTI-CERVICAL CANCER
DESI VAX LAUNCH TODAY

New Delhi: India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent Human Papilloma Virus vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer will be launched here on Thursday, officials said on Wednesday.

P4

13.5% Q1 growth
fastest in a yearIncrease is below
RBI's projection
of 16.2% growthPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a first sign of revival of the economy post-Covid slowdown, the country registered a growth of 13.5 per cent in the April-June period this fiscal — the fastest in the last four quarters — perked up mainly by impressive performance in the

agriculture and services sectors.

However, the first quarter growth at 13.5 per cent is less than the RBI's projection of 16.2 per cent released earlier this month. Several analysts had hoped for a double digit growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal due to the base effect.

The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 8.4 per cent in July-September 2021, 5.4 per cent in October-December 2021 and 4.1 per cent in January-March 2022.

"Real GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q1 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of

₹36.85 lakh crore as against ₹32.46 lakh crore in Q1 2021-22, showing a growth of 13.5 per cent as compared to 20.1 per cent in Q1 2021-22," the NSO statement said.

The real GDP in absolute terms stood at ₹27.03 lakh crore in the April-June quarter in 2020. It had contracted by 23.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2020-21 on account of lockdown restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus.

As per the data, Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 12.7 per cent to ₹34.41 lakh crore in April-June this year.

Continued on Page 2

US grounding
won't impact
our Chinook
fleet, says IAFPNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/
WASHINGTON

A day after the US grounded its entire fleet of 400 Chinook helicopters due to a "small number" of fires in the engine, India on Wednesday said it will have little impact on the IAF, and it will continue flying them.

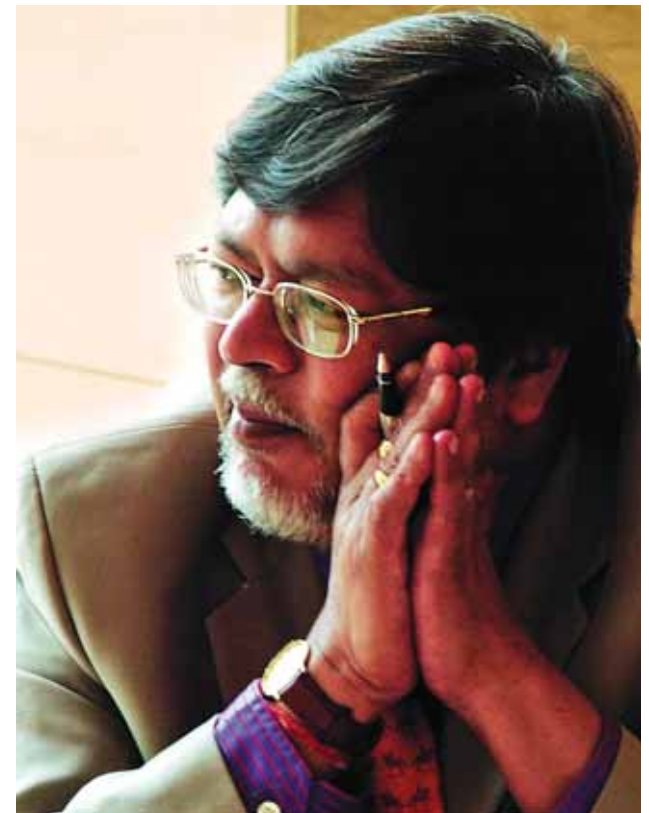
India has procured 15 Chinooks from the US in the last few years.

While the flying operations are on at the moment, the IAF has sought a report from the US about the reasons for grounding the heavy lift helicopter, sources said here.

Continued on Page 2

1st Anniversary
We can't get over the pain of losing you

SHRADHANJALI



DR CHANDAN MITRA

December 12, 1954 — September 1, 2021

the pioneer
familyDelhi L-G to sue AAP
leaders for graft charges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena will take legal action against AAP leaders, including MLAs Atishi, Saurabh Bhardwaj, Durgesh Pathak and Delhi Dialogue Commission (DDC) vice chairman Jasmine Shah, for levelling "false" corruption charges against him.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led party is up in arms against the L-G after Pathak alleged in the Assembly that Saxena, as

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) chairman, had put pressure on his employees to exchange ₹1,400 crore demonetised notes in 2016. Raj Niwas officials pointed out the CBI has enquired into the case at the behest of KVIC only.

"The matter was probed by the CBI and the agency has already filed a charge sheet against two accused KVIC employees. The matter is pending in the Rouse Avenue Court," they said.

Continued on Page 2

Nitish calls for 'main' Opp
front in meeting with KCR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA/NEW DELHI

Amid the growing clamour for Opposition unity after the change in political equation in Bihar, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao called on his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar to plan a strategy to bring non-Congress parties together to take on the Modi Government in 2024 polls.

The TRS leader shared the dais at a public event in Patna with Nitish and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav. He also met RJD chief Lalu Prasad at his residence.

The Nitish-KCR meeting is being seen as an important step in the direction of achieving Opposition unity. When reporters bombarded KCR with questions about whether he was planning a third front, Nitish chipped in saying, "It's going to be the main front."

Nitish is reportedly in close contact with the Congress' high command and may try to convince KCR to take on board the Congress to defeat Modi.

Continued on Page 2

Bihar Minister, accused in
kidnapping case, resigns (See P5)75
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NCRPULSE

FARMERS SEEK PERMISSION FOR ‘MASS SUICIDE’

Gurugram: A group of farmers protesting the acquisition of 1,810 acres of land in Haryana’s Manesar region on Wednesday sought from the government "permission" for mass suicide. Before submitting their memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav seeking permission for mass suicide, farmers surrounded the mini secretariat after a flag march from Rajiv Chowk.

‘SENSEX OF REGIONAL PARTIES’ LAUNCHED IN DELHI

New Delhi: Harivansh Narayan Singh, the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and MP from Bihar on Wednesday launched a book ‘Sensex of Regional Parties’ book written by journalist Akoo Shrivastava in the national Capital. The book highlights about Country political journey after Independence and role of state parties in it.

SPECIAL BSES CAMP ORGANISED IN BALLIMARAN

New Delhi: A special camp for installing new domestic electricity meter connections was organized on Wednesday in Ballimaran. The camp was organised by BSES today in the Gali Qasim Jaan Camp office of Imran Hussain, Food & Civil Supplies Minister of Delhi and MLA of Ballimaran assembly constituency. The purpose of the camp was also to serve and apprise the residents of the area with the operating procedure of BSES.

MAN WANTED IN 4 MURDER CASES ARRESTED

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested a man wanted in four murder cases in Bihar and Assam. Dabloo Yadav, a resident of a village in Samastipur district of Bihar, was nabbed from Okhla Mandi where he was hiding. He was wanted in a murder of his nephew in Paltan Bazar in Assam’s Guwahati and other cases.

DELHI UNIVERSITY TO LAUNCH CSAS PORTAL SOON

New Delhi: The Delhi University will ‘very soon’ launch the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) portal for the aspirants to fill up applications for admission in undergraduate courses, Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Wednesday. The university this year is taking admission based on the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores. The debut edition of the CUET-UG concluded on Tuesday.

TATA POWER SIGNS MOU WITH BLOCKNOTS

New Delhi: Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BlockNotes, a leader in technology deployment, to conduct capacity building trainings in the power distribution sector. This partnership will address the training needs of the power distribution personnel, bringing together the expertise and resources of two industry leaders for the overall benefit of the sector.

23-YEAR-OLD STABBED BY TENANT’S BROTHER

New Delhi: A 23-year-old man was allegedly stabbed by the brother of his tenant in south Delhi’s Sangam Vihar area. The incident occurred on Tuesday night. The injured has been identified as Sohan, a resident of Sangam Vihar. The accused, identified as Shahrulkh (20), is the brother of Sohan’s tenant who stabbed him and fled the spot.

4 PERSONS ROB COURIER BIZ OWNER OF JEWELLERY

New Delhi: Four persons, including a man donning a police uniform, allegedly robbed two men of jewellery worth about Rs 2 crore after throwing chilli powder in their eyes in Central Delhi’s Paharganj area on Wednesday. The incident took place early Wednesday morning when a courier service owner and his associate were returning to their vehicle parked in the area, police said.

FAKE CALL CENTRE BUSTED IN GURUGRAM

Gurugram: The Gurugram police have busted a fake call centre and arrested six people who allegedly cheated foreign nationals, mostly in the US and Canada, on the pretext of providing technical support. Those arrested have been identified as Abhilash Singh, the manager of the centre, Thachang Tungshanao, Vikas Bhadana, Paras Sood, Avinash and Ram Bishua. The owner of the centre, identified as Sachin Taneja, is absconding and raids are being conducted to nab him.

KEJRIWAL MEETS CWG 2022 MEDAL WINNERS

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday met Commonwealth Games 2022 medal winners Amit Panghal and Pooja Gahlot, and said their experience and expertise will be sought by the Delhi Sports University to benefit budding sportspersons. Panghal won gold medal in boxing while Pooja bagged a bronze medal in wrestling at recently held Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

CAMPAIGN TO MONITOR DRUG SMUGGLING TO BE LAUNCHED

Gurugram: The district administration in Gurugram will launch a campaign to monitor the smuggling of drugs in the area and spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse. Mission teams’ will be constituted from the village to district levels and it will be their responsibility to inform the administration about any drug trafficking in the area or victims of drug abuse needing treatment and rehabilitation, Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav said.

Public Notice

This is to inform genera public that Mrs. Munni Begum has acquired the Built up Property no. B-23, land area measuring 150 sq. yds. i.e. 125.41 sq. mtrs. Out of Kharsa no. 23, situated at in the area of Village Babarpur, in the abadi of Gali 1/5, Kabir Nagar, Ilaga Shikhdara, Delhi 110094 by way of Sale Deed dated 24.02.2022 Doc. No. 952, Now, Mrs. Munni Begum is mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no. 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9818228636 (M)

PUBLIC NOTICE

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It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Kapil Kumar Rawat who is purchasing the Residential Plot No. 414 & Plot No. 20-D, area measuring 20 sq. yds., total area measuring 70 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 4 & 415/2, at Sant Nagar, situated at Village Sakulabadd, Pargana & Tettili, Dist. Ghaziabad (U.P.) from Mrs. Maha Devi W/o. Mr. Roshash Kumar, who is owner of the aforesaid property vide Registered General Power of Attorney dated 05.07.2019 vide Document No.546, at SRO-Loni, Agreement to sell & WILL dated 05.07.2019, and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited, Thali, 1) Sale Deed dated 29.09.1988 vide Document No.3686, at SRO-Ghaziabad, 2) Registered General Power of Attorney dated 03.01.2000 (vide Document No.34, at SRO-Ghaziabad-IV), Agreement to sell & WILL dated 03.01.2000 areas not available/omissp/aced. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim / right / title / interest / creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucem Legal LLP

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Contact : 011-44004616

From Page 1

The Chinook is a twin

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vineesh Gole S/o Sh. Rajneesh Goyal R/o 127, A-G, G-Block, Vishwas Park Extn., Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name from Vineesh Gole to Vineesh Goyal for all future purposes.

PD(90158)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Shahina Parveen is the owner of Property Bearing No. 7783/9, Area Measuring 223 Sq. Yds., built on Plot No. 9, Situated at Jheboomal Colony, Near Edgah Road, Delhi-110006 by virtue of regd. Sale Deed dated 04.03.2022 (document no. 2001) executed by Vikas Jain & Vivek Jain And whereas Vikas Jain & Vivek Jain acquired the same vide regd. Relinquishment Deed dated 01.02.2022 (Doc No. 274) executed by Mamta Jain and Kavita Jain (all were inherited the said property after the death of their parents i.e. sarfa jain and lal chand jain) All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)

Shop No. 5 & 6, PK-EC, CSC, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810633551

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Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)

Shop No. 5 & 6, PK-EC, CSC, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810633551

From Page 1

“The people on the basis of whose statements these allegations are being manufactured against the LG are the two people who have prima facie been found to be engaged in corruption at KVIC after demonetisation by CBI. It is amply clear that a corrupt AAP is using corrupt people to divert attention from their wide-spread misdeeds that includes massive corruption in education, liquor and PWD amounting to thousands of crores,” they said.

“Saxena has taken a serious view of these blatantly false, defamatory and obviously diversionary allegations made by these AAP leaders and has decided to take legal action against them so that the AAP

rotor helicopter and the IAF uses them for operations in the high altitude regions like Ladakh, Siachen and some inaccessible regions in the north-east, including Arunachal Pradesh.

Besides carrying troops and equipment, the Chinooks are also capable of slinging the light artillery guns like the M-777 from one point to another, thereby providing operational flexibility to the local commanders in remote mountainous areas.

The first batch of these helicopters was inducted into the IAF in 2019, and the delivery of all the helicopters was completed by 2020 by its manufacturer Boeing. India inked a deal in September 2015 worth 3.1 billion dollars for 15 Chinooks and 22 Apache attack helicopters.

All the helicopters are now operating in the IAF.

The IAF’s Chinooks set a record in April this year by fly-

ing the longest, non-stop helicopter sortie in India, with the operational training task requiring it to fly from Chandigarh to Jorhat. It flew a distance of 1,910 km in seven-and-a-half hours.

Meanwhile, reports from Washington said the US Army has grounded its entire fleet of Chinook helicopters, a battlefield workhorse since the 1960s, over the risk of engine fires. The Wall Street Journal, which broke the story, said

such an extreme step was taken out of abundance of caution.

Officials told the Wall Street Journal the US Army was aware of a small number of engine fires in the helicopters, and the incidents did not result in any injuries or deaths. “One of the officials said the fires occurred in recent days,” the Journal said. “The US Army Materiel Command grounded the fleet of hundreds of helicopters out

of an abundance of caution.”

The grounding of the heavy-lift Chinook helicopters could pose logistical challenges for American soldiers, depending on how long the order lasts, the Journal said.

Army spokesperson Cynthia Smith said the Army has identified the cause of the leaks and is working to resolve the problem. Smith said some helicopters may not require the fix, so they may be able to return to flight soon, according to AP.

The fleet was grounded during the past weekend. Smith said there were no injuries or deaths associated with the fires but the Army temporarily grounded the fleet out of an abundance of caution.

The Chinook is the Army’s key heavy-lift helicopter, used to transport troops and equipment, and was a familiar sight in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

imagination for which the habitual liars will face the consequences,” sources added.

According to sources in the Delhi Government, everyone accepts that a massive money laundering scam happened in KVIC during the Chairmanship of Saxena. “Two witnesses have given a signed statement that Vinai Saxena was the kingpin of this entire Rs 1400 Cr scam. Yet the CBI never made him an accused or called him even once for investigation. AAP is only demanding that Vinai Saxena’s role in this scam be thoroughly investigated and until that period he should resign as LG of Delhi. If he has nothing to hide, why is he resisting investigation? Law should apply equally for everyone,” said the sources.

Suspended BJP leader held for help’s torture

PTI ■ RANCHI

A tale of inhuman torture has unfolded since Sunita, a 29-year-old tribal help who was allegedly held captive at now-suspended BJP leader Seema Patra’s residence in Ranchi, was rescued by the police, an officer here said on Wednesday.

Patra, the wife of a retired IAS officer, was arrested during the day.

Sunita was found in an “indescribable condition” on the night of August 22, Argora Police Station in-charge Vinod Kumar said.

“She had severe wounds and burn marks all over her body, as examined by a woman officer. She looked highly malnourished. She is in a state of trauma. Sunita claimed that

she was made to lick her urine... Many of her teeth are missing. She was allegedly hit with iron rods,” Kumar told PTI.

Sunita, who claimed she was held captive for eight years, is now undergoing treatment at Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) here.

The victim’s statement was recorded before a magistrate on Tuesday. Vivek Basky, a friend of the BJP leader’s son, had approached the police to inform them about Sunita, following which an FIR was registered under various provisions of the SC/ST Act and IPC. The police then conducted a raid at Patra’s Ashok Nagar residence.

A video of Sunita narrating her ordeal had gone viral on social media, following which

clamour for Patra’s arrest had grown louder across the state and elsewhere. She was subsequently suspended by the party.

Patra, following her arrest earlier in the day, claimed that she was innocent and “being framed” in the case. She has been sent on 14 days of judicial custody.

A team from the National Commission for Women met Sunita at RIMS to take note of her present condition.

Members of various tribal outfits have also been visiting the hospital to enquire about Sunita since Tuesday.

They demanded stern action against Patra under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Meanwhile, the Congress

attacked the BJP over the alleged torture of the woman, claiming humiliating tribals is “in the DNA” of the saffron party. “Patra took the tribal daughter Sunita hostage, got the floor of the house cleaned with her tongue, stamped her body with a hot pan and made her drink urine. The BJP leader, who committed such a heinous crime, was made the state convener of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao by the party,” AICC spokesperson Gaurav Vallav said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is silent on the plight of Sunita, Vallav claimed, asserting that the tribal society will avenge the humiliation in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

JMM chief spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya alleged that the BJP was all out to spoil

the social fabric of the country by raising only those incidents in which minority community members are involved and at the same time was maintaining silence on issues involving its leaders.

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) working president KT Rama Rao said he would be happy to contribute “in his personal capacity” to Sunita’s education as she has wanted to

study.

BJP leaders said that the saffron party does not tolerate such incidents and suspended Patra immediately.

Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais on Tuesday had asked DGP Neeraj Sinha as to why no action was taken against Patra after allegations surfaced that she was torturing her 29-year-old domestic help who is a tribal woman.

Four men vandalise church in Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a shocking incident fomenting trouble in the border State of Punjab, four masked men vandalised a church in Thakarpura village of Patti town close to the Indo-Pak border in Tarn Taran district. Condemning the incident, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday ordered a probe into the desecration and fire incident, declaring that nobody will be allowed to disturb brotherhood and harmony in the State.

As the CCTV cameras, installed inside the church, captured the entire incident, the four masked men were seen entering the church building and then pointing a pistol at the

watchman’s head. They also tied up the watchman’s hands before vandalizing the church. They broke two idols and also burnt the pastor’s car before leaving. Following the incident, a police team, led by Tarn Taran Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) reached the spot to take stock of the situation. To further avert any trouble, heavy police deployment has been made in the area.

A case has been registered in the matter and efforts are on to arrest those behind the incident, said SSP Dhillon.

A group of Christians held a protest against the vandalization of the church and blocked all routes leading to Khemkaran, Bhikhiwind, Patti, Harike, and Ferozepur. The

protesters demanded the immediate arrest of the accused.

SSP Dhillon, who reached the protest site, assured the agitators that the culprits will be arrested soon. “It is a conspiracy by some mischievous elements who wanted to disturb peace in the state,” said the SSP. “We have taken stock of the situation and are investigating the matter. We will soon catch those who were behind this incident,” he added.

Ordering a probe into the incident, Chief Minister Mann said that strict action will be taken against those involved in it. “This is a highly condemnable incident and severest of severe action must be taken against the perpetrators

of this heinous crime,” he said.

In another incident, pages of the Sikhs’ religious book, Gutka Sahib, were found scattered near the old civil hospital building in Phagwara, following which the Police has registered a case on Wednesday.

Some sweepers found the pages of ‘Gutka Sahib’ scattered under a tree near the old civil hospital’s abandoned building, said the police, adding that a case under relevant sections, including 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against unknown persons.

13.5% Q1 growth...

From Page 1

The GVA growth in the farm sector is 4.5 per cent in the first quarter compared to 2.2 per cent a year ago. However, the GVA growth in the manufacturing sector decelerated sharply to 4.8 per cent during the quarter from 49 per cent during the year-ago period.

GVA growth in mining is 6.5 per cent in the quarter compared to 18 per cent. The GVA in the construction sector also decelerated to 16.8 per cent in the quarter from 71.3 per cent.

The electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services segment grew by 14.7 per cent in the quarter compared to 13.8 per cent a year ago. GVA growth in the services sector — trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broad-

casting — was 25.7 per cent during the first quarter against 34.3 per cent.

Financial, real estate and professional services grew by 9.2 per cent in the first quarter over 2.3 per cent earlier.

The NSO stated that the Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q1 2022-23 is estimated at ₹64.95 lakh crore against ₹51.27 lakh crore in Q1 2021-22, showing a growth of 26.7 per cent compared to 32.4 per cent a year ago.

Meanwhile, finance secretary T V Somanathan said on Wednesday that Indian economy is on course for a 7-plus per cent growth rate in the current fiscal year,

Commenting on the first quarter GDP growth rate of 13.5 per cent, he said the economy is 4 per cent above pre-Covid levels.

Nitish calls for ‘main’ Opp front in meeting with...

From Page 1

It will be interesting to see the outcome of the KCR-Nitish meeting. Since KCR is rooting for a third front and Nitish is favouring a broad-based unity of the Opposition parties, the two leaders have miles to cover before they reach some understanding on evolving a joint strategy to take on the BJP.

While KCR has been lobbying for a third front and holding talks with the likes of Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, Arvind Kejriwal, Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, and Akhilesh Yadav, Nitish is reportedly in favour of bringing together the entire Opposition camp, including the Congress, under one umbrella.

BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi took a dig at his former boss Nitish and KCR saying their meeting is a “get-together of two daydreamers”. Modi

said it is a meeting of two leaders who are losing their base in their respective States and “desiring to become Prime Minister of the country”.

“It is a meeting of two day-dreamers who have no standing in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,” the Rajya Sabha member said. He also dubbed the meeting the “latest comedy show of Opposition unity.”

KCR called for a “BJP-mukt Bharat”, blaming the saffron party’s Government at the Centre for the many ills plaguing the country. At a press conference later which he addressed in the presence of Nitish, whom he fondly called “bade bhai” (big brother), Rao skirted questions about who will lead a united Opposition and whether the Congress will be taken on board.

To a pointed query about whether the Bihar CM, who

dumped the BJP earlier this month, could be considered as the prime ministerial candidate of the opposition, KCR evaded a direct reply but said “Nitish Kumar is among the senior-most and best leaders in the country. We will decide these things later”.

“These things will be decided in due course. We are in no hurry,” said Rao, in reply to questions about the prime ministerial candidate and the role of the Congress, to which the TRS is bitterly opposed.

Nitish and KCR addressed a public event where the duo lashed out at the Narendra Modi government in the Centre and criticised its “excessive prachar-prasaar” (publicity) besides its alleged lack of sensitivity towards the needs of the states. KCR took a veiled dig at BJP which has undertaken an aggressive campaign to expand its base in the south-

ern state.

Kumar’s speech was preceded by KCR giving cheques of Rs 10 lakh each to five soldiers from the state who were killed in the stand-off with Chinese troops in the Galwan valley of Ladakh in 2020. KCR also gave away cheques of Rs five lakh each to family members of 12 migrant labourers from Bihar who died in a fire in Hyderabad in March.

In his brief speech in Hindi, KCR referred to Bihar as being the land of “kranti” (revolution) and said his home State was the land of the Godavari river, called the “Ganga of the south while the holy river itself flowed through the eastern province”.

KCR also ridiculed Modi for having uttered “Ab ki baar Trump sarkaar” during a visit to the US many years ago, calling it a “diplomatic blunder”.

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AAP MLAs hold dharna outside CBI office

Demand probe into BJP’s ‘Operation Lotus’, slam CBI chief for not meeting elected representatives of people

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) members sat on a dharna outside the CBI headquarters for more than an hour in the national Capital on Wednesday after they went to meet the central agency’s Director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal to demand a probe into alleged attempts to topple non-BJP Governments and were unable to meet him.

The 10-member delegation of AAP MLAs reached the CBI headquarters to meet its Director at 3 P.M. even though his office did not respond to their request for a meeting.

The AAP had earlier in the day said it would meet Jaiswal to demand a probe into the alleged attempts to unseat non-BJP Governments in various States by the saffron party by poaching Legislators under ‘Operation Lotus’.

AAP MLA from Kalkaji, Atishi, who was part of the 10-member delegation, said the party had earlier sent an e-mail to Jaiswal’s office seeking an appointment with him but it was yet to get a response. While talking to reporters outside CBI



AAP MP Sanjay Singh and MLA Atishi Marlena and others gather outside CBI headquarters demanding a probe into alleged ‘Operation Lotus’ of the BJP to topple Opposition-ruled State Governments, in New Delhi on Wednesday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

headquarters, AAP Rajya Sabha MP, Sanjay Singh said, “This proves that the CBI functions at the behest of the BJP... I had also requested an appointment with the CBI Director but I am yet to get any response.”

Singh termed as unfortunate the CBI’s refusal to allow AAP Legislators to meet the agency Director and lodge a complaint, saying even an ordinary police station receives complaints from the people

when they reach there. “But here, elected MLAs of Delhi who want to lodge a complaint against the BJP’s ‘Operation Lotus’ in Delhi have been made to stand outside the CBI headquarters for an hour,” he charged. “The CBI must probe the toppling of Governments by the BJP and ascertain the source of the money being used for buying MLAs under Operation Lotus,” he demanded. After meeting with CBI officials,

Atishi said that it is shocking and saddening that the people’s representatives have been made to agitate for hours just for an entry into a public office. “We had only come here to file a simple complaint. We are not terrorists. We have been sent here by the public. We have seen lesser police bandobast for hardened criminals. I fail to understand why we are being stopped like this.

It is clear that the CBI, too, is a part of Operation Lotus, seeing how it is used to overthrow Governments. Now we can only hope for them to take cognisance and take up an investigation into the matter as an independent agency,” she said.

The BJP has denied the allegations and demanded that AAP MLAs who claimed that they have been approached by the BJP and offered up to Rs 20 crore to switch sides should undergo a lie detector test.

Delhi’s Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had accused the BJP of trying to poach AAP MLAs and topple the Kejriwal Government after the CBI raids against him in the alleged excise scam.

Call for CBI probe into ‘Operation Lotus’ derails Assembly

AAP, BJP both seek probe into allegations of poaching of MLAs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly proceedings were adjourned till Thursday following sloganeering by AAP MLAs who demanded a CBI probe into the alleged ‘Operation Lotus’ by the BJP.

The AAP members also supported the BJP’s demand for a probe into the allegations of poaching of MLAs. The special session was disrupted for the third day on Wednesday as the ruling AAP and Opposition BJP MLAs forced adjournments.

SAs soon as the House assembled for a discussion on the confidence motion on Wednesday, BJP MLA Vijender Gupta asked Deputy Speaker

Rakhi Birla to take up his calling attention motion, even as AAP MLA Atishi tried to raise the issue of ‘Operation Lotus’ of the BJP. Members of both sides shouted slogans, prompting Birla to adjourn the House till 11.30 A.M.

The AAP MLAs also torched an effigy of ‘Operation Lotus’ at the Assembly premises, even as the BJP called it an ‘unconstitutional incident’ against which legal action should be taken.

Gupta’s calling attention motion concerned alleged corruption in the construction of classrooms in Delhi Government schools.

When the House reconvened, Gupta asked Birla under which rule she allowed Atishi to make a statement on issues other than the no-confidence motion. He kept on questioning Birla while his party MLAs also supported him.

Birla said the Opposition members had not allowed the

House to function in the last few days, and marshalled out Gupta following which his fellow MLAs walked out in protest. Atishi alleged that the BJP is an “anti-women party as its members do not allow a woman to speak while another woman is in the chair”.

Her allegations were also supported by her party members who also started raising slogans against the saffron party, calling it a “Bachcha Chor Party”, apparently referring to the recent arrest of a BJP corporator in a child kidnapping case.

She alleged that the BJP tried to de-establish the Delhi Government through its ‘Operation Lotus’ which involves three steps -- using central agencies (ED, CBI, Income Tax Department), scaring ruling party MLAs and luring them”.

“The BJP has bought 277 MLAs for Rs 6,300 crore under the ‘Operation Lotus’. They

collected this money by increasing fuel prices,” she alleged.

AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak said, “The BJP has said a probe should be carried out into the AAP MLA’s poaching charges. We welcome and support BJP MPs demand for this probe.”

Party MLA Kuldeep Kumar alleged that when he refused the BJP’s offer of Rs 20 crore, “they threatened to frame me and send behind the bars in a fake case”.

Gupta, who was marshalled out, said the Government is “hell-bent on evading people’s questions” about the way they “looted public money”. “In the three days since the special Assembly session was called, the Government did not allow ‘Question Hour’, ‘Short Duration Discussion’ or any other Opposition question to be raised in the Assembly,” he claimed.

Govt adopting dictatorial attitude: LoP Bidhuri

‘Opp not given chance to speak in House for four days running’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Wednesday termed the burning of the effigy of the BJP with the placard of ‘Operation Lotus’ stuck on it by AAP MLAs in Delhi Assembly premises as highly condemnable and said that the Arvind Kejriwal Government is adopting a dictatorial attitude with the Opposition while killing democracy.

Bidhuri has written a letter and shared a video of the incident with the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G), Vinai Kumar Saxena. In his letter he requested the L-G to take legal action by summoning a report from the Assembly Secretary in this matter.

Bidhuri alleged that for the fourth-consecutive day, the Opposition was not given a chance to speak in the Delhi Assembly. “There is no such instance anywhere in the world where the Assembly has been in session for four days without discussing any problem of the public, any issue or any plan related to the public has been discussed in it,” said Bidhuri, MLA from Delhi’s Badarpur.

Bidhuri said that Rs 77 crore are spent on the session



AAP MLAs burn an effigy during their protest demanding a probe into the alleged ‘Operation Lotus’ of BJP to topple Opposition-ruled State Governments, outside the Delhi Legislative Assembly on Wednesday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

of the Assembly and it is the hope and aspiration of the people that their representatives will sit together and find solutions to their problems and will make plans to provide them facilities, but the Kejriwal Government did not allow the Delhi Assembly to do so.

“AAP does not even consider it an appropriate forum to answer the questions of the public posed by the Opposition.

At this time the people of Delhi are questioning the Government over the liquor scam as well as the education scam, DTC scam and Delhi Jal Board scam.

The transport situation in Delhi is also in bad condition as 3,760 buses of DTC have completed their shelf life and are still in service, at the risk of the public’s safety,” the LoP alleged. He said that the

Opposition wants to discuss these public issues in the Assembly, and that is why the BJP MLAs have given discussion notices on various topics to get answers to public’s questions. “However, even after being accepted for discussion, they were not allowed to talk about these issues.

For four-consecutive-days, whenever the Opposition members requested a discussion on these subjects, they were thrown out of the House. It symbolises dictatorship and arbitrariness as well as a blatant murder of democracy,” said Bidhuri.

Bidhuri said that it is surprising that the MLAs of the ruling party are raising slogans in the House, staging a dharna and using abusive language, but instead of taking any action against them, the Opposition BJP MLAs are being expelled.

BJP MPs demand lie detector tests over offer of ₹20 cr to AAP MLAs



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP MPs on Wednesday demanded forensic investigation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s accusation that ₹20 crore per MLA was offered by the BJP to destabilise his Government in the national Capital.

The BJP MPs also demanded lie detector tests for Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs who claimed to have been offered ₹20 crore. All seven MPs have also written a letter to Delhi Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena urging him to order a probe by agencies to look into the allegations of the AAP leaders.

BJP MPs Manoj Tiwari, Ramesh Bidhuri, Hans Raj Hans and Parvesh Verma alleged that the AAP is doing a “drama” of being an ‘anti-corruption’ party and the investigation will “expose” them. “Since they have claimed that the BJP has offered them



money up to ₹20 crore, it is a matter of forensic investigation. Why are they not revealing the names of those who called them? Why no legal action has been taken against those making poaching attempts? We have taken the allegations of Arvind Kejriwal gang seriously, and therefore we have written a letter to the Lieutenant-Governor. We have demanded a forensic investigation,” Tiwari said.

Tiwari said, “Manish Sisodia whose phone was seized by the CBI, claimed that he got a call on his personal number and was asked to switch sides. What time did he get the call? What’s the number? They are busy misleading the people of Delhi. We want a forensic investigation.”

The former Delhi BJP president claimed that AAP leaders have been constantly changing their statements on the Excise Policy issue. Parvesh Sahib Singh also called for a ‘lie



detector test” for the AAP MLAs so the probe can “expose their drama.” “The AAP Government claimed to have the best education model in the world, but their children are not taking advantage of it. They also have the best health model in the world, but their families, MLAs, MPs do not take advantage of it,” he added.

Taking a dig at Kejriwal, Verma said the CM doesn’t trust his own MLAs. They have 62 MLAs and still he called for a trust vote. This is nothing but a drama by the CM to divert the public’s attention from the scams in liquor and education,” Verma said.

South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri said offering a bribe to an elected representative is a punishable offence. “The AAP should share the names of people who approached their MLAs and offered them money to join the BJP. A FIR should be registered against such people,” he said.

Bharadwaj, Bhatia lock horns over school scam



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the BJP alleged a scam in Government schools being run by the Delhi Government, things took an ugly turn on Wednesday after leaders of AAP and BJP argued on camera in the streets of the city, outside Kautilya Government Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in South Delhi’s Greater Kailash area.

On Wednesday, AAP’s Saurabh Bharadwaj and the BJP’s Gaurav Bhatia tweeted videos of their versions of the brawl. The spat started when Gaurav Bhatia visited a school on the invitation of Saurabh Bharadwaj, because he had challenged the AAP Government to take him to a ‘single school’ out of the 500 new ones built by the Arvind Kejriwal Government as promised in the AAP’s manifesto.

The dare was accepted by Bharadwaj during the TV show, where it all began on Tuesday. Bhatia claimed that the AAP spokesperson could not bring the list of 500 schools while Bharadwaj said that

Bhatia had run away in the middle.

“He (Bharadwaj) took us to a school which was built in 1966. We have come to a second school that is still not constructed. This is the reality after eight-and-a-half years. Thanks, the truth has come out,” said Bhatia in a video.

Taking to Twitter, Bhatia shared two videos. “As promised reached the Kautilya school at 11 o’clock to get a list of 500 new schools from your spokesperson.”

“The spokesperson did not give the list even after asking for it. Called the old school as his own then was caught lying,” Education model of fanatical beacon Arvind Kejriwal see for yourself,” Bhatia tweeted, while sharing video of the school.

Meanwhile Bharadwaj also took to Twitter and said that the BJP spokesperson did not enter the school but ran away.

“Despite repeated requests, Gaurav Bhatia did not enter the second school and ran away. We told that we have to see 498 more schools now, but he refused and ran away,” Bharadwaj tweeted.

Kejriwal launches Delhi virtual school in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday launched ‘Delhi virtual school’ in the national capital, calling it first such school in the country. Soon after his launch, the BJP leader Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that Uttarakhand was first state to launch a virtual school in Dehradun in 2020 which offers education from kindergarten to grade 12.

The National Progressive Schools’ Conference (NPSC), a body of over 120 private schools in Delhi, said that virtual schools will “hand over school education to coaching centres on a platter”. Earlier, addressing a virtual press conference, Kejriwal said that the Delhi Government has started virtual classrooms for students, particularly girls.

‘First virtual school was launched by Central Govt’

New Delhi: The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) on Wednesday said that the first virtual school in the country was launched last year by the Centre and not by the Delhi government on Wednesday. **SR**

Delhi Model Virtual School (DMVS) Functions

- ➡DMSV will be affiliated to the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE).
- ➡DBSE mark sheet and certificate are equivalent to that of other boards.
- ➡No fees will be charged from students
- ➡Batch strength will depend on student registration.
- ➡Classes will be through SchoolNet and Google.
- ➡There will be an attendance tracking system in-built in the online platform.
- ➡Students can opt for topic or concept-wise assessment.
- ➡There will be two term-end exams for which students will have to physically come to Delhi.
- ➡The practicals for required subjects will be conducted through virtual lab simulations.
- ➡The medium of instruction will be both English and Hindi.

DTC approves pension scheme for employees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) Board on Wednesday approved a pension scheme for employees and those employees, who were on roll from August 1981 to November 1992 and did not opt for the DTC Pension Scheme of 1992. The board has also approved extending the benefits of the existing Specialized Medical Scheme of DTC Employees to all retired pensioners. A proposal to this effect is expected to be brought before the cabinet soon.

“The DTC board also resolved to extend the benefits of the DTC Specialized Medical Scheme to all retired pensioners, non pensioners, their dependents and eligible dependents of deceased employees of DTC. This is expected to benefit 30,000 retired employees of DTC.

The Specialized Medical Scheme by DTC, currently covers only their existing serving employees while the retired employees who are pensioners are paid a fixed medical allowance of ₹500/- per month which was increased to ₹1000/- per month in Aug 2021,” Delhi government said in a statement.

L-G warns against delay in education, excise probe by ACB

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday warned of “exemplary action” against staffers flagging recent “violations and procedural lapses” in the Excise, Education and Public Works departments.

Saxena reviewed the working of the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV) on Tuesday and also flagged instances of inordinate delay in investigation by the department and the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB).

He also stressed that performance audit of departments and public services must be done on regular basis.

The LG directed the Vigilance Department to process the requests of investigating agencies like Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), made under Section 17(A) and Section (19) of Prevention and Corruption Act, 1988, in a time-bound manner. Underlining that the suspension of an official pending inquiry cannot be an exercise in perpetuity, he asked the



DoV to review all suspension cases on merit within one month, said an official. Flagging instances of inordinate delay in investigation by the ACB and the DoV, the LG said such delays defeat the very cause of justice and asked for all such cases to be reviewed within a month.

In this regard, he also instructed for framing a mechanism of online complaints, which should be processed and disposed within one month in accordance with a proper checklist/SOP, he added.

After going through a presentation made by the secretary, Vigilance, he issued detailed and strict instructions for ensuring efficiency, transparency and effectiveness in the functioning of department, officials said.

Govt-owned liquor shops to sell alcohol in Delhi from today

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Having had a tough time for the past month, tipplers may be able to get their choice of brands from Government liquor shops across Delhi from Thursday. Under the old excise policy, only Government-owned liquor shops will sell liquor in Delhi from Thursday.

The excise department has developed an App mobile app “mAbkaridelhi”, which will become operational within a day or two, providing consumers information about the location of liquor stores in their neighborhood and shop timings.

The liquor vends that were operating on Wednesday were only selling the left-out stock of booze in order to clear the stock as the private liquor outlets will not be able to operate from September 1.

However, the booze lovers standing in large queues at these vends were seen buying liquor in huge quantities. The liquor vends in the capital will be open according to the old timings, starting from 10 AM till 10 PM. Ankush Khurana, a resident of West Delhi’s Patel Nagar, who was standing in a queue at Karol Bagh liquor vend said that he will buy beers

in large stock. “I think, Delhiites will not see this kind of scheme again in the city. I think rates will be high in the next liquor policy. Why not stock beers now when it is available at cheap rates. I will buy at least 12 bottles of beer,” said Khurana.

AV Kumar, liquor vend owner in the Paharganj area said that they are clearing the stock and every bottle in the shop is being sold at a discounted price. “The shops will be closed from tomorrow. We hope that our stock ends today otherwise we will not be able to sell them from September 1,” said Kumar.

Another liquor vend owner in West Delhi’s Rajouri area, who did not wish to be named, said, “we are selling liquor at loss, just to cover the maximum amount of our capital invested to open the shop.

The government has returned the old policy and now we won’t be able to open the shop from tomorrow.” “We have not purchased the liquor for the past one week, but still the stock is left in the shop,” he said.

In Paharganj, two liquor vends were open, but they merely had any stock left, they were selling the liquor bottles at buy one get one scheme just to

clear the stock. Ajay Sharma, a tippler standing in the queue at Paharganj said, I am not able to get my favorite brand for the past couple of days as every liquor vend I visit says that they are not that there is no supply due to the uncertainty that the what will happen after September 1.

“We have to buy what is left in the shops; I am here to buy one carton of whiskey at the discounted price, which will last for 15 days till then there will be clarity on the opening of the new retail liquor shops,” he said.

Talking about the new excise policy and opening of new liquor vends from September 1, Vinod Giri, Director General, Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) said that many L1 licenses are in place, and around 240-260 outlets are likely to start from day one, which will go up to 500 within a month while stocks are already filling up in retail.

“However, consumers shall find some of popular products missing on shelves as they are yet to register, nor is there a clarity when will they register. This will impact hotels, pubs, bars, and restaurants where such products are popular.

Cong prez poll worries leaders

Several want electoral rolls to be made public for transparency; AICC says it is an in-house procedure

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leaders, including Parliamentarians, have expressed their concern on the procedure of election of party president and have demanded that electoral rolls be made public to ensure transparency in the process. But the AICC categorically rejected the demand saying it was an "in-house procedure" and any member can get its copy from any of the Pradesh Congress Committee offices.

Party leaders and Lok Sabha MPs Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor and Karti

Chidambaram on Wednesday said the names of electors for the party president's poll must be published on the AICC website to ensure transparency. Two days ago, senior party leader Anand Sharma too questioned the process during the Congress Working Committee meeting chaired by Sonia Gandhi. Tewari and Tharoor are part of the G23, whose other members Ghulam Nabi Azad and Kapil Sibal resigned from the party recently.

AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, who was in Kerala to review the arrangements being made for the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra next week, said any party member can check the copy of the electoral rolls at any of the PCC offices.

Party's Central Elections Authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry, who is the chairman of the Congress' central election authority, has already given a statement to the media in this regard. "There is

no such practice in the Congress. We will continue to follow the old practice," Venugopal said. Another leader Manickam Tagore said party leaders must be proud to have an open system. "I am a PCC member from Thiruparankundram Block in Madurai.

Any 10 PCC members can propose a candidate for Congress President when the nomination starts. Why my colleagues are trying to create confusion in the electoral process? Instead we must be proud to have open system," he said in a tweet.

Tewari asked why anyone seeking to contest the Congress president's election should go to the PCC office to get the electoral roll as this does not even happen in a club election.

"With great respect Madhusudan Mistry ji how can there be a fair and free election without a publicly available electoral roll? Essence of a fair and free process is names and addresses of electors must be

published on the Congress website in a transparent manner," Tewari said in a series of tweets. He said Mistry is quoted as saying, "The list is not made public but if a member of our party wants to check, they can check at the PCC office. And, of course, it will be given to the candidates once they file their nomination papers".

Congress MP Tharoor, who has expressed his intent to contest the party's presidential election, agreed with Tewari, and said everybody should know who can nominate and who can vote. "Certainly, I think it's important that everybody should have transparency on the electoral rolls.

If that's what Manish has asked for, then I'm sure that it's a principle that everybody would agree. Everybody should know who can nominate and who can vote. There is nothing wrong with that," Tharoor said at a function in Thiruvananthapuram, while concurring with Tewari.

Another Congress leader and MP Karti Chidambaram supported his view, saying every election requires a well defined electoral college. He also said "reformists are not rebels".

"Every election needs a well defined and clear electoral college. The process of forming the electoral college must also be clear, well defined and transparent. An ad hoc electoral college is no electoral college," Karti said on Twitter.

Tewari said the CWC has announced the schedule of the Congress president's election not to 28 Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) and eight territorial Congress Committees (TCCs). "How can someone consider running if he/she does not know who the electors are.

If someone has to file his/her nomination and gets it proposed by 10 Congress persons, as is requirement, the CEA can reject it saying they are not valid electors," Tewari said while pointing fingers at the process of election.

Centre to give 15L MT of Chana at discount to States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, approved the disposal of 15 lakh tonnes of Chana (Pulses) to States at a discounted rate for utilisation in various welfare schemes.

The Centra also decided to raise the procurement ceiling for tur, urad and masur under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), which is operationalised only when prices of agri-produce fall below the minimum support price (MSP).

"Under this approved Scheme, the States/UTs Government are offered to lift 15 lakh MT of Chana at the discount of Rs. 8 per kg over Issue Price of the sourcing State on First come first serve basis. The States/UTs to utilize these pulses in their various Welfare Schemes/Programmes like

Mid-Day Meal, Public Distribution System, Integrated Child Development Programmes (ICDP) etc. in their States/UTs. This will be one-time dispensation for a period of 12 months or till complete disposal of 15 lakh MT stock of Chana whichever is earlier. The Government will spend Rs. 1200 crore for implementation of this Scheme," said the Government in a statement.

The decisions will enable the States to use Chana in various Welfare Schemes like PDS, Mid-Day Meal Schemes etc. besides making available space of warehouses, which may be required in coming Rabi season for accommodating fresh stocks procured under PSS which will help in getting remunerative price of pulses to the farmers besides, encourage more farmers to grow such pulses by making higher investment and help them in fetching remunerative price for their

produce. Moreover, this also helps in achieving self-sufficiency of such pulses in our country. In recent times the country has witnessed an all time high production of Chana (Pulses) especially during the last three years.

Government of India under Price Support Scheme has made record procurement of Chana during Rabi 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22.

Due to this, 30.55 lakh MT of Chana is available with the Government under PSS & PSF in the coming Rabi season also, the production of Chana is expected to be good. This coupled with increase in MSP for Chana during 22-23 will entail additional procurement under Price Support Scheme.

"The CCEA approved enhancement of the ceiling on the quantity of procurement under PSS from the existing 25 per cent to 40 per cent in respect of tur, urad and masur," an official statement said.

Sonia Gandhi's mother passes away in Italy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's mother Paola Maino passed away at her home in Italy on Saturday and her funeral took place on Sunday, the Congress said. The Congress president had left on August 23 to visit her ailing mother, who was in her 90s.

"Smt. Sonia Gandhi's mother, Mrs. Paola Maino passed away at her home in Italy on Saturday the 27th August 2022. The funeral took place yesterday," AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter.

Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi and daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are

already abroad and visited her hometown. President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered their condolences to Sonia on her mother's death.

"Sad to learn about the passing away of Mrs. Paola Maino, mother of Congress President Sonia Gandhi. My heartfelt condolences to her and her family. May God give her strength to bear this irreparable loss," tweeted Murmu.

"Condolences to Sonia Gandhi ji on the passing away of her mother, Mrs. Paola Maino. May her soul rest in peace. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the entire family," Modi tweeted.

Govt submits updated NDC under Paris Agreement to UNFCCC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, emphasising that it is a step forward towards its long-term goal of reaching net-zero by 2070.

In a cover letter accompanying the NDC document submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on August 23, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said India is not bound by any sector-specific mitigation action or obligation. On August 3, the

Union Cabinet approved the country's updated NDC, incorporating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Panchamrit' (five nectar elements) strategy announced at the Glasgow conference last year into enhanced climate targets.

According to the updated NDC, India now stands committed to reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030, from the 2005 level, and achieving about 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. To further a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, 'LIFE - Lifestyle for Environment' has been added to India's NDC as a key to combating climate change.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with the Indian delegation, signing an MoU with Suriname National Assembly for exchange of information on Parliamentary archives, documents. The Lok Sabha will help Suriname National Assembly to set up a digitised archival library

IN SHORTS

IIS OFFICER VASUDHA GUPTA IS NEW DG OF AIR

New Delhi: Senior Indian Information Service officer Vasudha Gupta was on Wednesday appointed as the Director General of the news services division of All India Radio. Gupta, who was Director General in the Press Information Bureau, assumed charge of her new post immediately.

PROPERTIES OF KQUALITY BRASS TO BE ATTACHED

New Delhi: A special court has ordered attachment of three prime properties of former directors of dairy major Kqualty Ltd facing Rs 1400 crore bank fraud charges on a plea of the CBI. The court had ordered properties in posh Vasant Vihar, Punjabi Bagh East and Basai Dara pur village valued at around Rs 40 crore to be attached.

2-DAY SESSION TO BOOST AIIMS FACILITIES

New Delhi: In a first, a two-day brainstorming session aimed at improving the functioning of sixteen All India Institutes of Medical Sciences across the country will begin on Thursday here, official sources said on Wednesday. The experts and stakeholders will hold deliberations aimed at developing institutional practices and mechanisms to make facilities available at ease to the patients, they said.

MODI TO OPEN SCIENCE & TECH MINISTERS' CONCLAVE

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate state science and technology ministers' conclave in Ahmedabad on September 10, the Science and Technology ministry said on Wednesday. Chairing a high-level review meeting here, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said conclave aims at strengthening national science, technology & innovation (STI) ecosystem through greater synergy between Centre and the states.

BJP RULES OUT ALLIANCE WITH JAGAN'S PARTY

New Delhi: BJP leader Sunil Deodhar on Wednesday ruled out an electoral alliance with YSRC Party and downplayed meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagannathan Reddy, saying even "Lord Krishna had met Duryodhana several times". The BJP "would not ally with TDP or YSRC, as both are dynast and corrupt parties and both are same for us," the BJP's co-in-charge for Andhra Pradesh told reporters here.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer will be launched here on Thursday.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had last month granted market authorisation to Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture an indigenously-developed vaccine against cervical cancer.

Union Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh will launch the vaccine at IIC Delhi. SII CEO Adar Poonawalla will be present at the event, the officials said.

According to the officials, the qHPV vaccine CERVAVAC has demonstrated robust antibody response that is nearly 1,000 times higher than the baseline against all targeted HPV types and in all dose and age groups. Cervical cancer in India ranks as the second most

frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. Cervical cancer is preventable if detected early and managed effectively.

But if ignored, it kills one woman every eight minutes in the country, said Dr Prashant Mehta, senior oncologist with Amrita Hospital in Faridabad. The DCGI's approval had come following recommendation by

the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on COVID-19 of the CDSCO on June 15 after Prakash Kumar Singh, director (government and regulatory affairs) at Serum Institute, had applied to the DCGI seeking market authorisation of qHPV after the phase second and third clinical trial was completed with support of the Department of Biotechnology.



27L people availed health insurance claims: Data

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 4.5 crore Indians got Covid in the last two years since the pandemic struck while around 5.30 lakh of them lost their lives. However, just 27 lakh people availed insurance claims worth ₹24,000 crore, as per Government data.

It comes amid a recent survey that found that almost 50 per cent of patients feel that the long waiting time for approvals is the biggest pain point while filing for the insurance claim and nearly 60 per cent of patients are delaying treatments because of lack of health insurance.

Debashish Panda, Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), gave an insight into the status of the insurance sector at an event here where he called health insurance as a mitigation tool. But at the same time, he pointed out that a lot needed to be done to reach out to a common man.

"The pandemic taught us

that health insurance is a risk mitigation tool. During Covid, health insurance played a very important role by catering to 27 lakh population with claims worth ₹24,000 crore.

As on date, we have 6 standalone health insurance companies and to facilitate seamless reimbursements there are 19 third party administrators," he said at the "16th Health Insurance Summit 2022", organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and supported by the IRDAI.

However, he felt that more needs to be done given the size and diversity of the population. "The health insurance market has grown at a CAGR of 19 per cent in the last 5 years, however, given its potential it needs to grow at a CAGR of 30-35% CAGR.

With India commemorating 100 years of its independence in 2047 our goal should be Health Insurance for All," Panda said. He stressed that, "parametric insurance products need to come up, OPD services

need to be covered, treatments currently under exclusion should be included and distribution inefficiencies need to be addressed." The National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) recently revealed that India has witnessed a marginal improvement in health insurance coverage, but even those who are insured face various challenges such as dealing with complex paperwork, delay in discharge, uncertainty about disease coverage etc, as has been found by the survey conducted recently by Pristyn Care Data Labs.

It found that "another big pain point for customers is that health insurance policies are too complex to understand. The study revealed that 67 per cent of respondents believe that their health insurance policies are difficult to understand and don't give a holistic view of the benefits provided.

"Some of the other challenges faced by patients while claiming insurance were deduction of money at the time of claiming (24 per cent)

and complex paperwork (17 per cent). To ease the process of claiming health insurance, more than 60 per cent Indians would opt for a third party end-to-end health insurance service provider who takes care of the hassle. With the rising costs of medical treatments in the country, as per the study which expressed its dismay that nearly 60% of the respondents are delaying treatment due to the lack of any health cover.

The IRDAI is already looking into the Covid-19 policy claims that were rejected by insurance companies. This followed after a public interest litigation was filed by Manav Seva Dham (petitioner), a social services' trust against various insurance companies before the Bombay High Court.

According to reports, more than 80, 000 claims were received by the non-life insurance industry. However, despite having health insurance policies, the claims of the policyholders were blatantly rejected by these insurance companies citing frivolous reasons.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case of disproportionate assets against a former member of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), and his wife.

A Preliminary Enquiry (PE) into the matter was registered in 2019 against Jog Singh, the then Member, Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai and subsequently the then member Securities Appellate Tribunal on the allegation that Singh while functioning as Member of Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) at Mumbai during 2013-2018 has acquired immovable assets in his name and in the name of wife Shukla Singh and daughter, which are disproportionate



to their known sources of income. Through the acquisition of disproportionate assets, Jog Singh has prima facie committed gross misconduct by accumulating huge properties in his name and in the name of his family members which are disproportionate to their source of income, according to the PE report. The alle-

gations were verified and the PE revealed that during the period from 2006 to 2018, Jog Singh has accumulated movable and immovable assets in his name and in the names of his family members, which are disproportionate to his known sources of income.

In 2006, he joined the Central Administrative Tribunal, Bombay Bench as Member (Judicial), and relinquished the charge in 2011 after completing tenure of five years.

He was again appointed for the second term as Member (Judicial), Central Administrative Tribunal on December 30, 2011, wherein he remained posted at Mumbai Bench, Ahmedabad Bench and Principal Bench, New Delhi.

He relinquished the charge of the office of Judicial

Member, CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi in 2013, according to the contents of the FIR. Later, he was appointed as Member, Securities Appellate Tribunal in 2013 and relinquished the charge of the same in 2018 after completing tenure of five years. The enquiry further disclosed that during the period from 2006 to 2018, he has acquired assets in the form of immovable properties, movable properties.

He was found in possession of disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs. 4.44,15,323 (164.60 per cent) more than his known sources of income, reads the FIR. Further, there are cash deposits of more than Rs 29.68 lakhs in the account of Shukla Singh during the check period for which there is no proof of income, added the FIR.

Govt warns industry & advertising body to comply with surrogate advertisement norms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned over surrogate advertisements on television and social media platforms, the Government on Wednesday directed industry bodies CII, Ficci and Assocham and those related to advertising and broadcasting to ensure compliance of the existing guidelines.

Otherwise, the government would take stern action against the violators by consumer protection regulator CCPA, it said. The guidelines for prevention of misleading advertisement ban surrogate advertisement or indirect advertisement of goods or services whose advertising is otherwise prohibited or restricted by law. The consumer affairs ministry said, "It has been noticed that these guidelines are not being strictly complied with by the concerned entities and the prohibited goods are still being advertised through surrogate goods and services." During the

recent sports events that were televised globally, many instances of such surrogate advertisements were noticed, it said.

"It has also been observed that many alcoholic spirits and beverages are being advertised under the garb of music CDs, club soda and packaged drinking water whereas the chewing tobacco and gutkha has taken the veil of fennel and cardamom."

Moreover, many such brands are employing major celebrities that accentuates the negative impact on the impressionable youth amongst others.

Several instances of direct advertisement of alcoholic beverages on social media platforms were also observed by the ministry, it added. Concerned over this, the ministry has issued a directive to Advertising Association of India, Indian Broadcasting Foundation, Broadcasting Content Complaints Council, News Broadcasters and Digital

Association, Advertising Standards Council of India, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry, ASSOCHAM, International Spirits and Wines Association of India, and Indian Society of Advertisers.

These associations and industry bodies have been asked to ensure strict compliance of the guidelines for prevention of misleading advertisement and endorsement for misleading advertisement, especially the provisions pertaining to surrogate advertisements.

The ministry also cautioned the advertisers' associations that failure to ensure strict compliance of the guidelines by the concerned parties would lead to Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) taking reims and take suitable stern action against the violators.

Kerala has become narcotics hub, drugs available in schools: CM

KUMAR CHELLPPAN ■ KOCCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Wednesday that Kerala has become an important hub of narcotics and psychotropic substances. "Narcotics are freely available in schools and colleges across the State. Drugs are sold directly in class rooms," said Vijayan while replying to a calling attention motion by the Congress-led UDF in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister disclosed that the increase in the seizure of narcotics in the State during the last three years has been alarming. "In 2020 the authorities seized 4000 kg cannabis in Kerala while the quantity seized in 2021 was 6100 kg. This year, till August, the agencies have seized more than a tonne cannabis in addi-



tion to MDMA (Methylenedioxyamphetamin) and hashish oil," said the chief minister. MDMA is one of the leading drugs which is being widely used among students, youths, autorickshaw drivers, bus and truck drivers in the State.

Vijayan also declared that his government would leave no stones unturned to finish off the menace of drug abuse from the State. While the chief minister was speaking in the legislative assembly, television

news channels in the State broke the news that two young professionals were arrested with 21 kg cannabis by the Mavelikkara Police. The youths (Thajuddeen, an engineering degree holder and Vineet, a MBA) were engaged in transporting the "stuff" meant for selling in campuses in the nearby areas when they were arrested by the police on Wednesday morning.

Not a single day passes in Kerala without reports of seizure of narcotics from different parts of the State. Last week people in the State were shocked to see the live visuals of a young college girl who was taken into custody by the police from a lodge in Ernakulam. The heart rending cries of the young graduate girl pleading with the police to help her get the quota of drug has gone viral. Akshitha, a bright student, has become an addict

thanks to her boyfriend Noufal who is a drug pusher.

Chief Minister Vijayan's statement in the assembly on Wednesday substantiates the charge made by Joseph Kallarangattu, the Bishop of Palai diocese that narcotics jihad was active in the State. The Kerala Police had filed a criminal case against the bishop for his statement and slapped charges against him for trying to foment communal hatred in the State.

Rishiraj Singh, the Rajasthan born IPS officer of Kerala cadre who had served as the commissioner of excise had warned the State about the alarming increase in drug abuse and the narcotics mafia's influence in the campuses. Robin, a management trainer at Kochi said that it was an open secret that drugs were readily available in schools and colleges across the State.

Bulldoze mine, kin properties if we encroached: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Days after cases were filed against Mamata Banerjee's family for allegedly encroaching public land the Bengal Chief Minister on Wednesday asked the State Chief Secretary to "bulldoze and blow" up such encroached properties if the allegations were found to be true. "Allegations have been leveled against me that my family has forcibly occupied Government lands ... The charge is utterly false as our ancestors came here as Prajas (Theeka Tenants) of Rani Rashmani's estate," the Chief Minister said.

Iterating that neither she nor any member of her family had encroached others' property Banerjee said, "I have told the Chief Secretary to initiate an investigation into the matter and if my family or I am found guilty of encroaching



properties then immediately bulldoze or blow them up... There is no need to get my permission."

Opposition BJP and Left have often brought complains of forced occupation of others' properties against the Banerjees.

Reacting to her statement Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said that there were "numerous cases of priced properties being purchased for throwaway price by the relatives of the Chief Minister," adding the Bengal Police would never do anything regarding that... "She is only trying to evoke sympathy by making such statements... It is all drama."

CBI raids Mondal's aides

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The CBI investigating cow smuggling, on Wednesday raided a number of places including the houses of Manish Kothari the chartered accountant of arrested Trinamool Congress strong man Anubrata Mondal, and recovered documents related to 162 properties, sources said.

The raids were all conducted in Birbhum district which houses the world's second biggest cattle market at Ilam Bazar. Mondal has been arrested on charges of cow smuggling.

Apart from Kothari, the CBI officers also raised the house of TMC councillor Biswajit Bandyopadhyay, a close aide of Mondal. The officers also searched the a local bank as well as the block land revenue offices sources said, adding the net worth of the properties could run into several hundred crores.

Meanwhile a designated court on Wednesday extended arrested senior TMC leader and former Bengal minister



Partha Chatterjee's judicial remand for another 14 days'.

Chatterjee was arrested last month after Enforcement Directorate recovered Rs 50 crore and jewellery worth many more crores from the apartments of Arpita Mukherjee a close aide of Chatterjee. The former is being investigated for his alleged involvement in school level recruitment scam.

Elsewhere several persons including police men and CPI(M), cadres when the two sides clashed during a Left civil disobedience rally at Burdwan.

CPI(M) cadres who took part in a massive rally demanding action against the corrupt politicians hurled brickbats at the police. Teargas shells were fired and water cannons were used to disperse the crowd. Several persons were arrested after the incident, sources said.

Yogi orders speedy relief ops in 18 flood-hit areas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed over 47 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) teams to work round-the-clock and ensure that the relief operations are not delayed in areas affected by floods and excessive rains.

"We are monitoring the entire flood situation. Adequate measures have been taken and we have ensured that there is ample supply of drinking water, dry food packets and medicines, clothes, utensils and bedding among others," said Relief Commissioner Ranvir Prasad.

The 18 districts where the Yogi government is carrying out intensive flood relief operations include Agra, Auraiya,



Etawah, Hamirpur, Fatehpur, Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur Nagar, Ballia, Banda, Kasganj, Kaushambi, Bhadohi, Chandauli, Ghazipur and Sitapur. The government has also established around 964 relief shelters.

"The government is leaving no stone unturned to mitigate the impact of floods and send relief materials to the marooned people in 1,111 flood-affected villages spread across 18 districts of the state," Prasad said.

The UP government has deployed around 1,936 boats and 677 medical teams while 1,524 flood posts and 702 animal relief camps have also been set up. Besides, 108 motorboats and 50 vehicles have been pressed into service to conduct search operations. In the animal camps, vaccination of more than 9,57,952 animals has been done.

More than 14,166 dry ration kits and 1,36,255 lunch packets have been distributed by the government to the affected people so far.

The state government has also distributed around 58,497 ORS packets and more than 1,87,280 chlorine tablets in the affected areas. Teams of NDRF and SDRF have evacuated 21,153 people from flood-affected areas and shifted them to relief camps, the commissioner said.

IAF rescues Israeli man stuck at 16K ft in Ladakh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

The Indian Air Force on Wednesday rescued another Israeli national who was stuck at a height of more than 16,000 feet near Markha valley in Ladakh.

This is the second episode involving an Israeli national in the region. Earlier, on August 20 Noam Gil, suffering from acute mountain sickness, was rescued by the Indian Air Force personnel from the same area.

According to a Srinagar based Defence Spokesman, "On 31 Aug 22, 114 Helicopter Unit received a call for casevac (Casualty evacuation) from Nimaling Camp near Markha Valley." Atar Kahana, an Israeli national, was suffering from high altitude sickness, including vomiting and low oxygen saturation", Defence spokesman said. Moving swiftly, the Flt Cdr



114 HU, Wg Cdr Ashish Kapoor and Flt Lt Rhythm Mehra as No. 1 and Sqn Ldr Neha Singh and Sqn Ldr Ajinkya Kher as No 2, got airborne within minutes, for this time critical mission.

Following the shortest Route the Casevac aircrafts reached the spot within 20 minutes of flying time and spotted the casualty on the Gongmaru La pass at an elevation of 16800 feet.

The No.1 aircrew carried out a thorough rescue and landed at the pass with the assistance of No. 2 and picked up the casualty from the pass in the turbulent weather conditions.

PNS ■ HATHRAS

A human trafficking gang was exposed after a child stolen from Mathura station was retrieved from a BJP councillor's house and two doctors from Hathras who were running the business were arrested.

Aligarh police is back to action since this incident is reminiscent of the famous human trafficking episodes that happened in Aligarh a few months back in which 10 children were recovered and more than 16 accused were arrested.

A seven-month-old child who was stolen six days ago from Mathura Junction in UP was recovered by the police from the house of Firozabad's BJP councillor Vineeta Agarwal. Having no children, she had bought the child for Rs 2 lakhs. 1.80 lakh has also been paid.

RFID cards replace yatra slips for Vaishno Devi-bound pilgrims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

In order to ensure better crowd management especially during peak rush hours, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Wednesday launched a Radio Frequency Identification Card (RFID) facility for pilgrims replacing the existing yatra slip format.

The Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of the Shrine Board, rolled out a new RFID system for the convenience of the passengers on the occasion of 37 th foundation day celebrations of the Shrine board.

Taking another significant welfare step for the employees of the Shrine Board, the Lt

Governor announced hardship allowance for 1450 SMVDSB employees posted at Higher Altitude.

The work on Spiritual Theme Park is likely to commence before the auspicious occasion of Navratras.

The new RFID based system will ensure seamless access control with minimal hassle to devotees. For better crowd management and tracking of the Yatries, 29 counters and control rooms have been set up in Katra and verification counters have been set up at 7 locations on the track.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also laid the foundation stone of various projects of Shrine Board and Gurukul, including a new hostel for the



expansion of Gurukul and accommodation facilities for Shrine Board's employees at Ardhkuwari and Banganga.

Every year lakhs of pilgrims from all over the country pay obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Cave Shrine.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, said trials were conducted before the formal launch of the

RFID services along the 13 km long serpentine trek. The pilgrims reaching the Katra base camp have already started receiving the RFID cards.

In case of any exigency the pilgrims having RFID cards can be easily tracked down along the entire yatra trek.

The pilgrims are supposed to return the RFID card after performing the pilgrimage at the designated counters.

Bihar's tainted Law Min quits hours after being shifted to cane dept

PTI ■ PATNA

In a significant development, RJD's Kartik Kumar, who was given the law portfolio earlier in the month resigned hours after he was shifted to the sugarcane department amid the ongoing row over his alleged involvement in a criminal case.

Shamim Ahmad, also an RJD leader, replaced Kumar as the law minister, a notification issued by the state Cabinet Secretariat Department said. Ahmad held the sugarcane portfolio before his elevation.

The opposition BJP had been demanding Kumar's



removal from the cabinet, alleging that an arrest warrant was pending against him in a 2014 kidnapping case.

The Congress and CPI-ML (Liberation), constituents of the ruling Grand Alliance, had also asked the Nitish Kumar government to reconsider the decision of inducting Kartik Kumar into the cabinet.

70-year-old among 4 booked for gangrape of minor, probe ordered

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre case reported from Pratapgarh, a 70-year-old man has been booked for gang-rape along with four others.

Inspector General of Police (Prayagraj range) Rakesh Singh has ordered a probe into the case and asked the superintendent of police of Pratapgarh to conduct a detailed inquiry into the incident before initiating any action. The police claimed that the father of the victim had lodged an FIR with Kunda police against five persons, including the 70-year-old man, under sections 363, 366, 328, 376D and 506 of the Indian Penal Code and sections 3 and 4 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) and accused them of keeping his minor daughter captive for around 15 days and raping her repeatedly at different locations.

The father informed the police that a youth, identified

as Sachin from Kunda who studies with his daughter at a local coaching centre, had taken her out on July 11 evening and offered her tea laced with sedatives. He further alleged when his daughter became unconscious, she was gang-raped. He also claimed that not only Sachin but his brother and three others, including the elderly man, had raped his daughter repeatedly at separate locations and then freed her on July 26.

The victim's father alleged that the accused had threatened him with dire consequences if he dared to report the matter to the police. He also accused local police of registering a fake case of goat theft against him at the behest of the accused.

IG Rakesh Singh said: "SP (Pratapgarh) has been directed to conduct a detailed probe into the incident." He added that senior cops would probe the charges and act accordingly.

King cobra hitches ride in car for 200 km in Kerala

PTI ■ KOTTAYAM (KERALA)

A king cobra travelled in a car for over 200 km and lived in its engine bay for a week before being finally rescued by wildlife personnel in Kerala, according to the vehicle owner.

The incident was reported from Arpookara here. The forest officials rescued the 10-foot-long snake from the compound of an individual here on Wednesday, and said they would release it in a safe place later.

The venomous reptile was believed to have crawled into the car of Sujith, a resident of Arpookara, from Malappuram when he went there on August 2.

He said some local people had told him that the snake was seen getting into his car when it was parked near a check-post at Vazhikadavu there.

But, he could not find the unwelcome guest, he said.

A sense of anxiety gripped him and his family as they came across a snake skin (probably the reptile moulted) that was found hanging out of the



car on Sunday.

Again a thorough check of the car was made, but the creepy crawler was not spotted.

Instead, it was found in the compound of a house, 500 km away from his house this morning.

As the neighbours were also aware about the doubt shared by Sujith about the suspected presence of the snake in his car, they informed him soon, who in turn alerted the wildlife personnel.

The presence of the snake in a place where king cobras are not normally seen caused curiosity and concern among local residents.

The forest officials also said it may have reached here safely under the vehicle.

It was shifted to the forest office later and would be released in a safe place, they added.

AAP leader attacked in Surat, party blames BJP



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manoj Sorathiya was allegedly attacked by a group of nearly 10 persons in Surat city with the Arvind Kejriwal-led outfit blaming the ruling BJP for the incident, police said on Wednesday.

A blame game erupted between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the AAP following the attack on Sorathiya, the opposition outfit's general secretary in Gujarat who was injured in the assault, on Tuesday night in the Kapodra area of Surat city. The BJP dismissed the AAP claim of attack on its leader as drama enacted to gain sympathy of people ahead of polls.

While Gujarat AAP leaders

along with party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal accused the BJP of attacking Sorathiya, the saffron outfit, in a counter allegation, claimed at least three of its workers were injured after being assaulted by AAP activists.

Based on a complaint by Sorathiya, the Surat police registered an FIR (first information report) on early Wednesday morning under section 324 (causing hurt by weapon) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), said inspector NM Chaudhary, adding no one has been arrested yet. As per the FIR, a group of nearly 10 persons attacked Sorathiya and others outside the AAP's office in the Kapodra area when he was inspecting a Ganesh pandal erected by the local party unit.

The doctor couple, the operator of a private hospital in Hathras, were doing the business of human trafficking. So

far these people have stolen and sold six children. The police have arrested eight people in total in the case.

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A).

S.No.	Job no/Work name	Amount
1.	25/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2022-23, M/o Green Belt (Repairing and raising of Boundary wall near C-165 to C-180 and E-1 to E-28 sector- 72) Noida.	Cost Rs. 31.96 Lacs
2.	37/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2022-23, M/o RSP all division-I (Pruning of tree, water tanker, tractor trolley etc).	Cost Rs. 39.60 Lacs
3.	39/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2022-23, M/o RSP(Sub Head Vertical Garden) in sector – 15, 16, 18 metro station Pillars and Kalandi Kunj Bridge both side Noida.	Cost Rs. 74.17 Lacs
4.	40/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2022-23, D/o Wetland (park) in sector-54 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 86.17 Lacs
5.	31/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2022-23, M/o RSP Division – I area (Subhead repair of Tree Guards).	Cost Rs. 35.91 Lacs
6.	28/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2022-23, M/o Green Belt and RSP all Division – IInd with one year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 41.37 Lacs
7.	47/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2021-22, M/o Park, Green Belt & RSP with 02 year maintenance in Sector – 92, Central verge Exp H. Ways to Metro Line Drain.	Cost Rs. 93.65 Lacs
8.	48/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2021-22, M/o Park & Green Belt with 02 year maintenance in Sector – 93.	Cost Rs. 93.47 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date **14/09/2022 upto 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **15/09/2022 at 11.00 AM**

Office: **Sector-39**
Sd/- **Director (Hort.) Noida**
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INFORMATION REGARDING 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING (VC) / OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM)

Dear Members,
The 40th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of **ADDI Industries Limited** ("the Company") will be held on **Friday, 30th September, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.** through Video Conference ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") facility without the physical presence of the members at a common venue to transact the businesses as set out in the notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act) and Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08th April, 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated 13th April, 2020 and Circular No. 20/2020 dated 05th May, 2020 and Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13th January, 2021 and Circular No. 2/2022 dated 05th May 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/1/2021/11 dated 15th January 2021 and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/2/ CIR/P/2022/62 dated 13th May, 2022 issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The Company has engaged the services of Central Depository Securities Limited (CDSL) as the authorised agency to provide the facility of attending AGM through VC / OAVM, Remote e-voting before AGM and e-voting during AGM.

In accordance with the aforesaid Circular(s), the Notice of 40th AGM and Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-22 will be sent only through electronic mode to those members, whose e-mail address is registered / available with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The aforesaid documents will be available on the website of the Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on the website of CDSL at www.evotingindia.com

The members will have an opportunity to cast their vote electronically on the businesses set out in the AGM Notice through remote e-voting / e-voting during the AGM. The detailed procedure for remote e-voting / e-voting during the AGM by Members holding shares in Physical mode and Members, who have not registered their e-mail address with the Company will be provided in the Notice of AGM.

Members who have not registered their e-mail address with the Company / Depository Participant(s) are requested to register their e-mail address as per instructions given below for the purpose of obtaining e-voting User ID & Password. Notice of AGM and Annual Report 2021-22 and updation of Bank Account Details:-

Physical Holding- Please send scanned copy of duly signed request letter to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA), Beetal Financial and Computer Services Private Limited through an e-mail beetalrta@gmail.com providing Folio No., Name of Shareholder along with scanned copy of the Share Certificate (front and back), self-attested scanned copy of the PAN Card and any one of the following documents viz., Aadhaar Card, Driving Licence, Voter Card, Passport or Utility bill in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for the purpose of obtaining e-voting User ID & Password, Notice of AGM and Annual Report 2021-22.

For updation of Bank Account Details, please provide (i) Bank Account Number (ii) Bank Name and Branch Address (iv) MICR Number (v) IFSC Code (vi) Cancelled cheque leaf or copy of Bank Passbook / Bank Statement, duly attested by the Bank.

Demat Holding- Please update e-mail address / Bank Account Details with your Depository Participant(s) (DP).

For Addi Industries Limited
Sd/- **Taranjeet Kaur**
Date : 31.08.2022
Place : New Delhi
Company Secretary, Membership No. 8991

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Insensitive society

A BJP leader tortures a domestic help, a security guard is abused in Noida, another thrashed in Gurugram

Jharkhand police has arrested the suspended Bharatiya Janata Party leader Seema Patra, wife of a retired IAS officer, on the charge that she tortured her 29-year-old tribal help Sunita for several years. Patra has been accused of treating the maid in a ghastly manner, breaking her teeth with an iron rod and scalding and starving her. Whether Patra is guilty will be known only after a thorough investigation and trial, but the incident does highlight the deplorable manner in which a section of the middle class treats the underclass—domestic helps, security guards, drivers, et al. A few weeks ago, a woman showered profanities at the security guards of a housing society in Noida. Bhavya Rai, 32, is not an unlettered woman; she is a lawyer, but the way she abused and misbehaved with the guards was egregious. All this not because they had misbehaved with her; they were just late for a few seconds in opening the gate for her car to pass. The video of her screaming went viral, resulting in widespread outrage and police action. She eventually got bail after some time. And there was another incident on Thursday, at The Close North Society of Nirvana Country in Gurugram. The CCTV camera showed a man coming out of the lift of the society and beating the guard, Ashok Kumar, who had helped open the lift in which he

had got stranded because of a technical malfunction. In this case too, the accused, a man called Varun Nath, was arrested and bailed out soon after, even though the incident involved violence.

It didn't occur to Nath that it was because of Kumar's alacrity that he could get out of the life in just five minutes. The guard informed the technician at once, and in three or four minutes, Nath was out—to thrash the guard. Is this how we express our gratitude? Would he have slapped a cop too if he (the cop) had been there in place of the private guard? Very unlikely, for Nath people like think that they can treat their less fortunate brethren like trash; and they do that. The disturbing aspect of the Noida and Gurugram cases is that the perpetrators in both cases are people like us; they are not like, say, Shrikant Tyagi, a politically connected thug terrorising his neighbours. You don't expect better from the likes of Tyagi, but you do expect middle class folks like Roy and Nath to behave civilly. The middle class may not have the resources to help the underclass, but the least they can do is treat the poor in a humane manner. As Kumar told a newspaper reporter, "Hum gareeb hain to hamari koi izzat nahi hai kya? Naukri sirf pet paalne ke liye nahi, izzat ke liye bhi karte hain. (Don't we have respect just because we're poor? I work not just to feed my family, but also for respect)." A thought for today.



Devotees perform rituals in front of an idol of Lord Ganesha before taking it home for worship on Ganesh Chaturthi

Election vs defection

Hemant Soren's disqualification makes Jharkhand politics unstable and vulnerable to horse trading

Jharkhand politics is now in focus as the Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's faces disqualification over an office-for-profit charge. In all likelihood Soren will have to leave the office along with his cabinet. But the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader can once again return as CM by either winning the by-elections. It is not for the first time a political leader has been disqualified. In the past many other such instances have taken place. In fact Hemant Soren's father, Shibu Soren was disqualified from the Rajya Sabha as he was holding an office of profit of chairman of the Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council. But Hemant Soren disqualification means that the whole state goes into political turmoil and the chances of horse trading loom large. A redux of Maharashtra and Delhi where MLAs were allegedly offered hefty sum of money to defect and form a new government.



The forming of governments by defection rather than election has now become a new normal and sadly touted as 'masterstroke' throwing morality and democratic norms to winds. Should that happen in Jharkhand, it would be a sad commentary on the state of politics that we are witnessing now with such impunity. It is not to condone the fact that the irregularities and nepotism in allocation of contracts have taken place in Jharkhand. The state has a long history of such incidents. Soren in 2019 had promised a pro-people administration in Jharkhand. He constituted a task force to investigate issues related to illegal mining. He repeatedly called for cleaning up the 'bad image' given to the state by the mining mafia. But got involved in all that he was trying to salvage. Jharkhand industry department headed by him handed out an 11-acre plot in Ranchi industrial complex to a firm headed by his wife to which he maintains that no rule was broken in the land allocation. The CM's defence that he surrendered the lease is an eyewash. Hemant Soren has severely undermined his position as Jharkhand CM. His party now is paying the cost of his follies and misadventures. However, destabilizing the government and then making a bid through defected MLAs isn't a saintly act either. If the situation so warrants an early election would be a better idea than calling a new dispensation with defected MLAs or Soren ruling by a proxy.

Benthamite approach to good governance

Reward and punishment can be easily employed as tools to ensure good governance with high success rate

Benthamite calculus of pains and pleasures presents an ethical theory holding that actions are morally right if they tend to promote happiness and morally wrong if they tend to promote unhappiness (probably meaning that undesirable actions should be dealt with properly for the sake of happiness). When an event increases the frequency of a response that follows, the event is called a reward; if the event reduces the frequency of the response that it follows, the event is called a punishment.

Benthamite utilitarian theory projects the concepts as such in terms of pleasure and pain or simply as happiness and unhappiness among all those affected by them meaning be it the society or nation or a single individual. B.F Skinner developed the concept of operant conditioning which is a way of learning by means of reward and punishment. It holds that certain behaviour and consequence, either a reward or punishment have a connection and has an impact on behaviour.

The role of reward and punishment is significant not only in educational institutions, workplaces, and corporate sectors but also in the governance of the country also. Selected actions, with due attention to spatial and temporal implications and concerns, if mandated properly, not only herald positive results but also catalyze welcome solutions. Action so executed may be in form of a reward or punishment.

Punishment, apart from acting as a deterrent and checking the happening of an undesirable event, also takes one of these forms to control the events. Specific deterrence prevents crime by frightening an individual with punishment. General deterrence prevents crime by frightening the public with the punishment of an individual defendant. Other theoretical connotations of punishment are Incapacitation which prevents crime by removing a defendant from society. Rehabilitation prevents crime by altering a defen-



dant's behavior. Retribution prevents crime by giving victims or society a feeling of avengement. Restitution prevents crime by punishing the defendant financially. Whatever may be the manifestation, punishment is in consonance with the Constitution, Laws of the land and Indian penal code, Criminal procedure code, etc (Criminal jurisprudence). The Constitution of India pronounces equality before the law and as such nobody is above the law or punishment.

Reward as a motivational tool has been recognised by sociologists, Psychologists, and leaders. Be it the society, educational institutions, corporate sectors, or government, the importance of the concept of reward for good work cannot be undermined. In the case of rewards generally, there are two kinds of rewards: Extrinsic rewards: concrete rewards that an employee or an institution receives which are also called tangible rewards. Intrinsic rewards tend to give personal satisfaction to an individual which is also called intangible benefits. Now in admin-



PUNISHMENT CAN BE USED AS A DETERRENT IN PROVIDING FOR THE SECURITY NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, AND THE CONCEPT OF REWARD CAN BE UTILISED TO WORK AS A MOTIVATION FOR OFFICERS AND FIELD WORKERS

istration how the concept of reward and punishment be used as motivational tools for fostering tranquility in maintaining law and order and registering economic growth? Keeping Maslow's theory of motivation in view, punishment can be used as a deterrent in providing for the security needs of the people, and the concept of reward can be utilised to work as a motivation for officers and field workers to do exemplary work to cater to needs like food and water, etc. of the poverty-stricken people that is to eradicate poverty and to augment growth. Similarly, industry and tertiary sectors including the corporate sector can be put in developmental orbits to register socio-economic growth and transformation. Here comes the million-dollar question as to what ails our society/nation. With a democratic setup replete with heterogeneity, religious and ethnic plurality, linguistics, cultural and social diversity (economic divide), and mushroom growth of regional parties, deterioration in political morality, and its criminalisation; our country has become

vulnerable to onslaught/conspiracy both at intra-national and international level.

What is the solution?

When it is the question of the sovereignty and integrity of the nation and its growth and development, hard decisions and actions are desirable and acceptable. Timely action (and punishment for activities detrimental) is the call of the hour. The pandemic and situation concerning the security of the nation invite invoking of punishment for the wrongdoers.

The role of reward also cannot be underestimated. Positive work at the level of a state or officer or individual should be recognised and rewarded with tangible or intangible connotations. To conclude, our nation is going through a very difficult time so also the world is facing the hardest time. The time has come for each one of us to contribute to the collective wellbeing and to project that we are one when we fight united.

(The author is a superannuated senior IAS officer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WATCH OUT AGAINST POLLUTION

Sir — Ganesh Chaturthi, one of the most prominent festivals of India, was celebrated on August 31. The annual festival, also known as Vinayak Chaturthi, marks the birthday of Lord Ganesha. Importantly, it signifies the arrival of Lord Ganesha with his mother, goddess Parvati, to the human realm from the Kailash mountain. The celebrations begin on Chaturthi when people install clay idols and statues of their beloved Lord; intricate and elaborate stages and *pandals* are set up for the 11-day festival. Ganesh *aartis* are conducted in the morning and evening, devotees chant hymns and temples distribute *modak* offerings.

During this festival, people decorate their homes, buy and wear new clothes and light *diyas*. At the end of 11 days, people immerse the idols in the nearest water source like a sea or river. This immersion is meant to reunite the Lord with his parents. The ritual implies the removal of all obstacles and difficulties from a person's life. Even though it is an age-old tradition, people have now started checking the ritual's impact on the environment since it pollutes rivers and oceans and the immersion of non-eco friendly idols has been strictly checked.

Divyansha Sharma | Ujjain

SWIFT ACTION AGAINST ACCUSED PONTIFF

Sir — This refers to 'Karnataka seer booked for sexual assault on 2 girls staying in Mutt' (August 30). In a distressing development, Murugha Mutt pontiff Shivamurthy Murugha Sharana in Chitradurga faces the serious charges for sexual abuse of two minor school-going girls residing in the Mutt's hostel. The pontiff is held in high respect for valuable contributions to the betterment of the society, the latest being Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to receive 'Linga Deeksha' from the pontiff. Children, especially from poor backgrounds, take admission in the Mutt's hostel for schooling and seeking enlightenment—considering it to be a safe place to evolve.

Questionable antics



I am unable to understand why the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) secretary and the son of Home Minister Amit Shah, Jay Shah, refuses to take India's national flag in his hands with a nod signifying refusal? Maybe one of the reasons, that he is the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president and his refusal to hold the Indian flag should be seen as a move to remain neu-

tral. If so, then why like any normal fan, Mr Shah's happiness knew no bounds and he jumped out of his seat as soon as Hardik smacked that final six, or clapping like thousands of others, would not throw a challenge of his neutrality?

As per the modern trend, based on at least one viral video, people on social media have been trolling the 33-year-old mercilessly, accusing him of disrespecting the Indian national flag. Actually, the patriotic people of India are not at all surprised on Shah's refusal to hold India's national flag, because it's BJP and Sangh Parivar's habit of distancing themselves from the Tricolour since generations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Har ghar Tiranga' slogan notwithstanding. Whatsoever, by refusing to take the flag in his hand, Shah only in this way added an insult to the country's 139 crore population. Don't worry, *Yeh BJP mein chalta hai*.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

But when even a mutt turns into a centre for exploitation, any safe place especially for girls remains elusive. However, the most pressing question is as to why Swamiji wasn't immediately taken into custody after the complaint was lodged? Police had to chase him while he was reportedly on the run. The worst part is that the police safely dropped him back to the Mutt, even as he has applied for anticipatory bail. These police actions sow the seeds of doubt that the enormous clout he enjoys among politicians has provided him undue immunity.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

DON'T IGNORE THE ELDERLY

Sir — Loneliness is one of the biggest health crises affecting the older people today. According to Age UK, a charity organisation in the United Kingdom, over a million elderly people go for a month or more without talking to a friend or a family

member. Loneliness can affect people of different ages, but it affects over 40 per cent of older adults, for whom it can be especially debilitating. For some, it begins with the loss of a spouse or a close friend.

Or the onset may be more subtle, such as declining interest in what was once a favourite pastime or hobby. Living alone with chronic illness or due to the loss of family/friends increases the risk of loneliness and social isolation in older adults. Elderly persons who had a wide circle of friends throughout their life, may find it embarrassing or painful to feel lonely as they get older. Being there to listen when they are ready to talk or offering reassurance that things can get better may seem like small steps, but can make a world of difference to how a loved one feels.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

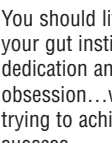
We will put into place by Thursday a new and transparent case listing mechanism.



Chief Justice of India —Uday Umesh Lalit



Former Congress leader —Ghulam Nabi Azad



You should live by your gut instincts, dedication and obsession...while trying to achieve success.

Actor —Sidharth Malhotra



Indian cricketer —Hardik Pandya

Without settlement of (N-site) safe-guard issues, speaking about a pact has no meaning.



Iranian President —Ebrahim Raisi

FIRST COLUMN

INDIVIDUAL GOOD FOR THE COMMON GOOD

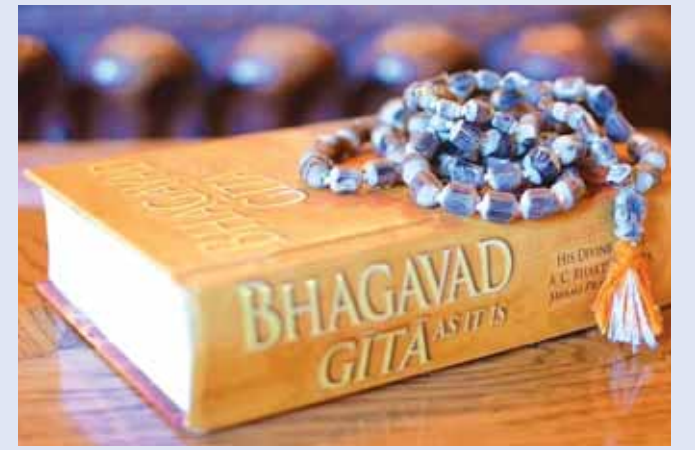


AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Individual good is relevant when useful for others. We must contribute to the general well-being

We all understand what individual and common good stand for. Let us see what we can personally do to achieve both. Beginning with myself, I have a strong desire to be good, because I have experienced its benefits. From the Bhagavad Geeta, we learn that the fruit of good action is good and pure. (14.16) Knowledge comes from goodness. (14.17) And we know what knowledge can do to our direction in life. Here the knowledge refers to the realized knowledge, about which we become convinced that it will help us in our lives. And people's goodness go upwards, i.e. achieve high status. (14.18)

Goodness benefits both aspects of human life. For the material side of us, we must inculcate goodness in all respects of our lives. If we do that we are contributing to common good also. People trust us and there are healthy interactions. And goodness is the platform from which spirituality in the real sense begins, i.e., one must be good to turn spiritual.



My other strong desire is to be useful and remain useful till the end of my life. I have understood that this creation works on the basis of us serving others and others serving us. It is not necessary that one we serve will serve us, but we will be served alright if we are in the mood to serve others. Obviously, when I serve others I am contributing to common good. It is said that if we serve others we serve God, because this is God's creation. He is interested in its smooth functioning, which is ensured by material service.

The third desire is to be materially independent, i.e., be self-supporting. We, human beings, have multiple needs due to our material bodies. We must have food on a regular basis; we must have a place to sleep, because we must sleep sufficiently every 24 hours; etc. To obtain all these needs, we must have enough material resources. Most of us spend the first quarter of our lives learning and getting trained to be able to earn our living and become self-supporting. As we do that, we no longer remain a burden on society. Rather we contribute to the general well-being.

My next requirement is lots of help from so many, primarily from God. I have realized how limited I am. I need help from my family, people who serve me, etc. In my present state of eternal journey, I have to avail their help and serve them in return. By doing this I am doing no favour to anyone in particular, and in the process I will be contributing to common good. Quality of service I seek can only be ensured by giving them quality service. This, as I have stated earlier, ensures common good.

I am a curious person. I have a strong desire to know what is in my best interest; what will set me on course for a bright future. Therefore, I have sought knowledge from many sources. Last few decades, it has been mostly from the Bhagavad-Geeta. As it is not so easy to get the best out of it, I have taken help from a Sanskrit scholar, who is also well-versed in this text of eternal wisdom. We have struck a great friendship and do 'satsang' on a daily basis. We have learnt and practised and realized its instructions. Surely, this was to be passed on to the others also, who are keen to know what precious knowledge Lord Krishna has given us, human beings. We have written many books together.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Not wise to impose fee on digital transactions

Digital transactions have brought speed and transparency; idea of transaction fee is indeed retrograde



In the last few years, the trend of online payment has increased tremendously and it is increasing unabated. Names like UPI, BHIM, PhonePe, Paytm, etc., are being heard in every household today. It is true that the trend of digital payments has increased all over the world but it has increased the most in India. Digital transactions worth Rs 20,000 crore are being made every day. In March 2022, this amount had reached Rs 10 lakh crore.

According to the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), 628 crore transactions worth Rs 10.62 lakh crores took place in the country in the month of July. The number of these payments has doubled in the past one year, while the total amount of digital payments has increased by a record 75 per cent.

Benefits of digital payments

Today without opening our wallet, we can do transactions from one rupee to thousands and even lakhs in a few seconds with just a click of the mobile phone. By being careful and not making mistakes in the transaction, very quick and secure payment is made and there is no scope for fraud of any kind. Although there is a minor charge for transfer of funds from banks, till now there is no charge for payment through Unified Payments Interface (UPI). In this way the transactions become easy and cost effective.

The transaction being free of cost, means economising the cost of doing business. It is quite true that the cost of business drives up the prices and the goods and services become expensive. In such a situation, if the transaction of money is done in a convenient way without cost, then it becomes economical to provide the goods and services at lower prices, while the profit of the business will increase.

Convenience in business is the most important dimension of reducing transaction costs. The facility of payment also helps to expand the business. Today we see that even the tiny sellers are seen accepting online payments by putting QR Code on their small shops or even on their tracks, say 'rehris'.

Talk of charge

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India has sought public opinion about the imposition of charges on digital payments from the public. With that, the debate has started as to whether it would be a right move to impose fees on digital payments? Along with this, there is also opposition to even this opinion seeking. To silence this opposition, the Finance Ministry has issued a statement that at present the government has no intention of imposing charges on digital transactions.

Transaction cost is a major part in the production and distribution of goods and services. Significantly, the



PM HAS SAID THAT DUE TO THE CONVENIENCE OF DIGITAL PAYMENTS IN INDIA AND DUE TO THE MOBILE REVOLUTION IN THE COUNTRY, MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OF THE DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS AROUND THE WORLD TAKE PLACE IN INDIA

(The author teaches at DAV College in Delhi)



higher the transaction cost, higher would be the price of the goods or services.

The importance of transaction costs in economics is shown by the fact that in 2009, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, Oliver Williamson, who was known as a transaction cost economist, presented his analysis on various aspects of transaction cost. But if the importance of transaction cost is to be understood, then it is necessary to have an economic analysis and investigation of this subject, that if a fee is imposed on digital payments, then how much will it add to the price of the final goods and services ultimately. We shouldn't forget that similar indirect taxes on digital transactions may have a cascading effect on prices of goods and services.

The Finance Ministry has also said in its statement that the digital payment system is a public good for which it is necessary to make provision from the Union Budget itself. In economics, we classify goods and services as 'public goods' and 'private goods'. The theory says that though pure public goods, such as defence, law and order, etc., are such that users can't be excluded in enjoying those services, however, in case of other public goods, where exclusion is possible, but usage of that by intended but excluded consumers are not a rival in the consumption. In case of digital transactions though with imposing charges we

can exclude those who don't pay for the same, however, digital transactions by one in no way hinders the usage of digital transactions by others. Therefore, if a good or service satisfies any one of the two characteristics, namely non excludability and non-rivalry, it's a public good; and if a public good is provided by the government, it will be more beneficial to the society.

Digital transactions is such a service that if the non-payers are turned away from that service by imposing a fee, then it does not benefit the society in any way. Our digital payment system is already in place, and the marginal cost of providing an additional digital transaction is almost zero, so if we exclude those people from digital payments who are not able or willing to pay the fee, then it will cause harm to the society, by way of increasing cost. It will therefore increase the cost and inconvenience. Therefore, this statement of the Finance Ministry is welcome.

Recently, the Prime Minister said that due to the convenience of digital payments in India and due to the mobile revolution in the country, more than 40 per cent of the digital transactions around the world take place in India. Naturally, due to the convenience of digital payments and the fact that they are free, the cost and price of Indian products and services have definitely come down. As long as digital payments remain free, the competitiveness

of Indian exports will be better and India's exports will increase. Even if the government had to make provision from the Budget to keep digital payments free, it would be a good expenditure. At the same time, no objection can be filed by other countries in the World Trade Organization also, as it's not discriminatory.

India can become digital hub

Today, India has not only moved ahead in digital transactions, but has also achieved self-reliance. National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) operates RuPay Card and it handles all digital banking transactions. NPCI also operates the Unified Payments Interface. Thus, NPCI acts as a digital bridge between customers and business with the help of UPI, facilitating personal and business transactions both. UPI coordinates all the service providers in digital payments. Through UPI, we can transfer money without sharing any sensitive information related to bank accounts and that too at zero cost.

In such a situation, when India is leading the world in digital payments, and countries of the world are also getting ready to adopt India's UPI, it would not be judicious to hinder this trajectory by imposing digital payment fee in India. Not only this, recently Russia and India have joined hands for digital payments, by integrating RuPay of India and Mir of Russia.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHEN THE AAP FORMS A GOVERNMENT IN ASSAM, WE WILL BRING DEVELOPMENT THERE AKIN TO DELHI'S... WILL QUELL CORRUPTION. —DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL



IF THE BJP GETS TO RUN A CITY LIKE DELHI, IT WILL MAKE IT THE MOST PROSPEROUS CITY IN THE WORLD. — ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER HIMANTA BISWA SARMA



Organ donation needs spiritual, political leadership

India has negligible acceptance of organ donations as compared to Europe, so taboos need to be broken

With just one per million cases of organ donation, India can fulfill all demands for saving lives with organ transplants. Organ donation in India remains a taboo because of ill-informed notions in the society. Dadhichi, as per the Hindu scriptures, was the first well-documented seer who donated his body out of which Vajra, the weapon of Indra, was made and used in the battle against the Asuras. That aside, awareness for organ donation is highly limited to certain sections of the society.

Eighteen months old Rishant was declared brain dead, but his parents decided that their son would live by giving life to kids who were battling for life for want of organs. His kidney gave a fresh lease of



SUMET BHASIN

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)

life to a boy, while liver was transplanted to a girl. This has rightly been hailed by the people, with the outpouring of emotions for Rishant, who now lives with two children.

But the situation about organ donation in India remains an abysmal state. There are two lakh people waiting for organs every year. The waiting list is indeed too long. India has 0.08 organ donors per million, while this is 34 for Spain, 27 for Britain, 26 for the US and 14 for Canada. In fact, every three minute one patient in India needs organs. The unfortunate state of the affairs results in not even 10 per cent of the patients waiting for organs getting them.

India reports 62,389 deaths each day, and the statistics

suggest that if the dying people were to donate their eyes there would be no visually challenged person in the country. In fact, donation of one pair of corneas may help four persons. Sri Lanka has completely removed the corneal blindness through donations.

International working president of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad Alok Kumar several years ago saw a skeleton in a medical hospital, which was highly venerated by the students, for he had been a professor there, who after seeing the paucity of bodies for study purposes donated his own upon death. Kumar was struck by the story, and he decided to set up Dadhichi Deh Daan Samiti, which over the years worked for the public awareness and got appreciation from



former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former President ram Nath Kovind. The Samiti is now connecting with several NGOs across the country to give a major push to the wider acceptance of organ donation.

RSS veteran Nanaji Deshmukh and many stalwarts like him have donated their bodies after they passed away to help further medical

research and studies. While India is seeking to scale up the capacity of the medical institutions, there will be greater needs for bodies to help medical students pursue their studies with facilities at par with the best in the world.

Indeed, there are a few taboos associated with organ donation. The spiritual gurus have a much larger role in rising to the occasion and addressing the issue at the national level so that social empathy becomes a popular virtue in the country.

While there are units for the organ retrieval in premier medical institutions such as AIIMS, there is a greater need for setting up more such centres, and possibly after exhausting them in the capitals attempts could be made

for such infrastructure with trained manpower and the necessary equipment to come up in each district in the country.

Furthermore, there will also be a need to create a new platform for coordination and collaboration for the NGOs and the civil society to work together in promoting organ donation in the country, with principal focus in countering myths. Also, it will be befitting if there could be provisions for social commemoration for the people who have donated their bodies for the studies of the medical students at such institutions in some symbolic form could give a greater fillip to the campaign to promote organ donation.

Political leaders have set individual examples in leading

the ways to promote awareness among the people for the need for donation of bodies and organs, but it will be more important that they take ownership of the campaign so that the social cause gains momentum to address the issue of extremely high waiting list for organs and also lack of bodies for the purposes of research at the medical institutions.

Some of the seers, political and corporate leaders have sought to give ownership to the issue, but there still exists a huge gap in the popular acceptance of the cause. Now that the National Education Policy 2020 is being adopted by the States, it may be worthwhile to examine if we can have a curriculum which can help greater sensitization of the children at the suitable stage of their studies.

UN INSPECTORS HEAD TO UKRAINE NUCLEAR PLANT IN WAR ZONE

AP ■ KYIV

United Nations inspectors made their way toward Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant on Wednesday, a long-anticipated mission that the world hopes will help secure the Russian-held facility in the middle of a war zone and avoid catastrophe. Underscoring the danger, Kyiv and Moscow again accused each other of attacking the area around Europe's biggest nuclear plant.

In recent days, the plant was temporarily knocked offline because of fire damage to transmission line — heightening fears that fighting could lead to a massive radiation leak or even a reactor melt-down. The risks are so severe that officials have begun distributing anti-radiation iodine tablets to nearby residents.

Russia-backed local authorities claimed on Wednesday that Ukrainian forces repeatedly shelled the territory of the plant and that drone strikes hit the plant's administrative building and training center.

Regional Ukraine governor Valentyn Reznichenko, meanwhile, said a city across the river from the plant came under heavy artillery fire during the night.

"This appears to be nuclear blackmail of the local population and international society," Reznichenko said on Telegram.



The complex, a vital source of energy for Ukraine, has been occupied by Russian forces and run by Ukrainian workers since the early days of the 6-month-old war.

Ukraine alleges Russia is essentially holding the plant hostage, storing weapons there and launching attacks from around it, while Moscow accuses Ukraine of recklessly firing

on the facility.

For months, as the fighting has played out, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has sought access to the plant — and world leaders have demanded the UN nuclear watchdog be allowed to inspect it.

With a team finally on the way, Rafael Grossi, the head of the agency, said he knew full well the implications of the unprecedented mission.

"We are going to a war zone. We are going to occupied territory," he said upon departure on early Wednesday.

He added that he had received "explicit guarantees" from Russia that the mission of 14 experts would be able to do its work. Russian authorities in



Russia halts gas through major pipeline, citing maintenance

AP ■ BERLIN

Russia's Gazprom halted the flow of natural gas through a major pipeline from Russia to Europe early Wednesday, a stoppage that it announced in advance and has said will last three days.

The Russian state-owned energy company announced the closure of Nord Stream 1 in mid-August, citing maintenance at a compressor station — an explanation that German officials have cast doubt on. Gazprom says that work is necessary on the only remaining functioning turbine at the Portovaya station, at the Russian end of the pipeline. Gazprom started cutting supplies through Nord Stream 1 in mid-June. It cited technical problems that German authorities have dismissed as cover for a political power play. In recent weeks, Nord Stream 1 has been running at only 20% of capacity.

Russia, which before the reductions started accounted for a bit more than a third of Germany's gas supplies, has also reduced the flow of gas to other European countries which have sided with Ukraine in the war.

Natural gas is used to power industry, heat homes and offices, and generate electricity. Increasing the amount in reserve has been a key focus of the German government since Russia invaded Ukraine, to avoid rationing for industry as demand rises in the winter.

In July, the government moved to tighten storage requirements. It introduced a requirement for storage to be 75% full by Sept. 1 — a target that already has been surpassed — and raised the targets for October and November to 85% and 95%, respectively, from 80% and 90%.



Leaky battleship in Texas begins trip for \$35M repairs

AP ■ LA PORTE

It's the only surviving battleship that served in both world wars, having fought Nazis and the Japanese Army during World War II. But the greatest challenge in recent years for the USS Texas has been a leaky, rusty hull that at times forced workers to pump out about 2,000 gallons (7,570 liters) of water per minute from the 110-year-old ship.

To ensure the historic vessel doesn't sink and can continue hosting visitors, the foundation in charge of its care is towing the ship Wednesday from its longtime home along the Houston Ship Channel to a shipyard in Galveston for much needed repairs.

Tony Gregory, the president of the Battleship Texas Foundation, said Wednesday the pulling of the ship by tugboats and getting it on its way

was perfect. He said any problems would have happened in the first 15 minutes of pulling the ship but there were no issues.

"It went smoother than we thought and quicker than we thought ... and she's gone, down the channel," he said.

Gregory said he expects the ship to arrive in Galveston by 4 p.m.

The journey from its longtime berth at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site in the Houston suburb of La Porte is part of a \$35 million project to repair the hull and ultimately restore the ship to its former glory.

The ship's repairs are part of the foundation's plans to eventually resettle it in a new location in Texas, possibly in one of three nearby cities, including Galveston, in order to attract more visitors and increase revenue.

US NSA to hold trilateral dialogue with Japan and S Korea

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan will hold a trilateral dialogue with his counterparts from Japan and South Korea in Hawaii on September 1, the White House announced Tuesday.

The meeting assumes significance amidst the growing tension in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly with China engaging in security drills following the Taiwan visit of United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Sullivan, Japan's National Security Secretariat Secretary General Akiba Takeo, and Republic of Korea's Director of the National Security Office Kim Sung-han will meet at the Headquarters of the United

States Indo-Pacific Command in Honolulu, Hawaii on September 1, the White House said.

"The officials will meet bilaterally on August 31. After the bilateral meeting, Sullivan will visit the United States Indo-Pacific Command to discuss our alliances in defense of the free and open Indo-Pacific," the media announcement said.

12 members of ruling SLPP join Opposition in Sri Lankan Parliament

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A group of 12 members of parliament from the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) coalition, including former minister GL Peiris who had broken from the party in April, on Wednesday officially joined the opposition, saying the ruling coalition had lost its social contract with the people.

The move came a day after Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe appealed to all political parties to join an all-party government to tackle the island nation's worst-ever economic crisis and prevent "strong economies" from using it as a "tool of interference."

Apart from Peiris, the group of 12 leaders of the SLPP who crossed over to the opposition includes Dullas Alahapperuma, Dilan Perera and Nalaka Godaheva among the rest others.

The move by the 12 SLPP



lawmakers will have no impact on the stability of the government led by President Wickremesinghe.

Alahapperuma had unsuccessfully contested the parliamentary vote against Wickremesinghe in mid-July to elect a stop gap president for the resigned Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Announcing the cross over, Peiris said that the ruling coalition

had lost its social contract with the people.

He alleged that all aspirations of SLPP supporters have been destroyed and if people want an election it must be held to uphold democracy.

The group of 12 leaders in April had demanded the resignation of the then prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to form an all-party interim government under Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa in mid-July succumbed to raging public protests calling for his resignation for his mishandling of the economic crisis.

He fled the country to the Maldives and then reached Singapore. From Singapore, he flew to Thailand where he can stay for 90 days.

However, Wickremesinghe's efforts to form an all party government to tackle the current economic crisis have not been fruitful despite umpteen attempts.

EU countries torn over Russian tourist visa ban move

AP ■ PRAGUE

Northern European Union countries called Wednesday for the 27-nation bloc to impose a broad ban on tourist visas for Russian citizens, insisting that the issue is a matter of national security as President Vladimir Putin's war against Ukraine drags on.

But at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in the Czech capital, Prague, other member countries, like France, Germany and Belgium, argued that it's important not to punish Russian people who may very well oppose the war or



need to enter Europe for humanitarian purposes.

The EU already tightened visa restrictions on Russian officials and business people in May under a 2007 agreement to ease travel between Russia and Europe. But calls are mounting

from, notably, Poland and the Baltic countries — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — for a broader ban on tourists.

"We need to immediately ramp up the price to Putin's regime," Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu told reporters. "The loss of time is paid by the blood of Ukrainians." Uniform rules are supposed to apply across the 26 countries that make up Europe's passport free travel area, but Reinsalu said that "it's our national competence, under the principle of national security, to decide the issues of entry to our soil."

War protest: Statues fall as Europe purges Soviet monuments

AP ■ WARSAW

In the Latvian capital of Riga, an obelisk that soared high above a park to commemorate the Soviet Army's capture of that nation in 1944 was toppled last week. It crashed into a pond to the cheers of those watching.

Days earlier in Estonia, a replica of a Soviet tank with the communist red star was removed by cranes and trucked away to a museum — one of up to 400 destined for removal. And in Poland, Lithuania and Czechia, monuments to the Red Army have been coming down for months, a belated purge of what many see as symbols of past oppression.

Russia's war on Ukraine has given a renewed push to topple the last remaining Soviet monuments in nations that regained their sov-

eighty from Moscow more than three decades ago. These countries now belong to NATO and the European Union and are staunch supporters of Ukraine.

At the end of the communist era, when Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia regained their independence from the Soviet Union and Poland and its neighbors rejected Moscow-backed communism, those nations began renaming streets and purging the most hated symbols, including statues of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin and other communist bosses. Many of these relics are now housed in museums.

In Warsaw, authorities in 1989 quickly toppled a monument to Felix Dzerzhinsky, a Polish aristocrat who organized the Soviet secret police after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

German militants' lawyer and Greens gadfly dies at 83

AP ■ BERLIN

Hans-Christian Stroebel, a German lawyer who defended members of the far-left Red Army Faction and later became the Green party's first directly elected constituency lawmaker, has died. He was 83.

German news agency dpa quoted his attorney, Johannes Eisenberg, saying Wednesday that Stroebel died on August 29 after a long illness.

Stroebel helped found the Berlin section of the Greens, a party that would stir up German politics from the 1980s onward.

While the Greens have since moved firmly into the center-ground, joining a coalition government under Social Democratic Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder from 1998 to 2005 and current Chancellor Olaf Scholz's three-way alliance, Stroebel remained a gadfly on the left-wing of the party.

US Navy says Iran seized, later let go of American sea drone

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard seized an American sea drone in the Persian Gulf and tried to tow it away, only releasing the unmanned vessel when a U.S. Navy warship and helicopter approached, officials said Tuesday.

It was the first time Iran targeted the Navy's MidEast-based 5th Fleet's new drone task force. While the interception ended without incident, tensions remain high between

Washington and Tehran as negotiations over the Islamic Republic's tattered nuclear deal with world powers hang in the balance. The Guard's Shahid Baziar warship attached a line to the Saildrome Explorer in the center of the Persian Gulf in international waters late Monday night, said Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, a 5th Fleet spokesman. The vessel then began towing the Saildrome Explorer, which carries cameras, radars and sensors for remotely monitoring the sea.

ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1976PLC008036
Regd. Office: Unit No 8, Ground Floor, Pocket M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076
Website: www.rototindia.co.in Email: info@rototindia.co.in Phone: 011-47366600

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 47th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Rotographics (India) Limited ("the Company") will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") (the Meeting) as per provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules made thereunder and SEBI (Listings Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") circular dated April 6, 2020 and April 13, 2020 and May 5, 2020 and Jan 13, 2021 and May 5, 2022 (Collectively referred to as "MCA circulars") and SEBI circular dated May 12, 2020 and Jan 15, 2021 and May 13, 2022. To transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM. Electronic copy of the Notice of AGM along with Annual Report and Annual Accounts for the Financial Year 2021-22 (the 'Annual Report') of the Company has been sent electronically to the members to their registered mail address with the Depositories/ Company. These documents can also be downloaded from the Company's website Link www.rototindia.co.in and the website of the Stock Exchange where shares of the Company are listed i.e. Bombay Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com. Members holding share either in physical or demat form, on the cut-off date i.e. Thursday, 22nd September, 2022 shall cast their vote electronically through the electronic voting system of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

Members are hereby informed that:

- The business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM may be transacted through remote e-voting or by e-voting system at the AGM.
- The remote e-voting period shall commence on Monday, 26th September, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. and ends on Wednesday, 28th September, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The Cut-off date for the remote e-voting process is Thursday, 22nd September, 2022.
- The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 23rd September, 2022 to 29th September, 2022 (both days inclusive).
- The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL beyond 5:00 p.m. on 28th September, 2022 and once the votes, on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The facility for e-voting will also be made available during the AGM, and those members present in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility, who have not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting, shall be eligible to vote through the e-voting system at the AGM. The members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM through VC/OAVM facility but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again. Only persons whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or e-voting at the AGM.
- Any Person, who acquires shares and become members of the Company after dispatch of Notice of AGM but before cut-off date of Thursday, 22nd September, 2022 may obtain their USER ID and password for remote e-voting by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in, info@skylinertla.com or info@rototindia.co.in.
- The detailed procedure for remote e-Voting before and during the AGM is provided in the Notes to the Notice of the AGM.
- Members who require assistance before or during the AGM, can contact NSDL on evoting@nsdl.co.in / 1800 1020 990 and 1800 224 430 or contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Manager or Ms. Soni Singh, Asst. Manager, National Securities Depository Limited at the designated email id: evoting@nsdl.co.in or pallavi@nsdl.co.in or sonis@nsdl.co.in

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Rotographics (India) Limited
Sd/-
Ankit Bansal
Company Secretary

Date: 31/08/2022
Place: New Delhi

MY MONEY SECURITIES LIMITED
CIN : L67120DL1992PLC047890
Regd. Office : 10-A, UNDER HILL LANE, CIVIL LINES DELHI-110054
Contact No. : 011-47087300, 011-23950655
E-mail id : mymoneyviews@outlook.com, www.mymoneyviews.com
INFORMATION REGARDING 31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MY MONEY SECURITIES LIMITED

Members are requested to note that the Thirty First (31st) Annual General Meeting (AGM) of My Money Securities Limited ("the Company") will be held on Thursday, 25th September, 2022 at 12:30 P.M. (IST) through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Visual Means (VC/OAVM) to transact the business as set out in the Notice convening the 31st AGM.

The 31st AGM will be held in compliance with the MCA General Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08 April 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated 13 April 2020, Circular No. 20/2020 dated 05 May 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13 January 2021, Circular No. 19/2021 dated 08 December 2021, Circular No. 21/2021 dated 14 December 2021 and Circular No. 2/2022 dated 05 May 2022 respectively, relevant provisions of the Companies Act 2013 and the rules made thereunder and SEBI Circular dated May 12, 2020, SEBI Circular dated January 15, 2021 and SEBI Circular dated 13 May 2022 read along with the applicable provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) 2015 (collectively referred to as "Circulars").

In accordance with the aforesaid Circulars, the Notice and Annual Report will be sent only through electronic mode to those members, whose email addresses are registered with the Company/RTA or with the respective Depository Participants. Members may note that the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report 2022 will also be available on the Company's website (www.mymoneyviews.com), website of stock exchange (www.bseindia.com) and NSDL (agency for providing remote e-voting facility/e-voting at the AGM) i.e. www.evoting.nsdl.com. The instructions for joining AGM and the manner of participation in the remote electronic voting or casting vote through e-voting system during AGM shall be counted for reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Act.

Members who have not registered their e-mail address are requested to register the same in respect of shares held in electronic form with the Depository through Depository Participants (DPs) and in respect of the shares held in physical form by sending e-mail/writing to the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agents ("RTA"), M/s Services Limited-T-34 2nd Floor Okhla Industrial Area Phase II New Delhi-110020. Members are also requested to update their other details like PAN, Bank Details etc. through DPs or RTA.

The Company will provide the facility to its members to exercise their rights to vote by electronic means both through remote e-voting and e-voting at AGM. The instructions on the process of e-voting, including the manner in which the members holding share in Physical form or members who have not registered their e-mail address can cast their votes through e-voting will be provided as a part of the Notice of 31st AGM.

Members are requested to read carefully all the notes set out in the Notice of 31st AGM and in particular the instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting votes through remote e-voting and e-voting at the time of AGM.

This advertisement is being issued for the information and benefit of all members of the Company in compliance with the MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars.

By order of the Board
For My Money Securities Limited
Sd/-
Sanjay Seth
Whole Time Director
DIN : 00350518

Place: Delhi
Date: 31.08.2022

PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED
CIN : L50102UP1982PLC015532
Regd. Office : Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Distt. Moradabad (U.P.)
Corp. Office : M-14, Connaught Circus (Middle Circle), New Delhi-110 001
Tel. No. : 91-11-47627400, Fax No. : 91-11-47627497
E-mail : delhi@pasupatiacrylon.com, Website : www.pasupatiacrylon.com

NOTICE TO MEMBERS REGARDING 39TH AGM

Notice is hereby given that :

- 39th Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the members of Pasupati Acrylon Limited ("the Company") will be held on Thursday, 29th September, 2022 at 10:30 A.M. (IST) at the Registered Office of the Company at Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Dist. Moradabad (U.P.) – 244601, to transact the businesses as set forth in the notice of 39th AGM.
- Pursuant to the applicable statutory provisions, Members will be entitled to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of 39th AGM through remote e-voting facility and voting at AGM through ballot paper. The facility of remote e-voting will be provided by National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL").
- In accordance with the, the General Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 issued by SEBI, Notice of 39th AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2021-22 will be sent only by electronic mode to all those members, whose email addresses are registered with the Company or their respective Depository Participant ("DP"). Notice of 39th AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2021-2022 will also be available on the Company's website www.pasupatiacrylon.com, website of stock exchanges i.e. www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and website of NSDL www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered their email address with the Company, may get the same registered with the Company by sending an email to palsecretarial@gmail.com or helpdeskreply@mcsregistrars.com. Members holding shares in dematerialized mode may contact their respective DP to register/update their e-mail address.
- In case of any queries, please refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no. : 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30 or send a request to Mr. Aman Goyal at evoting@nsdl.co.in

For PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED
Sd/-
BHARAT KAPOOR
COMPANY SECRETARY
Membership No. ACS 54267

Date : 31.08.2022
Place : New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
To whomsoever it may concern

BE IT KNOWN TO THE General Public at large that the Authorized Officer of Saraswat Co-operative Bank, 20A, Ring Road Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024 has taken the symbolic possession of the property, having address as per details given below on **25th August 2022** which is held as security for credit facilities granted to **M/s Interactive BPO Services Pvt. Ltd.** through its directors under the provision of SARFAESI Act. Any person dealing with the said properties/persons shall be doing so at his/her own risk, cost and expenses.

DETAILS OF THE PROPERTIES HELD AS SECURITY:
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ON 2ND FLOOR, 29, NAJAFGARH ROAD, SHIVAJI MARG, NEW DELHI-110015

Notis is hereby given that our Client M/s Savita Developers Pvt. Ltd. is in process of recording the name of Mr. Puneet Malik s/o Mr. Beer Pal Singh on the basis of NOC given by Mr. Sachin Malik s/o Mr. Beer Pal Singh in respect of Flat bearing No. Hazeli-1501, 15th Floor, Block-Hazeli, in Jasmin Grove, at Village-Mehrauli, Chazabada, which was allotted in the name of Mr. Puneet Malik & Mr. Sachin Malik on dated 03.01.2017. Any person having any right or interest by way of agreement, sale, contract, or otherwise upon the said property are hereby required to give notice of the same to the undersigned on below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of publication hereof together with copies of all documents on the basis of which claims are made, failing which any such right, title, interest, or claim, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our Client.

C.K. JHA (Advocate)
E-524, Karhadwala Courts,
Delhi-110032 (M) - 9811256674

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Viresh Saxena S/o Shri P.N. Saxena R/o D-119, Sector-20, Noida. I am the Registered GPA holder of the original Allottee, Shri Amit Kumar Sen S/o Shri A.K. Sen R/o 1543, Sector 37, Noida Registered on Date 01-08-1996 Noida. An agreement to sale was not executed in my name. The said flat number 35 D, Block-J 3, Sector 11, Noida is going to be transferred in the name of Smt Savita Agrawal W/o Vijay Krishna Agrawal R/o N-907, Prateek Laurel, Sector 120, Noida. If anyone has any objection, then he should register his objection in the housing department of Noida Authority within 15 days of publication of this information.

Viresh Saxena

To be known to all that I, Shikher Juneja, S/o. Late Sh. Harbans Lal Juneja, R/o. FS-4, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027, allottee of DDA Plot No. S-4, Block-F, Najafgarh Road, Residential Scheme, Tagore Garden, New Delhi - 110027 Area 200 Sq. Mtr. has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application No. LD/18698/CL/CN/26032022 dated 26.03.2022 in ODA. That the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter cum Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Letter, D Form Completion Certificate & some other documents issued by DDA in respect of above mentioned property have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station. Any person claiming any right, interest, or possession of original documents may write/contact above named person at above address/phone no. 931002220 within 15 days from date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, or possession with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL) or Director (CL), A-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023

Gorbachev, who ended Cold War, dies



AP ■ MOSCOW

Mikhail Gorbachev, who as the last leader of the Soviet Union waged a losing battle to salvage a crumbling empire but produced extraordinary reforms that led to the end of the Cold War, died Tuesday. He was 91.

The Central Clinical Hospital said in a statement that Gorbachev died after a long illness. No other details were given.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in a statement carried by Russian news agencies that Russian President Vladimir Putin offered deep condolences over Gorbachev's death and would send an official telegram to Gorbachev's family in the morning.

Though in power less than seven years, Gorbachev unleashed a breathtaking series of changes. But they quickly overtook him and resulted in the collapse of the authoritarian Soviet state, the freeing of Eastern European nations from Russian domination and the end of decades of East-West nuclear confrontation.

His decline was humiliating. His power hopelessly sapped by an attempted coup against him in August 1991, he spent his last months in office watching republic after

Gorbachev's death mourned as passing of rare leader

AP ■ BANGKOK

The passing of Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union and for many the man who restored democracy to then-communist-turned European nations, was mourned Wednesday as the loss of as a rare leader who changed the world and for a time gave hope for peace among the superpowers.

But the man who died at age 91 on Tuesday was also reviled by many countrymen who blamed him for the 1991 implosion of the Soviet Union and its diminution as a superpower. The Russian nation that emerged from its Soviet past shrank in size as 15 new nations were created. The loss of pride and power also eventually led to the rise

republic declare independence until he resigned on Dec. 25, 1991. The Soviet Union wrote itself into oblivion a day later.

Many of the changes, including the Soviet breakup, bore no resemblance to the transformation that Gorbachev had envisioned when he became Soviet leader in March 1985.

By the end of his rule he was powerless to halt the whirlwind he had sown. Yet Gorbachev may have had a greater impact on the second half of the 20th century than any other political figure.

"I see myself as a man who started the reforms that were necessary for the country and for Europe and the world," Gorbachev told The AP in a 1992 interview shortly after he left office.

"I am often asked, would I have started it all again if I had to repeat it? Yes, indeed. And with more per-

sistence and determination," he said. Gorbachev won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending the Cold War and spent his later years collecting accolades and awards from all corners of the world. Yet he was widely despised at home.

Russians blamed him for the 1991 implosion of the Soviet Union. His run for president in 1996 was a national joke, and he polled less than 1% of the vote.

In 1997, he resorted to making a TV ad for Pizza Hut to earn money for his charitable foundation. "In the ad, he should take a pizza, divide it into 15 slices like he divided up our country, and then show how to put it back together again," quipped Anatoly Lukyanov, a one-time Gorbachev supporter.

Gorbachev never set out to dismantle the Soviet system. What he wanted to do was improve it.

Russian politicians offer mixed view of Gorbachev's legacy

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian officials and lawmakers treaded carefully on Wednesday while reacting to Mikhail Gorbachev's death, praising him for his role in ending the Cold War but deploring his failure to avert the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The stance was reflected by state television broadcasts, which paid tributes to Gorbachev as a historic figure but described his reforms as poorly planned and held him responsible for failing to safeguard the country's interests in dialogue with the West.

The criticism echoed earlier assessments by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has famously lamented the collapse of the Soviet Union as the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century".

Soon after taking power, Gorbachev began a campaign to end his country's economic and political stagnation, using "glasnost" or openness, to help achieve his goal of "perestroika" or restructuring.

In his memoirs, he said he had long been frustrated that in a country with immense natural resources, tens of millions were living in poverty. Once he began, one move led to another: He freed political prisoners, allowed open debate and multi-candidate elections, gave his countrymen freedom to travel, halted religious oppression, reduced nuclear arsenals, established closer ties with the West and did not resist the fall of Communist regimes in Eastern European satellite states.

China highlights Gorbachev's mistakes leading to Soviet collapse as it mourns his death

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Wednesday mourned the death of the last leader of the erstwhile Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev amid a spate of criticism in the official and social media here over his attempts to open up the country and strike rapprochement with the US, leading to the collapse of the mighty communist nation.

"Gorbachev made positive contributions to the normalisation of China-Soviet Union relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said when asked for Beijing's reaction to the death of the former Soviet Communist leader during whose tenure the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991. "We mourn his death and express our condolences to his family," Zhao told the media in a brief cryptic reply to a question seeking Beijing's reactions.

But the forces he unleashed quickly escaped his control.

"The process of renovating this country and bringing about fundamental changes in the international community proved to be much more complex than originally anticipated," Gorbachev told the nation as he stepped down.

There was little in Gorbachev's childhood to hint at the pivotal role he would play on the world stage. On many levels, he had a typical Soviet upbringing in a typical Russian village. But it was a childhood blessed with unusual strokes of good fortune.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was born March 2, 1931, in the village of Privolnoye in southern Russia.

Taiwan forces fire at drones flying over island near China

AP ■ TAIPEI

Taiwan's military fired warning shots at drones from China flying over its outposts just off the Chinese coastline, underscoring heightened tensions and the self-ruled island's resolve to respond to new provocations. Taiwan's forces said in a statement that troops took the action on Tuesday after drones were found hovering over the Kinmen island group. Dadan, one of the islands where a drone was spotted, lies roughly 15 kilometers (9 miles) off the Chinese coast.

The statement Wednesday referred to the unmanned aerial vehicles as being of "civilian use," but gave no other details.

It said the drones returned to the nearby Chinese city of Xiamen after the shots were fired. Taiwan previously fired only flares as warnings.

The incident comes amid heightened tensions after China fired missiles into the sea and sent planes and ships across the dividing line in the Taiwan Strait earlier this month.

It followed angry rhetoric from Beijing over a trip to



Taiwan by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-ranking US dignitary to visit the island in 25 years. China claims Taiwan as its own territory and its recent actions have been viewed as a rehearsal of a possible blockade or invasion.

China's drills brought strong condemnation from Taiwan's chiefly, the US, along with fellow regional democracies such as Australia and Japan. Some of China's missiles early in August fell into nearby Japan's exclusive economic zone. Taiwan maintains control over a range of islands in the Kinmen and Matsu groups in the Taiwan Strait, a relic of the effort by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists to maintain a foothold on the mainland after being driven out by Mao Zedong's Communists amid civil war in 1949.

In Pakistan, fears of waterborne diseases as floods recede

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Officials in Pakistan raised concern Wednesday over the spread of waterborne diseases among thousands of flood victims as waters from powerful monsoon rains began to recede in many parts of the country.

Some doctors said initially they were seeing mostly patients traumatized by the flooding, but are now treating people suffering from diarrhea, skin infections and other waterborne ailments in the country's flood-hit areas.

The development has forced the government to deploy additional medical teams, dispatch medicine and provide clean drinking water to survivors, many of whom are living in tents and

UN chief to travel to flood-hit Pak next week

PTI ■ NEW YORK/ISLAMABAD

UN chief Antonio Guterres will travel to flood-hit Pakistan next week for a solidarity visit and also to see how the UN is working to support the government's efforts to provide assistance to millions of people impacted by the unprecedented floods.

makeshift homes.

The warning came a day after record-breaking floods prompted the United Nations to formally issue an appeal for \$160 million in emergency funding to the impoverished Islamic nation, where about a million homes have been damaged or destroyed.

The visit was announced after cash-strapped Pakistan government on Tuesday teamed up with the United Nations and issued a flash appeal for USD 160 million to deal with the disaster that has displaced over 33 million people in the country that has become the "ground zero" of global warming.

Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, health minister in the country's worst-affected province of Sindh, said officials have set up 4,210 medical camps in the province's flood-hit areas to treat victims now suffering from skin and waterborne diseases, which are common during floods.

Feds cite efforts to obstruct probe of papers at Trump estate

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Justice Department says classified documents were "likely concealed and removed" from a storage room at former President Donald Trump's Florida estate as part of an effort to obstruct the federal investigation into the discovery of the government records.

The FBI also seized boxes and containers holding more than 100 classified records during its Aug. 8 search of Mar-a-Lago and found classified documents stashed in Trump's office, according to a filing late Tuesday that lays out the most detailed chronology to date of months of strained interactions between Justice Department officials and Trump representatives over the discovery of government secrets.

Sunak pledges to work 'night and day' for vision as UK PM race enters finale



PTI ■ LONDON

Rishi Sunak pledged to work "night and day" for the "best country in the world" as the election campaign to take over from Boris Johnson as the Conservative Party leader and the new British Prime Minister entered its final stage on Wednesday, with the very last hustings event set for London.

Sunak reiterated his vision statement as the first British Indian to run for the top job at 10 Downing Street ahead of the final campaign event scheduled at a popular concert venue in Wembley on Wednesday evening. The former Chancellor will go head-to-head with his rival Foreign Secretary Liz Truss for one last time as they fight it out for any remaining Tory members yet to cast their ballots before voting closes on Friday evening.

honest" vision.

"Britain is the best country in the world to grow up in, start a family and build a business, and our future looks bright. But we can only get there if we tackle the challenges we face in the short term head-on with honesty and a credible plan," said Sunak, in a statement released by his Ready4Rishi campaign team on Tuesday night.

"I have the right plan, rooted in Conservative values, and I have been consistent, clear and honest throughout this contest that we must fix inflation first. Only by supporting people through this winter and gripping inflation can we lay the foundations for growth and prosperity – for lower taxes, a better NHS and a healthy economy making full use of our Brexit freedoms," he said. "That's my vision for Britain, and I'll work night and day to deliver it for the party and country I love," he added.

Sunak is looking to make history as Britain's first Prime Minister of Indian-origin and has the overwhelming support of the Indian diaspora, many of whom have already voted in his favour as Conservative Party members.

Truck in Indonesia crashes at school bus stop, killing 10

AP ■ BEKASI

A truck transporting iron on the outskirts of Indonesia's capital on Wednesday crashed at a bus stop in front of a school and killed at least 10 people, most of them elementary students.

The students were waiting for a ride home after finishing classes when the truck smashed into a bus stop on the main road connecting the Bekasi area and East Jakarta. There were about 20 stu-

dents at the scene, and those who were injured were taken to two hospitals.

The truck also hit a telecommunications pole that fell down and crushed motorbikes and a pickup that was crossing the road. The driver of the pickup also died.

Police detained the driver of the truck as part of an investigation, said Latif Usman, Jakarta police traffic director. The cause of the crash wasn't immediately clear.

Sudan: Death toll from seasonal flooding at 100

AP ■ CAIRO

Floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains across much of Sudan killed at least 100 people since the start of the rainy season in May, an official said on Wednesday.

The downpours, which began earlier than normal this year, also injured at least 96 others, said Brig Gen Abdul-Jalil Abdul-Rahim, spokesman for Sudan's National Council for Civil Defence.

The United Nations said at least 258,000 people have been affected by floods in 15 of Sudan's 18 provinces. The downpours wrecked many villages and left tens of thousands of acres of land flooded, it said.

Authorities have declared a state of emergency in six hard-hit provinces.

FRENCH TOURISM BETTER THAN PRE-COVID, DESPITE CLIMATE WOES

AP ■ PARIS

Tourism came back with a vengeance to France this summer, sending revenues over pre-pandemic levels, according to government estimates released this week. Crowds packed Paris landmarks and Riviera beaches, notably thanks to an influx of Americans benefiting from the weak euro, but also British and other European visitors reveling in the end of

pandemic restrictions.

"It's beautiful to go again to travel," said Serena Veronese, a tourist from Lago Maggiore in Italy soaking in the view of the Eiffel Tower. She and her husband work for an airline and "suffered a lot" as the Covid crisis grounded planes worldwide. "Now people have to go traveling again, they have to." The summer surge came despite exceptionally hot weather in France and around Europe.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

e-Auction Notice

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS (<https://ireps.gov.in/>) for allotment of contracts of advertisement at following railway stations/locations:

Media of Advertisement	Railway Stations/ Location/Trains	
E-Catalogue No.	DLIADVT-SEP22-1 PaynUse02-2022	
Out of Home Signs-Hoarding/Unipole	New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Faridabad, Meerut- 8 Lots	
Vinyl Wrap Exterior on Trains	RajdhaniTrains, Shatabdi Trains, DurontoTrains, Gatiman Trains, Superfast Trains, Mail/Express Trains, having primary maintenance over Delhi Division (35 Lots)	
Deluxe Pay & use Toilets on BOT and RMT	Delhi, Meerut Cantt, Tilak Bridge- 2 sites, Narvana, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Kurukshetra, Jind, Shivaji Bridge, Okhla, Bahadurgarh (11 Lots)	
Date & Time for e-auction	Start: 13.09.2022 at 10:00 hrs	Start: 14.09.2022 at 10:00 hrs
Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen	https://ireps.gov.in/ (E-Auction-Leasing)	

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module - Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee
- Current Account in State Bank of India
- Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account
- Lien Marking of Funds
- Updation of Turnover Details

- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query	Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Enclave Road, New Delhi-110055 Email: publicitycellidl@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084
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No: 7PUB/NR-DL10COMM(PUB)/9/2022

Dated : 30.08.2022

2232/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995 Regd. Off: NS-92, Khasra No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi -110043 Email id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com Website: http://www.superiorfinlease.com ; Phone No.: +91-9953798335	
NOTICE (For the attention of Shareholders of Superior Finlease Limited) The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, and Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020 followed by Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020 and Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021 and all other relevant circulars issued from time to time (collectively referred to as 'MCA Circulars'), has permitted the companies to hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conferencing (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue. In compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and MCA Circulars, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 03:00 P.M. through VC/OAVM.	
The Notice of AGM along with the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-22, will be sent to all the members of the Company whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depository Participant(s). The Company is also providing e-voting and remote e-voting facility to all its Members similar to earlier practices.	
If your email addresses is already registered with the Company/ Depository Participant(s), Notice of AGM along with the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-22 and login details for e-voting will be sent to your registered email addresses. In case if your email addresses is not registered with the Company/ Depository Participant(s) then please follow below instructions to register your email id for obtaining Annual Report for FY 2021-22 and login details for e-voting.	
1. In case shares are held in physical mode please provide Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to superiorfinlease@gmail.com .	
2. In case shares are held in demat mode, please provide DPID-CLID (16 digit DPID + CLID or 16 digit beneficiary ID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account statement, PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to superiorfinlease@gmail.com .	
Alternatively, Members/Shareholder may send an e-mail request to evoting@nsdl.co.in for obtaining User ID and Password for e-voting by providing the details and documents abovementioned in Point (1) or (2) as the case may be.	
Please update the same on or before September 05, 2022 The Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-22 will be made available on the website of the Company i.e. at http://www.superiorfinlease.com/ and also on the website of BSE Limited at https://www.bseindia.com/ and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited at https://www.mseil.in/ where the shares of the company are listed. The attendance of the Members attending the AGM through VC/OAVM will be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.	
For Superior Finlease Limited Sd/- Disha Rani (Company Secretary)	

SAHARA CREDIT COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

Regd. Office : Sahara India Bhawan, 1, Kapoorthala Complex, Aliganj, Lucknow-226024
Telefax : 0522-2330155, Email : scsco.cooperative@sahara.in, Regd. No. MSCS/CR/333/2010

NOTICE

The 13th Annual General Meeting of the Members/Delegates of Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited is scheduled to be held on Friday 23rd September, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. at 3rd Floor, Sahara India Tower, 7, Kapoorthala Complex, Aliganj, Lucknow-226024.

BUSINESS ITEMS ON AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. To consider and adopt the audited financial statement of accounts for the Financial Year 2021-2022.
3. To consider and approve the Audit Report and Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-2022.
4. To consider the creation of specific reserve and other funds.
5. To consider the disposal of net profit.
6. To approve the annual budget for the Financial Year 2023 -24.
7. To approve the annual action plan for the Financial Year 2023 -24.
8. To consider and approve the appointment/re-appointment of Statutory Auditors for the Financial Year 2022-23.
9. To consider the list of employees who are relatives of members of the Board or of the Managing Director.
10. Any other item, if any, with the permission of Chairperson.

Place : Lucknow
Date : 22nd August, 2022

By order of the Board
For Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited
Sd/-
Managing Director

Note :

1. Please note that if there is no quorum within half an hour of the time fixed for the scheduled meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned and the adjourned meeting shall be held at 12:00 noon on the same day i.e. 23rd September, 2022 to transact the agenda items as aforesaid and that no quorum shall be necessary for transacting the business in the adjourned meeting so held.
2. Members/Delegates are requested to strictly follow the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India, for COVID -19 pandemic.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI			
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001			
OA NO 912/19		Date: 23.03.2022	
CANARA BANK		Applicant	
MR. MAHENDRA KUMAR AND ORS.	Versus	Respondent	
To Defendants 1. MR. MAHENDRA KUMAR S/O SH. AJIT KUMAR R/o: SD 97, Sect. 45, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida UP 201301 Also at: M/S KIRLOSKAR ELECTRIC CO. LTD. 3rd Floor, Kundan, House, Nehru Place, New Delhi-19 2. MRS. RENU SHARMA (GUARANTOR) W/O MR. MAHENDRA KUMAR R/o: SD 97, Sect. 45, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida UP 201301 Also at: C/O SH. JAGANNATH 17, Sherapur Para Telsil Bikanar Distt. Faizabad UP-224204 3. LA RESIDENTIA DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD. R/o: 220, 2nd Floor, Vardhman Sunrise Plaza, Plot No. 1, L.S.C. Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-95 Also at: C-56/40, Sect.-62, Noida UP-201306 Also at: Plot NO. GH-36/A Tech Zone-IV, Noida Extn. Gautam Budh Nagar UP 201306 Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 40,81,574/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Eighty One Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Four Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 09.09.2022 at 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence. Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:- (i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisico Webex" application/Software; (ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by "Registrar/Recovery Officer" and "Recovery Officer" It shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the public Notice Head. (iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748478. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 23rd day of March 2022.			
By Order of the Tribunal Sd/- Assistant Registrar DRT-II, Delhi			

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LIMITED	
CIN: L15136UP1988PLC010084, Email id: info@rampurfert.com Regd. Off.: Judges Bareilly Road, Rampur-244901 U.P.	
Notice of 34th Annual General Meeting, Book Closure and Remote E-Voting information NOTICE is hereby given that the 34 th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Rampur Fertilizers Limited will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual means ("OAVM") on Wednesday, 21 st September, 2022 at 1.00 pm to transact the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The Notice of the Meeting, Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2022 and remote e-voting details have been sent in electronic mode to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository The date of completion of email of the notices to the shareholders is August 30, 2022. In case you have not registered your email ID with the Company/Depository, please follow below instructions to register your email ID for obtaining annual report for FY 2021-22 and login details for e-voting. Physical Holding : Send a request to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, MAS Services Limited at info@maservs.com providing Folio number, Name of the shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (Front and Back), PAN (Self attested scanned copy of PAN Card), AADHAR (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address. Please send your bank detail with original cancelled cheque to our RTA (i.e. MAS Services Limited, T-34 2 nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020) with letter mentioning folio no. if not registered already. Demat Holding: Please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP. Please also update your bank detail with your DP for dividend payment by NACH if declare by company. These documents are also available on Company's website www.rampurfert.com for download by the members. Notice is hereby given in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Company has offered e-voting facility for transacting all the business by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) through their portal www.evoting.nsdl.com to enable the members to cast their votes electronically. The remote e-voting period commences on Sunday 18 th September, 2022 (09:00 am) and ends on Tuesday, 20 th September, 2022 (05:00 pm). No e-voting shall be allowed beyond the said date and time. During this period members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of 19 th September, 2022, may cast their vote by remote e-voting. Any person, who acquires shares and becomes member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e. 14 th September 2022, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or RTA, MAS Services Limited at info@maservs.com . However, if the members are already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then they can use their existing user ID and password for casting their vote. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The facility for voting through e-voting shall be made available at the AGM and the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. Shri Sanjiv Nigam, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. FCS 9313 & CP No. 8458), Proprietor M/s. Sanjiv Nigam & Associates, Company Secretaries, has been appointed as Scrutinizer for the e-voting process. The detailed procedure for remote e-voting is contained in the letter sent with the Notice of the AGM. Any query/grievance relating to e-voting may be addressed to Rajeev Kumar, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, Rampur Fertilizers Ltd., Judges Bareilly Road, Rampur-244901 U.P. Phone: 0595-2352028. Email: kumar@rampurfert.com . NOTICE is also hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Register of the Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Thursday, the 15 th September, 2022 to Wednesday, the 21 st September, 2022 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of taking record of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.	
For Rampur Fertilizers Limited Sd/- Rajeev Kumar Company Secretary & Compliance Officer	

FM to review state of economy on Sept 15

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will review the state of the economy amid global and domestic challenges at a meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), scheduled on September 15.

The 26th meeting of the high-level panel to be held in Mumbai will be attended by all financial sectoral regulators, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, sources said.

The FSDC is the apex body of sectoral regulators, headed by the Union finance minister.

The meeting will review the current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues, including those concerning banking and NBFCs, according to the sources.

The council would also discuss measures required for further development of the financial sector and to achieve inclusive economic growth with macroeconomic stability, they said.

As per the RBI estimate, the country's GDP is expected to witness a growth of 7.2 per cent in the current financial year amid elevated retail inflation at 6.7 per cent.

The focus of both the government and RBI is to tame inflation, which has remained above the RBI's tolerance level of 6 per cent since January this year. Besides, the falling rupee



hovering around 80 per dollar is adding pressure to inflation.

The recent pronouncement of Fed chairman Jerome Powell to brace for more large interest rate hikes in coming months to rein in inflation will have implications for other currencies of the world, including the rupee.

The FSDC meeting will also review activities undertaken by the FSDC Subcommittee chaired by the RBI Governor and the action taken by members on the past decisions of FSDC.

The last meeting of FSDC was held in February after the presentation of the Budget 2022-23.

Besides RBI Governor, Securities and Exchange Board of India Chairman Madhabi

Puri Buch, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) Chairman Debasish Panda, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairman Ravi Mital and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay will attend the meeting.

The sources said the FSDC meeting will also be attended by Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj, Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Malhotra, and other top officials of the finance ministry.

Fiscal deficit touches 20.5% of annual target in April-July: Official data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government's fiscal deficit touched 20.5 per cent of the annual target at the end of July 2022-23 against 21.3 per cent a year ago, reflecting improvement in public finance, as per official data released on Wednesday.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit - the difference between expenditure and revenue - was ₹3,40,831 crore during the April-July period this financial year. A fiscal deficit is a reflection of government borrowings from the market.

As per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the government's receipts, including taxes, stood at ₹7.85 lakh crore or 34.4 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) for 2022-23. During the year-ago period, it was nearly the same at 34.6 per

cent.

The tax revenue stood at ₹6.66 lakh crore or 34.4 per cent of this year's BE. Last year too, the government had managed to mop 34.2 per cent of its annual estimate during April-July.

The data further revealed that the central government's total expenditure was ₹11.26 lakh crore or 28.6 per cent of the BE 2022-23, almost same as in the year-ago period.

Capital expenditure was 27.8 per cent of the full-year budget target compared to 23.2 per cent in the corresponding period last year, as per the monthly account of the Union government up to July 2022, released by the CGA.

For 2022-23, the fiscal deficit of the government is estimated to be ₹16.61 lakh crore or 6.4 per cent of the GDP.



India Inc's foreign investment down by 50% to USD 1.11 bn in July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Inc's foreign direct investment in July declined over 50 per cent to USD 1.11 billion in July 2022, the Reserve Bank data showed.

As per the RBI data, on Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI), the domestic companies had invested over USD 2.56 billion in July 2021 in the form of equity, loan and issuances of guarantees.

In a breakup, the Indian businesses invested USD 579.15 million by equity infusion, USD 193.21 million as loans and USD 337.49 million infused by issuing guarantees to their overseas ventures during July 2022.

Among the major investors included Reliance Industries USD 160 million in its wholly-owned energy subsidiary in



Singapore, Reliance Industrial Investments & Holdings USD 40.74 million in the fully-owned unit in retail business in the UK, and Ravindra Energy putting USD 33 million in its fully-owned unit in the UAE.

Hasham Traders invested USD 32.71 million in a joint venture in the US, which is into financial services.

Govt assures support to services exporters to realise full potential

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday assured services exporters that necessary support will be extended to remove constraints and realise the full potential of the sector.

The issues of the sector were discussed during a day-long session on services exports, which was organised by the Department of Commerce.

Some of the key suggestions that were highlighted include seeking better market access in free trade pacts, branding, promotion through road shows, standard setting, robust mechanism for reporting of data, skilling and addressing regulatory bottlenecks.

Incentive schemes for specific sectors to boost exports were also requested by the



industry participants, the commerce ministry said in a statement.

Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam "assured the participants that necessary Government support would be extended to realise the full potential of service sectors and to remove any constraints in this regard," it noted.

The session was attended by about 100 participants representing various service sectors, including information

technology, communications, entertainment, audiovisual, tourism, education, accounting and finance.

Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) is hopeful of achieving the USD 300 billion exports target for 2022-23.

In 2021-22, it was USD 254 billion. Services exports have increased to USD 71 billion during April-June this fiscal against USD 56. 22 billion in the same quarter last year, according to the council's data.

Core sector output contracts to six-month low of 4.5% in July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The output of eight core infrastructure sectors contracted to six-month low of 4.5 per cent in July against 9.9 per cent in the year-ago period, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The output of these infrastructure sectors expanded by 13.2 per cent in June, 19.3 per cent in May, 9.5 per cent in April, 4.8 per cent in March, 5.9 per cent in February and 4 per cent in January.

The production growth of eight infrastructure sectors --

coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 11.5 per cent in April-July this fiscal against 21.4 per cent a year ago.

Crude oil and natural gas production contracted by 3.8 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively, during the month under review.

In July, the fertiliser output rose by 6.2 per cent against 0.6 per cent in the same month last year.

The growth rate in the output of coal, refinery products, steel, cement and elec-

tricity slowed down to 11.4 per cent, 6.2 per cent, 5.7 per cent, 2.1 per cent and 2.2 per cent, respectively.

Commenting on the numbers, domestic rating agency Ind-Ra said that the year-on-year growth in the core sector output sharply decelerated to a six-month low of 4.5 per cent in July.

"Ind-Ra believes that the ongoing recovery has still a long way to go because the output of some of the core segments is still lower than the pre-pandemic level," the agency said.

SpiceJet posts ₹789 crore net loss in June qtr, plans to raise \$200 mn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

SpiceJet on Wednesday reported a widening of net loss to Rs 789 crore for the three months ended June, mainly hit by high fuel prices and a fall in the rupee.

The low-cost carrier, which has been facing turbulent times, had a net loss of Rs 729 crore in the quarter ended June 2021. "Total revenue for the reported quarter was Rs 2,478 crore as against Rs 1,266 crore in the same quarter of the previous year," the airline said in a release. For the quarter ended March 2022, the airline posted a net loss of Rs 458 crore. In the year-ago period, it had a net loss of Rs 235.3 crore.

SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said the industry has been witnessing one of the most severe operating environment in the recent past.

Sebi penalises CB Management Services for non-compliance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs 3 lakh on CB Management Services for delaying the process of issuance of duplicate shares and failing to process transmissions of stocks within the time limit. Also, it had not maintained signature records of shareholders in certain companies.

CB Management Services, Registrar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agent, has been asked to pay the fine within 45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in an order on Tuesday.

DGCA deregisters 2 more aircraft of SpiceJet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aviation regulator DGCA on Wednesday deregistered two more Boeing 737 planes of SpiceJet following non-payment of dues to lessors.

With the latest deregistration, a total of six Boeing 737 aircraft of the budget carrier have been deregistered in August.

Boeing 737-800 aircraft VT-SPU and Boeing 737-900ER aircraft VT-SGQ have been deregistered under IDERA on August 31, according to a senior official at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Under the Cape Town Convention, lessors and lenders can seek deregistration of a leased aircraft in case there is a default. Such requests are done under Irrevocable De-registration and Export Request Authorisation (IDERA).

In recent months, SpiceJet has been facing turbulent times, including financial headwinds. In July, the regulator directed the airline to operate only 50 per cent of flights in the wake of many of its planes facing technical issues. On Wednesday, the carrier reported a net loss of Rs 789 crore for the three months ended June.

Unemployment rate dips to 7.6% in Q1: NSO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas dipped to 7.6 per cent during April-June 2022 from 12.6 per cent a year ago, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said on Wednesday.

Joblessness or unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons among the labour force.

Joblessness was high in April-June 2021 mainly due to the staggering impact of Covid-related restrictions in the country.

The latest data based on a periodic labour force survey,

underlining a decline in unemployment rate amid improved labour force participation ratio, point towards a sustained economic recovery from the shadow of the pandemic.

The unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in January-March 2022 was 8.2 per cent in urban areas, the 15th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed.

It also showed that the unemployment rate among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas declined to 9.5 per cent in April-June, 2022 from 14.3 per cent a year ago. It was 10.1 per cent in January-March, 2022.

BUSINESS BRIEF

MG MOTOR INDIA LAUNCHES ADVANCED GLOSTER

New Delhi: MG Motor India on Wednesday launched its premium SUV 'Advanced Gloster' with prices starting at ₹31.99 lakh. The model is available in two-wheel and four-wheel drive variants with six and seven-seater options. It is powered by a 2-litre diesel engine with a power output of 158.5 kW, the company said in a statement. The six-seater option is priced between ₹38.45-40.78 lakh, while the seven-seater ranges from ₹31.99 lakh to ₹40.78 lakh. The model, which is equipped with Advanced Driver Assist System (ADAS), now comes with additional features such as rear cross traffic alert and lane change assist, it added.

ELECTRIFUEL RAISES ₹1.8 CRORE

New Delhi: Electric vehicle technology startup Electrifuell on Wednesday said it has raised ₹1.8 crore in a seed round from the Indian Angel Network (IAN), led by IAN lead investors Vishnuraj Kunjur, Sahil Kejriwal, and Pradeep Gupta. The funds will be used for recruitment of people to expand the team and scale up production, besides investing in R&D, the company said in a statement. The startup offers battery management systems, hardware such as motor controllers, vehicle control units, telematics, battery charger, and software solutions for enterprises and customers.

KSB LIMITED REGISTERS 26.5% SALES GROWTH

New Delhi: KSB Limited, one of leading pumps and valves manufacturer in India, recorded a growth of 26.5 per cent on its half yearly sales in comparison to the last year figure. Farrokh Bhatnara, Director, Sales and Marketing, said, "This quarter we had significant order inflow from the petrochemical segment. We have received noteworthy orders from BHEL."

Reliance acquires soft drink brand Campa as part of expansion in FMCG space

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries, which announced entry into the FMCG space earlier this week, has acquired the home-grown soft drink brand Campa from Delhi-based Pure Drinks Group, said sources.

The deal is estimated to be around Rs 22 crore and Reliance Retail Ventures would introduce it to the general trade and local markets around Diwali, said sources close to the deal.

Reliance Retail Ventures, the retail arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance group, has already introduced its three variants including its iconic cola flavour, orange and lemon at its selected stores.

At present, Campa is bot-

tled by Jallan Food products. The Indian soft drink market is dominated by the American cola majors -- Coca-Cola India and PepsiCo.

The acquisition is part of the Reliance's plan to enter into the fast-moving consumer goods sector.

Earlier this week, addressing the shareholders in the annual general meeting, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) director Isha Ambani said the company will launch its FMCG goods business.

As part of its expansion drive in the FMCG segment, Reliance is already in talks with several makers, which would be announced subsequently once the deals are finalised.

The Indian FMCG market

is estimated to be over USD 100 billion and is largely dominated by big firms such as HUL, Reckitt, P&G, Nestle and home-grown companies like Dabur, Emami and Marico. Reliance will now compete with the leading company Adani Wilmar and other FMCG companies in this segment.

Campa Cola is a drink created by the Pure Drinks Group in the 1970s. Pure Drinks Group introduced Coca-Cola into India in 1949 and was the sole manufacturer and distributor of Coca-Cola till 1977 when Coke was asked to leave.

After that, the brand dominated the Indian market for the next 15 years in the absence of foreign competition.

'Poorly-directed freebies may have adverse consequences on economy'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Poorly-directed freebies may wreak havoc on state finances and have adverse consequences on the economy as in the case of Sri Lanka, experts say while noting it is important to define a freebie and how it is different from welfare expenditure.

Recently, the Supreme Court said freebies at the cost of taxpayers' money may push the country towards imminent bankruptcy.

Economic think tank ICRIER Chairman Pramod Bhasin said, "Most freebies (unless at a time of huge urgency such as Covid) which are often poorly directed are a fiscal mistake with significant adverse consequences. And these exist in most states and under most forms of governments." Bhasin noted that "political compulsions" cause most politicians to announce freebies as their way of capturing votes.

"If there was a way to limiting these within each state

and also centrally that would be a welcome move—but that is also for the elected representative to decide," he said, adding that there is a need to define a freebie and how it is different from welfare expenditure.

Echoing similar views, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) Director Nagesh Kumar said State governments need to be responsible in terms of fiscal management unless they wish to get into an unsustainable situation.

NTPC gets shareholders' nod to raise up to ₹12K cr via bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NTPC has got shareholders' approval to raise up to Rs 12,000 crore through issuance of non-convertible debentures on private placement basis.

The resolution was passed with requisite majority in the annual general meeting held on Tuesday.

The funds to be raised in one or more tranches (not exceeding 12) will be used for capital expenditure, working capital and general corporate



purposes, as per the notice for the AGM.

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

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

NADAL SURVIVES SCARE, OSAKA DIDN'T

AP ■ NEW YORK

Four-time champion Rafael Nadal overcame dropping the first set to defeat Australian wildcard Rinky Hijikata at the US Open first round on Tuesday.

Nadal triumphed 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 over his 198th-ranked opponent to register his 65th career win in New York.

The 36-year-old Spaniard, who is chasing a 23rd Grand Slam title and third of 2022, next faces Fabio Fognini.

Nadal holds a 13-4 career lead over the Italian but Fognini famously defeated him from two sets down in the third round of the US Open in 2015.

"I'm very happy to be back. It's a long time that I played here. I thought that maybe I'd never be back," said Nadal whose last appearance in New York saw him win the 2019 title.

World number three Nadal came into this year's tournament under an injury cloud after an abdominal strain had forced him to forfeit his Wimbledon semi-final against Nick Kyrgios.

Before Tuesday, he had played just once, a first-upt loss to Borna Coric in Cincinnati and he looked rusty at the start on Tuesday.

Hijikata, making his Grand Slam debut, surprisingly broke for a 4-3 edge and claimed the opener in the 10th game on the back of 11 fearless winners.

However, Nadal was quickly back in business with breaks in the second and eighth games of the second set bringing him level in the contest.

A break in the fourth game of the third for a 3-1 lead was enough to secure a two sets to one lead.

He wrapped up the tie on a fifth match point, sealing the victory with searing forehand pass to progress in a tournament missing his longtime rival Novak Djokovic who was banned from the US over his refusal to be vaccinated.

OSAKA BUNDLED OUT

Naomi Osaka's hopes of a third US Open title were dashed in the first round as the Japanese star slumped to a straight sets loss against Danielle Collins.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Osaka, a winner at Flushing Meadows in 2018 and 2020, was beaten 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 by 19th-seeded American Collins in a battle of two big hitters.

Collins, finalist at this year's Australian Open, now advances to a second round clash with Spain's Cristina Bucsa.

The 28-year-old right-hander



from Florida will head into that assignment brimming with confidence after showing great composure to put away Osaka on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

SWIATEK, ALCARAZ WIN

Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz reached the second round of a sweltering US Open.

World number one and French Open champion Swiatek eased past Italy's Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 6-0 in just 67 minutes.

Victory was a relief for the 21-year-old Pole who had suffered early losses at warm-up events in Toronto and Cincinnati.

Alcaraz, the 19-year-old world number four, was made to sweat by battling Sebastian Baez, winning the first two sets 7-5, 7-5 before the Argentine retired injured 0-2 down in the third. "Nobody wants to see a match end like this. Sebastian is a great player, fights to the last ball and deserves better things," said Alcaraz, a quarter-finalist in 2021.

Defending champion Raducanu crashes out in 1st round

AP ■ NEW YORK

Defending champion Emma Raducanu of Britain was sent crashing out of the US Open in the first round on Tuesday, losing in straight sets to France's Alize Cornet.

Eleventh seed Raducanu became only the third women's defending champion in history to lose in the first round as Cornet crafted a scintillating performance to seal a deserved 6-3, 6-3 victory on Louis Armstrong Stadium.

The 32-year-old Frenchwoman, ranked 40th in the world, drew on all her experience to outfox the 19-year-old Raducanu, boldly pulling off a string of exquisite drop shots at key



moments to set up the victory.

Raducanu had been the darling of the Flushing Meadows crowd last year, when she made history by emerging from qualifying to claim a fairytale maiden Grand Slam.

That win marked the first time ever a qualifier had lifted a Grand Slam title.

But she has since struggled to recapture the form that swept her to an improbable championship crown last year. In three previous Grand Slams this year she had gone no further than the second round.

Her exit on Tuesday sees her join Angelique Kerber in 2017 and Svetlana Kuznetsova in 2005 as the only defending US Open champions who have fallen at the first hurdle.

VENUS NOT LOOKING PAST DOUBLES WITH SERENA

AP ■ NEW YORK

Venus Williams brushed off questions about her future on Tuesday after tumbling out of the US Open in the first round.

The 42-year-old, who has barely played in the past year and whose last victory in a singles match came at Wimbledon in 2021, was beaten 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) by Belgium's Alison van Uytvanck.

It was yet another indication that Williams is fast-approaching the end of her glittering 28-year professional career.

But she said she was not thinking about following in the footsteps of younger sister Serena, who has signalled that



this year's Open will be her last tournament.

The Williams sisters are reuniting for the doubles at Flushing Meadows — their first tournament together since 2018 — and Venus says she is looking no further than that.

"Right now I'm just focused on the doubles," she replied when asked about her future following Tuesday's defeat.

Azarenka, Kostyuk set for Belarus-Ukraine Open clash



AP ■ NEW YORK

Belarus's Victoria Azarenka and Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine are set for a politically-charged US Open grudge match after advancing to a second round showdown on Tuesday.

Former world number one Azarenka defeated Ashlyn Krueger of the United States in three sets while Kostyuk advanced to the second round with a straight sets win over Egypt's Mayar Sherif.

The results mean Azarenka and Kostyuk will face off against each other on Thursday against the backdrop of simmering recent player tensions caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Zverev to make ATP Tour return at Korea Open

AP ■ SEOUL

Alexander Zverev was named as the headline act and top seed on Wednesday for September's Korea Open, where the world number two will make his return to the ATP Tour after a serious ankle injury.

The 25-year-old is not at the US Open, currently being played in New York, but he has been named in Germany's team for the group stage of the Davis Cup finals, which come a week before the Seoul tournament.

The Tokyo Olympics Gold medalist will be one of three top-10 players at the September 24-October 2 event, along with Casper Ruud of Norway and Cameron Norrie of Britain, organizers said.

Zverev, who has won 19 singles titles but is yet to triumph at a Grand Slam, has not played since tearing ankle ligaments during his semi-final against Rafael Nadal at the French Open in June.

He left the court at Roland Garros in a wheelchair and subsequently underwent surgery to repair three torn ligaments in his right ankle.

The ATP Tour is returning to Seoul for the first time since 1996.

The Korea Open is one of six



single-year events in 2022 announced to replace tournaments in China cancelled because of Covid restrictions. Others take place in the United States, Israel, Italy and Spain.

Dybala double takes Roma to top

AP ■ ROME

Paulo Dybala shot Roma top of Serie A on Tuesday with a brace which sank Monza 3-0 while Inter Milan are one point behind Jose Mourinho's side after their 3-1 home win over Cremonese.

Argentina forward Dybala brought up his goal century in the Italian top flight after netting twice in the first 32 minutes at the Stadio Olimpico to put unbeaten Roma on 10 points from their first four games.

Roma, who also scored just after the hour through Roger Ibanez's header from a Lorenzo Pellegrini corner, are two points ahead of third-placed AC Milan after the champions were held to a drab goalless draw at Sassuolo.

Napoli and Lazio both have the chance to draw level with Roma in Wednesday's respective fixtures against Lecce and Sampdoria, while Atalanta and Torino — also both on seven points — face off on Thursday.

Dybala's goals came thanks to good work from Tammy Abraham, who sent the 28-year-old on his way to opening his Roma account in the 18th minute with a looping flick onto which his strike partner charged before rifling home.

The pair linked up again for Roma's second, this time Abraham forcing a good save from Michele Di Gregorio before Dybala showed a more aggressive side to his game by beating the Monza defenders to the ball and bundling it home.

Inter are hot on Roma's heels after bouncing back from their weekend



defeat at Lazio despite having to do without star striker Romelu Lukaku.

Belgium's Lukaku will miss Saturday's Milan derby and most likely Inter's Champions League opener against Bayern Munich next week. But Joaquin Correa tapped the hosts ahead in the 12th minute to set Inter on their way and Nicolò Barella doubled their lead with a stunning volley seven minutes before half-time.

Substitute Lautaro Martinez drilled home his third of the season with 14 minutes remaining to make sure Cremonese, who scored late through David Okereke, stayed second-bottom and stuck on zero points. Elsewhere, Milan had Mike Maignan to thank for their unbeaten record staying intact, the France goalkeeper diving brilliantly to his right to keep out Domenico Berardi's penalty midway through the first half.



Werner scores hat-trick as Leipzig win 8-0

AP ■ LEIPZIG

Timo Werner scored a first-half hat-trick as German Cup holders RB Leipzig annihilated fourth-division side Teutonia Ottensen 8-0 in the first round on Tuesday.

Werner, who is his club's all-time top goalscorer, scored twice in the space of 60 seconds to put Leipzig two goals ahead after 20 minutes.

Werner completed his hat-trick in the 43rd minute when he hammered in a pass from Swedish midfielder Emil Forsberg.

Leipzig manager Domenico Tedesco said Werner, who returned from Chelsea earlier this month, was "on a very good path to

achieving very, very good form."

Portuguese striker Andre Silva added two more in the 40th and 53rd minutes.

Forsberg, who confirmed after the game that he would be staying in Leipzig beyond the end of the transfer window, added a goal in the 56th minute.

Tedesco substituted Werner for French forward Christopher Nkunku in the 57th minute.

Nkunku, who sits atop the Bundesliga goalscoring charts with four goals after four matches, added Leipzig's seventh in the 77th minute, before Dani Olmo made it 8-0 in the final minute of the game.

Southampton inflict fresh misery on Tuchel's Chelsea

AP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Chelsea crashed to a shock 2-1 defeat against Southampton as their rocky start to the Premier League season took a turn for the worse on Tuesday.

Thomas Tuchel's side blew the lead at St Mary's after Raheem Sterling put them ahead midway through the first half.

England forward Sterling bagged his third goal in two games with a close-range strike in the 23rd minute.

But Chelsea had squandered a host of chances before Sterling's opener and, not for the first time in Tuchel's reign, their profligate finishing came back to haunt them.

Romeo Lavia equalised in



the 28th minute with his first goal for Southampton, curling home from the edge of the area after Chelsea failed to clear a

corner.

Adam Armstrong put Southampton ahead on the stroke of half-time as he took

Romain Perraud's pass and drilled a deflected shot past Chelsea keeper Edouard Mendy.

Chelsea, beaten 3-0 at Leeds

Fabian Ruiz joins PSG

AP ■ PARIS

Spain midfielder Fabian Ruiz has joined French champions Paris Saint-Germain on a five-year deal from Napoli, the Ligue 1 club announced on Tuesday.

Fabian is the fifth signing of the summer by PSG and will further strengthen their midfield following the arrival of Portugal duo Vitinha and Renato Sanches. The 26-year-old spent four seasons with Napoli and won the Italian



Cup in 2020. He is a former Everton Under-21 champion with Spain and has 15 international caps.

in their previous away fixture, were unable to muster a response as they slipped to a second defeat from their last three

games.

With just two wins from their first five matches, the Blues are already five points

behind leaders Arsenal, who play their game in hand against Aston Villa on Wednesday.

Despite a significant close-season spending spree, which is set to continue with several more signings mooted before Thursday's transfer deadline, Chelsea are struggling to find any sustained momentum at present.

EVERTON FRUSTRATED

Everton's wait for a first win this season goes on after Luis Sinisterra's first league goal for Leeds earned a 1-1 draw at Elland Road.

Frank Lampard's team went ahead when Alex Iwobi's incisive pass was flicked through the legs of Diego Llorente by Anthony Gordon, whose clinical finish capped a superb move

won three of their first four games, but Marco Silva's promoted side broke the deadlock in the 48th minute through Aleksandar Mitrovic's fifth goal this season.

Neeskens Kebano provided the pass and Serbia striker Mitrovic tapped in at the far post for his 100th league goal for the Cottagers.

SKY's Virat show scripts India's win

PTI ■ DUBAI

India were not at their best but Suryakumar Yadav was, his 26-ball 68 paving the way for the defending champions' 40-run victory over Hong Kong and entry into the Super 4 of the Asia Cup here on Wednesday.

Suryakumar's scintillating knock lifted a sedate India to 192 for two, the Mumbaikar easily overshadowing Virat Kohli's fluent half-century after Hong Kong opted to bowl first.

Hong Kong were off to a good start with the bat, but the 193-run target proved to be too much for them, ending at 152 for five in the stipulated 20 overs.

Suryakumar orchestrated the carnage while Kohli made an unbeaten 59 from 44 balls, his first international fifty in more than six months, as India amassed 78 runs in the final five overs.

Arshdeep Singh (1/44) gave the breakthrough, while Ravindra Jadeja effected a direct hit to remove skipper Nizakat Khan and then dismissed their top-scorer Bahar Hayat (41) to derail their chase.

Hong Kong's scoring rate dropped considerably after the powerplay, with just 14 runs coming in four overs, and the Indian spinners made things difficult with Jadeja (1/15 in 4 overs) leading the show in a tidy spell, three days after he impressed with the bat against Pakistan.

This was India's fifth consecutive win in T20Is as they entered the Super 4 as Group A toppers with two victories from as many matches. India defeated Pakistan by five wickets in their opener here on Sunday.

Hong Kong and Pakistan will battle it out at Sharjah on Friday to vie for the second slot from Group A.

Put in on a two-paced wicket, the famed Indian top-order in skipper Rohit Sharma (21) and his deputy KL Rahul (36) struggled to break free against their inexperienced rivals.

Rahul, who is coming back from an injury layoff, looked out of sorts and consumed 39 balls for his 36.

Of his two sixes, one came off a free-hit as the Indian vice-captain allowed pressure to mount on his skipper, who was the first to get out.

Rohit departed for a 13-ball 21, but not before becoming the first to get past 3500 runs in T20Is. Rohit also crossed 12000 runs as an opener in international cricket, the second



fastest after Sachin Tendulkar.

Under pressure to break free, Rahul eventually perished, sweeping a delivery outside off to get an edge behind the stumps.

Then, Suryakumar showed how it's done. The game's complexion changed in no time with Suryakumar's

fireworks lighting up the Dubai skyline.

Hong Kong bowlers had no answer to Surkyakumar's 360-degree shots and last-minute improvisation.

At the other end, Kohli looked fluent and got to his first half-century in international cricket since his 52

against the West Indies in at T20I in Kolkata on February 18.

Having shown his intent in a 34-ball 35 against Pakistan on Sunday, Kohli played the sheet anchor role en route to his 31st T20I fifty.

In no time Suryakumar joined Kohli and overshadowed the former

India, Pak fined for slow over-rate in their Group A match



IAN S ■ DUBAI

India and Pakistan have been fined 40 per cent of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate in their Group A match of the Asia Cup 2022, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Wednesday.

Jeff Crowe of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanctions after Rohit Sharma and Babar Azam's sides were ruled to be two overs short of their respective targets during Sunday's match after time allowances were taken into consideration.

"In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 percent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement.

Both captains pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

skipper. Batting on 42, Suryakumar smashed Haroon Arshad for four sixes from five balls in the final over, which yielded India 26 runs

He got to his sixth T20I fifty in just 22 balls, his fastest. The pair added 98 runs in an unbroken third-wicket partnership that came from just 42 balls. India stepped up in style in the final five overs, which got them 78 runs.



Hardik 5th in T20I all-rounders list

IAN S ■ DUBAI

Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya climbed eight places in the latest ICC T20I all-rounder rankings, released on Wednesday, to attain his career best fifth position after exceptional individual performance against Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2022, here.

Hardik claimed 3/25 with the ball and made 33 not out from just 17 balls, leading India to a thrilling five-wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan in their opening game of Asia Cup on Sunday.

His impactful performance also showed that the 28-year old will be vital in India's T20 World Cup campaign later in the year in Australia.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's blistering start to the tournament has also not gone unnoticed, with a number of players rewarded in the updated rankings. Rashid Khan's push for the No. 1 bowler position has been helped with a two-spot jump to third (708 points), over fellow leg-spinners Adil Rashid and Adam Zampa. Left-arm wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (716) is next in Rashid's sights, though Josh Hazlewood (792) boasts a strong margin at the top of the list. Rashid's compatriot Mujeeb Ur Rahman has entered the top-

10 with a seven-spot move up the rankings (660), currently edged out for eighth by Bhuvneshwar Kumar (661), whose 4/26 against Pakistan helped the Men in Blue to victory. There were no new entrants in the T20I batting top-10, though there was a push from Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan, moving up to second (796) to join Babar Azam (810) in the top two.

Afghanistan's Hazratullah Zazai's innings of 23 (26) and 37 (28) led to a three-spot rise to 14th (611). His teammate Rahmanullah Gurbaz moved up five spots to 29th. There were several shuffles across the other two formats, with Ben Stokes' role in England's victory over South Africa leading to moves up in all three Test ranking lists.

Making a hundred and taking 2/17 and 2/30, Stokes moved up nine spots on the batting rankings to 18th (668), five spots to 38th on the bowling rankings (540), and up to second on the all-rounder list (360). Ravindra Jadeja (384) holds on to the top spot.

There were no moves of note in the top-10 of the ODI rankings, though the first match between Australia and Zimbabwe saw shuffles lower down.

Colin de Grandhomme retires from international cricket

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme on Wednesday announced his retirement from international cricket.

De Grandhomme, 36, made the decision to bring down the curtain on an impressive international career after discussions this week with New Zealand Cricket, which has agreed to release him from his central contract.

The Zimbabwean-born Kiwi said a range of factors had played a part in his decision, not least his struggles with injury and the increasing competition for places in all three formats.

"I accept that I am not getting any younger and that the training is getting harder, particularly with the injuries," said de Grandhomme in NZC statement.

"I also have a growing family and am trying to understand what my future looks like post-cricket. All of this has been on my mind over the past few weeks.

"I've been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to play for the BLACKCAPS since debuting in 2012 and I'm proud of my international career - but I feel this is the right time to finish."

De Grandhomme departs the international stage with an impressive record, particularly in the Test arena; his 29 matches realising 1432 runs at 38.70, including centuries against the West Indies and South Africa, and 49 wickets at 32.95 - including six for 41 on debut against Pakistan.

A measure of his influence in the Test environment is that he featured in 18 wins, playing a key role in New Zealand's inaugural ICC World Test Championship campaign, which ended with



victory over India in the final at Southampton.

De Grandhomme also proved valuable in the BLACKCAPS ODI side, in 45 outings scoring 742 runs at a strike-rate of 106.15 and taking 30 wickets at 41.00 with the ball, as the side reached a No.1 world ranking, and qualified for the final of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup.

In that tournament, he starred with a 47-ball 60 in a pulsating victorious chase against South Africa, scored 64 against Pakistan, and bowled superbly in the final against England, taking one for 25 off his 10 overs.

The powerful all-rounder also played in 41 T20Is, scoring 505 runs at a strike-rate of 138.35 and taking 12 wickets at 38.41 (economy rate of 8.61).

Srikanth wins; Lakshya, Saina exit from Japan Open

PTI ■ OSAKA

Star Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth registered a stunning straight-game win over world number 4 Lee Zii Jia but Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen suffered a shock defeat in the opening round of the Japan Open Super 750 tournament here on Wednesday.

Srikanth, a former world number 1, recovered from his early exit from last week's World Championships, to outwit fifth seed Lee 22-20, 23-21 in his men's singles opener which lasted 37 minutes. It was his first win over the Malaysian in four meetings.

The 21-year-old Sen, a 2021 world championships Bronze medallist, however, squandered an opening game advantage to go down 21-18, 14-21, 13-21 to world number 21 Japanese Kenta Nishimoto in his first match.

London Olympics Bronze medallist Saina Nehwal was also no match for top seed Akane Yamaguchi as she lost 9-21, 17-21 to the local favourite in 30 minutes.

Fast-rising men's doubles pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, who jumped nine places to reach world number 26 after a quarterfinal finish at the World



Championships, also lost 21-19, 21-23, 15-21 to Korean combination of Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho after wasting a match point in the second game.

In other results, Birmingham Commonwealth Games Bronze medallists Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly lost 17-21, 18-21 to seventh seeds Jongkolphan

Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai of Thailand in women's doubles category.

Mixed doubles pair of Juhi Dewangan and Venkat Gaurav Prasad lost 11-21, 10-21 to Chinese top seed Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong in 23 minutes.

On Tuesday, HS Prannoy had advanced to the second round after his opponent Hong

Kong's Ng ka Long Angus retired midway through the opening match.

It was a gritty performance from world number 14 Srikanth, who is often guilty of not being able to close out narrow matches, despite doing all the hard work in setting up the points.

On Wednesday, Srikanth once again found himself in a similar position when he almost wasted a 15-11 advantage by allowing Lee to grab three game points but the Indian held on to his nerves to reel off five points on the trot to leave his younger rival stranded and seal the opening game.

Stung by the opening game reversal, Lee showed a lot of purpose after the change of sides. He opened up a 2-0 lead early on and ensured a slender one-point advantage in the interval but soon things changed as Srikanth turned the tables to grab a 18-16 lead and then stood just two points away from a win at 20-18.

It seemed there will be another twist in the tale as Lee this time saved two match points and earned himself a game point but Srikanth ensured there were no hiccups as he pocketed the required three points to shut the door on the Malaysian.

Oz win 2nd ODI against Zimbabwe, seal series

AP ■ TOWNSVILLE

Mitchell Starc took three nearly wickets to help restrict Zimbabwe to 96 runs and Steve Smith posted an unbeaten 47 as Australia won the second ODI by eight wickets Wednesday to clinch the three-match series.

After Australia won the toss and sent the visitors in to bat, Starc (3-24) bowled three wides in a wild opening over but quickly recovered his line and a fuller length to bowl Innocent Kaia (2), trap Wessly Mcheverhe (0) lbw and have Tadiwanashe Marumani (4) caught at point as Zimbabwe slumped to 14 for three. His new-ball partner Josh Hazlewood (1-16) bowled a consistent back-of-a-length



across two spells and was rewarded with the wicket of Sikanda Raza (17), leaving Zimbabwe 46-4 at the first drinks break.

All-rounder Cameron

Green held an outfield catch to remove Zimbabwe's top scorer - Sean Williams for 29 off 45 deliveries - off Adam Zampa's bowling and then had both Tony Munyonga and Ryan Burl

caught behind for 10.

Leg-spinner Zampa (3-21) took the last two wickets within four deliveries to ensure Zimbabwe's innings ended inside 28 overs.

"I thought it was clinical by all the bowlers - the tone set by Starc and Hazlewood at the top of the innings was outstanding," Australia captain Aaron Finch said. "Cam Green, the two spinners, it couldn't have gone more to plan today."

Richard Ngarava removed openers David Warner (13) and Aaron Finch (1) in the third over to have Australia in trouble at 16-2 before Smith and Alex Carey (26) combined in an unbeaten 84-run third-wicket partnership to secure victory with 212 deliveries to spare.

PCB to manage all six teams of its junior T20 league

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board has decided to manage all six teams of the Pakistan Junior League T20 after failing to sell the team rights.

The board announced on Tuesday that the inaugural PJL would go ahead with the teams managed directly by the board from October 6-21.

The board also confirmed that Pakistan's former captain Javed Miandad would be the league mentor while all six teams would have mentors in Sir Vivian Richards, Imran Tahir, Darren Sammy, Colin Munro, Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Malik.

The board had initially announced and invited bids for



the sale of the six team rights but none of the interested bidders could match the reserve price asked by the board.

"We know that since this is a first ever junior T20I league

obviously sponsors and bidders are a bit skeptical about its commercial value and future but the PCB believes the league will become a successful commercial property after a few seasons," an official source in the board said.

The PCB also didn't get the required reserve prices for the broadcasting rights of the tournament which will now be shown by the PCB and national state broadcaster PTV.

The PCB also confirmed the player draft for the tournament will be held in Lahore on 6 September. Details around the draft process will be announced shortly. PCB CEO Faisal Hasnain said outside Pakistan, over 140 players.

IOA treasurer booked for sexual assault of athlete

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

A case of rape has been registered against Anandeshwar Pandey, general secretary of the UP Olympic Association, at Bhiwadi police station in Rajasthan.

A handball player has lodged an FIR against Pandey, also the treasurer of Indian Olympic Association (IOA), alleging sexual assault.

Seema Sharma, a former national-level handball player of Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB), has filed the complaint against Pandey, who was also the secretary general of the Handball Federation of India (HFI) from 2013 to 2020.

In her complaint, Sharma has accused Pandey of trying to rape her at the UPOA's office in Lucknow in March this year.

As per the complaint, 28-year-old Sharma said she met Pandey during the selection trials for the National Women Handball Championships.

The trials were organised at the KD Singh Babu Stadium on March 12. She said she made it to the camp and before the final selection on March 26, she was asked to go to Pandey's office by her coach, where he allegedly misbehaved and molested her, according to the FIR.

Sharma wrote in her complaint that she resisted his advances during which her jersey got torn. "He then threatened me with dire consequences and said he is very powerful and will end my playing career," she said in her complaint.

"I informed my higher officials about this incident," said Sharma, who has represented Uttar Pradesh in sub-junior, junior and senior level national championships.

Sharma alleged that Pandey is a repeat offender and has finished the careers of many handball players but nobody dared to report against him because he is "powerful and well connected."

Pandey was also in the news last week as pictures of him in compromising positions with different women went viral on social media.