

OPINION 6
BIODIVERSITY IS THE KEY
TO ACHIEVE SDGs

WORLD 8
RUSSIA FORCES UKRAINE
TO EVACUATE CIVILIANS

MONEY 10
REDOUBLE RECOVERY EFFORTS,
RBI DEPUTY GUV ASKS BANKS

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol. 33 Issue 221
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY AUGUST 11, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



**BAYERN REACH
DEAL TO SIGN
HARRY KANE**
11 SPORT

Modi calls Opp selfish, vows to restore peace in Manipur

PM slams Cong's 'jhoot ka bazaar'; No Trust motion defeated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a stirring speech that underscored the achievements of his Government and envisioned a promising future for both the BJP and the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi vehemently critiqued the Opposition during his response to the no-confidence motion. The Congress-sponsored motion was ultimately defeated through a voice vote after the INDIA coalition of Opposition parties staged a walkout amid the Prime Minister's address. The Prime Minister commenced by listing the welfare and developmental initiatives undertaken by his administration over the past nine years. He emphasised that these efforts had uplifted millions of individuals from the depths of poverty, consequently propelling India toward becoming the third-largest global economy by 2027.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi replies on the Motion of No-Confidence in the Lok Sabha in the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

remarked that while the Congress leader may talk about espousing a sentiment of "Bharat Mata" (Mother India) had been figuratively killed in Manipur. He argued that this claim highlighted the frustration experienced by the Congress leader due to his party's prolonged absence from power. Taking a pointed dig at Rahul, the Prime Minister

hunger for power." In a free-wheeling speech interspersed with humour, jabs, and poetry, the Prime Minister remarked that the Opposition's arguments on the no-confidence motion were "bereft of substantial issues." Amid laughter from the treasury benches, he quipped, "I hope you will be better prepared in 2028." He highlighted that the

Opposition alliance had merely rebranded itself, following the Congress's "last rites of the UPA at Bengaluru". Modi used an analogy, stating, "You are trying to pass off an old vehicle as an electric one just by applying new paint." This assertion was met with enthusiastic cheers from the ruling side, with senior Ministers like Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, and Nitin

Gadkari visibly expressing their approval. The Opposition, chanting 'INDIA' and 'Manipur', staged a walkout while the Prime Minister was still addressing the house.

Regarding Manipur, Modi contended that the "origin of all the troubles plaguing the northeast" lay in the rule of Congress. He assigned blame to the policies of Congress regimes, including those of the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, for issues like partition, neglect of the North-East, and insurgency in the region. "How can the Opposition talk about the 'murder' of Bharat Mata, when they themselves cut Bharat Mata into three pieces?" Modi responded, addressing Congress Rahul's speech in reference to recent incidents of violence against women in Manipur.

Assuring the people of Manipur, Modi pledged that the State would return to the path of development. He praised Chief Minister Biren Singh's Government for diligently working to foster peace in Manipur. Modi emphasised the Centre is taking stringent action against those responsible for the violence in Manipur, assuring that the state would soon experience renewed peace. Continued on Page 2

Bill removes CJI from panel to pick CEC

In March, SC set up PM-LoP-CJI panel for selection till law is framed by Parl



Ram Meghwal presented the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill 2023 in the Upper House. Amid the Opposition's uproar on the Manipur violence issue during the post-lunch session, Meghwal introduced the legislation. Despite the efforts of Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to restore order, the din persisted.

According to the Vill's provisions, the CEC and ECs will be selected by a three-member panel comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Cabinet Minister. Earlier this year in March, the Supreme Court ruled that appointments to the election commission must be advised

by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the CJI.

In a unanimous verdict, a five-judge Constitution bench led by Justice KM Joseph emphasised that the election commission must ensure the rule of law and remain independent. The verdict stated that an independent election commission is vital for democracy and that any unconstitutional exercise of power by the commission could impact political outcomes.

Before the Supreme Court ruling, the President appointed the CEC and ECs based on the Government's recommendation. The new Bill, as introduced by Meghwal, aims to "regulate the appointment, conditions of service and term of office of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners, the procedure for transaction of business by the election commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

Continued on Page 2

ED scans Karat's mails in NewsClick anti-India drive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its money laundering probe against news portal NewsClick which is alleged to have received dubious funds from American billionaire Neville Roy Singham to spread Chinese propaganda, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating a dump of email exchanges that include some between the US businessman and senior CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat.



The ED is also probing the alleged transfer of funds of about ₹40 lakh from NewsClick to the family members of activist Teesta Setalvad, the transfer of about ₹72 lakh to a senior journalist, some employees of NewsClick, and a few independent media professionals over a period of time. The agency had found that NewsClick also allegedly paid ₹17.08 lakh as "salary" to jailed activist Gautam Navlakha, ₹97.32 lakh to Bappaditya Sinha, a shareholder in NewsClick and a member of the IT cell of the CPI(M), over an unspecified period.

Sources said the ED is investigating the "end use" of these funds. The online news portal and its dubious activities came under scrutiny again after a recent New York Times report claimed that the outlet was part of a global network that received funding from Singham, who allegedly works closely with the Chinese Government media machine.

The NYT report was also raised in Parliament when BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said that the funds pumped into NewsClick were used to create an anti-India environment and that he had documents pertaining to email exchanges between Karat and Singham. The ED, as part of its money laundering investigation against NewsClick, its promoters, and others, is probing alleged fraudulent foreign funds infusion of more than ₹86 crore from entities linked to Singham into its holding company (PPK NewsClick Studio Pvt Ltd) and it is soon expected to file a chargesheet in this case.

The ED had first raided the premises of NewsClick in the Saidulajab area of the national Capital in September 2021 on charges of money laundering and since then the probe is continuing beside the litigation between the two sides before the Delhi High Court. Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

TOBACCO BAN IN DELHI EXTENDED BY AN YEAR

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has extended the ban on the manufacture and sale of tobacco products, including gutkha and paan masala, in Delhi for a further period of one year. Raj Niwas officials said on Thursday. The Lt Governor said tobacco products are now affecting children and youngsters and this menace should be contained for the future generation, they said. He stressed that the notification needs to be enforced strictly and no lackadaisical attitude towards its enforcement in the city will be tolerated.

CJI LAUNCHES E-PASSES PORTAL FOR VISITORS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday announced the launch of portal 'SuSwagatam', which would enable advocates, visitors, interns and others to register themselves online and get e-passes to enter the apex court.

36 KILLED AS FIRES BURN THROUGH HAWAII

Wailuku: Thousands of Hawaii residents raced to escape homes on Maui as blazes swept across the island, destroying parts of a centuries-old town and killing at least 36 people in one of the deadliest US wildfires in recent years. The fire took the island by surprise, leaving behind burned-out cars on once busy streets and smoking piles of rubble where historic buildings had stood in Lahaina Town, which dates to the 1700s and has long been a favourite destination for tourists.

Adhir suspended from LS for unruly act, insulting PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was suspended from the Lower House on Thursday for "repeated misconduct" pending an investigation by the privileges committee. The suspension movement was brought in Parliament by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi. Speaking in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, during a discussion on the no-confidence motion brought by the Opposition, Chowdhury compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Hindu epic Mahabharata's blind king Dhritrashtra. He said, "Jab Dhritrashtra andhe the tab Drupadi ka vastra haran hua tha, aaj bhi raja andhe baithe hai... Manipur aur Hastinapur mein koi farq nahai hai?" Chowdhury also likened PM Modi to fugitive Nirav Modi. Continued on Page 2

Opp walks out, says Modi evasive about denial of justice to Manipur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition INDIA parties accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being evasive about the denial of justice to Manipur besides ignoring all other pressing issues facing the country in his response to the no-confidence motion debate on Thursday.

Briefing reporters outside the Parliament House, Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, said though the Opposition managed to force the Prime Minister to come to Parliament and speak there, yet the main purpose of getting justice for Manipur remained unfulfilled. Gogoi said the Opposition had succeeded in forcing him to speak in the country's Parliament as he was earlier speaking in the foreign parliaments only.

"But, he (the PM) had still not done justice with Manipur even after three months of violence there," the Congress leader said after staging a walkout in between the PM's speech in Lok Sabha. Gogoi said since the Opposition India did not get answer to any of the three questions posed to him as to why he



Opposition members walk out of the Lok Sabha during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the Motion of No-Confidence, in the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

didn't visit Manipur, why he didn't make any statement on Manipur and why he did not sack the Manipur Chief Minister, the alliance decided to walk out in protest. The Congress LS Deputy leader said the entire INDIA bloc also decided to walk out, as the Prime Minister failed to

speak on Manipur, wrestlers' harassment, Chinese intrusions, national security, and inflation. Speaking to media after the Opposition walked out of the House while Modi was replying on the no-confidence motion, Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav said the reason behind the no-confidence motion was to highlight the situation of Manipur where several women were raped and children were killed but PM didn't stand with the people of Manipur and that's why the Opposition staged a walkout.

RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha said they thought that Modi will speak on Manipur which did it happened. "But what did we see? Comments, jokes and Whatsapp talks... This was not expected from Modi," Jha said. Continued on Page 2

2G: HC daily hearing from Aug 28 against acquittals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court said on Thursday it will start hearing on a day to day basis from August 28 the appeals by the CBI and ED against the acquittal of former telecom minister A Raja, business entities and others in the 2G spectrum allocation case. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma expressed displeasure over a request for an adjournment made by the counsel for the probe agencies and directed that the matter be listed after two weeks for submissions. "How will we continue like this? We can't continue giving dates like this," the judge said. On March 19, 2018, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had approached the high court, challenging a special court's



order of December 2017 acquitting all the accused. A day later, the CBI too challenged in the high court the acquittal of the accused.

The matter is currently at the stage of 'leave to appeal' which is a formal permission granted by a court to a party to challenge a decision in a higher court.

On Thursday, a request was made to the court to defer the hearing till September end to await the appointment of special counsel for Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to argue the appeal.

Bankers call RBI policy nuanced: CRR move won't impact lending

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bankers said the Reserve Bank's move to impose a 10 per cent incremental cash reserve ratio will not impede banks' ability to lend while the status quo on policy rates was on expected lines. The RBI opted for the status quo in key policy rates for the third consecutive time on Thursday. Industry lobby grouping IBA's chairman A K Goel, who also heads state-run Punjab National Bank, said the move to impose a 10 per cent incremental cash reserve ratio will not impede the sector's ability to lend. "Even after this temporary impounding of liquidity, there will be sufficient liquidity in the system to meet the needs of the economy," he said.

Meitei fleeing burning house gangraped

Manipur MLAs urge PM for 'complete disarmament', NRC

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Another case of sexual assault has come to light in Manipur after a 37-year-old married woman from Churachandpur district alleged she was gangraped by a group of men while fleeing her burning house on May 3, the day on which the ethnic strife began in the State, police said. An FIR in this connection has been registered in Bishnupur women police station on August 9, police said, adding it was later forwarded to Churachandpur police station for further investigation.

According to the FIR, the woman was gangraped at Khumujamba Meitei Leikai in Churachandpur district by "unidentified Kuki men". According to woman's statement to police, around 6.30pm on May 3, a group of Kuki miscreants set fire to several houses, including her's. Amid the chaos, she tried to flee. However, after running for about half-a-kilometre, she was stopped by a few men and was sexually assaulted, police said quoting the FIR. Meanwhile, 40 MLAs of Manipur have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging complete disarmament to foster an environment of peace and security. These MLAs, most of whom are ethnic Meiteis, also demanded the withdrawal of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) Agreement with Kuki militant groups, implementation of NRC in the state and strengthening of the Autonomous District Councils. In the memorandum, these

peripheral areas, a complete disarmament is the key to achieve this goal," said the memorandum that was submitted to PM Modi on Wednesday. "The issue must be addressed politically in order to resolve this crisis of conflict. There are many options that can be explored. To reassure the indigenous people of Manipur, the National Registrar of Citizens (NRC) can be implemented in Manipur, sooner rather than later.



MLAs opposed the demand for a 'separate administration' by Kuki groups.

"For the immediate establishment of security, simple deployment of forces is inadequate. Although it is imperative to halt the violence in the

peripheral areas, a complete disarmament is the key to achieve this goal," said the memorandum that was submitted to PM Modi on Wednesday.

"The issue must be addressed politically in order to

resolve this crisis of conflict. There are many options that can be explored. To reassure the indigenous people of Manipur, the National Registrar of Citizens (NRC) can be implemented in Manipur, sooner rather than later.

Congress gives privilege notice against Shah

Party accuses HM of speaking untruth on Maha farm widow Kalawati Bandurkar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday gave a notice in the Lok Sabha against alleged breach of privilege by Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing him of speaking untruth on Maharashtra farm widow Kalawati Bandurkar who Rahul Gandhi had met in 2008.

The notice was given to Speaker Om Birla by Congress MP and party's whip in Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore.

"I submitted a privilege motion against Sh Amit Shah for misleading the Parliament yesterday on smt Kalawati story to Honble Speaker," Tagore said on X, formerly known as Twitter, while sharing the notice.

Gandhi had visited Bandurkar's house in 2008 after her husband committed suicide following a farm crisis in Maharashtra's Vidarbha.

During the debate on the no-confidence motion on Wednesday, Shah had referred to 13 "failed" attempts to launch Rahul Gandhi's political career and recalled how he narrated a tale of a poor woman Kalawati. Shah said it was the Modi government which ensured that she got a home and benefited from the various government schemes.

However, the Congress alleged the Modi government was lying on Kalawati and shared a video of the farmer



Home Minister Amit Shah speaking in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

on X. Kalawati claims in the video that Rahul Gandhi had helped her tide over poverty. "This discrepancy between the statement made by the Hon'ble Union Minister and the reality as communicated by the affected Smt Kalawati raises serious doubts about the veracity of the information presented in the Lok Sabha and it highlights a potential breach of privilege under Rule 22, Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rules," he alleged.

In his notice, Tagore alleged that Shah has breached Parliamentary Privilege by not upholding the sanctity of accurate and truthful information when addressing the House.

"The issue in question pertains to a statement made by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs in Lok Sabha yesterday i.e. 09.08.2023, wherein he provided details of facilities purportedly extended by the Government at the house of smt Kalawati, a farmer's widow from Maharashtra. However, to the utter dismay of the concerned us this statement has been vehemently refuted by the concerned Smt Kalawati herself to media channels who has explicitly stated that the modi Government has not provided any such facilities for the past eight years instead Sh Rahul gandhi helped her in building her house," he alleged.

"Therefore, I request you to exercise your esteemed authority to move a breach of privilege motion against the Hon'ble Union Minister for his statement which appears to be in direct contradiction to the ground reality and direct him to seek apology from the House of People for his wrong and irresponsible statement yesterday. The video clip and link of the same is attached herewith," Tagore said in his notice.

Shah had referred to 13 "failed" attempts to launch Rahul Gandhi's political career and recalled how he narrated a tale of a poor woman Kalawati. Shah said it was the Modi government which ensured that she got a home and benefited from the various government schemes.

However, the Congress alleged the Modi government was lying on Kalawati and shared a video of the farmer

to the entire Northeast region, highlighting that the party primarily prioritised "dynastic interest" and narrow politicking throughout most of its rule.

He recounted a grim event from history: "On 5th March 1956, Congress launched attacks through the Air Force on the innocent people of Mizoram. The State still cannot forget that pain." He maintained that "former Prime Minister Nehru ensured that no development took place in the northeastern States."

Earlier, while opposing the motion, Modi humorously remarked about the opposition alliance, saying, "I want to praise the opposition. They followed my direction, which I gave in 2018, to bring a no-confidence motion in 2023."

He launched an attack on the Opposition, characterising it as a "Ghamandiya alliance," disconnected from ground realities. He highlighted the contradictions within the opposition alliance and pointed to the shrinking base of its main component, the Congress, across the country.

"In Tamil Nadu, people showed their no-confidence in Congress for 61 years; in West Bengal, there has been a lack of confidence in Congress for 51 years; and in UP, Bihar, and Gujarat, it's been 38 years." Modi's enumeration of states where Congress has been electorally rejected resonated through the hall. BJP members joined in chorus, repeating the term 'no-confidence' against the Congress.

Modi did not address the concerns of the people of Manipur. AIMM chief and Lok Sabha MP Asauddin Owaisi quipped about PM's reply in Lok Sabha as "wahan Mughal e azam chal rahi thi" (movie Mughal e azam was being played).

Revolutionary Socialist Party RSP MP NK Premachandran said, "...It is unfortunate to note that PM Modi is not even uttering a word on Manipur. < The constitutional machinery in Manipur has totally collapsed. Violence is still going on...That is why we staged a walkout."

CPI MP Binoy Viswam said, "What was there in that speech?... Much ado about nothing, full of fury and noise... and the country expect the Prime Minister to rise to the level of a Statesman because this is a great country with a great tradition of democracy... We were forced to move a no-confidence motion for the PM to come to the Parliament..."

Disclaimer must for celebrities endorsing as health experts: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government said "disclosure or disclaimer" is must for celebrities, influencers and virtual influencers while endorsing as health experts or medical practitioners as it issued additional guidelines on Thursday.

Even medical practitioners, health and fitness experts holding certifications from recognised institutions are required to "disclose" that they are certified health/fitness experts and medical practitioners while sharing information or promoting products or services or making any health-related claims.

These additional guidelines for celebrities, influencers and virtual influencers in the field of health and wellness were released by the nodal Consumer Affairs Ministry.

The guidelines have been released after discussions with the stakeholders including Ministry of Health, Ministry of Ayush, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), and Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

"Celebrities, influencers and virtual influencers present-



ing themselves as health experts or medical practitioners, when sharing information, promoting products or services or making any health-related claims, must provide clear disclaimers, ensuring the audience understands that their endorsements should not be seen as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment," the ministry said.

This "disclosure or disclaimer" is necessary when talking or making claims on topics such as health advantages including those derived from food items and nutraceuticals, disease prevention, treatment or cure, medical conditions, recovery methodologies or immunity boosting, etc., it said.

"This disclosure or disclaimer should be displayed during endorsements, promotions, or at any instance of making health-related assertions," it added.

The ministry further said the celebrities, influencers and virtual influencers presenting themselves as health experts or medical practitioners should "clearly distinguish between their personal views and professional advice" and "refrain from making specific health claims without substantiated facts".

"It is always recommended to encourage audiences to consult with healthcare professionals for seeking professional medical advice and complete information about the products or services," it added.

Adhir suspended from LS for unruly act, insulting...

From Page 1

Later talking to the media, Chowdhury said, "I have not insulted PM Modi. Modi ji speaks on everything but on the Manipur issue, he is sitting 'Nirav', which means sitting silent. 'Nirav' means to be silent. My intention was not to insult PM Modi... PM Modi did not feel that he was insulted, his courtiers (darbari) felt so and brought this proposal against me. I came to know that (the matter) has been referred to the privilege committee and I have been suspended.

Bill removes CJI from...

From Page 1

As per the Bill's provisions, the search committee responsible for identifying candidates for consideration by the panel will consist of the cabinet secretary and two other central secretaries.

Additionally, CEC and ECs must hold or have held a post equivalent to the rank of a secretary in the Government of India.

The current procedure for appointing the CEC and ECs is governed by Article 324(2) of the Constitution, which states that the President appoints the CEC and other ECs as per the provisions of any law made by Parliament.

Critics, including the Congress, have denounced the bill. Senior Congress leader KC Venugopal criticized it as

an attempt to make the election commission subservient to the Prime Minister. "What about the Supreme Court's existing ruling which requires an impartial panel? Why does the PM feel the need to appoint a biased election commissioner? This is an unconstitutional, arbitrary and unfair bill -- we will oppose this on every forum," Congress general secretary Venugopal said in a statement.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of weakening Indian democracy and expressed concern over the proposed selection panel's composition. AAP supremo accused Modi of not following the Supreme Court order and said this is a "very dangerous situation".

Modi calls...

From Page 1

While discussing the Manipur issue, Modi, much like Union Home Minister Amit Shah, referred to the Assam High Court's order as a contributory factor to the ethnic strife in Manipur. He also made a sly remark about the judiciary, saying, "You all know what goes on in the courts."

The Prime Minister viewed the problems in Manipur and the North-East as legacy issues stemming from the misuse and negligence of successive Congress Governments at the Center since Independence.

"Whose Government was in power in Manipur when insurgent organisations held sway? Whose Government was there when Mahatma Gandhi's picture was banned in government offices? Whose Government was there when the decision to not allow the national anthem in schools was made?" Modi questioned, drawing attention to the historical context.

"Their (Opposition) pain is selective. They cannot think beyond politics," he criticised the Congress.

Responding to allegations of indifference to the Manipur violence, the Prime Minister countered, "You (Congress) have never tried to understand the emotions of the Northeast. I have visited (the Northeast) 50 times. This is not just data; this is dedication towards the Northeast," said Modi amid the resounding thumping of desks by BJP members.

Modi cited instances of Congress's apathetic approach

Ex-Manipur CM demands emergency Assembly session to end strife

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Former Manipur chief minister and senior Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh has demanded an emergency session of the Assembly to find a way to end the ethnic strife in the state.

He said the Congress and 10 like-minded parties have been pressing the Governor and the state government to immediately convene an emergency session to end the violence in the state which has claimed more than 160 lives so far.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the observance of the 81st anniversary of Quit India Movement held at Congress Bhavan here on Wednesday, the former chief minister asserted that adopting a unanimous resolution to end the crisis is a must.

"The proposed emergency session should discuss the crisis unfolding in the state and adopt a unanimous resolution to end the strife," Ibobi said.

The leader of the Congress Legislators Party in the state



Former Manipur chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh.

Assembly said there will certainly be a way for ending the prevailing crisis in a peaceful manner.

"Searching for a way under the provisions of the Constitution of the country and bringing the parties in conflict to the negotiating table would be a right step. However, in searching for the way for resolving the conflict, the territorial integrity of Manipur must not be compromised at any cost," Ibobi asserted.

It may be noted that during a recent cabinet meeting called by Chief Minister N Biren Singh, it was resolved to recommend to the Governor to convene the Assembly session on August 21.

Opp walks out, says Modi...

From Page 1

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi who had invoked Bharat Mata in his speech a day earlier which stands expunged from Lok Sabha, commented while walking out from Lok Sabha "Apparently 'Bharat Mata' is an unparliamentary word in India nowadays."

DMK MP Kanimozhi said Modi did not address the concerns of the people of Manipur. AIMM chief and Lok Sabha MP Asauddin Owaisi quipped about PM's reply in Lok Sabha as "wahan Mughal e azam chal rahi thi" (movie Mughal e azam was being played).

Revolutionary Socialist Party RSP MP NK Premachandran said, "...It is unfortunate to note that PM Modi is not even uttering a word on Manipur. <

The constitutional machinery in Manipur has totally collapsed. Violence is still going on...That is why we staged a walkout."

CPI MP Binoy Viswam said, "What was there in that speech?... Much ado about nothing, full of fury and noise... and the country expect the Prime Minister to rise to the level of a Statesman because this is a great country with a great tradition of democracy... We were forced to move a no-confidence motion for the PM to come to the Parliament..."

ED scans Karat's...

From Page 1

The agency has recorded the statements of more than 20 persons in this case, including that of NewsClick founder and Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha.

In a statement, the CPI (M) hit out at Nishikant Dubey, accusing him of running a smear campaign because the Left is the most "consistent opponent" of the BJP's communal ideology.

The sources said the agency has retrieved emails during its searches and other evidence collection exercise where Karat, 75, in January 2021 is reportedly exchanging emails with Singham and talking about "The Indian Government is restricting investments and imports from China which is going to harm our country more", coverage of his party in a Chinese daily and some other topics.

Some other emails recovered during the searches on NewsClick pertain to March 2020 where Singham, Purkayastha and some others are exchanging notes on a "research for three article

series on China and its handling of the virus (COVID-19)", they said.

An email of March 30, 2020, under ED scrutiny, includes Purkayastha's "request" seeking a timeline of the number of tests and people who tested positive in China (for coronavirus) and how that country ramped up its production and testing, "in contrast to countries like the US and India, who with so much lead time are still unable to ramp up kit production or procurement".

Singham is learned to have stated in the same email about "how China learned quickly when handling the crisis" and his team "working very hard to triple check ALL facts among other topics".

A number of other emails that the ED recovered pertain to conversations among Singham, Purkayastha, and others on news stories related to producing news stories about China, according to the sources.

The agency had last year attached a flat, worth Rs 4.52 crore and located in south

Delhi's Saket area, linked to Purkayastha apart from fixed deposits worth Rs 41 lakh as part of this money laundering probe.

The adjudicating authority of the PMLA confirmed the ED's attachment order for the flat in February.

On Monday, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur had said India had been telling the world since 2021 that NewsClick was a dangerous global network of "Chinese propaganda" that was spreading fake news.

The Minister said, "If you see the funding network of NewsClick, it was funded by a foreigner, Neville Roy Singham and he gets funds from China.

Neville Roy Singham has direct contact with the propaganda arm of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese media company Maku Group," he said.

"They present fake news in the name of free news. Congress and other parties are supporting them," he alleged

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

U. Md. Rahmatullah Usmani, Ward No.-23, Mahdauli, Shubhankarpur, Musapur, Darbhanga, Bihar, have declared that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my son's (Yasir Usmani) School Record as Rahmatullah Usmani instead of Md. Rahmatullah Usmani.

PD(125)A **I Herdish W/o Col. Jaswant Singh R/o H.N.-369, Arun Vihar, Sector-29, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201301**, have changed my name Herdish Kaur Gill to Herdish for all future purposes.

PD(128)A

FOR SALE
Plot No. H-2/28-B, Mahavir Enclave, Palam Colony, Gali No.-09, New Delhi-110045, Admeasuring 160 Sq. Yards. Please Contact at +91 9923163337 (between 9:30 AM to 11:45 AM and 4 PM to 7 PM), on or before 15.08.2023. Minimum price for Sale will be Rs. 1,40,00,000/- (Rupees Once Crore Forty Lakhs Only).

LOSS OF ID CARD
Public Notice
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of **TARUN KUMAR** issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card no. **2303546** has been found missing and/or lost on **31-July-2023 13:08 PM** Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID CARD to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, **ICICI Bank Limited- SD Shoppers rcade Plot no. 1 Community Center Sector-9 Rohini- New Delhi- Delhi 110085** Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no. **2303546**. Please take further notice that anybody making payment any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment... **ICICI Bank Ltd New Delhi**
For:- **ICICI BANK LTD S.D**
Date: 11/08/2023
Place: Delhi

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
TENDER NOTICE Date: 11.08.2023
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/23-24/RB/CR/SS/1155	CONSTRUCTION OF 33KV SUB-STATION BUILDING AT DTC AMBEDKAR NAGAR.	2.07 Crore	4.14 Lakhs	24.08.2023 15:00 HRS	24.08.2023 15:15 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com.
Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC11527
Telephone No.: +91 11 4910 7235 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
NO. SB/Store/2023-25 (221), Bhopal, Dated 07-08-2023
"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"
E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>:-

S. NO.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Installation of CCTV Surveillance System at Hon. C. M. House Bhopal	1	10,000/-	6,00,000/-	2nd Tender
2	Bullet Resistance Vehicle	08	10,000/-	15,00,000/-	2nd Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
4. Tender Schedule :

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in	17/08/2023 up to 17.00 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	18/08/2023 at 11.00 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	25/08/2023 at 10.00 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	06/09/2023 up to 16.00 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	08/09/2023 up to 16.00 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from	19/09/2023 at 11.00 hrs.

A. I.G. of Police
Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755- 2443654
G-18089/23

PUBLIC NOTICE: LOSS OF IDENTITY CARD:
Public Notice
It is to bring to the notice of general public that an ID card of **Kavishelven and Tanya** issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. ID card no. "2303284" & "2313553" has been found missing and/or lost. Whoever finds the said ID Card, is requested to return the said ID Card to the Manager, Loan Services & Management Group, **ICICI Bank Limited**.
Therefore, all customers of ICICI Bank Ltd. are hereby advised not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the above ID Card No. "2303284" & "2313553".
Please further note that any person making payment to any person holding the said ID Card shall do so at his/her own cost, peril and risk and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or liable for any payment
Date : 11-08-2023 SD:-
Place:- Delhi ICICI bank Limited

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhnad Rural Roads Development Agency
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastadhara Road, Dehradun. Ph.: 0135-2608125, Fax: 2608126 email: uc-urrrda@pmgsy.nic.in, urrrda@yahoo.com
Date: 10-08-2023
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice- 11/2023-24
The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhnad invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Pauri for 03 number of Roads with estimated cost totalling to Rs. 33.54 Crore including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent".
Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 11-08-2023.
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with **CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES**, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works), either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 07-09-2023 01:00 PM.
For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in
Chief Engineer URRDA, Dehradun
* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.
Ref. No. 9301II-02 (xix)-2ITCO/URRDA/23

BJP trying to suppress my voice: Raghav

4 MPs accused Chadha of proposing their name for Select Committee sans their consent

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha on Thursday hit out at the BJP for accusing him of forging signatures of five MPs in a motion related to the Delhi services bill and said the party was trying to "suppress" his voice as he had "exposed" its "double standards".

On Wednesday, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Thakur had referred complaints of four MPs, who accused Chadha of proposing



AAP MP Raghav Chadha addresses a press conference on the issue of false allegations and alleged breach of privilege against him, at the party headquarters, in New Delhi on Thursday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

their name for constitution of a Select Committee without their consent in violation of rules, to the privileges committee to examine and investigate the matter.

Addressing a press confer-

ence, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader asserted that the allegations against him were "baseless" and said an MP can propose the name of any other member without their written consent or signature for a

Select Committee. "I will approach the Committee of Privileges and court of law against the BJP Lok Sabha members who levelled the false allegations of forgery against me," Chadha said. "Any mem-

ber can propose the name of any other member without a written consent of the member or signature," the AAP MP said, showing the rule book at the press conference. According to rules, neither a member's consent nor signature is required to propose his or her name for a Select Committee.

Terming the allegations against him "baseless", Chadha claimed that a "rumour" is being spread about him doing forgery. He asked how does the question of forgery arise when nobody's signature was taken and submitted.

"A rumour which is being spread about forged signatures is absolutely wrong and baseless," Chadha claimed. "I challenge the BJP to show the papers that has the forged signatures as alleged by them. The Parliamentary Bulletin on complaints against me has no mention of forgery, fake signa-

tures," Chadha said and added that the BJP was "trying to suppress his voice". He alleged that the BJP is after him because he "exposed" the party's "double standards" and also demanded justice for the people of Delhi. "But I will fight. I am not scared of the BJP," he added.

Chadha said that one does not give public statements if the Committee of Privileges begins proceedings against them.

"Whenever the Committee of Privileges begins proceedings against someone, they don't give public statements. But it was out of compulsion that I have to speak up. But I won't speak against the Hon'ble Chair or the Committee of Privileges," he added.

A Rajya Sabha bulletin said the chairman had received complaints from MPs Sasmith Patra, S Phangnon Konyak, M

Thambidurai and Narhari Amin, who alleged breach of privilege by Chadha "for interalia including their names without their consent, in violation of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, in a motion on August 7".

Chadha had proposed the constitution of a select committee to consider the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and had included the names of the four MPs.

Addressing the press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh alleged that the Modi government has started a new tradition of getting those members suspended from the House who speak against it.

"Then, declare its dictatorship in the country. Why are you playing a drama about democracy?" Singh asked the government.

Hitting out at Home Minister Amit Shah, he said, "You should at least know that the name of any member can be proposed for the select committee by any other member of the House, and there is no need to have the member's signature." The AAP leader also accused Shah of lying on the floor of the House by terming as "fraud" the inclusion of the names of the five MPs.

The home minister's sole objective is to get Chadha disqualified from the Rajya Sabha as was done in the case of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha, he alleged.

"But, we are soldiers of Arvind Kejriwal. We will fight. And, if you disqualify Raghav Chadha by any means, he will come back after being re-elected," Singh, who was suspended from Upper House of Parliament during Monsoon Session, asserted.

Ban on tobacco products in Delhi extended for one year

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant move aimed at safeguarding public health, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena has extended the ban on tobacco products including Gutkha and Paan Masala in Delhi for an additional period of one year. This decision comes under the authority vested in him by Article 239 AA (4) of the Constitution of India.

The decision to extend the ban on tobacco products underscores the growing concern over the rising number of oral cancer cases in the national capital. The LG emphasized the critical importance of addressing this issue, particularly among children and young individuals, to ensure a



healthier future generation. The LG has called for strict enforcement of the notification, leaving no room for laxity in its implementation within the city. Any indifference towards enforcing the ban will not be tolerated.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has

already prohibited and restricted the sale of products containing tobacco and nicotine as ingredients in any food items under regulation 2.3.4. of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

The Food Safety Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) will soon issue a notification to extend the ban, following the approval by LG Saxena.

This measure will encompass the prohibition of manufacturing, storage, distribution, and sale of various tobacco products, including Gutka, Paan Masala, flavoured/scented tobacco, Kharra, and similar products. The ban applies to

both packaged and unpackaged tobacco products and will remain effective for an additional year under Clause (A) of Sub Section (2) of Section 30 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

This move aligns with the Delhi High Court's recent affirmation of the ban on the manufacture, storage, and sale of Gutka, Paan Masala, flavoured tobacco, and related products in the city.

The Court overturned a September 2022 decision by a single judge that had quashed the ban, supporting the appeals brought forth by the Centre and Delhi government against it. Entities within the tobacco business had objected to the prohibition notifications issued between 2015 and 2021.



St. Stephen's College's Chinkhanlun Guite speaks on the ongoing violence in Manipur at a press conference organised by Manipur Tribals Forum (Delhi), in New Delhi on Thursday. Delhi University's (DU) Nehkhohen Haackip, Jawaharlal Nehru University's (JNU) Mercy Guite, DU (Faculty of Law) Mercy Khaute and Research Scholar St. Paul are also seen. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Restrictions on non-scheduled flights at IGIA on August 15

New Delhi: Non-scheduled flights will not be allowed to land or take-off at Delhi airport for specific hours in the morning and evening on August 15, according to an official. There will be no impact on movement of scheduled flights on Independence Day at Delhi airport, which is also the country's largest airport.

The official said that no landing or take-off will be permitted for non-scheduled flights of schedule airlines and chartered flights from 6 am to 10 am and from 4 pm to 7 pm on August 15. In this regard, a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) has been issued by the Aeronautical Information Services (AIS) that comes under the Airports Authority of India (AAI). **Staff Reporter**

The Pioneer publisher Narendra Kumar breathes his last

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Narendra Kumar (85), a noted publisher, educationist, and Printer and Publisher of "The Pioneer," passed away on Thursday morning.

He was the President of the Indian Publishers Association and Chairman of Har Anand Publications, which has been publishing hundreds of famous books for the past 60 years.

Narendra Kumar also headed Delhi Public Schools for an extended period and played a pivotal role in expanding this premier educational institution across various parts of the country. He received national and international



awards, including the 'Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity', conferred by the President of Italy. He holds the distinction of being the youngest publisher to be inducted into the Indian Publishing Hall of Fame. He is survived by his daughter Alka and his sons, Ashok and Ashish.

Govt sets up 3-member panel to moot steps to prevent floods

New Delhi: The Delhi government has formed a three-member committee of experienced engineers to suggest ways to prevent the recurrence of flood in the city, officials said on Thursday. Many areas of the east were inundated due to a rise in the Yamuna river levels and nearly 27,000 people from the floodplains were evacuated and sheltered at safer places during the floods last month.

The committee will serve advisory purpose, suggesting long-term and short-term steps to prevent flood situation in future, said an officer of the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department. An order issued by the department on Wednesday said that former additional director general of central public works department MCT Pareva, and two



former chief engineers of I&FC — VPS Tomar and VK Jain — will be the members of the committee. The committee will submit its report in three weeks, stated the order. As the Yamuna crossed the danger mark and rose to a record 208.66 metres level on July 13 at the Old Yamuna Bridge parts of areas like the ITO, Rajghat, Pragati Maidan, Civil Lines and ISBT Kashmere Gate

faced flooding due backflow of drains. Experts cited various reasons behind the flood including encroachment and construction in the floodplains and lack of desilting of Yamuna. The I&FC engineers will also attend meetings of committee that will be free to engage any other experts and experienced officers for preparing its recommendations. **Staff Reporter**

Online attendance for students in Delhi Govt schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Class teachers of Delhi government schools will mark the attendance of students online using tabs or school computer system and the record will have a bearing on final examinations, according to an official circular.

The circular further said that manual attendance marked by the class teacher will not be considered for any purpose.

"Online attendance records will be considered final for examinations. The attendance data of the students submitted online by the class teacher and school will be reflected at HQ level," the Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) said. The DoE said it is crucial for students to be present in school and actively engage in the learning process.

Man arrested for making obscene gestures at woman at Delhi Metro station

New Delhi: A 23-year-old man was arrested for allegedly making obscene gestures at a woman at Mandi House metro station here, police said on Thursday.

The accused has been identified as Shivam Sharma. He has done B.Pharm and was presently working in a marketing department of a pharmaceutical company, they said. On Monday, the woman told the police that she was travelling on a metro train from Tughlakabad metro station to Mandi House metro station, a senior police officer said.

She de-boarded at Mandi House and was waiting for a friend at platform number-1. The accused, who was at platform number-2, started making objectionable act/gesture at

her. The complainant got scared and approached CISF staff at the station, the officer said. By time the CISF staff arrived, the accused boarded the metro and fled. The complainant posted about the incident on X, earlier known as Twitter, following which police contacted her and registered a case, he said.

During analysis of CCTV footage, the victim identified accused. The photographs of the accused were also developed. It was found that he de-boarded metro train at Nangli metro station. Later, it was found that accused was residing in Rajiv Nagar, Begumpur. Subsequently, he was nabbed, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Metro) G Ram Goapl Naik said. **Staff Reporter**

Over 19,000 students allotted seats in DU colleges in second round of UG admission

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University Thursday filled up over 19,000 undergraduate seats across colleges in the second round of admission for the academic year 2023-24. In the first round, over 62,000 students had paid fees to confirm their seats. Many of them opted for upgradation, while several students froze their seats.

The university said 34,174 candidates so far have opted for an upgrade after the first round. "In the second round of admission, new allocation totalled 19,038. As many as 10,104 students got their upgraded choices and around 17,561 froze their seats allotted to them in the first round," a varsity official said.

As many as 32,600 candidates were retained on their earlier allocation. Of the total allotment of 85,853 UG seats in the first round of allocation, 62,008 students, of which 53 per cent are females, have paid fees and confirmed their admission to DU colleges. DU has a total of 71,000 UG seats across all its colleges. However,



and in some colleges of the South Campus in Sanskrit and science courses, including Chemistry, Physics, and Electronics. Students were given a one-day window to re-order higher preferences. Candidates can accept the allocated seat till August 13 and the college can verify their applications by August 14. The last date for online payment is August 15 and classes will begin on August 16, the varsity said. The third admission round will begin on August 17 and will end on August 26.

planned a number of things to spruce up the city and improve civic amenities ahead of the Summit. We are planning to place more than one lakh flower pots at various prominent locations, extra dustbins will be kept in streets to control littering at key location and markets," a top official in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said.

Excise policy: HC seeks ED's stand on bail plea by Vijay Nair in PMLA case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the stand of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a plea by businessman and Aam Aadmi Party's communication in-charge Vijay Nair seeking default bail in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma issued notice on the

bail application and granted time to the investigation agency to file its reply. Nair, who was arrested on November 13, 2022, was refused default bail in the case by the trial court on July 29.

The trial court had dismissed the bail plea, saying it was not the competent or an appropriate forum to consider the grounds of default bail of the accused and the appropri-

ate course would be to approach the same judge or bench of the high court, which had earlier dismissed his bail plea, with a request for consideration of the point.

Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Nair, contended before the high court that the ED filed "piecemeal charge sheets" in the matter and the accused was thus entitled to statutory bail.

Court takes cognisance of minor's sexual assault by school cleaner

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of an incident of alleged sexual assault of a 3-year-old girl by a cleaner at her school and sought to know the action taken by the city government and the police.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma said a news report on the incident was brought to its notice

by a high court judge, and directed that a public interest litigation be initiated on that basis.

Issuing notice on the PIL, the bench, also comprising Justice Saurabh Banerjee, directed the authorities to file a status report while ensuring that the identity of the girl child is protected.

"Let a Suo motu (on its own) PIL be registered based on the newspaper report".

1L flower pots to adorn Delhi ahead of G20 Summit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

From developing a thematic park to sprucing up the city with improved amenities, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has planned to deck up the national capital with just a month to go for the G20 Summit.

India assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1 last year, following which about 200 meetings were scheduled under different tracks. The Summit is slated to take place from September 9-10. "We have

planned a number of things to spruce up the city and improve civic amenities ahead of the Summit. We are planning to place more than one lakh flower pots at various prominent locations, extra dustbins will be kept in streets to control littering at key location and markets," a top official in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said.

The civic body will also develop a 'G20 park' in an existing park to commemorate the G20 Presidency of India, he said. The G20-theme park will



be developed in the premises of a park in M-Block of Greater Kailash-2. "This thematic park

will have the logo of the G20 made in an artistic style, besides other artworks," the official

said. 'Shaheed Park, which has been redeveloped as an open-air museum park with scrap-made sculptures of freedom fighters and other heroes of India, was inaugurated on August 8 and opened to the public a day later. The redevelopment of the 'Shaheed Park' was also taken up as part of the civic projects ahead of the G20 summit.

The park in the ITO area is located near Pragati Maidan, which houses a recently-inaugurated state-of-the-art convention complex, which will be venue of the G20 Summit.

Opp sets field, but Treasury Benches hit boundaries: PM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi used cricketing analogy to take a swipe at the INDIA bloc on Thursday, saying while centuries were being scored from the Treasury Benches, the Opposition bowled no-balls during the No-Trust Motion in Lok Sabha.

Replying to the debate on the no-confidence motion in the Lower House, Modi repeatedly took jibes at the Opposition saying they were not prepared for the discussion.

"What kind of debate you have done on the no-confidence motion. I am seeing on social media, even your darbaris (courtiers) are disappointed. This is your condition," the Prime Minister said.

"See the fun of this debate, fielding was laid out by Opposition, but fours and sixes were hit from here (treasury benches). The opposition is bowling only no-balls in the no-confidence motion," Modi said. "There are centuries being scored from this side and no-balls being bowled from that side. I would like to tell my opposition friends 'why don't they prepare and come'," he said.

The parties of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had brought the no-confidence motion against the government.



Indira gave Katchatheevu Island to Sri Lanka: Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday blamed the Congress for the partition of India, and also said it was the Indira Gandhi Government which gave the Katchatheevu Island to Sri Lanka in 1974.

The island, located between Rameswaram (India) and Sri Lanka, was traditionally used by both Sri Lankan and Indian fishermen. In 1974,

then prime minister Indira Gandhi accepted Katchatheevu as Sri Lankan territory under the "Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement."

"These people divided mother India into three parts for politics," the prime minister said in Lok Sabha, launching a blistering attack on the Congress during his reply to a debate on a no-confidence motion. The prime minister said the DMK government in

Tamil Nadu keeps writing to him urging to bring Katchatheevu back to India.

"Katchatheevu is an island between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. Somebody gave it to another country. It happened under the leadership of Indira Gandhi," he said. "Wasn't that part of Maa Bharati there?" Modi asked in an apparent response to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark during the debate on Wednesday.

Disruption continues in RS, INDIA adamant on PM remark on Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday witnessed ruckus and repeated adjournments on the issue of Manipur violence with the Opposition demanding a statement by the Prime Minister in the House. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar tried to find a way out to break the logjam but of no avail.

Given the hardened stance adopted by the Opposition and the Treasury Benches on the issue, the Chairman had to run the house post lunch amidst din and members coming into the well.

He later adjourned the house for the day at about 2.35 pm after it reassembled after an adjournment till 2.00 pm at about 11.40 pm Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners (Appointment Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill even as pandemonium prevailed. Similarly, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya moved the Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill. The Lok Sabha has already passed it.

When the house met for the day in pre-lunch session, Leader of Opposition M Mallikarjun Kharge Thursday said a discussion under Rule 167 may take place on the violence in Manipur and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi be called for the debate.



Opposition MPs protest in the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Thursday

BJP says Kerala CM could face graft probe

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday claimed that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan could face investigation on corruption charges over alleged "indictment" of his daughter Veena Vijayan's firm for receiving Rs 1.7 crore from Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL) without providing any service.

BJP national spokesperson Tom Vadakkan dubbed it as "Veena Tax" in a statement, alleging that she received a total of Rs 1.72 crore in monthly instalments from private company for last three years.

"The New Delhi bench of the Income Tax Interim Settlement Board ruled that the money was given considering the relationship with a 'prominent person'. Veena and her company, Exalogic Solutions, had agreed to supply CMRL with IT, marketing consulting, and software services," Vadakkan, who is from Kerala, said.

However, the income tax examination discovered that no services were provided, he said. CMRL Managing Director S N Sasidharan Kartha said money was paid in monthly instalments as per contract, he added. "The Income Tax Department alleged that Veena and Exalogic received Rs 1.72 crore during 2017-20, which is an 'illegal transaction'.

Neither 'dukandar' nor 'chowkidar' opens mouth when minorities are oppressed: Owaisi

New Delhi: Lashing out at both the opposition and ruling fronts led by the Congress and the BJP, AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday said that neither 'dukandar' nor 'chowkidar' opens their mouths when Muslims are oppressed.

Speaking on the no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha, Owaisi accused both the fronts of doing politics on the graves of minorities. "There are two fronts in this country. One is a 'dukandar' and the other is 'chowkidar'. When we are oppressed, neither opens its mouth. The UAPA (amendment) law was brought by (Home Minister) Amit Shah and these dukandars approved of it," he said.

"Now under this law a 83-year-old man died because of the absence of a sipper. For how long will these dukandars and chowkidars play politics over our graves? If you don't speak



out against injustice, your dukandari will not work and chowkidar needs to be replaced," he said. The Hyderabad MP was apparently referring to ruling front led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as 'chowkidar' and opposition bloc INDIA as 'dukandar'.

Highlighting the atrocities against the Muslim community, including the recent incident of an RPF constable shooting dead his senior and three Muslim passengers on board a train, Owaisi asked the government if it was an example of radicalisation. "In recent times in a train, a uniformed terror-

ist after killing his senior went to different compartments, asked names, saw beards and then killed Muslims after saying that if you want to stay in this country, you have to vote for Modi. I want to know from the government if this is not an excellent example of radicalism and extremism? If it is so what is the government going to do about it," he said.

Owaisi asked what happened to the government's conscience when 750 buildings in Nuh were demolished without due process because they belonged to Muslims. He was referring to the recent demolition drive in the Haryana district following communal violence there.

"That is why the Haryana HC (High Court) said that this is ethnic cleansing. An atmosphere of hate has been created in the country against Muslims. This is their work in the last nine years.

ED raids against Balaji's sister-in-law; plot frozen

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has carried out search operations in Karur (Tamil Nadu) in connection with the 'Cash for Jobs Scam' involving the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporations and froze a 2.49 acre plot of land worth Rs 30 crore belonging to the sister-in-law of Tamil Nadu minister V Senthil Balaji, the prime accused in the money laundering case.

Balaji, who formerly served as the transport minister, was earlier arrested on June 14 for his alleged involvement in money laundering. The ED initiated investigation on the basis of three FIRs registered and chargesheets filed by the Central Crime Branch (CCB), Chennai, in the 'Cash for Jobs Scam' arraying Balaji as the main accused. "V Senthil Balaji

in collaboration with his brother RV Ashok Kumar, and his Personal Assistants B Shanmugam and M Karthikeyan, gave jobs in lieu of cash. This led to jobs being awarded at the expense of deserving candidates, the ED said in a statement.

During the investigation, it was revealed that a substantial parcel of land admeasuring 2.49 acre located at Salem Bypass Road, Andankoil, Karur was acquired by P Lakshmi (Mother-in-Law of RV Ashok Balaji) from Anuradha Ramesh for a mere Rs. 10 lakhs, as against the land's true value amounting to more than 30 crore, the agency said. However, while scrutinizing the income source of Lakshmi, it was revealed that she lacked any credible means of income. Her assertion of selling old jewellery to secure Rs 10 lakh for the land purchase were proven

to be fictitious, it said.

Subsequently, this plot of land was gifted to her daughter Nirmala, wife of Ashok Kumar, the brother of Balaji. Upon further investigation, it was disclosed that the remaining sum required for the land acquisition was paid in cash to Anuradha Ramesh. This cash, in turn, was employed by Anuradha Ramesh to procure another piece of land in the same vicinity.

Considering these developments, the said property has been placed under a freeze order in accordance with section 17(1-A) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Despite multiple summons issued to RV Ashok Balaji, Nirmala, and P Lakshmi, they are yet to appear in person, demonstrating a lack of cooperation with the ongoing investigation, the agency added.

CJI launches portal for e-passes for SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India on Thursday launched a dedicated portal for visitors, litigants and journalists to get electronic passes to enter the top court's premises. The portal, named SuSwagatam, allows visitors, litigants, counsel, judicial law clerks, staff, parties-in-person and journalists to apply for electronic passes online.

The earlier procedure involved standing in queues at the E-Sewa Kendra, to get paper passes before entry was allowed into the Court's premises. Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud announced the launch of the portal before beginning today's hearing in the Article 370 abrogation case.

"One can just make the pass an evening prior. The moment person comes to the security counter, the entire pass details reflected for CISE.



We have called it SuSwagatam. The portal was tested as a pilot project from July 25. More than 10,000 e-passes issued till August 8 as a pilot basis. We also have a video tutorial on how to use it and we will have it soon in other languages than English. E-Seva Kendra will help in training," he said.

"It was a major concern. The entire nation will be grateful. We used to come at 9 AM so that we get a pass to enter by 10.30 AM. This was 12-13 years back," said Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, welcoming the move. PNS

Earlier Govts used to sell dreams to people, we fulfil them: Sitharaman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday compared what she called assurance-driven "Milega" policies of the Congress governments to the Modi-government's "mil gaya" economic policies as she asserted that India has turned "fastest-growing economy in just nine years" of the Modi-government.

The Finance Minister said the Modi-dispensation "cleared Banking NPAs" earlier created by "dynatic interference" in the banking sector. Public sector



Banks are now "earning one lakh crore profit", she said. "Banks main apaka phailaya Hua raita ham saaf kar rahain hain..", the minister said referring to the banking NPAs receiving loud applause from the treasury benches. By the direct bank transfer, she said the

government stopped "leakages" and saved Rs 2.7 lakh crore of public money. Referring to the Congress, Sitharaman said earlier "the dynasty was behind the leakages."

Speaking during the debate on the no-confidence motion in Lok Sabha against the Modi government, Sitharaman said that earlier governments used to sell dreams to people while the present regime is fulfilling the dreams. "In Congress rule they used to say 'mil jayega' but in the Modi-government it is 'mil gaya', she said and reeled off details on implementation of

schemes in various sectors including drinking water, electricity, housing and health. "UPA showed people dreams, NDA fulfilled them," said Sitharaman while slamming the UPA government. Hitting-out at the Opposition for "alliance of convenience", she said DMK which is in the Congress-led alliance had humiliated J Jayalalitha in Tamil Nadu assembly.

Sitharaman was responding to DMK member's example of Droupadi's 'cheerharan' and 'silence' of Kauravas in relation to incidents in Manipur.

Scindia questions Opp's amnesia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a fiery address during the no-confidence motion debate against the NDA Government on Thursday, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia criticized the Opposition bloc India, alleging that their concern is more about their own "stature" than the welfare of the country.

Scindia called for an apology from the Opposition to the people of India for their derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Modi in Parliament. He expressed astonishment at unprecedented scenes witnessed in House, stating, "It's been 20 years that I am part of this Parliament, but I have never witnessed such a scene in



House. The words used by the Opposition for the PM, they should apologize not in Parliament but, before the people of India for their remarks.

They do not care about the dignity of the PM or the President. They only care about their stature." He further pointed out the inconsistency of the Opposition's behavior, high-

lighting their silence in previous instances of turmoil. Scindia accused them of disrupting Parliament for the past 17 days by demanding a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Manipur issue, despite their prior inaction on similar matters.

Scindia questioned the Opposition's selective amnesia, referencing incidents like Manipur violence in 1993 during PM PV Narasimha Rao's tenure and 2011 clash in Manipur when PM Manmohan Singh was in office.

He criticized the Opposition's demand for a discussion on issues they previously ignored, implying a political agenda of convenience.

Delay in land acquisition for AIIMS Madurai hit budget: FM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Blames Delay in Land Acquisition for Escalation of AIIMS Madurai Budget

In a recent statement, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the escalating budget of the proposed AIIMS hospital in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

She pointed out that the budget for the hospital had increased by Rs 700 crore due to the delay in land acquisition, placing the responsibility for the delay on the state government.

Speaking during the debate on the no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman responded to the noisy protests of DMK members by explaining that the initial budget of Rs 1,200 crore for the proposed hospital had risen to Rs 1,900 crore due to the land acquisition delay caused by Tamil Nadu.

Amidst the calls of "Eppo" (meaning "when" in Tamil) by DMK members, Sitharaman addressed the issue in both English and Tamil.

She emphasized that the delay in land acquisition was the key factor behind the budget escalation and that the blame should be attributed to the state government rather than the Centre.

India set to wipe Lymphatic filariasis by 2027, says Minister

New Delhi: India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of the global target through a multi-partner and multi-sector targeted drive, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday.

Mandaviya inaugurated the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative here on Thursday. "Through Jan Bhagdaari and Whole of Government and Whole of Society approach, we shall be able to eliminate this disease from the country," the Union minister said. The sec-

ond phase of the drive, commencing on August 10, will cover 81 districts in nine endemic states - Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister TS Singh Deo and his counterpart in Uttar Pradesh Brijesh Pathak, Odisha Health Minister Niranjan Pujari and his counterparts in Assam Keshab Mahanta and Banna Gupta in Jharkhand joined the inauguration virtually. Addressing the gathering, Mandaviya said, "Efforts must not be limited to taking med-

icines but also aid in eliminating spread of diseases via mosquitoes, without which progress to achieve our goal will be significantly restricted." The Union minister also laid stress on enhancing synergy between state and central governments to ensure a healthier nation.

Enumerating the success of 'Jan Andolan' movements in health by citing example of Nishay Mitra among others, Mandaviya said: "Community engagement will contribute significantly in garnering success in this mission by involvement of all stakeholders starting from grassroots level".

'Eris' as variant of interest: WHO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified the EG.5 strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus circulating in different parts of the world, including India, as a "variant of interest" but said it did not seem to pose more of a threat to public health than other strains.

EG.5 or Eris variant of SARS-CoV-2 was first reported on February 17 this year, and designated as a variant under monitoring (VUM) on July 19. In its latest risk evaluation on Wednesday, the WHO designated EG.5 and its sub-lineages as a variant of interest (VOI). Variants are broadly categorised into three



categories: (1) "variants of interest", (2) "variants of concern" and (3) "variants of high consequence." According to the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), VOIs are defined as variants with specific genetic markers that have been associated with changes that may cause enhanced transmissibility or virulence, reduction in neutralisation by antibodies obtained through nat-

ural infection or vaccination. EG.5 is a descendent lineage of Omicron subvariant XBB.1.9.2. It carries an additional mutation in the spike protein - which the SARS-CoV-2 uses to enter and infect the human cells - compared to the parent subvariant. Within the EG.5 lineage, the subvariant EG.5.1 has an additional spike mutation and represents 88 per cent of the available sequences for EG.5 and its descendent lineages, the WHO said.

As of August 7, 7,354 sequences of EG.5 have been submitted to GISAID, the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data, from 51 countries. The largest portion of EG.5 sequences are from China (30.6 per cent, 2,247

sequences). The other countries with at least 100 sequences are the US, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Canada, Australia, Singapore, the UK, France, Portugal, and Spain. In India, only one case of EG.5 has been reported so far from Pune in May this year.

Globally, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of EG.5 reported. During epidemiological week 29 (July 17 to 23, 2023), the global prevalence of EG.5 was 17.4 per cent, according to WHO.

Based on the available evidence, the public health risk posed by EG.5 is evaluated as low at the global level, aligning with the risk associated with XBB.1.16 and the other currently circulating VOIs.

Preparations for G-20 SFW Group Meeting reviewed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Union Ministry of Finance reviewed the preparations made so far for the proposed meeting of G-20 Sustainable Finance Working (SFW) Group, scheduled to be held in the city here on September 13 and 14. It would be the fourth meeting of this group on economic matters and the earlier three meetings were held at Guwahati, Udaipur and Mahabalipuram/Chennai. Prior to this, the G-20 Culture Working Group Meeting will be held here from August 23 to 27 and its preparations are going on in full swing.

The review meeting on the preparations for the proposed G-20 SFW Group Meeting was held at the Commissionerate auditorium here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Economic Affairs) of Union Ministry of Finance Manisha Sinha. In the meeting, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam informed about the preparations made by the administration in the city so far for various G-20 meetings. He also gave details of information regarding welcoming the guests at the airport, appointing the liaison officers, staying of the guests in the hotels and security etc.

For the proposed G-20 meeting of SFW Group to be organised by the Union Ministry of Finance, it was informed in the meeting that the guests will arrive on



Additional Secretary of Union Finance Ministry Manisha Sinha reviewing preparations for G-20 meeting in Varanasi on Thursday.

September 12 in the city and the meeting will be held on September 13 and 14. The Additional Secretary emphasised on conducting a theme-based cultural programme for the guests which should be based on the culture of Kashi. The G-20 SFW Group aims to mobilise sustainable finance to help ensure global growth and stability and promote the transition towards greener, more resilient and inclusive societies and economies. The proposed SFW Group Meeting will be attended by more than 90 delegates from G-20 member states, guest countries, various international organisa-

tions and officials from the Government of India. The officials of various departments related to G-20 participated in the meeting. Meanwhile, a good public participation was seen in the slogan and essay competitions organised in schools to increase awareness among students towards G-20 meetings as around 92,000 participated in two days. In view of the upcoming Cultural and Youth Group Meetings of G-20, an essay competition was organised in schools recently to connect students and spread publicity. The theme of the contest was 'Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam' in which the participants highlighted India's presidency and G-20 Group's contribution to world peace and progress. As many as 45,156 participants took part in this essay competition held at the school level. These competitions were held in government basic and secondary education schools. A total of 1,127 participants secured first positions. In this sequence, slogan competition was also organised in schools in which 46,346 participants took part and 1,127 participants got the first position. The theme of the contest was G-20.

Social activists protest against action on Sarva Seva Sangh premises

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

This holy city and parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the centre of a strong protest of top civil society leaders for the last two days as they raised their voices against the 'illegal encroachment' of the Sarva Seva Sangh premises near Rajghat. Recently, the premises were vacated by the Railway authorities with the help of the security forces.

Most of the speakers including senior social leader Medha Patkar, former leader Rakesh Tikait, Yogendra Yadav, Arundhati Dhuru, Faisal, Aflatoon, national president of Sarva Seva Sangh Chandan Pal, socialist leader Dr Sunilam, Prof Anand Kumar, Asha Bhothra, Firoz Mithibolwala and scores of others staged a strong dharna at Shastri Ghat near District Headquarters here on Thursday. Just a day ago, they assembled at Paradkar Bhawan to express their protest and most of them alleged that the action taken against the place from where Mahatma Gandhi was closely associated on the instructions of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Speaking on the occasion, Medha Patkar said that Gandhi's Satyagraha is most needed today as the government is occupying the land of places like Sarva Seva Sangh in the name of the constructions of airports, flyovers etc all over the country. "If the people want to save Ganga, then Sarva Seva Sangh will have to be saved," she said, adding that she



Social activist Dr Yogendra Yadav addressing a protest at Shastri Ghat in Varanasi on Thursday.

had talked to railway and higher officials but they said it is not about their level. She termed this attack on Gandhi's legacy as an attack on the country's fabric structure.

Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait said that if needed, tractors will also come to Banaras terming the BJP as 'a land looting party'. He said that Sarva Seva Sangh made by the efforts of first President Rajendra Babu, first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Sant Vinoba Bhave, Babu Jagjivan Ram, Jayprakash Narayan and Lal Bahadur Shastri and it is a heritage.

Yogendra Yadav of Swaraj India said that so many women have come for today's meeting and it is a big thing. "There are leaders of different struggles

here and for the last two days a no-confidence motion is being discussed in the parliament. The MPs are discussing that there is no faith in Modi's government. This no-confidence motion was brought because of the incident in Manipur as the Prime Minister did not say a word on this," he said, adding that Gandhi's legacy is present in this city for 70 years and now the government says that it was illegally encroached.

Senior Gandhian Kumar Prashant said that the presence of so many people from across the country shows that the government is making so many mistakes in Banaras. Former MLA Pankaj Pushkar said that this attack is a big lesson that now we have to save the lega-

cy of Gandhi, Ambedkar, JP, Lohia. Ranju Singh said that any movement is incomplete without women and the number of women gathered in the meeting is telling how India will be in the future.

Ramdhiraj Bhai alleged that BJP is not acquiring land in Banaras but is looting the land. The land of Vishwanath Gali area was grabbed in the name of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, he added. The theatre team of Prerna Kala Manch sang democratic songs on the occasion. The others who were also present were Pradeep Khelkar, Jagriti Rahi, Nandlal Master, Satish Singh, Sanjeev Singh, Ekta, Vallabhacharya Pandey, Father Anand, Prof Mahesh Vikram Singh and Dr Anoop Shramik.

National Deworming Day observed

VARANASI (PNS): National Deworming Day was observed in the district on Thursday. The programme was started by feeding deworming medicine to the children in the presence of Dr Sandeep Chaudhary, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at Composite School, Sunderpur. Along with this, children were fed medicine to remove stomach worms in 3,488 schools and 3,983 Anganwadi centres of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the CMO said that children become malnourished due to having stomach worms. "There is a lack of blood in them, due to which the children become weak. Getting rid of worms is essential for a healthy future. This is possible only when



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary giving medicine to a girl on National Deworming Day in Varanasi on Thursday.

children, adolescents and teenagers are fed medicine for deworming on time," said Dr Chaudhary, appealing to the parents to feed their children medicine to remove worms to save them from this problem.

The CMO said that National Deworming Day is

observed every year on 10th August. On this occasion, children, adolescents and teenagers of one to 19 years of age are fed deworming medicine so that their future can be healthy. He said that on the day, there is a target to feed deworming medicine to 18 lakh children in the district.

Additional Chief Medical Officer and Nodal Officer of the programme Dr Sanjay Rai said that on the day, the programmes of providing medicines of deworming were held at all government-aided and private schools, madrasas etc and praised the cooperation from the teachers in feeding medicines. He said that in the campaign medicines were also given to those children who do not go to school. Along with

this, children of labourers working in brick kilns were also given medicines at Anganwadi centres, he said, adding that a mop-up round would be organised on August 17 for those children who have missed taking medicines during the day. "Efforts will be made to fulfill the target 100 percent by covering all the children left out in this," he said. He said that diarrhoea, abdominal pain, weakness, vomiting and loss of appetite can be symptoms of worm infestation. According to him, the greater the number of worms in the child's stomach, the more severe the symptoms of the infected person and the children with a mild infection usually do not show any symptoms.

Missing student's body found floating in pond

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The body of a girl student missing since August 6 was found floating in a pond near her house late on Wednesday evening. The police called the forensic team and dog squad. The family members apprehended murder after kidnapping. The police said the matter is being investigated.

According to a report, Rakesh Kumar Jaiswal does business under Shankargarh police station of Yamunanagar. His daughter Riya Jaiswal (22), a student of BSC final year, had gone missing since August 6 night. Her family members kept searching for her till August 7. On August 8 morning, her brother Dinesh Jaiswal lodged a missing complaint at the Shankargarh police station and on Wednesday her body was found floating in a pond outside the village. It is suspected that she has been strangled. Doctors have pre-

served her vaginal swab during the post-mortem.

Rakesh Jaiswal told the police that Riya's marriage had been fixed and the engagement was on July 15. Assistant Police Commissioner Bara Santlal Saroj said the incident is suspicious. The matter is being investigated seriously. The body has been taken into possession and sent to the post mortem house. The dog squad team and forensic team inspected the spot and collected evidence and the matter will be worked out soon.

ONE HELD FOR DEMANDING EXTORTION: Mohd Nasrat, close friend of Umar and Ali, sons of slain mafia Atiq Ahmed, was arrested. He was wanted in the case of kidnapping a builder Mohd Muslim and demanding extortion. The police produced him in the court from where he was sent to jail. Nasrat a resident of Chakia area is one of the six accused, including

Umar and Ali, who were named in the case filed on April 26 at the Khuladabad police station. The police was looking for him since the case was registered. He was taken into custody on Tuesday. After questioning, he was arrested on Wednesday and sent to jail. The remand of three accused, including Umar and Ali, who are in jail in this case has also been approved for 14 days on Thursday. The third accused is Atiq's henchman Asad Kalia. According to police sources, the remand of all three has been approved for which the warrant had been served in Naini and Lucknow jail. On the other hand, the search is on for two accused Ehtesham Karim and Ajay.

Mohd Muslim had alleged that the accused were extorting money from him for the last 17 years. Since January this year Atiq's son Asad had come to his flat in Lucknow many times with unknown people and

demanding extortion by abusing and threatening him. At the flat Asad used to talk to his jailed brothers Umar and Ali on his phone. It was also said that he would have to give his share in every plot. They gave him two days time for the same. After this he sent Rs 1.20 crore to Atiq's sons through Asad Kalia.

It was written in the complaint that in 2006 he started plotting and building construction. Since then Atiq, Ashraf and their henchmen started threatening and demanding extortion.

Due to their fear, he went to Lucknow. But the mafia and its henchmen continued to extort money from him. The builder has also made several other allegations. It is told that the accused abducted him from the way, took him to Atiq's office in Chakia, tied with a belt there and hanged on the balcony and threatened to kill him.

'Desh Bachao-Desh Banao' cycle yatra flagged off

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The leaders of Samajwadi party (SP) flagged off the 100 days 'Desh Bachao - Desh Banao' cycle yatra that will cover as many as 125 assembly seats in 25 parliamentary constituencies of 24 districts. The first phase of yatra will culminate in Lucknow on November 22 that happens to be the birthday of party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Speaking on the occasion, yatra convener and national president of Lohiya Vahini, Abhishek Yadav said "people of the country are facing hardship due to inflation, unemployment and atrocities on poor and women."

He added "the double engine government of BJP has failed on all fronts and the lead-

ers of ruling party were also issuing baseless statements on Manipur."

Yadav said the motive of the yatra was to strengthen backward, Dalit and minority and also to create awareness with an objective that INDIA could gain power at the Centre in the 2024 parliamentary polls.

The SP leaders claimed that countdown of the NDA government has begun and asserted that BJP-led union and state governments were working on anti-people policies.

SP spokesman Daan Bahadur said "the yatra has been taken out on the directives of party national president and the first phase of the cycle yatra will culminate in Lucknow on November 22. The yatra start-

ed from party's district headquarter at Georgetown also passed through Balsaon crossing, Dhobi ghat, Civil Lines, Subhash Crossing, Nawab Yusuf Road, High Court and Dhoomanganj. The yatra has entered Kaushambi." Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party also organised jan panchayat on the occasion of August Kranti across the district.

ARRESTED: The man who had created ripples in the police department on Wednesday with a threatening call that the Kotwali police station will be blown up has been nabbed and sent to jail.

The arrested person Shiv Kumar told the police during interrogation that he had made the above phone call under the influence of liquor.

Shiv Kumar is a chaat ven-

dor and lived in Mohtsimganj with wife and three daughters. Shiv Kumar had become a victim of a financial fraud and that lost lakhs of rupees. He had lodged a complaint in this regard at the Kotwali police station here. He alleged that as no action was initiated on his complaint so he was annoyed with the Kotwali police. When he consumed liquor, things flashed in his mind and he took the above step to teach a lesson to the police.

The bomb disposal squad and sniffer dogs were pressed into action but it was found to be a hoax call.

The caller was identified as Shiv Kumar from Kulumal village of Baraon in Karchhana. Later his location was found in Mohtsimganj and Shiv was arrested.

UPMSP releases improvement, compartment exam results

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The authorities of Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UPMSP) released the results of the High School (class X) improvement/compartment and Intermediate (class XII) compartment examinations. The results have been uploaded on the board's website upmsp.edu.in. The High School improvement/compartment and Intermediate compartment exams were conducted in 96 examination centres on July 22. While a total of 18,400 students had registered for the High School improvement/compartment exams, 16,783 had appeared in the exams. All the 16,783 students were declared successful. With this 100 per cent pass percentage was recorded this year as against 99.98 per cent in 2022.

Similarly, a total of 26,269 students had registered for Intermediate improvement/compartment exams, of which 25,191 appeared in the exams.

The High School improvement/compartment and Intermediate compartment exams were conducted in 96 examination centres on July 22. While a total of 18,400 students had registered for the High School improvement/compartment exams, 16,783 had appeared in the exams

However, 23,007 students were declared successful. The pass percentage of Santhagat and private students stood at 91.33 and 93.86 per cent respectively.

MPVM TO CELEBRATE 'SWARAJ SAPTAH' TO MARK 1-DAY: Like every year, the Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir (MPVM) this year too will celebrate 'Swaraj Saptah' on the theme 'Raj se Swaraj' to mark the 77th Independence Day. Various activities will be held for different classes — fancy dress for class I on the theme 'We are one', recitation for class II,

short speech for class III and drawing and painting for class V will be held while class IV students will tell specialty of different states. The class VI will have the activity, 'Melodies of the Nation - patriotic songs', class VIII slogan writing, class VIII chart making, class IX quiz and class X T-shirt painting and designing. The students of class IX will prepare slideshows based on the theme 'Brotherhood', for class XII it will be speech on the topic 'Alone I am a hero, together we are legends'. Through such activities, students gain knowledge about their country. They

ignite spirit of patriotism and motivate the students to follow the ideals set by freedom fighters.

CLASH: Three persons sustained injuries when supporters of two rival groups of same community clashed and involved in firing in Karari area of Kaushambi. The police have arrested four persons in this connection. SP BK Srivastava said, "Supporters of two rival camps clashed over an old dispute and left three persons injured. One of them suffered serious injury and was taken to hospital for treatment. Upon being alerted about the clash and firing incident, a heavy police force swung into action and chased away the miscreants," he added. The police have arrested four persons from the spot and legal action will be initiated, he said. The SP, meanwhile, claimed that the police had months back bounded a group of persons from both the camps. The bounding money will also be recovered from them, he added.

Shoe trader's body recovered

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The body of a shoe trader was found under mysterious circumstances in an area under Dehat Kotwali police station on Wednesday. On being informed in the morning that a body was lying under a cement shed near Hanuman temple the police reached the spot. The body was identified as that of Rishi Khatri of Kohran Gali, Laldighi, on the basis of the Aadhar card found in his pocket. The police informed the family. The father of the deceased, Rakesh Khatri, lodged a case alleging that a financier was behind the death. He apprehended the murder of his son. Circle Officer (Sadar)

Shailendra Tripathi said the application of the father of the deceased had been received and further action will be taken only after the getting the post-mortem report.

SEVEN ARRESTED: With the arrest of seven persons the Jamalpur police busted an inter-district gang of gamblers and recovered Rs 1,60,230, one Alto car, 12 motorcycles, five mobile phones and 52 playing cards. Giving details to the media at Police Lines on Wednesday ASP (City) Srikant Prajapati said on the direction of Superintendent of Police Abhinandan, the Jamalpur police raided the place on Tuesday night under the guid-

ance of CO Chunar. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP/Operation) OP Singh. As per the police the gamblers were identified as Raj Kumar Chaurasiya alias Mangaru of Jamalpur under same police station, Sajeet alias Billu of Sikandarpur under Jamalpur police station, Pawan Kumar Singh of Haansipur under Ahraura police station, Raj Kumar Patel and Arun Kumar of Parvatpur village under Chakia police station, Chandauli, Vyasji Singh of Shivpur under Jamalpur police station and Azad Sonkar of Haansapur village under Adalhat police station. The

ASP said after registering the case the accused were sent to jail.

TRIBAL DAY: Chairman Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Shyam Sundar Keshari while addressing a rally on the occasion of Tribal Day on Wednesday said the tribals have contributed a lot to the nation which cannot be ignored at all. He paid tribute to freedom fighter Birsu Munda. He said the government is keen on overall development of tribals. To mark the day a 'shobha yatra' having tableaux depicting messages to save environment was taken out from City Club after passing through the thoroughfares of the city concluded at GIC.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Teetering

Pakistan is once again likely to plunge into uncertainty after the premature dissolution of the National Assembly

Pakistan's fragile democracy is once again at stake. The National Assembly has been dissolved prematurely, though only three days before Shehbaz Sharif's government would have completed full term. However, the move gives 30 more days to Shehbaz before the scheduled end of the five-year constitutional term of the Assembly. The elections are likely to be delayed due to the requirement for delimitation of constituencies following the approval of new census results. The ECP must complete delimitation within 120 days before announcing the election schedule. While expedited processes are technically possible, uncertainties remain about whether the ECP will adhere to the 90-day deadline. Following the dissolution of the National Assembly, the appointment of a caretaker prime minister will be initiated under Article 224-A of the Constitution. Prime Minister Sharif and Leader of the Opposition Raja Riaz will collaborate to finalise the interim prime minister's name. If an agreement is not reached within three days, the matter will be referred to a parliamentary committee for selection.



In all likelihood, elections are nowhere in sight for at least six months. This means that democracy goes into suspended animation and the accountability of the caretaker government remains zero. Meanwhile, Imran Khan is behind bars and his chances of coming out soon are bleak for now. Therefore, the army and Shehbaz Sharif have effectively turned Pakistan into a military state by proxy. On the face of it, all looks technically sound and legal but when the Opposition leader is behind bars and the ruling dispensation has a free run, the Opposition is for all practical purposes done away with. Internal dynamics within the ruling party and its coalition partners could have played a role. The ruling party might have assessed that the timing of the dissolution could be advantageous in terms of rallying support from their political base and managing potential challenges from opposition parties. Besides, the government's assessment of its popularity and public sentiment could have played a role in what is seemingly an innocuous move. Shehbaz Sharif would have time to run an anti-Imran campaign and discredit him as he would not be around to defend himself. Shehbaz seizes control of the timing and narrative surrounding the transition to the next government. Besides, it would get a free hand to deal with the unrest in the wake of Imran Khan's arrest. But if Shehbaz fails to check the unrest and Imran's popularity increases, there is going to be more trouble in Pakistan.

caretaking government remains zero. Meanwhile, Imran Khan is behind bars and his chances of coming out soon are bleak for now. Therefore, the army and Shehbaz Sharif have effectively turned Pakistan into a military state by proxy. On the face of it, all looks technically sound and legal but when the Opposition leader is behind bars and the ruling dispensation has a free run, the Opposition is for all practical purposes done away with. Internal dynamics within the ruling party and its coalition partners could have played a role. The ruling party might have assessed that the timing of the dissolution could be advantageous in terms of rallying support from their political base and managing potential challenges from opposition parties. Besides, the government's assessment of its popularity and public sentiment could have played a role in what is seemingly an innocuous move. Shehbaz Sharif would have time to run an anti-Imran campaign and discredit him as he would not be around to defend himself. Shehbaz seizes control of the timing and narrative surrounding the transition to the next government. Besides, it would get a free hand to deal with the unrest in the wake of Imran Khan's arrest. But if Shehbaz fails to check the unrest and Imran's popularity increases, there is going to be more trouble in Pakistan.

PICTALK



Women Kanwariyas (Lord Shiva devotees) carrying holy water from the Narmada river in Jabalpur

Biodiversity is the key to achieve SDGs



AATISH PARASHAR

India's laudable biodiversity conservation endeavours can be of great value for the nation and help it reach SDG goals by 2030

Biodiversity conservation and animal welfare are fundamental to our survival on planet Earth. India hosts rich biodiversity. Our nation is home to four of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots with an abundance of endemic species of flora and fauna. We must do all we can to protect this natural wealth that enables our existence and underpins progress and civilization.

India has more than a hundred national parks, and our government has, over the years, introduced a plethora of wildlife protection laws. But more needs to be done. Corporates and civil society organizations must step up and lead concerted efforts geared at animal welfare. We are at an inflexion point where the three most important stakeholders – governments, companies and civil society must collaborate increasingly, and more than ever, to contribute to animal welfare. All these three stakeholders have specific strengths that they bring to the table to complement one another. The government brings with it scale and efficiency of reach. Companies bring with them the skill to plan initiatives and monitor effective rollout. Civil society organizations bring with them unmatched local connections, trust of the people, and implementational know-how. They understand the challenges on the ground and can implement initiatives on-ground with alacrity and speed.

We must devise customized strategic initiatives targeted at specific locations, so these can yield the best results in a short period. Animals need more safe spaces. Analysis by scientists and conservationists from various Indian and international institutions has found that we require a landscaped approach to safeguard nature. Currently, a large portion of landscapes of extremely high importance for nature and human well-being fall outside the bounds of protected areas.

India must strive to meet the 30x30 biodiversity conservation targets. The 30x30 biodiversity conservation target



seeks to conserve biodiversity on 30% of the planet by the year 2030. Human intervention has led to unprecedented wildlife depletion. Just over the past 50 years, we have seen an astonishing 70% decline in the size of populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. The paucity of specialised veterinary care, inadequate frontline support, awareness, and education, is another nagging issue, adding to the pressure on wildlife health management. With a dismally low growth rate of veterinary graduates in the country, there is an immense shortage in the availability of skilled veterinary professionals thus resulting in a poor patient-doctor ratio. Thus, it is imperative to augment animal healthcare services and work towards developing quality institutes of veterinary education. We need to develop state-of-the-art hospitals, ensure the availability of emergency care, be it the forests or highways and ensure robust animal birth control & vaccination programmes across states, especially for strays and livestock. Towards better animal care delivery, projects like



PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY IS A KEY TENET OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. WITHOUT PROTECTING ANIMALS, WE SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO CLIMB THE LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT OF UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (UN-SDGS)

The Animal Care Organization (TACO) are stepping up efforts to improve wildlife conservation. It granted a sum of INR 1 crore to the Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan for better surveillance at Ranthambore National Park. TACO is an initiative of the Anil Agarwal Foundation, a first-of-its-kind animal welfare initiative providing world-class infrastructure, veterinary services, training facilities, and shelter for animals.

In April 2022, TACO marked its launch by adopting Tapobhoomi Gaushala in Haryana to develop it as a model animal shelter with advanced clinical facilities. Moreover, to address the issue of the workforce skill gap, TACO proposes to run an academy that will offer short-term courses to veterinarians and paraprofessionals on animal healthcare including geriatric and palliative care, nutrition, and their well-being.

With a livestock population of approximately 535.78 million animals, India needs huge veterinary infrastructure to ensure their well-being. Around 5.02 million stray cattle require a conducive animal welfare environment

to diminish human-animal conflict. India's 35-40 million stray dogs require scientific Animal Birth Control programs, to ensure the quality of animal and human health. In essence, we need to build a compassionate India where every animal lives with dignity and respect.

Preserving biodiversity is a key tenet of sustainable development. Without protecting animals, we shall not be able to climb the ladder of achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs). Biodiversity preservation helps us directly address six of the 17 sustainable development goals.

The world is looking up to India with hope. We are the world's fastest-growing major economy. If we can develop sustainably and responsibly, we will set an example for the world to follow. A country of our size and diversity, growing rapidly but responsibly, will give the world immense hope. For this, we must remain acutely aware of our responsibility to the planet and to the animals who we share it with.

(The writer is the Dean and Head of, Central University of South Bihar)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POLITICAL TICKET DISTRIBUTION

Sir —Revered columnist Kalyani Shankarji in her piece 'Crime pays hefty dividend in politics' (The Pioneer, August 8) has underscored a bitter pill to swallow: that the poll aspirants with the contentious antecedents enjoy themselves the very first preference at the time of the ticket distribution by the political parties in the fray, thanks to the latter's winnability perception as they, equipped with both the inevitables (read money power and muscle power), stand higher prospects of electoral success against their gentleman rivals. Ironically, this has become a trend and, perhaps, no political outfit is an exception.

Verily speaking, now politics is anything but a fair play, given that all political parties share a common raison d'être, namely the 'attainment of power, either by hook or by crook'. Hence, this uncanny longing for power is largely ubiquitous across all the democracies, including even the oldest as well as the largest ones, the USA and India respectively. I concur with the author's view that an honest and transparent system needs to be put in place with a view to furthering democracy in countries like the US and India, in particular.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

MANIPUR POLICE CASE

Sir —In an unprecedented move, the Manipur Police have registered a criminal case against the Assam Rifles, the oldest paramilitary force in the country, for "obstruction of duty" and "criminal intimidation". The police have accused personnel of the 9th battalion of the Assam Rifles of the "arrogant act" of "giving a chance to the accused Kuki militants to escape freely to a safe zone. The FIR comes in the wake of the August 5 incident at Kwakta in the Meitei-dominated Bishnupur area where a father-son duo and another person were hacked to death in their sleep by armed miscreants, suspected to be members of the Kuki

Tribal Day



Tribal Day (9th Aug) serves as a poignant reminder to honor and uphold the rights and cultures of indigenous peoples worldwide. Particularly in India, these communities confront a host of challenges. Chief among these is the struggle for land rights, as many lack formal land titles, rendering them susceptible to displacement and exploitation. Additionally, the preservation of their unique cultural identities faces threats from modernization and discrimination, leading to the erosion of traditional ways of life. Discrimination

in areas such as education, employment, and healthcare further marginalize them, exacerbating their disproportionate poverty. Their vulnerability to climate change impacts their life in a major way.

In the face of these adversities, indigenous peoples in India exhibit remarkable resilience. Their profound connection to the land and heritage empowers them to maintain their traditions even in the face of modern pressures. This Tribal Day offers an opportunity for global solidarity, as we can educate ourselves about their histories and cultures. By supporting indigenous-owned businesses, participating in advocacy, donating to relevant organizations, and confronting discrimination, we can play our part in fostering a more equitable and just world. Let this be a reminder that the celebration of indigenous cultures and the pursuit of their rights extend beyond a single day, requiring ongoing commitment and effort.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

community who came from the neighboring Churachandpur district. Following the killings, the police alleged that their team was stopped by the Assam Rifles unit from conducting a search operation to trace the suspected attackers. They alleged that the Assam Rifles, which is under the operational control of the Army, used armored vehicles to block their way. A video of the altercation went viral the same day. Strange are the ways in state politics.

CKR Nathan | Ghaziabad

PHARMACEUTICAL REGULATIONS

Sir — It is true that India produces quality products at affordable prices. The path to become a global manufacturing pharmacy in terms of supplying quality drugs to the world is beset with challenges unless gaps in the regulatory mechanism of medicines are plugged on a priority basis.

However, the deaths of 70 children in Gambia, Uzbekistan, U.S. etc. linked to Indian-manufactured syrups have put the

Indian pharmacy market under the scanner, especially at a time when India is promoting itself as a global manufacturing hub for generic medicines.

Moreover, there are glaring loopholes in the regulatory mechanism when we consider that barely one-fifth, i.e. only 2000 units, have good manufacturing practices (G.M.P.) certificate out of 8500 units. Against this backdrop, the Government recently has asked pharma companies to obtain G.M.P. certificates over the next 6 to 12 months, including M.S.M.E., in accordance with the standard practices adopted globally as mandated by W.H.O. This is a positive move that is likely to ensure safety, security, and quality manufacturing in the country as well as to meet global manufacturing standards. Exemplary action against the erring companies can deter others from wrongdoings.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

India's real estate sector in fast lane

Solution providers are transforming the landscape of real estate sector as all stakeholders are getting readymade solutions

India's real estate sector after lying low during the Covid is now back with the bang. New projects are coming up, the work on sites is going on at rapid pace and above all there are investors and buyers willing to invest in the housing sector, giving it a new lease of life.

The real estate sector in India has witnessed remarkable growth over the years, emerging as one of the country's vital economic contributors. This dynamic industry has evolved significantly, owing to changing demographics, urbanization, and innovative solutions offered by companies that cater to various stakeholders.

Several factors have fuelled the robust growth of India's real estate sector. Urbanization, population growth, and a rising middle class have led to increased demand for residential and commercial spaces. Furthermore, the government's initiatives such as "Smart Cities Mission" and "Housing for All" have provided impetus to the sector's expansion, aiming to pro-



vide quality housing and infrastructure to a growing urban population.

The companies like InfraMantra owe their success to the fact that there was lot of gaps and grey areas in the property market, which could not be easily cross checked, like genuinity of seller, property details and so on.

Thus solution providers started filling those gaps and also gave valuable suggestions, comparative deals to their clients that make them reap better benefits. Real estate solution providers like InfraMantra have been instrumental in making the process of buying and selling property a breeze. In India have been quick to adapt, offering innovative solutions that address the diverse needs of stakeholders. It would be

pertinent to note here that we had a humble beginning but were determined to be a value service to the Industry. So we set out to give solutions to not only the buyers but developers and other stakeholders to optimise their resources and returns.

Indeed Real estate companies are leveraging technology to streamline processes, enhance transparency, and improve user experiences. Online property portals and mobile apps have made property search and transactions more accessible.

Virtual property tours, powered by augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR), enable potential buyers and investors to explore properties remotely, saving time and effort. Companies are employing data analytics to gain insights into market trends, buyer preferences, and investment opportunities. This data-driven approach allows them to make informed decisions, optimize property pricing, and tailor offerings to meet demand more effectively.

The rise of startups and the gig economy has given birth to a demand for flexible and affordable office spaces.

Indeed, RERA has been the game changer but there is still scope for improvement. The redressal is still not uniform throughout the country and every state has its own mechanism to deal with it. It should be addressed asap and the system streamlined to make RERA even more effective"

The introduction of Real estate investment trusts (REIT) in India has opened up new avenues for investment in the real estate sector. REITs allow investors to access the real estate market without directly owning properties, promoting liquidity and diversification. The accessibility of information through online platforms, virtual tours, and data analytics has empowered buyers and investors to make informed decisions. This has led to increased transparency and reduced information asymmetry.

(The writer is Director & Co-Founder at InfraMantra)



GARVIT TIWARI



FIRST COLUMN

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WILL HURT INDIA

The decision to ban the import IT hardware does not augur well for India's image



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

In a surprise move, India slapped import restrictions on key Information communication technology hardware products such as tablets, laptops etc last week, which were, if implemented as per the actual notice, would have been effective, in less than twenty-four hours. However, economic considerations and frantic calls to senior government officials ensured the due date of implementation for the order has now been pushed to the 1st of November. In the interim, there has been alleged hoarding of these ICT products by some retailers creating an artificial increase in prices, and a heightened purchase by consumers to avoid the import restrictions.

It was surprising for many, that the government chose a month before the G20 leaders' summit and the Digital Economy Work Group ministerial meeting (scheduled in the third week of August) to impose the restrictions. The G20 summit besides focussing on multilateral issues, also has several bilateral meetings on trade-related issues which the government participates in. A negative public relations exercise such as the one just announced, could potentially hijack most of these bilaterals into sorting out trade issues, especially with key trade partners, who are part of the G20 deliberations.

The government has been quite careful with its G20 preparations and so far, has avoided major public relations faux pas, but the recent order seems to be pushing things in a negative direction. Almost every major India partner country's government has been approached by their respective industry stakeholders to sort out the issue with the Indian government. The message going out to international businesses, "India is back to the License Raj, a protectionist regime, a term mostly used to describe India to foreign investors, before the 1990s. Meanwhile, India managed to stitch up early harvest trade deals with Australia and UAE last year and is hopeful to have an agreement with the UK, Israel, Canada and the EU soon. Import restrictions of any nature, especially those related to ICT hardware can become the proverbial straw on the camel's back during many of these ongoing discussions.



The Indian government has its arguments for imposing the restrictions. While they maintain, that many of these hardware have security concerns, given they store huge amounts of citizens' sensitive data, these restrictions shall be able to put a check on possible data pilferage, especially to countries threatening India's sovereignty. The reference to China can't be missed which according to data is one of the largest exporters (amounting to almost 70%) of ICT hardware in the country. The argument for reducing the trade deficit with China is also being liberally splashed in private meetings. However, the real reason seems to be the lack of enthusiasm by top manufacturers towards the government's incentive scheme for manufacturing in India.

The government after much deliberations, upgraded the Production Linked Incentive scheme, with available sops of nearly INR 17,000 cr for any large manufacturer setting up their production base in India. The window for making the investments has been revised a couple of times, due to the lack of enthusiasm from potential investors and the current deadline is 31st August. Many sources indicated that the import restrictions are a last-ditch attempt by the government to coax some manufacturers to invest under the production-linked incentive scheme. The wider influence of the political economy can't be missed, as India faces a huge general election early next year. The young voter will not be swayed by flavours from the last century electoral politics. Jobs, disposable income to spend on travels and eat-outs for a social media first generation form an important swing. However, the domestic concerns should not blindfold the overall goodwill generated by India as an important investment destination. A balance has to be found.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

Russia's newfound interest in Africa

Africa is being emphasised as the "bedrock of the foundations of Russia's foreign policy" to garner support from developing countries



RAGHVENDRA KUMAR

Russia has, for a long, considered African nations as critical actors in its endeavours to enhance global influence and reshape the existing highly divided international order. Through the recently held second Russia-Africa Forum Summit in St. Petersburg on 27-28 July 2023, Russia is trying to seize an opportunity to enhance its geopolitical position. Moscow is strategically leveraging its influence in Africa to secure advantageous access to the continent's abundant natural resources, expand its export markets, and most importantly garner African backing for its diplomatic goals both within Africa and on the international stage. With 54 nations, Africa constitutes the most substantial voting bloc at the United Nations. However, when it came to General Assembly resolutions denouncing Russia's actions in Ukraine, Africa was the most divided region globally in condemning the Russian aggression on Ukraine.

Presently, leaders from just 17 African states are attending high-level talks in St Petersburg less than half the 43 who went to the first forum summit in 2019 - which Kremlin described "as a crude Western pressure to discourage African nations from taking part". On Thursday, Russian President Putin warmly welcomed African leaders to strengthen Moscow's position in a continent that has grown significantly crucial to Russia's geopolitical aspirations. Putin has emphasized the significance of the two-day summit, as a pivotal event aimed at reinforcing connections with the assertive and influential continent of 1.3 billion people on the global stage. Moscow's main objective is to demonstrate its capabilities and prove a point and showcase that Russia can effectively navigate the isolation attempts made by several Western nations.

African states on the other hand are aiming to assert themselves as influential bloc instead of becoming entangled in yet another proxy conflict between Russia and the United States. Their objective is to diversify their economic and political partnerships strategically, seeking tangible outcomes beyond superficial promises. Analysts note that African leaders, constituting the largest bloc at the UN General Assembly, are well aware of their rising geostrategic significance amid the escalating competition between Russia and the United States on various fronts.

This awareness prompts them to adopt a cautious and strategic approach in their dealings with both global powers. During the St. Petersburg summit, African leaders are anticipated to adopt a more proactive approach in their diplomatic endeavours to address the conflict in Ukraine. The war is perceived by many on the continent as an internal European matter, but its far-reaching consequences, including impacts on African countries, have become evident. Given the severe food crisis affecting Africa, the leaders aim to be assertive at the forum in an attempt to broker a deal with Russia. This assertiveness stems from the urgent need for a resolution that can mitigate the spillover effects of the Russia-Ukraine war and alleviate the food crisis in Africa. However, it's important to note that African mediators' previous attempts to intervene were largely inconsequential and did not yield any positive results.

The recent withdrawal of Russia from



DURING THE ST. PETERSBURG SUMMIT, GREAT EMPHASIS WAS PAID TO THE NARRATIVE OF RUSSIA AND AFRICA FACING A SHARED STRUGGLE AGAINST NEW FORMS OF COLONIALISM IMPOSED BY THE WEST

(The writer is an Associate Fellow at the National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi, and a Doctoral Candidate at the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi. Views are personal)

the international grain deal has caused concern for food security in Africa, and it is expected to be a prominent topic of discussion at the second Russia-Africa Summit in St. Petersburg. The deal, facilitated by the United Nations and Turkey, was crucial in enabling the safe passage of agricultural goods through Ukraine's ports in the Black Sea amid the ongoing conflict with Russia. Though most of the exported grain did not reach the world's poorest nations, it helped stabilize food prices, reducing them by over 20 per cent, as reported by the UNCTAD. Whereas, Russia's decision to withdraw from the agreement was justified by claiming that the conditions for extending the Black Sea Grain Initiative had been disregarded. Subsequently, Russia launched attacks on port infrastructure and grain depots in the south of Ukraine.

African leaders, while deeply affected by the decision, have largely refrained from commenting on the matter. In response to the criticism, President Putin blamed the West for failing to deliver grain to the world's poorest and assured African nations that Russia could provide grain "free of charge" due to an anticipated record harvest this year. However, the withdrawal from the treaty has been seen as a betrayal - as Korir Sing'oei, Kenya's principal secretary for foreign affairs, called Putin's decision "a stab on the back" - leaving the African continent vulnerable to food shortages and underscoring the significance of finding viable

solutions to address the food security challenges faced by African nations.

Russia and Africa are prioritizing the advancement of their relationship, with a special focus on supporting the independent development of African countries.

The aim is to ensure fair access to vital resources like food, fertilizers, modern technologies, and energy, with the ultimate goal of building a prosperous future through robust collaboration and shared growth opportunities. The recently adopted St. Petersburg Declaration by both Russian and African leaders underscores their strong dedication to nurturing a mutually beneficial partnership and exploring new avenues for cooperation. This declaration outlines strategic areas for the long-term development of Russia's collaboration with African nations. One of the central objectives emphasized in the declaration is the shared commitment to establishing a fair and democratic multipolar world order based on universally recognized principles of international law and the UN Charter. Both Russia and African states are determined to counter neocolonialism, illegitimate sanctions, and any attempts to undermine traditional moral values. The engagement between Russia and Africa aims to create a future marked by prosperity, driven by close collaboration and shared growth opportunities.

According to Western analysts, Russia's engagement with Africa appears to be symbolic rather than substantive. While

Moscow aims to demonstrate its continued global importance to African leaders and counter the perception of being a pariah, it has not translated its growing geopolitical ambitions into significant investments in Africa. Despite the pledges made at the first Russia-Africa Summit in 2019 to double trade with African countries to \$40 billion in five years, the actual trade volume between the two sides has remained stagnant at around \$18 billion. Moreover, Africa imports nearly eight times more from Russia compared to what Russia buys from the continent. Russia only accounts for a mere one per cent of foreign direct investment that flows into Africa.

Furthermore, during the St. Petersburg summit, great emphasis was paid to the narrative of Russia and Africa facing a shared struggle against new forms of colonialism imposed by the West. This narrative aligns with the Kremlin's strategy to rally support in Africa behind its actions in Ukraine. Therefore, if there is any political lesson to be drawn from the Russia-Africa Forum Summit, it is that Russia's pursuit of Africa has intensified. Now more than ever, Africa is emphasized as the "bedrock of the foundations of Russia's foreign policy" to garner support from developing countries. This coalition-building strategy is not solely based on economic incentives but also relies on indirect, implicit, and sophisticated efforts to gain the favour and support of both current and future African elites.

Do we create our fate or it is all predestined?

We feel that we create our fate. We do but not in the way we imagine. God helps in negotiating with our bad karmaphalas

Before I go any further let me explain a few relevant terms. These are 'prarabdha' (accumulated past deeds - Karmaphalas), 'kriyamana' (what we do in the present, 'svabhava' (our nature), 'daiva' (divine authorities) and free will. The first one is what we bring from our past lives in terms of deeds by our bodies, minds and words, which have not come to fruition so far. These are both good and bad. Kriyamana is what we do in the present life, again with bodies, minds and words. The third is svabhava; we are programmed in certain ways depending upon what we deserve. For example, a person is greedy by nature; he or she helplessly succumbs to greed in his or her life. In the Bhagavad-Geeta, Lord Krishna



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

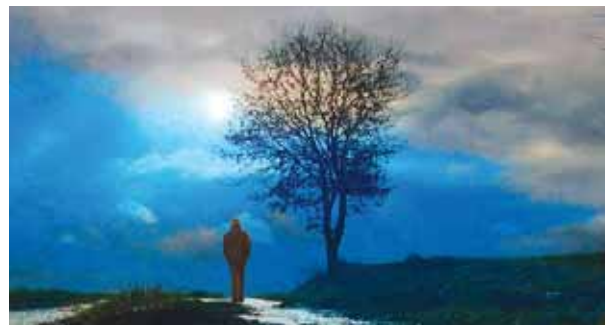
(The writer is a spiritual teacher)

has let us know that our nature is what we are. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 17.3) The last term is daiva referred to by the Lord in verse # 18.14, in which it is mentioned that daiva is the controlling factor. We may do what we can, but the deciding factor is daiva only.

Let me take up svabhava again. Have you seen how tarot cards tell a whole lot about you? The cards are spread, and which card do you choose? You helplessly pick up the one which relates to you. Why do you do so when there are so many choices? Because you are programmed to pick that only. Our svabhava is that dominant. Free will is also more or less dictated to by our svabhava. Then, we cannot desire or decide independently. The answer is: yes, except if we

choose to turn to God, take His shelter, etc. Then, the question arises as to why we have been made so helpless except for a little opening left vis-a-vis God. The answer is obvious. The creation must go on for millions of years. No probability can be left of something happening by chance. And in case we turn to God, He controls our actions. Divine authorities work under the superintendence of God (9.10); they enforce the karmaphala principle without any bias.

So are we stuck in a robotic way programmed to act in certain ways throughout our lives getting both good and bad results already predicted? The answer is both yes and no. There is just a little opening in both our free will and svabhava. This has to be used to turn



to God and seek His help because God and God alone can do something about what has already transpired, i.e. our 'karmas' both good and bad. Divine authorities systematically reward and punish, and life goes on almost mechanically. But if we turn to God, lots can change. Both our svabhava and karmaphalas can

change in substantial ways. Svabhava changes slowly but surely by actively associating with God. There are multiple ways of doing that beginning with praying to Him, chanting His names, having 'darshan', doing namaskar, etc. Every such act gets registered for future rewards like perfect guidance, timely help, peace of

mind, real 'sukha', being appointed 'nimitta' (instrument) of God - a very privileged position, etc. God helps in negotiating with our bad karmaphalas such that we come out of them safe and sound. By the way, all these are foreseen by divine authorities and factored into our lives. Very fortunate souls take shelter from God.

The next question is: why don't we take shelter from God when that is the only real opening for a positive change in our lives? Yes, there is a general awareness that there is an entity like God. However, most don't do something about it except try to convince selves that there cannot be anything like God. They are right in a way because God is incomprehensible; He truly is.

But God can be experienced. Yes, He can be as millions have done in the past and the present, myself included. God is so close to us that it is hard to believe. God gets involved in our lives as soon as we turn to Him, but you have to turn to Him to get started. God will not initiate action because that will violate our free will, God being all-powerful. You have to and God has made this shelter-taking very simple and easy. What is so difficult about taking God's name or having a darshan of Deity in a temple or doing namaskar to a photo of God or thinking actively about Him or praying to Him, etc? All these are true but only the most fortunate souls will turn to God. You can tell who a blessed soul is. Are you?

36 killed on Maui as fires burn through Hawaii

AP ■ WAILUKU

Thousands of Hawaii residents raced to escape homes on Maui as blazes swept across the island, destroying parts of a centuries-old town and killing at least 36 people in one of the deadliest US wildfires in recent years.

The fire took the island by surprise, leaving behind burned-out cars on once busy streets and smoking piles of rubble where historic buildings had stood in Lahaina Town, which dates to the 1700s and has long been a favourite destination for tourists. Crews battled blazes in several places on the island Wednesday, and the flames forced some adults and children to flee into the ocean.

At least 36 people have died, according to a statement from Maui County late Wednesday that said no other details were available. Officials said earlier that 271 structures were damaged or destroyed and dozens of people injured. The 2018 Camp



The hall of historic Waiola Church in Lahaina and nearby Lahaina Hongwanji Mission are engulfed in flames along Waiee Street on Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii. File photo

Fire in California killed at least 85 people, destroyed nearly 19,000 homes, businesses and other buildings, and virtually razed the town of Paradise.

Lahaina residents Kamuela Kawaakoa and Iulua Yasso described a harrowing escape under smoke-filled skies Tuesday afternoon. The couple

and their 6-year-old son got back to their apartment after a quick dash to the supermarket for water, and only had time to grab a change of clothes and run as the bushes around them caught fire.

"We barely made it out," Kawaakoa said at an evacuation shelter on Wednesday,

still unsure if anything was left of their apartment.

As the family fled, a senior centre across the road erupted in flames. They called 911, but didn't know if the people got out. As they drove away, downed utility poles and others fleeing in cars slowed their progress.

Kawaakoa, 34, grew up in the apartment building, called Lahaina Surf, where his dad and grandmother also lived.

"It was so hard to sit there and just watch my town burn to ashes and not be able to do anything," Kawaakoa said. "I was helpless."

Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen Jr said the island had "been tested like never before in our lifetime."

"We are grieving with each other during this inconceivable time," he said in a recorded statement. "In the days ahead, we will be stronger as a kaiaulu, or community, as we rebuild with resilience and aloha."

As the fires rages, tourists were advised to stay away.

About 11,000 visitors flew out of Maui on Wednesday, with at least another 1,500 expected to leave Thursday, according to Ed Sniffen, state transportation director. Officials prepared the Hawaii Convention Centre in Honolulu to take in the thousands who have been displaced.

The fires were whipped by strong winds from Hurricane Dora passing far to the south. It's the latest in a series of disasters caused by extreme weather around the globe this summer. Experts say climate change is increasing the likelihood of such events.

Fires in Hawaii are unlike many of those burning in the US West. They tend to break out in large grasslands on the dry sides of the islands and are generally much smaller than mainland fires. A major fire on the Big Island in 2021 burned homes and forced thousands to evacuate.

As winds eased somewhat on Maui, some flights resumed Wednesday, allowing pilots to view the full scope of the devastation.

Aerial video from Lahaina showed dozens of homes and businesses razed, including on Front Street, where tourists once gathered to shop and dine. Smoking heaps of rubble lay piled high next to the waterfront, boats in the harbour were scorched, and gray smoke hovered over the leafless skeletons of charred trees.

"It's horrifying. I've never seen 52 years and I've never here anything come close to that," said Richard Olsten, a helicopter pilot for a tour company. "We had tears in our eyes."

About 14,500 customers in Maui were without power early Wednesday. With cell service and phone lines down in some areas, many people were struggling to check in with friends and family members living near the wildfires. Some were posting messages on social media.

Tiare Lawrence was frantically trying to reach her siblings who live near where a gas station exploded in Lahaina.

"There's no service, so we can't get ahold of anyone," she said from the Maui community of Pukalani.

Maj Gen Kenneth Hara, from the Hawaii State Department of Defence, told reporters Wednesday night that officials were working to get communications restored, to distribute water, and possibly adding law enforcement personnel. He said National Guard helicopters had dropped 150,000 gallons of water on the Maui fires.

The Coast Guard said it rescued 14 people who jumped into the water to escape flames and smoke, including two children. Among those injured were three people with critical burns who were flown to Oahu, officials said.

Bissen, the Maui County mayor, said at a Wednesday morning news conference that officials hadn't yet begun investigating the immediate cause of the fires, but officials did point to the combination of dry conditions, low humidity and high winds.

HK police arrest 10 linked to overseas activist support

Hong Kong (AP): Hong Kong police on Thursday arrested 10 people on suspicion of endangering national security through their alleged involvement with a now-defunct fund that aimed to help people arrested in 2019 pro-democracy protests, escalating a crackdown on dissidents in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

The four men and six women are suspected of conspiring to collude with the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund to receive overseas donations and provide financial support to people who fled Hong Kong or organisations that called for sanctions against the city, police said. A police statement did not identify the suspects or those alleged to be supported by them. The arrests further intensified the Hong Kong government's crackdown on dissidents after the 2019 protests. More than 260 people have been arrested under a Beijing-imposed national security law, including many of the city's leading pro-democracy activists.

Last year, the fund's former trustees including Roman Catholic Cardinal Joseph Zen, singer Denise Ho and former pro-democracy lawmaker Margaret Ng were arrested under the tough law. Zen's arrest at that time sent shockwaves through the Catholic community.

While they have not yet been charged with national security-related charges, they were fined in a separate case in November for failing to register the fund, which ceased operation in 2021.

Police have stepped up their campaign to target eight overseas-based Hong Kong activists, including former pro-democracy lawmakers Nathan Law, Ted Hui and Dennis Kwok. They accuse the eight of violating the national security law and have offered rewards of 1 million Hong Kong dollars (\$127,600) for information leading to each of their arrests. The bounties are the first under the law, and the authorities' move drew criticism from Western governments. Families of some of the activists have since been questioned by police. Authorities also arrested former members of Demosisto - a now-defunct political party co-founded by Law - on suspicion of supporting overseas activists who allegedly endangered national security.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed that MR. SUNIL KUMRA, s/o Late Mr. Sudhir Kumra, r/o A-25, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi 110060, is NOT AUTHORIZED to take ANY ACTIONS OR DECISIONS involving the PROPERTY bearing the address A-25, NEW RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI, DELHI 110060.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is further informed that the above-addressed property is an UNDIVIDED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY HELD JOINTLY by THREE PARTIES, namely, MR. ASHOK KUMAR KUMRA, MR. DEEPAK KUMRA and LATE MR. SUDHIR KUMRA, and NO ACTION OR DECISION in respect thereof can be taken without the INFORMED, BONAFIDE, WRITTEN & LEGALLY VALID CONSENT of ALL its LEGAL CO-OWNERS, AS FURNISHED ON THE APPROPRIATE LEGAL DOCUMENT(S) DULY SIGNED BEFORE THE LEGALLY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES APPOINTED BY THE STATE.

NOTICE
It is hereby, Informed to the General Public that, M/Ws, Mrs. Bhawna Katyaj, W/o Mr. Sunny Katyaj, R/o Villa No-3, ATS Village, Sector-93A, Noida(UP)-201301, have lost the Original Builder Buyer Agreement, Original Payment Receipt issued by Supertech Limited in respect of Unit bearing no. A1-501 in Supertech Sports Village project, situated at Sector 10, Greater Noida West in Noida on dated 15-05-2023. Any one finding the said documents is requested to kindly return the same to me or to the company.

Office of the Superintending Engineer
3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh
Email : sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 4621/208C-03(Yata 'D')/2023 Dated : 09/08/2023
National Competitive Bidding
E-Request for Proposal
The Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" invites tender for Consultancy Services with Quality and cost based selection system (QCBS) for the following works. The RFQ document will be available from date 24-08-2023 at 5.00 PM onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Preparation of DPR for construction of motor bridge in Tanakpur area of district & assembly Champawat on Kakraligate - Thuligad Bhairav mandir motor road (S.H.108) km 8.00 under Hon. C.M. announcement no. 158/2023 as par departmental S.O.P. under state sector.	1.83	4000.00 + 18% GST	90	06	Registered in State Govt/ Central Govt/ PSU department and Experience with similar bridge design consultancy works

RLF LIMITED
Regd. Office : 14Kms, Gurgaon Pataudi Road, Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt. Gurugram, Haryana.
CIN : L74999HR1979PLC032747, Website: www.rfltd.com,
Email id: investorrelations@rfltd.com, Phone: 011-49075251.
Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2023
(Rs. in Lacs, except per share data)

Sl. No.	Particulars (Refer Notes below)	3 Months Ended 30.06.2023 [Unaudited]	3 Months Ended 31.03.2023 [Audited]	3 Months Ended 30.06.2022 [Unaudited]	Financial Year Ended 31.03.2023 [Audited]
1	Total Income from Operations	15.46	25.27	21.76	96.62
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	(5.37)	(16.83)	(1.30)	(34.16)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	(5.37)	(16.83)	(1.30)	(34.16)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	(5.37)	(260.71)	(1.30)	(278.40)
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
6	Paid-up equity share capital	980.08	980.08	980.08	980.08
7	Earning Per Share of Rs. 10/- each (not annualised)				
	a) Basic	(0.05)	(2.66)	(0.01)	(2.84)
	b) Diluted	(0.05)	(2.66)	(0.01)	(2.84)

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter June 30, 2023 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.rfltd.com.
2. Figures of the above Previous periods have been regrouped/reclassified/ restated wherever necessary.

For RLF Limited
Sd/-
Vikas Grover
Director
Place : Gurugram, Haryana
Dated : 10th August, 2023
DIN : 07075918

MEYER APPAREL LIMITED
CIN:L19101HR1993PLC032010
Regd. Office : 3 & 4, Mustil No. 19, Killa No.-5, opposite Tata Consultancy N.H.-8, Village Narsingh Pur, Gurugram-122004 (Haryana) India
TEL: 91-9953696941, EMAIL: info@meyerapparel.com, WEBSITE: www.meyerapparel.com
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023
(Rs. In Lakh)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended
		June 30, 2023 Unaudited	March 31, 2023 Audited	June 30, 2022 Unaudited	March 31, 2023 Audited
1	Total income from operations	117.85	204.25	128.84	673.04
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(53.21)	(69.29)	(12.52)	(168.38)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(53.21)	(69.29)	(12.52)	(168.38)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(53.21)	(69.29)	(12.52)	(168.38)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Tax) and other Comprehensive income (after Tax)]	(53.14)	(69.35)	(12.37)	(168.82)
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face Value of Rs. 3/- each)	2,426.67	2,426.67	2,426.67	2,426.67
7	Other Equity	-	-	-	-
8	Earnings Per Share (Rs. 3/- each)				
	Basic	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.02)	(0.21)
	Diluted	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.02)	(0.21)

NOTES: 1. These financial results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India. The above financial results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 has been reviewed by the Audit committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 10th August 2023.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of un-audited quarterly financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of unaudited quarterly Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange's website: www.bseindia.com and also on the Company's website, namely: www.meyerapparel.com.

For and on behalf of the Board
Sd/-
(Gajender Kumar Sharma)
Whole Time Director
Place : Gurugram
Dated: 10th August 2023
DIN: 08073521

Biden's order limits US investments in Chinese tech

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden signed an executive order Wednesday to block and regulate high-tech US-based investments going toward China — a move the administration said was targeted but it also reflected an intensifying competition between the world's two biggest powers. The order covers advanced computer chips, micro electronics, quantum information technologies and artificial intelligence. Senior administration officials said that the effort stemmed from national security goals rather than economic interests, and that the categories it covered were intentionally narrow in scope. The order seeks to blunt China's ability to use U.S. investments in its technology companies to upgrade its military while also preserving broader levels of trade that are vital for both nations' economies. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce responded in a statement early Thursday that it has "serious concern" about the order.

Ecuador declares emergency

AP ■ QUITO

The gang-driven violence afflicting Ecuador over the last two years reached an unprecedented level when a presidential candidate known for speaking up against drug cartels and corruption was shot and killed at a political rally in the South American country's capital. The assassination of Fernando Villavicencio in Quito happened Wednesday, less than two weeks before a special presidential election.

He was not a frontrunner, but his killing, which Fernando Villavicencio suggested could be linked to organised crime, furthered a crisis that has already claimed thousands of lives and underscored the deep challenge that the country's officials said that the effort stemmed from national security goals rather than economic interests, and that the categories it covered were intentionally narrow in scope. The order seeks to blunt China's ability to use U.S. investments in its technology companies to upgrade its military while also preserving broader levels of trade that are vital for both nations' economies. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce responded in a statement early Thursday that it has "serious concern" about the order.

Lasso declared three days of national mourning and a state of emergency that involves additional military personnel deployed throughout the country.

"Given the loss of a democrat and a fighter, the elections are not suspended; on the contrary, they have to be held, and democracy has to be strengthened," Lasso said Thursday.

In his final speech before he was killed, Villavicencio, 59, promised a roaring crowd that he would root out corruption and lock up the country's

Russia forces Ukraine to evacuate civilians

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian authorities ordered a mandatory evacuation Thursday of nearly 12,000 civilians from 37 towns and villages in the eastern Kharkiv region, where Russian forces reportedly are making a concerted effort to punch through the front line. The local military administration in Kharkiv's Kupiansk district said residents must comply with the evacuation order or sign a document saying they would stay at their own risk. Ukrainian Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar had said the previous day that "the intensity of combat and enemy shelling is high" in the area.

The city of Kupiansk and the territories around it were under Russian occupation until September 2022, when Ukrainian forces conducted a

rapid offensive operation that dislodged the Kremlin's forces from nearly the entire Kharkiv region.

The retaking of those areas strengthened Ukraine's arguments that its troops could deliver more stinging defeats to Russia with additional armament deliveries, which its Western allies duly provided. But as Ukraine has pursued a slow-moving counteroffensive in recent weeks, Russian forces have struck back in some areas. Maliar said Russia "has formed an offensive group and is attempting to move forward" in the area in an effort to advance on the Ukrainian-held city of Kupiansk, an important rail junction. It was not possible to independently verify either side's battlefield claims. Earlier Thursday, Russian air defence

systems on Thursday shot down two drones heading toward Moscow for a second straight day, officials said.

The reported attack disrupted flights at two international airports as Ukraine appeared to step up its assault on Russian soil. One drone was downed in the Kaluga region southwest of Moscow and another near a major Moscow ring road, according to Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyannin and the Russian Defense Ministry, which blamed the attack on Ukraine.

No casualties or damage were immediately reported.

Domodedovo airport, south of the city, halted flights for more than two hours and Vnukovo airport, southwest of the city, stopped flights for more than two and a half hours, according to Russian news agencies.

Putin profits off from western reliance on Russian nuclear fuel

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US and its European allies are importing vast amounts of nuclear fuel and compounds from Russia, providing Moscow with hundreds of millions of dollars in badly needed revenue as it wages war on Ukraine. The sales, which are legal and un sanctioned, have raised alarms from non-proliferation experts and elected officials who say the imports are helping to bankroll the development of Moscow's nuclear arsenal and are complicating efforts to curtail Russia's war-making abilities.

The dependence on Russian nuclear products — used mostly to fuel civilian reactors — leaves the U.S. and its allies open to energy shortages if Russian President Vladimir Putin were to cut off supplies. The challenge is likely to grow more intense as those nations seek to boost production of emissions-free electricity to combat climate change. "We have to give money to the people who make weapons? That's absurd," said Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Washington-based Nonproliferation Policy Education Center. "If there isn't a clear rule that prevents nuclear

power providers from importing fuel from Russia — and it's cheaper to get it from there — why wouldn't they do it?"

Russia sold about USD 1.7 billion in nuclear products to firms in the U.S. and Europe, according to trade data and experts. The purchases occurred as the West has leveled stiff sanctions on Moscow over its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, blocking imports of such Russian staples as oil, gas, vodka and caviar.

The West has been reluctant to target Russia's nuclear exports, however, because they play key roles in keeping reactors humming. Russia supplied the US nuclear industry with about 12 per cent of its uranium last year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Europe reported getting about 17 per cent of its uranium in 2022 from Russia. Reliance on nuclear power is expected to grow as nations embrace alternatives to fossil fuels. Nuclear power plants produce no emissions, though experts warn that nuclear energy comes with the risk of reactor meltdowns and the challenge of how to safely store radioactive waste.

MOULIN COMMERCIAL LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1982PLC087811
Regd. Off.: 1, Anand Gram, Aya Nagar, Mehrauli, Gurgaon Road, New Delhi-110047
Corporate Office: Unit No. 1118, 11th Floor, Vastika Towers, Tower-B Golf Course Road, Sector-54 Gurugram HR-122002 IN
E-Mail: info@vinygroup.com Telephone No.: 91-124-4301035 Website: www.moulin.co.in
Statement of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the first Quarter & Three Months ended 30th June, 2023
(Rs. in Lacs except per share data)

Particular	Quarter ended		For the year ended 31.03.2023
	30.06.2023 [Unaudited]	31.03.2023 [Audited]	
Total Income from Operations	16.97	6.31	74.12
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.25	-6.87	14.17
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.25	-6.87	14.17
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.25	-4.95	11.88
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	0.62	-0.74	-0.21
Paid up Equity Share Capital (of Rs. 10/- each) per previous acc. Year	57.30	57.30	57.30
Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves (As per previous acc. Year)	197.17		197.52
Earnings Per Share (for continuing and discontinued operations)-			
1. Basic	0.15	-0.99	2.04
2. Diluted:			

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Unaudited Financial Results for the first Quarter & Three Months ended 30th June, 2023 filed with the CSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results for the first Quarter & Three Months ended 30th June, 2023 is available on the CSE website (<https://www.cse-india.com/>) and Company's website (www.moulin.co.in).
2. The above unaudited financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 10th August, 2023.

For MOULIN COMMERCIAL LIMITED
Sd/-
ASHISH GUPTA
(MANAGING DIRECTOR)
DIN: 09115090

Place: New Delhi
Date: 10.08.2023

APPENDIX-IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")**, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 29.08.2023 at 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of **Rs. 36,43,708/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Eight only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HHLNO00290613**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **07.08.2023** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 08.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **Mohammad Mubarak and Nasibun Nisha**.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,20,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. S4 (M. I. G.), (BACK LEFT HAND SIDE) HAVING SUPER COVERED AREA OF 600 SQUARE FEET EQUIVALENT TO 55.74 SQUARE METERS ON 2ND FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) SITUATED ON RESIDENTIAL PLOT NO. C - 1/105, BLOCK C - 1 IN D. L. F. DILSHAD EXTENSION - II, VILLAGE BRAHMPUR ALIAS BHOPURA, PARGANA LONI, TEHSIL & DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD - 201001, UTTAR PRADESH.
PLOT NO. C - 1/105 IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:-
EAST : PLOT NO. C - 1/104 NORTH : 30 FEET WIDE ROAD
WEST : PLOT NO. C - 1/106 SOUTH : ANOTHER'S PLOT
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 09.08.2023
Place : GHAZIABAD

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Russia forces Ukraine to evacuate civilians

Ukrainian authorities ordered a mandatory evacuation Thursday of nearly 12,000 civilians from 37 towns and villages in the eastern Kharkiv region, where Russian forces reportedly are making a concerted effort to punch through the front line. The local military administration in Kharkiv's Kupiansk district said residents must comply with the evacuation order or sign a document saying they would stay at their own risk. Ukrainian Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar had said the previous day that "the intensity of combat and enemy shelling is high" in the area.

The city of Kupiansk and the territories around it were under Russian occupation until September 2022, when Ukrainian forces conducted a rapid offensive operation that dislodged the Kremlin's forces from nearly the entire Kharkiv region.

The retaking of those areas strengthened Ukraine's arguments that its troops could deliver more stinging defeats to Russia with additional armament deliveries, which its Western allies duly provided. But as Ukraine has pursued a slow-moving counteroffensive in recent weeks, Russian forces have struck back in some areas. Maliar said Russia "has formed an offensive group and is attempting to move forward" in the area in an effort to advance on the Ukrainian-held city of Kupiansk, an important rail junction. It was not possible to independently verify either side's battlefield claims. Earlier Thursday, Russian air defence systems on Thursday shot down two drones heading toward Moscow for a second straight day, officials said.

The reported attack disrupted flights at two international airports as Ukraine appeared to step up its assault on Russian soil. One drone was downed in the Kaluga region southwest of Moscow and another near a major Moscow ring road, according to Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyannin and the Russian Defense Ministry, which blamed the attack on Ukraine.

No casualties or damage were immediately reported.

Domodedovo airport, south of the city, halted flights for more than two hours and Vnukovo airport, southwest of the city, stopped flights for more than two and a half hours, according to Russian news agencies.

Putin profits off from western reliance on Russian nuclear fuel

The US and its European allies are importing vast amounts of nuclear fuel and compounds from Russia, providing Moscow with hundreds of millions of dollars in badly needed revenue as it wages war on Ukraine. The sales, which are legal and un sanctioned, have raised alarms from non-proliferation experts and elected officials who say the imports are helping to bankroll the development of Moscow's nuclear arsenal and are complicating efforts to curtail Russia's war-making abilities.

The dependence on Russian nuclear products — used mostly to fuel civilian reactors — leaves the U.S. and its allies open to energy shortages if Russian President Vladimir Putin were to cut off supplies. The challenge is likely to grow more intense as those nations seek to boost production of emissions-free electricity to combat climate change. "We have to give money to the people who make weapons? That's absurd," said Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Washington-based Nonproliferation Policy Education Center. "If there isn't a clear rule that prevents nuclear power providers from importing fuel from Russia — and it's cheaper to get it from there — why wouldn't they do it?"

Russia sold about USD 1.7 billion in nuclear products to firms in the U.S. and Europe, according to trade data and experts. The purchases occurred as the West has leveled stiff sanctions on Moscow over its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, blocking imports of such Russian staples as oil, gas, vodka and caviar.

The West has been reluctant to target Russia's nuclear exports, however, because they play key roles in keeping reactors humming. Russia supplied the US nuclear industry with about 12 per cent of its uranium last year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Europe reported getting about 17 per cent of its uranium in 2022 from Russia. Reliance on nuclear power is expected to grow as nations embrace alternatives to fossil fuels. Nuclear power plants produce no emissions, though experts warn that nuclear energy comes with the risk of reactor meltdowns and the challenge of how to safely store radioactive waste.

Pakistan NA dissolved

PM Sharif holds talks with Oppn leader for caretaker premier

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan President Arif Alvi formally dissolved the National Assembly three days ahead of its mandated period following which outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held formal consultations with the Leader of the Opposition on Thursday over the nomination for a caretaker premier to conduct the general elections later this year.

Sharif will continue to perform his duties as the premier until the appointment of a caretaker prime minister. A notification issued by the Presidential Palace on Wednesday late night said the National Assembly was dissolved under Article 58 of the Constitution.

According to Article 58, if the President fails to dissolve the assembly within 48 hours after the Prime Minister has recommended so, the assembly automatically stands dissolved. "The Prime Minister's advice at para 6 of the summary is approved," President Alvi said in a statement.

"President Dr Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly. The President dissolved the National Assembly on the advice of the Prime Minister under Article 58-1 of the Constitution," his office posted on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

On Thursday, Sharif held a formal round of consultation with the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Raja Riaz over the nomination for the caretaker premier at the Prime Minister's House. They have three days as per the Constitution to finalise a name for the caretaker prime minister. When asked about any names from his side for nomination, Riaz said, "I bear three names in mind."

According to local media reports, three names have been proposed, including two nom-

Imran's party to observe 'Thanksgiving Day' as PDM govt bows out

Islamabad (PTI): Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party is observing Thursday as "Thanksgiving and Salvation Day" as the 16-month tenure of the ruling Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government ended.

President Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly on Wednesday night on the recommendation of outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, marking an end to the current government's tenure three days ahead of its mandated period. Sharif will continue to perform his duties as the premier until the appointment of a caretaker prime minister.

The notification for the dissolution of the assembly issued by the Presidential Palace said the National Assembly was dissolved under Article 58 of the Constitution. With the National Assembly dissolved, former

prime minister Khan's party PTI announced on Wednesday that it will observe August 10 (Thursday) as "Thanksgiving and Salvation Day", Geo News reported. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the PTI core committee decided to commemorate the day, as the 16-month tenure of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government will end tonight. The PDM alliance replaced the government of Khan in April last year.

The PTI has decided to put forth a detailed analysis of the "devastation" caused by the PDM-led incompetent government before the nation, read the statement. The former ruling party will inform the masses about censorship of media and repression against journalists, it added. Details related to skyrocketing inflation and economic disaster will also be brought before the nation, the statement said.

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will pick the caretaker prime minister within two days from the names proposed by the opposition and the government.

The move to dissolve the NA came as former premier Imran Khan is fighting to overturn a corruption conviction. Khan, 70, was sentenced to three years in prison by an Islamabad trial court on Saturday in the Toshakhana corruption case for unlawfully selling state gifts during his tenure as prime minister from 2018 to 2022. He was subsequently arrested by the Punjab police from his residence in Lahore. Khan, who is currently lodged in the Attock Jail, appealed his conviction and the three-year prison sentence in the case by filing a plea through his lawyers at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday.

Riaz, a dissident leader of PTI, is considered close to PML-N and PPP and is expected not to make a show and support the government candidate. But if the prime minister and opposition leader fail to agree on a name, the matter would be referred to a committee formed by the NA Speaker that is supposed to finalise a name for the interim premier within three days.

If it too fails to reach a consensus on the name, then the

prime minister Khan's party PTI announced on Wednesday that it will observe August 10 (Thursday) as "Thanksgiving and Salvation Day", Geo News reported. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the PTI core committee decided to commemorate the day, as the 16-month tenure of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government will end tonight. The PDM alliance replaced the government of Khan in April last year.

The PTI has decided to put forth a detailed analysis of the "devastation" caused by the PDM-led incompetent government before the nation, read the statement. The former ruling party will inform the masses about censorship of media and repression against journalists, it added. Details related to skyrocketing inflation and economic disaster will also be brought before the nation, the statement said.

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will pick the caretaker prime minister within two days from the names proposed by the opposition and the government.

The move to dissolve the NA came as former premier Imran Khan is fighting to overturn a corruption conviction. Khan, 70, was sentenced to three years in prison by an Islamabad trial court on Saturday in the Toshakhana corruption case for unlawfully selling state gifts during his tenure as prime minister from 2018 to 2022. He was subsequently arrested by the Punjab police from his residence in Lahore. Khan, who is currently lodged in the Attock Jail, appealed his conviction and the three-year prison sentence in the case by filing a plea through his lawyers at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday.

Riaz, a dissident leader of PTI, is considered close to PML-N and PPP and is expected not to make a show and support the government candidate. But if the prime minister and opposition leader fail to agree on a name, the matter would be referred to a committee formed by the NA Speaker that is supposed to finalise a name for the interim premier within three days.

If it too fails to reach a consensus on the name, then the

CONTROVERSIAL DIPLOMATIC CABLE

Shehbaz: Massive crime, moment of shame if report true

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said if the news report by an American publication claiming to contain the evidence of a US conspiracy to topple Imran Khan's government last year is true, then it was tantamount to a "massive crime" and "would have been a moment of shame". Sharif was referring to a report published in The Intercept, an online US-based news organisation, which claimed to have obtained the "secret" diplomatic cable that, according to former prime minister Khan, led to the fall of his government in April last year.

Khan, 70, is currently serving a three-year jail term after he was sentenced by a court in a corruption case last week.

The purported cipher (secret diplomatic cable) contained an account of a meeting between US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and Pakistani envoy Asad Majeed Khan. In an interview with WE News, Sharif said, "If god forbid this government had come from a US conspiracy, then it would have been a moment of shame for us." "If the contents of the cipher are published (in the international newspaper), and are true, then it is a massive crime," Sharif, who recommended the dissolution of

Pakistan's National Assembly on Wednesday night, added. The outgoing prime minister said two meetings of the National Security Committee were held on the cipher issue under his leadership. In one of the meetings, former ambassador and Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed clearly stated that there was no discussion of a conspiracy in his meeting with the senior US diplomat Lu. He said former army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and other service chiefs also confirmed that there was no conspiracy against Pakistan, adding that Majeed too had stated that there was no question of a conspiracy at all.

Sharif underlined that Khan had said that the conspiracy to topple his government was hatched because of his growing relations with Russia, "then how could we get oil from Russia?"

Sharif reiterated that Khan's allegations were a "bunch of lies" from "head to toe" and there was no reality in them. Earlier in the day, outgoing Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah called for a probe to determine the authenticity of the source document used in The Intercept report.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Sanjay Malik is in process to purchase the janta flat no. 08 measuring 18 sqm in blk-G, pvt-8, sec-16 rohin, delhi by availing HL with the Suryodaya Small Finance Bank from Kashish media, who purchased the said property by virtue of sale deed dated 15/09/2017 (document no. 8363), whereas she has lost the following original deeds pertaining the said property, online FIR has already been lodged in lieu of that on dated 9/8/2023. 1. Original conveyance deed dated 24/8/07 executed by 03A in favour of harsh vardaan showary and nutan showary (document no. 16252) 2. Original sale deed dated 17/10/2007 executed by harsh vardaan showary and nutan showary in favour of niceer jahan (document no. 14959) 3. Original sale deed dated 10/3/2008 executed by devesh jaggan in favour of pawan garg (document no. 4053) 4. Original sale deed dated 26/8/2010 executed by pawan garg in favour of vikrant Sharma and vijender kumar (document no. 19539) All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, lease, tenancy, or otherwise, gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the said person in writing to us with supporting documents of 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) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb, U.P., Mob. 9810063351

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
 TD/TP/OPN/PLT/150/1659, Date: 07.08.2023
 Name of the Work: "Allotment of vacant halls (02 nos) at 2nd floor of newly constructed building near Gate-3 inside Port Prohibited area on Annual Premium Basis." Annual Premium: Rs. 43,63,288/- Period of allotment: 5 years. Last Date & time of submission of bid: 28.08.2023 upto 17:00 Hrs. Date and time of opening (technical bid): 29.08.2023 at 16:00 hrs. Refer our Website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app & http://paradipport.gov.in/ Sd/-Traffic Manager Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/39/2023-24 dtd.10.08.2023

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.EIM/PE/26/2023
 No.EIM/PE/TECH-12/2023/291 DT.08.08.2023
 Name of the Work: "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 6 nos. High Mast Lighting Towers for stadium lighting at Gopabandhu Kreedasansad, Paradip Port. Estimated cost: Rs. 1,32,24,428/- Last date & time of submission of bid: dt. 29.08.2023 upto 17:00 hrs. Refer our Website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/- Executive Engineer(E), (PEP-III) Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/40/2023-24 dtd.10.08.2023

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD, SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR
BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR REQUIREMENT OF D.I. PIPE FOR THE YEAR 2023 (part-III)
 GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery D.I. pipes of 500 mm K-7 class with ISI Mark 26520 Mtr. Estimate amt. Rs. 1715.88 Lacs (without GST) from approved vendor of GWSSB only. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website. https://www.nprocure.com The last date of submission of online tender is 21.08.2023 No/INF/VPN/2023/G/1038

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
 E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd. [CIN : U65993DL2002PLC115769] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", and "whatever there is" basis on 29.08.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. for recovery of Rs. 50,09,378/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Eight only), pending towards the Loan Account No. D0712XII (Old Loan Account No. HHLN00278931) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 07.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 08.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from MR. DEEPAK GOPAL, MRS. RITU VARSHNEY, M/S. QUALITY ENVIRO ENGINEERS (THROUGH PARTNER) and MR. DEVENDER SINGH. The old Loan Account along with its underlying security(ies), including the Immovable Property, had been assigned by Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. to Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd. ("IARCL") vide Assignment Agreement dated 31.12.2019. The said Loan Account has been further assigned by IARCL to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting as a Trustee of ACRE-102-Trust vide Assignment Agreement dated 26.04.2021 read with Rectification Deed dated 26.08.2021. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 37,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 3,70,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY PROPERTY BEING FLAT NO. H-003, MEASURING (95.41 SQ. MTR.) 1027 SQ. FEET, AT GROUND FLOOR, TOWER-"H", IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS "STELLAR JEEVAN", PLOT NO. GH-03, SECTOR-1, GREATER NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH -201307, ALONGWITH ONE STILL - SINGLE CAR PARKING. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.acreindia.in; For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in Sd/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER Date : 07.08.2023 ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD. Place : GREATER NOIDA TRUSTEE OF ACRE-102-TRUST

Kim calls for military to sharpen war plans

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his military to sharpen its war plans and signed off on expanding combat operations of frontline units, state media said Thursday, as the United States and South Korea prepare for a large-scale combined military exercise.

Condemning the allies' expanding drills as an invasion rehearsal, Kim has used them as a pretext to further accelerate his weapons demonstrations, which have included the testing-firings of more than 100 missiles since the start of 2022, driving tensions on the Korean Peninsula to their highest point in years.

Experts say Kim's nuclear push is aimed at forcing the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power so he can eventually negotiate economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

Thursday's meeting of the North Korean ruling Workers' Party's central military commission, which Kim controls as chairman, was to discuss advancing his military's war readiness and establishing offensive countermeasure plans to deter his adversaries,

which state media said were getting more blatant in their "reckless military confrontation" with the North.

After talks of boosting North Korean frontline units and stepping up war drills to incorporate new strategies and weapons, Kim signed an order to implement unspecified "important military measures," Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said. During the meeting, Kim stressed that the military must acquire "more powerful strike means" to bolster his nuclear deterrent and make speedier deployments of those weapons to combat units. He called for the country's munitions industry to step up mass production of various weapons and systems, and for the military to actively conduct "actual war drills" to digest those systems and enhance its war-fighting capabilities, KCNA said.

Photos of the meeting published by state media showed Kim pointing to spots in a blurred map of the Korean Peninsula. The spots appeared to be the metropolitan region surrounding the South Korean capital of Seoul, where half of the country's 51 million people live, and an area around the central city of Daejeon, the

location of South Korea's army headquarters. Kim also made personnel changes during the meeting, appointing Vice Marshal Ri Yong Gil as his new chief of general staff to replace Gen. Pak Su Il, KCNA said. When asked about Kim's comments, Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a briefing that the U.S. and South Korean intelligence authorities were closely monitoring North Korean weapons development activities and possibilities of provocations. He did not discuss it further.

Kim's comments during the meeting echoed what he said last week during a three-day tour of the country's key weapons factories, including a facility that produces launcher trucks for his intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the U.S. mainland, and called for significant improvements to the country's arms and war readiness. Kim's visits also included an artillery factory that deepened outside concerns that North Korea was preparing to export artillery and other arms supplies to Russia as President Vladimir Putin reaches out to other countries for support in the war in Ukraine.

NOTICE
 It is hereby, informed to the General Public that, I/we, Mr. Sunny Katyal S/o Ramesh Chand Katyal, R/o Villa No-3, ATS Village, Sector-93A, Noida(UP)-201301, have lost the Original Provisional Allotment Letter, Original Payment Receipt issued by Jaiprakash Associates Limited in respect of Unit bearing no. KM00670901 in Kosmos project, situated at Jaypee Greens, Noida/ Greater Noida/ Sports city on dated 07-10-2018. Any one finding the said documents is requested to kindly return the same to me or to the company. Name- Mr. Sunny Katyal Address: - Villa No-3, ATS Village, Sector-93A, Noida (UP)-201301 Phone No.: -9717460000 Email Id:-ic.sunnykatyal@gmail.com

NOTICE
 It is hereby, informed to the General Public that, I/we, Applicant Mr. Gyan Prakash Tayal S/o Sunder Lal Tayal, R/o A-179, Opp. Cross River Mall Surajmal Vihar East Delhi, Delhi-110092, jointly with Mr. Rakesh Kumar Tayal, we lost the Original Provisional Allotment Letter, Original Payment Receipts and Offer of Possession issued by Jaiprakash Associates Limited in respect of Unit bearing no. F-016 in Country Homes, situated at Jaypee Greens Sports City project, Gautam Budh Nagar on dated 25-05-2023. Any one finding the said documents is requested to kindly return the same to me or to the company. Name- Mr. Gyan Prakash Tayal & Mr. Rakesh Kumar Tayal Address: - A-179, Opp. Cross River Mall Surajmal Vihar East Delhi, Delhi-110092. Phone No.: -9871631126

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (GMVN)
 GMVN Ltd (A Govt. of U.K. undertaking) intends to provide its (C+5) institutional building (Total Area -20495.00 Sqft.) situated at C-50 sector-62, Noida, U.P. pin code 201301 on long term lease/rental basis. Proposals are invited from MNC/Govt./Semi Govt./ Commercial organization for all/ separate floors. Interested parties may submit their proposal on www.uktenders.gov.in through on line mode upto 25.08.2023. Managing Director, GMVN reserves the right to cancel any/all proposal. Terms & condition may be seen on www.uktenders.gov.in from 11.08.2023 at 5.00PM. General Manager (T)

Rungta Irrigation Limited
 Regd. Office: 101, Pragati Tower 26, Rajendra Place, New Delhi 110008
 Tel: 011-40453330,31,32, E-mail: cs@rungtairrigation.in, Website: www.rungtairrigation.in
 CIN: L74899DL1986PLC023934

Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30-06-2023
 (Rs. in Lakhs, Unless Otherwise Stated)

S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter ended			Year Ended	
		30/06/2023 Unaudited	31/03/2023 Unaudited	30/06/2022 Unaudited		31/03/2023 Audited
1.	Total income from operations	2658.64	4532.64	2135.60	13192.49	
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	264.55	137.06	60.66	400.91	
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	264.55	137.06	60.66	400.91	
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	198.05	100.94	45.74	298.32	
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	197.92	100.38	45.47	298.02	
6.	Equity Share Capital	1990.64	1659.52	885.61	1659.52	
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	
8.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -	1. Basic:	1.57	2.93	0.52	2.93
		2. Diluted:	1.57	2.93	0.52	2.93

The above financial results have been reviewed by the audit committee and taken on record by the board of directors in its meeting held on 09th August, 2023. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full formats of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com

For Rungta Irrigation Limited
 Sd/-
 Shrutu Rungta
 Executive Director | DIN:00229045
 Place: New Delhi
 Date : 09/08/2023

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED
 Regd. office. 18th KM Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road, NH24, Village-Amhera, Distt: J.P.NAGAR-244102, U.P.
 CIN-L17291UP1979PLC004804
 PH: 8791001430, 9760091983 Email:info@prakashwoollen.com, Website: www.prakashwoollen.com

Extract of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter Ended 30/06/2023
 (Rs in lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter ending (30/06/2023)	Peceding 3 months ended (31.03.2023)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (30/06/2022)	Previous year ended (31.03.2023)
Total income from operations (net)	1640.32	1511.46	2178.88	10371.96
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax and Exceptional items	(16.50)	20.77	(169.34)	(515.75)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax and after Exceptional items	(16.50)	20.77	(169.34)	(515.75)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax and Exceptional items	(66.10)	21.77	(165.75)	(503.90)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(66.10)	26.84	(165.75)	(498.83)
Equity Share Capital (Face value Rs 10 each)	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98
Other equity	-	-	-	3689.54
Earnings per share for discontinued & continuing operations (of Rs. 10/- each):				
(a) Basic	(0.64)	0.21	(1.62)	(4.91)
(b) Diluted	(0.64)	0.21	(1.62)	(4.91)

Notes:
 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Unaudited Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.prakashwoollen.com)

Place : Village Amhera (Amroha)
 Date : 10-08-2023

By Order of The Board
 For Prakash Woollen & Synthetic Mills Limited
 Sd/-
 Vijay Kumar Gupta
 Whole Time Director & CFO
 DIN: 0035325

Niger: Options few as military junta defies mediation

AP ■ NIAMEY

West African heads of state began meeting Thursday on next steps after Niger's military junta defied their deadline to reinstate the nation's deposed president, but analysts say the bloc known as ECOWAS may be running out of options as support fades for a military intervention.

Nine of the 11 heads of state expected to attend resumed crucial talks at the ECOWAS summit in neighbouring Nigeria.

They include the presidents of Senegal, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Togo, Benin, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. The non-ECOWAS leaders of Mauritania and Burundi are also at the closed-door meeting. As Niger's junta turns away most efforts at mediation, one analyst asserted that Russian meddling in the country has spiked in the two weeks since mutinous soldiers overthrew democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum, who has refused to step down and is under house arrest.

The junta announced a new government on Wednesday night. More than half of the 21 positions were filled by civilians. The rest were military appointments. Niger was seen as the last country in the Sahel region south of the Sahara Desert that Western nations could partner with to counter jihadi violence linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group that has killed thousands and displaced millions of people.

The international community is scrambling to find a peaceful solution to the country's leadership crisis.

"Let me tell you, any coup that has succeeded beyond 24 hours has come to stay. So, as it is, they are speaking from the point of strength and advantage," Oladeinde Ariyo, a security analyst in neighbouring Nigeria, said. "So, negotiating with them will have to be on their terms."

Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is leading the ECOWAS push. On Wednesday,

a Nigerian delegation led by the Emir of Kano, Khalifa Muhammad Sanusi, met the junta's leader, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani. The Emir was one of few people allowed to meet Tchiani. Acting US Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland met with the coup leaders earlier this week but was denied access to both Tchiani and Bazoum. A separate delegation comprised of ECOWAS, the United Nations and the African Union was barred from coming at all.

West Africa's regional bloc has failed to stem past coups throughout the region. Niger is the fourth country in the 15-member state bloc to have experienced a coup in the last three years. The bloc imposed harsh economic and travel sanctions and threatened to use military force if Bazoum was not reinstated by Sunday, a deadline the junta ignored. There is no indication the coup leaders are willing to budge on reinstating Bazoum, who says he is being held hostage in his residence with his wife and son.

An advisor to Bazoum who was not authorised to speak about the situation due to the sensitivity of it told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the family is without water and electricity and subsisting on rice and canned goods because food is running out.

UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said he was very concerned about reports of the "deplorable living conditions" Bazoum and his family were in and called for the president's immediate release.

But as the junta becomes more entrenched, the options for negotiations are becoming limited, said Andrew Lebovich, a research fellow with the Clingendael Institute. "It's very difficult to say what might come out of it, but the fact that the initial deadline passed without intervention and that the (junta) has continued to hold a fairly firm line, indicate that they think they can outlast this pressure," he said.

Jail term for owning LGBTQ+ Swatch in Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur (AP): Malaysia's government said Thursday that all Swatch products that contain lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer elements — including watches, wrappers and boxes — were banned, warning that anyone found with one could be jailed for up to three years.

The ban has been published in the Federal Gazette — which makes it official — as part of a printing law that includes distribution and possession, citing concerns that such products were detrimental to the nation's morality, Malaysia, which is predominantly Muslim, already criminalizes same-sex relationships, with punishments ranging from caning under Islamic laws to 20 years in prison for sodomy under colonial-era civil laws. In May, authorities raided Swatch stores and confiscated more than 160 watches from its Pride Collection. Some of the watches have rainbow colours while others are in a choice of six single colours that correlate to the gay pride flag, with two rainbow loops on their straps.

Swatch contested allegations that the watches were harmful, saying they carried a message of peace and love. The Swiss watchmaking company has sued the government for damages and for the return of the watches. The Home Ministry statement said the products are "detrimental, or possibly detrimental, to morality, public interest and national interest by promoting, supporting and normalising the LGBTQ+ movement which is not accepted by the general public." Anyone found in possession of such Swatch products face up to three years in jail or a fine of up to 20,000 ringgit (\$4,375), it warned.

In July, the government cut short a music festival in Kuala Lumpur after the lead singer of British band The 1975 kissed a male bandmate during their performance in protest of the country's anti-gay laws.

Redouble recovery efforts, RBI deputy Gov asks banks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Swaminathan J on Thursday asked banks to double down on recovery efforts to limit the losses from the write-off of loans, saying it will help them post higher profits.

The career commercial banker who recently joined the regulator also added that a bank's ability to recover or a borrower's liability to repay does not diminish with a loan write-off and recoveries can help a lender post higher profits. Earlier this week, the government informed Parliament that over Rs 14.56 lakh crore of advances were written-off by banks since FY15.

"We would like the banks to redouble their efforts because these are accounts that are parked in a special account and we would like to see more and more recoveries," Swaminathan told reporters at the central bank headquarters here.

Saying that there is a need to get the "context right" in this matter, he offered some nuances and stressed that there is a need to



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das with Deputy Governors Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, Swaminathan Janakiraman and Rabi Shankar arrives to address a Press conference on monetary policy statement, at the RBI headquarters in Mumbai

be "guarded" in "passing judgements".

The DG said an NPA account, which is over 4-5 years old will typically have witnessed a diminishing of the realizable value of the securities and one has to look at the age of the NPA and the availability or absence of underlying security.

Swaminathan said banks make a provision against a dud asset and at the time of a write-off the provisions have to equal the outstandings in an account.

For the purpose of tax efficiency and as part of the overall balance sheet management, such loans which are written-off go into a special account outside the balance sheet of a bank, he said, adding that this is what banks refer to as a "technical write-off", and the same happens as per a board-approved policy.

Meanwhile, Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao also said that the regulator has not decided on a timeframe by when it intends to make the banks switch to the expected credit loss (ECL) system of provisioning and the same will take some time.

Markets fall post RBI monetary policy decision

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices declined on Thursday post the RBI monetary policy, dragged down by banking counters, after the unexpected announcement of reducing cash in the financial system.

Investors also remained on the sidelines ahead of the US inflation data announcement.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday left its key interest rates unchanged for a third straight meeting but signalled tighter policy if food prices drive inflation higher.

The monetary policy committee, which has three members from the central bank and a similar number of external members, held the benchmark repurchase rate (repo) at 6.50 per cent in a unanimous decision.

It retained the stance on "withdrawal of accommodation" but Governor Shaktikanta Das sounded hawkish when he highlighted that headline inflation needs to subside sustainably below 4 per cent and any surge in the inflation print, if continued for a longer period, may necessitate fresh action.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 307.63 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 65,688.18. During the day, it tanked 486.67 points or 0.73 per cent to 65,509.14.

The NSE Nifty declined 89.45 points or 0.46 per cent to end at 19,543.10.

"RBI kept the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent with a stance 'withdrawal of accommodation' while supporting growth. The market participants would have ideally wanted a less hawkish undertone but



the governor sounded cautious in his address," said Srikanth Subramanian, CEO, Kotak Cherry.

From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Nestle, Tata Motors, HDFC Bank, HCL Technologies, Maruti and Hindustan Unilever were the major laggards.

IndusInd Bank, JSW Steel, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra and Power Grid were among the gainers.

"While RBI's status quo on interest rate didn't come as a surprise, the MPC's cautious tone and no signal of any rate cut by this year end hurt the market sentiment. Inflation continues to be the key concern area and the RBI remaining watchful of the developments in key global economies indicates that investors' appetite for equities will be measured in the near to medium term. Also, investors kept a low profile ahead of the US inflation data to be released later today," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.15 per cent and midcap index fell 0.09 per cent. Among the indices, telecommunication declined by 1.05 per cent, FMCG fell by 0.88 per cent, bankex (0.81 per cent), financial services (0.61 per cent), IT (0.33 per cent), realty (0.25 per cent), teck (0.19 per cent) and commodities (0.18 per cent).

Energy, utilities, consumer durables, metal and power were among the gainers.

The hawkish stance was also reinforced by the unexpected announcement of reducing the cash in the banking system by raising the incremental cash reserve ratio (ICRR) to 10 per cent on the incremental NDTL (net demand and time liabilities) over the last 3 months. This will help in absorbing a large part of the excess liquidity created through the return of the Rs 2,000 notes and the large dividend to the government from RBI.

"The stock market was taken by surprise by RBI's action to remove excess liquidity from the system, due to the influx of

Rs 2,000 bank notes, among other factors," Amar Ambani, Group President & Head — Institutional Equities, YES Securities (India) Limited, said.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green, while Seoul ended lower.

European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended in the negative territory on Wednesday.

"Inflation concerns have resurfaced in the domestic market after the RBI elevated their CPI forecast by 30 basis points to 5.4 per cent, thereby increasing the chances of a protracted rate cut trajectory. Furthermore, the RBI's move to control liquidity through incremental CRR dented the sentiments of the banking sector, although the impact is projected to be limited."

"Against this backdrop, investors will be closely watching the US inflation print today and the domestic inflation data on Monday," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Wednesday after continuous offloading of equities for the past several days. They bought equities worth Rs 644.11 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.05 per cent to USD 87.59 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark had climbed 149.31 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 65,995.81 on Wednesday. The Nifty gained 61.70 points or 0.32 per cent to end at 19,632.55.



Tagging genuine exporter as 'risky' to hurt exports; set up committee to look into issues: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tagging a genuine exporter as "risky" will hurt India's exports and an inter-ministerial committee comprising representatives from finance and commerce ministries is required to consider all aspects before branding them under this category, a report said on Thursday.

Exporters are identified as "risky" based on specific risk indicators based on customs, GST (Goods and Services Tax), income tax and DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) data. The identified risky exporters' information is shared with the central GST formations for physical and financial verification.

Economic think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBITC) has announced procedures for handling such cases yet no timeline is adhered to.

The legitimate exporters bear the brunt due to the prolonged verification process and excessive documentation requirements before the issue is sorted, it said.

It claimed that the government has declared many genuine firms with substantial export performance as "risky" exporters and stopped payment of their dues and makes them follow "lengthy" customs procedures.

"This demoralises genuine firms and will dissuade them from exporting," GTRI Co-founder Ajay Srivastava said.

The rule is implemented by the CBITC whose drive to catch firms doing fake GST transactions ended up hurting many genuine exporters, the report said. While the government is making plans for USD 2 trillion in exports, the issues at the field level need more sensitivity in handling.

"CBITC brands many exporters as risky exporters even though they never had any

direct business transactions with the alleged fraudsters," the report alleged.

Citing an example to explain the CBITC process, it said firm 'A' does business with firm 'B' and entity 'B' does business with company 'C', which is also an exporter. If CBITC suspects any wrongdoing by 'A', it may declare 'C' as a risky exporter even if 'C' never did any business with 'A'.

"The steps that follow such branding have the potential to destroy all business of the exporter," Srivastava said.

Once CBITC brands an exporter risky, it stops all refunds for Integrated GST, Drawback, and RODTEP (Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products) and other benefits.

"This starves the firm of most working capital," he said, adding, due to this branding, each consignment of that exporter undergoes exhaustive examination at the CFS (Container Freight Station).

"This results in firm spending more money and time delays. On-time shipments become uncertain. For an exporter handling 20 consignments monthly, significant monetary losses are inevitable. The exporter is unjustly treated as a criminal," he said.

The report also said that less than 10,000 firms contribute to over 90 per cent of India's exports.

"Government must hear them before taking extreme step of branding them as risky exporter. An inter-ministerial committee with representatives from Ministries of Finance, Commerce, and industry may be constituted which should consider all aspects before declaring an exporter as risky. All cases must be reviewed quickly," it said.

Despite no fault of their own, exporters hesitate to complain, fearing future harassment and ineffectual outcomes, it added.

EPFO invested ₹13,017 crore in ETFs during April-July this fiscal: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO has invested Rs 13,017 crore in exchange traded funds (ETFs) in the April-July period of the current fiscal year, Parliament was informed on Thursday.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) invested Rs 53,081 crore in ETFs in 2022-23, Rs 43,568 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 32,071 crore in 2020-21, according to a written reply to the Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameswar Teli.

The EPFO invested Rs 31,501 crore in ETFs in 2019-20 and Rs 27,974 crore in 2018-19, it said.

The minister told the House that the EPFO invests funds as per the investment pattern notified by the government and does not invest directly in individual stocks, including those of any blue-chip company.

"The EPFO invests in equity markets through ETFs, replicating BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 indices. From time to time, EPFO has also invested in ETFs constructed specifically for disinvestment of shareholding of the Government of India in body corporates," he stated.

The total corpus of various funds managed by the EPFO as of March 31, 2022, was Rs 18.30 lakh crore, consisting of 91.30 per cent investment in debt investments (including Public Account of India) and 8.7 per cent in ETFs.

In another reply to the House, Teli said the Code on Social Security, 2020 envisages social security benefits through formulation of schemes for gig and platform workers that can be implemented through EPFO and Employees' State Insurance Corporation, which provide social security benefits to organised sector workers.



Godrej Consumer Products to invest ₹515 cr in TN

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Fast moving consumer goods major Godrej Consumer Products Ltd will invest Rs 515 crore in Tamil Nadu to set up a manufacturing facility and signed a memorandum of understanding with the state government on Thursday.

The company would be setting up their greenfield production unit in neighbouring Chengalpet district to produce body care products, Minister for industries T R B Rajaa said. The employee base at the manufacturing unit would comprise 50 per cent women, members of LGBTQ community and disabled people. "Another feather in the cap of M K Stalin government. FMCG giant Godrej Group would soon start production



Godrej Consumer Products Ltd Executive Chairman Nisaba Godrej with officials.

Chairperson Nisaba Godrej, a true diversity torch bearer, and share ideas for the benefit of both the state and Godrej. Truly amazed at her passion for inclusivity and sustainability, he said in a social media post. At an event at the Secretariat, top officials of Godrej Group exchanged documents with Guidance Tamil Nadu MD and CEO Vishnu in the presence of the Chief Minister Stalin at the Secretariat on Thursday. According to company officials, the facility in Tamil Nadu guarantees access to crucial southern markets and facilitates meeting requirements in neighbouring regions. "We aspire to develop this factory as a light-house unit and strive to be among the first few factories in Tamil Nadu to achieve this recognition," Godrej said.

Hike lays off around 55 people after GST hike on online gaming

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kavin Bharti Mittal-founded Hike, which owns Rush Gaming Universe, has laid off about 55 people — more than one-fifth of its total workforce — to absorb the impact of the GST hike on online gaming, a top company official said on Thursday.

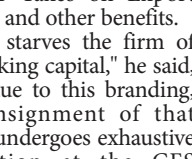
The development comes within a week of gaming unicorn Mobile Premier League (MPL) laying off about half of its India team or close to 350 people to cut down cost burden due to the increase in GST to 28 per cent.

"About 55 people, out of which 24 are non-full-time employees. Closer to 22 per cent. Business is in the best shape ever but this 400 per cent increase in GST is a bazooka pointed at us. We'll need to absorb some of it and as a result the reduction in workforce at Hike/Rush," Hike Founder and CEO Kavin Bharti Mittal said.

The entire team of Hike is engaged in the development of Web 3 gaming platform 'Rush Gaming Universe'.

Investors in Hike include Tencent, Foxconn, Bharti Group, Tribe Capital, Polygon, Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal, serial entrepreneur Bhavin Tura-khia, Cred Founder Kunal Shah.

The gaming platform claims to have 5.2 million monthly active users and distributed over USD 308 million to winners annually. A couple of small-size gaming start-ups like Quizzy have announced to shut down their business.



Non-tariff barriers emerging as potent tool to disrupt legitimate textiles trade: AEPC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) are gradually emerging as a potent tool to damage and even disrupt legitimate textiles trade, apparel export promotion council (AEPC) said on Thursday.

As many as 131 NTB notifications are issued related to the textile sector since 2019 with Uganda at the top position with 71 notifications, it said.

It was followed by Ecuador (10), China (8), Taiwan (7), Israel (5), USA (4), and Peru (3).

These barriers include certifications, inspections, regulations, standards, SPS (sanitary and phyto-sanitary - related with plants and animals) measures, and technical barriers to trade (TBT).

These measures are by and large in conformity with the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). But when these measures are used unfairly, in violation of WTO agreements to discriminate against imports and restrict market access, then they become non-tariff barriers hampering legitimate trade. The council has organized a webinar on emerging non-tariff barriers in the apparel export sector with an aim to sensitize the industry about the issue. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, said: "NTBs have slowly but surely emerged as a potent tool to damage and even disrupt legitimate trade." Of late, innovative ways were being explored by developed economies like the European Union to restrict imports from developing countries, he said.



Legislations like CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) and EUDR (EU Deforestation Legislation) are violative of WTO agreements and bound to make Indian exports to the EU less competitive, he added.

"Ways and means need to be explored to handle the challenges arising out of these legislations," Thakur said. Speaking during the webinar, Seetharaman Sampath, Co-founder, Sarvada Legal, said that these NTBs arise from different measures taken by governments and authorities in the form of laws, regulations, policies, conditions, restrictions or specific requirements, or prohibitions that protect the domestic industries from foreign competition. "EU, US and UK are our top markets for the apparel sector and so we should be extra careful about their moves to bring any legislation/regulation in the nature of TBTs affecting the apparel sector," Sampath said. Most countries follow a consultation process before a new TBT is introduced or an existing TBT is modified.



SAT partly set aside Sebi's order against NSE in dark-fibre case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has set aside a markets regulator Sebi's order directing the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to disgorge Rs 62.6 crore, along with interest, in the dark-fibre case.

However, all other orders passed against NSE, comprising a periodic review of its co-location facility, putting in place comprehensive guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures and protocols with respect to its co-location facility were found appropriate and were upheld, according to an SAT order.

In addition, the appellate tribunal has quashed Sebi's direction barring NSE's former MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna from holding any managerial positions in a market intermediary for three years and three other former officials — Ravi Varanasi, Nagendra Kumar and Devi Prasad Singh — for a period of two years.

The case relates to the alleged differential access given to certain broking firms in the form of 'dark fibre' at NSE, to connect across the co-location facilities before other members.

Dark fibre or unlit fibre, with respect to network connectivity, refers to an already laid but unused or passive optical fibre, which is not connected to active electronics/equipment and does not have other data flowing through it and is available for use in fibre-optic communication.

The order came after 11 entities challenged Sebi's order

passed in April 2019, against 17 entities, including NSE, its former officials and stock brokers.

In its order, Sebi alleged that NSE was negligent in not carrying out due diligence while allowing an unauthorised vendor to provide P2P connectivity to its trading members.

Partly quashing Sebi's order, the appellate tribunal said that "the direction to disgorge an amount of Rs 62.58 crore along with interest cannot be sustained and to that extent, the order is quashed."

It further said that other directions passed by Sebi against NSE "are affirmed and are appropriate."

"Since we have set aside the unlawful gains, we direct SBI to refund a sum of Rs 62.58 crore along with interest accrued on it to the appellant within four weeks from today. We further vacate the direction given to the appellant for depositing the revenues emanating from co-location facility, etc. In an escrow account and the details to be submitted to Sebi from time to time," SAT said in its 111-page order passed on Wednesday.

Also, SAT has quashed Sebi's order that directed Way2Wealth Brokers to disgorge Rs 15.34 crore and GKN Securities to disgorge Rs 4.9 crore. It upheld the market regulator's directions that restrained W2W and GKN Securities from accepting, inducing or enrolling any new client for one year and barring them to undertake any trade in their proprietary accounts for two years.

BUSINESS BRIEF

MUSICIAN ENTREPRENEUR EMPHASISES ON TEAM WORK
CHENNAI: The 15th Induction Day at SRMIST Vadapalani campus turned out to be an impressive affair today with well known musician and entrepreneur Anil Srinivasan emphasising the importance of team work. A team that claps together stays together, a team that stays together can change the world, said Anil Srinivasan who was the chief guest for the induction day.

SBI CARD ENABLES RUPAY CREDIT CARDS ON UPI
NEW DELHI: SBI Card and National Payments Corporation of India on Thursday announced the linking of SBI credit cards on RuPay platform with UPI. SBI Card customers will now be able to make UPI transactions through credit cards issued on RuPay. The facility can be availed of by registering the credit card with third-party UPI apps, SBI Card, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India, said in a statement.

₹ RISES 17 PAISE TO CLOSE AT 82.68 AGAINST \$
NEW DELHI: The rupee gained 17 paise to close at 82.68 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday after the Reserve Bank left its key interest rates unchanged. Forex traders said rupee appreciated tracking a weak tone in the US dollar. However, weak domestic markets and a surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.81 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 82.68 to 82.86 in the day trade.

NCLT approves Zee-Sony merger, paves way for creation of USD 10 bn media giant

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Thursday allowed the merger of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd and Culver Max Entertainment (earlier known as Sony Pictures Networks India).

This order by the Mumbai bench, headed by H V Subba Rao and Madhu Sinha, will pave the way for the creation of a USD 10-billion media company, the biggest in the country.

The tribunal also dismissed all objections regarding the merger.

The NCLT, on July 11, had reserved its order on the merger after hearing objections from several creditors.

It heard arguments from



creditors, including Axis Finance, JF Flower Asset Reconstruction Co, IDBI Bank, Imax Corp and IDBI Trusteeship.

In December 2021, Zee Entertainment and Sony Pictures agreed to merge their businesses.

Both media houses approached the tribunal for sanctioning the merger after obtaining permissions from National Stock Exchange, BSE and sectoral regulators such as the Competition Commission of India and the

Securities and Exchange Board of India.

However, the process stopped at the tribunal when a few creditors raised objections. Several creditors of Essel Group raised objections against the non-compete clause added to the scheme.

NSE and BSE had informed the Mumbai bench of NCLT about two orders related to the Essel Group entities, where the promoters allegedly diverted funds from the listed entity for the benefit of their associate entities.

This also included the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) order against Punit Goenka barring him from holding a directorial position in any listed company.

Bayern reach deal to sign Kane

AP ■ LONDON

Bayern Munich have reached an agreement to sign England captain Harry Kane from Tottenham, for a Bundesliga record fee of more than 100 million euros (\$110 million), reports said on Thursday.

Talks between the two clubs had been ongoing for several weeks, as Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy pushed for a higher fee, aware that Kane could leave on a free at the end of his deal in 2024.

Bayern had reportedly submitted their final bid for the 30-year-old striker in recent days, breaking through the 100-million-euro barrier for the first time.

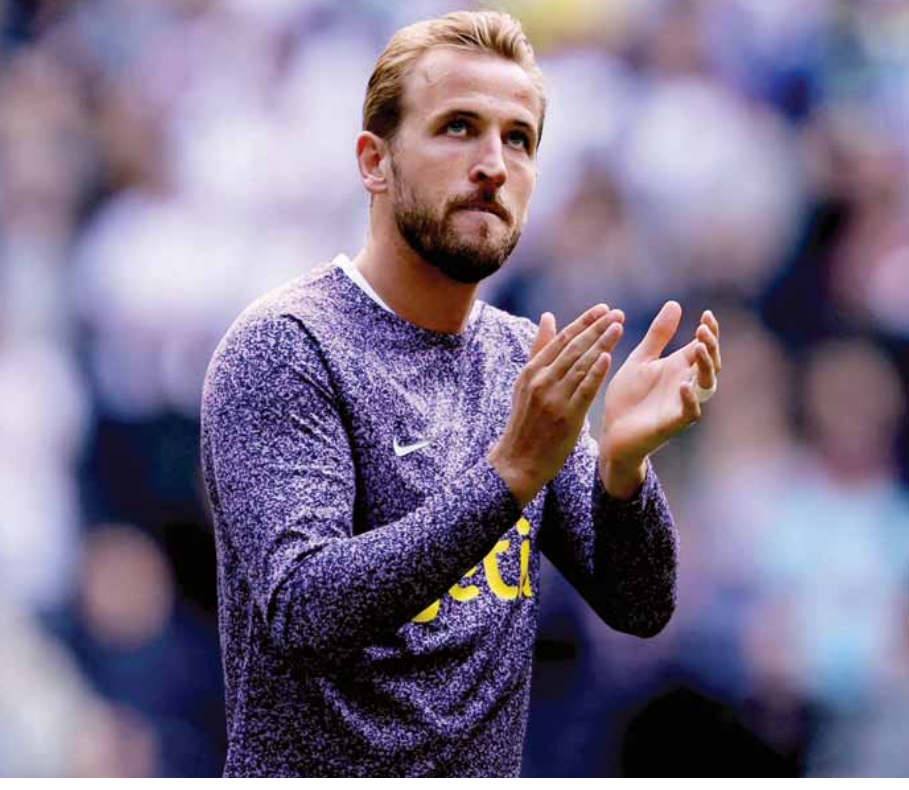
The Athletic reported the deal between the two clubs first, and was followed by Sky Sports and several other British and German media. Kane must now decide whether he wants to leave or not, the reports said.

"Kane is coming!" ran a headline in top-selling German tabloid Bild, which reported the striker had pushed for the negotiations to be resolved before Tottenham's Premier League opener on Sunday.

The mood in British media was more downbeat however - The Sun reported that Spurs fans were "heartbroken" and had "gone into meltdown".

Six-time European champions Bayern have been historically more reluctant to spend big on transfer fees than many of their European rivals.

The reported figure of over 100 million euros well exceeds their club record



transfer outlay of 80 million euros paid in 2019 for French defender Lucas Hernandez. Hernandez left Bayern for Paris Saint-Germain earlier this year for 45 million euros.

Bayern had been on the lookout for a striker since the departure of star forward Robert Lewandowski to Barcelona at the end of the 2021-22 season.

The club won the Bundesliga in each of the Pole's eight seasons in Munich, with Lewandowski scoring 344 goals in 375 appearances.

Kane has scored more than 20 league goals in all but three of the past nine Premier League seasons, winning the golden boot on three occasions.

Despite finishing second in last season's Premier League scoring charts behind Erling Haaland (36), Kane netted 30 league goals in 2022-23, equalling his best mark.

England's record goalscorer, Kane played a major role in the country's journey back

from the international wilderness to regular contenders for major tournament glory.

BARKLEY JOINS LUTON

Luton have signed former England midfielder Ross Barkley on a free transfer, the promoted Premier League club announced on Wednesday.

Barkley, who has played in the English top flight for both Everton and Chelsea, spent last season in France with Ligue 1 club Nice after leaving Chelsea by mutual consent.

Now the 29-year-old Barkley -- who played for England at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and also had a loan spell at Aston Villa -- could make his Luton debut in their opening Premier League match at Brighton on Saturday.

"Why Luton? Going from the Conference to the Premier League is a great story and for me personally to be back in the Premier League, it's great motivation," Barkley told his new club's website.

"I'm still relatively young and over the last couple of years I've not played as much as I'd have liked."

"But I've reserved a lot of energy and looked after myself, so it's great to be here now as I've got a lot to show but I'm ready and feeling motivated."

Luton manager Rob Edwards, whose side booked their place in the Premier League with victory in the Championship play-off final, believes Barkley will be a valuable addition to the Hatters' squad.



Real rocked by injury to Courtois

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid suffered a huge blow on the eve of the new La Liga season with goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois rupturing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during training on Thursday.

The 31-year-old Belgium international faces a lengthy spell on the sidelines and will undergo surgery in the coming days, his club said.

"After the tests carried out on our player Thibaut Courtois, he has been diagnosed with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee," Madrid said in a statement.

The club did not specify how long Courtois will be out but reports in Spain suggest he will miss most of the season, if not all of it.

Courtois suffered the injury during a morning training session and left in tears, according to Cadena Cope radio.

He will be replaced in the team by Ukraine's Andriy

Lunin, with Madrid due to play Athletic Bilbao on Saturday in their first game of the season.

'ONCE IN LIFETIME'

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said Thursday that last season's remarkable treble success was a "once in a lifetime" achievement as he tried to lower expectations on the eve of a new campaign.

City, bidding to become the first side to win four consecutive English top-flight titles, start the Premier League season away to Burnley on Friday.

They will be favourites for every competition they enter but Guardiola warned against a repeat of last term's triumphs, which also saw City crowned champions of Europe for the first time as well as lifting the FA Cup.

"It feels like it finished yesterday but we start again," Guardiola told a pre-match press conference on Thursday.

"I don't think it will be possible to do what we did last season, it's once in a lifetime. I said to the players forget about it."

Alvarez joins West Ham from Ajax

AP ■ LONDON

West Ham have completed the signing of Mexico international Edson Alvarez from Dutch giants Ajax for an undisclosed fee, the Premier League club announced on Thursday.

The 25-year-old has agreed a contract until June 2028 with the Europa

Conference League winners and bolsters a Hammers midfield now without Declan Rice following their former captain's move to Arsenal.

West Ham manager David Moyes told the club's website: "The midfield area was one we were especially keen to strengthen this summer -- and Edson will complement the other options we have in



that department. "He's an experienced international player, who has enjoyed great success for both club and country during his career to date."

Alvarez, who started his senior career with Mexico City-based Club America, won two Eredivisie titles during his four seasons with Amsterdam side Ajax.



Hangzhou to host badminton World Tour Finals for four years

AP ■ SHANGHAI

International badminton's flagship event, the World Tour Finals, will be held in Hangzhou for the next four years, a further sign the post-Covid revival of major sports events in China is gathering pace.

Badminton is hugely popular in the country and the national team is a dominant force in the global arena, having recently retained the mixed-team Sudirman Cup for a record 13th time.

This year's season-ending BWF World Tour Finals will be held from December 13-17, the federation announced late on Wednesday. The finals were last held in China in 2019, in Guangzhou.

Hangzhou, an eastern Chinese city 160 kilometres from Shanghai, will next month host the pandemic-delayed Asian Games, an Olympic-sized multiport

event originally due to have been staged a year ago. "Hangzhou with its superb sporting infrastructure and experience in staging elite international events is an ideal host for our finals," said BWF secretary general Thomas Lund.

With the exception of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, which took place in a zero-Covid "bubble", almost all global sport ground to a halt in China after the pandemic emerged there in late 2019.

In May, badminton's Sudirman Cup became the first major international sporting event to be held in China after the country's tough zero-Covid policies were ditched at the end of last year.

Since then, world sport organisations have shown themselves eager to relaunch lucrative tournaments across the country.

Alcaraz off the mark in Toronto, Monfils stuns Tsitsipas

AP ■ TORONTO

Carlos Alcaraz won his 13th ATP match in a row as the world number one began the Toronto Masters by defeating Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) on Wednesday.

The second-round battle of the two 20-year-olds went to the Spaniard, who is bidding for Canadian success after winning successive trophies at Queen's Club and Wimbledon.

Alcaraz now stands 48-4 on the season as he begins the build-up for his defence of the US Open title.

The top seed admitted that he was out-hit at times by his 41st-ranked American opponent in the 56-minute contest - his first career win in Toronto.

"He was more aggressive than me from the start," Alcaraz said. "I tried to be solid and find my rhythm but I had some trouble."

"But I'm happy to be through to the next round. Matches like this help to focus. I have to play better from now on," added Alcaraz, who faces Polish 15th seed Hubert Hurkacz in the last 16.

Elsewhere Wednesday, French veteran Gael Monfils stunned fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, winning in straight sets to advance to the last 16.

The 36-year-old from Paris -- currently ranked 276th in the world -- powered past Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-3 in just under 90 minutes.

The win marked the first



time Monfils has beaten a player in the top 10 since March 2022, and came against an in-form Tsitsipas fresh from winning the ATP Los Cabos title in Mexico last weekend.

In other games Wednesday, second seed Daniil Medvedev advanced to the third round with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Matteo Arnaldi.

Medvedev said he needed to make more of an effort in the second set in the steamy summer conditions against Arnaldi. He struck 26 winners and 18

unforced errors. Medvedev improved to 8-1 in Toronto with his victory, his 47th this season.

Britain's Andy Murray continued to show steady improvement as the August 28 start of the US Open draws closer, with the 36-year-old defeating qualifier Max Purcell 7-6 (7/2), 3-6, 7-5.

The three-time Grand Slam champion recovered from a break down in the final set as he dug in against a feisty opponent from qualifying in

Wozniacki comeback halted by Vondrousova

AP ■ MONTREAL

Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova halted Caroline Wozniacki's comeback in its tracks at the WTA Montreal Open on Wednesday, ousting the former world number one in straight sets.

Wozniacki had returned with a bang from a more than three-year layoff on Tuesday, winning 6-2, 6-2 against 115th ranked Kimberly Birrell.

But the 33-year-old Danish star found Vondrousova a tougher proposition, with the ninth seed claiming a 6-2, 7-5 victory to set up a last 16 clash with Coco Gauff.

Elsewhere on Wednesday, world number

one Iga Swiatek entered the competition with an opening 7-6 (8/6), 6-2 win over Karolina Pliskova.

The victory left reigning US Open champion Swiatek needing victory over Karolina Muchova on Thursday to ensure she will hold on to the number one ranking for a 72nd week.

Her clash with the Czech Republic's Muchova on Thursday is a rematch of the duo's three-set battle in the French Open final earlier this year, won by Swiatek.

In other games on Wednesday, 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina finally closed out victory over Jennifer Brady in a match that had started on Tuesday before being halted.

Rangers edge Champions League opener

AP ■ PARIS

Rangers gained a narrow advantage in their Champions League opener on Wednesday as the Scottish side returned to Europe where last season they suffered six humbling defeats.

Rangers edged out Servette of Switzerland 2-1 in the first leg of their final qualifying round tie at Ibrox.

The Swiss may be slight favourites to progress to the play-off round when the two sides clash in the second leg next Tuesday, but at least Rangers went some way to erasing the pain of their last continental adventure.

After reaching the 2022/23 group stage after a 12-year absence, they slumped to defeats, home and away, to Liverpool, Napoli and Ajax.

Having lost their Scottish Premiership season opener 1-0 to unheralded Kilmarnock at the weekend, they were 2-0 up on Servette inside 15 minutes.

Just before half-time, however, Servette striker Chris Bedia reduced the deficit from the penalty spot after VAR intervened to flag up a Dessers handball.

Thirty years after they were crowned European champions for the first and only time, Marseille slipped to a 1-0 defeat at Panathinaikos.

The night's other tie saw Maccabi Haifa of Israel come away from Slovan Bratislava in Slovakia with a 2-1 win.

England face Colombia test, Japan eye Women's WC semis

AP ■ AUCKLAND

The Women's World Cup is down to the last eight, with European champions England widely seen as the favourites to lift the trophy following the elimination of holders the United States.

Here's a look ahead to the quarter-final action on Friday and Saturday in Australia and New Zealand:

SPAIN V NETHERLANDS

The first quarter-final might be the most-evenly matched, with a Spain side sitting sixth in the world rankings facing the ninth-ranked Netherlands.

Spain are in the quarter-finals for the first time despite reigning Ballon d'Or Alexia Putellas struggling to make an impact as she continues to recover fitness following a ruptured ACL. Instead her

Barcelona teammate Aitana Bonmati has been the standout.

Coach Jorge Vilda made sweeping changes to his line-up for the 5-1 last-16 win over Switzerland and must decide whether to stick with the likes of Laia Codina in central defence and Cata Coll in goal.

The Netherlands, runners-up in 2019, have put the absence at the tournament due to injury of prolific striker Vivianne Miedema behind them and topped their group ahead of the USA.

Andries Jonker's team have conceded just one goal so far. They will need to be strong at the back against a Spain team that has notched 13 goals in four games.

JAPAN V SWEDEN

Practically written off before the tournament, Japan are the only former World Cup winners still stand-



ing following the exits of the USA, Germany and Norway. The 2011 champions have been clinical, scoring 14 goals and letting in just one in wins over Zambia (5-0), Costa Rica (2-0), Spain (4-0) and Norway (3-1).

The player grabbing the attention is Hinata Miyazawa, the 23-year-old leader in the race for the golden boot with five goals. But it is not just about her.

World number three Sweden are the top-ranked team left in the tournament after they ousted the USA on penalties. However, they were second-best throughout that game and grateful to goalkeeper Zecira Musovic for several key saves. They have now kept three consecutive clean sheets.

Japan beat Sweden 3-1 in the semi-finals in 2011, but Sweden won by the same scoreline when they met at the Tokyo Olympics.

AUSTRALIA V FRANCE

Australia appear to be getting stronger as they go along, surviving a wobble in the group stage before comfortably dispatching Denmark 2-0 in the last 16.

They are aiming to reach the semi-finals for the first time and are boosted by the return to fitness of star striker Sam Kerr, who returned from three weeks out with a calf problem as a substitute against Denmark.

France are hoping Australia suffer the same fate as befell them four years ago, when as hosts they went out in the quarter-finals to the eventual winners, the USA.

Herve Renard's team cruised through in the last 16, beating Morocco 4-0. They have scored 12 goals in their last three games, but they will have to deal with a hostile atmosphere from 50,000 spectators.

ENGLAND V COLOMBIA

England are the favourites to win the trophy, while Colombia are the surprise quarter-finalists, and 21 places separate the teams in the world rankings.

However, England stumbled into the last eight, needing penalties to see off Nigeria, and they cannot afford to take Colombia lightly given the South Americans beat Germany in the group stage and have one of the most exciting players at the tournament in Linda Caicedo.

Sarina Wiegman's European champions are also hindered by the absence of Lauren James, with the 21-year-old Chelsea attacker suspended after being sent off against Nigeria for stamping on an opponent.

Colombia reached the quarter-finals for the first time by beating Jamaica 1-0 and will hope to have a lot of support like in previous rounds.

No. 4 slot in ODIs issue for India: Rohit

PTI ■ MUMBAI

No batter has succeeded in settling into the vital number four slot in the Indian ODI team since the retirement of Yuvraj Singh, captain Rohit Sharma said on Thursday, raising serious concerns before the World Cup.

With the 50-over World Cup less than two months away, India are struggling to find a batter for the No. 4 slot, something that has also troubled them in the previous edition in 2019 in England.

Shreyas Iyer, who is on a comeback trail after a long injury layoff, did well in his 20 matches at No. 4, scoring 805 runs at 47.35 with two centuries and five fifties.

"Look, No. 4 has been an issue for us for a long time. After Yuvi (Yuvraj Singh), nobody has come and settled themselves in.

"But, for a long period of time, Shreyas (Iyer) has actually batted at No. 4 and he has done well - his numbers are really good," Rohit told reporters on the sidelines of a La Liga event here.

"Unfortunately, injuries have given him a bit of trouble; he has been out for a while and that is honestly what has happened in the last 4-5 years. A lot of these guys have got injured and you will always see a new guy coming and playing there," he said.

The India captain said the percentage of injuries to players in key positions has hampered



the team in the longer run.

"The percentage of injuries that have happened in the last 4-5 years, it is massive. When the players get injured or are not available, you try doing different things with different players - that is what I have to say about No. 4," he said.

"Even before, when I was

not the captain, I was watching no? There were so many guys who came in and went out. But injuries kept them away or they were not available or someone lost form," Rohit added.

With both KL Rahul - India's preferred option for No. 5 as wicketkeeper-batter - and Iyer on comeback trail, Rohit

said they will wait and watch how these two players go.

"Definitely, we will get the gold medal in the Asian Games," Gayakwad said.

"We have played against all major opponents in the past, but not to dwell on that much, we have the trust in our team that we are capable of winning and clinching the gold medal," she added.

Gayakwad was not part of India's last assignment - the tour of Bangladesh where they won the T20I series 2-1 but had to settle for a 1-1 draw in the ODI fixtures. "I was in rehabilitation and on rest during the Bangladesh tour; it was not the case of me being dropped," Gayakwad said.

this point in time, playing three ODIs in the West Indies was a good opportunity to look at a few guys. In the Asia Cup, again, we will face good opposition," he said.

The Asia Cup is scheduled to be held just before the World Cup.

"Shreyas and KL are coming

off not playing anything for four months, big injuries, surgeries rather. Both had surgeries. I know, I had to undergo surgery once and how it feels afterwards, it is quite tough. We have to see, how they respond, what they do.

"The selection (meeting) will be there in a few days, we will have a good debate about what we can do. But honestly nobody is an automatic choice - they all have to fight for the spot - everyone has to, whether it is a top spot or a bottom spot.

"We have got a lot of names there. We will see what is right combination for us to go in the World Cup but before we have the Asia Cup," the India skipper said.

Rohit said he wants some of the Indian players to bat under pressure situations in the Asia Cup. "We will see, we want to win but at the same time there are a lot of questions that we need answers of. But in the Asia Cup, I want to see some of the guys batting under pressure against quality teams," he said.

"I still want to see those things, so we will wait and see what happens, but it is always nice to have a lot of names, rather than just one or two names. I hope they are fit in time - firstly that is the most important.

"They (Rahul and Iyer) have been at the NCA for the last four months, working really hard and it looks quite positive so we will keep our fingers crossed," Rohit added.

Not really thinking about India selection now: Shaw

PTI ■ NORTHAMPTON

Fresh from scoring his second double hundred in List A cricket, out-of-favour India opener Prithvi Shaw has asserted that he is currently not thinking about his future in the national team and just wants to enjoy his stint in country cricket.

At his fluent best, Shaw smashed 244 off 153 deliveries to fashion Northamptonshire's 87-run win over Somerset in England's One-Day Cup tournament here on Wednesday.

The talented 23-year-old is out of India contention since the last two years. He last played for the Men in Blue on the tour of Sri Lanka in July 2021.

He was left out of the ongoing series against the West Indies and is also not a part of the second-string Indian T20I squads for the upcoming Ireland series and the Asian Games.

"Definitely (here for the) experience for sure. Not really thinking what the Indian selectors may be thinking, but I just want to have a good time here," Shaw said after the game.

"Northamptonshire have given me this opportunity... They're really looking after me. I'm really enjoying it," he added.

Playing in his maiden county season, Shaw looked in sub-



lime touch on Wednesday as he smashed 28 fours and 11 sixes en route to his second List A double century.

With the innings, the Mumbai batter bettered his highest List A score of 227, which he had scored against Puducherry in the Vijay Hazare Trophy in February 2021.

"The 227 was in my head to be honest. I spoke to Whitey (Sam Whiteman) when he was there and I told him it's 227, my highest score," Shaw said.

"It was a good team effort all around. I always try and win matches for the team and I'm the kind of a player who puts my team first and then myself."

'India women's team can win gold in Asiad'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Having missed out on the gold at the Commonwealth Games, left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad is confident the Indian women's team can go the distance at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China next month.

The Indian team came close to winning the coveted gold on women's cricket's Commonwealth Games debut in Birmingham last year but went down to Australia in the summit clash. It was the side's third defeat in a big final in recent years.

The 'Women in Blue' have got a direct qualification to the quarterfinals at the Asian



Games based on their ICC T20I rankings.

"Definitely, we will get the gold medal in the Asian Games," Gayakwad said.

"We have played against all major opponents in the past, but not to dwell on that much, we have the trust in our team that we are capable of winning and clinching the gold medal," she added.

Gayakwad was not part of India's last assignment - the tour of Bangladesh where they won the T20I series 2-1 but had to settle for a 1-1 draw in the ODI fixtures. "I was in rehabilitation and on rest during the Bangladesh tour; it was not the case of me being dropped," Gayakwad said.

I'll see how things happen after Asian Games: Sreejesh on his future

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Veteran Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh is taking one tournament at a time as far as his future is concerned and says he will "see how things happen" after the Asian Games in China in September-October.

The 35-year-old goalkeeping legend is nearing 300 international matches after making his India debut in 2006. He is currently sharing the goalkeeping duties for India with Krishan Bahadur Pathak in the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) here.

"At this age, better don't ask me about the next two years. It's all about the next one. I am at the Asian Games, and after that, I'll see how things happen. I will take it one tournament at a time," Sreejesh told PTI when asked about the possibility of him featuring in another ACT.

The ACT is a biennial tournament, but the venue and dates of the next edition is yet to be announced. "As (Novac) Djokovic said, '35 is the new 25'. So, I'm definitely there," Sreejesh said after India thrashed arch-rivals Pakistan 4-0 on Wednesday.

Sreejesh, who has featured for India in several matches against Pakistan, does not want to get carried away with the dominant win. "All the matches are important for us at this stage. Also, once you come to a certain level, it's all about your and your team's performance. It's just a pool game (vs Pakistan). So, you don't need to be too excited about it, but just gain the three points.

"We are not at a stage to say that we will win it. But, the way we are playing and showing it on the field, we believe we will put up a strong show against the sides coming up," he said.

'WE'LL NEED MORE GOALS'

India vice-captain and midfielder Hardik Singh hailed the team's final execution inside the box in the convincing win against Pakistan, but noted that more patience would be needed to get more goals against Japan in the semifinal.

"Our final execution inside the box has



Fulton hails India's 'structured' and 'consistent' game

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India head coach Craig Fulton hailed his side's "structured" and "consistent" game in the 4-0 thrashing of arch-rivals Pakistan in their Asian Champions Trophy hockey match here and he's looking for his players to continue in the same vein in the semifinal against Japan. India's comprehensive 4-0 win in their last round-robin league match on Wednesday knocked Pakistan out of the tournament.

been good. We haven't conceded any goals (vs Pakistan), which is a good thing. We expect to carry the same momentum in the upcoming matches," he told PTI.

"But, we still need to have more patience inside the box, which is extremely important. Also, we need to set up the tempo of the game. We will be treating them (Japan) as a top team."

India and Japan had played out a 1-1 draw in the round-robin league stage.

Talking about the confidence level of the

"We did play a good-structured game. We did miss a few chances in the fourth quarter, but we did well overall," Fulton said during the post-match press conference. "We had some good consistency in each quarter, which we did the same during the Japan game (on August 4 which ended in 1-1 draw)." "We also had more penetration into the circle in each quarter than Japan. So, it will be about maintaining consistency and not doing it just one way," Fulton said about the semifinal against Japan.

side, Hardik said, "Confidence in the team is at the topmost level right now.

"Regardless of which team we are up against now, even if it's Australia, we would have moved in with the same mindset."

Commenting on the umpiring decisions, Hardik said, "I believe the umpiring could be a bit better, as there is always room for improvement."

Pakistan coach Muhammad Saqlain was critical of a few umpiring decisions during the match.



ACT 2023: India to face Japan in semis

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Maintaining intensity throughout the 60 minutes of the game and consistency in finishing would be India's targets when the hosts take on Japan in the semifinal of the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Friday.

No doubt, India will start as favourites after their unbeaten run in the round-robin stage, winning four matches and drawing one to top the points table.

However, India would be wary of Japan, the only side the hosts have not beaten. The league match between the two sides had ended in a 1-1 draw.

There is a wide gap in the world rankings between the two teams as India are at fourth spot as against 19 of Japan. But the home side should not forget that they had lost to Japan 3-5 in the semifinals of the 2021 edition in Dhaka after thrashing their opponents 6-0 in the league stage.

India have scored the most number of goals - 20 - so far in this tournament but they missed chances galore against Japan in their league match, and the hosts will have to make amends of their poor finishing against the same opponents on Friday. Craig Fulton's side could also utilise just one of the 15 penalty corners they had earned

against Japan in the earlier match and they now will have to find ways to score from the PCs.

Following India's 4-0 thrashing of arch-rivals Pakistan on Wednesday, Fulton noted that it would be vital for his side to maintain consistency in all the four quarters of the match.

"We had some good consistency in each quarter (against Pakistan), which we did the same during the Japan game. We also had more penetration into the circle in each quarter than Japan. So, it will be about maintaining consistency and not doing it just one way," he said.

As far as Japan is concerned, they sneaked into the semifinals ahead of Pakistan on better goal difference, though the two sides collected five points each. Japan had minus two goal difference as against minus five of Pakistan.

Overall, Japan's performance in the competition has been far from convincing. They managed just a win (vs China) and lost and drawn twice.

Even though, India are favourites to win on Friday, Japan will try to take a cue from their earlier performance against the hosts. Before the India vs Japan match, second-placed Malaysia will take on third-placed and defending champions South Korea in the semifinals on Friday.

More than 900 samples collected for dope tests by NADA in June & July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) collected more than 900 dope samples from athletes of various sports, with a whopping 199 coming from track and field, in June and July ahead of the upcoming Asian Games.

The national anti-doping watchdog collected 914 samples, mostly urine though few are of blood, from June 1 to July 31, according to the latest data released by NADA on Thursday.

Athletics is followed by boxing (71), aquatics (65), weightlifting (56), cycling (55), kabadidi (52), wrestling (46), shooting (43) in the number of samples collected in these two months.

The number of samples in other sports are: wushu (35), fencing (33), canoe (32), badminton (24), hockey (23), triathlon (23), rowing (20), archery (15), football (11), judo (11), softball (10), electronic sports (8), sport climbing (7) and cricket (2).

The names of almost all the top track and field athletes who train in the country or took part in domestic events, including the likes of Murali Sreeshankar, Shaili Singh, Eldhose Paul, Abdulla Aboobacker, Jyothi Yarraji, Tejaswin Shankar, Praveen Chitravel, Tajinderpal Singh Toror, Annu Rani, Parul Chaudhary, Priyanka Goswami and Amian Borgohain, figured in the list.

Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag pair get first-round bye in BWF Worlds

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Two-time Olympic medalist shuttler PV Sindhu and men's doubles pair of Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty received first-round byes in the BWF World Championships 2023 draw held here on Thursday.

This year's BWF World Championships will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark from August 21 to 27.

Sindhu, who won the women's singles world title in 2019, however, has been handed a tough draw and she might face Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon and top seed An Se Young of Korea as they are grouped in the top half of the draw.

Sindhu is the only Indian to feature in the women's singles competition.

The men's doubles combination of World Championships bronze medalists Satwik and Chirag achieved a career-best world no.2 ranking last month following their title triumph in

Korea Open and are in the form of their life.

India's men's singles challenge will be led by in-form HS Prannoy, seeded second in the upcoming event. He will face Kalle Koljonen of Finland.

The other Indians in the fray in men's singles - Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth - will play Georges Julien Paul of Mauritius and Kenta Nishimoto of Japan respectively in their first-round matches.

Prannoy has been the most consistent Indian singles player in the last 12 months, and is currently ranked ninth in the world. He won the Malaysia Masters in May before finishing second best in last week's Australian Open.

In women's doubles, India have fielded two pairs. While the duo of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand received a first-round bye, Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam will be up against Debora Jille and Cheryl Seinen of the Netherlands.

Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki



Reddy will take on the Scottish pair of Adam Hall and Julie MacPherson in the opening round of mixed doubles, while

the other Indian combination of Venkat Prasad and Juhi Dewangan will face Jones Ralfy Jansen and Linda Efler of Germany in

their campaign opener.

While 64 shuttlers will compete in men's singles, 48 will feature in women's singles. Besides,

there are 46 teams each in the three doubles events with the 16 highest-ranked players on the latest world ranking receiving seedings in all the five categories.

Four Indians will be in singles competition, while six pairs will be in doubles action in the 28th edition of the tournament.

Sindhu is the only Indian to have won the World Championships crown so far, having clinched the title in 2019. She also has two silver and as many bronze medals to her name in the tournament. Besides Sindhu, former Olympic medalist Saina Nehwal has won two World Championships medals - a silver in 2015 and bronze in 2017. Former world no. 1 Srikanth also won a silver in 2021. The other Indian shuttlers to have bagged medals in the global event are Lakshya Sen, B Sai Praneeth and the Ashwini Ponnappa-Jwala Gutta pair, all winning bronze medals.

India has so far bagged 13 medals in the BWF World Championships.