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Opp maligning INDIA: Modi

Indian Mujahideen, Popular Front of India too misuse 'India' word, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing standoff in Parliament over the Manipur issue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a stinging attack on the Opposition calling it "directionless" and cited the "Indian Mujahideen" and "Popular Front of India" as he derided the Opposition alliance for using name, INDIA.

"I have never seen such a directionless Opposition," BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad quoted the PM as saying after the weekly meeting of the BJP parliamentary party.

"The PM commented that Indian National Congress was made by a Britisher and the East India Company was also made by a Britisher. People also keep names like Indian Mujahideen and Indian People's Front. They show something on their face, but the truth is something else," he said. "Just using the name INDIA does not mean anything" and cannot "mislead" the country, the PM said while addressing the party MPs which was attended by all top BJP leaders and Union Ministers.

Modi was attacking the Opposition grouping on the name INDIA it gave itself at a meeting of 26 parties in Bengaluru last week to discuss strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha election which are barely 10 months away.

INDIA is an acronym for Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance. The biting comments from the PM came as the Opposition demanded that the PM makes a statement in both Houses of Parliament on the Manipur violence.

The Government has made it clear it was ready for a debate but Union Home Minister Amit Shah alone will reply to it.

The combined Opposition is also "contemplating" a no-confidence motion against the Government in the Lok Sabha, sources said. The PM described the Opposition as "defeated, tired, hopeless, with a single-point agenda — opposing Modi". Their conduct showed they had made up their mind to remain in the Opposition, Modi reportedly said.

The Opposition has sunk



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and others during the BJP parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday

deep in despair and is directionless, he said, according to Union Parliamentary Minister Pralhad Joshi. He (the PM) said in the face of a desperate and directionless Opposition, we should stay alert," the Minister added.

The PM said "we have to make India a developed country by 2047, and we should move ahead with this resolution, and live with this dream," the Union Minister added.

Modi also spoke about the 25 years of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and gave a call for taking the alliance forward, he said.

Call us whatever you want, we are INDIA, says Rahul

Cong plans no trust motion on Wed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Tuesday took exception to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's jibe over the INDIA name of the new alliance for the 2024 General Elections. The Opposition leaders said it was unfortunate that the PM talks about terrorist outfits which have the country's name as their suffix or prefix to compare them with our new-formed alliance.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi responded by saying "Call us whatever you want, Modi. We are INDIA. We will help heal Manipur and wipe the tears of every woman and child. We will bring back love and peace for all her people. We will rebuild the idea of India in Manipur."

TMC leader and West

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, one of the main constituents of the new Opposition group, said it is good that Modi likes the name India. She said the more the BJP shall talk about INDIA banner the more they shall prove their liking for it.

"Thanks to the PM as he likes the name INDIA just like the common people of this country he too has accepted the same," Mamata said in her reaction at Kolkata.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "We are talking about Manipur, the PM is talking about East India".

The Congress issued a three-line whip for its MPs to be present in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday and sources said all Opposition parties are in process of issuing the same to its MPs in the wake of a no-confidence motion likely to be moved against the Government.

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Shah urges Cong for meaningful debate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The deadlock over the Manipur issue remained unresolved on the second week of the Monsoon session as Union Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday appealed to the Congress leaders in both Houses to cooperate to have a meaningful debate in Parliament as the Opposition insisted on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence and a statement on the issue.

Both Houses witnessed prolonged slogan shouting and display of placards as Government during the day managed to pass the key bills including the Multi-State Co-operatives Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, Biodiversity (Amendment), 2022, in the Lok Sabha and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022, in the Rajya Sabha.

The ruling BJP and the Opposition seemed to have hardened their stands over the logjam in Parliament even as the Home Minister wrote letters to Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to facilitate a meaningful debate.

Shah asserted in the Lok Sabha that the Government had "nothing to hide" and was ready to debate the issue. Shah was speaking after the House passed in the Lok Sabha the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 amidst continuous opposition uproar and slogan-shouting.

"I have written to the Leaders of Opposition in both Houses that the Government is ready for a discussion on Manipur and urged them to create a conducive atmosphere for a discussion on this sensitive matter", Shah said in the Lok Sabha.

"Janta aapko dekh rahi hai. hamain kuch chupana nahin hain..", he said in the middle of



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday

heavy slogan-shouting. The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day by the speaker Om Birla soon after Shah's statement.

In the Rajya Sabha, it is yet another day of acrimony between the treasury and Opposition benches in the Rajya Sabha with Leader of the House Piyush Goyal and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge exchanging barbs over the debate on Manipur ethnic strife.

Amid the uproar and complete absence of the Opposition bench, the Upper House, however, passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022, brought up by Union Minister Arjun Munda post-lunch.

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Children displaced due to ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur at an exclusive relief camp for children whose parents are guarding their villages at Lamsang in Imphal West district on Tuesday

China axes hawkish FM Qin Gang

AP ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday removed outspoken Foreign Minister Qin Gang from office and replaced him with his predecessor, Wang Yi, in a move that has already fuelled rumours over the personal lives and political rivalries of China's Communist Party elite.

In its announcement on the national evening news, state broadcaster CCTV on gave no reason for Qin's removal. Qin dropped out of sight almost a month ago and the Foreign Ministry has provided no information about his status.

That is in keeping with the ruling Communist Party's standard approach to personnel matters within a highly opaque political system where the media and free speech are severely restricted.

The ministry made no comment at its daily briefing on Tuesday. The move comes amid a foreign backlash against China's increasingly aggressive foreign policy, of which Qin was a chief proponent.

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LAC standoff has eroded trust, Doval tells China

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With tension still persisting at the border in Ladakh, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval has said the situation prevailing there since 2020 has "eroded trust" and called for a sustained dialogue to restore normalcy in ties between India and China.

He conveyed this vital message in a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Johannesburg late on Monday on the sidelines of the Brazil, India, Russia, China, and South Africa (BRICS) NSAs' meet.

Incidentally, this meeting comes weeks ahead of the BRICS summit in South Africa. Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the high-profile meeting. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also not likely to travel to Johannesburg for the event and may participate in it in the virtual mode, sources have indicated.

Giving details of Doval's meeting with Wang Yi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Tuesday, the Indian NSA conveyed that the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of the India-



China boundary since 2020 had eroded strategic trust and the public and political basis of the relationship. Doval emphasised the importance of continuing efforts to fully resolve the situation and restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas to remove impediments to normalcy in bilateral relations. The two sides agreed that the India-China bilateral relationship is significant not only for the two countries but also for the region and world, the MEA statement said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry statement regarding the meeting said President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi reached an "important consensus" on stabilising bilateral ties at an interaction on the margins of last year's G20 Summit in Bali, and this should be converted into specific policies and concerted actions to enhance mutual trust.

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SC raps Centre for delay in 1/3rd quota for women in civic bodies in Nagaland

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government is not willing to implement the Constitution, the Supreme Court remarked on Tuesday, as it slammed both the Centre and the Nagaland Government over non-implementation of the Constitutional scheme of one-third reservation for women in civic body elections in the northeastern State.

"Why is it not being implemented? What are you doing? Politically also you are

on the same page. It is your Government. You cannot get away by saying that there is some other in the State," asked the bench of Justices SK Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia.

"You will take an extreme stand against State Governments which may not be amenable to you. Your own State Government is violating the Constitutional scheme and you don't want to do anything.

How can you wash your hands of it?" the bench said.

"The Central Government is not willing to implement the Constitution. At the slightest behest, you take action against State Governments. Where a Constitutional provision is not being followed, you do not say anything to the State Government. What active role have you played to see the Constitutional scheme is implemented," the bench

asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the Centre. Nagaland has a coalition Government led by the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) and the BJP is a partner in the ruling dispensation.

Observing that Nagaland is a State where women actively participate in every aspect of life, the bench said the Centre cannot preclude reservation from being extended to women in civic bodies by saying it doesn't apply to tribal areas.

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BSF constable suspended for sexual assault in Manipur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) has suspended a head constable caught in the act of sexually assaulting a woman inside a grocery store in Manipur. The disturbing incident occurred on July 20 in Imphal, where the perpetrator, identified as Head Constable Satish Prasad was captured on CCTV inappropriately touching the woman while carrying an INSAS rifle.

A case has been promptly filed against the accused, and the BSF has initiated an internal probe following a complaint. The head constable has been placed under close arrest, and departmental proceedings have been set in motion against him, as confirmed by an official statement.

In another distressing development in Thoubal district, a video showing the naked parade and alleged gang-rape of two women went viral, leading to the arrest of seven individuals, including one juvenile. The Manipur Police are actively conducting raids on suspected hideouts to identify and apprehend the remaining culprits.

The police have also registered several Zero FIRs related to sexual violence.

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Cabinet OK's Bill to replace Delhi services Ordinance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday night cleared a Bill to replace the Delhi Services Ordinance that allows the Centre to take away the Delhi Government's control over the posting of officers, said sources. The Bill will be introduced in Parliament soon.

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Kanda acquitted of Geetika's suicide

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday acquitted ex-Haryana Minister Gopal Kanda in the high-profile case of abetment of suicide by Geetika Sharma, a former air hostess with his aviation company, stating he did not, directly or indirectly, commit an act that prompted her to end her life.

The court highlighted Kanda's attraction to Sharma, evident from the promotions he gave her in his companies and the lavish gifts he bestowed upon her.

Special Judge Vikas Dhull



acquitted Kanda and co-accused Aruna Chadha of the charges punishable under IPC Sections, including 306 (abetment of suicide), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), and 466 (forgery).

The judge held that the prosecution failed to prove the accused, pursuant to a criminal conspiracy, created circum-

stances due to which Sharma had no option but to die by suicide. Sharma was found dead on August 5, 2012, at her Ashok Vihar residence in North West Delhi.

In her August 4 suicide note, she said she was ending her life due to "harassment" by Kanda and Chadha. The judge, in a 189-page verdict, expressed suspicion about Sharma having physical relations with someone else and the possibility of Chadha and Kanda sharing this fact with Sharma's mother, leading to a quarrel between them.

Continued on Page 2

Parl panel mulls 'pledge' from awardee to curb 'award wapsi'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture has put forward a proposal to discourage the practice of "award-wapsi" where recipients of Government awards return their honours at a later date due to political reasons. In their report titled "Functioning of National Akademis and Other Cultural Institutions" presented in Parliament, the committee suggests a new approach to ensure the recipients' commitment to the award.

According to the proposal, before bestowing an award, the recipient's written consent

and a signed undertaking should be obtained. This step aims to safeguard against any future return of the award based on political motives, which is considered detrimental to the country's reputation.

The committee firmly believes that institutions like the Sahitya Akademi should remain apolitical, maintaining their autonomy and focus on cultural achievements.

The report highlights the concern of recipients returning awards as a form of protest against political issues unrelated to the cultural domain or the functioning of the respective Akademis. Such incidents have

the potential to undermine the accomplishments of other deserving awardees and tarnish the overall prestige of these honours.

To address this issue, the committee recommends the implementation of a system where shortlisted candidates express their acceptance of the award and pledge not to dishonour it in the future.

Awards should only be conferred after obtaining such a commitment. Additionally, the committee proposes that any awardee who returns their honor should be disqualified from receiving the same award in the future.



Pak snooping on security forces via their children

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Pakistan-based Intelligence Operatives (PIO) have started targeting the children of army personnel, based in Jammu through WhatsApp calls and messages to dig for more details about their parents like a place of posting etc.

The modus operandi used by these operatives is very simple. They are randomly calling children studying in school schools in and around Jammu and asking them to join WhatsApp groups. These operatives are reportedly sharing One time passwords (OTPs) with the students to make sure they join the groups.

As more and more children started receiving these random calls and the matter came to the notice of senior

army school authorities they immediately alerted their senior functionaries to ascertain the veracity of these random calls.

After verifying some of these calls made from the numbers 8617321715 and 9622262167 the security agencies have now sounded alert in the region. School managements of several private schools in Jammu have also been advised to spread awareness among the children to pay attention to such calls and take corrective measures to fail their designs.

Official sources privy to these calls claimed the individuals (callers) are posing as school teachers and asking for information and sending OTPs to join the groups. "These suspected PIOs are calling and

sending messages by initially giving reference of someone known and then asking the students to join other groups (allegedly new class groups) by sharing OTP," sources added.

On calls, sources revealed that they (PIOs) are also asking about the details of the father's job, school routine and timings along with other questions pertaining to uniforms and names of teachers.

"Schools and colleges have been requested to sensitize teachers and students and if required dissolve all groups and make new ones," they said adding that the messages can come from other numbers also with changed modus operandi. "The message has been given by respective Principals to parents to exercise caution amongst them," they said.

Happiness Saptah 2023: Govt holds yoga, meditation session

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As part of the Happiness Saptah 2023 celebrations, the Kejriwal Government organized a special yoga and meditation session for school children in collaboration with 'Ayudh', the youth wing of Mata Amritanandamayi Math.

The event, held on the second day of the event, saw enthusiastic participation from the students who engaged in Surya Namaskar and meditation under the guidance of experienced instructors.

The esteemed presence of Education Minister. Atishi as the chief guest added to the significance of the occasion. Addressing the students, she emphasized the importance of incorporating yoga and meditation into their daily lives, especially in today's challenging and stressful environment. Atishi highlighted that these

ancient practices have been a part of India's tradition for thousands of years and have proven to be effective in promoting physical and mental well-being.

The Education Minister praised the Kejriwal government's commitment to promoting mindfulness and yoga through various programs, promoting a healthy and happy lifestyle among people. She expressed her pride in reviving and reinforcing these invaluable traditions.

Atishi acknowledged shortcomings of conventional education system, which often focuses solely on academic achievements, leaving students unprepared to deal with life's challenges. In this context, she reiterated that yoga and meditation offer practical solutions to handle stress, lack of focus, and various other problems faced by youth.

BJP, MNS lock horns over attack on Mumbai-Nagpur toll plaza

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

In an unusual political face-off, the ruling BJP and Opposition Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) on Tuesday traded barbs over the vandalisation of a toll post along the Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway allegedly by the MNS workers a few days ago.

The interesting feature of the face-off between the two parties is that Amit Thackeray, son of MNS president Raj Thackeray, has for the first time taken the BJP head-on over the latter's "concerted efforts to break political parties".

The development came three days after the MNS workers vandalised Gonde toll plaza at Sinnar along the Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway (Samruddhi Mahamarg), hours after Amit Thackeray was reportedly "delayed and harassed" at toll-booth before he

was allowed to pass. Jr Thackeray's detention took place on July 22 while he was on his way to temple town of Shirdi. The videos of attack on the toll plaza allegedly by MNS workers went viral on social media, leading to arrest of seven party workers.

Seeking to make the most of the incident, the BJP posted a video on MNS workers' attack on toll plaza and targeted the MNS scion saying: "Amit Thackeray, breaking toll-booths is not politics. Occasionally, learn and teach to be constructive." Not used to joining issue with other political parties, a miffed Amit had a caustic dig at BJP when he said: "If the BJP was not so busy in breaking up other parties, then Irshahwadi landslide could have been avoided and lives of those innocent people would have been saved". Amplifying Jr Thackeray's statement, MNS spokesperson

Sandeep Deshpande said: "Those who break other people's parties all their lives, what can they teach us about constructing? They should build their own party before destroying others parties."

Simultaneously, tweeting Jr Thackeray's statement against the BJP, the MNS said: "The biggest political party in the world is so upset with Amit Thackeray's accusation it being a party that indulges in breaking political parties that it has chosen to attack 31-year-old youth (Amit Thackeray)".

"If the BJP is so concerned about law and order in state, why is rate of disappearance of girls in Maharashtra increasing? Why are women being done to death in broad daylight? When our people are killed in bus accidents and their funerals are going on, how come ministers are being sworn-in by splitting parties?" the MNS asked.

Dahisar, Bhayandar elevated link road to be constructed by Larsen & Toubro

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

In a significant move that will provide a final link to the ambitious Mumbai Coast Road Project, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has awarded a contract to M/s Larsen & Toubro for construction of the Dahisar-Bhayander Elevated Link Road (DBLR) project.

Announcing this, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner I. S. Chahal said here on Tuesday that the DBLR would provide a better and faster alternative to cover the distance in just 10 minutes seamlessly on a signal-free road along a bridge and two interchanges.

M/s L&T, which was the lowest bidder, will build the DBLR at a cost of Rs 1,981-crore within 42 months. The DBLR will be the final link of the ongoing Mumbai Coastal Road Project which will be implemented in the next four years.

Chahal said that after the completion of DBLR, M/s L&T would also undertake maintenance of the project for the first three years.

The DBLR project includes construction of a 5 km long, 8-lane, 45 metres wide bridge, linking Dahisar (Mumbai) with Bhayander (Thane), with 1.5 kms falling under the BMC and 3.5 km bridge coming under the Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation (MBMC).

Though the BMC will implement this important infrastructure project, it will reimburse the MBMC expenses on it through the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).

Currently, only rail connectivity is available from the western suburbs between Dahisar suburb and Bhayander town. A steel bridge will now come up in the Dahisar Bay area, while another 350 pillars will support the 5 km elevated cement-concrete road, with two interchanges at both ends.

Opp maligning INDIA: Modi

From Page 1

The strong comments of the PM against the Opposition have further dimmed any hopes of any early resolution of the logjam in Parliament. More than 160 people have lost their lives and several were injured since ethnic violence broke out in the state on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis -- constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

The Monsoon session which commenced on July 20 was disrupted completely with the Opposition demanding a suo moto statement from the Prime Minister in the Parliament.

Last week, the surfacing of a 77-day-old video showing the parading of two disrobed women in Manipur amidst large-scale ethnic violence created a national outrage with the Opposition demanding a debate on the issue.

The Government is saying while it was ready to have a debate, the Opposition was "running away" from it as "it does not want to be answered and be accountable to the crime against women" in its own ruled States.

Call us whatever you want, we are INDIA...

From Page 1

TMC leader and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien alleged that Kharge was turned off in Parliament in between when the Leader of Opposition took the forbidden names.

"It's sad that PM is comparing the name of our country 'India' with terror outfits," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and a member of the upper house Priyanka Chaturvedi said. RJD MP Manoj Jha said if the PM uses such expletives for political opponents that only shows in bad light.

"We are political opponents and have two alternative versions of same India. We aren't enemies of each other,"

Jha said.

RJD led by former Union Minister Lalu Yadav and now is one of the principal stakeholders of the Opposition unity, termed as shameful that the 'Indian' PM remembers only Indian Mujahideen and PFI on the mention of 'INDIA' and not ISRO, AIIMS, IIT, IIM, IISc, NPCIL, IAS, IPS, IFS, IAF, Indian Army, Indian Navy, ITBP...or even his own designation.

The show of unity continued for the new bloc on Tuesday with Opposition leaders participating wholeheartedly to protest the suspension of their Rajya Sabha colleague AAP leader Sanjay Singh both

Shah urges Cong for meaningful debate

From Page 1

With Kharge reiterating the demands of the Opposition for the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Manipur discussion, Goyal mentioned atrocities on women in Opposition-ruled States like Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh which too needs to be discussed in the Upper House.

The Rajya Sabha proceedings remained stalled for the fourth day of the Monsoon session. The Opposition in the Upper House raised an uproar from the start of the Question Hour when the House met at noon, with members of the Congress and other like-minded parties raising slogans of "Manipur, Manipur". Kharge said over 50 members have given notices for discussion on

the Manipur issue under Rule 267, but the Government is not ready. Goyal countered him by saying Union Home Minister Amit Shah is ready to have a discussion on issues related to atrocities on women in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and West Bengal.

Kharge also questioned the absence of Modi in the House. "When so many people want to talk about this, why are they not ready to talk? Why does Modi not come here and explain the situation? Outside, he talks about East India Company, but he is not ready to talk about Manipur in the House," he said. Goyal objected to Kharge's remarks and accused the Opposition of disturbing the House and not allowing discussions on such a sensitive issue.

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SC raps Centre for delay in 1/3rd quota for women in civic bodies in Nagaland

From Page 1

KN Balgopal, the Advocate General of Nagaland, submitted the State Government is keen to come up with a new law to satisfy the court, and sought time to seek instructions from the State Government. The apex court said it has given numerous opportunities to the State Government but it has done nothing.

Nataraj submitted before the court that 33 per cent quota should indeed be provided to women in urban local bodies in conformity with the Constitution.

When the bench asked why then it was not being implemented, the ASG said the situation in the State is not conducive for it. "Give us some reasonable time and we will have a quietus to the entire situation," Nataraj said. The top court said the Centre has been afforded umpteen opportunities but it has not done anything yet.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners, said women are willing to participate if the chief encourages them. He said the participation of women is being obstructed by those in power. The bench then said in its order, "Advocate General for Nagaland for the nth time seeks to assure the court that the Constitutional scheme will not be violated and he needs time to speak to the relevant political dispensation that the only way forward is to implement the constitutional provision."

"In view of the impassioned plea of the AG, we are inclined to give one last of the last opportunity," the bench said. The apex court clarified that it was not interfering with the customary laws of Nagaland. "We may only say that whatever are the customary laws of Nagaland and given the special status of the State under Article 371A, are not being touched in any manner. This is a State where the education, economic and social status of women is among the best. Thus our concern is why reservations for women cannot be implemented."

China axes hawkish FM Qin Gang

From Page 1

Adding to the mystery around Qin's removal, it was approved at a meeting of the Standing Committee of China's rubber stamp legislature, the National People's Congress, which usually gathers at the end of the month.

Wang had previously served as China's top diplomat in his capacity as head of the party's office of foreign affairs. It wasn't immediately clear if he would retain that commission.

The shakeup in China's diplomacy follows Washington sending US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other top serving and retired officials to Beijing in a bid to revive a relationship that's deeply riven over trade, human rights, technology, Taiwan and China's other territorial claims.

LAC standoff has eroded trust, Doval tells China

From Page 1

The meeting in Johannesburg came about 10 days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Wang Yi on the sidelines of ASEAN-related meetings in Jakarta on July 14 and discussed the border row, which has taken India-China relations to their lowest point in six decades. The Indian side has insisted that ties cannot be normalized until peace and tranquility are restored in the LAC's Ladakh sector.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry's readout, issued in Mandarin, said Xi and Modi "reached an important consensus on stabilizing China-India relations" on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali in November 2022.

"The two sides should adhere to the strategic judgment of the leaders...that 'they do not pose a threat to each other, and they are each other's development opportunities', truly implement the consensus on stabilising bilateral relations into specific policies, and translate them into concerted actions by various departments and fields, enhance strategic mutual trust, focus on consensus and cooperation, overcome interference and difficulties, and promote the return of bilateral relations to the track of healthy and stable development at an early date," the readout said.

Wang further said, "Whether China and India support...each other, or whether they suspect and consume each other will directly affect their respective development processes and the trend of the world situation."

The rise of China and India will determine the future of the world and China will not follow the path of some countries "seeking hegemony" and is willing to work with developing countries, including India, to support multilateralism and the development of a just and reasonable global order, the readout said.

The readout quoted Doval as saying that it is necessary to rebuild strategic mutual trust and that the Indian side is willing to work with China to "find a fundamental way to resolve the border situation in the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual respect".

As tension prevails at the LAC, more than 50,000 troops each from both sides are facing each other at the friction points at Depsang and Demchok.

Cabinet OK's Bill to replace Delhi services Ordinance

From Page 1

The ordinance had become one of the latest flashpoints between the BJP and the Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi. The AAP dispensation, backed by the Congress and other Opposition parties, has challenged it in the Supreme Court.

The ordinance seeks to set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority for the transfer of Group A officers from the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil) Services (DANICS) cadre. It would also empower the body to initiate disciplinary actions against them.

BSF constable suspended for sexual assault in Manipur

From Page 1

However, the investigation has encountered challenges due to the reluctance of victims and survivors to cooperate. Nonetheless, authorities remain resolute in taking decisive action against those who spread fake news to incite unrest and disturb public tranquility.

Adding to the complexity of the situation, the Manipur Police have registered a case involving a misleading video that falsely attributes a tragic murder in Myanmar to Manipur, with the apparent intention to incite violence in the region. The Cyber Crime Police Station (CCPS) has launched a thorough investigation to trace the individuals responsible for circulating the fabricated video and hold them accountable for their reprehensible actions.

King George's Medical University U.P., Lucknow
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI No.: 5948/PS/FO/23 Date: 24/07/2023
 Applications are invited from interested and potential private partners for supply, installation and commissioning of **Two 128 slice CT-Scanner Machines under Green Field Project Turnkey** in the Trauma Center, KGMU, premises. Interested agencies may refer detailed EOI at etender.up.nic.in and short details can be viewed at kgmu.org. Document to be submitted in the Finance Office latest by 25/07/2023. In case of any clarification, you may contact M.S GM & AH, KGMU.
(Finance Officer)

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भोपाल
 विद्युत शाखा
 प्रथम तल, आई.एस.बी.टी. भवन, होशंगाबाद रोड, हबीबगंज, भोपाल-462011
निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र
भोपाल दिनांक 24.07.2023
 निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफे पद्धति के अनुसार मोहखंद निविदाये निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन टेंडर नं.	कार्य स्थल का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र की कीमत	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित एस.ओ.आर.	कार्य की अवधि
1.	2023_UAD-293687_1	Miscellaneous External Electrification Work at Various Places Under Municipal Corporation, Bhopal. (On Empanelment Basis)	1,68,73,257/-	84,366/-	12,500/-	As per as Tender Document	MPUADD electrical issr 2021+ SOR & NON SOR ITEM	12 Months

नियम व शर्त :-
 1. निविदा प्रपत्र की निर्धारित राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
सहायक यंत्री (विद्युत) नगर निगम भोपाल
फ़ि.क्र. 738/023/024

Kanda acquitted of Geetika's suicide

From Page 1

Regarding Sharma's call details, the judge highlighted the uninvestigated calls from someone known to Sharma on August 4, 2012, which could have influenced her decision to commit suicide. The court noted unusual telephonic calls made by Sharma's mother to her deceased daughter in the dead of night, raising questions about the motive.

The court refuted the idea that Kanda had the motive to instigate Sharma's suicide and found no evidence to support harassment claims dating back to 2006. The court inferred Kanda's attraction to Sharma as the reason for the benefits he provided, including making her Director, providing her a BMW car, sponsoring her MBA course, and taking her to Singapore.

The judge dismissed the defense lawyer's submission of pressure on Sharma to sign documents of Sundale Educational Society, stating it did not amount to harassment, as it led to a prestigious post for Sharma. The charges of rape and unnatural sex against Kanda were quashed by the Delhi High Court.

In response to his acquittal, Kanda said, "There was no evidence against me. The entire thing was made up." However, Sharma's family expressed "shock" over the verdict after enduring "emotional turmoil" for 11 years. Ankit Sharma, her brother, stated, "My father, who is aged 66, is in a state of shock after the verdict."

Cabinet OK's Bill to replace Delhi services Ordinance

From Page 1

The ordinance had become one of the latest flashpoints between the BJP and the Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi. The AAP dispensation, backed by the Congress and other Opposition parties, has challenged it in the Supreme Court.

The ordinance seeks to set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority for the transfer of Group A officers from the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil) Services (DANICS) cadre. It would also empower the body to initiate disciplinary actions against them.

BSF constable suspended for sexual assault in Manipur

From Page 1

However, the investigation has encountered challenges due to the reluctance of victims and survivors to cooperate. Nonetheless, authorities remain resolute in taking decisive action against those who spread fake news to incite unrest and disturb public tranquility.

Adding to the complexity of the situation, the Manipur Police have registered a case involving a misleading video that falsely attributes a tragic murder in Myanmar to Manipur, with the apparent intention to incite violence in the region. The Cyber Crime Police Station (CCPS) has launched a thorough investigation to trace the individuals responsible for circulating the fabricated video and hold them accountable for their reprehensible actions.

IRREGULARITIES IN TENDERING PROCESS BY DJB, NBCC OFFICIALS

ED raids 16 places in Delhi, Kerala, Chennai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches in connection with a money laundering probe at 16 premises in Delhi-NCR, Chennai and Kerala against officials of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC), and private entities in relation to violation of norms and irregularities in the tendering process of the DJB.

The ED is conducting an investigation into two separate matters of irregularities in the tendering process of the DJB.

The ED initiated an investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI alleging that officials of the DJB gave undue advantage to NKG Infrastructure Limited while awarding the tender to the company for the supply, installation, testing, and commissioning of electromagnetic flow meters in connivance with officials of NBCC (India) Limited.

NKG Infrastructure Limited managed to secure false performance certificates issued by DK Mittal, the then General Manager, of NBCC (India) Limited and fabricated deviation statement issued by Sadhan Kumar, the then Project Executive, NBCC (India) Limited for qualifying for the technical bid of above said tender in 2017.



During the tender process, NKG Infrastructure Limited entered into a conspiracy with the then Chief Engineer, Jagdish Kumar Arora, and his subordinate officers of DJB for qualifying and bagging a tender worth Rs 38 crore.

In the second matter, the investigation has been initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Delhi Government alleging that DJB awarded a tender for setting up automotive bill payment collection machines (kiosks) at different locations in DJB offices for facilitating consumers in bill payment.

This tender was awarded to Corporation Bank in 2012 which was further sub-contracted to Chennai-based private companies namely Freshpay IT Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and Aurum E-payments Pvt. Ltd. These companies had violated norms as prescribed in

the agreement by not depositing the cash payment collections in the bank account of the DJB, within the prescribed time period.

The said contract was initially awarded for three years which was extended by the DJB from time to time till 2019-20 despite continued delay and non-transfer of bill payment amount collected for the DJB.

Investigation revealed that during the demonetisation period, cash collections amounting to Rs10.40 crore were not deposited or transferred to DJB, and funds collected in the year 2019 were reconciled with bill payments of the demonetisation period after a gap of more than 300 days. The investigation further revealed that the total principal loss incurred to the DJB during the whole period of the tender is Rs 14.41 crore which is still outstanding with private entities namely Freshpay IT Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and Aurum E-payments Pvt. Ltd. and its Director, Rajenderan K. Nair, the ED said in a statement.

During the searches, various incriminating documents and digital devices were recovered and seized from the premises of officials of DJB, NBCC (India) Ltd., and Directors of private entities involved. Details of various undeclared properties in the name of Jagdish Kumar Arora were also recovered. Further Investigation is under progress, the agency added.

Close coaching centres working without fire NOC, orders HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court (HC) on Tuesday directed the city authorities to close down all coaching centres operating without a no-objection certificate from the fire services department.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma observed that "fire safety is a must" and all coaching centres are under an obligation to comply with their statutory requirements under the Delhi Master Plan, 2021, and other applicable regulations. The court was hearing a batch of petitions concerning the operations of coaching centres in Mukherjee Nagar, a coaching hub for Government job aspirants.

The petitions included proceedings initiated by the HC on its own after taking suo motu cognisance of a fire that broke out at a coaching centre in Mukherjee Nagar in June.

In a status report filed in the matter, the Delhi Police informed the court that of the 583 coaching institutes running in the national Capital, only 67 have no-objection certificates (NOC) from the Delhi Fire Services.

"If a coaching centre is not

conforming with the master plan provisions, it is to be shut down. There is no other alternative," the Bench, also comprising Justice Saurabh Banerjee, said.

"Respondents (MCD and Delhi Government) are directed to close down coaching centres which do not have fire NOC," the court ordered.

The court asked the police, the fire services department and other authorities to provide all logistical support to the MCD to comply with the order within 30 days.

If there are structures other than coaching centres that are not complying, the MCD shall take action, it added.

Santosh Kumar Tripathi, the Delhi Government's standing counsel, said the status reports revealed that more than 95 per cent coaching centres did not have a fire safety certificate from the department despite it being a statutory requirement.

Delhi Fire Services, in its status report, said it conducted a survey of 461 coaching centres and found that the requisite fire preventive and safety measures, as per the Delhi Fire Service Act and its rules, had not been adopted.

While the court asked the



Delhi Government lawyer to "close" such institutes, he responded that the fire services department does not have the power to do so and added that the action has to be taken by the MCD.

The MCD's counsel said action has been taken and even sealing orders issued to those in violation of the regulations.

"Those who are not having fire NOC or (operating) as per MPD (Master Plan for Delhi) will have to be closed down," the court said.

"Statutory provisions under MPD certainly permit coaching centres subject to conditions and fire safety is a must," it noted.

The Delhi government lawyer submitted that some time may be given to coaching centres to obtain fire certificates as their closure can hamper the academic interests of the students. The court directed that

the matter be listed for hearing on October 10.

Advocate Arun Panwar also appeared for the Delhi government.

On June 16, the high court took cognisance of a fire at a coaching institute in northwest Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar the previous day.

Taking note of a news report that showed students of the institute smashing windows and climbing down ropes in a desperate attempt to escape, the high court had asked the local authorities to file a status report.

A call about the fire was received at 12.27 pm and 11 water tenders were pressed into service. A few students suffered minor injuries while climbing down the building using ropes, according to officials.

A preliminary inquiry suggested that the fire started from an electricity meter board in the five-storey building, the officials said.

According to the police, around 250 students were attending classes at the building — Bhandari House — at the time. The panic-stricken students were seen climbing down from the top floor with the help of ropes as smoke billowed out of the windows.

AAP holds protest over Manipur, questions PM's silence



AAP leaders and workers stage a protest at Jantar Mantar.

Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday protested at Jantar Mantar here over the situation in ethnic violence-hit Manipur and against incidents of brutality against women in the State. AAP spokesperson Reena Gupta said that Manipur is not the first place where atrocities against women happened in India. "There was Unnao, there was Kathua, there was Hathras. When the video (of two women in Manipur being stripped and paraded) went viral, the accused were arrested in hours.

Manipur was burning, the Prime Minister was touring foreign nations. It angers me that it took three months to bring the perpetrators to justice. We will not allow such incidents to happen again," she said.

At the protest, Gupta said, "Nobody took responsibility for Manipur, nobody tendered their resignation and this is because they don't respect their mothers and daughters."

"They talk about 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' yet remain mum when such atrocities against two daughters took place," she alleged.

Delhi Cabinet Ministers Gopal Rai and Saurabh Bhardwaj were also present at the protest. AAP MLA Dilip

Pandey said the Opposition is united in its stance against the Manipur situation.

"All Opposition leaders and MPs are united in this fight and they have been protesting near the Gandhi statue there (on Parliament premises). Even though they tried silencing Sanjay Singh inside Parliament, they can't silence the truth outside.

"The Prime Minister is known for his oratory skills but when it comes to Manipur, he remained silent. He is unable to utter a word. Not just the Manipur Chief Minister, even the Home Minister should resign after these horrifying incidents in Manipur," Pandey said.

BJP stages protest near AAP's office, demands CM's resignation



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Tuesday staged a protest near the AAP office here demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the alleged failure of his Government on "all the fronts".

Addressing the protesters, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva charged that Kejriwal Government's failure on all the fronts was evident during the flood faced by the city after 45 years.

"Kejriwal has lost the moral right to remain on the

post of Chief Minister since Delhi has been plunged into corruption, inaction and anarchy under his Government. If he does not step down, people will remove him in 2025 Assembly polls," Sachdeva said in a statement.

The protesters assembled near ITO and were stopped by police at a barricade while trying to reach the AAP headquarters on DDU Marg. The police used a water cannon to disperse them as they tried to dismantle the barricade to reach the AAP office. Several protesters, including Sachdeva, were detained by the police.

AAP accuses Modi of insult to 'INDIA'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP launched a scathing attack on the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday for equating the name INDIA with terrorist organisations and colonisers.

The AAP reminded Modi that such behaviour befits neither the leader of the nation nor the respect the post demands.

The AAP National Convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, took to Twitter to question, "Why does the Prime Minister harbour such hatred towards INDIA?"

AAP senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Raghav Chadha, also raised his voice against Modi's remarks. He pointed out that while the Prime Minister has developed an aversion to the word 'India', he seems to conveniently overlook the terms Start-Up India, Digital India, Make-In-India, and Khelo India, which bear the same name. Raghav Chadha questioned whether PM Modi and the BJP were afraid of the very idea of INDIA.

Addressing the media outside the Parliament, Raghav Chadha further criticised the BJP-led Central Government's handling of the Manipur issue. He accused the BJP of trying to evade discussion on the violence and inhumanity prevalent in

Manipur. Chadha asserted that as per Article 356 of the Constitution, the Central Government should promptly dismiss Chief Minister Biren Singh's Government and implement President's Rule in Manipur to restore peace and harmony.

Chadha expressed strong opposition to the suspension of AAP MP Sanjay Singh and questioned why the INDIA group members weren't suspended as well if PM Modi is so fearful of it.

He emphasised that the BJP Government's tactic of threatening suspension of any member raising their voice for Manipur is unacceptable. He demanded a comprehensive discussion on the Manipur situation, with PM Modi taking responsibility to address the crisis and restore peace in the State.

The AAP leader reiterated the party's stance, expressing solidarity with the INDIA group in opposing the suspension and demanding accountability from the Government for the situation in Manipur.

He urged for a transparent and responsible approach in handling the matter for the welfare of the ethnic-strife torn State and its suffering people, particularly its women who have borne the brunt of the violence.

2 killed as part of building collapses in west Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old woman and her minor son were killed after a portion of a building collapsed in west Delhi's Punjabi Bagh area on Tuesday, officials said. Delhi Minister Atishi visited the spot and announced a compensation of Rs 20 lakh for the victim's family. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Vichitra Veer said Mamata and her three-year-old son were trapped under the debris of the building at Arihant Nagar in Punjabi Bagh.

Police pulled them out of the debris. They were taken to the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital where doctors declared both were brought dead, Veer said. Preliminary inquiries revealed that the building was abandoned. Mamata and her family had been living in the building for the past few years as caretakers, the police said.

Her husband is a labourer and was at work when the incident occurred. The couple also have a six-year-old daughter.

The fire department received information regarding the incident at 1.01 PM, following which two water tenders were rushed to the spot. A case under Sections 288 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings) and 304A (causing death by negligence) has been registered.

Govt hospitals on alert to deal with cases of conjunctivitis, vector-borne diseases: Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government-run hospitals are "on alert" to deal with cases of conjunctivitis, fungal infections and vector-borne diseases, Health Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj said on Tuesday.

Cases of conjunctivitis and other eye infection are on the rise in Delhi, with many doctors cautioning that it is "highly contagious" and proper hygiene behaviour needs to be maintained to check its spread.

Doctors at both Government and private hospitals said they have been receiving cases largely from the younger population in the city.

"These cases are coming up due to humidity in the air. Our hospitals are on alert, especially related to cases of conjunctivitis, fungal infections and vector-borne diseases," Bhardwaj told PTI Video.

Asked if any advisory has been issued by the Government in the wake of the rise in cases of conjunctivitis and other eye infection, he said, "There are constraints in getting a Government advisory published in a newspaper". He alleged it was due to the central ordinance on control of services in Delhi.



"If a student is needy and does not have a uniform, he or she can wear plain clothes to school too," the minister said.

Nearly 190 dengue cases have been reported in the national capital this year till July 22, the highest for the period since 2018, according to a civic body report released on Monday. The report by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) also said that 61 cases of malaria have been recorded in the same period.

As many as 187 cases of dengue have been reported in Delhi this year till July 22. The number of dengue cases reported in July so far stood at 65. It was 40 in June and 23 in May, according to the report.

In 2022, Delhi reported 159 dengue cases between January 1 and July 15. During the same period in 2021, the city reported 47 dengue cases, 26 in 2020, 34 in 2019 and 49 in 2018.

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi recently said that there is a possibility of a rise in dengue and malaria cases in the national capital this year due to flooding in several areas.

Kejriwal writes to Sitharaman, points to Delhi's 'frozen' share in central taxes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of constitution of the 16th Central Finance Commission, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, pointing to Delhi's "frozen" share in central pool of taxes even as he demanded that Delhi be treated as a "unique case".

Alleging "stepmotherly and unfair" treatment by the Centre, Kejriwal said Delhi's share in central pool of taxes was "frozen at astonishingly low" amount of Rs 350 crore for the last 23 years.

"Had Delhi been treated in an unbiased manner, its share

would have been Rs 7,378 crore," he said in his letter to Sitharaman.

Kejriwal also said that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has been facing "extreme unjust behaviour" over the last few years, with it receiving nothing from the Central Government.

The Chief Minister said it was understood that since Delhi's name has been removed (for being a Union Territory) from the Terms of Reference of the Finance Commission, it does not fall under the purview of tax devolution and hence, is not treated like other States.

"But Delhi is a special case



of 'Union Territory with Legislature' and has the character of the State as well, with Delhi managing its finances similar to other States," he stated.

Kejriwal requested the

Union Finance Minister to consider Delhi as a "unique case" and include it in the Terms of Reference of the 16th Finance Commission, and added it was high time that justice was done and Delhi got its reasonable share similar to what other states get.

The Central Government is likely to set up the 16th Finance Commission this year to suggest, among other things, the ratio in which tax is to be divided between the Centre and States for five years, beginning April 1, 2026.

The Delhi CM said that the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions allocated grant-

in-aid — Rs 2,87,436 crore for 2015-2020 and Rs 4,36,361 crore for 2021-26, respectively — for the local bodies in the country. This amounts to Rs 500 per capita per year to the urban local bodies, he said.

"The MCD currently caters to two crore Delhiites and is responsible for providing primary education, healthcare facilities, and solid waste management, similar to what urban local bodies in other states perform. Based on the above recommendations of Central Finance Commissions, the cash-starved MCD would have received additional Rs 7,000 crore since 2015," Kejriwal said.

Delhi Metro: 44K trees felled, 8K transplanted since work began in '98

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has felled 44,186 trees and transplanted 7,923 since the initiation of work on Phase 1 in 1998, government data shows.

According to the data, the DMRC was granted permission to fell 57,775 trees during this period, but it managed to preserve 12,580 trees by implementing changes in layouts and adopting other measures.

During the construction of Phase 1, which commenced in 1998 and concluded in 2005, the DMRC cut down 13,858 trees and transplanted 3,584 trees. Phase 1 involved the creation of a 65-kilometre-long rail network comprising 59 stations.

In Phase 2, carried out between 2005 and 2011, the DMRC axed 17,997 trees and transplanted 3,052 trees. The construction of Phase 2 encompassed a 125-km-long rail network with 89 stations.

Moving on to Phase 3, which spanned nine years from 2011, the DMRC cut down 11,872 trees and transplanted 506. Phase 3 involved the development of a 160-km-long rail network comprising 109 stations. As of January 2022, Phase 4, which commenced in 2019, has resulted in the felling of 459 trees and the transplantation of 781 trees.

Yamuna's level follows downward trend, but water still above danger mark

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The water level of the Yamuna river in Delhi followed a downward trend on Tuesday though it was still above the danger level of 205.33 metres. According to the Central Water Commission, the water level at the Old Railway Bridge (ORB) stood at 205.4 metres at 12 noon.

The river's water level at the Old Railway Bridge has been hovering around the danger mark after reaching an all-time high of 208.66 metres on July 13. It breached the danger mark again on Sunday following a surge in water dis-

charge from the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana after heavy rain in parts of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

The railways had on Sunday night suspended the movement of trains on the ORB due to the increase in the water level.

The rise in the river's water level is expected to impact the ongoing relief-and-rehabilitation work in the flood-affected low-lying areas of the national capital, officials said. According to Central Water Commission data, the water level rose from 205.02 metres at 10 pm on Saturday to 206.57 metres at 3 am on Monday, before starting to decline



again. The India Meteorological Department has forecast heavy to very heavy rain in parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand till July 27.

Delhi grappled with unprecedented

waterlogging and floods this month. Initially, a downpour caused intense waterlogging on July 8 and 9, with the city receiving 125 per cent of its monthly rainfall quota in just two days. Subsequently, heavy rain in the river's upper catchment areas, including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana, led to the Yamuna's water swelling to record levels.

At 208.66 metres on July 13, the Yamuna surpassed its previous record of 207.49 metres set in September 1978 by a significant margin. It breached embankments and penetrated deeper into the city than it has in more than four decades.

RS stalled for 4th day on Manipur riots

Kharge demands presence of PM Narendra Modi during Manipur discussion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

It was yet another day of acrimony between the Treasury and Opposition benches in the Rajya Sabha with Leader of the House Piyush Goyal and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge exchanging barbs over the debate on the Manipur ethnic strife. Amid the uproar and virtual walkout by the Opposition members, the Upper House, however, passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022, brought up by Union Minister Arjun Munda post-lunch.

With Kharge reiterating the demands of Opposition for presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Manipur discussion, Goyal said atrocities on women in opposition-ruled states like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh too needs to be discussed in the upper house. The Rajya Sabha proceedings remained stalled for the fourth day of Monsoon session.

The opposition raised an uproar from the start of the Question Hour when the House met at noon, with members of the Congress and other like-minded parties raising slogans of "Manipur, Manipur".



Union Minister Piyush Goyal at Parliament House complex during Monsoon Session, in New Delhi on Tuesday

Kharge said over 50 members have given notices for discussion on the Manipur issue under Rule 267, but the government is not ready. Goyal countered him by saying Union Home Minister Amit Shah is ready to have a discussion on issues also related to atrocities on women in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and West Bengal.

"The Home Minister is ready for that... he would do 'doodh ka doodh aur paani ka paani' (differentiate between truth and lies)," he said. Kharge also questioned the absence of PM Modi in the House. "When so many people want to talk about this, why are they not ready to talk? Why does Modi

sahab not come here and explain the situation? Outside, he talks about East India Company, but he is not ready to talk about Manipur in the House," he said. Goyal objected to Kharge's remarks and accused the opposition of disturbing the House and not allowing discussions on such a sensitive issue.

"This is pointless and we are ready for discussion... we want to have a healthy debate and discussion on this," he asserted. He added, "We want to highlight the atrocities against women. We want to highlight what is happening in Manipur, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. We are concerned about what is happening in the



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other Opposition MPs during a protest demanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, at Parliament House complex during the Monsoon Session, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

country. "We want the state governments to be accountable." The Leader of the House said this is not a matter to be politicised. "This is a sensitive issue and shows some sincerity on this. Be sensitive towards women. You are not sensitive towards women," he alleged.

Terminating the opposition's remarks "pointless", Goyal said if they have some points, then they would have started the discussion. "If you were sensitive (about the matter), you would have been discussing the matter.

You have been disrupting the House for the last four days. You are spoiling the future of the youth of this country," he

said. After this, there was an uproar from both sides and the chairman of the House adjourned the Rajya Sabha proceedings till 2 pm first and then after discussion and passage of a Bill.

The Rajya Sabha passed the bill to include Dhanuwar, Dhanuwar, Kisan, Saunra, Saonra and Binjhia communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed with a voice vote, in the absence of Opposition parties, who had made a walkout earlier in the day. The Lok Sabha had cleared the Bill in December 2022.

Govt ready to discuss Manipur riots, says Shah amid House stalemate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the stalemate continued in Parliament on the Manipur strife, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asserted in the Lok Sabha that the Government had "nothing to hide" and was ready to debate the issue.

Shah was speaking after the House passed in the Lok Sabha the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 amidst continuous Opposition uproar and slogan-shouting.

The House was adjourned for the day at around 5.49 PM by Speaker Om Birla after two adjournments earlier and passing of Biodiversity (Amendment) Bill 2022. "I have written to the Leaders of Opposition in both Houses that the Government is ready for a discussion on Manipur and urged them to create a conducive atmosphere for a discussion on this sensitive matter", Shah said in Lok Sabha.

"Janta apko dekh rahi hai, hamain kuch chhupana nahin hain..", he said in the middle of heavy slogan-shouting. "We have no objection to the Manipur debate. People are watching the true face of the opposition now. Make a suitable atmosphere in the House for the discussion on Manipur", said the Home Minister.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Tuesday

The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was tabled in the Lok Sabha for discussion after the House resumed at 5 pm amid loud shouting by Opposition party members, demanding discussion on Manipur violence, and displaying of placards 'INDIA stands with Manipur'.

Earlier, Shah met the Lok Sabha speaker to discuss the stalemate in the Parliament. Birla too had a meeting with opposition leaders to break the deadlock.

Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 2pm then till 5 pm amid protests by opposition parties on the violence in Manipur and slogans 'Modi sadan main aao',

'Tanashahi band karo', 'Pradhanmantri jawab do'. As soon as the House met for the day, Opposition members sought to raise the issue and also started shouting slogans. Speaker Om Birla asked the protesting members not to indulge in sloganeering and requested them to go back to their seats.

While maintaining that there will be no solution to the issues by shouting slogans, Birla told them to allow the Question Hour as important matters are to be discussed. Unlike previous days, the government on Tuesday pushed the bills and passed two amidst noisy scenes and complete Bedlam.

Meanwhile, the Opposition alliance INDIA has decided to move a no-confidence motion against the Narendra Modi-led central government in the Lok Sabha during the monsoon session of Parliament, according to Trinamool Congress sources.

The last time a no-confidence was moved was against the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 2003.

A proposal to submit the notice was apparently discussed at a meeting of the constituents of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on Tuesday morning.

3 men held in Mizoram explosives seizure case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has arrested three persons, including a Myanmar national, after extensive searches in connection with the Mizoram explosives, arms and ammunition seizure case.

The arrested accused persons have been identified as J Rohluipua (55), Henry Siangnuna (48) and C Laldinsaga (43).

The trio was taken into custody by the NIA after raids at four locations in Mizoram, including two in the Champhai district and one each in Aizawl and Lawngtlai districts, the NIA said in a statement.

"The raids were conducted at the homes of the suspects, linked with pilferage and transportation of explosives and arms from Mizoram to Myanmar. Several incriminating materials were seized during the raids," the agency said.

The case relates to the seizure of two pick-up trucks, laden with explosives and firearms, from Kulikawn police



station, Aizawl, Mizoram by the Assam Rifles Naka team of 2nd Battalion on May 1, 2022. The consignment consisted of 223 boxes of 200 sticks each, gunpowder and weapons among others.

Investigations have revealed that Henry Siangnuna, a Myanmar national, in connection with Rohluipua had illegally purchased arms, by

using Arms Dealer license of Rohluipua, which were further being transported across the border to Myanmar, it said. During the search at his house, one smartphone with two SIM cards, one Airgun, two Compressed Air Cylinders, one Myanmar Entry/Exit document and an Aadhar Card were seized.

During the search at Rohluipua's premises, one smartphone along with SIM cards and the original Arms Licence used for procuring Arms was seized.

Investigations further revealed that Laldinsaga's explosive licence was used for procuring explosives, from an explosives suppliers firm at Guwahati, for onward supply to Myanmar. The entire consignment consisting of explosives and arms was caught at Kulikawn, Aizawl leading to investigations in the case.

NIA is continuing with its investigations in the case to unravel further links of the accused in the arms and explosives smuggling racket, it added.

Kamboj: India working to mitigate disruptions in food supply chains

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

As the Ukraine conflict continues for the last more than a year, India has said it has proactively worked to mitigate disruptions in food and commodity supply chains, Permanent Representative to United Nations Ruchira Kamboj has asserted.

Making this point in the joint debate in the United Nations late Monday on the issue of 'Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace', she also said as Prime Minister Narendra Modi profoundly expressed at the UN, "...let us pledge to reform the global multilateral system to enhance its relevance, to improve its effectiveness, to make it the basis for a new type of human-centric globalization." With this deeply human-centric approach, India remains committed to being a steadfast

ally and catalyst in all peacebuilding endeavors, Kamboj said. Elaborating on India's role in peacekeeping, she said the country has always played a crucial role in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. "Our nation has been a beacon of peace, rooted in Buddha's message of harmony and non-violence.

As we gather here, we are proud that over 6,000 of our brave personnel are deployed across 10 peacekeeping missions under the noble blue flag. Sadly, 177 gallant Indian soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice, the highest among all countries contributing troops and police to UN peacekeeping operations," Kamboj said.

In the realm of peacebuilding, India has consistently played a constructive and substantial role through our extensive development partnerships with countries in the Global South. Even amidst the chal-

lenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have stood in solidarity with our Global South partners, further strengthening existing development ties. The cumulative value of India's developmental projects with the Global South now exceeds US\$ 40 billion, encompassing soft loans, grants, and capacity-building training programs, most of which have been undertaken in the last decade, she said.

Kamboj highlighted the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, established in 2017 and said it was a testament to India's unwavering commitment to multilateralism and global welfare. This Fund reflects our vision of "One Earth, one Family, one Future," which also guides India's G20 Presidency. In just five years, Fund has supported 75 development projects in partnership with 56 developing countries, including 17 in Africa.

NIA attaches 3 properties owned by crime cartels in Haryana, Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has attached three properties owned by members of organised crime syndicates in Haryana and Delhi following multi-State raids across 129 locations as part of its continuing offensive against the terrorist-gangster-drug smuggler network, having links with 'listed individual terrorist' Arsh Dala and other foreign-based terrorists.

The raids were conducted at locations linked with gangsters and their associates in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi/ NCR on May 17, 2023. The attached properties include a house of Irfan alias Chhenu

Pehalwan in Delhi and two houses belonging to Kaushal Chaudhary and Amit Dagar in Gurugram district of Haryana. All these properties constituted 'proceeds of terrorism', which were used for hatching terror conspiracies and execution of crimes, as per NIA investigations, the agency said in a statement.

"Irfan alias Chhenu Pehalwan had been involved in multiple criminal cases of murder and extortion, besides being a supplier of all types of logistics support, including men and material (supply of arms and ammunitions), to the notorious Bambiha gang," the NIA said.

He had provided a safe haven to the gang's absconding associates on the instructions of Kaushal Chaudhary, Bhupi Rana and other key operatives of the gang to reach out to the ground level operatives for execution of terror/criminal activities. The other two, Kaushal Chaudhary and Amit Dagar, were closely associated with key conspirators - foreign-based Arshdeep Dala and Gaurab Patyal alias Sourav Thakur, with the help of other accused persons.

Both Kaushal and Amit were involved in extortion/threatening/killing of businessmen and striking terror among singers, businessmen and sportspersons, and in arranging weapons for execution of acts of terror and violence, it said.

"They were both in touch with, and conspired with foreign-based terrorists, as well as ground operatives, through social media platforms for execution of extortion/killing/terror activities. The money raised from the extortions was being utilized for the furtherance of terror activities and for providing logistic support to other gangs, including Bambiha gang, active in India," it said.

CBI arrests Rly, NHA officers in bribery case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested a Deputy Chief Engineer and a Technician of West Central Railway, Habibganj, Bhopal; a Deputy General Manager (DGM) and Project Director, National Highways Authority of India and two private persons in a bribery case.

Those arrested in the case are Sanjay Kumar Nigam, Deputy Chief Engineer and Rakesh Chowksey, Technician, Western Central Railway, Ram Rao Dadhe, Deputy General Manager and Project Director, NHA, employee of Shreeji Infrastructure India Pvt. Ltd. Ram Sanjivan Pal (bribe giver) and Narayan Das.

In a trap case, the CBI arrested the Deputy Chief Engineer of West Central Railways posted at Habibganj in Bhopal and the DGM NHA posted in Katni for allegedly demanding bribes from a private firm engaged in road infrastructure project in Madhya Pradesh which includes widening of National Highway 30 and construction of railways over the bridge, officials said.

It is alleged that the NHA officer was demanding bribes from the Railways Deputy Chief Engineer for settling the pending matters related to approval of the design and permission for beginning work, and passing of due bills of the said contractor, they added.

339 people died while cleaning sewers in five years: Athawale in LS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the last five years since 2017-18, as many as 339 people have died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in the country, according to the statistics available from the government. In the fiscal year 2022-23, nine people succumbed to such practices, said the Government data tabled in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Responding to a question, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale said while nine such deaths were recorded in 2023, 66 in 2022, 58 in 2021, 22 in 2020, 117 in 2019 and 67 deaths in 2018.

Manual scavenging is a banned practice under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (PEMSR) Act, 2013. The Act bans the use of any individual for manually cleaning, carrying, disposing of or otherwise handling, in any manner, human excreta till its disposal.

According to officials from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, two surveys of manual scavengers were initiated in 2013 and 2018. During these surveys, a total of 58,098 eligible manual scavengers had been identified and

all of them have been provided the One Time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000/-. Out of these, 22,294 willing identified manual scavengers/dependants have been provided Skill development training and Capital Subsidy has been released in respect of 2,313 manual scavengers/dependants who have availed bank loans for self-employment projects.

In addition to this, 641 Safai Karmacharis and their dependents have been sanctioned capital subsidy for sanitation related projects to minimise death during sewer and septic tank cleaning.

The Committee was informed that the main focus now would be on ensuring that all activities related to the cleaning sewers or septic tanks are done by using protective gear and mechanical cleaning devices while ensuring the observance of the requisite safety precautions.

Further, to eliminate hazardous cleaning, stop deaths of sewer and septic tank workers and ensure their safety and dignity, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have jointly formulated a Scheme namely National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE).

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

About 50 per cent of healthcare industry professionals with prior experience in artificial intelligence (AI) have strongly endorsed its use in clinical practice and administrative tasks, thus suggesting that AI is increasingly becoming embedded in the provision of healthcare, says a report by GlobalData, a data and analytics company.

In healthcare, AI is used to analyse large amounts of patient data, such as medical records, imaging studies, and laboratory results, to support clinical decision-making and improve patient outcomes. Also, in healthcare, machine learning is widely used to build automated clinical decision



systems and in the treatment of different diseases. The report revealed that among different activities, diagnostics support and treatment decision support are the two most popular cases with the use of AI tools.

"Some practices such as oncology have already been using AI to assist their clinical works like risk prediction and disease diagnosis. Of course, while AI can help with diag-

nosis, treatment decisions and eventually provide more effective patient care, scientific validation is needed to verify results," said Elton Kwok, Market Research Manager in Pharma at GlobalData. In fact, yet another research analysis company Acumen Research says that the global market of AI in the healthcare industry is expected to rise to USD8 billion by 2026.

The GlobalData report, based on a survey of 426 healthcare industry professionals between March -June, offers insights into the current utilisation and prospects of AI in eight major pharmaceutical markets — the US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK, Japan, and China. In these countries, the majority of

physicians expressed great comfort in using AI for automating administrative tasks. "This sentiment underscores the growing acceptance of AI as a valuable tool in streamlining healthcare operations and suggests a shift towards leveraging its potential for optimising administrative efficiencies in medical practices across these countries," Kwok said.

Importantly, China has emerged as a prominent player in the global healthcare landscape in embracing AI, reflecting its commitment to advancing healthcare accessibility and quality and positioning the country as a key player in the ongoing digital revolution within the healthcare industry.

2,500 drug samples tested in 2021-22 substandard: Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Between April 2021 and March 2022, out of 88,844 drug samples tested, more than 2,500 were discovered to be "not of standard quality," and an additional 263 were identified as spurious. The Rajya Sabha was informed about these findings on Tuesday.

In response to this alarming situation, authorities have taken action by initiating 592 prosecutions against those involved in the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of spurious or adulterated drugs. Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar shared this information based on reports from drug con-



trollers in different states and union territories. In a written reply to a question, she provided details of steps taken by the government for standardization and quality improvement in the pharmaceutical sector in the last five years. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, of 1940 was amended under the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008 to provide stringent penalties for the manufacture of spu-

rious and adulterated drugs and certain offenses have also been made cognizable and non-bailable. Besides, states and UTs have set up special courts for the trial of offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for speedy disposal. The number of sanctioned posts in CDSCO has significantly increased in the last 10 years, Pawar said.

To ensure the efficacy of drugs, the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 have been amended providing that applicants shall submit the result of the bioequivalence study along with the application for a grant of manufacturing license of the oral dosage form of some drugs. The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 have been amend-

ed making it mandatory that before the grant of manufacturing license, the manufacturing establishment is to be inspected jointly by drugs inspectors of the Centre and state.

The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 have been amended, making it mandatory that the applicants shall submit evidence of stability, the safety of excipients, etc. To the State Licensing Authority before granting of manufacturing license by the authority, Pawar said. The CDSCO coordinates activities of State Drug Control Organisations and provides expert advice through the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) meetings held with State Drugs

Controllers for uniformity in administration of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The regulatory control over the manufacture, sale, and distribution of drugs in the country is exercised through a system of licensing and inspection by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by the respective state governments.

Pawar said manufacturers are required to comply with the conditions of license granted under Act and Rules to manufacture any drugs for sale and distribution in the country. The cases concerning the quality or safety of drugs are taken up with the State Licensing Authority in order to take necessary action, Pawar said.

BJP strengthens party fold further in Purvanchal



Regional BJP chief DS Patel along with leaders of Purvanchal who joined party a day ago in Lucknow.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

With an aim to make a clean sweep in Purvanchal (eastern UP) region in parliamentary elections 2024, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continued its aggressive political policies, giving shock after shock to its arch rival Samajwadi Party (SP), which has also a strong organisational structure in this region. As this is the region which is the political 'karmbhoomi' of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Varanasi) and Chief Minister (Gorakhpur), though not 'janabhoomi', the BJP takes it seriously and in all recent elections, the BJP has

also fared well too. Though the process of giving jolt to SP began even much prior to snatching the Azamgarh Lok Sabha seat in bypoll, the BJP continued its political efforts with more intensity in the recent days when the SP received major setbacks one after the other in the Purvanchal. After the rejoining of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) by Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Suheldev Bharatiya Janata Party (SBSP) and Ghosi MLA Dara Singh Chauhan, several senior leaders of SP also joined the BJP, creating a feeling of insecurity in the opposition camps. According to the BJP leaders,

this aggressive policy of BJP is an answer to the unity of Opposition, which is dreaming of giving a tough fight to the BJP in its 2024 mission. Regional president of BJP (Kashi Region) Dilip Singh Patel said that the senior leaders of opposition parties are joining the BJP family as they are highly impressed with the government's public welfare policies under the leadership of PM at the Centre and CM in the State. "The country's development journey will be further strengthened by the joining of these leaders in BJP. With the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas', the Modi and Yogi governments

are ensuring to carry their policies and plans reaching the masses," he said, adding that the BJP will achieve its target of winning all the 80 Lok Sabha of UP. Just a day ago when several leaders of SP joined the BJP in the presence of state party chief and both the deputy chief ministers, Patel was also present there and he also welcomed these leaders including former minister Jagdish Sonkar, ex-MLAs Dr Sushma Patel and Gulab Saroj (all from Jaunpur), Shalini Yadav and Dr Piyush Yadav (both from Varanasi). Patel said that with the joining of these leaders the BJP would be strengthened further.

Spl postal cover on 'Kattha' released

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 2.0, the Department of Post is issuing 75 special covers on tribal products across the country. Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav released special cover and cancellation on tribal product 'Kattha' (catechu) in a programme organised at Head Post Office here on Tuesday. This special cover was defaced by putting a postage stamp issued on the 'International Shri Anna Year'. Progressive farmer Padma Shri Chandrashekhar and Senior Superintendent of Post Offices Rajan Rao also graced the function. Releasing the special cover, the PMG said that the tribals in different areas are not only preserving the heritage through their handicrafts and organic and natural products, but also playing a leading role in the growth of the agricultural economy. "Kattha is the product of the Kharwar tribe. This tribe was the first to start collecting its extracts as their business. Red Kattha is used in paan (betel) whereas white kattha is used in medicinal form. Due to



PMG KK Yadav releasing a special postal cover on Kattha in Varanasi on Tuesday.

its psychosomatic and therapeutic properties, kattha has been used in India since ancient times," said Yadav. According to him, stamps and special covers connect history with the present. "Special covers issued on 'One District One Product' (ODOP), Geographical Identification (GI) and tribal products are increasing their publicity by branding them in the country and the world wide. It also promotes the concept of 'Vocal for Local' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' under inclusive development. By

adopting philately as a hobby, the youth will also be able to enhance their knowledge by getting all the information through stamps and special covers," he added. Shri Chandrashekhar Singh, as a special guest, said that the Department of Posts, through its vast and reliable network, is reaching out to every section of the society and connecting them with government welfare schemes. "Issuing stamps and special covers on products, heritage, personalities and various

aspects related to agriculture to tribal society, giving them a new identity," he said. On the occasion, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices Rajan, Superintendent of Post Offices Vinay Kumar, Senior Postmaster SP Rai, Assistant Superintendent Ajay Kumar, Dilip Singh Yadav, IPPB Manager Sublesh Singh, inspectors of post offices Sarvesh Singh, Shrikant Pal, Shriprakash Gupta, Deepmani, Jagdish Sadeja, Sushant Singh along with other postal department officials and philatelists etc were present.

IIT (BHU) doing research on cow dung

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) are conducting a systematic scientific investigation of cow dung and urine with an overarching goal of developing sustainable products and utility items for the economic benefit of farmers. Recently their study entitled 'Scientific characterisation methods for better utilisation of cattle dung and urine: a concise review' was published in the Tropical Animal Health and Production (Springer) journal. The corresponding author and an assistant professor in the School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT (BHU) Dr Abhishek Suresh Dhole said that apart from milk, farmers can also get economic benefits from cow dung and urine. However, there is a lack of scientific studies in this area. "We have compiled state-of-art information on current methods for the microbial and biochemical analysis of cow dung and urine and have identified gaps for future research," said Dr Dhole. The scientists hope that the identification of active components will not only advance the



Team of IIT (BHU) scientists doing research on cow dung and urine.

knowledge in this domain but might also act as a platform molecule for future applications. Additionally, the systematic profiling of cow dung and urine might provide scientific evidence for various age-old, prevailing rural practices and might also pave the way for the development of commercially important utility products such as personal care products like dant manjan (tooth paste), hair-oil, shampoos, conditioners etc. Dr Dhole expressed his gratitude to the Director of IIT (BHU) Prof Pramod Kumar Jain for supporting the research activities and nurturing the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) emphasising on cow's importance to the rural economy and

doubling farmers income. Dr Dhole also showed gratitude to the Dean (Research and Development) Prof Vikash Kumar Dubey (who is also the Coordinator of the School of Biochemical Engineering where this research is being carried out), for providing the resources and conducive environment to push forward the research in this important domain. He informed that this research is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, under 'Scientific Utilisation through Research Augmentation-Prime Products from Indigenous Cows (SUTRA-PIC) programme. This study was carried out in collaboration with Dr MS Mahesh, animal nutri-

tionist at the Livestock Farm Complex, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi South Campus (RGSC) of BHU and Dr Sushil Kumar Yadav, veterinarian at BITS Pilani along with Prof Pratik N Sheth, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani. It also provided the learning experience and skill set to the younger investigators, research scholars, and junior research fellow who co-authored the study. In the near future, the team plans to work with Sunil Mansinghka, Coordinator, GoVigyan Anusandhan Kendra, Deolapar (Nagpur), to prove the efficacy of the developed protocols for the systematic scientific investigation of the putative uniqueness of indigenous cows.

Approach roads to 21 temples, mutts to get a makeover

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The approach roads to 21 major temples and mutts in Sangam city will get a major makeover before Mahakumbh 2025. "The approach roads will be redeveloped with all modern facilities. Funds worth around Rs 70 crore is being released for these 21 roads," said Maha Kumbh Mela Adhikari Vijay Kiran Anand. The PWD will begin work soon after getting approval from the government. The work includes construction of roads connecting the temples like Alop Shankari, Mankameshwar, Padila Mahadev, Dashashwamedh, Koteswar Mahadev, Kalyani Devi, Takshak Tirtha, Navgasuki, Bharadwaj Ashram, Akshayavat, Saraswati Koop, Patalpuri, Hanuman Temple and Panchkosy Parikrama Marg. The state government has allocated separate funds for carrying out development work in religious cities like Prayagraj, Ayodhya and Kashi. From this head, the government will release the budget. The authorities aim to start the work after monsoon

and finish it before October 2024. Along with this, stories related to religious and mythological importance of each temple will also be displayed on the boards installed on the sides of these roads. Tourism development related works, including beautification, passenger shed, landscaping, flooring, parking, entrance, signage, toilets, drinking water and benches, will also be done at these places.

INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE REVAMPED: The city's infrastructure is all set to be revamped with a budget of Rs 99.57 crores. This and many more decisions were taken in the special meeting of the mini Sadan, held at Prayagraj Municipal Corporation. Discussing the budget, the mini sadan, chaired by newly-elected city Mayor, Ganesh Chandra Keservani, passed the proposal for all the development works, including development works worth 20 lakh each to be done in 100 wards of the city. Under infrastructure improvement, Rs 68.37 lakh will be spent on the beautification of the clock tower of Chowk. Roads, drains, pro-

posed Kanha Gaushala in Mariadih, construction of meat market on Katju Road, renovation of municipal corporation headquarters, repair of 72 shops in Jhansi, new zonal office, improvement of parks, plantation, repair of electric crematorium etc have been approved. Apart from this, Rs 30 lakh will be spent on construction of the boundary wall of Kanha Gaushala. There will be redevelopment of municipal market as well. Under this, underground parking and commercial buildings will be built on a 2,500 square metre plot of the market. Apart from these, a huge amount will also be spent on drainage of rain water, construction of roads, street lights and improvement of drinking water system in the extended area of the city. The mini sadan also decided that the night market and parking operated by Prayagraj Smart City Limited on Kamla Nehru Road will be investigated. Corporator Shiv Sevak Singh raised questions on night market and parking operations. Singh said this work belongs to the Municipal Corporation then how can the Smart City authority operate it. It was also

decided that the Municipal Corporation should collect the fee for debris collection in the city. The corporators argued that all the work is done by the Municipal Corporation and if the Municipal Corporation picks up the debris then how can the Prayagraj Development Authority charge for the same. A plan has been prepared to construct multilevel parking at Zero Road bus stand. The chief engineer presented a proposal to make multi-level parking on the land of the bus stand and the corporators passed the same with a majority. Likewise, the house owners were given relief in terms of house tax and water bills, but now the renaming of houses has become expensive. The license fee of different businesses has also been increased. Chief Taxation Officer PK Dwivedi told the House that high value registries will be affected by the increase in registration fees. The license fee of 33 different businesses has been increased. Three professions related to medicine have been brought under the purview of license fee. City building owners have got relief from increased house tax on the basis of GIS survey.

Sudden increase in eye flu infection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Eye flu (conjunctivitis) infection has suddenly increased here. Seventy five-eighty per cent of the patients coming to the eye OPD of all major hospitals here are suffering from eye flu. The number of patients has increased manifold in eye hospitals like Manohar Das Eye Hospital, Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital, Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital besides private hospitals. An alert has also been issued for this in hospitals. People infected with eye

flu are being told about prevention and treatment. In eye flu the eye is suddenly turning red, there is also a problem of burning and stinging in it. Dr Rupesh Kumar Gupta, ophthalmologist of Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital said that 80 per cent of the patients coming to his OPD are in the grip of eye flu. Dr Rupesh said about 12 years ago there was a similar type of eye flu which infected a large number of people. This time its speed is very fast. In every house someone or the other has come under its grip.

Children are also getting affected. Dr Rupesh says that there is a need to worry about it, if there is any problem related to the eyes, then definitely such patients should consult an ophthalmologist. He said in this infection spread due to the virus, some people are also getting bacterial attack in their eyes and eyelids of the patients are getting swollen. Dr Gupta explains that first of all it has to be noted that if anyone is getting infected with eye flu, then he must first wear dark glasses so that others don't get

infected. "Do not touch the eyes repeatedly with hands, it increases the risk of infection. If you are touching your eyes, then you must wash your hands" Dr Gupta added. The threat of eye flu has started reaching schools. This is the reason why school students are also getting infected by it. The school administration is advising such children to come to school wearing dark glasses. More infected children are also being given leave from school so that its infection does not spread to others.

Dozen kids hurt in mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

About a dozen children were injured when a school bus turned upside down on Tuesday morning in Kaushambi. Some children where rushed to the district hospital while the others were treated at a local hospital. Owing to some technical failure the driver lost control over the steering and the bus fell into a road side khud upside down. On hearing the screams of school children the villagers rushed to the spot and took them out from it. The police also reached the spot and an ambulance was called to take the seriously injured students to the district hospital. The steering of the bus of a convent school carrying students from Rajapur, Saradua and adjoining areas left failed near Bairagipur under the Mahewa police station and it fell into a roadside khud around 7.00 am. **FABULOUS RESPONSE:** The toll-free number—1920—floated by the Smart City authorities of the city to get free sapling planted in front of your house received a fabulous response from the denizens. Since the helpline became

operational, 640 callers called up and numbers of saplings have already reached 2,162. "We have received very good response from the denizens and now that we have received a request for planting over 2,000 saplings, we have decided not to consider any further request after July 25," said Mission Manager (technical), of the Smart City project, SK Sinha. The Smart City had made this helpline number (1920) operational from May 26, which was for people wishing to plant a sapling in front of their respective house. Anyone who was willing to

plant a sapling of his or her choice in front of the house can dial this number and the forest department will approach the individual concerned and plant the sapling. The entire cost, including the sapling, the cage around etc will be incurred by the Forest department and the Smart City authority. According to Manager (technical), Prayagraj Smart City Project, Sanjeev Kumar Sinha, "Emphasis has been laid on planting native species in this scheme including Peepal, Pakad Imli, Amaltas and flowering plants like Kusum and Kachnar".

Progress in schemes reviewed

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner Dr Muthukumarasami B while holding a divisional meeting to review the progress in schemes being accorded by government on Monday directed the officials to carry out the works under MGNREGA by following the provisions. He ordered to withhold the salary of ACMO till further orders for not providing the honorarium of ASHAs and of PO NEDA for absence in the meeting. He directed the working agency UPNN to repair the roof under the supervision of the principal medical college and inform him without inordinate delay. He said nobody was allowed to leave the headquarters without the permission of the proper authority. In the meeting all priority points were reviewed and agenda was presented by the joint development commissioner Suresh Chandra Mishra. Reviewing the law and order situation with DIG RP Singh he asked the officials to take all steps against outlaws. Reviewing the progress related to the Revenue department he directed to achieve the target of recovery and take steps to control revenue evasion. The meeting was attended by DMS, SPs, CDOs and ADMs of the division along with other officials concerned. **DEPC MEETING:** CDO Srilaxmi VS while presiding

over the meeting of District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC) said the government is keen to fulfil the demands of the entrepreneurs regarding the facilities, infrastructure etc. The exporters suggested to make the district a hub related to wooden toys, stone products, brass materials etc. Anil Singh, Ashish Budhiya, Mohan Das Agrawal and others were present.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Shel Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110007

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that SANGEETA RAWAT / SUNAINA DEVI (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBGUR0000483188 located at FLAT NO-2101, 21TH FLOOR ASPEN , SPORTS HOME, SPORTS CITY, SECTOR- ADJOINING TECH ZONE - 4, PLOT NO GH-02, UTTAR PRADESH, NOIDA. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement. The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated July 19, 2023, informing that DEV SAI CONSTRUCTION PVT. LTD. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication. Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: July 26, 2023
Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited
Sd-

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Body Drench India Pvt Ltd, Pankaj Arora, Pankaj Arora, 1/15, The Presidency No 2 1st Floor St. Marks Road Bangalore- 560001, A/c No: 000205003505 & 031405006673 & 000255000044	1103 And 1104, 11th Floor Sas Tower Tower B Sector 38 Gurgaon 122001	02-Mar-2023, Rs.2,03,72,487/- & Rs.47,47,529/- & Rs.13,51,101/-	15/12/ 2022

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : July 26, 2023
Place : Gurgaon

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A fig leaf

There is small discernible shift in Chinese stand as it talks about dialogue and development

In a recent development, China has claimed that during a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Bali last year, a "consensus" was reached to restore bilateral ties between the nations. This assertion marks the first time that either side has acknowledged the existence of a substantial dialogue during the Bali meeting. The claim was made in a statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry following a meeting between India's National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and China's Director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission, Wang Yi. The meeting took place in Johannesburg during the BRICS meeting of NSAs. However, the Indian statement on the Doval-Wang meeting did not mention the Chinese claim. Instead, it focused on the ongoing Line of Actual Control (LAC) standoff, which Doval said has severely impacted the public and political basis of India-China relations. The Chinese statement must be seen in the light of Doval's assertion that China "breached the trust."

The NSA has highlighted the erosion of strategic trust due to the LAC situation in the western sector since 2020. Both sides have agreed that the India-China relationship holds significance not just for the two countries but also for the region and the world.

Wang Yi's meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Jakarta on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum's Foreign Ministers' meeting further fuelled speculations about a potential meeting between Modi and Xi. However, no official confirmation of such meetings has been announced yet. It's worth noting that Modi and Xi have not spoken since the start of the LAC standoff in April



2020, which resulted in fatal clashes in Galwan. The recent Chinese statement claims that the Bali meeting involved a more detailed discussion, and both leaders reached an important consensus on stabilising India-China relations. The Chinese Foreign Ministry's statement emphasised the need for both countries to adhere to the strategic judgment that they do not pose a threat to each other and work for development. It urged an early return of bilateral relations. Wang Yi expressed China's willingness to collaborate with India in building a multipolar world. The recent meetings between Indian and Chinese officials have raised curiosity about potential future meetings between Modi and Xi, including the BRICS summit in Cape Town and the G20 Summit in Delhi. The Chinese assertion on consensus is in stark contrast to its previous stand on the issue that the LAC was non-negotiable and that China had not done anything wrong despite the ground realities telling a different tale. This change of heart could be due to India's tilt towards the US. China would not like the US to get actively involved with a country on its borders which would mean yet another potent threat at its doorsteps. China is already engaged in a power tussle with ASEAN in South China Sea. Besides, Indian diplomacy has worked as it has successfully isolated China in India ocean and ousted it from Sri Lanka.

PICTALK



Tourists visits Honnamanna Halla Waterfalls after monsoon rains, in Chikkamagaluru district

PTI

Education 4.0: Learning in the age of technology

In addition to their degrees, students must seek job opportunities to gain work experience, develop teamwork and communication skills

Education is not the same as it used to be a decade earlier. After the covid-19 pandemic technology has infiltrated the day-to-day life of humans and the education sector is no exception. The children born during the pandemic are so addicted to technology that we can see small toddlers opening the smartphones of their parents and watching their favourite cartoons and songs. Even for taking food and sleeping these kids needs smartphones. A small kid in the class 1st or 2nd can learn new languages simply by using certain apps or youtube, without the help of teachers or parents. In such a situation the current mode of education may be insufficient for the children of today. We can see a technological gap between present-day teachers and children. The traditional model of teaching and learning was replaced with a networked one in which each student has a direct line to a wide range of resources online.



Education 4.0 fosters a peer-to-peer learning environment, enabling students to collaboratively learn from one another, a project-based approach. Teachers take on the role of facilitators, while the curriculum prioritizes a diverse range of 21st-century skills. These skills encompass problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, people management, teamwork, emotional intelligence, judgment and decision-making, service orientation, negotiation, and cognitive flexibility. The transition to this manner of working will also necessi-

tate students to learn how to adjust rapidly to new scenarios they may encounter in their changing careers. Project-based learning approach emphasizes the value of learning a diverse collection of abilities that can be used in any situation, as opposed to focusing on a set of skills that are directly related to a certain professional role. The new learning approach encourages students to engage in active learning by using laptops and whiteboards to solve problems, participate in real-time quizzes, and collaborate with their peers to enhance their understanding. The ultimate goal of implementing the new methodologies is to put students at the centre of the educational process, "shifting the focus from teaching to learning." By utilizing data and tracking student performance, universities will be able to identify struggling students and provide optimized learning strategies.

Education 4.0 embraces the advancements in analytics to cater to the individual learning needs and goals of each student, recognizing that everyone learns differently.

One innovative idea under consideration is the concept of entirely customizable degrees, allowing students to choose modules from various programs.

In addition to their degrees, students may seek job opportunities to gain work experience, support themselves financially, and develop essential skills like teamwork and communication, better preparing them for their professional journeys. Moreover, this approach to education will also lead to a shift in how exams and assessments are conducted, moving away from the traditional approach of memorizing large amounts of information, which may be less relevant in the future. Instead, the focus will be on assessing and nurturing essential skills that are vital in the modern world. While some remain sceptical about this departure from the traditional degree structure, the new approach is likely to produce adaptable and well-rounded graduates capable of thriving in diverse career paths—an invaluable asset in the future job market.

(The writer is an educator)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

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(The writer is an educator)

Is the French defence deal any good?



ASHOK K MEHTA

Political expediency and ad-hoc selection of weapon platforms have hampered defence modernization

The media went hysterical about defence contracts with France, a time-tested strategic partner this month when India was honoured on Bastille Day in Paris. But mystery surrounds the confusion over joint statements after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron which excluded agreements to acquire 26 Rafale M, three Scorpene submarines and Safran jet engine technology from the corrected joint statement.

The media went delirious over intended defence acquisitions from France to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership in a joint vision document, Horizon 2047. The omission of big-ticket items from the joint statement was a dampener.

On July 13, as Modi was flying to Paris, the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved two key defence contracts with France – Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 26 Rafale Marine aircraft and three more Scorpene-Class diesel-electric submarines, six of which are already with the Navy. This AoN heightened expectations on defence deals during the visit. The choice of Rafale M ended the competition with US F18 Hornet. Making this decision politically comfortable for the government, CNS Admiral Hari Kumar said both aircraft were acceptable to the Navy. In both (some say three) versions of joint statements mention of Rafale M was missing, while the other two items were there.

In the initial version of the joint statement, both countries had declared defence cooperation in advanced aeronautical technologies in the joint development of combat aircraft engines between French Safran and DRDO and that it would produce a road map for it before year-end. It also included the building of three Scorpene under Project 75 – a Make in India programme. What explains this slip between cup and lip in the exclusion of intended defence contracts?

The technical reason given was that there was premature



uploading of the joint statement on the MEA website as negotiations on these items could not be concluded in time. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra clarified in Paris that Horizon 24 joint statement was a macro picture of defence cooperation and not about procurement and transactions. In Paris, Dassault Aviation announced that the Indian government had selected Rafale M for its Navy after an international competition.

In a joint statement, India and France said they will give utmost attention and extend cooperation to Indo-Pacific where France is a resident power. According to a 16 July report in The Hindustan Times, DPSUs in India and France signed two MoUs to construct submarines, surface combatants and their parts in Mumbai and Kolkata respectively for export to third countries. These will be fabricated for countries in Indo-Pacific under threat and coercion by China. This JV was also missing from the joint statement.

Why did someone in the Modi delegation have an afterthought in Paris about announcing an intent to buy Rafale M, jointly build three Scorpene and collaborate with Safran over engine technol-

WHY DID SOMEONE IN THE MODI DELEGATION HAVE AN AFTERTHOUGHT IN PARIS ABOUT ANNOUNCING AN INTENT TO BUY RAFALE M, JOINTLY BUILD THREE SCORPENES AND COLLABORATE WITH SAFRAN OVER ENGINE TECHNOLOGY?

ogy? Rafale M was missing altogether from both/all the joint statements. While in the first statement, collaboration with Safran and the construction of Scorpene were mentioned, in the final version, both were excluded. But Dassault announced separately, the selection of Rafale M for the Indian Navy.

Under somewhat similar circumstances India-US Inter-Governmental Agreements on the acquisition of armed drones, GE 414 engine technology and other areas of cooperation were signed with technical and commercial negotiations to be concluded later. A similar approach was not adopted in Paris. Similarly, on Safran engine technology transfer for fifth generation AMCA from France single vendor basis could have proved problematic as Rolls Royce has also joined the fray though some doubt exists over the latter's eligibility. At this rate, soon it will be jet engines raining in India with competing offers in the quantity of technology transfer – Safran 100 per cent, GE 80 per cent, and Rolls Royce 100 per cent plus! Since, reports have emanated that Safran and Rolls Royce may collaborate on AMCA engine produc-

tion. Meanwhile, Dassault with a 49 per cent share in JV with Reliance Defence 51 per cent shareholder has decided to buy out Reliance Aerospace Nagpur which under the off-set deal manufactures Rafale parts. On 11 July, Congress had stoked the Rafale issue in anticipation of the acquisition of more Rafales from France, by raising an old issue that while India paid USD 8.7bn for 36 Rafales, Indonesia had paid USD 8.1 bn for 42 Rafales, forgetting that Rafales made for India had additional IAF requirements. With elections around the corner, and Rafale now a household word, the government has decided to act cautiously. Incidentally, Mediapart, the French online journal is continuing its investigations into allegations of kickbacks paid by Dassault Aviation and sought India's help. In this melee, political expediency and ad-hoc selection of weapon platforms have hampered defence modernization.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PM SKIPS PARLIAMENT

Sir — Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi remained adamant about not attending the Parliament. Instead of speaking in Parliament on the situation in strife-torn Manipur, he has made an 'East India Company' jibe at 'INDIA' or the alliance formed by the Opposition parties of the country.

The PM called them 'directionless' while tearing into the Opposition. Ravi Shankar Prasad has reacted to the comments made by the PM and made an 'Indian Mujahideen' (through a deplorable tactic; comparing a political alliance to a terrorist group) jibe at the Opposition. Naturally, after weighing various options to force PM Modi to speak in Parliament on the situation in strife-torn Manipur, it was decided that INDIA is set to move a no-confidence motion against the government in the Lok Sabha.

This would be an effective way to compel the government to initiate a discussion on the Manipur issue. Though I strongly believe under a heavy majority in the Lok Sabha, a no-confidence motion is unnecessary, where only PM Modi used his orator skill to demolish the opposition, comparing his double engine Manipur with Opposition ruled states.

Hope good sense prevails before the Opposition to move any no-confidence motion against the Modi government. PM Modi like the world's other democratic country to answer the specifics about their action on the Manipur situation. Pragmatism should prevail.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

NO ETHICS IN POLITICS

Sir — During the Meghalaya assembly elections, BJP leader and Home Minister Amit Shah said that Meghalaya is ruled by one of the "most" corrupt parties but after the elections, the same BJP Party joined with the "most" corrupt party and formed the government. In Maharashtra, right from PM, Narendra Modi to Devendra Fadnis criticized the NCP party as a corrupt party but later they admitted the NCP party Ajit



Monsoon floods

The floods and sustained water logging this rainy season in most towns of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi have not only been caused due to heavy rains in hill states HP and

Uttarakhand in addition to the plains of Haryana Punjab & Delhi, but it is also the result of irresponsible and pathetic rainwater management policy in letter and spirit. The drainage remains choked without the disposal of domestic and commercial waste whereas the unabated use of single-use plastic worsens the situation of the environment and cleanliness. The riverbeds have been encroached upon so exorbitantly that the natural flow of rainwater gets much less space than the volume and thus gets scattered near its banks.

Shall this rainy season make the governments awake to correct the rainwater disposal planning and ensure the demolition of all illegal encroachments on riverbeds?

Dr. Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

Pawar faction and even handed over the most crucial finance department. In Uttar Pradesh O.P. Rajbhar was criticized by BJP leaders that the O.P. Rajbhar is having links with Mafia don like Mukhtar Ansari. Now BJP joined O.P. Rajbhar in their NDA.

While visiting Telangana both PM, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah criticized KCRs BRS as the most corrupt party. KCR is distancing from opposition parties alliance I.N.D.I.A. After the elections with BJP join hands with BRS? In politics, there are no permanent friends and foes. Mostly there are no ethics in politics. The BJP seems to be nervous about the Opposition unity and so is not leaving any opportunity to attack it on one pretext or the other. However, the fact of the matter is that the BJP had also forged its own alliance, NDA but devoured two of its own allies - Akali Dal and Shiv Sena two of its major allies. So it has no moral high ground to criticise the Opposition parties when they forge an alliance.

Zeeshan | Kazipet

'OPPENHEIMER' DRAWS FLAK

Sir — As per a report the sex scene from the recently released Hollywood movie

"Oppenheimer" has drawn online outrage in India, after it was heavily criticized by Hindu nationalist groups. One scene from the biological drama about US physicist Robert Oppenheimer shows the protagonist reciting a verse from the Bhagwad Gita just before sexual intercourse. Bhagwad Gita is considered to be one of the holiest scriptures of Hinduism. This is a direct assault on the religious beliefs of a billion tolerant Hindus, rather it amounts to waging a war on the Hindu community.

A prominent right-wing organisation said the movie was an attempt to "launch an attack" on Hindu society and called for the sex scene to be cut and the makers should apologize to the Hindu community all over the world whose sentiments have been badly hurt. However, government critics say religious intolerance has been growing in India since the Hindu nationalist party of came to power in 2014. The Indian Central Board of Film Certification rated the movie U/A, which recommends parental guidance.

Bhagwan Thadan | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

BE CLOSE TO NATURE TO EXPERIENCE HER LARGESSE

The closer the man is to nature's benevolence, the more bountiful she becomes



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

In recent times, year after year, we have been witnessing natural upheavals in the forms of destructive tornadoes, cyclones, earthquakes, and floods in many parts of the world, of which the recent ones were in the Indian Capital region of Delhi as well as in many other states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Himachal, to name a few... The message emerging out of these events is loud and clear, that mother nature is in no mood for tolerance. It was not so long back when scientists had predicted that climate change will one day lead to the collapse of human civilization.

Unfortunately, that prediction is becoming true as we are observing that today many parts of India are now battling severe flood situations. There is no doubt that the flood crisis in these areas is because of an unprecedented monsoon, yet one cannot deny the fact that this situation has arrived due to man's deeds. The situation across the globe is becoming so bad that there is only one thought that comes to everyone's mind - 'Is there nothing we can do against nature's fury?' Does this question need an answer?

The point that we are missing to address is to look into the root cause of nature's fury. Why is that Mother Nature, which has been nourishing life with its bounties over ages, forced to revolt with such aggression? How are the five natural elements that were a perennial source of joy and fulfillment for human beings, forced to swallow life? What happened to the harmonious man-nature relationship? The truth is that vices of lust, anger, greed, attachment and ego blinded humans into a mad race of development.

They plundered nature recklessly, without showing the benevolence to give anything back. Nations claimed as their own that which was freely available, excluded others from it, and used it with short-sightedness. The present civilization is founded on hoarding and exploiting resources rather than revering nature. It was not so long ago when scientists across the world unanimously pointed out that global warming is the result of man-made activities that have been set into irreversible motion.

And even if all these were abruptly shut down, the global temperature would still rise by at least two degrees.



Despite this alarm bell, the developed and the developing world both wait for each other to sign the protocol to reduce emissions first, fearing to lose in the race of progress or be encroached upon. And in this game of greed, ego and fear, the earth continues to be pushed to the brink each day. Unless we check and change the basis of our growth process, and attune our lifestyle to respect the laws of nature, we can be sure that nature will continue to strike more ferociously. And the day may not be far, when everything that we are risking precious human lives for may be lying scattered under the rubble somewhere.

Our ancestors believed that the body of a person who has imbibed the lessons demonstrated by the five elements of nature can never be hurt by the wrath of nature. This is so because the natural environment is an extension of our internal nature and the disturbance in the latter is finally replicated in the fury of nature. It needs to be understood that natural disasters and upheavals are becoming common because along with using the resources of nature, humans have bypassed the other lessons that it has to teach. So, what we need to realize is that, the closer the man is to nature's benevolence, the more bountiful she becomes.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist)

Transforming maternal care through midwives



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Midwives can provide high-quality maternity services in midwife-led care units. But they must be given proper motivation and training

When development economist Dr Janhavi Nilekani proposed the idea of a birthing clinic designed with evidence-based research, many thought it was just another fancy idea by a rich man's daughter. Even gynaecologists and obstetricians were sceptical of how a clinic could be designed to facilitate and support natural birth considering almost half of the deliveries in private institutions are through caesarean section (C-section).

Both public and private health facilities have recorded an increase in caesarean deliveries, according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS 5). The percentage of C-sections at private health facilities has gone up to 47.4 (NFHS 5) from 40.9 per cent in 2015-16 (NFHS 4). There has also been an increase of three per cent in surgical births at public hospitals from 17.2 per cent (NFHS 4) to 21.6 per cent (NFHS 5). Experts say that this means that one in five pregnant women who go to any medical facility, whether private or public, for delivery undergoes a caesarean birth. This is a much higher rate than the World Health Organisation recommendations that caesarean section births should not exceed more than 10-15 per cent of all births in a country.

Nilekani was determined to address this concern by integrating professional midwifery, respectful maternal care and evidence-based obstetrics to highlight the value of a normal birth when no signs of medical difficulties were present in the mother to necessitate a caesarean delivery. With nine million deliveries taking place in the private sector, Nilekani wanted to establish a centre of excellence that could showcase the best practices in maternity care using a midwifery model to support natural birth.

DELIBERATE DECISION

The decision to choose the midwifery model was a deliberate one, says Nilekani. "India faces a dual maternal health challenge. Medical treatment during childbirth is either 'too much, too soon' or 'too little, too late'. In the first case, there is medical over-intervention such as when the privileged in private hospitals are pushed into induced labour and caesareans. In the second case, the less fortunate receive little intervention even when such interventions are critically needed. Our aim is facilitate the right treatment at the right time. Every woman has the right to high quality, respectful maternity care which is neither 'too much, too soon' nor 'too little, too late. We believe that midwifery is key to resolving this dual challenge. Studies show that midwifery can prevent about 83 per cent of maternal and newborn deaths. Our efforts and resources are channelled towards establishing midwifery as an essential component of maternal care," she says.

Thus was born the Aastrika Midwifery Centre (AMC), the first of its kind in the country to feature specialized sensory technology in the labour and delivery rooms to stimulate natural birth. Housed in the Bengaluru-based Vasavi Hospital, the AMC uses the Denmark-inspired "Sensory Technology" to combine audiovisual stimulation and speciality dimmable lighting proven to have a calming effect and create a comforting and supportive birthing experience. The dynamic lighting and audiovisuals also help release oxytocin, a hormone responsible for inducing contractions and stimulating natural birth.



STUDIES SHOW THAT MIDWIFERY CAN PREVENT ABOUT 83 PER CENT OF MATERNAL AND NEWBORN DEATHS

(The writer is a senior journalist)



INNOVATIVE DESIGN

Just as Nilekani was sure about using a midwifery model, she was equally clear about using design as a transformative birthing experience. Her insistence on using design to redefine maternity care led to months of research on not just the equipment but also on the designers who could implement her vision integration of evidenced-based design principles in support of natural birth and the overall philosophy of the project. Finally, Perkins Eastman, a global design firm, was commissioned to do the programming, planning, interior design, and execution of the 5,300-square-foot Centre.

The teams of both Perkins Eastman and Nilekani studied several evidenced-based research papers, including the Ariadne Labs and MASS Design Group's study on "Innovation in the Design of Child Birth Spaces" by Dr Neel Shah and colleagues. Inputs from a small qualitative survey conducted by Aastrika on what mothers in Bangalore wanted were also taken into consideration before beginning the design process. They participated in a virtual conference, GynZone in Copenhagen, to better understand the latest trends in the design of midwifery models of care. Learnings on sensory technology were integrated with experiences shared by Swedish midwives who provided insights into the midwifery model of care, labour, water births, and post-partum recovery.

A lot of thought was given to every detail of the mother's experience to ensure that both outpatient and inpatient care units were designed to provide continuous support to a mother-to-be during

her pregnancy. A big advantage of the birthing suite is a hallway that is designed as an early labour lounge, encouraging the mother to ambulate while in labour. There is a small pantry as well to provide nourishment during the process.

Perkins Eastman made sure the labour and delivery room were designed to reduce stress. It also allows for an active birthing with the help of exercise equipment like a birthing ball and a ceiling-mounted rebobo, or birth rope, to support the mother through natural labour. Women can also opt for a birthing pool for a water birth or water immersion, which is known to provide pain relief during labour.

RESPECTFUL CARE

While design is an important component to support natural birth at the AMC, the more critical and primary goal is to provide high-quality and respectful maternal care even if a medical intervention like a caesarean is required. The AMC has a multidisciplinary team comprising obstetricians, gynaecologists, nurses and trained midwives to handle all birthing experiences. Nilekani states that women have low expectations and that is why AMC aspires to redefine what mothers can expect from the birthing process. In the long run, the goal is to establish the Centre as the benchmark of maternal care practices which could and should be implemented across the country, she contends.

BRINGING DOWN C-SECTIONS

The C-section rate in private hospitals in Karnataka is 52.5 per cent (NFHS-5). Since its launch in

2021, AMC's overall C-section rate is 27.4 per cent. Nilekani believes this has been possible due to their midwifery model of care.

There is evidence to show that midwife-led models of care are associated with several benefits such as a reduction in epidural anaesthesia, fewer episiotomies and instrumental births, increased natural births and increased breastfeeding. In addition to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, this model of care leads to fewer maternal infections, a reduction in postpartum haemorrhage and an improved feeling of control during childbirth. Most importantly, women with positive birthing experiences were less likely to develop postpartum depression.

WINDS OF CHANGE

The worrying lack of healthcare professionals, especially for maternal care, came to the fore during the Covid pandemic. The government's decision to institute a cadre of professional midwives, to be known as the nurse practitioner midwife (NPM) for government health facilities is validation that midwives can provide high-quality maternity services in midwife-led care units. However, for midwives to impact maternal and neonatal mortality rates, India needs to educate midwives at scale. Online learning tools as well as in-person training workshops can help in doing so. Hopefully, midwifery-specific learning resources for government health workers as well as private practitioners being provided free by Nilekani through an online platform to help skill and improve competencies and ensure respectful maternity care will accelerate the process.

WHO highlights health risks of heated tobacco products

The tobacco industry is pushing vapes as a solution to quit smoking but it comes with its own risk and can be a menace in the future

If you don't nip it in the bud it will grow into something that will require an axe-unknown

Elizabeth Warren a senator and former Law professor of the United States candidly wrote once "The marketing tactics employed by the tobacco industry for new generation products are eerily reminiscent of past tactics, used to hook generations on cigarettes. We must not allow history to repeat itself." But to our dismay history is indeed repeating itself in a slow agonizing way as the juggernaut of big tobacco builds a deceiving campaign with clinical precision portraying HNB (heat Not Burn) as a safe alternative to smoking.

The rise in popularity of heated tobacco products (HNB) has raised serious con-



MUKUL BAJPAI

(The writer is Founder Shram)

cerns among public health experts and as the research pours out of leading institutions like WHO, we are only beginning to understand the enormity of the problem, WHO on 8 November 2022 made a special Health literacy video to evaporate confusion around e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products they said categorically (The tobacco industry is attempting to market heated tobacco products (HTPs) and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) as less toxic and safer alternatives to conventional cigarettes. In reality, these products are not harmless. HTPs are tobacco products and can expose users to higher levels of toxicants than conventional smoking. The boundaries between these products are being rigorously

blurred by the tobacco industry to confuse users and normalize the use of HTPs and ENDS, especially among young people.

In a 2020 study published in the journal Tobacco Control, researchers evaluated the cytotoxicity (toxicity to cells) of aerosols generated from heat-not-burn tobacco products. The study indicated that the aerosols produced by these products can have negative effects on human lung cells which can lead to a plethora of health problems they pose health risks and can have detrimental effects on respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Bystanders who inhale the aerosol from heat-not-burn devices may experience respiratory irritation and inflammation. This can man-

ifest as symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, or shortness of breath. Exposure to second-hand smoke, including aerosol from heat-not-burn products, has been associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular problems in non-smokers.

WHO in one document wrote with frustration that It is important to underline that HTPs are tobacco products, which means they have different health risks. However, when expedient tobacco companies pitch HTPs as electronic products "similar to ENDS" to benefit from lighter regulation. Conversely, in countries where ENDS are banned, HTPs are pitched as tobacco products that do not fall within the prohibited category.

The study, Dr. Sarah

Thompson led spanned over three years and involved comprehensive analyses of HNB products and their impact on human health, revealing concerning results. Researchers found that despite lower levels of certain toxins, HNB still releases toxic chemicals, including carcinogens and volatile organic compounds. Furthermore, the study found that the aerosol produced by these devices contains harmful particles that can penetrate deeper into the lungs, increasing the risk of respiratory diseases. The World Health Organization has been closely monitoring the rise of heated tobacco products and has now raised its concerns based on new research. Dr Mark Williams, spokesperson for the WHO, stresses, "We urge

governments and individuals to exercise caution when it comes to heated tobacco products. While they may be marketed as a 'safer' alternative, the evidence shows that they are not. We need stronger regulations to protect public health."

The findings of these studies have wide-ranging implications for the regulation and marketing of HNB products. The researchers and WHO are now calling for stricter regulations, comprehensive labelling, and public awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the risks associated with HNB. They emphasize the need to counter the misinformation that surrounds these products and ensure that consumers are adequately informed about the potential health hazards.

Several countries have already taken steps to regulate HNB products, including banning their sale to minors, restricting their advertising, and implementing health warning labels. However, there is a growing consensus among experts that more needs to be done to address the rising popularity of these and the imposition of a comprehensive ban like in India may be our best bet. As the evidence continues to mount, it becomes increasingly clear that heated tobacco products are not the safe alternative they were marketed to be. Governments, health organizations, and consumers must heed these findings and work together to prevent the further spread of HNB and safeguard public health, especially our Youth.

EU officials work on Ukrainian grain export

AP ■ THE HAGUE

European Union agriculture ministers met Tuesday to discuss ways of moving grain vital to global food security out of Ukraine after Russia halted a deal that allowed Black Sea exports. At the same time, countries bordering the war-ravaged nation are seeking to protect prices for their farmers.



Poland's agriculture minister Robert Telus was set to tell the EU meeting that his country, along with Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, want to extend their ban on Ukrainian grain imports but will still allow food to move through their countries to the world.

Germany's agriculture minister, Cem Özdemir, warned that they must seek to balance those two issues without eroding the 27-nation bloc's support for Ukraine.

If cracks open up in EU unity, "the only one who is happy is Vladimir Putin," he said of Russia's leader. The ministers met in Brussels for the first time since Russia pulled the plug last week on the wartime deal that allowed grain to flow from Ukraine to countries in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia, where hunger is a growing threat and food prices are high.

That leaves routes by river, road and rail through Europe as the only ways for Ukraine, a major global supplier of

wheat, barley, corn and vegetable oil, to export its products. But recent attacks are raising questions about a crucial route through the Danube River, which has carried millions of tons of Ukrainian food to Romania's Black Sea ports every month.

The road and rail routes through neighboring countries have stirred anger from local farmers faced with a glut of Ukrainian grain that has driven down prices and hurt their livelihoods. It's not ideal for agriculture-dependent Ukraine either, whose growers face higher transportation costs and lower capacity.

Poland's agriculture minister Robert Telus was set to tell the EU meeting that his country, along with Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, want to extend their ban on Ukrainian grain imports but will still allow food to move through their countries to the world.

The ban is scheduled to expire in mid-September. European Commission spokeswoman Miriam Garcia Ferrer said "we are working very intensively with the five member states concerned."

The ministers "must make sure that the Ukrainian grain can reach the global markets

via EU territory," said Finland's agriculture minister, Sari Essayah.

Lithuania's agriculture minister, Kestutis Navickas, suggested that export procedures for grain could be shifted from the Ukraine-Polish border to Lithuanian ports as a way of preventing grain from getting stuck in countries near Ukraine. Germany's Özdemir appeared to support the plan, saying Ukrainian grain could be transported in sealed containers to ports in the Baltics.

"I'm sure the friends from the Baltics would be happy to help and then transport to where it's needed in the Global South," Özdemir said.

European Commission spokesman Adalbert Jahnz said exports via the Baltics are "extremely important... and we are committed to working on that as well."

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said it's up to the Baltic countries to decide on the issue.

"It is a sovereign right of these states, and there is hardly anything for us to assess here," he said. "But it is very important to us that various

delivery channels must not be used by the Kiev regime for military purposes and for the purposes of staging terrorist attacks on our territory. We will continue to counter that."

Over the past several days, Russia has targeted Ukrainian critical grain export infrastructure since it vowed retribution for an attack that damaged a crucial bridge between Russia and the Moscow-annexed Crimean Peninsula. Russian officials blamed that strike on Ukrainian drone boats.

Ukraine also is seeking to continue exporting grain by sea. It sent a letter to the United Nations International Maritime Organization establishing its own temporary shipping corridor, saying it would "provide guarantees of compensation for damage."

But Russia warned it would assume ships traversing parts of the Black Sea to be carrying weapons to Ukraine. In a seeming tit-for-tat move, Ukraine said vessels heading to Russian Black Sea ports would be considered "carrying military cargo with all the associated risks."

Chinese, Russian officials to join 70th N Korean armistice commemorations

AP ■ BEIJING

Both Russia and China are sending government delegations to North Korea this week for events marking the 70th anniversary of the armistice that halted fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War. The visits suggest North Korea is further opening up after years of self-imposed pandemic isolation and is eager to showcase its partnerships with authoritarian neighbors in the face of deepening nuclear tensions with Washington, Seoul and Tokyo.

North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday that a Russian delegation led by Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu will make a "congratulatory visit" for the anniversary of the armistice, which the North considers a victory in the "Grand Fatherland Liberation War."

Shoigu's ministry said the delegation's visit will help strengthen relations and mark "an important stage" in the development of bilateral cooperation. China's ruling Communist Party is also send-

ing a mid-level official, Li Hongzhong, in hopes of restoring exchanges between the allies.

North Korea has been preparing huge celebrations of the anniversary that are likely to be capped off by a military parade in the capital, Pyongyang, where leader Kim Jong Un could showcase his most powerful, nuclear-capable missiles designed to target neighboring rivals and the US. North Korea launched the Korean War, an unsuccessful attempt to conquer its southern rival. No peace treaty ending the conflict has ever been signed, and the border between the Koreas remains one of the most tense in the world.

The conflict brought in forces from the newly created People's Republic of China, aided by the then-Soviet air force, while South Korea, the US and troops from various countries under the direction of the United Nations battled to repulse the invasion.

Li is a member of the party's high-level Politburo and a deputy chairperson of the cer-

emonial parliament, giving him national office, but not the level of status that would convey a full-bore expression of Chinese backing for North Korea at an ambiguous time in relations. The anniversary comes during a time of heightened tensions in the region as the pace of both North Korea's weapons tests and the United States' military exercises with South Korea have intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

Some experts say North Korea might ramp up its weapons tests around the anniversary of the armistice on Thursday, July 27. North Korea has conducted three separate rounds of missile firings since last week, apparently in protest of the United States sending naval vessels, including a nuclear-armed submarine, to South Korea in a show of force.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has test-fired around 100 missiles, as Kim exploits the distraction created by Russia's war on Ukraine to accelerate the expansion of the nuclear-capable weapons he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

Russia bans independent TV channel



AP ■ MOSCOW

The Russian prosecutor-general's office on Tuesday declared independent TV channel Dozhd to be an undesirable organisation, continuing the country's wide crackdown on news media and groups regarded as threats to Russia's security. The designation outlaws Dozhd from operating in Russia and exposes its journalists, staff and donors to potential criminal charges.

Dozhd, which is often critical of the Kremlin, closed its operations in Russia soon after the beginning of the Ukraine conflict, moving first to Latvia

and then to the Netherlands. The prosecutor-general's office said Dozhd had spread extremist material and discredited authorities. The channel frequently offended authorities with its coverage of Russia's political opposition and criticism of the Kremlin. It was removed from Russian cable TV systems in 2014 after conducting a controversial poll of whether viewers thought the Soviet Union should have surrendered in the World War II siege of Leningrad in order to save civilian lives. It then transmitted programmes on a subscription internet site and through YouTube.

Lawmakers extend age limit for military draft

Moscow (AP): The Russian parliament's lower house on Tuesday approved a bill extending the upper age limit for the compulsory military draft from 27 to 30, a move that appears to be part of efforts by the Kremlin to expand the military during the fighting in Ukraine. All Russian men aged 18-27 are currently obliged to serve in the military for one year, although many avoid the draft by using deferments granted to students, people with chronic illnesses and others.

The bill, which was quickly approved by the lower house on Tuesday, still needs to be endorsed by the upper house and signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law. It comes as the Russian army is facing a grinding Ukrainian counteroffensive in several parts of the more than 1,000-km (625-mile) front.

S Korean court overturns impeachment of govt min ousted over crowd crush

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's Constitutional Court on Tuesday overturned the impeachment of the public safety minister ousted over a Halloween crowd surge that killed nearly 160 people last October at a nightlife district in the capital, Seoul.

The court's decision allows Lee Sang-min to return as the minister of the interior and safety. Vice Minister Han Chang-seob has served as acting minister since February when South Korea's opposition-controlled parliament voted to impeach Lee, saying he should be held responsible for the government's failure to employ effective crowd control measures and its botched emergency response, which contributed to the high death toll in Itaewon.

Lee, 58, is seen as a key ally of conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol, whose office welcomed the decision and had accused the opposition liberals of creating "shameful history" by pushing for his impeachment.



In rejecting the parliamentary impeachment of Lee, the court said he could not be held chiefly responsible for the crowd crush, which it said reflected broader failures across different government organizations to develop a combined ability to respond to large-scale disasters.

There's not enough evidence to prove that Lee failed to carry out his legal and constitutional duties as a government official to protect the safety and lives of citizens, the court said. Lee was the first Cabinet minister impeached by the National Assembly, which previously

impeached conservative President Park Geun-hye in 2016. The Constitutional Court formally removed Park from office in March 2017 by upholding lawmakers' decision to impeach her. She was imprisoned for corruption before her liberal successor, Moon Jae-in, pardoned her in December 2021. Following a 74-day investigation into the crowd crush in January, a special investigation team led by the National Police Agency concluded that police and municipal officials in Seoul's Yongsan district failed to plan out effective crowd control measures despite correctly anticipating huge crowds of Halloween revelers in Itaewon.

Police also ignored hotline calls placed by pedestrians who warned of swelling crowds before the surge turned deadly on Oct. 28. Officials also botched their response before people began getting toppled over and crushed in a narrow alley near Hamilton Hotel and failed to establish control of the scene and allow paramedics to reach the

injured in time, according to the investigation.

Police have pursued criminal charges, including involuntary manslaughter and negligence, against 23 officials — about half of them law enforcement officers — over the lack of crowd controls and safety measures in Itaewon. But critics, including opposition politicians and families of the victims, have claimed that police investigators went soft on the higher members of Yoon's government, including Lee and National Policy Agency Commissioner General Yoon Hee-keun, who had faced calls to resign. Despite anticipating a crowd of more than 100,000, Seoul police had assigned 137 officers to Itaewon on the day of the crush. Some experts have called the crush in Itaewon a "manmade disaster" that could have been prevented with fairly simple steps, such as employing more police and public workers to monitor bottleneck points, enforcing one-way walk lanes and blocking narrow pathways.

China names Pan to lead central bank

Beijing (AP): Pan Gongsheng was named China's central bank governor Tuesday in the widely anticipated final major appointment of the ruling Communist Party's once-a-decade change of power.

Pan, a deputy central bank governor and veteran of China's state-owned banking industry, succeeds Yi Gang, an American-trained economist who held the post for five years. The endorsement of Pan's promotion by the ceremonial legislature, the National People's Congress, follows other Cabinet-level appointments announced in March. The governor of the People's Bank of China is the most prominent Chinese figure in finance circles but the post's powers are limited. The bank is controlled by the ruling Communist Party. Pan, who turns 60 this month, met July 8 with visiting US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, indicating he was being promoted.

INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED (Formerly Integrated Technologies Limited) CIN: L10719DL1995PLC277176 Regd. Off.: 288 Basement AGCR Enclave East Delhi Shahdara Shahdara DL 110092 IN Ph: 011-45511351, Email: info@integratedindustries.in					
STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2023 (Rs. in crores except EPS)					
S. NO.	Particulars	Consolidated			
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	31.03.2023 (Audited)	30.06.2022 (Unaudited)	31.03.2023 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	19.47	0.04	-	5.14
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1.51	0.01	-0.05	4.99
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1.51	0.01	-0.05	4.99
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1.17	-3.62	-0.05	1.36
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	1.17	-3.62	-0.05	1.36
6	Equity Share Capital	4.83	4.83	4.83	4.83
7	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)	-	-	-	-
8	Earnings per Share (of Rs. 10 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (not annualized) Basic (in Rs.) Diluted (in Rs.)	2.42	-7.50	-0.10	2.82

Notes:

- These above unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter ended 30th June 2023 ("the results") of the Integrated Industries Ltd ("the Company") (formerly known as Integrated Technologies Ltd), were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 25th July, 2023. The same have been subjected to limited review by Statutory Auditors of the Company in terms of regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- The unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter ended 30th June 2023 ("the results") of the Integrated Industries Ltd ("the Company") (formerly known as Integrated Technologies Ltd) have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of Companies Act, 2013 ("The Act") read with the relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- The unaudited consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles laid down in Indian Accounting Standard ("Ind AS") - 34 "Interim Financial Reporting", notified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, as amended from time to time, and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- The unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter ending 30th June, 2023 includes the quarterly limited reviewed financial results of one subsidiary. The financial results of one subsidiary have been consolidated in accordance with Ind AS 110 - "Consolidated Financial Statements".
- In the context of reporting business / geographical segment as required by Ind AS 108 - "Operating Segments", the Company's operations comprise of mainly two business segment - Dealing and Manufacturing of Food Products. Unaudited Consolidated Segment Information has been for the quarter ending 30th June 2023 has been attached as per "Annexure A".
- The name of the company has been changed from Integrated Technologies Limited to "Integrated Industries Limited" vide MCA order dated 25th May, 2023 and the same has been applied to Bombay Stock Exchange.
- The company has commenced new line of business consisting of manufacturing and trading of food products and these financial results comprises of revenue form said the new line of business.
- During the Quarter ending 30th June 2023, the Company has acquired 100% stake in M/s Nurture well Foods Private Limited. This Subsidiary Company (Nurture Well Foods Private Limited), acquired a running biscuit manufacturing plant with a capacity of 34000 MT per annum at Neerana, Rajasthan during the quarter ended 30th June 2023.
- In the context of Note no 8 of these results, the company has made changes in Significant Accounting policy and such differences has been stated in "Annexure B" in terms of Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- Previous period figures have been regrouped/recast/reclassified, wherever necessary to correspond with the current period's classification / disclosure.

For INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(Formerly Integrated Technologies Limited)
Sd/-
Saurabh Goyal
Managing Director
DIN: 01094455

Place : New Delhi
Date : 25th July, 2023

Jill marks US' UNESCO re-entry

AP ■ PARIS

US first lady Jill Biden attended a flag-raising ceremony at UNESCO in Paris on Tuesday, marking Washington's official reentry into the UN agency after a controversial five-year hiatus.

The Stars and Stripes was hoisted up outside UNESCO's headquarters with the Eiffel Tower on the skyline to rousing applause and a rendition of the national anthem. Before the flag-raising, Biden made remarks about the importance of American leadership in preserving cultural heritage and empowering education and science across the globe.

"I was honoured to join you today as we raise the flag of the United States, the symbol of our commitment to global collaboration and peace," Biden said. She said that this move was an example of



President Joe Biden's pledge about "restoring our leadership on the world stage."

"We are so proud to rejoin UNESCO," she proclaimed, acknowledging that "as a teacher I'm a little biased." The United States had announced its intention to rejoin UNESCO in June, and the organization's 193 member states earlier this month voted to approve the US reentry. Tuesday's ceremony, which also featured a speech by

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, formally signified the US becoming the 194th member — and flag proprietor — at the agency.

"We are putting 'the Star Spangled banner back where it belongs,'" Azoulay said. "In the time of divisions, rifts and existential threats, we reaffirm our union here today," Azoulay also said, referring to current global political instabilities. "Together we will be stronger."

"The return of the United States has a meaning that is bigger than UNESCO," she added.

Azoulay emphasised the significance of the move for multilateralism and "universality" as a whole — in a speech that name checked the war in Ukraine. She said the momentum of UNESCO will grow with the reintegration of the US, thereby strengthening the organization's initiatives throughout the world.

Thai Parl delays PM vote pending court ruling

Bangkok (AP): A vote expected in Thailand's Parliament later this week to select a new prime minister will be postponed, the house speaker said Tuesday, adding to growing uncertainty over when a new government can take office, more than two months after the general election.

House of Representatives Speaker Wan Muhamad Noor Matha told reporters the vote he had scheduled for Thursday would be postponed pending a decision from the Constitutional Court. The state ombudsman has asked the court to rule whether it was legal to bar Move Forward Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat from being nominated as a prime ministerial candidate a second time. Pita lost a first vote in Parliament for the top

post on July 13, and then was barred from a second try last week when a procedural vote said he could not submit his name again. The court has not yet set a date for its decision. Wan Noor also said delaying the vote would allow lawmakers to celebrate King Maha Vajiralongkorn's 71st birthday on Friday. Pita led his progressive party to a first-place finish in the May election and assembled an eight-party coalition that together won 312 seats in the 500-member lower house. But confirming a new prime minister requires a majority of a joint vote with the 250-member Senate, and Pita's initial bid fell short by more than 50 votes, largely because he failed to get support from the Senate, only 13 of whose members backed him.

Serbia holds two for suspected Cuban smuggling

Belgrade (Serbia): Serbian police said Monday they have arrested two people suspected of helping smuggle Cubans toward Spain as part of an international crime group. The two Serbian citizens were arrested in a month-long investigation in cooperation with Spain, the Interpol and Europol, police said in a statement. They said 18 more suspects have been arrested in Spain.

The suspects in Serbia are accused of organising the illegal transfer of at least 53 people to neighbouring countries — North Macedonia or Bosnia — and on to Spain, said the statement. Serbia, a southeastern European nation located on the Balkan peninsula, is at the heart of a key land route for migrants trying to reach the European Union. AP

North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into its eastern sea, South Korea's military said on Tuesday, adding to a recent streak in weapons testing that is apparently in protest of the US sending major naval assets to South Korea in a show of force. In its third round of launches since last week, North Korea fired the missiles just before midnight from an area near its capital, Pyongyang. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. It said both missiles travelled around 400 kilometers (248 miles) before landing in waters off the Korean Peninsula's eastern coast.

Its statement called North Korea's missile launches a "grave provocation" that threatens regional peace and stability. Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said his government lodged a protest to North Korea over the launches, which is usually conveyed through its embassy in Beijing.

He said Tokyo was doing its utmost for surveillance while stepping up trilateral security cooperation with Washington and Seoul. No damage has been reported related to the missiles, which, according to Japan's Defence Ministry, fell outside the country's exclusive economic zone. The launches came hours after South Korea's navy said a nuclear-propelled US submarine — the USS Annapolis — arrived at a port on Jeju Island. That underscored the allies' efforts to boost the visibility of US strategic assets in the region to intimidate the North. Last week, the USS Kentucky became the first US nuclear-armed submarine to come to South Korea since the 1980s. North Korea reacted to its arrival by test-firing ballistic

and cruise missiles last week in apparent demonstrations that it could make nuclear strikes on South Korea and deployed US naval vessels.

Also on Monday, the American-led UN Command said it has started "a conversation" with North Korea about a US soldier who ran into the North last week across one of the world's most heavily fortified borders. Andrew Harrison, a British lieutenant general who is deputy commander at the UN Command, which oversees implementation of the 1953 armistice that ended fighting in the Korean War, declined to comment about the state of the inquiry to North Korea or say what the command knows about Pvt. Travis King's condition.

"I am in life an optimist, and I remain optimistic," Harrison said during a news conference in Seoul.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said North Korea had only "acknowledged" receiving the UN message last week and had not provided any information or commented further since then. "There have been no new contacts since last week," Miller said, adding that North Korea also had not responded to messages sent by US civilian or military officials. North Korea has remained publicly silent about King, who crossed the border during a tour of Panmunjom while he was supposed to be heading to Fort Bliss, Texas, following his release from prison in South Korea on an assault conviction.

The US still has not been able to ascertain King's condition, a senior administration official said on Monday in

EC defers Imran Khan's indictment for contempt

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's election commission on Tuesday deferred till August 2 the indictment of Imran Khan in a case linked to contempt of the top electoral body and its head after the former prime minister appeared before it in person for the first time. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) initiated contempt proceedings against Khan, 70, and former leaders of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry last year for allegedly using "intemperate" language against the chief election commissioner and the electoral watchdog.



Khan appeared before the ECP bench alongside his counsel, Shoaib Shaheen. A member of the ECP bench stated that they had intended to indict the former prime minister in the case, the Dawn newspaper reported.

However, the PTI chief's counsel requested the electoral watchdog to defer the hearing as he needed more time to gather the case record, the paper said.

In response, the ECP asserted, "It is your responsibility to manage the file and case record."

Subsequently, the watchdog accepted the counsel's plea and postponed the indictment until August 2. It also directed him to ensure Khan's presence during the next hearing.

After the hearing, Khan was asked by journalists if he would apologise to the commission.

He responded by saying, "Do you think I should apologise? Why should I tender an apology when I did not make any mistake?"

When a journalist asked if he would "take more U-turns", Khan said he would "keep taking U-turns".

Another journalist said that it seemed Imran had become a lawyer, to which the PTI chief said, "After so many cases, I have become a lawyer."

Khan has been facing scores of cases in various courts which were framed after he was removed from power in April last year. Chaudhry, once a diehard supporter of Khan, quit PTI after the May 9 violence following Khan's arrest in an alleged corruption case.

Pak court orders Imran Khan to petition broadcast regulator

Lahore (PTI): A Pakistani court on Tuesday directed former prime minister Imran Khan to take his petition regarding "a de facto" ban on his speeches and display of his picture on the media to the broadcast regulator. The Pakistani media — both broadcast and print — has been directed allegedly by the powerful army to ban the speeches, statements and images/pictures of Khan after the nationwide attacks on the military and state buildings by his party workers in reaction to his arrest on May 9 on corruption charges. Even uttering Khan's name in TV talk shows is banned.

Pakistan had been directly ruled for about half of its history by military generals. The Pakistan Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 75-plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy. "On a petition of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief regarding a de facto ban on the coverage of all material relating to him on the electronic media, Lahore High Court (LHC) Justice Rasool Hasan asked his (Khan) lawyer Sameer Khosa whether his client approached the Pakistan Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) on this matter," a court official told PTI after the hearing. When the advocate replied negatively "as his client thought the LHC is an appropriate forum to redress his grievances", the judge asked Khosa whether PEMRA had issued a directive banning Khan's speeches, statements and pictures/images on electronic media.

Bilawal, Blinken discuss Pak's economic recovery

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has discussed America's support for cash-strapped Pakistan's economic recovery and shared regional concerns, including Afghanistan in a phone call with Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The two leaders on Monday discussed various issues and agreed to strengthen ties and continue to work together to promote peace and development, the foreign office said here. In a tweet last night, Blinken said that the US "supports a productive, democratic, and prosperous partnership with Pakistan" adding that he exchanged thoughts with Bilawal on supporting the country's "economic recovery and our shared regional concerns, including Afghanistan".

Reiterating America's commitment to the people of Pakistan, Blinken said that



"Pakistan's economic development is one of the United States' top priorities", the foreign office said.

Pakistan has been facing rising incidents of terrorism, with local authorities blaming Kabul for harbouring terrorists — especially the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The secretary noted that Pakistani people have suffered

tremendously from terrorist attacks and affirmed the United States' commitment to continued partnership with Pakistan on counterterrorism.

Apart from the regional security situation, matters of mutual interest and defence cooperation were also discussed, the military's media wing mentioned in a statement. Both countries have called on war-torn Afghanistan

to ensure that its soil isn't used as a safe haven by terrorists. Thanking the US for its support, Bilawal said that the standby arrangement between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would provide "impetus to Pakistan's economic and development imperatives and that Pakistan was committed to bringing structural reforms in its economy to make it more competitive and attractive for business and foreign investment," the statement added.

Separately, US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement that Blinken spoke on the phone with Bilawal to "reaffirm a productive US-Pakistan partnership".

"Secretary Blinken underscored the United States' steadfast commitment to the people of Pakistan, highlighting that the economic success of Pakistan remains a top priority for the US," Miller said.

He further said that Blinken noted that the US would continue to engage with Pakistan through technical and development initiatives and through robust trade and investment ties.

Blinken also welcomed the IMF arrangement with Islamabad and "encouraged continued reforms to promote economic recovery and prosperity," he said.

"Secretary Blinken stressed that democratic principles and respect for the rule of law are central to the US-Pakistan relationship and these values will continue to guide this partnership forward," Miller said.

Blinken and Bilawal also discussed the destabilising effects of Russia's war against Ukraine as well as the US and Pakistan's shared interest in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, Miller added.

Greece firefighting plane crashes, new evacuations ordered

AP ■ RHODES (GREECE)

A Greek air force water-dropping plane crashed while diving into a wildfire in southern Greece on Tuesday, with both pilots feared dead, as authorities battled blazes that have been raging for days across the country amid a return of heat wave temperatures.

A state ERT TV video showed the CL-215 aircraft releasing its load of water on the island of Evia before its wingtip apparently snagged in a tree branch. Moments later it disappeared into a deep fold in the ground from which a fireball erupted.

The air force said a search and rescue operation was underway, but the prospects were not good for the two pilots as the plane had no ejection system. A third successive heat wave in Greece pushed temperatures back above 40



An aircraft drops water over a wildfire in Vati village of Rhodes, Greece on Tuesday.

degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) across parts of the country Tuesday amid a string of evacuations from fires that have raged out of control for days, whipped on by strong winds. Summer wildfires have also struck other Mediterranean

countries, leaving at least 34 people dead in Algeria. EU officials have blamed climate change for the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires across the European continent, noting that 2022 was the second-worst year for wildfire damage on record after 2017. A Greek fire service spokesman said the worst blazes on Tuesday were on the southeastern island of Rhodes and the northwestern island of Corfu — both which are popular tourist destinations. "On the other fronts we have to deal with many cases of the fire flaring up again," Ioannis Artopios said. Four villages on Rhodes were ordered evacuated on Tuesday as a fire burning for eight days continued to move inland, torching mountainous forest areas, including a part of a nature reserve. Another five evacuations were ordered on Corfu, and one overnight on Evia. On Rhodes, desperate residents, many with wet towels around their necks to stave off the scorching heat, used shovels to beat back flames approaching their homes, while firefighting planes and helicopters resumed water drops at first light.

Poland's population constantly shrinking

Warsaw (AP): Poland's population has shrunk again to just under 37.7 million in June despite returning emigrants, the state statistical office said Tuesday. A preliminary report by the Statistics Poland office says there were around 130,000 Poles fewer in the European Union country at the end of June compared to a year ago.

It was among Poland's highest decreases since 2010, when the population was over 38.5 million, despite a policy of bonuses for families with many children that the right-wing government launched after taking office at the end of 2015.

In the first six months of 2023, there were 34 more deaths than births per every 10,000 residents, compared to 21 ratio last year.

Israeli military kills three Palestinian gunmen

Nablus (AP): The Israeli military said it shot and killed three alleged Palestinian gunmen in the northern occupied West Bank on Tuesday, the latest bloodshed in one of the most violent stretches of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in years. Israeli security forces said they opened fire at Palestinian militants who had shot at them from a car in the West Bank city of Nablus, the territory's commercial capital and a major focus of the Israeli military's recently stepped-up raids. In the hilly neighbourhood of al-Tur shortly after the shooting, Israeli forces inspected a shattered black Skoda surrounded by spent bullet casings.

Palestinian media described the Israeli killing of the gunmen as an ambush following the militants' attempted attack on Israeli forces near a Jewish settlement overlooking Nablus. The Israeli military said it confiscated three M-16 rifles and other equipment from their car.

Palestinian health officials identified the men as Nur al-Ardah, 32, Montaser Salama, 33, and Saad Al-Kharraz, 43. Hamas, the Islamic militant group, claimed all three gunmen as members. Al-Kharraz had served as head of the Hamas student bloc at the city's Al Najah University.

Israeli-Palestinian fighting has surged in the territory, which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war. Palestinians seek the occupied West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, for a hoped-for future state.

In recent months, the West Bank has witnessed a volatile mix of the rise of local armed Palestinian groups carrying out frequent shooting attacks against Israelis and near-daily Israeli military raids that have increasingly turned deadly. Earlier this month, Israel's most forceful incursion into the West Bank in nearly two decades killed 12 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier.

SL opposition divided over attending all-party meeting

AP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's opposition parties on Tuesday stood divided over their participation in the all-party conference called by President Wickremesinghe on Wednesday on the National Reconciliation Programme that seeks to address the thorny issue of ethnic reconciliation of minority Tamils in the island nation.

While invitations were extended to leaders of all political parties and independent groups with representation in parliament to attend the all-party meeting on national reconciliation, some of the opposition parties have claimed that they are not aware of the exact agenda. "We have not been informed of the agenda for the meeting. But we will attend for the sake of the people," Sajith Premadasa, the main opposition leader in the Sri Lankan parliament, said.

He said his party the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) reserved the right to walk out

of the meeting if it proved to be a political gimmick rather than a genuine effort. According to a notice issued from the office of President Wickremesinghe, who recently returned from his India visit, an all-party conference has been scheduled for July 26 and invitations have been extended to leaders from all the parties. While the second largest opposition group Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) said they would not attend, other political parties said they would take part. "We will be going," Dayasiri Jayasekera of the former President Maithripala Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party said. The stance of the several other fringe opposition groups was unclear. The all-party move happens closely on the heels of the president's two-day visit to India last week where he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Wickremesinghe prior to his Delhi visit had agreed to the full implementation of the 13th Amendment (13A) to the Sri Lankan Constitution with all-party consensus without the

police powers being granted to the provinces. This was at a meeting with the Tamil parties represented in the north and east provinces.

The 13A was India's pioneering move in 1987 to try and bring in a settlement to the issue of political autonomy to the Tamils in Sri Lanka. It created nine provinces as devolved units with a temporary merger of the north and eastern provinces. Prime Minister Modi during his talks with Wickremesinghe had expressed hope that the Sri Lankan leader would be committed to implementing the 13A and holding the provincial council elections. He urged to ensure a life of respect and dignity for the Tamils. Sri Lanka has had a long history of failed negotiations to end the Tamil claim of discrimination by allowing some form of political autonomy.

The Tamils put forward their demand for autonomy after gaining independence from Britain in 1948, which from the mid-70s turned into a bloody armed conflict.

UK court orders Indian-origin lawyer to pay millions in fraud case

PTI ■ LONDON

An Indian-origin lawyer who was convicted over a decade ago on fraud and money laundering charges has now been ordered by a UK court to pay over 28 million pounds associated with criminal activity.

Bhadresh Gohil, 58, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2010 after being convicted of money laundering, prejudicing a money laundering investigation and conspiracy to defraud in connection with a corruption case involving a client who was a politician in Nigeria. At the conclusion of lengthy confiscation proceedings at Southwark Crown Court in London on Monday, the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said Gohil was found to have benefited in the sum of 42.4 million pounds and the judge determined that he has available assets of 28.2 million pounds to pay a Confiscation Order or serve six additional years in prison.

"This was one of our largest international cases and illustrates how robustly the CPS tackles international illicit finance and corruption," said Adrian Foster, Chief Crown Prosecutor in the CPS Proceeds of Crime Division. "The

amount that both defendants have benefited from their criminality has been highly contested, but thanks to the hard work of our dedicated team and that of the National Crime Agency (NCA), we have been able to uncover the full extent of their corruption.

"This has led to the making of Confiscation Orders of over 128 million pounds, which will ultimately result in the return of funds back to the people of Nigeria," he said.

Gohil's client James Ibori, 61, was found to have used his position as Governor of Delta State in Nigeria to steal millions to fund a lavish and luxurious lifestyle, buying properties in London, Washington DC, and Texas, as well as a Mercedes and a Bentley. His case concluded on Friday, when the judge determined he systematically defrauded the state and its citizens of millions of pounds, was ordered to pay over 101 million or face an additional eight years in prison. "This very significant amount of money was confiscated following an extensive investigation. Ibori was powerful and influential, but he was not above the law. Now the life he built from criminal enterprises has been taken from him," said Suzanne Foster, the Branch Commander of NCA.

PUBLIC NOTICE		PUBLIC NOTICE		PUBLIC NOTICE	
I, Namita Rawat W/o. Late Shri. Surat Singh Rawat R/o. House No. 3087, Sector-23, Gurgaon. I Declare that my husband Shri. Surat Singh Rawat Expired on 24.04.2021. He left behind the following legal heirs:		General public is hereby informed that my client named Mr. Ravi Nimesh, is owner of the Property Bearing No. 101/14 area measuring 239 Sq. Yds., Situated at Under Abadi Under Lal Dora Vaka Nangia Gurgaon Tehsil Badli Road, Distt Faridabad Haryana, and enjoying the peaceful possession since 30.01.2023, vide Transfer Deed dated 30.01.2023 regd. at doc. No. 7565, and the same is to be financed & mortgaged with UGRO Capital Ltd. Who so ever believes and finds any claim or an interest, directly or indirectly over the aforesaid property than he/she may raise the objection within 14 days from the date of this publication at the below mentioned address, failing which, it shall be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.		General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Sunita Lal W/o. Mr. Rajat Lal, is the owner of the Flat No. FF-2, on First Floor, Front Side, M/G, area measuring 750 Sq. Ft. i.e., 69.67 Sq. Meters, Built on Plot No. C/122, Situated at D.L.F. Akshar Vihar, in the area of Village Sasolabad, Pargana Lohi, Tehsil & District Ghazabad, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 28.07.2014, regd. at doc. No. 21964, who died on 29.10.2016. The above said property is to be financed & mortgaged with my client i.e., Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd and the only surviving heirs of Late Mrs. Sunita Lal are Mrs. Neha Maishy, Mr. Rajat Lal & Mr. Rohit Lal. If any persons have any objection or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.	
A. SMT. KAMILARAWAT (Mother)		Raghav Tiwari, Advocate		Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001 Mob.: +91-8076188228	
B. SMT. NAMITARAWAT (Wife)		Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001		Mob.: +91-8076188228	
C. MISS. VANSHITARAWAT (Daughter)					
There are no other legal heirs of my husband, except the above mentioned legal heirs.					
If anyone is having any objections regarding this, then he/she can raise objections within 30 days from the date of the publication in the office of Tehsildar, Gurgaon, Haryana.					

INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(Formerly Integrated Technologies Limited)
CIN: L10719DL1995PLC277176
Regd. Off.: 288 Basement AGCR Enclave East Delhi Shahdara Shahdara DL 110092 IN
Ph: 011-45511351, Email: info@integratedindustries.in

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2023

(Rs. in crores except EPS)

S. NO.	Particulars	Standalone			
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	31.03.2023 (Audited)	30.06.2022 (Unaudited)	31.03.2023 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	4.00	0.04	-	5.14
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	0.11	0.01	-0.05	4.99
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	0.11	0.01	-0.05	4.99
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	0.08	-3.62	-0.05	1.36
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	0.08	-3.62	-0.05	1.36
6	Equity Share Capital	4.83	4.83	4.83	4.83
7	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)	-	-	-	-
8	Earnings per Share (of Rs. 10 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (not annualized)				
	Basic (in Rs.)				
	Diluted (in Rs.)	0.17	-7.50	-0.10	2.85

Notes:

- These above unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2023 ("the results") of the Integrated Industries Ltd ("the Company") (formerly known as Integrated Technologies Ltd), were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 25th July, 2023. The same have been subjected to limited review by Statutory Auditors of the Company in terms of regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended.
- The unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2023 ("the results") of the Integrated Industries Ltd ("the Company") (formerly known as Integrated Technologies Ltd) have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of Companies Act, 2013 ("The Act") read with the relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended.
- The unaudited standalone financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles laid down in Indian Accounting Standard ("Ind AS") - 34 "Interim Financial Reporting", notified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, as amended from time to time, and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- Other income for the quarter ended 30 June 2023 includes Interest Income of Rs. 0.08 crores has been received from the subsidiary of the Company.
- In the context of reporting business / geographical segment as required by Ind AS 108 - "Operating Segments", the Company's operations comprise of mainly one business segment - Trading in Food related Items . Hence, there is no reportable segment as per Ind AS 108.
- The name of the company has been changed from Integrated Technologies Limited to "Integrated Industries Limited" vide MCA order dated 25th May, 2023 and the same has been applied to Bombay Stock Exchange.
- The company has commenced new line of business consisting of manufacturing and trading of food products and these financial results comprises of revenue form said the new line of business.
- During the Quarter ending 30th June 2023, the Company has acquired 100% stake in M/s Nurture well Foods Private Limited. This Subsidiary Company (Nurture Well Foods Private Limited), acquired a running biscuit manufacturing plant with a capacity of 34000 MT per annum at Neemrana, Rajasthan during the quarter ending 30th June 2023.
- Previous period figures have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever necessary to correspond with the current period's classification / disclosure.

For INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(Formerly Integrated Technologies Limited)
Sd/-
Saurabh Goyal
Managing Director
DIN: 01094455

Place : New Delhi
Date : 25th July, 2023

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
TD/TM/GEN-235 (Vol-VII)/23/1567
Date: 24.07.2023

Name of the Work: "Allotment of 05 (Five) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/ Iron Pellet plots at IOHP". License Fees Rs. 2,90,68,710/-, Wharfage Fees : Rs. 18,98,620/-, Last date & time of submission of bid: 14.08.2023 up to 15:00 hrs. Date and time of opening (technical bid): 14.08.2023 up to 15:00 hrs. Refer our Website for details https://procure.gov.in/procure/app & http://paradipport.gov.in/.

Sd/-Traffic Manager
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/37/2023-24 ctd.25.07.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAGISTRATE/MARRIAGE OFFICER GAUTAMBUH NAGAR
NO1881/ST-CM (Marriage)
Registration/2023 Date: 19 July, 2023

Deputy Collector/ I/C City Magistrate/ Marriage Officer
Noida Gautam Budh Nagar

PUBLIC NOTICE
LAND ADMEASURING 11.755 ACRES SITUATED IN VILLAGE GADABALI KALAN TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GURUGRAM, HARYANA, HB NO. 48 SECTOR 37D (Khewat 3-7-0, Khasra No. 131 (2.094 Acres), Khewat 3-8-0 Khasra No. 136 (2.125 Acres), Khewat 6-9-6 Khasra 137(3-7-0), 138 (2-15-0), 141/2(10-7-6) (4.041 Acres), Khewat 0-3-0 (47/48 share) Khasra No. 139 (0.092 Acre), Khewat 1-10-3 Khasra No. 129/1/2/2 (0.942 Acre), Khewat No. 1-18-13 Khasra No. 129/2/2 (1.208 Acres), Khewat No. 4-5-0 (481/1020 share) Khasra No. 130 (1.253 Acres) [hereafter 'LAND']

Be it known to all that M/s Signature Global Business Park Private Limited (CIN-U70109DL2019PTTC364164) are the owners the Land who has represented that Land is free from all sorts of encumbrances (registered or un-registered) including but not limited to sale, gift, mortgage, charge, lien, claims, disputes etc. Any other persons/ having any claim against, into or upon the Land or any part thereof by virtue of sale, inheritance, agreement, contract, mortgage, lien, charge, or otherwise howsoever and of whatsoever nature is hereby required to notify the same in writing along with supporting documentary evidence to the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days, from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim and/or objection, if any, shall be considered as waived and abandoned and shall not be binding upon the above owners of the land.

Chambers of Sohah Kumar
E-4, 2nd floor, Defence Colony,
New Delhi - 110024
Email: info@chambersofsohahkumar.com;
Tel.: +91 124 462279.

Indian economy to grow at 6.1% in 2023, projects IMF

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The IMF on Tuesday projected a growth rate of 6.1 per cent for India in 2023, which is a 0.2 percentage point upward revision compared with the April projection.

This is reflective of the "momentum" from stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2022 as a result of stronger domestic investment, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

"Growth in India is projected at 6.1 per cent in 2023, a 0.2 percentage point upward revision compared with the April projection," it said in its latest update of the World Economic Outlook.

According to the report, global growth is projected to fall from an estimated 3.5 per cent in 2022 to 3 per cent in both 2023 and 2024.

While the forecast for 2023 is modestly higher than pre-



dicted in the April 2023 World Economic Outlook (WEO), it remains weak by historical standards.

The rise in central bank

policy rates to fight inflation continues to weigh on economic activity. Global headline inflation is expected to fall from 8.7 per cent in 2022 to 6.8

per cent in 2023 and 5.2 per cent in 2024, it said.

Underlying (core) inflation is projected to decline more gradually, and forecasts

for inflation in 2024 have been revised upward, it said.

The IMF said the recent resolution of the US debt ceiling standoff and, earlier this year, strong action by authorities to contain turbulence in the US and Swiss banking, reduced the immediate risks of financial sector turmoil.

This moderated adverse risks to the outlook, it said.

However, the balance of risks to global growth remains tilted to the downside.

Inflation could remain high and even rise if further shocks occur, including those from an intensification of the war in Ukraine and extreme weather-related events, triggering more restrictive monetary policy, the report said.

Financial sector turbulence could resume as markets adjust to further policy tightening by central banks. China's recovery could slow, in part as a result of unresolved real estate prob-

lems, with negative cross-border spillovers, it said.

"Sovereign debt distress could spread to a wider group of economies. On the upside, inflation could fall faster than expected, reducing the need for tight monetary policy, and domestic demand could again prove more resilient," said the WEO report.

The IMF said central banks in economies with elevated and persistent core inflation should continue to clearly signal their commitment to reducing inflation.

A restrictive stance - with real rates above neutral - is needed until there are clear signs that underlying inflation is cooling.

"With fiscal deficits and government debt above pre-pandemic levels, credible medium-term fiscal consolidation is in many cases needed to restore budgetary room for manoeuvre and ensure debt sustainability," the IMF said.



Sensex, Nifty end almost flat amid volatile trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended almost flat in a see-saw trade on Tuesday as investors traded cautiously, awaiting cues from the US Federal Reserve's policy stance.

Foreign fund outflows and elevated levels of crude oil prices also weighed on investor sentiment, traders said.

In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex slipped 29.07 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 66,355.71. During the day, it touched an intra-day peak of 66,559.29 and hit the lowest level of 66,177.62.

The NSE Nifty inched up by 8.25 points or 0.04 per cent to end at 19,680.60. The broader index moved between the range of 19,729.35 and 19,615.95.

"Indian indices hovered along the flat line, waiting ahead for the crucial decision of Fed policy. Metal stocks rose due to China's commitment to provide policy support to its realty sector, while utilities were up in anticipation of demand & improvement in operating margin," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the previous two sessions, the indices have seen correction after reaching their lifetime peaks on Thursday. Nair attributed the correction in the market to the lower-than-expected quarterly performance of some bellwether companies, the outflow of foreign funds and a stronger dollar. "The recent correction of the domestic market can be attributed to several factors, including muted start to Q1 results, a reversal in FII activity, a rising dollar index, and an increase in crude oil prices," he added.

From the Sensex pack, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, NTPC and UltraTech Cement emerged as

major winners, closing the day with a gain of up to 3.33 per cent.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, ITC, L&T and SBI were the laggards, ending the session up to 3.95 per cent lower.

BSE Midcap went up by 115.44 points or 0.39 per cent to 29,750.29, while Smallcap index inched up by 107.05 points or 0.31 per cent to 34,279.08 points.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Utilities gained the maximum by 3.36 per cent, followed by Metal (2.88 per cent), Power (2.69 per cent) and Commodities (1.55 per cent).

In contrast, FMCG fell 0.75 per cent, followed by Capital Goods 0.64 per cent, realty 40 per cent and Bankex 0.37 per cent.

"Nifty witnessed pressure for the third consecutive day and traded sideways throughout the session to close with minuscule gains at 19,681 levels. Sectorially it was a mixed bag with buying seen in metals, auto, and consumer Durables.

"We expect cautiousness in the market, ahead of the Federal Reserve's policy meeting on Wednesday where a 25 bps hike is expected," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets ended mixed on Tuesday with Hang Seng gaining 4.10 per cent, Shanghai Composite rising 2.13 per cent and the Nikkei 225 closing 0.06 per cent down.

European markets were moving upward with the UK's FTSE 100 trading 0.15 per cent higher. While France's CAC 40 was up 0.24 per cent, Germany's DAX was 0.18 per cent higher.

The US markets ended broadly higher on Monday, with the S&P 500 registering a gain of 0.40 per cent.

Adani Group shares jump, adds ₹50,501 crore in a day

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's ports to power conglomerate added over Rs 50,501 crore in market capitalisation in a single day on Tuesday as shares of all the 10 listed group companies surged on renewed interest from domestic investors.

The overall market capitalisation of the 10 Adani Group companies stood at over Rs 10.6 lakh crore at the end of trading on Tuesday on the BSE, up Rs 10,501.26 crore over an m-cap of around Rs 10.1 lakh crore on the previous year, stock exchange data showed.

Market experts attribute the reasons for the rise in stock prices to an increase in interest from domestic investors.

"Definitely, there is significant interest from investors like retail, HNIs and family offices. Also, the market is catching up with the fundamentals of the Adani Group companies. The Hindenburg issue has taken a backseat and the market is judging the group by its financial performance," said a head of research of a domestic brokerage house.

Notable performers were renewable energy arm Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), city gas distributor Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL), and news broadcaster NDTV, all of which hit the upper circuit limits.

Leading the charge, AGEL registered a significant 10 per cent gain, with Adani Power not far behind, clocking a 9.3 per cent increase.

Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship firm, saw a gain of 2 per cent, boosting its market capitalisation to Rs 2.81 lakh crore. Adani Transmission, riding high on a nearly 8 per cent gain to its previous close, saw its current market price reach



Rs 834.80, which in turn propelled its market cap to Rs 93,121 crore on the BSE.

Shares of Adani Wilmar rose by 4.57 per cent, driving its current market price to Rs 416.65, thereby increasing its market capitalisation to Rs 54,151 crore. ATGL witnessed a 5 per cent gain, elevating its market cap to Rs 72,856 crore.

Adani Ports and its shares followed suit, rising by 1.90 per cent to Rs 749.35, and raising the market cap to Rs 1,61,870 crore.

Adani's cement sector stocks, Ambuja Cements, also saw a healthy growth of 4.10 per cent, lifting its market cap to Rs 87,418 crore. The ACC shares climbed 4.83 per cent, increasing the market cap to Rs 35,528 crore.

The news broadcaster NDTV hit the upper circuit limit, closing at Rs 238.75, marking a gain of 4.99 per cent.

The recent surge in Adani Group's market value reflects the various investor confidence-building measures implemented by the conglomerate in the wake of the Hindenburg report, which has resulted in the group's market value recovering to over Rs 10.6 lakh crore from its post-Hindenburg lows of Rs 6.5 lakh crore.

RBI plans guidance on stress testing for climate vulnerability of banks' credit portfolio

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India plans to soon come out with guidance for banks on stress testing for climate vulnerability of their credit portfolio, according to Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao.

He also said the consequences, intensity, severity, and frequency of climate events are hard to measure and difficult to predict, and the impact of these events on banks and financial institutions is even more difficult to quantify.

"Therefore, the first step in managing the risks to which banks and other regulated entities are exposed from climate events, is to measure the amount of exposure at risk. This is only possible if the firms adequately and transparently disclose the carbon intensity of their operations," he said at a panel discussion on 'Climate

Implications for Central Banking'.

On Tuesday, RBI released the remarks of Rao at the panel discussion organised by the IMF and Center for Social and Economic Forum on July 19 in New Delhi.

The deputy governor said the data related to exposure of firms, banks and financial institutions to climate events is crucial for planning the transition.

The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) has been working on designing global sustainability-related disclosures.

The standards will help improve trust and confidence in sustainability disclosures in companies and also create a common language for disclosure about the effect arising from climate-related risks and opportunities on their prospects.



The next step in this process, he said is to ensure availability of data and identification of vulnerabilities.

"For this we need time-consistent, transparent, standardised, and forward-looking disclosures for identification of vulnerabilities. At a firm-level, the scenario analysis and stress testing would help frame the strategies to manage the risks for individual entities.

"Central banks across the

globe are encouraging banks and other lenders to identify such vulnerabilities. In India, we plan on issuing guidance to banks on the stress testing for climate vulnerability of their credit portfolio soon," he said.

He also said central banks need to incorporate climate-related risks into their supervisory frameworks in order to contribute to the development of frameworks and standards for green finance.

According to him, financing the new green ventures alone will not be enough and there is a need for credible transition plans for existing emitting firms without compromising their output or growth.

"For this to materialise, central banks can incorporate climate-related risks into their supervisory frameworks and can contribute to the development of frameworks and standards for green finance.

Sentiments for real estate sector remain bullish for next 6 months: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The sentiment index for the real estate sector remained positive during the April-June period with an improvement from previous quarter while the outlook for the next six months is also bullish, according to Knight Frank India and NAREDCO survey.

In its 37th edition of the Real Estate Sentiment Index Q2 2023 (April-June), real estate consultant Knight Frank and industry body NAREDCO said that the current sentiment score has scaled up from the previous quarter's 57 to 63, in the optimistic zone.

"This is due to the continued resilience of the Indian economy amid a recessionary environment globally. The Current Sentiment Score signifies stakeholders' current outlook in comparison to the preceding six months," Knight Frank said.



During Q2 2023, the Future Sentiment Score rose from 61 in Q1 of 2023 to 64 in the optimistic territory as India's macroeconomic indicators remained firm, despite headwinds on some parameters, the consultant said.

The Real Estate Sentiment Index is based on a quarterly survey of key supply-side

stakeholders which include developers and financial institutions, including banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and private equity (PE) funds.

A score of 50 represents a neutral view or status quo; a score above 50 demonstrates a positive sentiment; and a score below 50 indicates a negative sentiment.

Sebi receives 4,085 complaints for corporate governance violations in over four yrs: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has received 4,085 complaints pertaining to the flouting of corporate governance norms against 1,551 companies in the last four-and-a-half years, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Of these, 132 complaints were received against firms in the current financial year till July 13; 640 grievances in 2022-23, 809 in 2021-22, 1,151 in 2020-21 and 1,353 in 2019-20, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

During the last four years and current year, complaints for corporate governance violations were received against several companies, including Yes Bank, Zee Entertainment Enterprises, Religare Enterprises, Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports And Special Economic Zone, Adani Power and ACC Ltd.

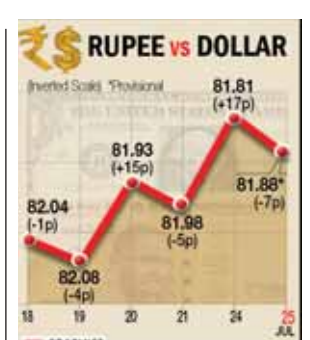
In cases of complaints regarding violation of corpo-

rate governance norms, Sebi takes up the matter with the concerned stock exchange, which in turn, seeks comments from the concerned company, and subsequent steps are taken for redressal of such complaints, he added.

Further, Sebi constituted a committee under the chairmanship of its former whole-time member G Mahalingam in April last year on strengthening the governance of market infrastructure institutions.

In complaints against companies related to violation of rules on diversion or misappropriation of funds; material misstatement in financial statements, etc. Sebi investigates the allegations, and based on the findings of the probe, appropriate enforcement action is initiated.

Additionally, Sebi's complaints redress system SCORES received 239 complaints against entities for alleged insider trading or price manipulation in the current fiscal till July 13, the minister said.



Rupee falls 7 paise to close at 81.88 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee pared initial gains to settle 7 paise lower at 81.88 against the American currency on Tuesday, as elevated crude oil prices and a muted trend in domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments.

Forex traders said the strengthening of the American currency in the overseas market further dented investor sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 81.74 against the dollar and touched an early high of 81.67 in initial deals.

The local unit, however, pared initial gains and finally ended the day at 81.88 (provisional), down 7 paise from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee had settled at 81.81 against the dollar.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.12 per cent to 101.46.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined marginally by 0.18 per cent to USD 82.59 per barrel.

"In the wake of a strong handover of West and Asian currencies, the Indian rupee opened a gap-up, but RBI may have intervened in the market along with the dollar demand from hedgers erasing the gains," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

BUSINESS BRIEF

GOLD DROPS ₹150 TO ₹60,200/10 GM; SILVER SLUMPS ₹300
NEW DELHI: Gold prices dropped by Rs 150 to Rs 60,200 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday amid a fall in yellow metal prices globally, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had settled at Rs 60,350 per 10 gram in the previous trade. Silver also slumped by Rs 300 to Rs 76,700 per kilogramme. In the overseas market, gold and silver were quoting lower at USD 1,959 per ounce and USD 24.50 per ounce, respectively.

HOSPITAL GIVES FRESH LEASE OF LIFE TO SENIOR CITIZEN
NEW DELHI: SRM Global Hospital at Kattan kulathur has successfully performed a lifesaving procedure by placing an ICD (Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator) on a senior citizen 82 years old, a retired Government school Headmaster. This patient Rajamani 82 years brought to SRM Global Hospital for palpitation and giddiness with sweating. On admission, his pulse rate was 180-200 beats/min. A condition called VT (ventricular Tachycardia) is a life-threatening condition. The VT was not controlled by drugs. Meanwhile, he developed Cardiac arrest and was revived by 200J DC shock. On the same day, he had six cardiac arrests and was revived.

SBI LIFE Q1 NET PROFIT RISES 45% TO ₹381 CRORE
NEW DELHI: SBI Life Insurance on Tuesday reported a 45 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 381 crore for the June quarter. The private sector life insurer, promoted by country's largest lender SBI, had posted a net profit of Rs 263 crore during the April-June period of 2022-23. The company's gross written premium during the June quarter rose 19 per cent to Rs 13,560 crore as against Rs 11,350 crore in the year-ago period, SBI Life said in a release.

Revenue of top domestic pharmaceutical firms to grow by 7-9% in FY24: Icria

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Revenue of top domestic pharmaceutical companies is likely to grow by 7-9 per cent in the current fiscal, according to rating agency Icria.

The growth will be supported by an 8-10 per cent expansion in the domestic market and a 6-8 per cent rise in the US market, while revenues from the European and emerging markets are expected to increase by 3-5 per cent and 8-10 per cent, respectively, it noted.

Icria said it has taken into account a sample set of 25

Indian drug firms, which constitute 60 per cent of the overall domestic industry. The segment reported a growth of 10 per cent in the 2022-23 fiscal.

Icria said that a continued focus on complex generics/specialty launches in the US market is expected to support industry margins in FY2024.

The overall credit profile of Indian pharmaceutical companies is expected to remain healthy, supported by their stable earnings profile, comfortable leverage and coverage metrics, and strong liquidity position, it added.



"The 8-10 per cent growth in the domestic market in FY2024 will be supported by a WPI-linked price hike of 12.1 per cent allowed for products

under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), new product introductions and annual price hikes for non-NLEM products," Icria Assistant Vice President & Sector Head Mythri Macherla said.

Growth in the US market is expected to moderate to 6-8 per cent in FY2024, given the large base and continued mid-high single-digit price erosion for base products, she added.

USFDA inspections have gained momentum in the recent past, and regulatory risks remain a key monitorable, the rating agency stated.

The agency also pointed out the recent instances of cyber attacks on some Indian pharmaceutical companies, leading to temporary disruptions in their operations.

"The frequency of such attacks and their impact on the companies' business and financial profiles remain monitorable," it added.

The annual capex run rate for the sample set is likely to be Rs 20,000 crore in FY2024. It stood at Rs 51,600 crore in FY2023 due to a large acquisition by one of the companies, it added.

SATWIK-CHIRAG BECOMES WORLD NO. 2



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fresh from winning the Korea Open, India's top men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy on Tuesday rose to a career-best second spot in the latest BWF rankings. Satwik and Chirag gained a place, displacing the Chinese pair of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang whom they had defeated in the Korea Open semi-finals last week, to achieve a new career-high ranking in the men's doubles circuit.

The reigning Asian champions, who won the Korea Open (Super 500), Swiss Open (Super 300) and Indonesia Open (Super 1000) titles this season, now have 87,211 points. Playing their fourth final of the year, Satwik and Chirag had rallied from a game down to defeat the world number one pair of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in the Korea Open last week.

The two have not lost a single final this season and are on a 10-match unbeaten streak on the BWF World Tour.

Meanwhile, two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, who made an early exit from the Korea Open, has managed to hold on to her 17th spot in the singles list.

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal, however, has dropped a spot to 37.

HS Prannoy continues to be India's top-ranked shuttler, occupying the 10th spot in the men's singles rankings, led by Denmark's Victor Axelsen.

While Canada Open winner Lakshya Sen has slipped a place to world number 13 after missing the Korea Open, Kidambi Srikanth, who has been struggling with form, remains on 20th.

Srikanth and Prannoy in Japan Open pre-quarters; Aakarshi out



PTI ■ TOKYO

Indian shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy entered the pre-quarterfinals of the men's singles competition in the BWF Japan Open but it was curtains for Aakarshi Kashyap, who ran into Akane Yamaguchi in her very first outing, here on Tuesday.

The tournament is taking place at the Yoyogi National Gymnasium.

The Indians had a mixed outing, as in the men's singles, Srikanth brushed aside Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan 21-13, 21-13 to comfortably make the pre-quarters, while compatriot Prannoy too easily defeated Li Shifeng of China 21-17, 21-13 to enter the

Round of 16. Both are set to face each other in the next round.

In the women's singles, Aakarshi failed to get past the formidable Yamaguchi of Japan, losing 17-21, 17-21.

In women's doubles, the pair of Treasa Jolly and Pullela Gayatri Gopichand engaged in a battle against the Japanese duo of Sayaka Hobara and Suizu. Despite losing the opening game, the Indians prevailed 11-21, 21-15, 21-14 to enter the pre-quarters.

In the mixed doubles category, the Promoted from Reserves (PFR) Indian pair of Rohan Kapoor and Nelakurihi Sikki Reddy failed to make the most of their opportunity, as despite winning the opening game, they were taken out by the Taiwanese duo of Ye Hong-wei and Lee Chia-hsin 21-18, 9-21, 18-21.

Remaining opening round Indian fixtures:

Men's singles: Mithun Manjunath vs Weng Hongyang, Priyanshu Rajawat vs Lakshya Sen

Women's singles: PV Sindhu vs Zhang Yiman, Malvika Bansod vs Aya Oori

Men's doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty vs Leo Rolly Carnando-Daniel Marthin, MR Arjun-Dhruv Kapila vs Aaron Chia-Soh Wooi Yik.

Messi could make first start against Atlanta: Martino



AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE

Lionel Messi could make his first start for Inter Miami following his dramatic winning-goal debut when his new team face Atlanta United in the Leagues Cup on Tuesday, coach Gerard Martino said. Messi made an explosive impact after coming on as a 54th-minute substitute in the 2-1 win over Mexican club Cruz Azul on Friday, curling in a stoppage-time free-kick for the victory.

Miami's Argentine head coach Martino opted to limit the minutes for Messi and Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets on Friday but with both players making such a strong impression, Martino said Monday he is tempted to start the pair against his former club on Tuesday.

"Well, it is very likely that both Leo and Busi will play more time. I even think that if they are going to play more (then) we will change the dynamic and they will go maybe from the beginning. But we all know that when Leo starts, that amount of time we would be talking about is 90 minutes," said the

former Barcelona and Argentina coach.

"But everything will depend on how they feel, it is only the second game that they are going to play," he said.

A win in Tuesday's game at DRV PNK Stadium would ensure Inter progress to the knockout stage of the new tournament for Major League Soccer and Mexican Liga MX clubs.

MLS has paused play in its regular season until August 20 meaning Messi and company would have nearly a month without a scheduled game should they fail to progress.

Martino said that his players are still working on the changes they need to make to get the best out of their two new star teammates, who will soon be joined by Spanish former Barca full-back Jordi Alba.

"We had already started working on changing the way we play but it is clear that with Busquets, Jordi and Leo we will have to (further) modify the way that we play and we also have to work on raising the level in general," said Martino.

Philippines secure historic WC win but Norway suffer double blow

AP ■ WELLINGTON

The Philippines won a World Cup match for the first time as they stunned co-hosts New Zealand on Tuesday but former champions Norway suffered a double blow to leave their hopes in the balance.

Philippines coach Alen Stajcic said on the eve of the New Zealand match his side wanted to "crash the party", and they did just that with a gutsy 1-0 victory in front of 32,357 fans in Wellington.

Sarina Bolden scored the only goal with a header in the first half for a famous Philippines win -- the country's first at

either a men's or women's World Cup.

Switzerland and the 1995 champions Norway -- who lost star striker Ada Hegerberg moments before kickoff with injury -- then drew 0-0 in the Hamilton rain, leaving the Swiss in the driving seat in Group A.

Switzerland are top with four points, one ahead of New Zealand and debutants the Philippines. Norway have scored no goals and garnered just one point.

Switzerland just need to avoid defeat against New Zealand on Sunday to reach the last 16.

The Philippines could join



them for a fairytale place in the knockout stage, but no matter what happens next up against Norway at the weekend, beating

the Women's World Cup hosts will live long in the memory.

"I can't believe what we have achieved," said tearful

Philippines midfielder Sara Eggesvik.

In contrast, the New Zealand players were left in tears.

"It's so heartbreaking for everyone in this team," said their Czech coach Jitka Klimkova, whose side beat Norway 1-0 in the opening game of the tournament for a first-ever World Cup win of their own.

"We were fighting until the end, but it wasn't enough."

In the first game of the day, Colombia were too good for a blund South Korea with a 2-0 victory.

Eighteen-year-old striker

Linda Caicedo, who overcame cancer three years ago, was the beneficiary of a glaring goal-keeping error when Yoon Young-geul allowed the striker's shot to squirm through her hands.

Catalina Usme had scored a penalty to put the South Americans in front on the half-hour in bright sunshine in Sydney before Caicedo got the second nine minutes later.

South Korea coach Colin Bell brought on US-born attacker Casey Phair as they chased the game in the second half. At 16 years and 26 days, she made history as the youngest Women's World Cup player ever.

Nehra equals 'best Indian time' in 800m freestyle

PTI ■ FUKUOKA

Teenage swim sensation Aryan Nehra equalled the 'best Indian time' to finish 27th in the 800m freestyle event at the swimming World Championships here on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old clocked a personal best 8:00.76 in the heats to match Advait Page's 'best Indian time'.

With Tuesday's swim, Aryan improved his personal best of 8:01.81, which he had clocked earlier this month at the Nationals in Hyderabad.

Aryan, however, failed to advance to the final as only top eight swimmers from the heats qualify.

The teenager from Gujarat is in the middle of a purple

patch. He went on a record-breaking spree at the Nationals, winning four gold medals and notching up as many national records.

Aryan will also compete in the 1500m freestyle event later this week.

In swimming, timing is considered a national record when it has been achieved at the National Aquatic Championships.

Hence, the timings clocked in other meets are called the 'best Indian time'.

The other Indian swimmer in action on Tuesday, Sajjan Prakash, finished 23rd in 200m butterfly with timing of 1:58.07.

The 29-year-old Kerala swimmer has a personal best of 1:56:38 in the event.

India name team for Asian Champions Trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lalit Kumar Upadhyay is among the five forwards left out of the 18-member Indian men's hockey team for next month's Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai.

Apart from Lalit, Abhishek, Pawan, Dilpreet Singh and Simranjeet Singh, who are all currently with the Indian squad in Spain gearing up for the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation-International Tournament, also missed the cut for the prestigious tournament to be played at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium from August 3 to 12.

Ace dragflyer Harmanpreet Singh will continue to lead the side while midfielder Hardik Singh will serve as his deputy.

Manpreet Singh will return to the midfield after previously being listed as a defender during the European leg of the Pro League.

India will face Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan and China in the Pool stage of the tournament.

The tournament will also serve as a



preparation event for the Hangzhou Asian Games, which is also the 2024 Paris Olympics qualifying tournament for hockey.

Veteran PR Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak have been named as the team's goalkeepers, while the team also include stalwarts such as defender Amit Rohidas, midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad and former captain Manpreet, among others.

"We have carefully chosen a squad that has the potential to go on and give a good account of themselves in the Asian Champions Trophy," said chief coach Craig Fulton in a release on Tuesday.

"The squad has a blend of youth and experience. It's an exciting phase for the squad as we start the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation-International Tournament in Spain tomorrow (Wednesday) and post this tournament (we) fly directly to Chennai to play at home in the Asian Champions Trophy," said Fulton.

TEAM:
Goalkeepers: PR Sreejesh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak
Defenders: Jarnanpreet Singh, Sumit, Jugraj Singh, Harmanpreet Singh (capt), Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas
Midfielders: Hardik Singh (vice-captain), Vivek Sagar Prasad, Manpreet Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Shamsher Singh.
Forwards: Akashdeep Singh, Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, S Karthi.

Paris Olympics organisers face host of challenges with a year to go

AP ■ PARIS

The Paris Olympics begin with a spectacular ceremony on July 26, 2024 but with a year to go, organisers face a series of challenges.

SECURITY CONCERNS

Organisers will pray there is no repeat next summer of the riots that raged around France earlier this month after a policeman shot dead a 17-year-old youth at a traffic stop.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said this month he was sure the Paris Olympics would take place "in a peaceful environment", even though much of the trouble flared in parts of the French capital where Games events will take place next year.

"We can note that these



riots were not related to the Olympic Games in any respect," Bach told reporters.

SHADOW OF UKRAINE WAR

With no end to the war in Ukraine in sight, the issue of

whether Ukrainian and Russian competitors can compete side-by-side at the Paris Olympics remains unresolved and highly sensitive.

Ukraine's sports minister has threatened to boycott if Russian competitors are

allowed to take part, although many potential Ukrainian Olympians are now questioning that stance.

If Russians do compete in Paris, it will undoubtedly be as a 'neutral' team without official team colours.

OPENING CEREMONY

The unprecedented opening ceremony on the River Seine will set the tone for the Games.

Instead of the traditional setting in a stadium, the teams will parade down the river on 115 boats, with the spectacular backdrop of the Eiffel Tower and the Paris landmarks and up to half a million spectators lining the river.

PROBE INTO ORGANISERS

The local organising committee was rocked in July when its offices were raided by police as part of an investigation into contracts awarded for the Games. The homes of Etienne Thobois, the Chief Executive Officer of Paris 2024, and Edouard Donnelly, the executive director of operations, were also raided.

The investigation will not

stop the Games taking place but it is an embarrassment.

TRANSPORT PRESSURE

While competitors should be whisked along dedicated Olympic lanes from the Athletes' Village to venues, spectators could face more problems getting about in an already congested city. The race is on to complete the extension of Metro Line 14 so that it runs to the Athletes' Village in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, where the athletics venue Stade de France is also situated.

Despite concerns, Jean Castex, the former French prime minister in charge of Paris transport authority RATP, says that line will be ready by June 2024.

The airports are bracing for a surge in arrivals. Around 85,000 athletes and officials will be accredited for the Games and many will come.

Sabitzer joins rivals Dortmund from Bayern

AP ■ HAMBURG

Borussia Dortmund have signed midfielder Marcel Sabitzer from Bundesliga rivals Bayern Munich on a four-year deal.

The 29-year-old Austrian vice-captain has undergone a medical and signed a contract until June 2027, his new club announced.

"I can hardly wait to finally join the team and wear the BVB jersey," said Sabitzer, whose deal is reported to be worth 19 million euros (\$21m).

"The talks with the Borussia Dortmund management were outstanding and have shown me how ambitious the club wants to be in the coming years.

"I would like to play my part in ensuring that BVB achieve their objectives and have every reason to celebrate something



special with their fans again as soon as possible."

After starting his professional career in Austria at Admira Wacker and playing a season at Rapid Vienna, Sabitzer joined Bundesliga club RB Leipzig in 2014. After a one-season loan spell in Salzburg he joined Bayern Munich in 2021.

In total, he has played 185 Bundesliga matches and 32 Champions League games. He has 71 caps for Austria.

Rain saves WI from whitewash



playing arena match ready. It was well past the resumption time when the rain relented, once again raising hopes of some action on the field of play.

The covers were taken off again, as the duo of Tegenarine Chanderpaul (24 batting) and Jermaine Blackwood (20) padded up to resume the West Indies second innings at their overnight score of 76 for two.

But the covers were back again as a massive cloud hovered over the Queen's Park Oval, leaving those hoping to see cricket and those looking to get the game going, frustrated.

It stopped for a brief while, only to come back with greater force, putting to rest all hopes of play resuming. Puddles of water had again formed on the covers, and the grass was also very damp.

The hosts had lost skipper Kraigg Brathwaite and Kirk McKenzie on the fourth evening, leaving the task of leading their revival to Chanderpaul and Blackwood.

In the end, they were not required to come out trying to save a Test match on a fifth-day pitch, which, though, hardly had any demons.

The equation was simple for Rohit's men. India needed to bowl out the West Indies on the

final day to earn the maximum points (12) and percentage of points (100) from the match. A total of 12 points are awarded per match to all teams who win a Test in the WTC.

As per the points distribution, the visitors could manage only four points as the match ended in a draw. In the event of a tie in the WTC cycle, the 12 points are equally shared by the two teams.

All teams are ranked on the percentage of points won in the WTC.

Thanks to their win in the first Test, India bagged 12 points to occupy the top spot in the pecking order. That victory paved the way for India's fifth successive series in the Caribbean, but the 1-0 verdict is not the result the visitors had come here for considering the difficult assignments that await them.

India have two away tours to South Africa and reigning world WTC champions Australia lined up, besides a home series against a formidable England.

India ended the series against the West Indies with 16 points and 66 percentage points.

It is worth mentioning that the last time these two sides met at the same ground was in 2016, and only 22 overs were possible due to relentless rain.



We are in right place: Rohit

PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN

The Indian team is in the right place, said skipper Rohit Sharma after the 1-0 series win over the West Indies and praised Mohammed Siraj for stepping up in the absence of senior pacers. Siraj picked up his maiden Man-of-the-Match award in the traditional five-day game after grabbing 5 for 60 in the West Indies' first innings of the second Test, which ended in a draw.

"We are in the right place. It's about getting the job done," Rohit said at the presentation ceremony.

Asked if Siraj is ready to spearhead the pace attack, Rohit said he is not looking for only one bowler to play the lead role.

"Siraj, I have been watching closely. He's taken such a giant

step. He has led this attack. I don't want anyone to lead the attack. I want everyone to lead when they are having the ball in their hand. You want the entire pace battery taking the responsibility," he said.

The Indian captain also lauded the efforts of centurion Virat Kohli and Ishan Kishan, who slammed a 34-ball 52 in the second innings before the declaration came about.

"You need guys like Ishan. We wanted quick runs, we promoted him, he wasn't afraid. He was the first one to put his hand up.

"In Test matches, you need guys who stabilise the innings like what Virat did, he played superbly. You need the mixture of everything. We have depth, we have got variety," Rohit said.

India slips to 2nd in WTC standings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India have dropped to the second spot in the latest World Test Championship (WTC) standings after being held to a draw against West Indies.

Leading the two-match series 1-0, India looked on course to win the second Test but had to settle for a share of the spoils after the entire final day was washed out. The draw hurt India's win-loss percentage, which has dropped from 100 to 66.67.

Pakistan now sit alone at the top of the standings with a 100 per cent win-loss record, following their four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in Galle last week.

Reigning WTC champions Australia (54.17) and England (29.17), who are playing the Ashes series, occupy the third and fourth spot respectively.

West Indies have benefited from the draw against India as their win-loss percentage has increased to 16.67 and they have moved up to fifth spot, while Sri Lanka, with one loss, are ninth.

WI recall Hetmyer, Thomas for India ODIs

PTI ■ ST JOHN'S

Flamboyant batter Shimron Hetmyer and pacer Oshane Thomas have been recalled by hosts West Indies for the three-match ODI series against India, starting in Barbados on Thursday.

Former skipper Nicholas Pooran and all-rounder Jason Holder were unavailable for selection while injured all-rounder Keemo Paul also misses out, according to a Cricket West Indies press release.

Fast bowler Jayden Seales and leg-spinner Yannic Cariah have been named in the 15-member squad following their rehabilitation from surgery, while left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie has also been included, having recovered from injury.

The big-hitting Hetmyer has not featured for the Caribbean side in any format in almost a year. His last 50-over game was against Australia in July 2021. He was left out of the squad for the World Cup Qualifiers despite having made himself available for selection.

Thomas, on the other hand, last played for West Indies in December 2021. "We welcome Oshane and Shimron back into the group. Both have played at the international level before, with some success, and we believe they will fit well into the set-up," chief selector Desmond Haynes said.

"Oshane brings pace and is a potential wicket-taker with the new ball. Shimron's style of batting will offer a lot especially in the middle stage of the innings and he is also a potential finish-



er," he added. The series will be West Indies' first 50-over assignment since the ODI World Cup Qualifier in May, where they failed to advance to the main tournament in India later this year.

The former champions lost four out of their seven games in the Qualifiers.

The first two games will be played at the Kensington Oval on July 27 and 29 before the teams move to Trinidad for the final match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on August 1.

Squad: Shai Hope (Captain), Rovman Powell (Vice Captain), Alick Athanaze, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Dominic Drakes, Shimron Hetmyer, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, Kevin Sinclair, Oshane Thomas.

PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN

An Indian team in transition will feel robbed of an opportunity as torrential rain came in its way of potentially winning the second Test against West Indies and completing a 2-0 series whitewash here on Monday.

Eying a clean sweep after their victory inside three days in Dominica, India called the shots here too and set the hosts an

imposing target of 365.

But the match ended in a draw after the fifth and final day's play was washed out.

Having taken two wickets to leave the beleaguered West Indies trailing by 289 runs by the end of the fourth day's play, the Indians would have certainly fancied their chances of emerging victorious and grabbing a full 24 points in the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 cycle.

But that was not to be, thanks to the heavy downpour as India concluded their Test campaign with no further gains. The main cover was taken off after losing nearly two and half hours of play, as dark clouds gave way to clear blue skies.

The game was first supposed to start at 13.15 local time, more than four hours later than the scheduled 9 am start, but the rain returned just as the groundsmen were getting the

Eng still 'massively up' for Ashes finale: Crawley

AP ■ MANCHESTER

England batsman Zak Crawley has insisted the hosts will have no trouble motivating themselves for this week's fifth Test against Australia even though they can no longer regain the Ashes.

What had looked like being a thrilling series-decider at The Oval has had some of the edge removed after England's quest to draw level in the fourth Test at Old Trafford was thwarted by rain, with only 30 overs possible across the final two days. England dominated proceedings in Manchester, with Crawley's superb 189 against world Test champions Australia the stand-out individual performance. But a rain-marred draw left



England 2-1 down in the series with just this week's Test to come and Australia — as the holders — assured of retaining the Ashes. Nevertheless, a win for England at The Oval would deny Australia their first away Ashes series victory since 2001.

"We're massively up for it," said Crawley, the series' leading run-scorer with 385.

He added: "As Ben Stokes says, we're building as a team, this isn't the end just because it's the end of the Ashes. Hopefully, it's very much the start."

"I think 2-2 would be fair."

Prior to this series, a run of low scores saw Crawley's Test place called into question. But England captain Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum continued to back the 25-year-old

opener, an ever-present in the 'Bazball' era. "I feel I'm as good a player as I have ever been, I feel good about my game," said Crawley. "Fast bowling suits my game and the Australian attack is a quick attack. I think a bit less when they're faster."

Crawley has long been a target for social media abuse, even though he has long cut himself off from all networks.

"When I first went off social media I was doing alright," he said. "It was more getting away from it, even the good stuff, you can get carried away. I won't be reading it now I've got runs. I'll be keeping myself to myself, listen to close friends and family whose opinions of me as a cricketer and a person — they're the only opinions I care about."

Pakistan take 12-run lead over SL

AP ■ COLOMBO

Pakistan took a 12-run lead over Sri Lanka in the second Test on Tuesday with eight first-innings wickets left after only 10 overs were bowled on the rain-hit second day. Pakistan was 178-2 at stumps at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

All the play was in the morning session with an early lunch taken because of heavy rain. The rain had stopped by the afternoon but the outfield was wet and, after tea, the umpires decided to call off play for the day and resume 15 minutes early on Wednesday.

Resuming on the overnight score of 145-2, Pakistan moved past Sri Lanka's first-innings total of 166 before a downpour forced the players off the field.



Pakistan scored 33 runs during the 43 minutes of play. Opener Abdullah Shafique has reached 87 while captain Babar Azam is 28 not out in a 57-run unbroken partnership for the third wicket.

Pakistan needed only 48.4 overs to dismiss Sri Lanka on Monday's opening day after the

visitors opted to bat first having won the toss. Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed claimed four wickets while Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi shared four wickets between them.

Pakistan won the first Test in Galle by four wickets and needs only a draw to clinch the two-match series.

'Vinesh, Bajrang could be withdrawn from Asiad squad if they lose Worlds trials'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat should be withdrawn from India's Asian Games squad if they lose the upcoming trials for the World Championships, it will be proposed to the IOA's ad-hoc panel, a member of the committee said on Tuesday.

Punia (men's freestyle 65kg) and Phogat (women's 53kg) were given direct entries for the quadrennial showpiece while other candidates in the remaining 16 Olympic weight categories went through gruelling trials on July 22-23 to book their places in the Indian team for the Hangzhou Games, beginning September 23.

Punia, Phogat and four other wrestlers, who staged a sit-in protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar from April 21 to May 28, had sought time till August 10 to prepare for the trials.

However, the Olympic Council Asia (OCA) did not extend the deadline beyond July 23 for receiving wrestling entries by name.

The IOA ad-hoc panel then decided to conduct trials but exempted both Punia and Phogat, triggering angry reactions from the wrestling fraternity, which alleged bias in



the decision.

"We will propose to the panel that only if Bajrang and Vinesh win the World Championship trials, only then they should be sent for the Asian Games, otherwise not. If Bajrang loses the trial then he will be on stand-by and the winner of the Asian Games trial (Vishal Kaliraman) will go," Gian Singh, a member of the panel said.

As of now Kaliraman (men's freestyle 65kg) and Antim Panghal (women's 53kg) are standby players, having won the Asian Games trials in categories where Bajrang and Vinesh compete.

LIKELY CRITERIA

In the Olympic weight categories, the top-four finishers during the Asian Games trials and one of the six protesting wrestlers (in relevant category) will be mixed to form one group.

"We are proposing that the two third-place winners (in July 22-23 trials) should play an eliminator between them and the winner will be pitted against the trial winner. The exempted wrestler will be pitted against the grappler who lost the final.

"Then the winners of these bouts should clash against each other to win a place in Indian team for Worlds," Gian Singh explained.

"This is what we are going to propose in the next ad-hoc committee meeting. Let's see if they agree."

Apart from Punia and Vinesh, the other wrestlers who will be placed in these groups will be Sakshi Malik, her husband Satyawart Kadian, Jitender Kinha and Punia's wife Sangeeta Phogat.

Sakshi, Sangeeta, Kadian and Kinha did not compete in Asian Games trials. Gian Singh said that none of these six wrestlers have so far communicated to them if they will compete in the Worlds trial.

Coping with expectations a major factor in India's home WC campaign: Kapil

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India will enter the ICC World Cup 2023 as obvious favourites, and former captain Kapil Dev on Tuesday said the home side should tame the pressure of expectations to regain the trophy. Two-time champions India will be keen to add another title to their cabinet after a hiatus of 12 years during the October 5-November 19 tournament.

"I don't know how it will pan out. They are yet to announce the team for the World Cup. India will always enter a tournament as favourites as it has been the case for a long time," said Kapil.

"It's all about how the team comes to terms with the expectations from all sides. We have won a World Cup at home, and I am sure the team, whoever gets selected, can do it again. A



World Cup is coming in four years, and I hope the players will be fully prepared," said Kapil.

During a career in which he played 131 Tests and 225 ODIs,

Kapil never really had to take a break owing to injury. But in the modern times, injury breakdowns of cricketers have become more frequent despite fresh fitness concepts coming in vogue.

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is out of action for nearly a year now, and his return is still largely a matter of speculation. Kapil said workload and injury management should be given due care considering

the amount of cricket the players are involved in this era.

"My time was different as we hardly played so much cricket. Now, these players are playing some 10 months of cricket. So, managing your body is important to keep away from injuries. Everybody's body is different and they would require individual plans to preserve their fitness," said Kapil, the 1983 World Cup winning captain.

Harleen, Jemimah rise in ODI rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India's Harleen Deol and Jemimah Rodrigues made substantial gains in the ICC women's player rankings for batters released on Tuesday, following their impressive performances in the recently-concluded series against Bangladesh.

India and Bangladesh shared the honours after the third and final ODI of the series ended in a tie in controversial circumstances.

The Player of the Match in final ODI, Deol advanced 32 places to reach 51st position while Rodrigues, who scored a match-winning 86 in the second



ODI, is up by 41 places to reach 55th.

Deol top-scored for India with 77 runs in the final match. The seasoned Deepti

Sharma is the only Indian in the top 10 — at the ninth spot — in the rankings for bowlers while Sneha Rana is up by three places to 38th.

Nida Dar to lead Pak in Asian Games

PTI ■ LAHORE

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday confirmed that 18-year-old batter Ayesha Naseem is retiring from all forms of competitive cricket, due to "personal reasons".

The PCB has appointed Nida Dar as the new skipper and it will also be her first full-time stint as the leader of the

team. On Sunday, it was reported that Naseem, an explosive right-hander had decided to call it quits because of religious reasons but PCB took another 48 hours to confirm the development. Although she had reasoned her retirement for "personal reasons", it was widely speculated that it was primarily for religious reasons.

Among players from other teams, England all-rounder Natalie Sciver-Bruno became the top-ranked batter for the first time in her career after smash-

ing a match-winning century in the final ODI of their ICC Women's Championship series, against Australia in Taunton last Tuesday.