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TIPU WAS MY SAVIOUR, SIBLING

WORLD 9

1971 LIBERATION WAR: 6 MEMBERS OF 'RAZAKAR BAHINI' GET DEATH IN B'DESH

MONEY 10

SENSEX SOARS 1,041 PTS, NIFTY NEARS 17K AS BULLS REGAIN FOOTING

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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12 SPORT

Adhir's remark on Prez sets Parliament on fire

Cong leader in LS says it's slip of tongue; BJP MPs protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The two Houses of Parliament on Thursday witnessed unprecedented turmoil with the BJP making a fiery attack on Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for his "Rashtrapatni" remark against the first tribal President Droupadi Murmu.

The heated exchanges over Chowdhury's comments also escalated outside, triggering protests by the BJP MPs.

The Congress MPs were already sitting on "dharna" before the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Parliament precincts, seeking withdrawal of suspension of MPs, immediate debate in Parliament over price rise and the imposition of the GST on essential food items.

As soon as the Lok Sabha met at 11 am, BJP members were up on their feet demanding an apology from Congress president Sonia Gandhi over Chowdhury's remark.

"The Congress leader has disrespected the President. The Congress cannot tolerate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a poor tribal woman the Presidential candidate," Union Minister Smriti Irani said.

Amid the furor, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings of the House

till 12 noon and thereafter it was adjourned till 4 pm and then for the day. Similar scenes were witnessed in the Rajya Sabha, which too witnessed a ruckus on the issue.

The Lok Sabha saw Irani making a belligerent attack on Sonia and accusing her of "sanctioning humiliation" of the Constitutional head of the country, demanding her apology. In his defense, Chowdhury, who is the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, said he never intended to disrespect the President and his "Rashtrapatni" remark was a "slip of the tongue". He accused the BJP of making a "mountain out of a molehill".

"Yesterday, when we were holding a protest at Vijay Chowk, journalists asked where we wanted to go. I said 'Rashtrapatni' only once by mistake. I urged the journalists not to show my video where I committed a mistake. The BJP is creating a row over it now," he said.

"What should I do? I said it and realised I uttered the wrong word. I even looked for media persons to whom I had said this to request them to not focus on it. However, I couldn't find them," he added, a day after the remark. In a video message later, he said India's President, be it Brahmin or tribal, is respected by all.

"I am a Bengali and not fluent in Hindi. I will apologise to the President if she felt hurt. I won't apologise to these frauds. I have sought time to meet her the day after tomorrow.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with other BJP MPs during a protest against Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remarks on President Droupadi Murmu, at Parliament House, in New Delhi on Thursday

Sonia pays for Adhir's blooper

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After the simmering tension between the Treasury Benches and the Opposition for the past eight days burst out into a full-blown confrontation between the two sides over Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's "Rashtrapatni" remark, the BJP focussed its attack on the Congress president, alleging that Adhir made the calumnious comment at the behest of Sonia Gandhi.

The party demanded that Sonia must apologise to the nation.

The no-holds-barred attack on Sonia was spearheaded by Union Minister Smriti Irani and Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha respectively. No sooner than the lower House commenced its proceedings, a vociferous Irani accused Chowdhury of disrespecting Murmu by calling her "Rashtrapatni" and charged the Congress leader with doing so with the "sanction" of Sonia.

Irani claimed that Chowdhury has disrespected the entire tribal community, women, the poor, and the downtrodden by his remark.

Targeting Congress president, Irani alleged that Sonia had "sanctioned humiliation" of a poor tribal woman who has occupied the highest constitutional post in the country. "Sonia mafi mango (Sonia must tender an apology). Your male leaders are disrespecting a poor tribal woman," she said, raising her voice dramatically.

BJP MPs, particularly women members, aggressively backed Irani, inviting counter-protests from Congress members. As the turmoil continued, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House till noon.

Didi strips Partha of Cabinet, TMC posts

CM's move comes within hours of Arpita telling ED that all wealth belonged to Min

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In an apparent damage control exercise, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday removed Partha Chatterjee as a Minister and from all posts of Trinamool Congress five days after he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the school-level job scam.

The Chief Minister's decision comes within hours of Arpita Mukherjee — a close associate of Chatterjee from whose apartments huge cash, jewellery, bank and property instruments worth crores was recovered by the ED — telling the investigators that all the properties belonged to the Minister.

Soon after a Cabinet meeting Mamata announced the removal of Chatterjee — the number two person in the State Ministry — saying, "I have relieved Partha from all his charges," till his name is cleared from all accusations.

"The Trinamool Congress is strict about its ideology... we run the party with great hard-ship," the Chief Minister said.

A former Education Minister, Chatterjee, had been in charge of Commerce and Industries, Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology portfolios. The Chief Minister would retain all the Departments with her for



Cash recovered from the house of Arpita Mukherjee

PTI

now.

Chatterjee a former corporate top boss who left his job before the Singur movement to join the Trinamool Congress was also removed from all his party posts, TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said.

"The TMC disciplinary committee has decided to remove Chatterjee from all the party posts... he was the party secretary general, a national vice president and member of national executive as also a member of the party disciplinary committee... he has also been suspended from the party till he is exonerated by the judiciary... and the onus to prove innocence completely lies with him... and as the citizen of this country he has every right to fight his case in the court," said Abhishek at the end of a party disciplinary committee meeting.

Besides incriminating documents cash worth ₹50 crore and property deeds of 32 bun-

galows, apartments and lands both in Kolkata and districts have been recovered from two houses of Mukherjee, a close associate of the former Minister.

The ED also recovered about 8 kgs of gold — in the form of bars, biscuits, jewellery and statuette — from two apartments of Mukherjee apart from bank instruments and property deeds worth crores.

Officials quoting Mukherjee said she was not the owner of the property seized and that all that had been recovered by the ED belonged to the Minister.

She is known to have told his interrogators that Chatterjee often sent his men to her apartments with bags which were kept inside a particular room not to be entered by anyone. Not even Mukherjee was allowed to enter these rooms, she is known to have told the ED officials adding only the Minister would enter these rooms when.

3 more RS MPs suspended, relay sit-in protest continues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the 50-hour-long relay sit-in by the suspended MPs on Parliament premises, three more Rajya Sabha member — Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Sandeep Kumar Pathak and Sushil Kumar Gupta and Independent legislator Ajit Kumar Bhuyan — were suspended from the House for a week on Thursday.

The 20 suspended RS members are on a relay protest near the Gandhi Statue at the Parliament complex braving the night, heat and rain.

A total of five MPs, including CPI's Santosh Kumar and AAP's Sanjay Singh, spent the night near the Gandhi statue in Parliament complex, while TMC's Dola Sen and Santanu Sen were present at the site till post midnight. With authorities



AAP MP Sanjay Singh and TMC MPs protest at Parliament House on Thursday

not granting permission for a tent, the MPs slept under the sky as a protest against the suspension of 24 MPs, 20 from the Rajya Sabha and four Congress members from the Lok Sabha.

So far 27 MPs of the Opposition have been sus-

ended for "unruly behaviour".

TMC MP Mausam Noor brought tea for the MPs on Thursday morning and said that the Opposition MPs will not apologise and the protest will continue.

39 students in Sagar given Covid-19 jab with 'single' syringe

PTI ■ SAGAR

A vaccinator allegedly used a single syringe to administer anti-coronavirus vaccine doses to 39 children at a private school in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar city, prompting the authorities to suspend the district vaccination officer, officials said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday at the Jain Higher Secondary School in the city during a mega vaccination drive, after which an FIR was registered against the vaccinator, identified as Jitendra Ahirwar, a district official said.

The 39 children, aged 15 and above, were from Classes 9 to 12, a health official said.

The parents of some of the children on Wednesday observed the vaccinator using the same syringe to inoculate the children and raised an alarm for the gross negligence on his part, the officials said.

After the parents protested, Sagar's in-charge Collector Kshitij Singhal sent district Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr D K Goswami to inquire about the incident. Those present at the spot told Goswami that the vaccinator allegedly used the same syringe to administer vaccine doses to as many as 39 children, the district official said.

After the protest by parents, Ahirwar escaped from the spot before the CMHO started to inspect the school.

CBI seizes ₹5.50 cr paintings in DHFL bank fraud raids

2 luxury watches worth ₹5 cr seized in ₹34, 615 cr scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has recovered paintings of Indian maestros FN Souza and SH Raza worth ₹5.50 crore besides two luxury watches of Jacob and Co and Frank Muller Geneve brands worth ₹5 crore during the searches. The DHFL promoters had acquired these expensive items using the diverted funds, the agency said in a statement.

The CBI is conducting custodial interrogation of former CMD of DHFL Kapil Wadhawan and Director Dheeraj Wadhawan for the last nine days.

oil-on-linen creation valued at ₹2 crore were among the luxurious items worth ₹12.5 crore seized by the agency during the latest round of searches against DHFL promoters Kapil Wadhawan and others, according to the CBI.

The agency has also seized two luxury watches of Jacob and Co and Frank Muller Geneve brands worth ₹5 crore during the searches. The DHFL promoters had acquired these expensive items using the diverted funds, the agency said in a statement.

The CBI is conducting custodial interrogation of former CMD of DHFL Kapil Wadhawan and Director Dheeraj Wadhawan for the last nine days.

CAPSULE

MIG-21 FIGHTER JET CRASHES, PILOTS DEAD

Jaipur: An IAF's Mig-21 fighter aircraft on Thursday night crashed in Rajasthan's Barmer district killing both the pilots. In a statement, IAF said it deeply regrets the loss of lives and stands firmly with the bereaved families.

THERE IS A LIMIT TO TARGETING JUDGES: SC

New Delhi: There is a limit to which you target judges, the Supreme Court said on Thursday while expressing displeasure over news reports that it was delaying hearing a plea alleging increasing attacks on Christian institutions and priests across the country. Give us a break, a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said. "Last time the matter could not be taken because I was down with Covid. You get it published in newspapers that the SC is delaying the hearing. Look, there is a limit to which you can target the judges. Who supplies all this news?"

Chess Olympiad kicks off in grand style

PTI ■ CHENNAI

In a glittery event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared open the FIDE 44th Chess Olympiad here on Thursday. Encouraging the players, Modi said that in sports there are no losers, but winners and future winners.

"Sports is beautiful because it has inherent power to unite. Sports brings people and societies closer. Sports nurture a spirit of teamwork," he said.

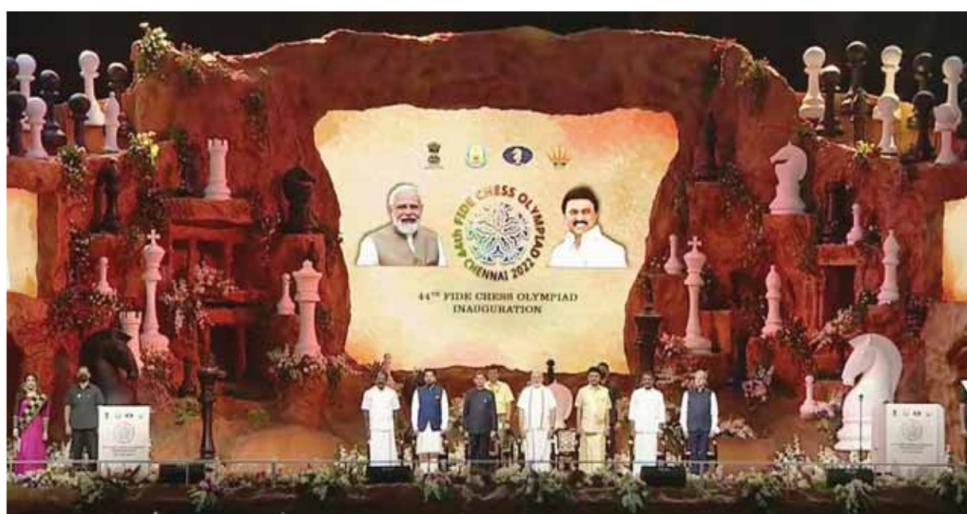
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said that the Chess Olympiad has turned the world's attention on Tamil Nadu and this grand event would enhance the State's tourism prospects.

The mascot for the event was named "Thambi," which symbolises brotherhood and that all the people are one fraternity. Stalin thanked Modi and the Centre for holding the

event. The Nehru Indoor Stadium here sparkled with classy lighting, and a sense of excitement was palpable during the inaugural event.

The sprawling arena in downtown Chennai was buzzing with fresh ideas represented in the form of elegant decor with the undercurrent being the nerve-racking game of chess. The stadium's dais was decked with king-sized brightly coloured chess pieces of king, bishop, rook, queen, knight and the pawns.

Modi said the Chess Olympiad, the most prestigious tournament, is being hosted by India, the home of chess at a special time in its history, which marks 75 years of freedom from colonial rule. This is the first time the Chess Olympiad is being held in the place of origin of chess, India, he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin at the Opening Ceremony of the 44th Chess Olympiad in Chennai on Thursday

PTI

Pak objects to relay via Kashmir; India raps it for giving event a miss

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Hours before the inauguration of the 44th Chess Olympiad in Chennai on Thursday, Pakistan pulled out of the prestigious event protesting against the passing of the torch relay for the event through Kashmir.

Criticising Pakistan for this move, India said it is "highly unfortunate" that Islamabad has "politicised" the prestigious international event. The Pakistani team had already reached India.

Citing India's torch relay for the prestigious event through Kashmir on July 21 as a reason for withdrawal,

Pakistan's foreign office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said in a statement to Radio Pakistan, "India chose to politicise this prestigious international sporting event."

He also said, "Pakistan was invited by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) to participate in the Chess Olympiad. A Pakistani contingent was already training for this event."

An official statement from Islamabad described the torch relay through Kashmir as a "travesty" and called upon India to free political prisoners in the valley.

"Pakistan condemns India's mischievous attempt to mix politics with sports."

Row over hotel leased out by B'swar civic body

While lease extension plea denied after expiry, now another man claims as owner of land

UBACHAK MOHANTY
■ BALESWAR

A controversy erupted over the ownership of a prominent hotel in Baleswar located between FM Circle and Station Square. With the Hotel Kalinga having been sealed on Thursday by the Tehsildar, Sadar, the matter headed for a legal battle between the municipality and a private party.

According to reports, the hotel was given on lease to one Shantilata Das for 22 years by

the Baleswar Municipality. The lease period expired on May 31, 2022. Das applied to the municipal authorities to extend it to another three years pleading that she had sustained losses for the last three years for Covid, but the civic body declined the request.

As Das moved the Orissa High Court over the issue, the court directed her to approach the appropriate authority, citing it to be the municipality Executive Officer (EO). The previous EO had refused to consider Das's petition stating the municipal council had decided to either demolish or renovate the existing structure of the hotel and build a new one in its place. The EO had formed a committee to look into the matter and take a



decision whether to demolish or renovate the existing structure.

However, a week ago, the municipality had served a notice to Das (the lease) to vacate the building. And, as soon as she vacated the structure on Wednesday, a private person, Sujit Dev, a resident of the town came and locked the entrance, claiming the property belonged to him, stating he has the ROR of the land and the municipality's claim on the land was illegal and the lease it had executed was unauthorised. He was waiting for the vacation of the building, he said.

However, on Thursday, the

Sadar Tehsildar, as a magistrate, broke open the lock and put another lock and sealed the hotel. Reports further added that Sujit's father, who belonged to the Zamindar family (Raja Baikunthanath Dev) had donated the contended piece of land in favour of the municipality. And mutation of the land was not made by the municipality subsequently.

Dev said he possessed the patta of the land and he had been paying the taxes too, though for the last few years, he had defaulted in paying them. And he was ready to clear all previous dues.

Notably, Sujit's wife was Vice-Chairperson of the municipality during the previous council. She had also unsuccessfully contested for Chairperson post in BJP ticket.

IN BRIEF

2 GANJA SMUGGLERS HELD IN KALAHANDI

Bhawanipatna: Two persons were arrested on Thursday for transporting 42 kg of ganja in a car under the Golamunda police limits in Kalahandi district. The accused persons, identified as Abhay Behera and Prakash Meher, were forwarder to court. Both are natives of Baldiamal village under the Junagarh PS. Police also seized a car and two mobile phones from their possession.



NURSING STUDENT FOUND HANGING IN CLASSROOM IN G'PATI

Paralakhemundi: A First Year BSc student of the Gajapati School and College of Nursing at Ranipentha here was found hanging in her classroom on Thursday morning. The reason behind her taking the extreme step was yet to be ascertained. The deceased, identified as Akhela Behera, was a resident of Gopalpur village in Ganjam district and was staying in the college hostel. Police along with a scientific team reached the spot and began a probe into the incident.



DIARRHOEA CLAIMS 1 IN MOHANA; 4 INFECTED

Paralakhemundi: After Rayagada district and Dasmantpur of Koraput district, diarrhoea broke out at Mohana block of Gajapati district. While a girl child died of the disease in P Govindpur of Mohana block on Thursday, four others were under treatment at the CHC, Mohana. The deceased was identified as Lipi Nayak (9). Led by Medical Officer Dr Nibedita Panda, a medical team rushed to the village to take stock of the situation and find out cause of the infection. Water and stool samples were collected for test, said Dr Panda.



P'KHEMUNDI SKILL DEV CENTRE UNVEILED

Paralakhemundi: Gajapati district Collector Lingaraj Panda and Zilla Parishad Chairman G Tirupati Rao inaugurated a skill training centre for the unemployed local youths. The Vignyan Bharati Charitable Trust (VBCT) has set up the centre. A director of the Trust Er Rupesh Panigrahi and a host of officials and PRI members were present on the occasion. District Collector Panda thanked the VBCT for taking up the skill training project. ZP Chairman Rao thanked chairman of the trust Dr Tirupati Panigrahi.



CHAMPUA KEMS SHINES IN CBSE EXAMS

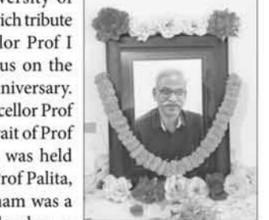
Champua: The students of KEMS at Champua came out with flying colours in the CBSE 10th board exams. The school has registered 100% pass results. A total of 193 students appeared for the exam and all came out successful. Six students scored above 95% of marks. Tanisha Kashyap scored highest of 96.8% followed by Rischita Kaur (96.4%). Total 31 students scored more than 90% marks, 53 students scored above 80%, 44 above 70% and 35 above 60%. The students of the school also showed 100% results in 12th board. Founder chairman Dr Raj Mohan PS, secretary Uma Raj Mohan, Principal BK Bharati, Dr B Rama Raju and SS Jha congratulated the toppers and other successful students.

BIJILI MAHOTSAV OBSERVED IN CHAMPUA

Champua: As part of the country wide celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, marking the 75th year of Independence, the Bijili Mahotsav was organised at Champua in Keonjhar district in collaboration with the State Energy Department and NTPC. Its main objective was to make electric consumers aware of energy sector. Sub Collector Pratap Pritimay was the chief guest of the event, while Tehsildar Dr Sai Sasmita Hota, BDO Jyotshna Nayak, NAC Chairman Girija Shankar Sahu, SE Narayan Das, EE Manoranjan Jena, AGM-NAPCL Vivek Jain and DGM-OPTCL Subash Singh attended as guests.

CUO REMEMBERS EX-VC RAMABRAHAMM

Koraput: The Central University of Odisha (CUO) Koraput paid rich tribute to its former Vice-Chancellor Prof I Ramabrahmam at its campus on the occasion of his first death anniversary. Along with staffs, Vice-Chancellor Prof SK Palita garlanded the portrait of Prof Ramabrahmam. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prof Palita, who said, "Prof Ramabrahmam was a man of action, a true leader, a prominent educationist and a great social thinker and policymaker and tried his best to develop this university during his short tenure."



Film dir from Hinjili invited to Tunisia fest

However, money is barrier

KRISHNA CHANDRA PANDA
■ BRAHMAMPUR

Hinjili-based Nriyam Kala Gabeshana Kendra (NKGK) chief and renowned short film producer and director Krishna DK has been invited to participate in international FIVS film festival at Tunisia in North Africa.

Sending an invitation to Krishna DK, the director of the international festival Walid Ben Hassan said, "We are happy to invite him (Krishna DK) in our country Tunisia. We and our team are happy to meet him." Notably, Krishna DK who hails from Hinjili has made a number of short films, bringing national and international awards for the State of Odisha in general and Ganjam district in particular. His most popular short film "Ananya", which is based on awareness for Swachh Bharat, had influenced the jury at the Tunisia film festival. The film was cast by Madhusudan Mishra and Sonam Sahu, while Krishna DK was the director.

Krishna DK will be the first person or artist to attend the Tunisia festival. He will be making his first trip as a film director from Odisha. However, the only barrier is funds problem. Krishna, therefore, has appealed to the State Government to sponsor his trip and hopes that the State Government would consider his request.

N'pada Bijli Mahotsav on importance of power

PNS ■ NUAPADA

Bijli Mahotsav was celebrated on the occasion of Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Power-2047 at Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra in Sarabang Panchayat, Nuapada district recently.

The guests expressed their opinion on how electricity is necessary for human life. Vice President of Nuapada Zilla Parishad Deepika Kausal highlighted the fact that through various schemes of the Center and the State Government, electricity has reached the homes of the poor and human society has improved after the arrival of electricity.

DRDA, PD cum Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad, Nuapada, Madhuchhanda Sahu opined that electricity has played an important role in daily life of human beings.

Sarabang Panchayat Sarpanch Radhabhai Patel, Samiti Member Jagriti Sahu, Amanara Samita Member Nutan Nayak were present and highlighted how rural areas have developed after the introduction of electricity.

DG of PGCIL Suresh Kisan introduced the guests and gave information about the electrification plan of the Government and opined that the Bijli Mahotsav is a means to create public awareness about the various people-oriented schemes.



Distant kin rapes minor in B'swar

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Parents of a minor girl lodged an FIR with the Nilgiri police that their daughter was sexually assaulted by a distantly-related brother. The accused Jagannath Singh of Agiria village under Dhoobasila GP was arrested by police on Wednesday.

The accused had gone to the house of the victim when her family members were away and allegedly committed the offence. He also threatened the victim of dire consequences if she disclosed the matter to anyone. However, the girl mustered courage and narrated her ordeal before her parents. The parents along with the sarpanch of the village went to the Nilgiri police station and lodged the complaint. Following investigation, the accused was apprehended and forwarded to court.

In Baleswar Notorious criminal shot dead in encounter

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A hardcore criminal, who was wanted in multiple cases, was shot dead in a police encounter in the Soro area of Baleswar district on Thursday. The deceased was identified as Rundu Mallik.

As per reports, Rundu, a habitual offender was on the radar of police for his involvement in several criminal cases in the region. Police said Rundu after committing crimes would often go into hiding in the sea beach area making it difficult to track him.

However, a police team acting on a tipoff regarding the presence of Rundu near Jageswarpada sea beach raided the area to nab the criminal. But spotting the cops, Rundu opened fire at the police team forcing them to retaliate in self-defence.

Rundu suffered severe bullet injuries and was immediately rushed to the Soro Government hospital. However, the doctor pronounced him dead.

Blind persons get white canes in K'pada

Thanks to good gesture of Jagannath Trust

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The members of Shri Jagannath Charitable Trust of Kendrapada led by its president Daman Kumar Mohanty donated white cane (locally called Ashabadi) to some visually-impaired persons of the district who were roaming in the streets, for their daily uses.

According to sources, Mohanty recently came across five visually impaired persons moving in the streets helplessly. They were carrying bamboo lathis. He later met them and promised them to provide white cane for their smooth movement. Recently, the members of the trust purchased five white canes and donated them to the blind persons of the township area by organizing a function. They also provided meals to them.

The good gesture of the trust members has been appreciated by the people in the district.



VD College NCC holds Kargil Divas Rally, seminar organised

PNS ■ JAYAPORE

India is celebrated the 23th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Divas on Tuesday. On this day in 1999, the Kargil War, also known as the Kargil conflict, formally came to an end, with Indian soldiers successfully recapturing mountain heights that had been seized by Pakistani intruders.

On the occasion, the NCC wing of VD College led by ANO Dr Lt Lakshman Patro organised a rally and a seminar. Patro motivated the students to follow the footsteps of the martyrs and dedicate their life for the nation while Principal Gopal Halder attended as chief guest.

Halder said Kargil Vijay Divas was a symbol of pride and glory. Francis Barla attended as the chief speaker. The programme was attended by Md Sharif, Santoshi Munda, alumnus Nishan Pattanaik, staff, students and the NCC cadets of first Orissa and second Orissa girls battalions.

Bargarh fest boosts traditional instrument 'Mahuri'

Artists felicitated

ASUTOSH RATHA ■ BARGARH

Mahuri is an important part of 'Gandavaja', a folk art of western Odisha. The Mahuri is a vocal instrument whose melodious sound mesmerises the listener. This sweet folk instrument is slowly disappearing. That's why with a new initiative to save it, the 'Bodasambar Mahuri Festival' was organised in the Rajaji Town Hall, Padmapur, on July 24 by the Sangeet Samiti.

Mahuri musicians and fellow artistes from different rural areas took out a procession from the local Bandurga temple and went around the city to reach the festival venue. Playwright and Professor Kesharanjan Padhan was the chief guest of the event, while NAC Chairperson Savitri Bag, Vice Chairperson Bharti Pattnaik, Niroj Dora, former Information and Public Relations Officer Purunchandra Panigarahi, former Block Chairman Kumarmani Naik, playwright-director Ashok Kumar Bohidar attended as the guests of honor.

President of the Music Society Rajesh Kumar Gurla gave the welcome address, while secretary Ramesh Gurla spoke about the purpose of the programme. The guests opined that the festival would help protect tradition, simplicity and harmony of the traditional instrument of Gandabaja 'Mahuri'.

Both senior and junior Mahuri musicians were presented certificates and awards from the institute. Later, Mahuri musicians performed music based on different rhythms of Gandabaja. The Gandabaja performance style of the children artists of Deuli village on the stage mesmerized everyone present.

Soumaranjan Patnaik, Gopabandhu Sika, Bishram Meher, Ashwini Patel, Rajkumar Sahu, Giridhari Sahu, Sudam Mahanand, Anjali Parida, Anil Guria, Anil Biswal, Lalu Naik and Tuna Barik contributed greatly to the entire programme. Finally, Govardhan Chhatar offered the vote of thanks.



C'garh starts buying cow urine, CM gets 5 liters

STAFF REPORTER ■
DURG

Chhattisgarh on Thursday became the first state in the country to start buying cow urine, with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel procuring five liters for Rs 20.

He commenced the government procurement of cow urine at a Kisan Sammelan in village Karsa in Durg district. He purchased the urine from Rajeshwari Vaishnav and Janki Sahu and paid them Rs 20 from his pocket.

Speaking on this



occasion, the Chief Minister said organic farming was promoted in Chhattisgarh in a bid to bring prosperity to farmers and for people's better health.

Chhattisgarh has become the first state in India to buy cow urine at Rs 4 a litre after purchasing cow dung at Rs 2 a kg, he said.

The cow urine will be used to make pest control products and 'Jeevamrut' (liquid organic pesticide).

The organic pesticide will be made available to farmers at nominal prices to help them escape the expensive chemical pesticides.

CM launches innovations in farm equipment

STAFF REPORTER ■
DURG

To mark Hareli on Thursday, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel dedicated to the farmers two new innovations of the Agriculture Engineering College.

At the Kisan Sammelan at Karsa, he launched cattle-driven battery-operated cultivator and planter machines.

With the launch of the new machines, the farmers will benefit, he said.

The two machines will also reduce the load on the cattle used for ploughing, he said.



The Agriculture Advisor key role in suggesting the to the Chief Minister, invention of the new equipment. Pradeep Sharma, played a

CM flags off 'Mahtari Nyay Rath'

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday administered the oath of protection, justice and empowerment of women as he flagged off the 'Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra' here.

In the first phase, the "rath" will cover the districts of Durg, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Mahasamund, Janjgir-Champa, Gariaband, Dhamtari and Kanker.

The remaining districts will be covered in the next phase, Chhattisgarh State Commission for Women Chairperson Dr Kiranmayee Nayak said.

She said the event was an initiative of the Chhattisgarh



State Commission for Women for spreading legal awareness among every woman, educated or uneducated.

The vehicle will play short films, messages and brochures related to especially women aware about various legal provisions and their

constitutional rights.

Nayak added that each vehicle will have two advocates. They will hear the grievances of women, guide them and provide advice.

Women can also submit applications for resolution of their grievances to the Women's Commission.

CM celebrates 'Hareli' festival

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and family members on Thursday celebrated 'Hareli', the farm related festival of the state.

Baghel and his wife Mukteshwari as well as other family members jointly offered prayers to the rural deities, a tulsii plant, a wooden plough, agriculture implements, 'gedi' and a cow at his official residence here.

He greeted the people of the state on the occasion and prayed for a good harvest.

On the occasion, Chhattisgarhi folk music,



folk dance, traditional Gadwa Baja, Raut dance, Gedi dance, games and raichuli events were

organized. Traditional cuisines were served.

The Chief Minister participated in the 'Gedi'

dance with the artists and tried his hand on a spinning top. He also enjoyed

'Rachuli' (wooden spinning

wheel) with his daughter.

Hareli marks the commencement of the sowing season in Chhattisgarh.

Three Naxals surrender in Dantewada

STAFF REPORTER ■
DANTEWADA

Three Naxalites carrying a total of Rs 18 lakhs on their heads surrendered the police on Thursday in Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh.

Ramesh Hemla (24), Santu Hemla (28) and Ritesh Hemla (30) turned themselves in citing their disillusionment with the Maoist ideology, Dantewada Superintendent of Police

Siddharth Tiwari said. The first two carried a bounty of Rs 5 lakhs each while the last Maoist had a reward of Rs 8 lakhs on his head, the officer said.

The first two were members in a Maoist battalion. Ritesh Hemla was a member in the Maoist Company Number 2, the police said. They were involved in several Maoist violent incidents.

So far, 549 Naxalites have quit violence in the district since June 2020.

Siddiqui emphasizes digitalization in banking

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Indian Bank's Executive Director, Imran Amin Siddiqui, has laid emphasis on digitalization in banking and updated the staff on the latest developments in the sector.

He was on tour of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday and Wednesday. At a meeting at New Circuit House, the official stressed on better customer services for the bank's growth as well as economic development of general public and the state of Chhattisgarh.

The meeting was held in the presence of Manoj Das, Field General Manager (Bhubaneswar), and Rajender Kumar, Zonal



Manager (Raipur).

Later, a mega loan disbursement camp was held under MSME, Agriculture and Retail segment on Wednesday at a hotel in Nava Raipur. A total of Rs.90 cr was distributed to the applicants.

Nine arrested after clash over last rites

STAFF REPORTER ■
JANJGIR-CHAMPA

Chhattisgarh Police on Thursday arrested nine persons including a village sarpanch after a clash over the use of a crematorium by members of a Scheduled Caste community in Janjgir-Champa district.

The arrested were sarpanch Jagdish Uraon, Sahdeo Uraon, Sipahi Uraon, Kamlesh Uraon, Lalai Uraon, Vishram Uraon, Amritlal Uraon, Rajkumar Uraon and Umashankar Uraon, all from Baradwar village, Janjgir-Champa Superintendent of Police Vijay

Agrawal said.

The accused disrupted the cremation which finally took place a day later in police presence, the officer said.

Pradip Patle of Baradwar Basti village, who belonged to an SC community, on Wednesday committed suicide by hanging himself.

As per a complaint filed by his father Bhaiyalal, the family took the body to their traditional cremation ground but decided to shift to another facility which has a roof as it was raining.

After the funeral pyre was lit, the village sarpanch and eight others who hail from a tribal

community arrived and said the crematorium was supposed to be used by only a certain caste. They allegedly kicked the pyre and doused the flames by pouring water. They also allegedly tried to throw off the body, the complaint said.

The incident led to a clash between the two groups, Agrawal said. A police team reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

A section of villagers blocked a road demanding the arrest of those who disrupted the cremation. The cremation finally took place on Thursday.

C'garh's culture showcased in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI/RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh came alive in Delhi on Thursday when the Hareli festival was celebrated with pomp and show.

Hareli, the agricultural festival, was celebrated at the Chhattisgarh Bhawan as part of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's initiative of preserving the state's culture and tradition.

The aroma of Chhattisgarhi delicacies and foot-tapping music of traditional folk songs filled the air, connecting people with the state's culture.

The visitors enthusiastically took part in the traditional game of climbing 'Gedi' (long bamboo poles with a



footrest) which requires a lot of concentration and balance.

The people of Chhattisgarh settled in Delhi appreciated the Chief Minister's initiative and said that such events keep them

close to their culture and tradition even while being away from their state.

People gathered in large numbers at the Bhawan.

Hareli is considered the first festival of the year in the region. After sowing paddy,

the farmers worship all the agricultural and iron tools on the day of Hareli and pray for good harvest and health.

Chhattisgarh Resident Commissioner Ajeet Vasant and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Bank of Baroda			Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash, L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.), PH: 0771 - 4222611, 4222612	POSSESSION NOTICE
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)				
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.				
The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Act of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.				
S. N.	Branch Name/Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Choubey Colony Branch, Raipur 9752098095	Mr. Balmiki Prasad Dubey S/o Mr. C. L. Dubey, Kapil Nagar, Beside Little Step Play School Mukti Dham Road, Sarkanda, Ward No. 57 (Kapil Nagar Ward), Bilaspur (C.G.) - 495001	Property situated, at part of Kh. No. - 488, P. H. No. 22, Mouza Sarkanda, Shastri Nagar Ward, Bilaspur, C.G., standing in the name of Mr. Balmiki Prasad Dubey, admeasuring 2175.00 sqfts. Boundary : North : Land of Anita Sahu, South : Seller remaining land, East: Seller own road, West: Land of Bangali.	05.05.2022 Rs. 1,83,22,511.50 + interest + other charges 28.07.2022 Symbolic Possession
02	Choubey Colony Branch, Raipur 9752098095	Mr. Chandramani Pandey S/o Mr. Shyam Shankar Pandey, 982, Sanjay Nagar, Kumhari, Ward -6, Kumhari Dhamdha, Durg	Shop No. 12 situated at Third Floor, Koram Tower, Rajendra Prasad Ward No. 46, Telibandha, at part of Kh. No. 615/22, 615/23, 615/27, P.H. No. 64, Raipur, C.G., standing in the name of Mr. Chandramani Pandey, Admeasuring 921.94 sqfts. Boundary: North: Office No C-13, South: Office No. C-11, East: Open Space of Koram, West: Open space of Koram.	05.05.2022 Rs. 1,83,22,511.50 + interest + other charges 28.07.2022 Symbolic Possession
03	Choubey Colony Branch, Raipur 9752098095	Mr. Sarvesh Kumar Pandey S/o Mr. Triveni Pal Pandey, A 506, Aviansh Ashiyana, Kabir Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) - 492001	1. Diverted residential open plot situated at Plot No. B-106, part of Kh.No. 2/2, area - 1501 Sq.Ft. situated at Mouza Village - Amleshwar, P.H.No.-05, RIC Bhilai, Tah. Patan, Dist. Durg, C.G. standing in the name of Mr. Sarvesh Kumar Pandey. Boundary: North: Plot No. B-107, South: Road, East: Road, West: Plot No. B-105. 2. Diverted residential open plot situated at Plot No. B-107, part of Kh.No. 2/2, area - 1501 Sq. Ft. situated at Mouza Village - Amleshwar, P.H. No. 05, RIC Bhilai, Tah. Patan, Dist. - Durg, C.G. standing in the name of Mr. Sarvesh Kumar Pandey. Boundary: North : Plot No. B - 108, South: Plot No. B-106, East: Road, West: Plot No. B -104.	05.05.2022 Rs. 1,83,22,511.50 + interest + other charges 27.07.2022 Physical Possession
The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.				
The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.				
Date: 28.07.2022, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh				Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

Media reports on delay in hearing of plea against attacks on Christians

SC says there's a limit to targetting judges

Rebukes lawyer seeking to speed up the case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing displeasure over news reports that it was delaying hearing a plea alleging increasing attacks on Christian institutions and priests across the country, the Supreme Court on Thursday said there is a limit to which you target judges even as it admonished an advocate who sought to speed up the case.

Give us a break, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant said. "Last time the matter could not be taken because I was down with Covid. You get it published in newspapers that the Supreme



Court is delaying the hearing. Look, there is a limit to which you can target the judges. Who supplies all this news?

"The news I saw online was that judges are delaying the hearing. Give us a break. One of the judges is down with Covid and this is the reason we could not take the matter. Anyway, we will list it otherwise there will be another news item," the bench observed orally. The observations came after the petitioner's counsel sought hearing of the case. Senior advocate Colin

Gonsalves had mentioned the matter before a vacation bench in June and said 45 to 50 violent attacks on an average take place against Christian institutions and priests across the country every month.

The relief sought in the plea filed by Peter Machado and others includes the implementation of guidelines issued by the apex court in the Tehseen Poonawala judgment under which nodal officers were to be appointed to take note of hate crimes and register FIRs.

In 2018, the apex court had come out with a slew of guidelines for the Centre and the states. These included fast-tracked trials, victim compensation, deterrent punishment and disciplinary action against lax law-enforcing officials. The court had said offences such as hate crimes, cow vigilantism and lynching incidents should be nipped in the bud.

Countdown begins! Vikrant may be commissioned next month

With the delivery of Vikrant, India has joined a select group of nations with capability to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a major milestone, the Indian Navy on Thursday took delivery of the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant from the builder Cochin Shipyard Limited(CSL), Kochi. The ship has undergone all the mandatory trials and is likely to be commissioned into service by Prime Minister Narendra Modi next month.

With the delivery of Vikrant, India has joined a select group of nations having the niche capability to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier. The other countries are the US, United Kingdom, France, Russia and China.

Designed by Indian Navy's inhouse Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by the public sector CSL, the aircraft carrier costing about Rs 20,000 crores is christened after her illustrious predecessor, India's first Aircraft Carrier which played a vital role in the 1971 India-Pakistan war. Coinciding with the celebrations to commemorate 75th anniversary of

India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the reincarnation of Vikrant is a true testimony to the country's zeal and fervour in pursuing capability build up towards enhanced maritime security, navy officials said here.

The 262 metre long carrier weighs 45,000 tonnes which is much larger and advanced than her predecessor. The ship is powered by four gas turbines totalling 88 MW power and has a maximum speed of 28 Knots. The project progressed in three phases of contract between the defence ministry and the CSL, concluded in May 2007, Dec 2014 and Oct 2019 respectively.

The ship's keel was laid in February 2009, followed by launching in Aug 2013. With an overall indigenous content of 76 percent, the IAC is a perfect example of the nation's quest for "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat" and provides thrust to the 'Make in India' initiative.

Vikrant has been built with high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship navigation and survivability, and has been designed to accommodate an assortment of fixed



The indigenously-designed aircraft carrier Vikrant

PNS

wing and rotary aircraft. The ship will be capable of operating air wing consisting of 30 aircraft comprising of MIG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Navy).

Using a novel aircraft-operation mode known as STOBAR (Short Take- Off but Arrested Landing), the IAC is equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft, and a set of 'arrester

wires' for their recovery onboard. The ship has large number of indigenous equipment and machinery, involving major industrial houses in the country like Bharat Electronics Limited(BEL), Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited(BHEL), Garden Reach Ship and Engineers(GRSE), Keltron, Kirloskar, Larsen and Toubro and Wartsila as well as over 100 MSMEs. The indigenisation efforts has also led to development of ancillary industries, besides generation of employment opportunities and bol-

stering plough back effect on economy, both locally as well as pan-India. A major spin-off of this is the development and production of indigenous warship grade steel for the ship through a partnership between Navy, Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) and Steel Authority of India (SAIL), which has enabled the country to become self-sufficient with respect to warship steel. Today all the warships being built in the country are being manufactured using indigenous steel.

Defence production key to safeguarding national interests: Army chief



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army Chief General Manoj Pande said here on Thursday Defence manufacturing has shifted from buyer-seller relationship with foreign countries and collaboration with them now focused on co-development and co-production. Enunciating this factor, he also said collaboration

with foreign companies is intrinsic to India's ambition of becoming self-reliant in Defence production.

The geostrategic security environment has witnessed significant changes in recent times, leading to recalibration of established world order, he said at an event organised by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). "India's security concerns emanate from the geopolitical dynamics at both— global as well as the regional level. These include the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict as well as the instability and the political uncertainty that we see in our immediate neighbourhood," he said.

The contemporary security environment and the changing character of war requires

that the Indian armed forces must be prepared to handle wide spectrum of challenges in conventional and sub-conventional domains, the Army Chief noted. Underlining this, he said our interests are best served by being *atmanirbhar*, especially in Defence production. Self-reliance is one of the key factors on which the military capability of any nation rests, he said.

There are new opportunities for "our foreign partners" and *Atmanirbharta* (self-reliance) is not only about isolating ourselves from the world, he noted. It is about self-sustaining and pursuing policies that promote efficiency, quality and resilience, Pande added. The ongoing reforms in the defence sector offer opportunities to the foreign Original

Equipment Manufacturers(OEM) to partner with Indian companies and work towards our shared objectives, he said. There is huge potential for export which can also contribute to the vision of our Prime Minister to become USD 5 trillion economy in the foreseeable future, Pande said.

He also stressed that a holistic, all-encompassing, well-calibrated, multi-pronged, and futuristic approach in defence production is fundamental in safeguarding our national interests. A pragmatic and actionable indigenous defence production strategy would ensure a secure and sustained supply of armaments and ammunitions to cater for our national security needs, the Army Chief said.

Indian Navy receives 2 MH-60 'Romeo' helicopters



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to boost its combat capabilities, the Indian Navy on Thursday received

two of the 24 MH-60 'Romeo' multi-mission helicopters from the US. All 24 all-weather helicopters will be armed with Hellfire missiles and lethal rocket systems. Navy officials

said the two helicopters were delivered at Cochin airport while another helicopter is scheduled to be delivered next month. India and US inked a Rs 15,000 crore deal for the helicopters through the Foreign Military Sale(FMS)route. It means the US government stands guarantee for all the obligations of the contract. Lockheed Martin manufactures these helicopters.

The first three MH 60 'Romeo' helicopters were delivered in the US in 2021 and are being used for training of the Indian Navy crew, they said. The delivery of all 24 MH 60R helicopters will be completed by 2025. The induction

of state-of-the-art mission capable platforms will significantly boost the integral anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy.

With Thursday's delivery, the total number of helicopters handed over to the Indian Navy has gone up to five. MH-60R helicopter is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state-of-the-art avionics and sensors.

The Navy said it will be able to deploy the helicopters in a range of roles including in anti-submarine warfare, anti-air strike, specialised maritime operations as well as search and rescue operations.

IN SHORTS

SC TO HEAR PLEA ON ED HEAD'S EXTENTION

New Delhi: The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Friday a plea challenging amended law allowing extension of tenure of the director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) up to five years, and the Centre's decision to grant one year extension to Sanjay Kumar Mishra as head of the probe agency.

RENUKA KUMAR REPATRIATED TO PARENT CADRE IN UP

New Delhi: Minority Affairs Secretary Renuka Kumar was on Thursday repatriated to her parent Uttar Pradesh cadre with immediate effect. The 1987-batch IAS officer had been working on the post since July 1, 2021.

'CASES AGAINST TRIPLE TALAQ PENDING IN SC'

New Delhi: As many as 35 cases challenging central legislations and Constitutional Amendment Acts, including one questioning law penalising practice of instant triple talaq, are pending in the SC.

MOTHER HAS RIGHT TO DECIDE SURNAME: SC

New Delhi: The mother being the natural guardian of child after the demise of father has right to decide surname, said SC on Tuesday while setting aside an order of AP High Court which directed a woman to include name of her second husband in records as a stepfather.

56 LAKH FISH SEEDS RELEASED IN GANGA

New Delhi: More than 56 lakh fish seeds have been released in the Ganga river for conservation and restoration, the Jal Shakti Ministry said Thursday.

SC TO HEAR PLEA AGAINST TREE CUTTING IN AAREY CASE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to hear a plea challenging the cutting of trees in Mumbai's Aarey colony for a Metro car shed.

SC REJECTS K'TAKA HC ORDER

New Delhi: The SC set aside Karnataka High Court order declaring a provision of Karnataka Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1973, which deals with amount payable in respect of land acquired, as ultra vires.

Maldives Prez to visit India on Aug 1

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih will pay a four-day visit to India from August 1 with an aim to further bolster bilateral ties. It will also provide an opportunity to review the relations and take the cooperation forward. Solih is scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visiting dignitary will also visit Mumbai.

Meanwhile, Army Chief General Manoj Pande on Thursday held extensive talks here with the chief of Maldivian defence forces Major General Abdulla Shamaal, focusing on ways to further strengthen bilateral defence and security cooperation. Shamaal also called on Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar.

Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the bilateral defence and security ties have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years. "Gen Manoj Pande #COAS extended a warm welcome to Maj Gen Abdulla Shamaal, Chief of Defence Force,

@MNDF_Official and discussed ways to strengthen the #DefenceCooperation between the two countries," the Army tweeted. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, during a visit to Male in March handed over a coastal radar system to Shamaal. India and Maldives share common perspectives on maritime security issues in the Indian Ocean and have been working together to expand defence cooperation. In April, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar visited Maldives and met Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamad Solih and other senior leaders of the island nation to further boost maritime security cooperation.

Development cooperation has been a key pillar of the India-Maldives relationship with New Delhi providing Lines of Credit of over \$1.2 billion (one billion=100 crores) for infrastructure and grants for community development projects to the island nation.

In August last year, the island nation sealed a contract for the implementation of an India-funded connectivity project, billed as the largest infrastructure initiative being rolled out in the island nation.

Youths above 17 can apply to be enrolled in voters list

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday announced that youngsters above 17 years of age will now be able to apply in advance for having their names enrolled in the voters' list.

With this, the youngsters will now not necessarily have to await the pre-requisite criterion of attaining the age of 18 years on January 1 to get enrolled in the voters' list. The newly modified forms, which are simpler and more user friendly, will come into force on August 1, 2022.

"17+ year old youngsters can now apply in advance for having their names enrolled in Voters' list and not necessarily have to wait the pre-requisite criterion of attaining age of 18 years on 1st January of a year," the Election Commission said in a statement.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey have directed Chief Electoral



Officers/Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Returning Officers of all states to work out tech-enabled solutions such that the youth are facilitated to file their advance applications with reference to three subsequent qualifying dates - 1 April, 1 July and 1 October 1 and not just January 1.

The Electoral Roll will be updated every quarter and eligible youngsters can be registered in the next quarter of the year in which he/she has attained the qualifying age of 18 years," the EC said.

The poll body said that the current round of annual revision of electoral roll, 2023, any citizen attaining the age of 18 years by 1 April, 1 July and 1 October of 2023 can also submit an advance application for registration as a voter from the date of draft publication of electoral roll. For the current

round of annual revision of electoral roll, 2023, any citizen attaining the age of 18 years by April 1, July 1 and October 1 of 2023 can also submit an advance application for registration as a voter from the date of draft publication of electoral roll, it explained. EC has already managed to induct 1,736,181 (1.7 million) new voters between the ages of 18-19, people familiar with the matter said. Last year, 14,526,678 (14.5 million) new voters were added to the list.

The EC has also begun the process of linking Aadhaar numbers with Electoral Roll data. "(A) provision has been made in the modified registration forms to seek Aadhaar details of electors. A new Form-6B has also been introduced for collecting Aadhaar number of existing electors.

However, no application for inclusion of name in electoral roll shall be denied and no entries in electoral roll shall be deleted for inability of an individual to furnish or intimate Aadhaar Number... it is voluntary," the statement added.

Uddhav faction challenges in SC Speaker's decision on Shewale

New Delhi: Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction has filed another petition in the Supreme Court challenging the decision of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to recognise that Rahul Shewale belongs to the Eknath Shinde faction as floor leader.

A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli is already scheduled to hear on August 1 a batch of petitions filed by the Thackeray faction in relation to several political developments in Maharashtra, before the Election Commission with regard to claim over the party and its symbol and in Parliament.

The fresh plea challenged the decision of the Lok Sabha Speaker to recognise Shewale as Shiv Sena's floor leader at the instance of the Shinde faction. The Uddhav group terms the action of the Speaker as "illegal" and "arbitrary" alleging that the Shiv Sena leader and its chief whip in the Lok Sabha were removed unilaterally. "The Speaker made



the impugned changes to the positions of the leader and the chief whip without adhering to basic rules of natural justice or even calling for an explanation from the Shiv Sena political party or the petitioners herein, despite categorical requests in this regard having been communicated to him," the plea submitted.

The plea said names of Vinayak Raut and Rajan Vichare as the Leader and the Chief Whip of the Shiv Sena in the Lok Sabha respectively were reiterated and communicated to Birla, it said.

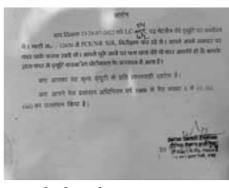
However, the Speaker approved the names proposed by the Shinde faction, it said. Chief Minister Shinde, with 12 of the 19 Lok Sabha members from Shiv Sena by his side, had named Shewale as leader of the party in the Lok Sabha and Bhawana Gawale as chief whip.

Rly gateman chargesheeted over reporting on duty in car

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pitch for enabling even a common man in "hawai chappals" (slippers) to use air travel services and "sabka saath, sabka vikas", a Grade-IV employee of Railways has been chargesheeted with an explanation sought for breaching protocols by using his private family car to report to office.

The matter relates to a Gateman (name withheld) posted near the Hapur Railway Station (Ghaziabad), a few kilometers from the national Capital. The employee uses his private car to report to his place of work during late evenings or nights. But the poor Gateman has been con-



veyed that his reporting on duty in a car is totally against protocols laid down by Indian Railways and hence, this relates to 'dereliction' of duty as per railway employment conduct. The Gateman earned ire of his seniors after they were on an inspection and ostensibly took offence as their junior was using a car on duty and termed it a case of 'insubordination'. All efforts to contact gateman and officials for their response and comments till late evening proved futile. "You were on

duty 23/24 July and the Principal Engineer arrived on inspection at the P-Way Hapur.

When the officers belonging to the Northern Railway noticed a Maruti car parked a few meters away they were inquisitive about the owners. Upon their on-spot inquiry the Gateman himself conveyed to the inspecting officers that it belonged to him.

This is pure violation of the service conduct as you as a Gateman cannot report to duty hours in a car as it is against the protocol. It also amounts to total dereliction of duty and that you have flouted Railway Administrative Service Act 1968, para 2, clause I and II," says the show-cause notice in Hindi issued by Senior Section Engineer (PWay), Northern Railway, Hapur.

CBI seeks urgent hearing in plea against trial court order in 2G scam

New Delhi: The CBI on Thursday sought an urgent hearing of the appeal filed against the trial court judgment in the 2G scam case following which the Delhi High Court posted the matter for hearing before the Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma-headed bench on Friday.

The agency, which filed the appeal along with Enforcement Directorate on March 18, on Wednesday sought urgent hearing of the appeal in all 2G cases against acquittal of former Telecom Minister A Raja and many Corporates including Anil Ambani headed bench on Friday.

ASG Sanjay Jain sought immediate hearing of the appeal of CBI's appeals, citing that the appeal filed more than four years ago is still at the stage

for granting leave for appeal. Justice Asha Menon, who is retiring in September said her court had certain time constraints.

Sanjay Jain, ASG for the CBI, has submitted that "the matters require urgent hearing. In fact, two applications seeking early hearing are stated to be pending, but in effect what is sought thereby is the drawing up of a schedule for arguments on the merits of the leave to appeal petitions, so that the matters can be heard at the earliest. "While appreciating the need for urgent hearing, this Court will not be in a position to draw-up such a schedule due to certain time constraints. In these circumstances, the matters be placed before Hon'ble the Chief Justice on 29th July, 2022 for appropriate orders," said the Order. PNS

Maha local bodies' polls: SC warns of contempt if elections renotified to include OBC quota

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday warned the Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC) of contempt action if it renotifies the election process to 367 local bodies, where it has already commenced, in order to provide reservation to OBCs.

The SEC, it said, "cannot and shall not" renotify the election programme, voicing displeasure over the "misreading" of its July 20 order. Any breach of its directives will invite contempt for the SEC and others concerned, the court said.

The Supreme Court had on July 20 accepted the recommendations of the Banthia

commission providing 27 per cent OBC reservations in local body elections and directed that election for local bodies in the state be notified in the next two weeks.

It had, however, made clear the same day that the new reservation policy will not apply to the 367 local bodies where the election process had already begun.

The court had noted in its July 20 order that the counsel for the SEC had said the election programme in respect of 367 local bodies has already started and will be taken to its logical end. The apex court had quashed the SEC notification providing for 27 per cent quotas for OBCs in local bodies in early 2021.

Gujarat hooch tragedy: 2 SPs transferred, 6 cops suspended

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Home Department on Thursday transferred the Superintendents of Police of Botad and Ahmedabad and suspended six other cops following the death of 42 people after consumption of spurious liquor, an official said.

Primary investigations by police have revealed that some small-time bootleggers of different villages in Botad district had made the spurious liquor by mixing water with methyl alcohol or Methanol, a highly poisonous industrial solvent, and sold it to villagers for Rs 20 per pouch.

According to police, forensic analysis established that the victims consumed methyl alcohol.

"We have transferred Botad SP Karanraj Vaghela and Ahmedabad SP Virendrasingh



Yadav. Six other police officials, including two Deputy SPs, have been placed under suspension," Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Raj Kumar told PTI.

Those suspended are Ahmedabad's Dholka division DySP N V Patel, Botad DySP S K Trivedi, Ahmedabad's Dhandhuka police station inspector K P Jadeja, Dhandhuka division's circle police inspector S B Chaudhari and Botad sub-inspectors B G Vala and Shailendrasinh Rana.

These officials were suspended for 'dereliction of duty and lack of commitment as they failed to stop the trans-

portation, sale and consumption of liquor laced with poisonous chemicals in their respective areas," say the suspension letters issued by the state Home Department.

Forty two people from Botad and neighbouring Ahmedabad district have died so far after consuming the spurious liquor on July 25, while 97 people are still admitted to hospitals in Bhavnagar, Botad and Ahmedabad, Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi said on Wednesday.

He said police will file a charge sheet in 10 days to ensure quick justice and the government will also appoint a Special Public Prosecutor to fight the case.

Fifteen key accused, including the one who acquired the chemical and those who sold the liquor to people, were already arrested, he had said.

SUSPICIOUS BURGLARY AT PARTHA'S FARMHOUSE

TMC slams Modi, ED for targetting Opp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Soon after sacking its scam-stained Minister Partha Chatterjee, the Trinamool Congress on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Enforcement Directorate and its handlers in Delhi wondering why only Opposition leaders were singled out in cases of corruption and the BJP politicians were spared by the Enforcement Directorate.

"We are not defending Partha Chatterjee as the party has already removed him from all the posts and the Chief Minister has sacked him from the Cabinet ... because the Trinamool Congress tolerates no corruption ... but it has to be clarified by the BJP as to why only the TMC leaders are singled out and when they join the BJP they are spared," party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said.

When asked to comment on BJP seeking Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's TMC leader who is also her nephew said "they are referring to a photograph where the Chief Minister was seen with Arpita Mukherjee ... as the Chief Minister she has to attend a number of programmes and is it possible to find out everyone's credentials," wondering "why do not they first ask for the resignation of the Prime Minister who was seen with Mehul Chowksi ... why don't they ask for the resignation of Nirmala Sitaraman during whose time Nirav Modi fled with some many crores ... and why don't they arrest or ask for the resignation of Shivraj Singh Chauhan during whose reign the Vyapam scam took place."

Speaking about Partha Chatterjee he said "though it seems that it is another case of vendetta ... because ED would not have touched him had he



joined the BJP like some other leaders --- like the Opposition Leader (Suwendu Adhikari) ... it seems that for the BJP when you are in any other party you are a thief but when you are in the BJP you are as pure as rose water."

Referring to the school level recruitment scam he said "there are other leaders who are in the BJP today whose names are coming in the scam for abetting illegal appointments in districts like Purulia and Bankura but they have not been touched by the

ED."

Meanwhile, in a suspicious development a farmhouse reportedly owned by Sohini the daughter of the minister --- located at Baruipur some 35 km south off Kolkata --- was burgled in the wee hours of Thursday, sources said.

Locals said that three persons wearing black robes came in a vehicle, jumped over the high boundary wall broke the locks and entered the building which has a sprawling courtyard. Later they came out with a number of bags and fled away in the vehicle in which they had come. When the locals questioned their credentials they were threatened by the intruders, sources said.

The burglary took place in the night when Rs 28 crore was recovered from an apartment owned by Arpita and Partha. The police were investigating the case.

Yogi condemns Congress MP's 'Rashtrapatni' remark

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress should also take blame for behaviour of its MP: CM

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has criticised the remark of Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury calling Droupadi Murmu as "Rashtrapatni", saying such a remark is highly condemnable.

"This remark is atrocious and an insult to the Constitution of India as well as an insult to the matra shakti of India. As the President of India is the high-



est constitutional post, the remark is also an insult to the country in a way," Yogi said in a statement here on Thursday.

He said: "I condemn the Congress MP and Congress for this indecent remark. They should apologise to the countrymen for this condemnable act. This country can never accept any such comment."

Yogi Adityanath said that Congress should also take

the blame for the behaviour of its MP and it could not shy away from its accountability.

The controversy was triggered by Chowdhury when he referred to President Droupadi Murmu as "Rashtrapatni" in a comment to a Hindi news channel.

When a hue and cry was raised, he admitted his mistake, saying it was a slip of tongue.

Bharatiya Janata Party state president Swatantra Dev Singh also criticised Chowdhury for his comment and said that it was an insult to the tribal women.

"The women who rose to the highest constitutional post should not be treated this way," Singh said in a statement.

New textile policy on anvil in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government will soon bring a new textile policy incorporating innovations that will boost investment and increase employment generation capacity in the state. A senior official said on condition of anonymity that the draft of the policy had been prepared and sent to the advisory committee of the government for its opinion.

"With the implementation of the new policy, investment in the textile industry in the state will increase further. Along with this, employment opportunities will be created," the official said.

To start with, the process has been initiated for the acquisition of land for the establishment of Mega Integrated Textile and Apparel

Park in Hardoi under the PM Mitra Scheme of the Union Textiles Ministry.

"The establishment of textile units in the park is likely to provide employment to about five lakh persons," the official said.

He said there was also a proposal to set up an apparel park in Noida with an investment of Rs 3,000 crore. Land for developing the park has been arranged.

"About 115 export-ori-

BJP leader's murder: Two with suspected links to PFI held in Karnataka

PTI ■ MANGALURU/BENGALURU

Two persons with suspected links to the Popular Front of India (PFI) were arrested by Karnataka police in connection with the murder of a BJP youth wing leader in Dakshina Kannada district which had sparked outrage.

The arrested accused have been identified as Zakir (29) and Mohammed Shafiq (27), both from Bellare in Sullia taluk, where the 32-year-old zilla Bharatiya Yuva Morcha

committee member Praveen Nettar was hacked to death by unidentified motor bike-borne assailants on Tuesday night, police said.

"Both are from Bellare, they have got suspected links with PFI - that we have to verify. We had taken them into custody last evening and after inquiry we have arrested them. We will produce them before court and ask for police custody and do further investigation," the Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Alok Kumar said.

Mayawati lambasts Adhir over sexist 'Rashtrapatni' remark, seeks apology

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amid the controversy around Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's sexist remark on the President of India Droupadi Murmu, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati lambasted the leader of Congress in Lok Sabha by calling his 'Rashtrapatni' remark "shameful" and "highly condemnable".

Taking to Twitter on Thursday, Mayawati said, "The spectacular election of Droupadi Murmu ji as the first woman of the tribal society to the post of President of India is not liked by many. In this sequence, the objectionable remarks made by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of Congress in Lok Sabha, against her are very sad, shameful and highly condemnable."

Mayawati slammed the



Congress over Chowdhury's remark about Droupadi Murmu and said that the grand old party should apologise to the country.

"The proceedings of Parliament have also been disrupted today (Thursday), in protest against calling the Honourable Rashtrapati ji 'Rashtrapatni' on TV. It would be appropriate that the Congress party also apologise to the country for this and abandons its casteist mindset," the BSP chief tweeted.

Meanwhile, Mayawati has also taken seriously the theft of an elephant statue in the state

capital. Mayawati said that the theft of an elephant statue from the memorial of saints of Dalit society, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Social Change Sthal (Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Prateek Sthal) was a matter of shame and concern. She tweeted that in the respect of great saints, gurus, great men born in the neglected, despised, Dalit and other backward classes in the country, the BSP government had built a grand Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar social transformation site and this area was now the main centre of tourism. She said the theft of an elephant statue from there was a matter of shame and concern.

Mayawati further said in the tweet that the neglect in protection and maintenance of the grand sites and monuments built by the BSP government earlier during the Samajwadi Party regime and

Bombay HC CJ recuses from hearing plea challenging appointment of CBI Director Jaiswal

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A Bombay High Court bench led by Chief Justice Dipankar Datta on Thursday recused from hearing a petition challenging the appointment of Subodh Jaiswal as the Central Bureau of Investigation director, following a letter of complaint against CJ Datta.

Former Maharashtra Assistant Commissioner of Police Rajendra Trivedi had filed the PIL challenging Jaiswal's appointment.

CJ Datta said it had come to his notice that on March 22 this year, Trivedi wrote a letter to Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, "complaining" against him.

Jaiswal, who had earlier held the post of Maharashtra's Director General of Police (DGP), was appointed as the CBI director in May last year.

Trivedi had on November 11, 2021 filed the plea through



advocate S B Talekar against Jaiswal's appointment.

A bench led by CJ Datta was hearing it since then. The bench had also passed several directions on the plea, including asking for affidavits from the Union government and Jaiswal.

Earlier this month, Jaiswal filed an affidavit before the bench saying Trivedi's PIL had been filed out of "personal vendetta."

The Union government on Wednesday submitted an affidavit, saying Jaiswal had been appointed the CBI director following due process and he had adequate requisite quali-

fications for the appointment.

On Thursday, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju appeared along with ASG Anil Singh on behalf of the Union government.

They mentioned the matter for urgent hearing and sought that a specific date be fixed for next hearing.

CJ Datta then said it will not be proper for him to hear the matter.

"It won't be proper for us to hear this matter because a complaint has been against this court," CJ Datta said.

"Mr Talekar, you might not be knowing this but your client, the petitioner, wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of India complaining against me," he said.

Talekar said he did not know of the letter and that his client was claiming he had not written it.

Both Raju and Singh urged the bench to continue hearing the matter, saying on behalf of the Union of India that they had "full confidence in the bench."

"It has nowadays become a trend for people to make random allegations if they want their matter to be heard by a different bench. If a court recuses, they feel they are successful," ASG Singh said.

Talekar also said his client was "very happy" with the way the hearing was going on, and urged the bench to not recuse itself from hearing the plea.

However, CJ Datta said even if he were to continue the hearing and in case he passed an adverse order, the petitioner might not be satisfied with the hearing.

"It is very easy to write a letter and tarnish someone's image. It will be appropriate if this matter is heard by some other bench. Justice must be seen to have been done," CJ Datta said.

A new, non-invasive way to alleviate hand tremors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maanav Narula still remembers the day he walked into his grandmother's room and saw her struggling to sign her name on a letter. The doctors had diagnosed her with Essential Tremor, but it was only in that moment that he realised what that really meant. Over the next few months, simple tasks like eating, writing and dressing became difficult for her.

These kinds of hand tremors affect over 120 million people worldwide. It affects those with Essential Tremor, Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's, stroke patients and so many more. Hand tremors have such a disabling effect that patients suffer emotionally too. Over half of patients suffer from depression and over 25 per cent retire early due to their tremors. They report losing a sense of identity, avoid leaving their home and even feel forgotten by the medical community.

They feel this way because the current solutions in the market are lacking. Medication is the first line of defense, but it's only 50 per cent effective, its effectiveness reduces over time and it has severe side effects. Some patients with severe tremors also attempt deep brain stimulation. Though effective, the surgery is expensive and risky, and simply not feasible for the majority of patients. Because of these tradeoffs, neither solution was feasible for Maanav's grandmother.

He set out to solve this problem for them. By visiting support groups, sending out surveys and interviewing patients, he first figured out exactly what kind of solution people wanted. He then bought the assistive devices currently on the market to see how they worked and why more people weren't using them. What he discovered was that customers valued the form factor - the size, shape and weight - of the device almost as much as its ability to reduce tremors. But almost all

of these assistive devices were too bulky or heavy. Even if they reduced tremors, they didn't resolve the social anxiety patients felt. The bulky devices simply drew too much attention and questions from others. And the fact that they were heavy made it difficult to use throughout the day without tiring their arms.

To tackle this problem, Maanav started with what he had — he took the technologies used today and tried to improve their form factor. He even tried combining some of them together. But he couldn't get it down to where customers would be comfortable wearing it. He spent months searching for a better way and eventually landed on a familiar technology. The year before, he had taken a class on vibrational dynamics as part of his mechanical engineering degree at the University of Pennsylvania. He learned about using earthquake-proofing technology to keep buildings stable. And that's when a light

bulb went off. Could he take this proven technology and scale it down to the size of a human hand? Would it have the same effect that is has on buildings? And what would be different if he uses it on a scale 800 times smaller than its typical application? This is exactly what he explored during his senior design thesis.

His first course of action was to see if this solution was even theoretically possible, let alone practical. He developed a mathematical model and found that there was in fact a narrow range to make this work. But it was theoretically possible. That was the first validation.

The next step was to translate this into a real product. The first version only needed to show proof of concept. And sure enough, it took the form of a bulky 1.5 inch thick bracelet. It also only worked for one particular tremor pattern at a time. But it was enough to show that the concept worked. Patients of course didn't like the form factor yet, but it worked. That was

the second validation.

Maanav then needed to figure out if this could be a viable business. He leveraged resources from his degrees at Wharton and Penn Engineering, including taking their entrepreneurship and venture capital classes, to build out his business model. This is also when the device got a name: Minimize. He entered pitch competitions and won several awards including the Innovation Prize at the Wharton Startup Challenge and the Medical Device Excellence Awards at the MD&M Trade Show in New York.

This was the third validation. It was enough for him to turn down job offers after graduating and he decided to pursue this full time. He moved to Chicago to continue building the company. His next goal was clear: Bring down the size and weight of Minimize. Unfortunately, this coincided with the onset of the pandemic and lockdowns. It was diffi-

cult to make a prototype from home and even more difficult to meet patients and test the product. Instead, he built his own mechanical tremor simulator to test and improve Minimize. Now, Minimize is able to reduce tremors by up to 80-95 per cent and takes the form of a lightweight, discreet bracelet. Similar to a step tracker, Minimize can also collect patient data to show how their tremor severity is changing over time. This can help patients identify triggers for their tremor and thus empowers them to make lifestyle changes to better manage the symptom. Lastly, while Minimize does have a battery, it doesn't have to be charged for it to be effective in counteracting tremors.

To make Minimize commercially available, however, it has to go through the FDA's regulatory pathway. To navigate these complex regulations, Maanav joined a MedTech accelerator at mHUB, an innovation center in Chicago. The

six-month program provided funding, technical resources, mentorship, access to corporate partners and strong connections in the Chicago and area. Since joining, he pitched to the program's corporate partners in Baxter and Edward Elmhurst Health Venture Capital and secured additional investments from them both. The traction Minimize has gained since the program has led the company to open their seed round earlier than expected. This funding round will help complete clinical trials, FDA registration and commercialisation next year. Maanav's goal is to give all patients access to this non-invasive, non-pharmacological form of tremor therapy.

He believes patients shouldn't have to choose between the current subpar treatment options. What he first built for his grandmother, he now wants to build for the millions of others suffering from hand tremors.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Time to liberalise

The government must expedite economic reforms to boost growth and create employment

The rush for government jobs is directly proportional to the severity of the unemployment crisis. The severity has increased badly in the last eight years. As many as 22.05 crore applications were received from 2014-15 to 2021-22 for Central government jobs, but just 7.22 lakh people got them. This is one out of around 300 aspirants becoming successful. These figures have not been compiled by some think tank or private body which the government functionaries or Bharatiya Janata Party leaders can dispute; the government itself released these numbers in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Therefore, no amount of spin or sophistry would make these numbers vanish from political debate. To be sure, there is nothing surprising about these numbers; there is enough anecdotal evidence to suggest that the situation is pretty bad. For a handful of jobs, any government department announces, lakhs, if not millions, of applications, are received. The intensity of the agitation against the Agniveer scheme was also partly because of the lack of job opportunities for the youngsters. Since the unemployment problem is real, the solution ought to be real; and this can happen only if economic growth is accelerated. It is here where the shoe pinches. The International Monetary Fund has estimated that growth in India will be 7.4 percent for this fiscal and 6.1 percent for 2023-24. For both years, these are lower by 80 basis points from the IMF's earlier estimates. The international situation is badly hurting our economy, with higher crude prices, constrained supply chains, and general decline.

Because of these very reasons, the IMF has also lowered its global growth forecast for 2022 by 40 basis points to 3.2 percent. By 2033, it has pegged it further down, at 2.9 percent. "The outlook has darkened significantly since April. The world may soon be teetering on the edge of a global recession, only two years after the last one," top IMF economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas wrote in an article accompanying the release of an update to the IMF's World Economic Outlook report. Against this backdrop, India has to protect itself from not just external shocks but also the problems joblessness brings forth.

The only way out is the broadening and deepening of economic reforms, especially in areas, like agriculture and labor laws. Thankfully, the Narendra Modi government has shown intent to do that. It has recommenced the privatisation process, and the sale of Air India is a testimony to that. It also brought three excellent laws to help the farm sector a couple of years ago but had to backtrack. Its emphasis on infrastructure will also help boost growth and development. Ditto with PM Modi's attitude against the freebie culture. Therefore, now is the time to expedite reforms and translate a prudential mindset into policy-making and implementation. All this will accelerate growth and create jobs.

PICTALK



Moradabad: Students take part in a programme organised on the eve of the International Tiger Day, at a school. PTI

Judicial killings in Myanmar

By executing political activists, Myanmar army wants to instill a sense of fear among protestors demanding democracy

The execution of four political activists is shocking. It shows that the army generals in Myanmar have scant regard for human rights and are in no mood to restore democracy in the country. The four persons executed include highly popular Phyto Zeya Thaw, a 41-year-old lawmaker, and Kyaw Min Yu, a 53-year-old democracy. The military tribunal that gave them a death sentence did not give any scope for appeal.

The road to freedom is neither easy nor short. Myanmar which has been under the grip of the army since February when it usurped power by a coup is in turmoil. The people are on the streets to protest against the army rule and for the restoration of democracy. The judicial murders are an attempt to instill a sense of terror in the hearts of protestors. According to reports in the last year it has given a death sentence to 117 political activists that it had arrested.



The Tatmadaw, as the army of Myanmar, is called has also jailed Aung San Suu Kyi for 11 years to ensure she does not become a rallying point. Nonetheless, the democratic movement in the country is getting stronger and stronger. More than 14,000 people have courted arrests and over 2,000 civilians have lost lives protesting against the army and its generals.

Now, as the people's patience is wearing thin, the peaceful protests are now turning violent. Meanwhile, the sanctions and mismanagement of the economy have led to the economy taking a nose dive and it has shrunk by almost 20% causing widespread unemployment and a rise in inflation. Indeed no regime can last long no matter how regressive or powerful it might be if it loses people's trust and legitimacy. Tatmadaw has lost both. The corrupt and repressive army generals are more focused on preserving their authority rather than the welfare of the country. They unleashed a reign of terror on Rohingyas to polarize the Buddhist majority but now the same majority has taken cudgels against it. What is most disturbing is that the world powers aren't doing enough to press the army for early elections and restoration of democracy. The lip service to democracy is not enough some concrete steps must be taken to end the most regressive and ruthless army regime in Myanmar. Indeed it would have been better had India played a role in giving democracy a push in the neighborhood rather than maintaining a stoic silence.

Tipu was my saviour, sibling

Who says animals don't have emotions, in fact they are far more sensitive than maybe we humans. I have experienced it firsthand



AMIT KANWAR

Tipu, our pet, a medium-sized black Himalayan sheepdog, was my first true friend. With my brothers away to pursue their studies, Tipu was my sibling. My parents were working, and I was in the care of Amma, my grandmother. In rural Himachal, those were not the days when children were admitted to school at the earliest eligible age. Amma was in no hurry to expose me to formal education as avenues of informal education were many. I lived, experienced, and savored the simple village life.

I would roam in fields with Tipu in the toe and watch the crops sown, weeded, bloom, and harvested. In summers, we would sneak into mango orchards, tasting the best of the produce. Exploring the muddy meandering streams with paper boats was our favorite pastime during the rainy season. Misty winter mornings were spent in the greens of sprouting wheat decked up with shiny dew drops. Springs took us through sprawling yellow fields of mustards to the sugarcane plots, where I feasted on the sweetest of the cane. The beautiful balmy autumn was spent watching the leaves turn orange.

Tipu would often follow me, and he possessed a real sixth sense. Being an alert bodyguard of a five-year-old, he would overtake me if he felt the need to check the area for any danger before I venture. Whenever the hill trails grew narrow and steep, Tipu would always lead the way. He chased stray dogs and cattle away from my path and always sensed the people I did not like. One of Amma's friends regularly complained to her about my mischiefs, and I did not like her. Tipu sensed the same. Violently barking, he would chase her away.

Close to my sixth birthday, I was admitted into the neighborhood government school, an understaffed, dingy, single-story block of classrooms, crying for repairs. I wouldn't say I liked the school, but the prospect of learning was overwhelming. Tipu started accompanying me to school. He found a resting cor-



ner under a banyan tree on the school premises, where he would spend his day, waiting for the dispersal bell. My school-going excitement was somehow short-lived; the routine, punctuality, rules, and lack of independence were enough to dampen my spirits. Finally, my patience gave away, and one day I planned to bunk the school.

Collecting my bag, I managed to sneak out of the class. Tipu loved this pleasant surprise, and his hurried stretch and enthusiastic tail wagging signaled that he was happy. Tip-toeing quietly, we managed to move around fifty meters from the school periphery, undetected. Breaking the silence of the hot summer's noon, I heard the shrill voice of one of the dreaded teachers. He was calling out my name, and without looking back, I got into a sprint, with Tipu leading the way. Enraged at my audacious escape, the teacher mustered three boys to follow me, catch me, and get me back to school. Midway, the trio was able to catch up, and they asked me to return, to which I refused and continued on my way. Irritated by my indifferent



TIPU WOULD OFTEN FOLLOW ME, AND HE POSSESSED A REAL SIXTH SENSE. BEING AN ALERT BODYGUARD OF A FIVE-YEAR-OLD, HE WOULD OVERTAKE ME IF HE FELT THE NEED TO CHECK THE AREA FOR ANY DANGER BEFORE I VENTURE.

and intrepid reaction, one of them tried to pull me by the arm to force me to return to the school.

Tipu, a silent spectator till now, flew into a wild rage and started barking violently. Sensing that the dog may bite, the arresting party withdrew quietly. I do not know what happened to them when they returned to school, but Tipu became the talk of the town from that day onwards. The scene was repeated on a few more occasions, and finally, the teacher had to request my grandmother to ensure that Tipu did not accompany me to the school. Poor Tipu was put on a leash during school hours. After some time, I changed school, and the chances of Tipu accompanying me diminished. Even being reserved with the display of emotions, he could not hold back his excitement on my return from school. He would vigorously wag his tail and would stay by my side for the rest of the day.

Tipu was the undisputed king of the neighborhood. A guard dog breed, he was unfriendly and reserved. One day, a neighbor got a pet, a ferocious, large-sized Gaddi

Dog, Moti. This started the war for turf between the canines. Observing that the skirmishes between Tipu and Moti grew violent, we tried to keep Tipu away from Moti. But one day, Moti ambushed Tipu. Tipu fought back bravely but got seriously injured. Timely evacuation and hospitalization saved his life.

Tipu was back to his original self within a fortnight. As the injuries were internal and had not healed well due to old age, Tipu's health deteriorated, and visits to the doctor did no good. Tipu got bedridden with failing health, and his drooping ears, limped walking, and wet eyes said it was all the pain of an ailing being. No amount of medication helped. On a sultry summer afternoon, after suffering for about a week, Tipu, my friend, my savior, my co-explorer, left us for his heavenly abode. Pained, I cried for days. Tipu is gone a long time back, but his memories linger on in my consciousness, reminding me of the meaning of true friendship, loyalty, and selfless love.

(The writer pens down stories of human interest and his travels. He also likes to click portraits.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOW MADE IN INDIA MONKEYPOX VACCINE

Sir — Serum Institute of India is planning to develop a vaccine against monkeypox and is in talks regarding this with partners. It clearly shows how India is leading in the field of medical science and vaccination research and development. Also, the institute exports vaccines globally which will elevate India's role in the vaccine industry and will lead to a collaboration with global pharma companies. The world has already seen India's prowess in vaccine development when Serum Institute's covishield was not only used to vaccinate Indians but has been exported to other countries as well. Thus it will lead to India becoming a global leader in the field of vaccine research.

Ashwini Tomar | Ujjain

MEDICAL STUDENTS MUST BE HELPED

Sir — Refer The Pioneer (27th July, 22), Admit Medical students The government of India has fulfilled its obligation by 'Operation Ganga' - an evacuation process and brought back home Indians safely from Ukiran when Russia launched the invasion of Ukraine on February 24. Around 22,500 Indian nationals - mostly students - have returned from war-hit Ukraine to India since February.

The Centre government should come to the aid of these youngsters who are in serious distress and who already have spent large money for their admission in Ukraine and China, and had to return mid-way from their courses amid the war in Ukraine and the Pandemic in China. The government should make a special plan to admit these medical students to various government colleges and private medical colleges in the country by relaxing the rules "in the interest of the country and public at large.

India has a large medical education infrastructure with 612 medical colleges with 90695 seats for MBBS courses, more than 300 are Govt. medical colleges, 49 are deemed medical colleges and the remaining are private medical colleges.

Dravidian-Aryan debate



Tamil Nadu Governor KN Ravi has revived the Dravidian-Aryan construct with his contention that the distinction is geographical and not racial. Even though the theory that they are not distinct has been already debunked by archeological, linguistic, and genetic evidence, it is deliberately being propagated to create an entirely spurious impression that the Indo-European language speakers who called

themselves Aryans have been the original inhabitants and validating their claim of India being their pithrbhoomi (fatherland) and Punyabhoomi (holy land).

Nevertheless, it is a vain attempt to deny the fact that the Dravidians were well-settled in India long before the arrival of the Aryans sometime between 2000 BCE and 1000 BCE. The Hindutva scholars and ideologues may try hard to equate Indian culture with 'Aryan', 'Sanskrit' or 'Vedic' culture. But they are bound to fail because a part does not make the total. No amount of falsehoods and fake histories will alter the fact that India is a multi-source civilization' enriched by a variety of hereditaries and migration histories. Trifling with lineages to suit a particular political narrative or perpetuate domination by a section of society is not a virtue.

G David Milton | Kanyakumari

Even if the Russian-Ukraine conflict ends which looks unlikely, these students can not go back as already massive damage is done to the infrastructure of various medical colleges and institutions in Ukraine in the Russian attack.

Hence, in the interest of these youngsters, the Government can amend by ordinance the National Medical Commission (NMC) rules, which do not allow the transfer of students who are pursuing medical courses abroad and have to return home midway, in medical colleges here between academic sessions.

Even the government can add one more semester in their courses for the clinical training for these returning students so they can match Indian education standards.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangalore

THE STORY OF WASHED BRIDGES

Sir — According to the reports, three hundred bridges, small and big, were damaged and about five hundred kilometers of roads were dilapidated this Monsoon. The

six bridges of Gwalior-Chambal were broken, and their construction has not started to date. Earlier the government was not in a position to provide funds, so the proposal got stuck.

But when the approval of the fund was received, the process got entangled. These matters cannot be ignored, because, along these roads, the public's trust in the government is also broken, like a bridge-culvert, the expectations of the common man also collapse, which he keeps from the government for development.

The government routinely suspends some officials and blacklists companies

People are now beginning to understand that suspension is not a punishment and how will the loss of crores caused by blacklisting the company be compensated?

The government should ensure better quality and speedy delivery of infra projects.

Divyansha Sharma | Ujjain

SOUNDBITE

Connectivity brings opportunities, progress and prosperity. Cabinet decision on enhancing connectivity in uncovered villages is going to transform lives of people in these areas.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



Russia has started a new type of hybrid world war. It decided that information, energy and food were military instruments put at the service of a continental imperialist war against Ukraine

French President — Emmanuel Macron

There are many facts about the Kohinor that I didn't know & these revelations took me by surprise.



Actor — Manoj Bajpayee

'Sindhu can play upto 40 years even - if she wants'

Fitness Trainer — Srikanth Varma

I extend my heartiest greetings to all on World Nature Conservation Day. Let us take pledge once again to work unflinchingly towards conservation of Mother Nature for protecting the environment and sustaining all forms of life on earth.



West Bengal CM — Mamata Banerjee

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

UKRAINE WAR CAUGHT US ON THE WRONG FOOT

India has to walk a tightrope amid a fluid world order



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The ongoing monsoon session of Parliament has briefly halted high-level foreign visits by ministers, while uncertainty prevailing in India's neighbourhood, as well as G7 partners are equally at play. War in Ukraine has also entered six months and the world is preparing for a harsh winter! All of these have major implications for India.

What was almost unthinkable in February this year, when Russia sent its troops into Ukraine is now turning out to be a living nightmare, impacting billions of people around the globe. When Russia went into Ukraine, everyone thought it would be a matter of a few days before a complete takeover. However, what wasn't factored in was the sudden western unity and throwing in of 'all it takes' by US and Europe to win a moral war against Russia.

Western nations led by the US hardened the sanctions regime against Russia, reviving Cold War era power blocs. It also forced many powerful European countries such as Germany to reinvestigate their military programmes, thereby diverting funds from other pressing sectors such as climate change. The most significant outcome of the war is perhaps a working template for China for its future road to global dominance.

China is Russia's most powerful global ally and has not restricted any trade with Russia, thereby reiterating the stated objective of 'friendship beyond any limits'. China has even come out with statements as late as last month condemning and challenging the western alliance-led Cold War era sanctions regime against Russia. What China is closely analysing are the challenges Russia faces at present and in future, and how can China insure itself from these threats, if it decides to push for unilateral military aggression in any part of the globe.



India has been caught on the wrong foot geopolitically. It has a historic relationship with Russia, stretching more than six decades and is one of the largest buyers of Russian weapons. However, it may be noteworthy that in case of a large-scale military flare up with China, the weapons on both sides would be of Russian origin. It could also mean Russia may have to make a tough call between a powerful global ally (China) and an old trusted friend (India) on the global stage.

Chances are Russia would choose the former. Meanwhile, India and China negotiations on border related issues haven't progressed significantly in the past six months. On the contrary both sides have made the north-western border points permanent military zones developing key infrastructure in the fragile Himalayan terrain. The winters of 2022 and many more to come are most likely to be tense, given China's heightened aggression.

Meanwhile, at multilateral forums such as the BRICS summit China is aggressively trying to push for a reserve currency, which is aimed to scale down the importance of a dollar denominated trade. China is also pushing for trade transactions in Renminbi and wants to establish an alternative to current international Interbank Payment Systems, which is another dent towards Europe and US-led order. It may be mentioned that India too has allowed Rupee denominated international trade settlements, and has been working on an alternate, to cross border inter-bank settlements.

These trends could have established an alternate financial system, provided India and China could have come to the negotiating table to discuss the regulations, standards, and governing principles. India, China with their other BRICS partners, Russia and Brazil, could have persuaded many smaller economies to join the new financial system. However, that seems currently out of place due to the prevailing geopolitical canvas.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Need babus for knowledge based India

At a time when India aspires to be a \$5-trillion economy, existing bureaucracy needs a radical transformation



SUMET BHASIN

India is aspiring to be a \$5-trillion economy in a short span of time. By 2030, the target of the government is to hit the \$10-trillion economy size, and take off from thereon for qualitative and quantum jump in the socio-economic space of the country. The government may have a robust action plan to execute the economic aspirations.

But the plans are executed by the men and women in various domains who are the faces of the government on the ground. If the administrators prove to be enablers, India will reach the target economic size within the time frame. But if they prove not to be adequately equipped with the skillsets, India may falter, and that calls for urgent steps for the much needed administrative reforms in the country.

The Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre is taking various measures to equip the administrative officials with the skills that are required to build 'New India'. The exercise at the various levels seeks to address the issues concerning the capacity-building challenges. The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building is one such exercise which is addressing the skill set challenges at the individual and institution levels. There are other digital modes of interventions to reorient the civil servants to the required knowledge sets. The State governments are also embarking on the path of administrative reforms.

The focus as of now is clearly seen to be on bridging the gap between the government and the citizens for various services. But the pace with which technology is evolving may herald a stage where the citizens can self-source such services with the digital eco-system as has been the case mostly in getting passports made, which in the previous years and decades used to be arduous tasks.

If the current thrust to reorient the bureaucracy for timely and speedy delivery of the services to the citizens are met with the interplay of technology, India may have a huge army of civil servants who would be least productive and also liability to the national exchequer and also the hard-earned money of the tax-payers.

If we look back, it's hard to find thought leaders from among the bureaucracy, who by their innovations would have changed the face of the socio-economic domains of the country. This must be on account of the Indian bureaucracy not yet shedding its British era outlook. The civil servants just need to crack one examination, and afterwards they can lord over their subjects.

'New India' cannot have any space for such bureaucratic resources. Administrative reforms in the country have been attempted for several decades, and the first such commission was headed by none other than Morarji Desai in 1966, who later became Prime Minister of the coun-



A FEW EXPERIMENTS TO REFORM THE BUREAUCRACY INCLUDED LATERAL ENTRY AND WEEDING OUT NONPERFORMERS BUT RADICAL CHANGES NEED TO BE ADOPTED IF INDIA INDEED WANTS TO REACH THE GOAL OF A \$10-TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2030.

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre.)



try. Later, Veerappa Moily also headed one such commission in 2006.

But the outcome has just been incremental, with focus on downsizing of the bureaucracy to save the expenses. The recent report of the Reserve Bank of India on the indebtedness of the States has shown an alarming scenario. Many of the States are reeling under the burden of salary and pension to its employees. This is despite the fact that the States have been downsizing their bureaucracies since the 1990s. That means that India is still stuck in the cobweb of the old age bureaucracy, which is essentially seen as a measure to offer jobs at the expense of the state exchequer.

The Modi government has done a few experiments to reform the bureaucracy, which included lateral entry, weeding out nonperformers by giving them compulsory retirements, and so on. But it appears that radical changes need to be adopted if India indeed wants to reach the goal of a \$ 10 trillion economy by 2030 and triple the size by 2050.

India will need people at key positions, at policy formulation stage, and in fields to execute them, with speed that would be unseen, and scale that would be the best in the world. The interventions would essentially be at the entry levels, and the time may have come to write an obituary for generalists.

That an IAS officer can be at one time a revenue secretary, and another time he could be handling the affairs of road and transport is

just an idea of the time that has lost its relevance. India must say a goodbye to the culture that generalists can do all roles, as if they are blessed with some divine skills to acquire the know-how of the new tasks with the change of the departments.

The basis of the biggest reforms in the Modi government is the use of data with the digital interplay, which essentially banked on the skills of data mining and data analysis. That saved India several thousands of crores of rupees. This makes it clear that we need to create a manpower powerhouse of specialists, who can man areas of their expertise. A specialist will be better equipped to innovate, and innovations will accelerate India in scaling up its socio-economic depth.

We are no more in the 20th century that the people will be patient with incremental progress of the bureaucracy. Technology is making things irrelevant which were in vogue previously. Indeed, such specialists cannot appear on the horizon on their own. We get the skill sets only from our institutions, and the time has just come to overhaul our education system, and make them tuned to the needs of specialized skills in diverse spheres — economy, commerce, technology, social and political sciences, bio-technology, cutting edge management and so on.

Besides, it's also worth debating why bureaucrats should have career spans of 30 years and more. Why cannot they come in for

about 10-15 years, and take up assignments in other spheres, including the private sector. The Agniveer scheme in this aspect is a harbinger of a change that may have spillover effects in the other domains. Let the government avail of the best of the time of the professionals working in its ranks, and when the fire in their belly gets extinguished they should be respectfully retired, which can be institutionalized with a career span of about 10-15 years.

Such an ecosystem will also make available a trained talent base for the private companies, who in the end have to expand their capacities to take India to the \$ 30 trillion economy by 2050. The best of the talent shouldn't be just with the government, and an easy flow with the private sector can help bring in better convergence of the ideas for 'New India'.

Indeed, India is essentially a welfare state, and the time has come for the private sector to share the burden of the government to care for the poor of the country. This again can be achieved if there is a flow of the talent pool from the government to the private sector. Corporate social responsibility and its various other modes in diverse areas will also require new age managers, who cannot bank on the graduates of the management institutions, as their hands-on training would only be possible with stints in the government services. That calls for urgent administrative reforms, and time is ticking.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

TO ADDRESS THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA IN THIS WAY NOT ONLY DEMEANS HER POST BUT ALSO THE RICH TRIBAL LEGACY THAT SHE REPRESENTS. —BJP LEADER SMRITI IRANI



JUST ONCE, I SAID "RASHTRAPATINI". THEY (BJP) ARE CREATING A FURORE BECAUSE OF THIS. I MADE A MISTAKE, JUST ONCE AND IN ONE WORD. —CONGRESS LEADER ADHIRANJAN CHOWDHURY

Tokenisation in interest of plastic money users

At a time when data theft is on rise, it's worthwhile to follow advice of RBI to opt for tokenisation in card usages

Even people, including the manager of a Noida software firm, were arrested in February 2022 for allegedly stealing and misusing credit cards of about 100 people across the country. In October 2019, the RBI asked banks to secure their customer card data after a website reported that nearly 1.3 million debit and credit card data of Indian banks are on sale on the dark web, potentially causing losses of millions of dollars.

There are millions of people using credit and debit cards on a regular basis. As a measure to safeguard the interest of cardholders, the Reserve Bank of India proposed a process called 'tokenisation'. Credit and debit card tokenization is the process of replacing sensitive data with a token, a randomly generated,



KALYANASUNDARAM

(The writer is a retired banker. The views expressed are personal.)

one-of-a-kind placeholder, from the company's internal network.

The Reserve Bank of India on June 24 extended the timeline for tokenisation of debit and credit cards by three months till September 30, 2022 "to avoid disruption and inconvenience to cardholders". Originally, the RBI mandated that after December 31, 2021, entities other than card networks and card issuers cannot store card data. This timeline was subsequently extended to June 30, 2022.

Now after September 30, no entity in the card transaction or payment chain, other than the card issuers and card networks, should store the CoF (Card-on-File data or storage of actual card data) and any such data stored previously will be purged.

"On a review of the issues involved and after detailed dis-

cussions with all stakeholders, it is observed that considerable progress has been made in terms of token creation. Transaction processing based on these tokens has also commenced, though it is yet to gain traction across all categories of merchants," the RBI said in a circular to payment system providers.

In its press release issued on June 24, 2022, the RBI also urged credit and debit card holders to opt for tokenisation on a voluntary basis. It will be worthwhile for credit and debit card holders to try this sane advice of RBI for a smooth transition, when it is made compulsory in course of time.

Currently, many entities, including merchants, involved in an online card transaction chain store card data like card number,



expiry date, etc., [Card-on-File (CoF)] citing cardholder convenience and comfort for undertaking transactions in future. While this practice does render convenience, availability of card details with multiple entities increases the risk of card data being stolen/misused. There have been instances where such

data stored by merchants, etc., have been compromised.

Under the present system as an additional factor of authentication is not mandatory, there is always a possibility of fraudsters using the stolen data and the cardholders may be put to monetary loss. It is possible that social engineering techniques can be employed to perpetrate frauds using such data.

The RBI has issued a framework for CoF Tokenisation (CoFT) services. Under this framework, cardholders can create "tokens" (a unique alternate code) in lieu of card details; these tokens can then be stored by the merchants for processing transactions in future. Thus, CoFT obviates the need to store card details with merchants and provides the same level of convenience to cardholders.

To create a token under the CoFT framework, the cardholder has to undergo a one-time registration process for each card at every online/e-commerce merchant's website/mobile application, by entering the card details and giving consent for creating a token. This consent is validated by way of authentication through an Additional Factor of Authentication.

Thereafter, a token is created which is specific to the card and online / e-commerce merchant, i.e., the token cannot be used for payment at any other merchant. For future transactions performed at the same merchant website/mobile application, the cardholder can identify the card with the last four digits during the checkout process. Thus, the cardholder is

not required to remember or enter the token for future transactions. A card can be tokenised at any number of online/e-commerce merchants. For every online/e-commerce merchant where the card is tokenised, a specific token will be created.

The RBI has also said that 19.5 crore tokens have been so far created. Opting for CoFT (i.e., creating tokens) is voluntary for the cardholders. Those who do not wish to create a token can continue to transact as before by entering card details manually at the time of undertaking the transaction.

The Reserve Bank of India encourages cardholders to tokenize their cards for their own safety. Cardholders' payment experience will be enhanced through an added layer of security by way of tokenisation.

Russia steps up strikes on Ukraine amid counterattacks

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces on Thursday launched massive missile strikes on Ukraine's Kyiv and Chernihiv regions, areas that haven't been targeted in weeks, while Ukrainian officials announced an operation to liberate an occupied region in the country's south.

Kyiv regional governor Oleksiy Kuleba said on Telegram that a settlement in the Vyshgorod district of the region was targeted early on Thursday morning; an "infrastructure object" was hit. It wasn't immediately clear if there were any casualties.

Vyshgorod is located 20 kilometers north of downtown Kyiv. Kuleba linked the strikes with the Day of Statehood, which Ukraine was marking for the first time on Thursday.

"Russia, with the help of missiles, is mounting revenge for the widespread popular resistance, which the Ukrainians were able to organize precisely because of their statehood," Kuleba told Ukrainian television. "Ukraine has already broken Russia's plans and will continue to defend itself." Chernihiv governor Vyacheslav Chaus reported that multiple missiles were fired from the territory of Belarus at the village of Honcharivka.

Russian troops withdrew



from the Kyiv and Chernihiv regions months ago after failing to capture either. The renewed strikes on the areas come a day after the leader of pro-Kremlin separatists in the east, Denis Pushilin, publicly called on the Russian forces to "liberate Russian cities founded by the Russian people — Kyiv, Chernihiv, Poltava, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Lutsk". Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, also came under a

barrage of shelling overnight, its mayor Ihor Terekhov said. The southern city of Mykolaiv was fired at as well, with one person sustaining injuries.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian military continued to counter-attack in the occupied southern region of Kherson, striking a key bridge over the Dnieper River on Wednesday.

Ukrainian media on Thursday quoted Ukraine's presidential adviser, Oleksiy Arestovich, as saying that the

operation to liberate Kherson "has already begun".

Arestovich said Kyiv's forces were planning to isolate Russian troops there and leave them with three options — to "retreat, if possible, surrender or be destroyed".

Oleksiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, in televised remarks on Wednesday said he was "cautious" in assessing the timeline of the possible counteroffen-

sive. "I would really like it to be much faster," he said, adding that "the enemy is now concentrating the maximum number (of forces) precisely in the Kherson direction."

"A very large-scale movement of their troops has begun, they are gathering additional forces," Danilov warned.

The British military estimated on Thursday that Ukraine's counteroffensive in Kherson is "gathering momentum".

"Their forces have highly likely established a bridgehead south of the Ingulets River, which forms the northern boundary of Russian-occupied Kherson," the British Defense Ministry said on Thursday.

It added that Ukraine has used its new long-range artillery to damage at least three of the bridges across the Dnieper River, "which Russia relies upon to supply the areas under its control".

The 1,000-metre-long Antonivskyi bridge, which Ukrainian forces struck on Wednesday, is likely to be "unusable", the British Defence Ministry concluded.

Ukraine's presidential office said on Thursday morning that Russian shelling of cities and villages over the past 24 hours killed at least five civilians, all of them in the eastern Donetsk region, and wounded nine more.

New Cold War: Russia, West vie for influence in Africa

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Russian, French and American leaders are crisscrossing Africa to win support for their positions on the war in Ukraine, waging what some say is the most intense competition for influence on the continent since the Cold War.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and French President Emmanuel Macron are each visiting several African countries this week.

Samantha Power, head of the US Agency for International Development, went to Kenya and Somalia last week. The US ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, will go to Ghana and Uganda next week. "It's like a new Cold War is playing out in Africa, where the rival sides are trying to gain influence," said William Gumede, director of Democracy Works, a foundation promoting good governance.

Lavrov, in his travels across the drought- and hunger-stricken continent, has sought to portray the West as the villain, blaming it for rising food prices, while the Western leaders have accused the Kremlin of cynically using food as a weapon and waging an imperial-style war of conquest — words calculated to appeal to



listeners in post-colonial Africa. Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia has been working to win support in Africa for several years, reinvigorating friendships that date back a half-century, when the Soviet Union backed many African movements fighting to end colonial rule. "Now that campaign has gone into high gear," Gumede said. Moscow's influence in Africa was on display in March during the UN vote to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While 28 African nations voted in favour of the resolution, a significant minority of countries on the continent — 25 — either voted to abstain or did not vote at all.

Russia's top diplomat this week visited Egypt, Congo, Uganda and Ethiopia, pledging friendship and charging the US and European countries with

driving up food prices by pursuing "reckless" environmental policies.

He also accused them of hoarding food during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The situation in Ukraine did additionally negatively affect food markets, but not due to the Russian special operation, rather due to the absolutely inadequate reaction of the West, which announced sanctions," Lavrov said in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital.

Lavrov was warmly received in Uganda by President Yoweri Museveni, who for years has been a US ally but has refused to criticise Russia over the invasion.

Museveni even suggested at the outbreak of the war that Putin's actions might be understandable because Ukraine is in Russia's sphere of influence.

In rare contact, US offers Russia deal for Griner, Whelan

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US has offered a deal to Russia aimed at bringing home WNBA star Brittney Griner and another jailed American, Paul Whelan, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday. In a sharp reversal of previous policy, Blinken also said he expects to speak with his Kremlin counterpart for the first time since before Russia invaded Ukraine.

The statement marked the first time the US government has publicly revealed any concrete action it has taken to secure the release of Griner, who was arrested on drug-related charges at a Moscow airport in February and testified Wednesday at her trial.

Blinken did not offer details on the proposed deal, which was offered weeks ago, and it is unclear if it will be enough for Russia to release the Americans. But the public acknowledgment of the offer at a time when the U.S. has otherwise shunned Russia, reflects the mounting pressure on the

administration over Griner and Whelan and its determination to get them home.

Blinken said Washington would like a response from Moscow. Russia has for years expressed interest in the release of Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer once labeled the "Merchant of Death," who was sentenced to 25 years in prison in 2012 on charges that he schemed to illegally sell millions of dollars in weapons. Blinken said he had requested a call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. U.S. Officials said the desire for an answer on the prisoner offer was the primary, but not only, reason that the U.S. On Wednesday requested the call with Lavrov.

Should the call take place, it would be the first conversation that Blinken and Lavrov have held since Feb. 15, about a week before Russia invaded Ukraine. Blinken said he would also be speaking to Lavrov about the importance of Russia complying with a UN-brokered deal to free multiple tons of Ukrainian grain from storage and warning him about the dangers of possible Russian attempts to annex portions of



eastern and southern Ukraine.

Whelan, a corporate security executive from Michigan, was sentenced in 2020 to 16 years in prison on espionage charges. He and his family have vigorously asserted his innocence. The U.S. Government has denounced the charges as false. He and his family have vigorously asserted his innocence. The U.S. Government has denounced the charges as false.

Griner, in Russian custody for the last month, acknowledged in court this month that she had vaped cartridges containing cannabis oil in her luggage when she arrived in Moscow in February

but contends she had no criminal intent and packed the cartridges inadvertently. At her trial Wednesday, Griner said she did not know how the cannabis oil ended up in her bag but explained she had a doctor's recommendation for it and had packed in haste. She said she was pulled aside at the airport after inspectors found the cartridges, but that a language interpreter translated only a fraction of what was said during her questioning and that officials instructed her to sign documents without providing an explanation.

Griner faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted of trans-

Govt will focus on fixing economy, ending fuel shortage, says Ranil

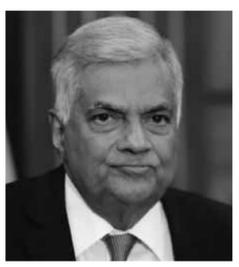
PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has said his government's main priorities are to fix the country's ailing economy and end the severe fuel shortage that has exacerbated after the last shipment under the Indian credit line arrived here in June.

Addressing a gathering at his party headquarters on Wednesday, the newly-elected president said his government was not against peaceful protest and would allow them all the time if the protesters did not break the law.

"I became the president at a most difficult time for the country. We have to set the economy right," he said. Wickremesinghe said his government's main task was to first reduce the length of fuel queues and then eliminate them completely. Since June 27, the government has stopped fuel supplies and restricted essential services.

Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera said on Monday that Sri Lanka will restrict fuel imports for the next 12 months as it is facing a



severe shortage of foreign exchange and announcing a rationing system for the distribution of fuel across the crisis-hit island nation. "QR system was introduced since the daily fuel demand cannot be fulfilled. Due to Forex issues, Fuel imports have to be restricted in the next 12 months," he said.

Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, leaving millions struggling to buy food, medicine, fuel and other essentials. The severe foreign exchange shortage has hampered the import of fuel and other essentials in the country reeling under the worst economic crisis in seven decades.

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Kamal Kishore Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pt-F, C-2, Mayapuri Vihar-I, Delhi-91, Mob. 9811006355

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that: L. Col. Varun Sarin S/o Lt. Col. Krishna Sarin R/o A-41C, first floor with scooter garage DDA flat Munirka New Delhi-110067, am the owner of Flat No. A-41C, first floor with scooter garage, DDA flats Munirka, New Delhi-110067, vide DDA's File No. F37(85)74(LAB/H). My original documents of the said Property viz. (1) Allotment cum Demand Letter (2) Possession Letter (3) NOC for Electricity & Water Connection of the said Flat have been misplaced. An Information Report of this effect has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No.6131102022 on 21/07/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No.9312247907 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director, LAB/H or Director (H)-1, D-Block 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi - 110023.

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) [formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL)] under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) as per to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 00002801 of Noida Branch) Sugandh Papers Traders (Borrower) Manish Jain (Co Borrower 1) Aarti Jain (Co Borrower 2)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 18440370 /- (₹ One Crore Eighty Four lakh Forty Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	Pno-88, Ft, Abadi Of Shanti Vihar, Ilaqa-shahdara Near- Karkardooma Court Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110092
(LC No. 00002917 of Noida Branch) Sugandh Papers Traders (Borrower) Manish Jain (Co Borrower 1) Aarti Jain (Co Borrower 2)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 872205 /- (₹ Eight lakh Seventy Two Thousand Two Hundred Five Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	Pno-88, Ft, Abadi Of Shanti Vihar, Ilaqa-shahdara Near- Karkardooma Court Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110092
(LC No. 00003686 of Jalandhar Branch) Sukhmal Juneja (Borrower) Manjit Juneja (Co Borrower)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 11908438 /- (₹ One Crore Nineteen lakh Eight Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Eight Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	309, New Defence Colony, Phase 1, near Bhimji Park 1, Jalandhar Jalandhar Punjab - 144001
(LC No. 00002359 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Vijay Kumar Jain (Borrower) Shalu Jain (Co Borrower)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 10431207 /- (₹ One Crore Four lakh Thirty One Thousand Two Hundred Seven Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	Plot No-1, Third Floor, With Roof, Block-J-3, Village Ghondli, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110051
(LC No. 00001465 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Pechma Air Systems Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Nand Kishore Sehgal (Co Borrower 1) Suman Sehgal (Co Borrower 2) Yugal Kishore Sehgal (Guarantor)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 1023082 /- (₹ Ten lakh Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Four Only) NPA (11-04-2022)	Apartment No - Ngp 234 New Town Heights 90 Gurgaon Haryana Gurgaon Haryana - 122006
(LC No. 00002391 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Vijay Kumar Jain (Borrower) Shalu Jain (Co Borrower 1)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 491593 /- (₹ Four lakh Ninety One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Three Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	Property No. J-3/1, Third Floor With Roo Block J Krishna Nagar Ilaqa Shahdara New Delhi New Delhi - 110051
(LC No. 00000041 of Lajpat Nagar Branch) Satish Kumar (Borrower) Shruti Anora (Co Borrower 1) Dinesh Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 465834 /- (₹ Four lakh Sixty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	Flat No 1406 14th Floor Tower A8 Type B Srs Palm Hills Sector 7 Palwal Faridabad Haryana - 121102
(LC No. 00001732 of Delhi - Safdarjung Branch) Parveen Kalra (Borrower) Mudit Kalra (Co Borrower 1)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 465834 /- (₹ Four lakh Sixty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	Flat No C-102 First Floor Tower Carnation G Terra Floors Terra Catty Alwar By Pass Road Bhiwadi Alwar Rajasthan - 301019
(LC No. 00001460 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Manish Kumar (Borrower) Harsh (Co Borrower 1)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 2136742 /- (₹ Twenty one lakh Thirty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	Prop No- G-36 Old Plot No-f/2 Second Floor Without Roof Right, Gopal Nagar, Azad Pur, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110033
(LC No. 00000726 of Gurgaon Branch) Rajendra Narayan Dash (Borrower) Minati Dash (Co Borrower 1)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 1179655 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	Dda Janta Flat No. 76, Second Floor Pocket 7, nasirpur Dwarka New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110045
(LC No. PTM31855 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Nasir Shakeel Sheikh (Borrower)	21-06-2022 / ₹ 155209 /- (₹ One lakh Fifty Five Thousand Two Hundred Nine Only) NPA (11-04-2022)	H/Flat No.53B/21/04, Sushant Aquapolis, Sector, Doodhahera Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201001

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 29-07-2022
Place: Delhi
Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Jagdish Rai Arneja is the owner of Entire Ground & first floor without roof rights built on Property bearing No. A-75, The Dera-Ismail Khan CHBS Ltd. known as Dera-Ismail Nagar, Delhi vide a Relinquishment Deed dated 07.08.2015, registration no. 9219 after the demise of Late Mr. Ramji Das Arneja. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to mortgage the said floors and intend to obtain a loan in the name of M/s GTG Fashion Pvt. Ltd. from our client against the said floors, if anybody has any objection(s) upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its mortgage/lien, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 12nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-41151625, 26. www.kumarandassociatesadvocates.com

APPENDIX IV A
(See proviso to Rule 8(6))
Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged/ charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. (CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029) ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 30.08.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 17,32,732/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two Only) pending towards the Loan Account No. HHLJKS00401707, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 25.07.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 26.07.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from David Masih and Deepika Masih.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 19,50,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,95,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, Account No. 00000040428645185 with State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN004079), having its branch at COM. BR. GURGAON(04079), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price) paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Apartment No. 902, on 9th Floor in Tower 'D-2', having super built-up area 940 Sq. Ft. in "Bharat City", situated at Villages Nistoli and Afjalpur, Pargana Loni, Indraprastha Yojna, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201010, alongwith one car parking space.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 25.07.2022
Place : GHAZIABAD
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Lankan court orders police to produce ₹17.8 mn found inside Prez's House

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A Sri Lankan court on Thursday asked the police to immediately produce ₹17.8 million cash found by anti-government

protesters when they stormed the President's House occupied by the then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The Fort Magistrate's Court here instructed the Fort Police officer in charge to produce the money after the police informed the court that the amount was handed over to them by protesters who found the money inside the President's House on July 9.

Rajapaksa was evacuated from the President's House much before the protesters stormed the iconic building and occupied it.

The order comes as no report on the money was submitted to the court even after three weeks since Rs 17.8 million was handed over to the police, the Daily Mirror newspaper quoted Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage as saying.

Gamage also ordered the police to submit a report on the recovered money. Hundreds of anti-govern-

ment protesters on July 9 stormed President Rajapaksa's residence in central Colombo's high-security Fort area after breaking the barricades, as they demanded his resignation over the island nation's worst economic crisis in recent memory.

Amidst the unprecedented anti-government protests, President Rajapaksa fled the country on July 13 to the Maldives. He then travelled to Singapore from where he emailed his resignation letter.

Biden, Xi talk more than 2 hrs at time of US-China tension

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping held the fifth conversation of their presidencies on Thursday, speaking for more than two hours as they chart the future of their complicated relationship at a time of simmering economic and geopolitical tensions.

The call began at 8:33 am EDT and ended at 10:50 am EDT, according to the White House. It took place as Biden aims to find new ways to work with the rising global power as well as strategies to contain China's influence around the world. Differing perspectives on global health, economic

policy and human rights have long tested the relationship — with China's refusal to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine adding further strain. "The two heads of state had in-depth communication and exchanges on China-US relations and issues of mutual concern," China Central Television reported on its website.

The latest pressure point has been House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's potential visit to Taiwan, the island that governs itself democratically and receives informal defensive support from the US, but which China considers part of its territory. Beijing has said it would view such a trip as a

provocation, a threat US officials are taking with heightened seriousness in light of Russia's incursion into Ukraine. "If the US insists on going its own way and challenging China's bottom line, it will surely be met with forceful responses," Zhao Lijian, a spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry, told reporters earlier this week. "All ensuing consequences shall be borne by the US."

Pelosi would be the highest-ranking US elected official to travel to Taiwan since Republican Newt Gingrich visited the island in 1997 when he was House speaker.

AFRICA'S ALONE IN MONKEYPOX DEATHS BUT HAS NO VACCINE DOSES

AP ■ NAIROBI (KENYA)

Africa still does not have a single dose of the monkeypox vaccine even though it's the only continent to have documented deaths from the disease that's newly declared a global emergency, its public health agency announced on Thursday.

"Let us get vaccines onto the continent," the acting head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Ahmed Ogwell, said in a weekly media briefing.

He described a situation where the African continent of 1.3 billion people is again being left behind in access to doses in an uncomfortable echo of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Less than a week ago, the World Health Organisation declared monkeypox an "extraordinary" situation that qualifies as a global health emergency.

To date, more than 20,000 cases have been reported in 77 countries. More than 2,100 monkeypox cases have been recorded in 11 African countries

and 75 people have died, the Africa CDC director said.

Although monkeypox has been established in parts of central and west Africa for decades, it was not known to spark large outbreaks beyond the continent or to spread widely among people until May, when authorities detected dozens of epidemics in Europe, North America and elsewhere.

Now the global race is on to obtain monkeypox vaccine doses. The European Commission, the European Union's executive arm, has secured the purchase of 160,000 doses of vaccines for the disease.

On Wednesday, US health regulators said nearly 800,000 doses of the monkeypox vaccine will soon be available for distribution after what they described as weeks of delays.

Such delays are far more pronounced on the African continent, where the painful disease has been endemic in some countries for years.

Ogwell said the Africa CDC has engaged with international partners in attempts to obtain



vaccines, and while he said "good news" is expected in the coming days, "we cannot be able to give you a timeline."

Even doses of the smallpox vaccine, which has shown effectiveness against monkeypox, are not available in Africa, Ogwell said.

"The solutions need to be global in nature," he said, in a warning to the international community. "If we're not safe, the rest of the world is not safe."

The COVID-19 pandemic and the global hoarding of vac-

cine doses were a jolt to African leaders, who quickly joined together in an unprecedented effort to obtain doses and establish the production of more vaccines on the continent.

Now, to their dismay, the monkeypox outbreak is again showing how the world's richer countries hurry to protect their own people first.

WHO has said it is creating a vaccine-sharing mechanism for protection against monkeypox, but the organisation has released few details, so there's no

guarantee that African countries will get priority. No countries have yet agreed to share any vaccines with the WHO.

WHO officials have emphasised that monkeypox can infect anyone in close contact with a patient or their contaminated clothing or bed sheets.

Researchers are still exploring how it spreads but believe it's mainly through close, skin-to-skin contact and through contact with bedding and clothing that touched an infected person's rash or body fluids.

In Africa, monkeypox mainly spreads to people by infected wild animals like rodents in limited outbreaks that typically have not crossed borders.

In Europe, North America and elsewhere, however, monkeypox is spreading among people with no links to animals or recent travel to Africa.

In the US and Europe, the vast majority of infections have happened in men who have sex with men, though health officials have stressed that anyone can contract the virus.

Sunak less unpopular with swing voters in UK PM race, survey finds

PTI ■ LONDON

Former Chancellor Rishi Sunak has an edge over his rival, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, in the race to be elected the next Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister among swing voters, a new survey revealed on Thursday.



The British Indian ex-minister, who has been trailing Truss among the hardcore Tory members who will vote for their favourite in postal ballots from next week, is favoured among voters who had voted Conservative for the first time in the 2019 general election.

"While there is little to separate the two leadership candidates among for example those who currently intend to vote [Opposition] Labour (minus 59 for Sunak, minus 62 for Truss) or those who voted Conservative in 2019 (0 and +3 respectively), the crucial difference between Truss and Sunak comes among swing voters," YouGov said in a statement.

"Net favourability among those who voted Conservative in 2019 but now tell us they plan to vote Labour stands at minus 25 for Sunak and minus 45 for Truss. Equally, scores among those who voted Labour in 2017 but Conservative in 2019 register at minus 6 for Sunak and minus 19 for Truss," it said.



1971 Liberation War: 6 members of 'Razakar Bahini' get death in Bangladesh

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on Thursday sentenced six members of the infamous paramilitary force 'Razakar Bahini' to death for collaborating with the Pakistani Army for "crimes against humanity" during the 1971 Liberation War. The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Mohammad Shahinur Islam delivered the verdict.

"They shall be hanged by neck until their death," Islam pronounced, with five of the convicts faced the trial in person, while one convict was tried in absentia. The six accused include Amjad Hossain Howladar, Sahar Ali Sardar, Atiyar Rahman, Motachim Billah, Kamal Uddin Goldar, and Nazrul Islam. Of them, Nazrul Islam is absconding.

The convicts were present on the dock as the judgment was delivered after which they were brought to Dhaka Central Jail.

"All the six convicts were charged on four counts of crimes against humanity," prosecution lawyer Mokhesur Rahman told reporters.



Kim threatens to use nukes amid tensions with US, S Korea

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned he's ready to use his nuclear weapons in potential military conflicts with the United States and South Korea, state media said Thursday, as he unleashed fiery rhetoric against rivals he says are pushing the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war.

Kim's speech to war veterans on the 69th anniversary of the end of the 1950-53 Korean War was apparently meant to boost internal unity in the impoverished country amid pandemic-related economic difficulties. While Kim has increasingly threatened his rivals with nuclear weapons, it's unlikely that he would use them first against the superior militaries of the US. And its allies, observers say.

A richer, stronger China warns Pelosi not to visit Taiwan

AP ■ BEIJING

Beijing grumbled but swallowed its irritation in 1997 when then-Speaker Newt Gingrich of the US House of Representatives visited Taiwan, the island democracy claimed by the mainland's ruling Communist Party as its own territory.

China had other priorities. President Jiang Zemin's government was preparing to celebrate Hong Kong's return and wanted to lock in Beijing's emergence from diplomatic isolation after its 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. Gingrich, a booster of closer US-Chinese ties, had just helped that campaign by meeting Jiang in Beijing. China avoided a disruptive clash with Washington.

A quarter-century later, conditions have changed drastically. Chinese President Xi Jinping's government is richer, more heavily armed and less willing to compromise over Taiwan following news reports in the current speaker, Nancy Pelosi, might become the most senior US official since Gingrich to visit the island.

Beijing sees any official contact with Taiwan as recognition of its democratically elected government, which the mainland says has no right to conduct foreign relations.

Attacks in central Mali kill 15 soldiers, 3 civilians

AP ■ BAMAKO

The timing adds to political pressure. Xi is widely expected to try to award himself a third five-year term as party leader at a meeting in the autumn. That could be undercut if rivals can accuse Xi of failing to be tough enough in the face of what they consider American provocation.

Pelosi has yet to confirm whether she might visit, but Beijing is warning of "forceful measures" including military action if she does.

The United States "must not arrange for Pelosi to visit Taiwan," a Chinese Ministry of Defense spokesman, Tan Kefei, said Tuesday.

"If the United States goes ahead with this, the Chinese military will never watch and do nothing," Tan said. "It will take strong measures to thwart any external interference and separatist plans for Taiwan independence" and resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Tan referred to Pelosi as "No. 3 in the US government," after her place in the line of succession to become president.

Attacks in central Mali kill 15 soldiers, 3 civilians

AP ■ BAMAKO

At least three civilians and 15 soldiers have been killed in separate attacks in central Mali, the army said, the latest round of attacks as insecurity worsens in the West African nation.

Two attacks Wednesday targeted Mali army positions in the center of the country, and the army fought back killing at least 48 assailants, said army spokesman Col. Souleymane Demele.

"Malian Armed Forces repelled terrorist attacks targeting positions in Sévaré, Sokolo and Kalumba early this Wednesday," he said in a statement. The soldiers killed include "six dead in Sokolo" and "12 dead, including 3 civilians, in Kalumba, in the Nara region," the statement said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but they bear the mark of jihadi groups linked to al-Qaida which are present in those areas and whose local leader, Amadou Koufa, sent a message a few weeks ago urging his fighters to intensify attacks against the Malian army.

Japan discusses regional defence in rare visit to Taiwan

AP ■ TAIPEI



A group of Japanese lawmakers including two former defense ministers met with Taiwan's president on Thursday in a rare high-level visit to discuss regional security.

The delegation, led by lawmaker and former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba, said it wanted to reach an agreement with Taiwan on defense issues and prepare for any potential conflict in the region, while also seeking to prevent conflict from breaking out.

"We need to think ahead about what kind of situations

could happen, what kind of laws and agreements we should prepare, and what kind of armaments we could use," he said in prepared remarks at the Presidential Office. "We need to work together to reach consensus on this ahead of anything that could happen."

Ishiba noted that Japan is also working closely with the US to prevent conflict in the Indo-Pacific, saying the defense allies "had no choice" but to prepare.

Tensions in the region have risen amid increasing assertiveness from China, whose authoritarian ruling Communist Party considers democratic, self-ruling Taiwan its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary.

The group of Japanese lawmakers was welcomed by President Tsai Ing-wen and will also meet with Su Tseng-chang, president of the Executive Yuan, and representatives from Taiwan's Defense Ministry.

Hamas rebuilding capabilities in Gaza, says Israeli army

AP ■ EREZ MILITARY BASE (ISRAEL)

The Israeli army said on Wednesday that Hamas has rebuilt some of the capabilities that were damaged during last year's Gaza war, including three new tunnels and a series of weapons manufacturing and storage sites.

The army published aerial imagery and maps showing what it said are tunnels, weapons factories and arms

depots. It said the installations were near al-Azhar University in Gaza City, a Pepsi factory, mosques, United Nations facilities and hospitals elsewhere in Gaza. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said the army's claims are "pure lies and fabrications."

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies that have fought four wars and numerous skirmishes since Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2007.

UJVN LIMITED
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H. O. "TAJMALL" MAHARAJA BLDG, GATE ROAD, DEHRADUN, Uttarakhand, PIN No. 248191/UR/2001/9502/20066
Tel: 0135-2763508, 2763898, Fax: 0135-2763507, Website: www.ujvn.com

No. 463 **e-TENDER TIME EXTENSION NOTICE-1** Date: 28.07.2022

Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission and opening of following tender invited by the office of the Executive Engineer (Test), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) is hereby extended as follows:-
Tender No: 01/EE/Test./MB-II/2022-23
1. Name of work/Supply/Services: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 220V DC 1395AH Battery SET NO1 AT DHARASU POWER HOUSE
Last date for submission of tender - 08.08.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Last date of submission of hard copy - 12.08.2022 up to 11:00 Hrs
Due date for opening of tender - 12.08.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer (Test)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

APPENDIX IV A
(See proviso to Rule 8(6))
Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged/ charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 30.08.2022 at 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 20,85,236/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six only) pending towards the Loan Account No. HLPAP00270908, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 25.07.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 26.07.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Mr. Vinod Kumar and Ms. Preeti. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 21,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,10,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ten Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, Account No. 0000004428645185 with State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN0004079), having its branch at COM. BR. GURGAON(04079), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price) paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Unit No. 151, Upper Ground Floor, Block-SB, Jaipuria Sunrise Plaza, Plot No. 12A, Ahinsa Khand-1, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201009.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 26.07.2022
Place : GHAZIABAD

Sd/ Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

DELTON CABLES LIMITED
Regd. Office : Delton House 4801 Bharat Ram Road 24 Darya Ganj New Delhi -110002
Website : www.deltoncables.com, E-mail: cs@deltoncables.com, CIN: L31300DL1964PLC004255

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2022 (Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended	Quarter ended	Quarter ended	Year
		30.06.2022	31.03.2022	30.06.2021	Ended
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total income from operations (net)	6,482.22	4,821.84	3,056.53	16,026.20
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	215.55	386.26	(188.30)	105.02
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	223.46	386.19	(188.30)	104.94
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	239.56	294.40	(160.88)	76.61
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	244.98	317.42	(163.27)	92.88
6	Equity share capital (Face Value of ₹ 10/- each)	864.00	864.00	864.00	864.00
7	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (Face Value of ₹ 10/- each)				
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	2.77	3.41	(1.86)	0.89
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	2.77	3.41	(1.86)	0.89

Notes:
1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.deltoncables.com).
2) The above result have been prepared in accordance with principle and procedures of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under the companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as specified under section 133 of Companies Act, 2013.
3) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on July 28, 2022. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have expressed an unmodified audit opinion on these results.

For and on behalf of the Board
Sd/ Vivek Gupta
(Managing Director)
DIN 00035916

Place : Delhi
Date : 28-07-2022

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED
Registered & Corporate Office :- 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013
Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 3B Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005

APPENDIX - IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "whatever there is" on dates below mentioned, for recovery of amount mentioned below due to the Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor from Borrower mentioned below. The Reserve price, EMD amount and property details mentioned below.

SR. NO.	1. BORROWER(S) NAME 2. OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY	1. DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD 3. DATE & TIME OF THE PROPERTY INSPECTION 1. E-AUCTION DATE: 31.08.2022 (Between 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.) 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD WITH KYC: 30.08.2022 3. DATE OF INSPECTION: 29.08.2022 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	1. RESERVE PRICE 2. EMD OF THE PROPERTY 3. INCREMENTAL VALUE RESERVE PRICE: Rs. 4,16,00,000/- (Rupees Four Crores Sixteen Lacs Only). EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: Rs. 41,60,000/- (Rupees Forty One Lacs Sixty Thousand Only) INCREMENTAL VALUE: Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only)
1.	M/s Budding Minds International ("Borrower") 2. Mr. Gaurav Nadkarni 3. Mrs. Ruchika Sethi 4. M/s Southend Education and Welfare Society 5. Mr. Rajinder Sethi 6. Mrs. Neelam Sethi 7. Mrs. Komal Nadkarni (Co-borrower) LOAN ACCOUNT NO. LNCGDELT0000005814 Rupees 4,13,91,197/- (Rupees Four Crores Thirteen Lacs Ninety One Thousand One Hundred Ninety Seven Only) along with interest from 28.07.2022 along with applicable future interest.	All Piece and Parcel of School Site Land admeasuring 0.2045 acres (989.78 Sq Yds.) situated at Block-P, Uppal Southend Colony, Sector-48-49, Village Fazipur Jharsa and Ghosla, District Gurgaon, Sohna Road, Gurgaon, Haryana Alongwith Construction thereon Present and Future both.		

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.Capriglobal.in/auction/TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E-AUCTION SALE:-
1. The Property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE & WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS". As such sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities.
2. Particulars of the property / assets (viz. extent & measurements specified in the E-Auction Sale Notice has been stated to the best of information of the Secured Creditor and Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission. Actual extent & dimensions may differ.
3. E-Auction Sale Notice issued by the Secured Creditor is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids and the same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation on the part of the Secured Creditor. Interested bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the Secured Creditor and to conduct own independent enquiries / due diligence about the title & present condition of the property / assets and claims / dues affecting the property before submission of bids.
4. Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> Or Auction Tiger Mobile APP provided by the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad who shall arrange & coordinate the entire process of auction through the e-auction platform.
5. The bidders may participate in e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Secured Creditor / service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, power failure etc.
6. For details, help, procedure and online bidding on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger, Ahmedabad (Contact no. 079-68136880/68136837). Mr. Ramprasad Sharma Mob. 800-002-3297/79-6120 0559. Email: ramprasad@auctiontiger.net.
7. For participating in the e-auction sale the intending bidders should register their name at <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> well in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider.
8. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% OF RESERVE PRICE (as mentioned above) shall be payable by interested bidders through Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS in favour of "Capri Global Capital Limited" on or before 30-August-2022.
9. The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (format available on <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>) along with the Demand Draft remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorised Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited Regional Office Plot no. 3B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110 005 latest by 03:00 PM on 30-August-2022. The sealed cover should be super scribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale - in the Loan Account No. _____ (as mentioned above) for property of "Borrower Name".
10. After expiry of the last date of submission of bids with EMD, Authorised Officer shall examine the bids received by him and confirm the details of the qualified bidders (who have quoted their bids over and above the reserve price and paid the specified EMD with the Secured Creditor) to the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited to enable them to allow only those bidders to participate in the online inter-se bidding / auction proceedings at the date and time mentioned in E-Auction Sale Notice.
11. Inter-se bidding among the qualified bidders shall start from the highest bid quoted by the qualified bidders. During the process of inter-se bidding, there will be unlimited extension of "10" minutes each, i.e. the end time of e-auction shall be automatically extended by 10 Minutes each time if bid is made within 10 minutes from the last extension.
12. Bids once made shall not be cancelled or withdrawn. All bids made from the user id given to bidder will be deemed to have been made by him alone.
13. Immediately upon closure of E-Auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall confirm the final amount of bid quoted by him BY E-Mail both to the Authorised Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited, Regional Office Plot no. 3B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110 005 and the Service Provider for getting declared as successful bidder in the E-Auction Sale proceedings.
14. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount (including EMD) within 24 hour of the sale, being knocked down in his favour and balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of sale by DD/Pay order/NEFT/RTGS/Chq favouring Capri Global Capital Limited.
15. In case of default in payment of above stipulated amounts by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid (including EMD) will be forfeited and the property will be again put to sale.
16. At the request of the successful bidder, the Authorised Officer in his absolute discretion may grant further time in writing, for depositing the balance of the bid amount.
17. The Successful Bidder shall pay 1% of Sale price towards TDS (out of Sale proceeds) (if applicable) and submit TDS certificate to the Authorised Officer and the deposit the entire amount of sale price (after deduction of 1% towards TDS), adjusting the EMD within 15 working days of the acceptance of the offer by the authorized officer, or within such other extended time as deemed fit by the Authorised Officer, failing which the earnest deposit will be forfeited.
18. Municipal / Panchayat Taxes, Electricity dues (if any) and any other authorities dues (if any) shall be paid by the successful bidder before issuance of the sale certificate. Bids shall be made taking into consideration of all the statutory dues pertaining to the property.
19. Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful bidder only upon deposit of entire purchase price / bid amount and furnishing the necessary proof in respect of payment of all taxes / charges.
20. Applicable legal charges for conveyance, stamp duty, registration charges and other incidental charges shall be borne by the auction purchaser.
21. The Authorised Officer may postpone / cancel the E-Auction Sale proceedings without assigning any reason whatsoever. In case the E-Auction Sale scheduled is postponed to a later date before 30 days from the scheduled date of sale, it will be displayed on the website of the service provider.
22. The decision of the Authorised Officer is final, binding and unquestionable.
23. All bidders who submitted the bids, shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the E-Auction Sale and be bound by them.
24. The movable articles lying in the property is not offered with this sale or available.
25. For further details and queries, contact Authorised Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited: Mr. Sushil Gupta Mo. No. 7400445137 and for further inquiry Ms. Kalpana Chetanwala-7738039346.
26. This publication is also 30 (Thirty) days notice to the Borrower / Mortgagee / Guarantors of the above said loan account pursuant to rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, about holding of auction sale on the above mentioned date / place.

Special Instructions / Caution: Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Capri Global Capital Limited nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements / alternatives such as back-up power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Place: Gurgaon Date : 29-July-2022

Sd/ (Authorised Officer) Capri Global Capital Ltd.

Saugata: RBI to hike rates by 0.35-0.50% at Aug 5 review

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank's rate setting panel will hike the key repo rate by 0.35-0.50 per cent at the next week's review meeting.



Bhattacharya said the MPC will go into the internal surveys like household inflation expectations and consumer confidence while deciding the quantum of the rate hike.

inflation given the import reliance, and also added that off-late, there has been some softening of the commodity prices.

Sensex soars 1,041 pts, Nifty nears 17k as bulls regain footing

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Extending gains for the second straight session, equity benchmark Sensex jumped by nearly 2 per cent to soar past the 56,000-mark on Thursday.



Value-buying persisted in blue chips as well as select mid- and small-cap counters after their recent spell of weakness.

al markets. European shares came off session highs on Thursday, as a slew of downbeat earnings took the shine off a global rally driven by easing worries about the future pace of US interest rate hikes.

5G telecom auction stretches to 4th day; ₹1,49,623 cr worth bids received so far

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The auction of 5G spectrum for telephony services will stretch to the fourth day on Friday after 16 rounds of bidding fetched bids worth Rs 1,49,623 crore.

Govt launches 11th agricultural census 2021-22; to use smartphones, tablets for data collection

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Thursday launched the eleventh agricultural census to collect data on various parameters, including operational holdings.



menting an agriculture census scheme from 1970-71. The tenth edition of the census was conducted with the reference year 2015-16.

Biogas plant using cow dung generates cooking gas for 120 families

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
A biogas plant with a capacity of 200 cubic meter, that utilises around 5,000-kilogram cow dung per day, has been commissioned at Akauri village of Chandauli district in Uttar Pradesh.

the village which can be used as cooking gas. The project was inaugurated by Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the presence of NDDDB Chairman, Meenesh Shah on Wednesday.

BRIEF

- MODI TO CHAIR NITI AAYOG'S GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair NITI Aayog's Governing Council meeting on August 7, where issues related to agriculture, health and economy will be discussed.
RUPEE RISES 26 PAISE TO CLOSE AT 79.65 AGAINST DOLLAR
Mumbai: The rupee appreciated 26 paise to close at 79.65 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking a firm trend in the domestic equities.
SPICEJET SHARES SETTLE OVER 3% DOWN
New Delhi: Shares of SpiceJet settled over 3 per cent lower on Thursday after the company was asked by aviation regulator DGCA to curtail its services by half for eight weeks.
PAK'S CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT INCREASES
Islamabad: Pakistan's current account deficit (CAD) increased to a 4-year high of USD 17.4 billion in the fiscal year of 2021-22, indicating more troubles for the ailing economy of the cash-strapped country.
BACK TO COOL CAMPAIGN
New Delhi: Skybags, the youth-centred brand from the illustrious house of VIP Industries, is all set to help the nation's Gen Z celebrate a stylish return to normalcy with the launch of its bold new #BackToCool campaign. Praful Gupta, Marketing VP, VIP Industries Limited, said, "Staying true to our philosophy of 'Move in Style', the #BackToCool campaign aims to help our youth make a stylish return to normalcy post-pandemic."
PNB QUARTERLY PROFIT FALLS 70% TO ₹308 CRORE
New Delhi: State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Thursday reported a 70 per cent decline in standalone net profit to Rs 308.44 crore in the three months ended June.
OLA ELECTRIC INKS PACT WITH HEAVY INDUSTRIES MINISTRY
New Delhi: Ola Electric on Thursday said it has signed an agreement with the ministry of heavy industries for local manufacturing of advanced battery cells under the government's production linked incentive scheme.
ORIENT CEMENT Q1 NET PROFIT DECLINES 58%
New Delhi: C K Birla group firm Orient Cement Ltd on Thursday reported a decline of 58.17 per cent in net profit at ₹37.41 crore in a quarter ended June.

India's power deficit slips from 2% in April to 0.6% in June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Power deficit came down from 2 per cent in April to 0.4 per cent in May and 0.6 per cent in June despite significant rise in demand of electricity, Parliament was informed on Thursday.
In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Power Minister R K Singh said electricity supplied grew 12.8 per cent in April 2022, as compared to the year-ago month, across India. Power requirement, on the other hand grew 14.7 per cent in April on all-India basis, resulting in a deficit of 2 per cent.
"The gap between energy

requirement and energy supplied had been reduced considerably...To 0.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent during the months of May 2022 and June 2022 respectively, despite the significant increase in energy requirement during these months as compared to the corresponding months of May 2021 and June 2021," he said.
The gap between energy demand and supply is generally on account of factors other than inadequacy of power availability in the country e.g. Constraints in distribution network, financial constraints, commercial reasons, forced outage of generating units etc, he explained.

Macrotech Developers inks 3 pacts for housing projects worth ₹6,200 cr in April-June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Realty firm Macrotech Developers has formed three joint ventures with landowners during April-June quarter to develop housing projects with an estimated sales value of Rs 6,200 crore and is exploring for more tie-ups.
In an interview with PTI, the company's Managing Director and CEO Abhishek Lodha said the housing market remains in strong position and the company achieved the best-ever first

quarter sales during April-June 2022 despite interest rate hikes. He said the company is looking to form more partnerships across its three focus markets - Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Pune and Bengaluru - to expand its business in a asset-light manner and achieve higher growth.
Mumbai-based Macrotech Developers, erstwhile Lodha Developers, is one of the leading real estate developers in the country and sells its properties under Lodha brand.

National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2022
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND NOTES TO ACCOUNTS ARE INTEGRAL & FORMING PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-NOTE NO. 18
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH 2022

INDIAN WOMEN LOOK TO BURY WC GHOSTS

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Apodium finish on its mind, the Indian women's hockey team would look to bury the ghosts of a disastrous World Cup campaign by steam-rolling minnows Ghana in the Commonwealth Games opener on Thursday.

The Indian women are clubbed in Pool A alongside hosts England, Canada, Wales and Ghana, while Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Scotland and Kenya complete Pool B.

Just like their male counterparts, the Indian women returned empty-handed from the last edition of the Games in Gold Coast, finishing fourth after being routed 0-6 by England in the bronze medal play-off match.

Going into Games, the Indian women must have been haunted by their below-par effort in the recently concluded World Cup in Spain and the Netherlands, where the Savita Punia-led side finished a disappointing ninth.

And the Janneke Schopman-coached side would be desperate to prove that it is a far better side than what the recent results indicate. They would be itching to prove their detractors wrong about the perception that a historic fourth place finish in last year's Tokyo Olympics was a mere fluke.

The Indian women would also be hoping to break their 16-year medal drought in the Games here. The India's last medal -- a silver -- in CWG came in 2006 Melbourne.

The only other medal that Indian women bagged in the Games since hockey introduction in 1998 was a gold in the 2002 edition in Manchester.

Besides the brilliant Olympic campaign, the Indians would also be boosted by their creditable third place finish in their maiden Pro League outing this season.

But to finish on the podium, the ninth ranked Indians will have to get the better of world No.3 Australia, fifth



ranked England and world No. 8 New Zealand, who are also strong medal contenders.

In the last edition of the Games, New Zealand won the gold ahead of Australia and the Trans-Tasman rivals would fancy their chances in this Games too.

Australia have dominated women's hockey in CWG, bagging as many as four gold medals, one silver

and a bronze.

While it is expected to be a cakewalk for India in their opening two pool games against world No. 30 Ghana, and world No. 24 Wales (on Saturday), the Savita's side will face its first real challenge against England on August 2 before finishing their pool campaign against No.15 Canada.

With the top two teams from each pool progressing into the semifinals,

India and England are clear favourites from Pool A unless something drastic happens.

But the recent World Cup has brought to light some chinks in India's armour, which they need to address quickly.

For Indian women, while penalty corner conversions remain a major concern, the forward line too needs to pull up its socks.

In the recent World Cup, the Indians created plenty of scoring chances from open play as well as penalty corners but squandered most of the opportunities.

Coach Schopman would be expecting a much-improved show from her forwards and drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur.

In the other Pool A match of the day, Canada will take on Wales.



Harman talks about need to develop 'killing attitude'

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur wants her players to develop the "killing attitude" that champion teams of the past possessed.

India are still some distance away from becoming world beaters but all the players who are here for the Commonwealth Games have bought into an idea suggested by all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar during the Sri Lanka tour last month.

Harmanpreet, who began her all-format captaincy stint with the Sri Lanka series, feels a ruthless approach is needed even when the chips are down. "During the Sri Lanka tour, we had a meeting with the players. I asked the girls how they want the team to play. Pooja gave a good answer about the killing attitude.

"Right now we are working on that whether we are training or playing. Everyone is talking about that in the team. All players have bought into this and Pooja is someone who comes up with funny ideas all the time," said Harmanpreet on the eve of

the opener against Australia at the Birmingham Games.

Pooja however is not part of the team yet as she was forced to stay back in India after returning a positive COVID-19 test a day before the squad's departure for Birmingham.

"She has been doing well for the past one year. Normally senior players give a lot of ideas but she came up with this and spoke about it and I really liked it."

India had an optional training session on Thursday with six players travelling to Edgbaston.

The team will be looking to form the right balance in the T20 format.

"We have a balanced side and we need to shuffle our batting and bowling here and there for the right combination." The Australia clash will be followed by the big game against Pakistan on July 31.

"We know the stakes are high but when you are playing you just think about doing well on the day. When we were kids we have seen the men's Indo-Pak games. We used to get excited as kids but as players these things don't matter," she added.

CGF CEO hopeful of shooting's reintegration before 2026 Games

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Providing some relief to the Indian shooting fraternity, Commonwealth Games Federation's (CGF) CEO Katie Sadleir on Thursday expressed optimism about reintegrating the sport into its programme before the 2026 edition in Victoria.

Shooting, along with wrestling, disciplines in which India normally win the bulk of its medals at the Games, didn't make it to the initial list of the 16 sports picked for the Games in the Australian state of Victoria.

However, hours before the 2022 Birmingham Games were to begin, Sadleir said the disciplines would come up for discussion in September, before the final list is announced.

"We have recently announced an initial programme with 16 sports, with the definite ambition to grow that programme," Sadleir said.

There currently is an expression of interest out there with the international federations that are currently not in the programme have been invited to



put forward their proposals for considerations, and shooting is definitely on the case," she added. Shooting, which accounted for 16 of the 66 medals India bagged at the Gold Coast Games four years ago, was omitted from the ongoing Games at Birmingham, leading to a strong protest by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

There was more setback for India when the sport again did not find itself in the list of events for the 2026 Games along

with wrestling where the nation had topped the medals tally in 2018.

A former CWG medallist and an Olympian, Sadleir said there's a strong wave of interest for the two disciplines' inclusion.

"I know there's a significant amount of social media going on in Australia, plus the international federation, has made it clear that they are going to put forward a very strong case for consideration," the Scotland-born New Zealander said.

Nikhat, Lovlina get easy opening draws

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

World champion Nikhat Zareen and reigning Olympic Bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain have been handed relatively easy opening round draws in the women's boxing competition of the Commonwealth Games which begins here with the opening ceremony on Thursday.

Nikhat will open her campaign in the women's 48-50kg light flyweight category against Helena Ismael Bagoa of Mozambique on Sunday. A victory would see her pitted against another easy opponent in Helen Jones of Wales in the quarterfinals.

Lovlina will also be up against the lesser-known Ariane Nicholson of New Zealand in her opening light middle weight (66-70kg) bout on Saturday, and a win will pit her against Gold Coast silver medallist Rosie Eccles of Wales in the quarterfinals.

The Welsh boxer, who won a silver medal in 2016 and a bronze in 2019 European Championships, got a bye in the first round.

In the lightweight (57-60kg) division, Jasmine will feature



straight in the quarterfinals after getting a first round bye.

But a tricky quarterfinal final awaits Jasmine as she will be up against 2018 Gold Coast bronze medallist Troy Garton of New Zealand on August 4.

In the women's minimum weight (45-48kg) category, Nitu

needs just a win to secure a medal as only eight boxers feature in the draw.

She will square up against Nicole Clyde of Northern Ireland in the quarterfinals on August 3.

Among men, Asian Games gold medallist and 2018 CWG

silver medallist Amit Panghal will kick-off his campaign against Vanuatu's Namri Berri in the flyweight (48-51kg) category on August 1.

On the other hand, Mohammad Hussamuddin, who won bronze medallist in the last CWG, will play Amzolele Deyei of South Africa in his opening featherweight (54-57kg) bout on July 30.

Former Asian and World Championships medallist Shiva Thapa will take on Pakistan's Suleman Baloch in the first round of light welterweight (60 to 63.5kg) category on Friday, while welterweight (63.5 to 67kg) pugilist Rohit Tokas got a first round bye and will take on Alfred Kotey of Ghana in his second bout on August 2.

Sumit too got a first round bye in the middleweight (71-75kg) division and will face Callum Peters of Australia in the second round on Sunday.

In the men's light heavy-weight (75 to 80kg) event, Ashish Kumar too got a bye in the opening round and will face Travis Tapatuetoa of Niue on August 1, while Sanjeet will take on Ato Leau Plodzicki-Faogali of SAM in the heavy-weight first round on Saturday.

Daruvala sets sights on 7th podium finish

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian racer Jehan Daruvala will be looking to secure his seventh top-three finish as he heads to his next event in Hungary's Hungaroring race track this Sunday.

The 23-year-old chalked up his sixth podium of the season in France when he finished second last week.

It was also the fifth time this year he finished in the runner-up spot.

"The Hungaroring is a track that I really enjoy. While it is a purpose-built circuit, its tight, twisting corners have a street-track feel to them, making it very similar to Monaco," Jehan said.

"Of course that means overtaking is always difficult here and qualifying will be absolutely crucial this weekend. We know that's an area we need to improve on but we're working hard to make that step up so we can fight at the front in the Feature race on Sunday," he added. Jehan has raced at the 4.3-km long track on the outskirts of Budapest several times in his career.



It's Germany vs England in Euro 2022 final

AP ■ MILTON KEYNES

Germany will face England in Sunday's Euro 2022 final after Alexandra Popp struck twice to beat France 2-1 in Milton Keynes on Wednesday.

The German captain's opener was quickly cancelled out by Merle Frohms' own goal, but Popp's towering header 14 minutes from time sent the eight-time winners into another final at Wembley. Popp had been at risk of missing the European Championship for a third time due to injury, but the Wolfsburg striker proved her fitness in time after two knee surgeries and has gone on to be the star performer of the tournament.

The 31-year-old's double

took her level with England's Beth Mead on six goals in the battle for the Golden Boot, matching the record for a single women's European Championship held by Inka Grings from Euro 2009.

That tournament ended in a German rout over England in the final and Die Nationalelf will be hoping for a repeat as they aim to upset the hosts in front of a sell-out crowd of 87,000.

In contrast to Germany's pedigree at the women's Euro, France were in the last four for the first time. Les Bleues were left to regret a series of missed chances early in the second half as they lacked a clinical goalscorer without the injured Marie-Antoinette Katoto.

5 Indian athletes to watch out for in Birmingham CWG 2022

DRITI ATRI ■ NEW DELHI

The 2022 edition of the Commonwealth Games kicked off in Birmingham on Thursday. This year, as many as 215 Indian athletes will take part in 19 different sports. In the last edition of the games, India won 66 medals, but this time it will get a bit tough to match that tally, particularly in the absence of shooting. India won 16 medals in shooting last time, but this year the sport has been dropped.

Apart from that, a few superstars like Tokyo Olympics Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, six-time world champion and defending Gold medallist MC Mary Kom and two-time Gold medallist Saina Nehwal will miss the event because of injury and other related issues. But then too, there are a few players who will start as favourites for the top position. Here's a look at the top five Indian athletes competing in the 2022 games.

PV SINDHU (BADMINTON)

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will hope to win her maiden Gold medal in women's singles this year. In the 2018 edition, she lost to Saina Nehwal in the Gold medal match. But this time, in Saina's absence, she will be India's biggest medal hope in women's bad-



minton. She has recently won the Singapore Open tournament and is in the seventh position in the world rankings.

MIRABAI CHANU (WEIGHTLIFTING)



Star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu will hope to win another Gold medal in the CWG this year. She won Silver at the 2014 Glasgow Games and Gold at the 2018 Gold Coast Games. The 27-year-old Manipuri athlete created history in Tokyo last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to win a Silver medal in the Olympics. There will be high hopes from the ace weightlifter, and she'll look to maintain her numero uno status.

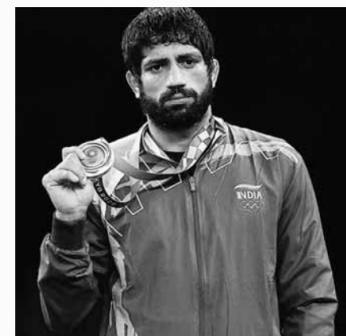
LOVLINA BORGOHAIN (BOXING)

Like Sindhu and Mirabai, Lovlina also won a medal at the Tokyo Olympics last year. The 24-year-old from Assam won a Bronze medal in the women's 69kg category. In the previous edition of the CWG, Lovlina lost in the quarterfinals to eventual Gold winner Sandy Ryan of England, but this year, she will start as one of the favourites for the top place finish.



RAVI DAHIYA (WRESTLING)

Freestyle wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya surprised one and all when he defied all odds to win the Silver medal at the Olympics last year. He lost the Gold medal match in the 57kg category against ROC wrestler Zaur Uguev to settle for a second-place finish. In his maiden



CWG this year, he will start as the favourite for the Gold medal. The 24-year-old is one of the best wrestlers in the country and there will be high hopes from him after his spectacular display in Tokyo.

MANIKA BATRA (TABLE TENNIS)

Manika Batra won a total of four medals in the 2018 Commonwealth Games. She won the top prize in women's singles and women's team events apart from winning a Bronze in



mixed doubles and settling for Silver in women's doubles. The 27-year-old from Delhi defeated world number 4 Feng Tianwei as well as Zhou Yihan in India's 3-1 win in the women's team event final against Singapore and also became the first Indian female paddler to win an individual Gold medal in the CWG. This year, she will again be the favourite to retain her title.

