



"Take me out of here...":
Imran Khan on staying in jail

PG 06 >>



Afternoon

VOIC E

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 16, Issue: 02

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023 MUMBAI

08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com



TUSHAR GANDHI, TEESTA SETALVAD AND OTHERS DETAINED AHEAD OF COMMEMORATION MARCH IN MUMBAI

AV Team

Tushar Gandhi, activist and great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, and activist Teesta Setalvad were stopped by Mumbai police from attending a protest march today, organisers of the event have alleged.

Gandhi was detained and taken to Santacruz Police Station, and Setalvad was asked to stay indoors, a statement by the organisers said. Freedom fighter Dr

GG Parikh, now 99 years old, was also stopped from taking part in the protest, they added.

The protest, organised on the anniversary of the Quit India Movement against the British in 1942, was titled "Shanti March," meaning peace march. A poster of the protest read, "Nafraton Bharat chodo, mohabbat se dilon ko jodo (Hate, leave India, let's join hearts with love). The march was from Girgaon Chowpatty to August Kranti Maidan.

"As I was leaving to commemorate

August Kranti Day, the Santacruz police stopped and detained me, citing 'law and order'... I am currently at the Santacruz police station," Tushar Gandhi told a agency.

This is the first time in his life that Tushar has been subjected to such action by the police, who have waited outside his house since Tuesday night.

"I am very happy as Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba (Bapu and Ba) were also detained on this historic day by the colonial British Police... I am so proud,"

Tushar Gandhi added.

He said he was not served any notice like some other Gandhians and organisations planning to go to August Kranti Maidan to mark the day, nor has he been slapped with any charges.

"I am just made to sit here... They are treating me very cordially... Apparently, it's under the orders of the Commissioner of Police. As soon as I am allowed to leave, I shall definitely commemorate August Kranti Day and its martyrs," he said

The Delhi Services Bill is administrative logjam

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

After a few days of debate the Rajya Sabha passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill. The Bill was passed with 131 members voting in favour of it and 102 voting against it. Apart from the NDA constituents, the Bill got the support of the members from BJD and YSRCP. The Delhi Ordinance Bill proposes that actions like suspensions and inquiries of the national capital's officials would be under the control of the centre. Central government on May 19 had propagated an ordinance which creates the authority for the transfer and postings of Group A officers in Delhi. The ordinance was brought in

days after the Supreme Court had ruled that Delhi's elected government has control over services except in matters of law and order, police and land.

If the ordinance is passed by both the Houses of Parliament, the elected government of Delhi will have no authority to transfer its officers. After passing this bill Arvind Kejriwal would be someone like a sterilized animal, his wings and claws clipped. Any which way he was always hassled by the central government. Arvind's popularity has grown amongst the middle class families. From the past twenty-five years Delhi never gave mandate to the BJP.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

The Delhi Services Bill is administrative logjam

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

The Delhi Services Bill, formally called Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023, is being tabled in the Indian Parliament and is set to replace a current ordinance which overrides a directive of the Supreme Court that had given command to the government of Delhi over most services.

The ordinance has been a major reason for contention between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party and the central government.

Opposition believes that the passing of this bill is a subversion of the constitutional separation of powers" is happening through the bill. He added that the country is now seeing "coercive federalism".

AAP has really challenged BJP in spite of all tricks being played against him. For three decades, the congress and BJP played the role of being in power and opposition by turns. Being seasoned politicians, they know their limits and never dared to cross the lines.

Currently in Rajya Sabha, there are a total of 245 seats of which eight are vacant and makes the total number of seats to 237. The majority mark to pass the Bill in Rajya Sabha will be 119. On the other hand, with the combined numbers of all parties who have extended support to AAP, including the Congress, is 105. The Delhi Services Bill, formally called Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023, is being tabled in the Indian Parliament and is set to replace a current ordinance which overrides a directive of the Supreme Court that had given command to the government of Delhi over most services.

The ordinance has been a major reason for contention between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party and the central government. On May 11, the Supreme Court of India took the decision in favour of the government of Delhi, giving it complete command over most services in the capital, leaving out public order, land, and police. The Centre on May 19 tabled an ordinance which gave authority to the Delhi government to make recommendations to the Delhi Lieutenant Governor on matters of transfer of postings, vigilance and other incidental issues.

The BJP-led Centre was slammed by the AAP government for trying to subvert law and order and taking control of the bureaucracy in the capital city. Last Thursday (August 3), Lok Sabha passed a bill which will translate an ordinance into law and will give powers to the Centre-appointed bureaucrats to overrule the elected chief minister and senior officers in the Delhi government even as the opposition parties held a walkout.

Opposition believes that the passing of this bill is a subversion of the constitutional separation of powers" is happening through the bill. He added that the country is now seeing "coercive federalism". The proposed bill is a representation of a "grave chapter in the history of the Indian republic, seeking to ratify an ordinance that in many ways is an assault on our democratic

heritage and the spirit of federalism".

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, seeks to replace the ordinance brought by the Centre in May which excluded 'services' from the legislative competence of the Delhi legislative assembly. The Delhi ordinance was promulgated by the central government a week after the Supreme Court handed over the control of services in Delhi excluding police, public order and land to the elected government, headed by CM Arvind Kejriwal. Earlier today, AAP MP Raghav Chadha said the bill is a "political fraud, constitutional sin and will create an administrative logjam". Chadha said that the BJP had been demanding statehood for Delhi for almost 40 years and promised the same in its election manifesto. The AAP leader said that the BJP has destroyed the 40 years of hard work of its leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishan Advani to make Delhi a full state. The Delhi Ordinance Bill will also empower the Lieutenant Governor to exercise their sole discretion on several matters, including those recommended by the National Capital Civil Services Authority and the summoning, prorogation, and dissolution of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

A government which was formed after a movement in 2015 says that the Centre wants to usurp power. We do not want usurp power. People have given us power. This Bill is to block the State government from interfering in the Centre's powers. Amit Shah did not have a single valid argument in favour of the Delhi services bill. It is fundamentally anti-democratic. It is a frontal assault on the regional voice and the regional aspirations of the people of Delhi. It violates all principles of federalism, all norms of civil service accountability, all models of Assembly-based democracy. It violates the basic structure.



Volume No. 16 | Issue No. 02



Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road, Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

Vaidehi has received several Awards like Icongokarmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

www.afternoonvoice.com
www.beyondthenews.biz
www.mumbaimanoos.com

www.newsmakers.co.in
www.nbcaward.com
www.hackers5.com

Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

Disclaimer : The views expressed in the edit are solely of the editor. The publication do not necessarily share the opinions expressed. Any litigation against the content or publication will be entertained under the Jurisdiction of Mumbai only.



Letters to the Editor

Four members of family booked beating up two women in Navi Mumbai

Recent incidents in several parts of the country seem to suggest that people are becoming more and more intolerant, insensitive, impatient towards others in society. How else does one explain someone urinating not just on another's body but into his mouth? How else does one explain the rapes of a regular basis? How does one explain petty fights going out of hand and ending up grievously injuring the other person like this case of four members of a family allegedly verbally abusing and beating up two women over a petty dispute? Severest punishment is called for in such cases. But, man is also in need of counselling. The pressures of modern-day life are indeed getting to be a bit too much to handle. The world needs to show down a bit. The world needs to learn to love. Can that happen? Perhaps that's a far cry!

Melville X. D'Souza

Marathi people wake up

There is a conspiracy to kill the Marathi people in Maharashtra, especially in Mumbai. And the Marathi people are falling prey to it. This is because the unity of the Marathi people can be easily broken. The same must have happened to the national award-winning art director Nitin Desai. After the death of Sushant Singh Rajput, why is the social media actor, leader, Marathi man silent now? So, if a Marathi person is getting choked, there is nothing left in our hand but to look at it calmly. Therefore, a Marathi person has no other option but to 'look and sit back'

Uday Waghvankar

Concernable Matter

The increase in suicides among young people is a cause for concern. The number of unemployed students and young people who commit suicide is increasing day by day. This is a difficult path for a civilized society. The burden on parents also pushes them towards premature aging. Over the past decade, youth is worried about the burden of studies. It is well known that the real reason for the death of youth in the country is the burden of studies and the growing torture of parents for education. Parents put pressure on their children to pursue the course of their choice, which ultimately leads to the death of the children or forcing them to drop out of school. It is up to the government to take serious steps to prevent suicide.

Ashraf Nawaz

Is IPL responsible for our team's poor performance in T-20 series against West Indies?

West Indies may be the worst limited overs team in the world among all Test-playing nations but they had something to rejoice in the ongoing T-20 series against India as they defeated Pandya & his boys in two consecutive games to go 2-0 up in the series. They failed to qualify for the ODI World Cup for the first time in the history of the tournament & India losing against them speaks poorly of our own boys performance before the World Cup.

India without Kohli, Rohit Sharma & Bumrah look an ordinary team. Our bench strength is weak & we don't have quality bowlers for death overs. Boys get burnt out in the IPL format & they are tired & fatigued while playing for the country. BCCI should shorten the IPL format & more importance should be given to Tests, ODIs & T-20 games between countries than IPL which is played for entertainment & money!

S.N.Kabra

India's Biofuel Revolution for a Cleaner Future



World Biofuel Day, celebrated annually on August 10, highlights the importance of biofuels as sustainable energy sources that can replace conventional fossil fuels. Produced from biological materials like animal waste, algae, and agricultural waste, biofuels are renewable and offer environmental benefits by emitting lower levels of carbon monoxide and toxic emissions compared to fossil fuels, reducing air pollution and promoting a cleaner environment.

India has been at the forefront of promoting biofuels and has launched various initiatives to boost their consumption. The National Policy on Biofuels, introduced in 2018, sets ambitious targets for ethanol blending with petrol and biodiesel blending with diesel by 2030. India achieved the 10% ethanol blending target (E10) ahead of schedule and now aims to achieve a 20% blend (E20) by the end of 2025. This move is crucial for reducing the country's

dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating carbon emissions and air pollution.

India launched the Global Biofuel Alliance with support from Brazil and the United States, involving 19 countries. The alliance promotes renewable biofuels made from plants and waste materials as a greener alternative to fossil fuels. Its main goal is to encourage global adoption of biofuels to reduce harmful emissions, combat climate change, and create a cleaner and more sustainable future. India leads this effort during its G20 Presidency, collaborating with other nations to drive sustainable energy solutions.

According to Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) will play a pivotal role in enhancing global trade and ensuring the widespread availability of biofuels. India's remarkable achievements in the biofuel sector make it a success story that can be emulated by other nations. Additionally,

he emphasized that India's adoption of biofuels highlights their substantial contributions in enhancing energy security, achieving decarbonization goals, and promoting a circular economy.

India's embrace of biofuels showcases its commitment to sustainability and a greener future. These fuels offer environmental benefits and the potential for economic growth, rural employment, and improved energy security. Through collaboration and innovation, India is making significant progress in reducing its carbon footprint and transforming its transportation sector towards a cleaner and more sustainable future.

- Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

Jayant Patil welcome in ruling coalition, says state minister; NCP is one party, pay no heed to Ajit, Sharad Pawar asks EC



State revenue minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil said that Jayant Patil should consider coming to the BJP-led coalition in Maharashtra is if feeling isolated in NCP led

by Sharad Pawar. His comments come after Patil had dismissed speculations about him joining Ajit Pawar-led NCP.

Meanwhile, the NCP faction headed by Sharad Pawar has asked Election Commission of India to not take cognisance of the claims made by Ajit Pawar group, and has sought to know what proof was submitted to it about the meeting of Ajit's group where Sharad Pawar was allegedly removed from the president's post.

Hindi varsity VC, woman faculty allegedly tried to end life in official bungalow

Days after facing widespread backlash over his alleged chats with a Noida woman, Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University (MGIHU) vice chancellor Rajanish Shukla allegedly attempted suicide with a woman faculty member on the intervening night of June 26. Shukla and the woman were rushed to Acharya Vinoba Bhave Rural Hospital (AVBRH) after they consumed liquid mosquito repellent, allegedly to end their lives. The duo suffered profuse vomiting after



drinking the liquid, which attracted the attention of the VC bungalow's cook, who informed the security, sources said. Shukla and

the woman both took discharge against medical advice after they were stabilized, the hospital records show.

Bombay HC to hear pleas by the Chairman of Edelweiss Financial Services



On Friday, the Bombay High Court will hear pleas from Rashesh Shah, the Chairman of Edelweiss Financial Services, and Raj Kumar Bansal, the CEO of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited. They are seeking to have the FIR against them quashed for allegedly abet-

ting the suicide of Art Director Nitin Desai. Additionally, they have also requested interim relief of 'no coercive action' and for the investigation to be put on hold until the hearing takes place. On Wednesday, the pleas were mentioned before a division bench led by Justice Nitin W Sambre.

Maharashtra's leading Ideologue Hari Narke passes away

Hari Narke, author, head, professor of Mahatma Phule chair at Savitribai Phule University in Pune, and former member of Maharashtra backward class Commission, passed away in Mumbai at Asian Heart Institute after he suffered a heart attack. He was also a member of the Rangnath Pathare committee to collect evidence to prove Marathi as classical language and strong supporter of the OBC reservation.

16% households in Maharashtra affected by viral or Covid-like symptoms



Viral fever-cases are increasing not only in Mumbai, but across Maharashtra and the country. Apart from the influenza A and B viruses, there is now a new subvariant (EG.5.1) of the Covid-causing SARS-CoV-2 virus

in the UK and in Maharashtra. A national survey finds many households have more than one patient with cough, cold and fever, but doctors say the symptoms are not severe enough to merit hospitalisation in a majority of cases.

Maharashtra: 11,000 farmers hit as July rains damaged paddy crop on more than 4,200 ha land in Raigad

Heavy rains in July damaged the paddy crop on 4,246 hectares of land in 813 villages in Raigad district of Maharashtra affecting 11,000 farmers, authorities said citing preliminary assessment.

Last month, an average rainfall of 1,206 mm was recorded in Raigad district. The rainfall this year so far is 1,885 mm, which is 157% above the average in the district adjacent to Mumbai.

"Rice crop was damaged due to heavy rain in the district.

Nearly 11,000 farmers are affected. The panchnama work is underway but the preliminary assessment suggests 4,246 hectares of paddy land is damaged in 813 villages," an official release said. The district agriculture department said the land under cultivation of rice in Raigad is 1,05,000 hectares, while the cultivation was done on 90,000 hectares this year. "In cases where the loss caused by rain is more the 33%, they will be considered for compensation," it stated. PTI

Mumbai suburban services delayed due to technical snag in local train, other incidents

Suburban services were delayed on the Central Railway's main line on Wednesday morning by 10-15 minutes due to a technical snag in a local train in Mumbai, alarm chain pulling in an express train and a woman passenger's attempt to forcefully travel in the motorman's cabin of an-

other local train, officials said. A fast local train on way to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai was held up in Bhandup-Nahur section for 20 minutes due to a technical snag, Central Railway's chief public relations officer Dr Shivraj Manaspure said.

Nation

“Tribals are natives of MP, calling them foreigners or with different names is an insult”: Ex-CM Kamal Nath



With the assembly elections slated later this year in Madhya Pradesh, politics to please the tribal people seems to be intensified. The Madhya Pradesh Congress party organised a program on the occasion of World Tribal Day at Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) office in the state capital Bhopal on Wednesday. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and PCC Chief Kamal Nath has participated in the program with other senior party leaders.

Ahead of the program, speaking to the reporters, Nath said, “The data of the central government states that maximum atrocities are being committed on the tribal people in Madhya Pradesh. Today is World Tribal Day, but it is a matter of sadness that maximum atrocities are being committed on the tribal people in Madhya Pradesh across the country. This is the situation and it is not hidden from anyone.” Tribal people are the native of Madhya Pradesh and calling them foreigner or with different names is

their insult, he added. Addressing the program, Nath said “After four months, the Congress government will be formed and then the tribal community will be the safest community. Attention will be given to all communities but special attention will be given to the tribal community.”

“We are not doing any favour. Today along with tribal day, the whole state is celebrating Quit Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Day,” he added. Meanwhile, reacting to Nath’s remark, BJP spokesperson, Rajnish Agarwal said, “During the Congress tenure and their previous regime (referring to Digvijaya Singh), there were many incidents of tribal atrocities. Presently the tribal atrocities incidents have increased where the Congress is in power. Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are vivid examples of this.” The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh did the work of providing free rations, pucca houses, health insurance of Rs 5 Lakh and honouring the great tribal personalities, he added. ANI

“Our intention for detail discussion on Manipur, but PM not ready to come to House”: Kharge in Rajya Sabha



Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said that the party is in favour of having a detailed discussion on Manipur in the House but the Prime Minister is not ready to come to the House. “Our intention was that when a detailed discussion happens on Manipur in the House then some details will come out. PM is not ready to come to the House. The Government is not ready to listen to us. As a mark of protest, we will walk out from the House”, Kharge said.

Meanwhile, Congress MPs

today staged a walkout in Rajya Sabha over the Manipur issue. In a scathing attack in Lok Sabha on the ruling BJP on the Manipur situation, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday alleged they “murdered India in Manipur” and were “traitors not patriots”.

Rahul Gandhi, who was the first speaker as the no-confidence debate resumed on Wednesday in the House, also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over ethnic violence in Manipur. Referring to BJP which is in power both at the Centre and in Manipur, he said, “you killed Bharat Mata in Manipur”. ANI

DCW acts against private hospital for discriminating against EWS patients

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has taken action against a private city hospital for allegedly discriminating against patients from the Economically Weaker Section (EWS). DCW Chief Swati Maliwal said that Madhukar Rainbow Hospital in Malviya Nagar, was accused of segregating and profiling EWS patients, forcing them to sit in inhumane conditions in the basement of the hospital.

This came after DCW Chief Swati Maliwal issued a notice to the Director General of Health Services, GNCT Delhi, and sought an action taken report on the matter. “The Delhi Commission for Women has ensured action against a private city hospital for ill treating and discriminating against patients from Economically Weaker Section (EWS) pa-

tients. The Commission received a complaint from a former member of the Commission Ms Juhi Khan regarding the misconduct by the hospital. She informed that a private hospital - Madhukar Rainbow Hospital, Malviya Nagar was discriminating against EWS category patients. She stated that the hospital was segregating and profiling these patients and they were being made to sit in a separate area in the basement of the hospital (in the car parking) where there is no proper seating facility and air conditioner. Allegedly, the women and child patients were forced to sit in inhuman conditions. It was also alleged that EWS patients are being attended by different doctors instead of the regular ones,” the DCW chief Swati Maliwal said in an official statement. ANI

Delhi riots: Supreme Court’s Justice Prashant Mishra recuses from hearing Umar Khalid’s bail plea

Supreme Court judge Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra on Wednesday recused from hearing the bail plea filed by former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student Umar Khalid in an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act case related to the alleged conspiracy behind the North-East Delhi riots in February 2020. The matter was listed for hearing before a bench of Jus-

“My friends in BJP need not be scared, my speech is not on Adani...”: Rahul Gandhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday took potshots at BJP in Lok Sabha and said his speech in the no-confidence motion is not on Adani issue. Gandhi, who was the first speaker as the no-confidence motion debate resumed on Wednesday, also took a veiled dig at Prime Minister

tices AS Bopanna and Mishra.

Khalid had approached the top court challenging an October 2022 Delhi High Court verdict that had denied bail to him. Khalid, arrested by Delhi Police in September 2020, in the High Court had sought bail on grounds that he neither had any “criminal role” in the violence in the city’s North-East area nor any “conspiratorial connect” with any oth-

er accused in the case. The Delhi police had opposed the bail plea of Khalid.

He had approached the High Court challenging the dismissal of his bail application by the trial court in March 2022. He was charged with criminal conspiracy, rioting, unlawful assembly as well as several sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). ANI

Narendra Modi.

In his first speech since his reinstatement as member of the House after his disqualification following conviction by a Gujarat court in a defamation case, “Speaker Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for reinstating me as an MP of the Lok Sabha. When I spoke the last time, per-

haps I caused you trouble because I focussed on Adani - maybe your senior leader was pained...That pain might have had an impact on you as well. I apologise to you for that. But I spoke the truth. Today, my friends in BJP need not be scared because my speech today is not on Adani...” Gandhi said. ANI

World

Discussing war in Ukraine would be top priority at G20: US State Department



US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said discussing the conflict in Ukraine would be a top priority for US President Joe Biden in the upcoming G20 summit to be held in India next month. On whether anything was going to come out of the G20 Summit as far as the Russia-Ukraine conflict is concerned, Matthew Miller told media persons, "I will say that, in all of our conversations

with allies and partners around the world, we continue to discuss the war in Ukraine."

"It is always one of the top topics that comes up in all of our conversations, and I have no doubt that'll be true at the G20," he added. Significantly, the Russia-Ukraine war started after the latter was offered a bid for NATO membership and denied it. Russia launched its special military operation on February 24, 2022,

after recognising the Ukrainian breakaway regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as "independent republics."

Russia has since continued to maintain that the aim of its operations has been to "demilitarize" and "de-nazify" the country. Although, the United States and other NATO countries have said it is impossible to admit Ukraine now because of the ongoing conflict. In July, US President Joe Biden said he doesn't think Ukraine is ready for NATO membership and added that NATO is a process that takes some time to meet all qualifications, from democratisation to a whole range of other issues. "I don't think it (Ukraine) is ready for membership in NATO," the US President said in an interview when asked about Ukraine's NATO membership, reported CNN. ANI

Fire in French holiday home for disabled kills at least 9 people with 2 more feared dead

A fire ripped through a vacation home for adult people with disabilities in eastern France on Wednesday, killing nine people while two others are believed to have died, the head of rescue operations said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Philippe Hauwiller, who is leading the firefighters' rescue operation, said, "We are currently searching for the bodies... two remain to be found." Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that she was heading to the site of the fire.

The local administration of the Haut-Rhin region said the fire broke out at 6:30 am in private accommodation in the town of Wintzenheim. Seventeen people were evacuated, including one person with serious injuries who

was sent to a hospital. Christophe Marot, the secretary general of the local administration, said on news broadcaster France Info the group includes adults with "slight intellectual disabilities." He said that 10 disabled people and one person accompanying the group are believed to be among the dead. The group usually lives in the city of Nancy, in eastern France, the statement from the Haut-Rhin prefecture said. "The building was being used ... for their vacation," it added.

The fire department deployed 76 firefighters, four fire engines and four ambulances to contain the blaze and treat the victims. Forty police officers were also mobilized. The fire was brought under control, the statement said. PTI

China hacked Japan's sensitive defence networks, says report



In the fall of 2020, the Chinese military compromised classified defence networks of Japan, reported The Washington Post on Wednesday. According to the report, cyberspies from the People's Liberation Army had wormed their way into Japan's most sensitive computer systems.

As per The Washington Post, three former senior US officials, who were among a dozen current and former US and Japanese officials interviewed, said that the hackers had deep, persistent access and appeared to be after anything they could get their hands on - plans, capabilities and assessments of military shortcomings. "It was bad — shockingly bad," recalled one former US military official, who was briefed on the event, which has not been previ-

ously reported. According to the Washington Post, Japan is making efforts to strengthen its networks. But they are still deemed not sufficiently secure from Beijing's prying eyes, which, officials say, could impede greater intelligence-sharing between the Pentagon and Beijing's Defence Ministry.

The report by the Washington Post also cited that the 2020 penetration was so disturbing that Gen. Paul Nakasone, the head of the NSA and the US Cyber Command, and Matthew Pottinger, who was White House deputy national security adviser at the time, raced to Tokyo briefed the defence minister, who was so concerned that he arranged for them to alert the prime minister himself. ANI

"Take me out of here...": Imran Khan on staying in jail

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was arrested last week in the Toshakahana case, has expressed his sadness about staying in jail and said that he doesn't stay there, Geo News reported on Wednesday. While talking with his lawyers in the Attock jail, Imran Khan said, "Take me out of here; I don't want to remain in jail," according to the officials.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman also stated that he remains holed up inside his prison cell in "distressing" conditions, as per the sources. Khan's counsel Naeem Haider Panjotha was granted access by the jail



authorities Monday to meet him, who after seeing the PTI chairman said that the former premier was being kept in "distressing" conditions provided "C-Class jail facilities". Panjotha added that the PTI chief was in high morale despite all such difficulties and vowed to spend his lifetime in

jail but wouldn't bow to slavery, reported Geo News.

However, the sources said that the PTI chairman, during the meeting with his lawyer, conveyed his concerns regarding the environment at the prison with flies taking over his cell during the day and insects at night. ANI

Japan, South Korea brace for powerful Typhoon Khanun

Japan and South Korea are bracing themselves for powerful Typhoon Khanun as it is moving slowly towards both countries. According to Kyodo News Agency, the typhoon brought heavy rain to parts of



Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu on Wednesday as it moved slowly near the region,

causing power outages and suspensions of shinkansen bullet train services.

Career

Probability of Hike in Repo Rate



Satish Singh

Senior Columnist

In order to maintain the pace of growth, it is necessary that the repo rate is not increased further, but after the continuous decrease in retail inflation for the last 4 months, due to the sharp jump in the prices of food items in June 2023, the consumer price index (CPI) or retail inflation in the month of June reached the level of 4.81 percent, while it was 4.31 percent in the month of May. At the same time, it was 4.7 percent in April 2023, while it was 5.66 percent in March 2023.

Although the retail inflation rate is below the Reserve Bank's tolerance level of 6 percent in the month of June also, this year heavy rains in many states of the country have adversely affected the production of Kharif crops and vegetables and the situation will worsen in the coming months. Right now, too, the danger of El Nino cannot rule out. In such a situation, there are chances of further increase in retail inflation in the coming months.

According to data of ministry of statistics, the Consumer Food Inflation Rate (CPI) or food inflation rose to 4.49 per cent in June from 2.96 per cent in May, compared to 7.75 in the same period of last year. Whereas in the month of April it was 3.84 percent. The prices of almost all green vegetables including tomatoes are skyrocketing at present. It is noteworthy that food items account for almost half of the CPI basket.

The Reserve Bank started increasing the policy rates in the month of May last year. However, in the two consecutive bi-monthly monetary policy reviews in April and June this year, the repo rate was kept unchanged at 6.5 percent, due to which banks also did not make any change in the lending rate.

Based on the earlier strategy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it is

being speculated that the RBI will hold the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings along with MPC from 8 to 10 August & declared the monetary policy review on 10th August. To accelerate the economic growth rate, the repo rate will be kept unchanged in the monetary policy review to be announced by the RBI, so that the cost of borrowing remains stable and the growth rate is maintained, but it would be appropriate to mention here that at the time of the bi-monthly monetary review of the months of April and June. The situation of retail inflation in the country was not uncontrollable and that is why the repo rate was kept unchanged.

The RBI tries to fight inflation mainly by increasing the repo rate. When the repo rate is high, banks get loans from the Reserve Bank at a costlier rate, due to which banks also give loans to customers at a costlier rate. By doing this, the liquidity of money in the economy decreases and due to lack of money in the pockets of the people, the demand for goods decreases and due to the high price of goods and products, their sales decline, which leads to decreasing of inflation.

Similarly, to speed up the developmental works when the economy is slow or soft, efforts are made to increase the liquidity of the currency in the market and for this the repo rate is cut, so that the banks get loans from the Reserve Bank at a cheaper rate & also give loan to the customers at a cheaper rate.

According to Reserve Bank Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das, banking and non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) remain strong in India despite the corona pandemic, geo-political crisis, inflation, slowdown in the global economy. The financial performance of the banking sector is continuously improving. In the first quarter of the current financial year i.e., during April-June 2023, the profit of 12 public sector banks increased to Rs.34,774 crore, while the profit of State Bank of India increased by 178.24 percent to Rs 16,884.29 crore.



At the same time, an increase of 12.3 percent was registered in the country's industrial production in the month of June. In comparison, in June 2021, a growth rate of 13.8 percent was seen in the industrial production of the country. It shows that there is great need to improve the situation in this regard.

In the last quarter of the financial year 2022-23, the gross domestic product (GDP) was estimated to be 4.2 percent, but it was 6.1 percent. Due to the improvement in the GDP growth rate in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2022-23, there has been an improvement in the growth rate of the entire financial year. During the financial year 2022-23, the MPC had earlier estimated 6.8 percent of GDP, which was 7.2 percent.

Right now, the target of the Reserve Bank is to strike a balance between growth and inflation, so that the common man does not face any problem and the pace of development also accelerates. Therefore, it is very important to bring down retail inflation, failing which India's economic growth rate may slow down in long run.

Due to inflation, there is a negative impact on the GDP growth rate. For the past years, retail inflation remained at a high level continuously, however,

there was a partial decline in retail inflation in the last few months and now again retail inflation is on the rise. Therefore, speculations are being made that India's growth rate may remain low in the coming months, due to which the economy may also slow down.

Undoubtedly, keeping the repo rate unchanged will provide relief to the borrowers on the one hand and on the other hand the pace of development will accelerate, but the Reserve Bank wants retail inflation to be controlled first, as it improves and strengthens the economy in the long run.

Therefore, it is estimated that the RBI may increase the repo rate by 0.25 percent in the monetary review which result is to be announced on August 10, owing to which banks will increase the loan rate and due to costlier loans, the demand for various products will decrease, which will reduce retail inflation. This will also reduce the spending capacity of the people, due to which there will be a decrease in private expenditure in strengthening the infrastructure, which is already low, as well as slowing down the pace of development, tax collection may also decrease.

Amit Sadh's short film 'Ghuspaith Between Borders' heading to Rhode Island International Film Fest



Actor Amit Sadh's upcoming short film "Ghuspaith Between Borders", inspired by the life of Pulitzer prize-winning photojournalist Danish Siddiqui, will be screened at the Rhode Island International Film Festival 2023. Written and directed by Mihir Kalpana Lath, the short sheds light on the hidden complexities of the illegal cattle trade, cow smuggling, human trafficking, the refugee crisis, and ethnic cleansing, a press release stated. "Revolving around the life of an Indian photojournalist named Manav (played by Sadh) the short raises a poignant question: 'Where do we draw the borders between humanity?'" the official plotline read. **PTI**

JD Chekravarthy reveals why he's not on social media

Posts and pictures on social media are not enough to convince audiences to watch a film or series if it is not good, believes actor JD Chekravarthy, who is not on any digital platforms. Chekravarthy, who recently made his Telugu series debut with Disney+ Hotstar's "Dayaa", said actors often end up making fun of themselves while promoting their upcoming projects on Facebook or X, formerly called Twitter. "I am an actor and I have the luxury to choose the work I want to do. How does social media help? If my film or series is coming and the audience likes the promos... If I sit and (share posts) on Facebook, Twitter or social media, you think they will read it? **PTI**



Ileana D'Cruz celebrates 'one week of being your mama' with son Koa Phoenix Dolan



Actor Ileana D'Cruz who welcomed baby Koa Phoenix Dolan on August 1 has shared a beautiful photo of the two of them together. She took to Instagram stories to post the picture on Wednesday.

In the monochrome picture, her son's tiny hands was seen holding Ileana's finger. Ileana shared the picture with the caption, "1 week of being your Mama" Recently, The 'Rustom' actar shared the good news with her friends and followers on Instagram. She shared adorable pictures of her first kid. Ileana's little son, whom she called "Koa Phoenix Dolan," can be seen napping adorably in the photo.

Sharing the picture, a new mom in town wrote, "No words could explain how happy we are to welcome our darling boy to the world. Hearts beyond full." Ileana has been quite private about her personal life from the outset. Ileana just disclosed the love of her life, though. She released images from a date night with her enigmatic partner. She shared glimpses of her dinner date with her admirers on her Instagram story. Earlier rumours stated that Ileana was dating Sebastian Laurent Michel, the brother of Katrina Kaif. After the two were seen on holiday in the Maldives with Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif, love allegations about the pair began to circulate. **ANI**