

QUICKLY.

₹400 crore under CRIF released: Gadkari

**Shimla:** Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday announced the release of ₹400 crore under the CRIF for the repair and restoration work in flood-hit Himachal Pradesh. Terming the damage in the recent floods as colossal and unprecedented, Gadkari assured all possible help for restoration works. **PH**

**Parliament passes a Bill to strengthen cooperatives**

**New Delhi:** Parliament on Tuesday passed the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2023, which seeks to strengthen cooperatives by making their functioning more transparent, introducing a system of regular elections and prohibiting the appointment of related persons. The bill, approved by the Lok Sabha on July 25 was passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote as the opposition staged a walkout earlier. **PH**

# Constitutional machinery broke down in Manipur: SC

**TALE OF WOE.** Apex court points out that police probe in many cases was tardy; says handing over 6,000 cases to CBI may make the agency itself dysfunctional

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on August 1 said the Manipur Government's status report on 6,523 FIRs registered point to a "complete breakdown of the constitutional machinery" in the State from the beginning of May till the end of July during the ethnic violence. There was also complete breakdown of law and order. "If law and order cannot protect citizens, where are we left?" Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, asked the Manipur government, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. The Supreme Court directed the Manipur Director General of Police to be personally present in the court on August 7. The court said the State Police Chief should be in a position to answer the questions of the court. In its order, the court said,

on prima facie analysis, the police investigation into the cases was "tardy". There was a "considerable lapse of time" between the occurrence of the incidents and the registration of FIRs and recording of witness statements. Arrests were made "few and far between", the Bench noted.

**'NOT CONDUCTIVE'** Mehta surmised that the police may have been restricted as the situation in the State on the ground was not "conductive".

"From May 4 to July 27, the picture is clear that the police were not in charge. Was the situation so not conducive that even FIRs could not be registered? Except for one or two cases there are no arrests at all. The investigation was so lethargic. FIRs were registered in many cases after only two months. Statements were not recorded," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed. The court asked how over



**CHARRED PEACE.** The report said that a preliminary examination of the 6,523 cases show that 11 FIRs involve crimes against women and children, but this again was subject to further verification

6,000 cases could be single-handedly probed by the CBI. The Chief Justice said the burden of probing so many cases may leave the CBI itself "dysfunctional".

The hearing saw the court peruse the status report prepared overnight by the State government for the Court. The court found a case in

which a mother was dragged out of her car and lynched along with her son by a mob on May 4. The FIR was registered only on July 23.

The court chanced upon another case in which a man was "done to death" and his house set on fire. Again, the FIR was registered two months later. In another case,

the CCTV footage was found to be "auto-deleted" by the time the investigators began their job.

The State government's status report said there were 150 deaths, including 59 deaths between May 3 and May 5. Another 28 persons lost their lives between May 27 and May 29. Thirteen more

died in the violence on June 9. The report showed that 502 people were injured in the clashes. There were 5101 cases of arson. It said 252 persons were arrested and another 1,274 were arrested as a preventive measure.

**'TRANSFER FIRS TO CBI'** The report said that a preliminary examination of the 6,523 cases show that 11 FIRs involved crimes against women and children, but this again was subject to further verification. Seven arrests have been made in the 11 cases.

Mehta said the Centre, with the consent of the Manipur Government, was willing to transfer these 11 FIRs to the CBI as an immediate measure. Senior advocate Jaideep Gupta said there was a twelfth FIR of a woman burnt alive while advocate Nizam Pasha, for Zomi Students Federation, said five FIRs highlighted by him were not among the 11 in the list

presented by the Solicitor General. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves said there was a case of a young boy beheaded.

The court said the information provided by the State in the current status report was "inadequate". Chief Justice Chandrachud said the FIRs have not been "disaggregated".

"You have not said how many of these cases involve murder or rape, arson and looting, destruction of house and property, destruction of religious worship, grievous hurt, etc," the court told the State Government.

The court directed the State to give by the next hearing on August 7, the dates of commission of offences; dates of registration of zero FIRs; dates on which witness statements were recorded in these cases; dates on which Section 161 statements were recorded and dates of arrests; and the names of the accused persons in the FIRs.

## Controversial Delhi services Bill tabled in Lok Sabha amid uproar

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

The Centre introduced the controversial The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, empowering Lieutenant Governor to have the final say in service matters of city government employees, despite strong protests from the opposition parties who charged that the move violates the separation of powers guaranteed under the Constitution.

Home Minister Amit Shah, however, countered that the opposition's objection was

"politically motivated". "Our Constitution allows the Parliament to make laws for Delhi. Any opposition to this bill has no constitutional basis and is politically motivated," Shah remarked even as opposition MPs stormed the well and tore papers questioning the introduction of the legislation. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had galvanised opposition unity ahead of parliament session to ensure that the Bill does not sail through both the Houses.

**OVERRIDING SC VERDICT** Tabled by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, the Bill seeks to override the Supreme Court verdict that

vested in the Delhi government powers to have control over administrative services, ending long-pestering Centre-UT tussle.

Under the memorandum regarding delegated legislation, the Bill seeks to amend the NCT of Delhi Act, 1991, empowering the Centre to make rules to provide for the tenure of office, transfers salaries and allowances, provident funds, pensions, gratuities, leave of absence and other conditions of service of officers and other employees appointed or posted. It will also authorise the Union of India to impose punitive measures against officers.

## EU's deforestation regulation could hit India's exports: Report

**Amit Sen**  
New Delhi

Indian exports of farm-based products to the EU may suffer more than many competing countries once the EU's deforestation-free products regulation (EU-DR) kicks in from December 2024, as India has suffered a significant amount of forest loss in the last two decades, a report by a Delhi-based research body has noted.

The regulation, adopted by the European Union Council on May 16, 2023, restricts exports of items to the bloc that have been produced in land deforested after 2020. It may affect Indian exports to the EU worth \$1.3 billion annually, per estimates made by the Global Trade Research Initiative.

"Although the India State of Forest Report 2021, released in January 2023, claimed a small increase in forest cover, the positive picture is because the government doesn't distinguish between natural forests and plantations when assessing forest cover (which the EU does)," the GTRI's latest research note on the regulation pointed out.

The note quoted a report from "Utility Bidder" in March 2023, which stated that India lost a significant amount of forest between 1990 and 2020, making it the second-worst country after Brazil in terms of forest loss during 2015-2020.

"Due to this situation, Indian exporters will face challenges as they must prove that their export products come from land that hasn't been de-



**WORRISOME SITUATION.** The regulation restricts exports of items to the bloc that have been produced in land deforested after 2020

forested after December 31, 2020. The EU-DR will consider plantation land as deforested land, adding to the difficulties for Indian exporters," the GTRI note said.

The Commerce & Industry Ministry has initiated bilateral talks with the EU to discuss how the matter could be handled so that Indian export-

ers don't suffer. It is also exploring alliances at the WTO to challenge the initiative which may not be compliant with multilateral norms.

**COMPLIANCE** Moreover, the EU-DR makes exports expensive due to the high compliance cost. "Even exporters of high-quality

products must invest in expensive due diligence. They need to prove the integrity of their supply chain through a detailed trace and track system from Indian farms to EU markets," the note stated.

The compliance procedure includes collecting various information such as commodity details, quantity, farmer/supplier names, country of production, and addresses of the land plots where the commodities were produced, it said.

"Only after meeting all these requirements, can the exporter submit a due diligence statement to the EU-based importer. Export to the EU is allowed only after fulfilling these demands," the note pointed out adding that it may be unsustainable for small scale producers.

## Govt to review items with concessional basic customs duty rates, conditional exemptions

**Abhishek Law**  
New Delhi

India has initiated a review of items that have conditional exemptions or have concessional basic customs duty. At least, two Ministries — the Ministry of Steel and the Ministry of Mines — have reportedly been asked by the Ministry of Finance to submit a list of items that needs to be reviewed.

The two Ministries have been asked to provide a list of items, not manufactured domestically, where conditional exemptions or basic customs duty are applicable; and such exemptions lapse on or before March 31, 2024.

Ministries have also been asked to explain whether such concession or exemptions need not continue or not. In case such exemptions are expected to continue, the Ministries will have to



provide a "detailed justification" for their recommendations.

An office memorandum from the Ministry of Mines to the Steel Ministry, accessed by *Businessline* reads: "...regarding review of conditional exemptions or concessional basic customs duty rates for import of and to, provide a list of such items pertaining to this Ministry (of Steel) — whose validity is expiring on March 31, 2024 — which are not domestically manufactured and for which conditional exemptions or concessional basic customs duty for imports needs to continue

and a detailed justification for the same." As per officials, there are 12 items on the indicative list prepared by the Ministry of Mines. Of these items, there is no applicable basic customs duty on gold ores and concentrates for use in the manufacturing of gold.

**LIST OF ITEMS** The other items in the 9-10 per cent range include spent catalyst or ash containing precious metals and zinc metal covered by toll smelting or processing from zinc concentrates exported from India for such purposes.

The basic customs duty in the 5 per cent range include ceria zirconia and cerium compounds, aluminium oxide, zeolite and alumax, all of which are used in manufacture of wash-coat for catalytic converters.

In the 7.50 per cent basic customs duty range, items mentioned are, metal parts

for manufacture of electrical insulators, pipes and tubes for manufacture of boilers, and platinum or palladium for manufacture of noble metal compounds & solutions.

The only item that falls under the 2.50 per cent customs duty list was survey instruments that are used for prospecting minerals.

In case of the Steel Ministry, exemption of basic customs duty on cold rolled grain oriented raw materials, steel scrap and nickel cathode continues up to March 31, 2024. Import duty or cess on other raw materials like non-coking coal, limestone, iron-ore, ferro-nickel and natural gas is at 2.5 per cent. Clean environment cess on coking coal is ₹400 per tonne (whereas import duty on coking coal is nil).

The import duty rate is 7.5 per cent on semis, flat and long products of non-alloy and alloys.

## A DEADLY FALL



**ROAD TO NOWHERE.** NDRF personnel carry out a search and rescue operation after a crane fell on a bridge slab on the under-construction Samruddhi Expressway, at Shahapur Tehsil of Thane district, on Tuesday. Twenty people were killed and three others were injured in the accident. **PH**

## NGT wants units in Manali area to create corpus fund

**Our Bureau**  
Chennai

Chennai-based Manali Petrochemicals Ltd announced that the southern zone of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has recommended that industries in the Manali Industrial area, where the company is located, should create a corpus fund for the improvement of the environmental standards in the area.

In a regulatory filing, the petrochemicals manufacturer said that the tribunal judgement pertains to a suo motu case filed against industries in the area in an environment-related issue during April 2019 and December 2020.

"The tribunal has given certain directions/recommendations to the industries in Manali, Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, and the Central Pollution Control Board which includes a collection of environmental compensation and creation of corpus fund for improvement of environmental standards in Manali Industrial area," it added.

However, the company clarified that there was no environmental compensation levied on it as it has adhered to norms.

"With regard to the NGT recommendation on creation of corpus fund, we are unable to quantify the impact of this judgment at this juncture, on the business and operations of the company," it added.

## Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in talks with banks for fresh loans

**G Naga Sridhar**  
Hyderabad

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is in talks with banks to mobilise fresh loans to meet working capital needs.

"Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has taken up the matter with lending banks for fresh loans at competitive interest rates to ensure working capital requirements etc," Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister of State for Steel, said while responding to a question from GVL Narasimha Rao in the Rajya Sabha.

To reduce the cost of raw material of RINL, Ministry of Steel has taken up with the Ministry of Coal for the supply of domestic coking coal and thermal coal to plant, he said.

It requested the Odisha government for allocation of an iron ore block to RINL by way of reservation to government companies.

"RINL has also requested State Governments — Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh for recommending reservation of iron ore deposits under Section 17A(2A) of MMDR Act, 2015, to Ministry of Mines," Kulaste said.

RINL has been participating in allocation of Iron Ore mines through e-auction by the State Governments, but has not yet been able to secure the mining lease.

**PRIVATISATION PLANS** There was no move to merge RINL with SAIL, the minister said hinting that the proposed divestment of VSP is on the cards.

As per the New Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) Policy for Atmanirbhar Bharat notified by the Government of India, the existing Public Sector Enterprises have been broadly classified under strategic and non-strategic sectors.

PSEs in the non-strategic sectors shall be considered for privatisation, where feasible, otherwise such enterprises shall be considered for closure.

"In line with new PSE Policy, the Government has accorded an in-principle approval for 100 per cent disinvestment of Government of India (GoI) shareholding in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. in alongwith RINL's stake in its subsidiaries/joint ventures through strategic disinvestment," the Union Minister said.

## Oberoi Realty expects launches to be bundled in H2FY24

**Janaki Krishnan**  
Mumbai

Oberoi Realty expects a number of its launches to be bunched up in the second half of the year and more units to be sold in its ultra-luxury project, Three Sixty West in the heart of Mumbai.

Two of its much anticipated projects — both in Thane, a separate district, but part of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, are expected to be launched later this fiscal year. One of the projects is expected to be launched in the second half of October while the second project will come up later, CMD Vikas Oberoi told analysts in an earnings call.

**PROJECTS** The contract for the second project has already been awarded to L&T while



the company is in the process of awarding the contract for the first project.

There is another project in Worli in central Mumbai, which is still in the works. Oberoi Realty had acquired the 60-acre land parcel from GlaxoSmithKline in 2019 for close to ₹900 crore. Oberoi said that part of the land had been given over to the State government for metro construction work, though now it has been handed back.

The real estate developer's upcoming mall in

the the central suburb of Borivli is also expected to be completed soon and fit-outs to start in February and the mall is expected to launched before Diwali in 2024.

**'CULT PROJECT'** With respect to the slow momentum in sales of Three Sixty West where rates are at an astronomical ₹1 lakh a square feet, Oberoi said that it was a 'cult project' and there was demand

for the units. The company's investor presentation showed that of the total area of 5.5 lakh sq ft in the project about 4 per cent has been booked to date. In 2022, after receiving occupancy certificate, the price in the project doubled and there was a spurt in sales. Subsequently the company bought out its joint venture partner in the project and took the inventory on its own books.

**TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT**

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**THE UGAR SUGAR WORKS LIMITED**  
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CIN: L15421PN1939PLC006738

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on **Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 at 03.30 PM** to approve and take on record Un-Audited Financial Results and Segment-wise Revenue Results for the Quarter ended, **30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.**

Further in accordance with SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015. We have already announced Prohibitions of Trading by Insiders, the Trading Window for dealing in the securities of the Company shall remain Closed for the Directors, Designated Employees and insiders from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 to till 48 hour after the declaration of financial Result (both days inclusive).

For The Ugar Sugar Works Ltd.  
Sd/-  
Tushar V Deshpande  
Company Secretary

● Sangli  
● 02-08-2023