RBI Monetary Policy HIGHLIGHTS: Guv Shaktikanta Das-led MPC keeps interest rates unchanged; calls private cryptocurrencies huge threat

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RBI Monetary Policy HIGHLIGHTS: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday kept the benchmark repo interest rate unchanged at 4 percent while deciding to continue with its accommodative stance in the backdrop of an elevated level of inflation. This is the tenth time in a row that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has maintained the status quo. RBI had last revised its policy repo rate or the short-term lending rate on May 22, 2020 in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low. This was the first MPC meeting after the presentation of Budget 2022-23 in Parliament on February 1. Here are the live updates from the RBI monetary policy today:

Rajee R, Chief Ratings Officer- Brickwork Ratings: In line with BWR's expectations, RBI continued its dovish stance and remained accommodative by reiterating that despite the economic recovery and aggregate demand gaining traction and improving inflation outlook, continued pol`icy support is warranted to support domestic growth, which is the highest priority. Continuing with its calibrated liquidity management policy to maintain financial stability, RBI emphasized that VRR and VRRR would be the main tools for liquidity adjustment indicating gradual policy normalization on the liquidity front. While stating that headline inflation will peak in Q4 of the current fiscal, RBI maintained its inflation projections at 5.30% for FY22 and a dovish forecast at around 4.50% thereafter. Enhancement of cap and multiple-use under e-RUPI prepaid digital voucher, new credit default swap (CDS) guidelines (to be announced today) and extension of on tap liquidity for emergency health services and contact intensive sectors till June 30, 2022, are welcome steps. Hiking of limit under Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) scheme from Rs. 1.5 Lakh Crs. to Rs. 2.5 Lakh Crs. will provide additional sources of capital for domestic debt markets and government securities. Increase in NACH mandate from Rs. 1 Cr. to Rs. 3 Crs. for TReDS related settlements are expected to improve the receivables financing and overall liquidity position of the MSMEs."