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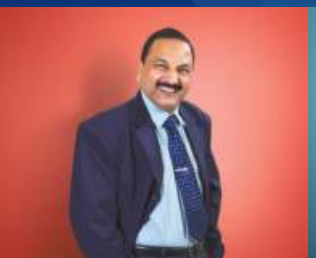
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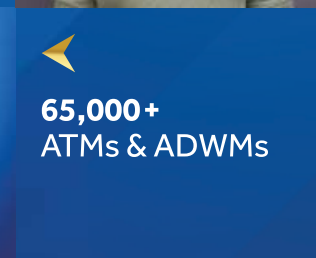
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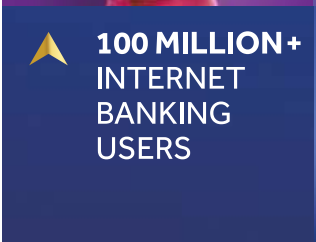
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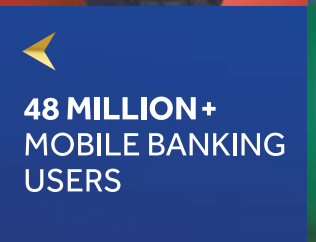
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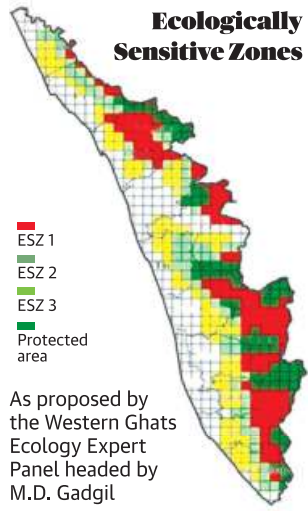


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The Western Ghats

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from Tapi Valley down to Kanyakumari

Nearly 15% of the Ghats under protected area system

Home to over 500 species of birds

120 species of mammals

Over 4,000 species of flowering plants or 27% of India's species from the Ghats

645 species of evergreen trees endemic to the Ghats

Around 850-1,000 species of Bryophytes

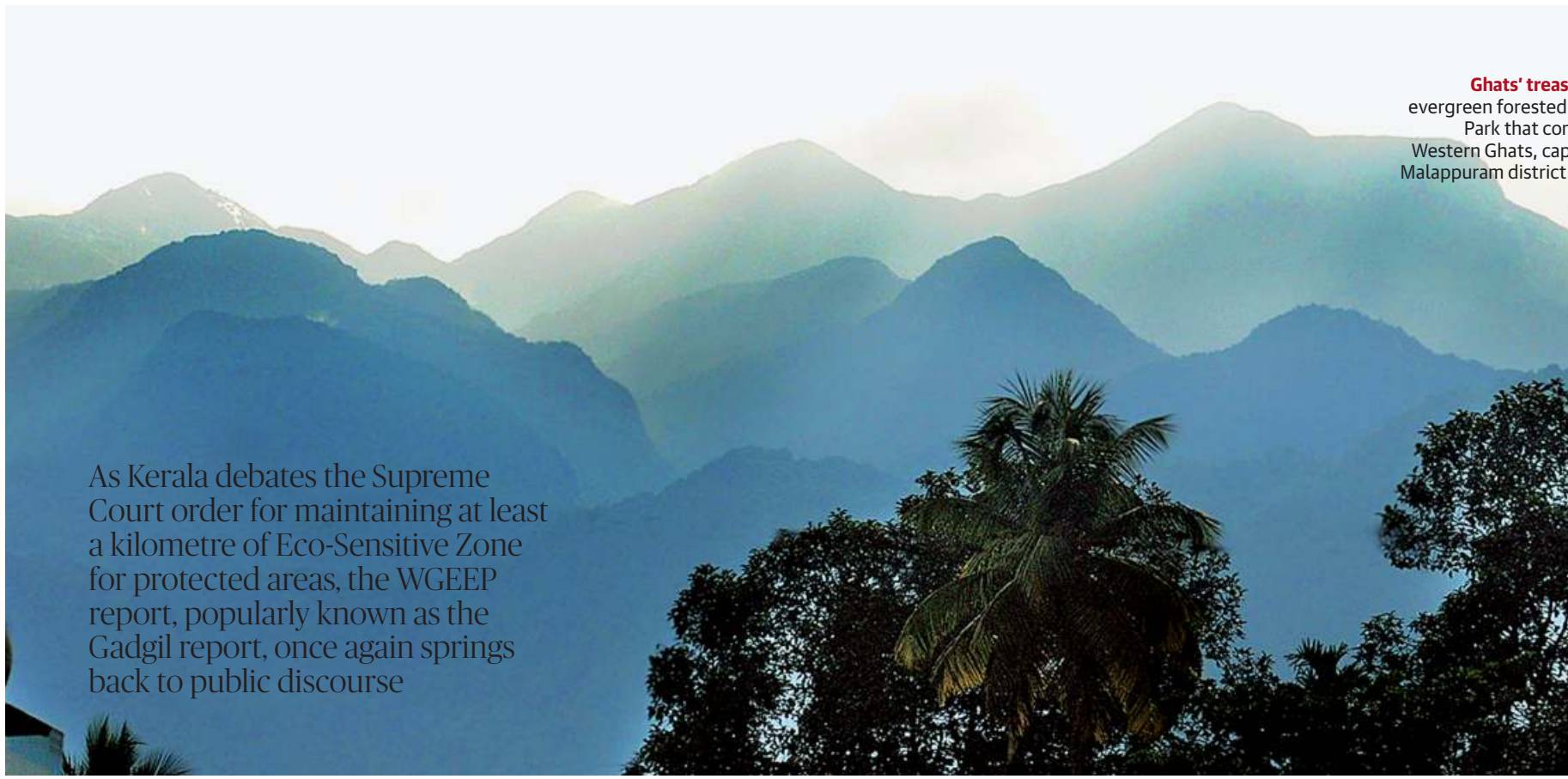
350 species of ants

330 species of butterflies

174 species of dragonflies, damselflies

269 species of molluscs

288 species of fish fauna, 41% of them endemic to the region



Ghats' treasures: The Koomban Mala, the evergreen forested hills of Silent Valley National Park that contribute to the richness of the Western Ghats, captured from Karuvarakundu in Malappuram district. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As Kerala debates the Supreme Court order for maintaining at least a kilometre of Eco-Sensitive Zone for protected areas, the WGEEP report, popularly known as the Gadgil report, once again springs back to public discourse

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

Green touchstone

A posse of hawk-eyed policemen stood guard outside a packed conference hall at Thodupuzha in Idukki some time in 2013, watching over the crowd for signs of unrest.

The situation was tense outside as the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) had stirred up a series of protests across the State. Everyone at the venue was expecting some heckling or sloganeering to greet the chief guest of the day.

Clad in kurta and pyjama, the willowy Gandhian walked into the hall calmly. The chitchats and murmur in the hall gave way to heavy silence as he approached the podium. The audience was all ears as Madhav Dhananjaya Gadgil began his lecture on the ecological significance of the mountain ranges of Western Ghats and the need to adopt sustainable development models.

Nearly two hours later, armed policemen escorted Mr. Gadgil, who came to

back to public discourse in Kerala. A decade after the WGEEP panel report was released in public domain, the man and the report are being repeatedly discussed. While some view him as the messiah of Kerala's ecology, there are a few others who see him as an eco-terrorist out to wreak havoc on the lives of millions of people who had painstakingly set up their lives in the high ranges and near forest areas.

It had taken a year-and-a-half, 14 meetings across the Ghats States, several brainstorming sessions, public consultations, and field visits for the panel to evolve a methodology to categorise the Western Ghats into three zones of varied ecological sensitivity and suggest broad sectoral guidelines for each of these zones.

As Kerala hotly debates the Supreme Court order for maintaining at least a kilometre of Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) for protected areas, the WGEEP report, popularly known as the Gadgil report, once again springs

back to public discourse in Kerala.

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It had also spelt out a broad framework for the establishment of the Western Ghats Ecology Authority. The report was submitted to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests on August 31, 2011.

No one had any hint of the political unrest the report was to trigger in the State, which has a significant segment of its population settled in the Ghats districts. The report saw some political parties and a section of the Church coming together to oppose it and later extending the camaraderie to the 2014 Parliament elections.

It also witnessed a pro-Congress politician entering the fray as a Left-backed independent candidate, supported by the Church-backed High Range Samrakshana Samiti, and winning the election hands

down. The period also witnessed churns in the State unit of the Congress. P.T. Thomas, the sitting MP of the Idukki constituency, came under attack from the Syro-Malabar Church for his pro-Gadgil stance and was denied a ticket to contest. Political compulsions and stiff opposition from the Church also forced him to move out of his home turf Idukki and settle in Ernakulam.

"Probably," remembers ecologist V.S. Vijayan, a member of the WGEEP, "this was the only election in the State influenced by an ecological issue. Though the State had earlier witnessed public protests and campaigns to protect the verdant forest of Silent Valley, they had not snowballed into a political issue in those times".

"Looking back, one can find that the WGEEP report has become a platform for creating awareness on ecological issues and a sustainable model of development in Kerala. One also realises the games played out by the mining lobby and a section of the Church to unleash a misinformation campaign and propaganda aimed at creating panic in the minds of the people," says Mr. Vijayan, who spoke at around 175 public meetings to spread the "truth about the WGEEP recommendations."

"The panel was all for inclusive development models that took care of the people and the ecology. We never recommended evicting people from their homelands. We suggested eco-friendly mode of farming in the Ecologically Sensitive Areas," remembers Mr. Vijayan.

What went wrong for the

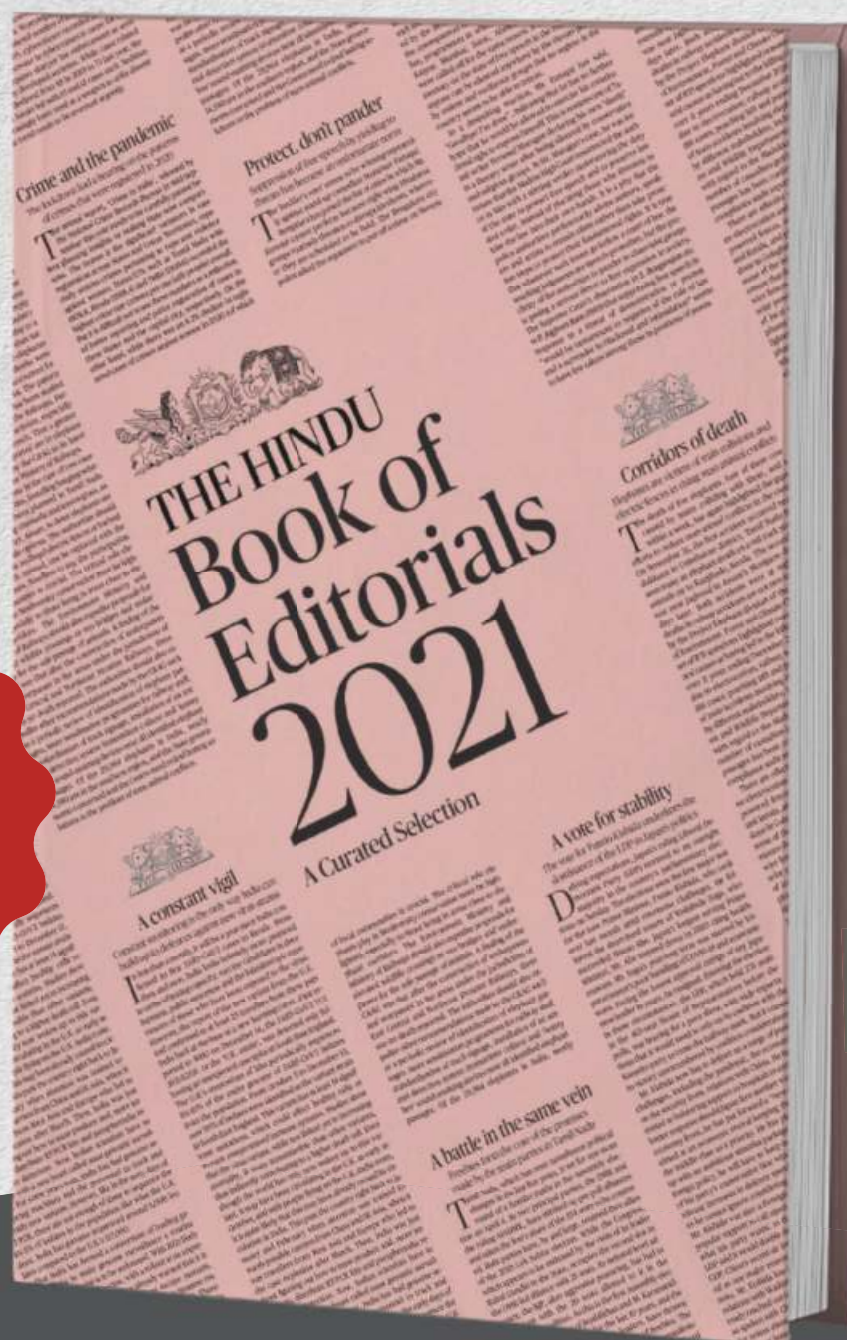
report, says Mr. Vijayan, is that the misconceptions and mischief created and spread by certain vested interest groups influenced the masses. The organised campaigns succeeded in creating a wrong impression in the minds of people and the ecological issues suddenly assumed a political colour, he remembers.

T.V. Sajeev, entomologist and Principal Scientist of the Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, who had addressed over 75 public meetings to spread the message of the WGEEP report, feels that the report had brought out the real issue of ecological conservation from the clutches of a romantic approach spread by some poets and writers.

"If asked about the outcome of the report, I will say that it served as the ammunition for hundreds of mass movements at local levels against the indiscriminate and illegal exploitation of natural resources and spread the word about conservation of ecology. The report, which put forward a scientific approach and framework for addressing ecological issues, dismantled the wrong notions of science and knowledge and helped at least a few scientists of the research institutions to listen to the lives of people and issues concerning them," he says.

The report also put forward a democratic approach towards ecological governance. It suggested discussing ecological issues and development concerns and initiatives at the grassroots level of grama sabhas rather than adopting a top-down approach. Even a decade after the report, the democratic spirit of ecological governance is yet to percolate down the system, he says.

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Health Ministry directs States to improve vaccine coverage

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Xi visits Hong Kong to mark 25 years of its Chinese rule

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Banks, NBFCs have capital to withstand any shock, says RBI

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Bumrah to lead India as fifth Test against England begins today

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IN BRIEF



Traffic grinds to a halt as monsoon hits Delhi

NEW DELHI
 With the Capital receiving its first monsoon showers on Thursday, waterlogging was reported in many areas, including the Pragati Maidan tunnel that was inaugurated by the PM on June 19, leading to traffic congestion in many parts of the city.

CITY PAGE 3

Gujarat BJP team found nothing wrong: Sisodia

NEW DELHI
 The Gujarat BJP delegation has failed to find lapses in the Delhi model of governance despite covering the length and breadth of the Capital for the past two days, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Thursday. He said the delegation was sent to "fabricate and spread lies".

CITY PAGE 2

Ekhnath Shinde is Maharashtra CM, Fadnavis his deputy

The vote of confidence of the new government will be held tomorrow

ALOK DESHPANDE
 MUMBAI

In what could be termed one of the biggest political surprises in the history of Maharashtra politics, the BJP on Thursday announced that it will support rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde as the new Chief Minister, who took oath in a simple ceremony in the Raj Bhavan on Thursday evening, officiated by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

Former Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, who all believed was set to become Chief Minister for the third time, joined him as Deputy Chief Minister.

The trust vote of the new government will be held on Saturday. The special session of the Assembly will be held on July 2 and 3. The Speaker will be elected on the first day of the session.

At a press conference prior to the swearing-in cere-

mony, Mr. Fadnavis announced that the BJP would support Mr. Shinde as Chief Minister and claimed that he would not be the part of the new Cabinet.

'Obeying party orders'

Hours after his announcement, sensing discontent within the State unit of the party, BJP national president J.P. Nadda said the party had taken a decision to support Mr. Shinde, and Mr. Fadnavis too would join the government. Union Home Minister Amit Shah too tweeted saying that Mr. Fadnavis would join the government. Mr. Fadnavis replied to him saying he would follow the orders as an honest party worker. "I will obey the order of a party which gave me the top-most post," he tweeted.

Initially, only two chairs were kept at the Darbar Hall where the swearing-in cere-



New innings: Rebel Sena leader Eknath Shinde (left) and Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at the swearing-in ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, Mumbai, on Thursday. ■ EMMANUAL YOGINI

mony took place. Following tweets from the BJP's central leadership, three chairs were placed. Mr. Shinde took the oath invoking Sena founder the late Bal Thackeray and his mentor the late Anand Dighe. This was followed by sloganeering from his sup-

porters. Mr. Fadnavis too was greeted by loud sloganeering as he asked people to remain calm to continue with the oath taking. Following the ceremony, supporters shouted slogans of 'Jai Shree Ram, Bharat Mata ki Jai' and ones in praise of King Shivaji.

Mr. Shinde, who revolted against former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on June 20, was joined by 39 Sena MLAs and 11 Independents.

The rebel MLAs had demanded that Mr. Thackeray quit the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and snap ties

with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to return to the path of Hindutva.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shinde returned to Mumbai from Goa, where all the rebel MLAs were staying. He visited 'Sagar', the official residence of Mr. Fadnavis. Later, both, along with BJP leaders, visited the Governor to stake claim to form the government. Mr. Thackeray had resigned as the Chief Minister on Wednesday night.

"The MVA was formed disrespecting the popular mandate of 2019. We in the BJP have been saying that this government will fall and we also said that we will not impose elections on the people of the State. Therefore, when Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde decided to break away, we at the BJP extended support. BJP does not work for the CM's post but for Hindutva and development. Therefore we have decided to support Eknath Shinde as the new Chief Minister," said

Mr. Fadnavis at the press conference earlier.

"I thank 50 MLAs for getting behind a small leader like me amidst all these big names. I will do what it takes for progress and development. In an era when even sarpanch's post is not given to anyone, Fadnavisji gave me the CM post. I thank, Modi, Shahji and Fadnavisji for the support," he said.

Mr. Fadnavis, who earlier stated that 16 Independent MLAs were with the new government, said the Cabinet expansion would take place in the coming days.

The new Chief Minister said that apart from 39 Sena MLAs, he has a total of 50 MLAs with him. "Our 50 and the BJP's 120 will make it the strongest-ever government which will walk on the path of Balasaheb's Hindutva and will have the vision of development of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

BITTERSWEET VICTORY PAGE 13

'REBELS WILL REGRET' PAGE 13

Eight killed in Manipur landslip

45 feared trapped in debris; railway construction camp near Tupul destroyed

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM
 IMPHAL

Eight people were killed in a massive landslip in Manipur in the early hours of Thursday. As many as 45 are feared to be trapped in the debris, say Army sources.

The disaster took place in Noney district destroying a railway construction camp near Tupul.

The deaths of seven Territorial Army personnel were confirmed. At least four railway employees are missing.

Initial reports said at least 20 villagers, including children, are missing. So far, 18 persons have been rescued. The injured were taken by helicopter to hospitals in Imphal. Rescue efforts by the police, the Army and personnel from the disaster response forces are on.

Flood alert issued

With debris from the landslip blocking a mountain river, Ijai, a flood alert was issued in the nearby villages. The district administration



Rescue operations under way at the site of the landslip in Noney, Manipur, on Thursday. ■ PTI

has opened centres to supply relief materials.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have spoken to Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and assured full support to the State. Mr. Biren called off his official en-

gagements and rushed to Noney to inspect the rescue work.

Ex gratia announced
 Manipur Governor La. Ganesan conveyed his deep condolences to the bereaved. Congress leader Ra-

hul Gandhi also mourned the loss of lives.

Mr. Biren said, "We have decided to give ₹5 lakh each as ex gratia to the families of the dead and ₹50,000 each to those injured."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Zubair's home in Bengaluru searched

STAFF REPORTER
 NEW DELHI

Days after being arrested over a four-year-old tweet that allegedly made a derogatory reference to a Hindu deity, a team of Delhi Police conducted searches at the Bengaluru residence of the Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair on Thursday.

Sources said the team reached his home at 11.30 a.m. Mr. Zubair is a resident of North Bengaluru's DJ Halli. Police said the searches were conducted to recover electronic devices such as his phone and laptop, which would be part of police evidence.

Mr. Zubair has been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code pertaining to promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings.

RELATED REPORTS PAGE 12

Govt. keeps small savings interest rates unchanged

Move belies hopes of hike amid surge in yields from bonds

VIKAS DHOOT
 NEW DELHI

The government has left the interest rates on small savings schemes such as the Public Provident Fund (PPF) and the National Savings Certificate (NSC) unchanged for the July-September quarter.

A hike in small savings rate was expected in view of a surge in yields on government bonds, to which their returns are linked as per a formula, amid a surge in inflation and increases in key interest rates by the Reserve Bank. "The status quo on small savings rates for

Rate card | A look at the existing rates of interest for select small savings schemes

| Instruments | Existing interest rates (%) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1-year term deposit | 5.5* |
| 5-year term deposit | 6.7* |
| 5-year recurring deposit | 5.8* |
| Senior Citizen Savings Scheme | 7.4 |
| National Savings Certificate | 6.8 |
| Public Provident Fund | 7.1 |
| Monthly Income Account | 6.6 |
| Sukanya Samridhi Yojana | 7.6 |

*approximate Source: CMI

the next quarter is contrary to our expectations of a hike in rates, given the sharp increases seen in the yields on government se-

curities of various maturities," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

PM should urge people to maintain peace: Cong.

"The current atmosphere is worrisome"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the prevailing situation in the country, the Congress on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make an appeal to the people to maintain peace and harmony.

Addressing a press conference, party leader Alka Lamba also asked why the "apprehension of a foreign hand" in the Udaipur murder case was not shared with the Chief Ministers.

'Convene Parliament'

"The Congress is worried over the current atmosphere prevailing in the country. We urge the Prime Minister to take the initiative and come forward to make an appeal for maintaining peace and harmony in the country," Ms. Lamba said, adding that 13 political parties had appealed for the same. "We appeal to the Prime Minister to convene Parliament and hold discussions," she said.

India's growth would be hampered if there was constant communal conflict in-



Alka Lamba

stead of peace and brotherhood, she noted.

"I would urge the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to come forward and make this appeal. When youth were on the streets against the Agnipath scheme it was expected that the Prime Minister would address them and their concerns. But he chose to remain silent," she said.

The Congress alleged that eight years of the BJP's rule at the Centre were marred by social and communal tensions and there were 857 incidents of communal violence recorded in 2020.

RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5, 13

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'Gujarat BJP team found nothing wrong'

Delegation was sent to fabricate and spread lies about the Delhi model of governance, says Sisodia

NIKHIL M. BABU
NEW DELHI

The Gujarat BJP delegation has failed to find any shortcomings in the Delhi model of governance despite covering the length and breadth of the Capital for the past two days, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said here on Thursday.

The BJP hit back at Mr. Sisodia and said that he shows off only a few good school buildings and the education system in Delhi is "rotten".

Mr. Sisodia said that the delegation was sent to "fabricate and spread lies" about the Delhi model of governance in Gujarat where anger is brewing against the BJP's failures.



AAP MLA Atishi waiting for a BJP delegation at a govt. school in New Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"The problem at this point is that the BJP brought its delegation with a premeditated bias and an ill motive. The delegation stayed in Delhi for two days and toured the entire State with the local BJP

MPs as their escorts. They went to every mohalla they could but failed to find any substandard or below-average school or mohalla clinic," Mr. Sisodia said. The Deputy Chief Minister

said that the delegation's aim was to mislead the people of Gujarat that schools and hospitals built under the Delhi government are pitiful. "But I am proud to say that despite all their hate and malice for us, the BJP delegation and the MPs could not find a single shortcoming. They fell on their faces as they could not find any loopholes," he added.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that the party failed to understand the anxiety and frustration of Mr. Sisodia and other AAP leaders over the visit of the Gujarat BJP delegation. "The AAP leaders have been repeatedly saying that the Gujarat delegation

should contact them and they will show good schools and mohalla clinics. If all government's schools, mohalla clinics and hospitals are in good service, as they claim, then why are they worried and offering conducted tours to select locations?" he asked.

Mr. Kapoor claimed that the Delhi government has renovated or reconstructed buildings of only few schools. "The Deputy Chief Minister shows off few good school buildings but will he reply why 75% of Delhi government schools don't have principals or facility to teach Science or Commerce at senior secondary level," he asked.

Tihar inmates to get skill training

Will help them reintegrate into society, says Deputy CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday said that the Delhi government will provide skill training and educational support to Tihar jail inmates to help them reintegrate into society upon their release.

Announcing the project, Mr. Sisodia said the Delhi government school teachers will initially study the education background and potential skills of the inmates and design specific programmes for them.

"Our government believes that education is the only way to help people lead a better and more meaningful life. There are nearly 20,000 inmates in Tihar jail.

We now need to understand their educational backgrounds as well as their interests in learning and skill training," Mr. Sisodia said.

The Deputy Chief Minister added that the study will also help the government look into any gaps in the education system that may be leading to crimes in society. He said teachers have been directed to interact sensitively with the inmates and ensure that they are able to highlight the inmates' skills as well as their areas of interest.

Mission Buniyad

The government's Mission Buniyad scheme, which aims to bridge the learning gap of students that has wid-

ened in the past two years due to COVID-19, will continue till August 31, he added.

Reviewing the scheme, Mr. Sisodia said it has yielded good results over the summer break and an improvement in learning levels in both MCD and DoE schools had been observed.

He added that a mega parent-teacher meeting will be organised in July to share with the parents the progress made by their children studying in government and MCD-run schools.

He also said that under Mission Buniyad, the class-wise school syllabus will be reduced to create more time and opportunities for students to strengthen their foundational skills.

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Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

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| Sl. No. | NAME OF THE POST | NAME OF CORPORATION/DISCOM | NOS. OF VACANCY |
|---------|------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Director (SLDC) | U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., Lucknow | 1 |

Last date of receipt of application is 15 July, 2022

Details and on line application is available on www.upncl.org and www.upenergy.in

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY (ENERGY), GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
RO no. - 185 RO date - 30/6/22

BSES
BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SHORT TERM PURCHASE OF POWER FOR THE PERIOD 01st July 2022 TO 31st October 2022

Tender No. Head (PWG)/BRPL/Etender/2022-23/1375

In accordance with the guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power and directions issued by Hon'ble DERC, BRPL has floated power procurement tender with the General Terms and Conditions for purchase of power and same is available on e-Bidding portal www.mstcecommerce.com, www.Powermin.nic.in, www.bsesdelhi.com.

Bidders are requested to kindly visit above website and submit the competitive purchase offers on <http://www.mstcecommerce.com>. Last date of bid submission is 04th July 2022 up to 15:00 hrs and Opening of non financial technical Bids is 05th July 2022 at 11:00 hrs

Address:- Head PMG, BSES Rajdhani power Ltd., BSES Bhawan, 2nd Floor, D-Block, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019 (Tel:- 49209037, Fax- 011-49209454)

Regd. Off. BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
Corporate Identification No.: U40100DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. +91 11 29032333 Fax No. +91 11 29999999
Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Gopal S/o Raj Bahadur R/o Unknown**. Age about 50 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Wheatish, Thin built and Face oval, wearing Blue shirt and Blue Pant was admitted at Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, Civil Lines, Delhi vide MLC No. 1304/22 dated 21.06.2022. During the treatment Doctor declared him dead. In this regard a DD No.33-A dated 21.06.2022 U/s 174 Cr.PC has been lodged at PS Lahori Gate, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mourtry, Delhi for 72 hours.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
PS Lahori Gate, Delhi
Ph. 011-23953776, 23958234
DP/2496/N/2022

WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NO.: WR-TP1-1-2022

In connection to Tender No. WR-TP1-1-2022 with closing date 19.07.22 published on Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) website i.e., www.ireps.gov.in on 14.06.2022, following amendment in Pre-Bid Conference date and Tender closing date is issued with immediate effect.

| Tender No. | Closing Date | Pre-Bid Conference Date, time & venue | Description of Cost | Estimated Cost | Empanelment Period | Earnest Money Deposit |
|---------------|--------------|--|---|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| WR-TP1-1-2022 | 26.07.22 | 06.07.22, 10:30 hrs. SAMVAD Hall, 2nd Floor, GM Building, Churchgate, Mumbai - 100020. | Engagement of Third-Party Inspection Agencies for Goods Procurement in Indian Railways. Engagement of Third-Party Inspection Agencies for Goods Procurement in Indian Railways. | Rs. 1500 Cr. | 3 years. | Rs. 10000000/- |

Interested eligible Third-Party Inspection Agencies are advised to participate in the e-tender for Inspection of Goods in Indian Railways. All tender related details are available on website www.ireps.gov.in, and only Digitally signed Online Submitted bids are sought for this. For any further information/clarification please contact Dy Chief Materials Manager (Chg), Western Railway, Telephone No. 9004490765, Email ID: smm8@wr.railnet.gov.in.

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New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, NOIDA-201301 (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

| S. No. | Job No./Work Name | Amount |
|--------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | 21/D(H)/GM/D.D.(H)-I/2022-23, M/o Park (R/o Boundary Wall in Shramik Kunj Park Sector-66) Noida | Cost Rs. 32.54 Lacs |
| 2. | 22/D(H)/GM/D.D.(H)-I/2022-23, M/o Green Belt (R/o Boundary Wall near village Mamura in Sector-66) Noida | Cost Rs. 30.98 Lacs |
| 3. | 09/D(H)/GM/D.D.(H)-II/2022-23, M/o Park (R/o Boundary Wall, Grill Painting Near B-92, F-60, G-60 and G Block Police Chowki in Sector-44) Noida | Cost Rs. 35.94 Lacs |
| 4. | 13/D(H)/GM/D.D.(H)-II/2022-23, M/o Park (R/o Boundary Wall and C/o Footpath in Park of 5% Abadi Sector-116) Noida | Cost Rs. 32.44 Lacs |
| 5. | 09/D(H)/GM/D.D.(H)-III/2022-23, M/o RSP and Green Belt Central Verge Div-III, One year maintenance (Subhead Supply of Tractor Trolley & Water Tanker) | Cost Rs. 41.91 Lacs |

Which can be uploaded by date 14.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 15.07.2022 at 11.00 AM.

| S. No. | Job No./Work Name | Amount |
|--------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | 57/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2021-22, M/o Green Belt (R/o Boundary Wall and Fencing Concertina Coil in B-10A Sector-34, near Supertech Capetown Sector-74, R/o Footpath in B-8 Sector-34 and R/o SFRC Grill in Sec-104) Noida | Cost Rs. 48.25 Lacs |

Which can be uploaded by date 07.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 08.07.2022 at 11.00 AM.

Director (Hort.)
Noida
Office : Sector - 39, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender No.: 13-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Dated 30.06.2022

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Name of Work with its location | Setting up maintenance Depot for trainsets at shakurbasti Delhi |
| 2 | Approx. Cost of work | Rs. 34971445.8/- |
| 3 | Earnest Money Deposit | Rs. 324900.00/- (payment mode available on IREPS website) |
| 4 | E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period | 15.07.2022 (00.00 Hrs.) to 29.07.2022 (15.00 Hrs.) |
| 5 | E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time | 29.07.2022 (15.00 hrs.) |
| 6 | Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen | www.ireps.gov.in |

1609/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 30 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5' 4", **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Only Brown Color Banyan & Bare Feetted, was found Dead at Outer Ring Road, Geeta Colony Fly Over Jheel Cut Delhi on 27.06.2022.

In this regard a FIR No. 565/22, U/s 279/304A IPC, Dated 27.06.2022 has been registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. The Dead Body of Deceased is Kept/Preserved for 72 Hours in Subzi Mandi Mourtry for Identification.

Any person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
Ph.:011-23977100, 8750870121
DP/2502/N/2022(UIDB)

EASTERN RAILWAY

Following E-tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General)/Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Remote Control Building, Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700 014 in connection with the following works:

Sl.No.-1. Tender No.: ELEG-OT-903-2021-22-R, Date: 28.06.2022. Particulars of work: Electrical works and new connection in CSTE/CON's office at 10th floor of NKG building, 14th Strand Road, Kolkata-700001. **Tender value:** ₹ 35,92,019.20. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 71,900. **Sl.No.-2. Tender No.: ELEG-OT-921-2022-23, Date: 28.06.2022. Particulars of work:** (i) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of VRF type ductable Air-conditioning plant of capacity 20HP x 2 Nos. and 20HP x 1 No., (Make: M/s LG Electronics) at RCC Control/SDAH and TPC Control/SDAH respectively for three (03) years. (ii) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Multi V plus II system Air-Conditioning package unit of capacity 32HP x 2 Nos. (Total = 64 HP) with one set AHU of 53TR (Make: M/s LG Electronics) at Burn Unit/B.R. Singh Hospital for three (03) years. **Tender value:** ₹ 15,89,195.68. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 31,800. **Tender Submission Start Date:** 05.07.2022 (for Sl. No. 1 & 2 each). **Tender Submission End Date:** 19.07.2022 at 14.00 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1 & 2 each). **Tender Bid Opening Date:** 19.07.2022 after 14.00 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1 & 2 each). Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website : www.ireps.gov.in.

(SDAH-67/2022-23)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.e.r.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway)
[Eastern Railway Headquarter](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION: SPORTS BRANCH
CHHATRASAL STADIUM: MODEL TOWN: DELI-II-110 009

No. DE/41/Sports/2022/1305 Dated:- 27/06/2022

PRESS NOTICE

SELECTION TRIALS FOR PARTICIPATION OF DELHI BADMINTON, PARA BADMINTON, TABLE-TENNIS AND PARA TABLE-TENNIS TEAMS IN INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Tokyo Sport Benefits Corporation, the Tokyo Badminton Association and the Tokyo Table-Tennis Federation will be hosting the "14th Asia Junior Sports Exchange Games 2022" to be held from September 14th to September 20th, 2022 in Tokyo.

This Government intends to nominate its Badminton and Table-Tennis teams for participation in these Tournaments.

The entire details in regard to selection trails, financial burden, age category etc. arc available on website <https://www.edudel.nic.in/mis/misadmin/frmCircular.aspx> and can be downloaded from it.

Last date of receiving entries is 05.07.2022.

Asha Aggarwal
Dy. Director of Education (Sports)
011-27005201

DIP/Shabdarth/0171/22-23

Timings
DELHI

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| FRIDAY, JUL. 01 | RISE 05:28 | SET 19:24 |
| | RISE 07:03 | SET 21:22 |
| SATURDAY, JUL. 02 | RISE 05:28 | SET 19:24 |
| | RISE 07:59 | SET 21:59 |
| SUNDAY, JUL. 03 | RISE 05:28 | SET 19:24 |
| | RISE 08:55 | SET 22:33 |

Delhi Weather

| | | |
|------------|-----|-----|
| | max | min |
| Delhi City | 29 | 28 |
| Safdarjung | 29 | 28 |
| Palam | 28 | 26 |

Delhi Palam Today
32°C The weather will be little warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C A warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be comfortable. Chances of rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Constable attacked, 3 held
NEW DELHI
Three persons have been arrested for attacking a Delhi police head constable while he was checking vehicles in west Delhi. PTI

Traffic grinds to a halt as monsoon hits Delhi

City records highest single-day rain in 14 years for the month of June; Sisodia says situation much better than previous years

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With the Capital receiving its first monsoon showers on Thursday, waterlogging was reported in many areas, including the Pragati Maidan tunnel, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on June 19, and its surrounding roads, leading to traffic congestion in many parts of Delhi.

The 1.3-km-long tunnel, which is part of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor project, is aimed at providing improved connectivity between the central and eastern parts of the Capital with the satellite towns of Noida and Ghaziabad.

The project was entirely funded by the Centre and has been built by the Public Works Department (PWD) at a cost of over ₹920 crore.

One of the men working at the site said the waterlogging was caused due to plastic waste clogging up the drains.

"Two teams of five people each were involved in manually removing the waste from the drains. One set of workers attended to the waterlogging at the stretch towards ITO, while another was deployed on the stretch towards Sarai Kale Khan," he said.

CITY IN DELUGE

Delhi got its last Drainage Master Plan in 1976, which is still in use. Since then, the city's population has more than tripled

NO SOLUTION AFTER 11 YEARS OF COMMISSIONING A NEW DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN

September 2011: Delhi govt. signs an MoU with IIT Delhi for a drainage master plan

July 2018: IIT Delhi submits the final master plan

August 1, 2018: Delhi Chief Minister directs departments



Vehicles plying through the recently inaugurated tunnel near Pragati Maidan which was waterlogged after rain on Thursday. PTI

to implement the master plan

May 2019: A Technical Expert Committee (TEC) formed in December 2011 to coordinate with IIT Delhi holds its first meeting, where TEC Chairman expresses concern about unverified data provided by

various departments to IIT Delhi

August 5, 2021: The TEC says the master plan is "not worth considering for recommendation" and "may not be accepted" by the Delhi government

Traffic woes
Traffic was affected in various parts of the city due to waterlogging in areas such as Malviya Nagar, Teen Murti Marg and the road connecting Hauz Khas with Press Enclave Marg.

At least four ambulances were stuck in a traffic jam near AIIMS around 1 p.m.

due to major waterlogging under the flyover next to the medical institute where several vehicles were reported to have broken down.

Remedial actions
Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who chaired a meeting of the concerned officials on Thursday, said, "Today Delhiites did not have to face the problem of waterlog-

ging in most places."

He added that out of the seven traffic spots that are reported to be severely waterlogged every monsoon, six places did not face any problems this year – ITO-WHO building, Minto bridge, Zakhira underpass, Jahangirpuri Metro Station road, Karala Kanjhawala road and Loni roundabout.

also directed the concerned officers to visit multiple spots to identify waterlogged areas and take immediate remedial action and submit a report for the same.

According to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, desilting works in its jurisdiction were completed well before the monsoon. The PWD also stated that it had desilted most of its drains.

However, roads in several colonies in the city were flooded with rainwater causing inconvenience to residents.

"The road opposite my house gets waterlogged every year due to excessive rain and we face difficulties in crossing this road. There are potholes that get filled with water, making them invisible to pedestrians and commuters. This happens mostly due to the clogged drains in our area," said Smriti Goel, a resident of Safdarjung Enclave.

A total of 116 mm of rainfall was recorded in the Capital on Thursday, which is the heaviest rainfall recorded in a day for the month of June in 14 years.

Rainfall recorded below 15 mm is considered 'light', between 15 and 64.5 mm 'mod-

erate', between 64.5 mm and 115.5 mm 'heavy', and between 115.6 and 204.4 'very heavy'.

The heavy rain also brought down the maximum temperature in the city, which had been hovering around the 40 degrees Celsius mark for the past few days, to 29.4 degrees Celsius, which was seven degrees below normal and the lowest recorded maximum in Delhi in the past four months.

Although all parts of the city received rain, Safdarjung and Lodhi road weather stations received over 100 mm of rainfall, while other weather stations at Palam, Pusa and Najafgarh received 31.8 mm, 44.5 mm and 10.5 mm respectively.

More rain expected
The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an 'orange' alert, warning of moderate rain in the city on Friday. A 'yellow' alert is in place for light rain on the subsequent six days.

IMD's bulletin for July 1 has predicted "generally cloudy sky with rain/thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 32 and 24 degrees Celsius respectively".



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Opinion | Where women make their way through the world as freely as men
bit.ly/3nA7PgV

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Minors among 3 held for firing

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three persons, including two juveniles, were held for shooting at a jail officer's residence and robbing a bike, the Delhi police said on Thursday. Subham Balian, 20, was arrested and the two juveniles apprehended after a brief exchange of fire on Wednesday in north Delhi.

'Alternatives to single-use plastic costlier'

Vendors say price of paper cups has shot up due to increase in demand

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

A day ahead of the ban on 19 single-use plastic (SUP) items, many parts of the city saw wide use of such products. Several eateries using these items said the ban will increase their expenditure as the alternatives are costlier and not economically viable for them.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has formed 15 teams and the Revenue Department has formed 33 teams for enforcement of the ban from Friday. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will also be part of the implementation.

Businesses engaged in import, stocking and sale of



Not many small businesses may switch to alternatives, say some. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

SUP products will be shut down and penalties will also be imposed on them, the DPCC said. The 19 banned items include plastic cups, spoons, forks, knives, straws and plates, among other things.

On Thursday, there was a

stack of plastic cups at 21-year-old Mohammad Junaid's roadside shop that sells juice and shakes near the Delhi Assembly. He said paper cups were already more expensive than plastic ones and the price of paper cups has shot up further with the increased demand.

Expensive alternatives
"About a month ago, I bought a pack of 50 large paper cups for ₹120. Three days ago, I got the same for ₹150," Mr. Junaid said, adding that the government should control the prices.

Sudanshu Sejwal, 33, runs Chai Kortyard, a cafe in Lado Sarai. He has bought a new set of paper cups, which would not get soggy while

holding shakes and coolers. "This is a three-ply paper cup, which is strong enough and is used in high-end cafes. It costs about ₹7 per piece compared to ₹4 for the plastic cup we are using now," Mr. Sejwal said.

Based on the recent buying choices, distributors of plastic items say not many small businesses will switch to alternatives.

Yogesh, 37, a distributor of plastic items, said the ban is affecting his business. He, however, added, "As the price of paper alternatives are at least 50% more than plastic ones, not many people are buying them. The ban will be difficult to implement until we have quality alternatives at cheaper rates."

DU queer collectives fight for recognition

Face difficulties as colleges don't formally acknowledge our groups, say students

SV VAISHNAVI
VICTORIA LAVELLE
NEW DELHI

Colleges across Delhi University have seen a rise in queer collectives over the past few years that have helped start a conversation about the need to create a safe space for LGBTQIA+ people.

While these collectives aim to provide affirmative platforms to empower queer students, those running these platforms say they face hurdles due to the lack of official recognition from their college authorities.

The Hindu College Queer Collective (HCQC) is one such collective fighting to create a safe space for queer students who remain vulnerable to bullying and

harassment.

"The 'Straight Hindu Pride', a group on Instagram, started curating posts that described queer people as 'mentally ill'. This page is handled by some students of Hindu College, which shows how unsafe the campus is for us," said Ash of HCQC. She said the problem continued because their college was yet to officially recognise HCQC as a student body and lack of action against the students running the Instagram page.

Ash, who is gender-fluid and transmasculine, said he had faced minor bullying at the college, "Fortunately, my department is supportive and so is my family."

Those who run the queer collective of Jesus and Mary

College, Pehchaan, also talk about the problems they face as the group is not officially recognised.

Shivangi*, a queer student from Jesus and Mary College said, "Our seniors initiated 'Pehchaan' in 2018. It was unofficial to the extent that even the students weren't aware of it. When they tried to conduct informal meetings, there was a backlash from the administration. They were asked not to conduct any meetings and till today Pehchaan remains unofficial."

Among the more recently formed queer collectives is the LGBTQIA+ Affirmative of the Shri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce.

The students running this group said they will soon ap-

proach the administration for official recognition.

Miranda House is the first and only DU college to have an officially recognised queer collective. Sanya*, a third year student at the college, said, "The Miranda campus is a relatively safer space for queer people than most other public places, even though queerphobia and the lack of awareness exist."

She added, "If it were truly inclusive, we would have reservations for trans students, gender-neutral washrooms, usage of gender-neutral terms to address students, and teachers who identify as queer."

(*Names changed to protect identity)

Man claims wife confined, pleads for her release

Petitioner's wife is in Oman, say police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A man has approached the Delhi High Court seeking production of his wife, who has allegedly been kept in illegal confinement along with several other women.

A Vacation Bench of Justices Sanjeev Narula and Neena Bansal Krishna, which was informed by the police that the woman is in Oman, issued notice to the State and sought a status report.

The man, represented through advocate Lokesh Ahlawat, said his wife got a phone call in April, offering her a job at a hotel in Paharganj here. The plea added that the couple belonged to a poor family and the caller told them that initially the woman would be provided with a job, and the husband would be given a job later. On May 29, the woman came down to Delhi from Bihar and informed her husband that she was staying in a hotel in Paharganj. However, thereafter, her number



became unreachable.

On June 8, the man's wife called him saying she was kept chained in a big hall along with several other women and they were being treated like animals and given meals only once a day, the plea submitted, adding that he feared that she was being confined in a brothel.

The man said he has lodged a complaint with the Delhi Police Commissioner on June 10. However, no action has been taken. The counsel for the State, on instructions from a police inspector, told the court that as per the inquiry conducted, the petitioner's wife is in Oman but is jobless. The court listed the matter for further hearing on July 7.

Delhi govt. to discontinue rebate on circle rates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Property transactions in the city will become costlier as the Delhi government has decided to discontinue the 20% rebate on circle rates from July 1, officials said on Thursday.

The decision was taken as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided and the city's economy is recovering fast, they said. The rebate scheme was introduced in February 2021 to revive the economy and help people hit by the lockdown.

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LATE SRI ATHI KRISHNA CHETTIAR

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Shiv Sainiks' hearts still beat for their *wagh*

39 Shiv Sena MLAs breaking ranks over Uddhav Thackeray's alleged failure to pursue the outfit's core Hindutva ideology has sparked a groundswell of support for the beleaguered party chief, reports **Sonam Saigal**. It remains to be seen if the Thackerays can channel the popular sentiment to revive the party's flagging fortunes

Around 9.50 p.m. on June 22, shouts of "Uddhav tum aage badho, hum tumhare saath hain (Uddhav keep moving ahead, we are with you)" and "Kaun aala re kaun aala, Shiv Sena cha wagh aala (See who is coming, Shiv Sena's tiger is coming)" rent the air as hundreds of loyal Shiv Sainiks carrying placards and party flags lined the 15-km stretch from Malabar Hill to Bandra in Mumbai braving the rain and fighting back tears.

It was a spontaneous congregation of party workers to express their love and support for 61-year-old Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray who had decided to vacate the Maharashtra Chief Minister's official residence, Varsha, along with his wife Rashmi and sons Aaditya and Tejas, and move to his personal residence, Matoshree, following a revolt by 39 party MLAs led by Eknath Shinde.

Earlier, in a virtual address, an emotional Mr. Thackeray had said: "The sad part for me is that my own people have lost their trust in me. I considered them my own. Tell me that I should quit on my face and I will resign."

The resignation finally came on June 29, shortly after the Supreme Court refused to stay the floor test ordered by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari for the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition — comprising the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress — to prove its majority in the Assembly. Mr. Thackeray announced his resignation both as the Chief Minister and Member of the Legislative Council, but pledged to continue to work for the Sena.

The rebel MLAs breaking ranks over Mr. Thackeray's alleged failure to pursue the outfit's core Hindutva ideology to keep the coalition government afloat has triggered a wave of sympathy and a groundswell of support for the beleaguered Sena president from party workers. Shiv Sainiks on the ground say they have pledged their allegiance to the Thackerays and will firmly stand behind them come what may. The party workers say only the Thackerays can take the Sena's agenda and legacy forward and everyone is thankful for the stellar manner in which the former Chief Minister guided the State through the three waves of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sainiks have also backed Mr. Thackeray's interpretation of Hindutva that works for the welfare and betterment of everyone and slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for claiming to be the sole torchbearer of the ideology in the country. However, it remains to be seen if the Thackerays can channel the popular sentiment to revive the party's flagging fortunes in the State.

Question mark over true heir

With Mr. Shinde, who was sworn in as Maharashtra's new Chief Minister on Thursday with the support of the BJP, staking claim to further the agenda of "Balasaheb's Shiv Sena", a question mark hangs over who is the true heir to Sena founder Bal Thackeray's legacy.

"Even though Uddhavji has resigned as Chief Minister, he has and will always remain the president of our party. He will continue to serve his people like he did before he was made the CM," says 80-year-old Govind Koregaonkar, who witnessed the inauguration of the Sena's first shakha (branch) in 1966 by Bal Thackeray at Gangadhar Niwas on Gokhale Road in Dadar.

Jogging his memory, Mr. Koregaonkar says he remembers Balasaheb saying he wanted to set up a shakha in every ward so that the branches of the big tree (the party) could be accessible to all. "Balasaheb held my hand and told me, 'Govind each of these shakhas will work to build a strong government and keep it alive. The party workers will help improve the lives of everyone in the spheres of education, employment, health and social harmony.' The Sena has been doing that for decades and the vision with which the shakhas were started has been ably carried forward by Uddhavji and Aadityaji," he says.

Professor Sanjay Patil, a researcher at Mumbai University whose doctoral thesis tracks the Sena's political journey from 1985, says the party was started more as a movement than a political outfit. "The Sena emerged in 1966 to fight for the cause of Marathi *asmita* (pride) and employment for Marathis. Bal Thackeray established the Sena with the motto: '80% *samajkaran* [social work] and 20% *rajkaran* [political work]'. In the late 1980s, it made Hindutva its main agenda, but the ideology's propagation was limited to the Mumbai and Thane belts. Riding on its nativist agenda, the Sena soon became a significant political force, raising its tally from one MLA in 1985 to 55 in the 1990s. The reason for the party's swift rise was the internal weakening of the Congress and the Hindutva wave sweeping the country. The Sena gained traction through its shakhas," Prof. Patil says.

Sanjay Bhagat, who worked his way up the ranks to become a shakha pramukh, says, "Balasaheb fought for our identity, represented the Marathi *manos* and stood for our welfare. Now,



Uddhavji has widened that definition and included everyone in it. He is the head of our family. They [rebels] broke the trust and ditched us. Uddhavji represents what it means to stand for Hindutva. It does not mean to only be with Hindus. It means to be with everyone, irrespective of their religion and identity. The rebels have taken advantage of Mr. Thackeray because he is a decent man. They don't understand that the party exists not because of them but they exist because of the party."

Ashraf Khan, a tempo driver who became a Sena worker 15 years ago, says the party's motto hasn't changed in all these years. "Its focus is only on public welfare and good governance. The aim of all party workers is to make the lives of people better. Today, one can see that the party is run by educated and decent leaders who care for the people. I have always supported the Thackerays and will continue to do so."

Mr. Khan terms the rebel MLAs "crooks who left in fear of raids" by the Enforcement Directorate, the Income Tax Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation. "There is no place for cowards in the party," he says.

Pandurang Pawar, who works closely with the Thackerays at Sena Bhavan, the party's headquarters in Dadar, says the main objective of a shakha is to make amenities accessible to all. "For people living in poor neighbourhoods, the focus is on gutter, meter and water. When a *nullah* (drain) gets clogged, an electricity meter is tampered with or there is shortage of water, party workers help the aggrieved and resolve their problems. The shakha also works to build social harmony by resolving fights and disagreements among family members. For middle-class city dwellers, sainiks help them secure ownership of their flats from builders or settle contracts with shopkeepers and businessmen. In upmarket areas, steps are taken to implement solid waste management measures in co-operative housing societies."

Currently, there are 227 shakhas in

Just because Mr. Thackeray is soft-spoken, focuses on social welfare and good governance, and does not target burqa-clad women and men wearing skullcaps, it does mean that he is following 'soft Hindutva'

KIRAN TAWADE
Party worker from Lalbaug

Mumbai, one in each civic ward, with members ranging in age from 25 to 80. Last year, the number of wards was increased to 236 ahead of the polls to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The Sena is now in the process of setting up branches in the new wards. Each shakha has a shakha pramukh (head), a mahila pramukh (woman) and a yuva pramukh (youth): a leadership model devised by Mr. Aaditya Thackeray after he became a Cabinet Minister.

"The Sena ideology is spread through the shakhas. Sainiks have a different level of loyalty and commitment to the Thackerays. Everyone feels connected to them as there is no middleman. They don't need to worry about the political party because it is attached to the organisation. For sainiks, if anything happens to the Thackerays, they consider it a personal attack. At present, they feel the family is under attack and it is being threatened," says Prof. Patil.

'Humanitarian approach'

Party workers say they are drawn to the Sena not only because of its focus on social welfare programmes but also because of the warm and friendly approach of the Thackerays.

Sonali Mhatre, a mahila pramukh in Chunarabatti, says, "Uddhavji makes you feel like you are a part of his family. No one has ever felt they were interacting with a politician even before he became the Chief Minister. There is no arrogance and high-handedness. Uddhavji and Aadityaji are both down to earth. All of us were crying when he left the

Every time he [Uddhav Thackeray] appeared on TV to warn us about the rising cases of COVID-19 and not to lower our guard, it felt like the head of a family assuring everyone that 'I am with you, everything will be alright'

PALLAVI AROLKAR
Mahila pramukh in Khar West

Chief Minister's official residence."

Gopal Khadye, a shakha pramukh, says, "I have been working for the Sena since I was 13 years old. I used to run around the whole city and put up Balasaheb's posters. It is because of him that we have Maharashtra and Mumbai. When I was appointed the pramukh, Uddhavji told me, 'I know you are loyal to the party but what about your family? How will you look after them? What work will you do to take care of them?' Which Chief Minister does that? Who shows interest in knowing about a shakha pramukh's personal life?" he asks.

Pallavi Arolkar, a mahila pramukh in Khar West, says Mr. Thackeray has an endearing personality. "Every time he appeared on TV to warn us about the rising cases of COVID-19 and not to lower our guard, it felt like the head of a family assuring everyone that 'I am with you, everything will be alright.'"

Arif Husain, a shakha pramukh in Nagpada, says he was with the Samajwadi Party but decided to join the Sena last year. "It is because of the work they do. The party's approach has changed so much. My father was in politics, I have watched parties and politicians very closely, but the way Mr. Thackeray conducts himself, it feels like you are listening to a family member. No politician today will give up power like this."

Mr. Husain says he was impressed with the way all sainiks came together to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. "They ensured the availability of beds, medicines and oxygen cylinders. Both Uddhavji and Aadityaji wanted to move

forward by taking everyone along. They wanted the city and the State to progress and never divided it on the basis of caste, class or religion." He adds that Mr. Thackeray is a "secular leader" as the same quantity of fruits and dry fruits distributed to Hindus during Deepavali was given to Muslims during Ramadan.

Mr. Pawar recalls that the sainiks worked round the clock to keep the morale of people high during lockdowns. "They worked closely with the BMC to clean and sanitise homes and toilets."

'Not practising soft Hindutva'

Party workers have also rallied behind Mr. Thackeray over accusations of the party chief abandoning Hindutva and ignoring its basic tenets. Deepak Bagwe, a shakha pramukh in Worli for the past 15 years, rubbishes claims of the Sena not being a Hindutva party. "Just because we support and stand for everyone, and do not discriminate on the grounds of religion, it does not mean that we are practising 'soft Hindutva'. We have not left Hindutva, it is still our ideology and we work for the welfare and betterment of everyone. Humanity reigns above all religions."

He says Balasaheb Thackeray had taught them whoever lives in Hindustan, be it Muslims, north Indians or south Indians, all are one and should not be treated differently. "In my area, people from all religions co-exist peacefully. If Eknath Shinde had a problem with Uddhav *saheb's* Hindutva and found resonance with the BJP's approach to Hindutva, he should have left the party the day the Sena severed ties with the BJP after the polls. Why did he wait for so long?" Mr. Bagwe says.

Sending out a warning to Mr. Shinde, he says the BJP only believes in playing divisive politics. "They believe in dividing and ruling. If the Sena does not believe in upholding its Hindutva principles, then why did Uddhavji change Aurangabad's name to Sambhajanagar, after a great Maratha warrior? Aadityaji just returned from Ayodhya after visit-

Cloud of uncertainty looms: (Clockwise from top) The office of the Shiv Sena's branch in Worli, the Assembly constituency represented by Aaditya Thackeray, wears a deserted look; a policeman stands guard outside the Sena's office in Prabhadevi; and women sainiks raise slogans in support of party president Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai. ■EMMANUEL YOGINI

ing the Ram temple. Why would he do that if the Sena did not believe in practising Hindutva? I stand by Uddhavji and applaud his decision to step down as Chief Minister," he says.

Kiran Tawade, a party worker from Lalbaug, says, "Just because Mr. Thackeray is soft-spoken, focuses on social welfare and good governance, and does not target burqa-clad women and men wearing skullcaps, it does mean that he is following 'soft Hindutva'." She adds that his approach to Hindutva is pure and he is fully committed to it. "All those MLAs who have left our party were scared of the raids and summons by the Central probe agencies. No sudden love or loyalty blossomed in them for Hindutva. Eknath Shinde wants us to prove our belief in the values of Hindutva... this is not acceptable. Shiv Sainiks lead by example and will continue doing the good work for one and all."

Ramesh Rawal, a Sena functionary for the past 13 years in Byculla, says Balasaheb Thackeray had introduced the Hindutva ideology in Indian politics and now his son is being accused of being soft on Hindutva. "This is atrocious and will never be accepted. We have always worked and helped everyone irrespective of their religion and will continue to do so. Hindutva is in the blood and veins of every Shiv Sainik. No one needs to prove anything to anyone."

Facing a fresh storm

With Mr. Shinde's exit along with a majority of the party's MLAs, the Sena finds itself at a political crossroads again. The present crisis is probably the biggest challenge to its survival since the death of Balasaheb Thackeray in 2012.

Highlighting that the Sena is not facing a rebellion for the first time, Mr. Rawal says the party will weather this storm too. In its 56-year history, the Sena has witnessed the exit of party stalwarts such as Chhagan Bhujbal (1991), Narayan Rane (2005) and Raj Thackeray (2006). "Yet again, we will come out of this crisis stronger. We will never abandon the head of our family," he says.

Suryakant Koli, a party worker for the past 30 years, says, "Chhagan, Raj *bhau* and Narayan *saheb* left us. We have still survived and we will continue to thrive even after Shinde's departure. This is not an attack on Uddhav *saheb*, it is an attack on all of us."

With the Sena still enjoying tremendous support at the grassroots level, it is too early to write off the party's chances of survival. Rehana Dalvi, a party worker for the last eight years, says she will be loyal to the Thackerays till her last breath. "I don't care who leaves the party. It has survived betrayal in the past and will emerge stronger again."

The 1943 film set the template for Hindi films. A new edition of the book on the life and times of Ashok Kumar



Versatile (Left) Ashok Kumar and Mumtaz Shanti in *Kismet* and (below) with Meena Kumari in *Parineeta* • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Creating his own *kismet*

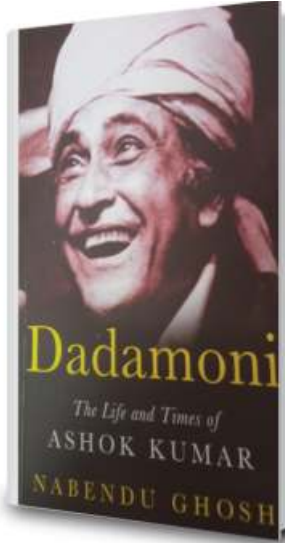
•• ZIYA US SALAM

There are stars. Then there are stars. For years in Hindi cinema, the credits of many films ended with the words 'And Pran'. So powerful was Pran's following among cinemagoers that many hurried to watch a film right from the opening credits just to experience the thrill of watching the name, 'And Pran'.

At the other extreme was the venerable Ashok Kumar. Long after he ceased to be the leading man in Hindi films, many movies' credits began with the name 'Ashok Kumar' even if he had a small role in the film. By the 1980s when he was in his mid-70s, he had cultivated a fan following among a generation of teenage cinemagoers.

Youngsters knew if a film starred Ashok Kumar, he would be playing a loveable patriarch or an uncle, sharing words of wisdom and leaving the stage clear for the lead pair. Ashok Kumar became probably the first *sutradhar* of a Hindi serial when he took up the role of a narrator in the epochal *Hum Log* on Doordarshan. The serial, narrating the story of three middle-class sisters was engag-

ing, and each episode ended with Dadamoni's words of love and longing. Understandably, many writers have sought to pen barely concealed hagiographies masquerading as biographies of Ashok Kumar. Noted script writer Nabendu Ghosh understood the venerable actor did not need any brownie points from critics or writers. He penned *Dadamoni: The Life and Times of Ashok Kumar* (published by Speaking Tiger), that has turned out to be different from an average biography of a Hindi film star. Ashok Kumar was not your average hero, and the biography does justice to the man, his mood, his merits and



idiosyncrasies.

When Ashok Kumar was born in, 1911, the bioscope was a rage. The bioscopewallah would come to middle-class dwellings and youngsters would leave everything for a few moments of stolen pleasure. Ashok Kumar was no different and early on, he decided the world of cinema was better for

him than the confines of law and courtrooms. He came to be Bombay to be a film director – without any training or godfather; only an unshakeable gift in his ability to turn out his own fare for the bioscopewallah.

As luck would have it, he ended up becoming a hero. Himanshu Rai, the founder of Bombay Talkies, convinced him to sign *Achhut Kanya*. It was not easy though. Ashok Kumar was acting opposite Devika Rani, a huge star herself, and the wife of his boss! Incidentally, it was Rai who rechristened Ashok Kumar Ganguly as Ashok Kumar.

A few years later came *Kismet*, then *Mahal* with the unforgettable *alaap* in 'Aayega Aanevala'; then *Kanoon*, *Parineeta* and *Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi*. The man who was once happy to draw a salary of ₹1,000 a month as a lawyer had now graduated to charging ₹100,000 for a film!

The dexterity of Nabendu Ghosh lies in bringing out the man in love with his craft. While other writers would have reeled out the names of films and details of their shooting like the weather report on television, he strings events as though every moment – even the seemingly disparate ones – in Ashok Kumar's life be- searched the other, turning them into moments of joy.

For instance, the way he talks of the friendship of actor Iftikhar with Dadamoni, and how he taught Dadamoni the rules of chess only to lose to his protégé one day! Or how the author himself roped in Ashok Kumar for Bimal Roy's *Bandini*; how Ashok Kumar once told famous Urdu writer Saadat Hasan Manto his first born would be a son but he won't survive and Manto was left speechless as that was exactly what had happened.

Hailed as a versatile actor and a charming conversationalist, Ashok Kumar was a man of many merits. He dabbled in astrology, numerology, held the painting brush with flair and was happy planning the move of his pawns and knights on a 64-square board. He loved his horses and cars and knew how to live life to the fullest.

Nabendu Ghosh's book, which is a new edition of the book originally published in 1995, is filled with nostalgia. Who wouldn't want to have a bit more of Dadamoni?



SAHMAT celebrates 75 years of Independence

The exhibition Hum Sab Sahmat is built around the format of 1991's Images and Words, which too was hosted by the Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust



Voices that touch Vocalists Shubha Mudgal and T M Krishna (File photo) • S.SUBRAMANIAM

•• AMARJOT KAUR

To celebrate 75 years of Independence, SAHMAT (Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust) has lined up a series of events. The Hum Sab Sahmat exhibition will feature texts and images by over 200 writers, artists, poets and photographers along with live concerts by classical musicians Subha Mudgal and TM Krishna from July 2 to August 14 in New Delhi.

One of the founding trustees of Sahmat, Sohail Hashmi, shares that this year's exhibit has been built around the format of 1991's 'Images and Words'. "About 31 years ago, Sahmat had hosted a portable exhibition, called Images and Words, where over 360 works of prominent artists, poets and writers were displayed and taken to over 30 different cities across India. "The works were mounted on gunny panels," he recalls.

Sohail says most of the artists, who had collaborated three decades ago have joined again. They include photographers Ram Rehman and Parthiv Shah, writers Mridula Garg and Malini Bhattacharya, artists Gulam Sheikh, Sudhir Patwardhan, Orijit Sen, Vivan Sundaram, Neelima Sheikh and Veer Munshi. Their works were featured in Images and Words and

will now be in Hum Sab Sahmat.

The idea behind hosting the exhibition after 31 years, says Hashmi, is to see how the creative community visualises India 75 years after freedom. "This year, 261 artists and writers have contributed; we also have a section for children, where the works of students from Loktantrashala - School For Democracy, Rajasthan, will be showcased," he adds.

The exhibition will start at 5pm on Saturday and will be followed by Subha Mudgal's performance, where she will be accompanied by Aneesh Pradhan and Sudhir Nayak. On July 9, at 6p.m., musical group Dastaan Live will stage Kabira. The performance is a modern reinterpretation of songs from the play *Kabira Khada Bazaar Mein*, directed by MK Raina. On July 30, Carnatic vocalist, writer, activist, author and Ramon Magsaysay awardee, TM Krishna will perform.

Also, from August 10 to 14, screenwriter-director Saeed Mirza's films – *Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan*, *Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyon Aata Hai*, *Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro*, *Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho* and *Naseem* – will be screened from 6 p.m. onwards.

All programmes at Jawahar Bhawan, Rajendra Prasad Road.



Amir Khusrau's ghazal gets an audio-visual treat

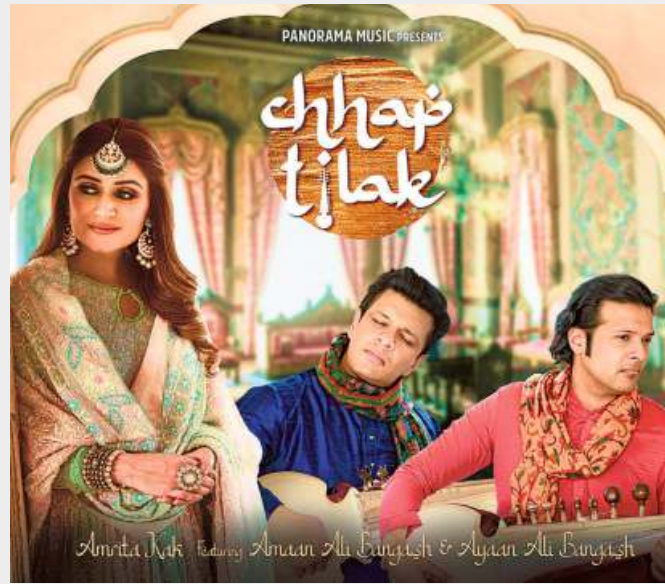
Panorama music has released a romantic rendition of *Chhap tilak sab cheeni* sung by Amrita Kak with the melodious sarod of Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan Bangash

•• MANJARI SINHA

The aerial view of the picturesque Amer Fort in Jaipur, with the camera zooming on the luxurious royal ambience of its indoor splendour, makes a perfect background for vocalist Amrita Kak and the young sarodias of the Senia Bangash Gharana, Amaan and Ayaan Ali, dressed in the regal costumes performing the popular composition of Amir Khusrau.

Amrita began her singing career with the 'Just chill' song from Salman Khan's 'Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya' and went on to sing many other chartbuster film songs, whereas the young brothers Amaan and Ayaan Ali are known to be taking forward the classical legacy of their illustrious grandfather Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan and father Ustad Amjad Ali Khan.

"It is challenging to work on old and popular compositions like this which are sung by big names like Reshma and Farida



Panorama releases Chhap tilak song with sarod players Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Khanam, etc. We tried to attempt it as our *Haziri* (paying respect to the composer) in our own way, not for the name or money but just with an aim to

create some nice, appealing music," says Amaan.

The soothing sound of ragas like Yaman, Bihag and the shades of Kalyan played so feel-

ingly on sarod by the gifted sarodias, enhances not just the lyrics sung by Amrita but enlivens the whole ambience created artistically by the director.

"Our sarod doesn't have words, so when our turn came we tried to say it through ragas," explains Amaan. Ayaan adds, "Every raga has its own world, its own colour and fragrance. In *Chhap tilak*, Yaman gives us an open space. We brought Bihag into it because both have the same swaras, with the difference in *chalan* (its gait)." The ragas bring their own flavour to the well-known musical composition, enhancing its '*Ruhaniyat*', the mysticism.

Both the brothers confess that enhancing a composition through sarod is totally different. It needs an imaginative and creative perspective to ragas. Aman clarifies, "It is like making a bouquet, adding flowers one by one; Amrita puts one, Ayaan adds his own and then I add another..."

When asked whether this complementing each other came with the training of classical music that runs in their veins, Amaan says, "It does, but we also want to engage those who do not listen to *Dhrupad* or *Khayal* but may get the fragrance of ragas in old compositions."

For the brothers, it was their first experiment together. They plan to bring together old compositions like *Jugni* and present it as an evening on such themes. They also plan to bring out an album of these compositions, apart from keeping up with their solo and duet classical concerts of Sarod, carrying forward their legacy.

"*Chhap tilak*" has come out beautifully because of the perfect synchronization of music, costumes, and photography/videography. There was technique, commendable musicianship, intellectual grasp and above all enjoyment – that is the greatest gift a musician can bring to his art.



Life in the Shadows

An exhibition of photographs by Chitvan Gill highlights the unseen children of India's poor. It attempts to tell the struggle of millions of children who are forced to work due to crushing poverty. On view till July 14, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. At Art gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, IIC, Max Mueller Marg



Traditional to modern

The Triveni Kala Sangam on Tansen Marg is the venue for two exhibitions this week.

The Raza Foundation has brought together young tribal artists including Balu Jivya Mhase, Kamta Tahed, Lalremruata Varte, Minky Das and Mrimony Debba to showcase their work

under Prakrut. On display till July 10, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Shridharani Art gallery.

At the Triveni Gallery, the Delhi Blue Pottery Trust is displaying ceramic mugs of different hues, shapes, sizes and texture crafted by a host of artists. On till July 5, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily



Celebrating diversity

Chef Richa Johri has curated a special pop-up food event, giving a contemporary interpretation to lesser known traditional Indian dishes. At *Café Breeze*, Hotel AIR Conscious Living by Ahuja Residences, Gurugram. Till July 2; Lunch 12 noon to 2.45 p.m., Dinner 7 p.m. to 10.45 p.m.. Call 708240113

•• ANUJ KUMAR

Amidst the likes of Deepika Padukone, Katrina Kaif, and Kriti Sanon in Bollywood, a girl is making her presence felt by consistently delivering eye-catching performances. She might not be the darling of the tabloids but Nushratt Bharuccha can no longer be dismissed as the perky *Pyar Ka PUNCHnama* girl.

Nushratt was recently seen in *Janhit Mein Jaari* as Manokamna, a small-town girl working in a contraceptive company, and is still basking in the acclaim for her performance.

"I do films that connect with me and take up subjects that resonate with me. There are directors and producers who are making brave films with me. I am taking it one film at a time and am having fun with it," says Nushratt. "Risky roles," she says, hap-

From one end to another

Nushratt Bharuccha on playing characters that have an independent streak

pened "by chance" but now they have become "a choice." "I was the girl who did *Pyar Ka PUNCHnama* when nobody else wanted to do it. I was the girl who said that I am not the heroine but the villain of the piece."

But before that, there was *LSD*, a Dibakar Banerjee experiment that acquired cult status.

"When *LSD* was being made, I didn't even have a portfolio. Even getting cast was big deal. When we were promoting the film, Dibakar said, 'you should not be



surprised if the film doesn't make it to theatres and releases directly on TV: There was no concept of OTT then. I was a bit disheartened but we know what *LSD* became over the years."

For all the talk of the winds of change, Nushratt says the industry starts giving actors similar roles. "I was taken aback when people would meet me with an impression that I knew only as much as I delivered in *Pyar Ka PUNCHnama*. Things changed with *Ajeeb Daastaans*, when people started saying they didn't know that I could do this. Very few people have the vision to see an actor beyond an image. Maybe it is more of a box office thing than the ability aspect," she

Role play Nushratt Bharuccha • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

muses. "I feel the film and character should supersede me as a person."

For Nushratt, who was not trained in acting, getting into character is the most challenging part. "Every time a character is given to me, I find my own ways to embrace it. When *Chhorii* was written, I didn't read the script or watch the Marathi original. I told my director Vishal Furia that horror is such an organic reaction that you can't fake it."

Currently, Nushratt is excited about a female-led film that will be announced soon, apart from a comedy titled *Selfie* that she has finished. And then there is *Ram Setu*, the Akshay Kumar-led period project. Usually, actors like to begin their career from such big-star projects, but Nushratt has taken a long detour. "I like the fact that finally, I am bridging both ends of the spectrum."

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IT dept. conducts multiple raids in Chhattisgarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA RAIPUR
The Income Tax Department on Thursday conducted raids at multiple locations in Chhattisgarh, including the premises of a State government officer and some businessmen, an official said.
The searches have been under way since morning in different districts.
"An IT team assisted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is at the residence of Soumya Chaurasia, the deputy secretary at the Chief Minister's Office in Bhalai town of Durg district. However, the nature of action being carried out by the department is not yet clear," a senior police officer said.
Ms. Chaurasia is a State Administrative Service (CAS) cadre officer. In February 2020, the IT department had conducted raids at several places in the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh, including Ms. Chaurasia's house.

Panneerselvam trying to make party inoperative, says EPS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI
Breaking his silence on the friction with senior colleague O. Panneerselvam since the leadership tussle broke out in the AIADMK, former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday accused him of having taken all steps to make the party "inoperative".
He declared that the posts of coordinator and co-coordinator, created five years ago, no longer existed.
"Letter unacceptable" Mr. Palaniswami rejected Mr. Panneerselvam's request to forward the 'A' and 'B' forms for fielding party candidates in the local body by-elections on the 'two leaves' symbol.
"By filing a complaint with the Avadi Police Commissioner against the party's general council meeting, which both of us convened, and by moving the courts, you took all steps to force the AIADMK into an inoperative mode. Sending this letter to me now is not acceptable," Mr. Palaniswami said in response to Mr. Panneerselvam's letter dated June 29.
Since the general council meeting on June 23 did not ratify the amendments made to the party by-law (for elect-



Former T.N. CM Edappadi K. Palanisamy during a party meeting at the AIADMK headquarters in Chennai. *M. KARUNAKARAN

ing the coordinator and the co-coordinator by a single vote) by the executive council meeting on December 1, 2021, they stood nullified, Mr. Palaniswami contended. "Hence, the letter written by you, assuming to be the party coordinator, has no validity," he said.
When the deadline for candidates to file nominations for the local body bye-elections ended on June 27, Mr. Panneerselvam waited for these many days and could not officially announce the candidates, Mr. Palaniswami pointed out. After he boycotted a meeting of the headquarters functionaries on June 27, his letter was not acceptable, Mr. Palaniswami said.

Udaipur killing: markets remain shut in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR
Shops and commercial establishments in several cities of Rajasthan remained shut on Thursday following a bandh call given by the traders' associations and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The day-long bandh was observed to protest against the killing of a tailor, Kanhaiya Lal, in Udaipur.
The BJP office-bearers, accompanied by party workers, asked the shopkeepers to keep the shutters down. Defying prohibitory orders, protesters gathered at several places here and raised slogans. The police made elaborate security arrangements to maintain law and order.
Essential services were exempted from the bandh. No untoward incident was reported. Suspension of Internet services was extended by one more day.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
Office of The Project Director, Atal Bhujal Yojana, No 1/1, 2nd Floor, KSFC Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru 560052.
Email: karnatakaabhy@gmail.com
No: ABHY/PROC/18/2022-23 Date: 01.07.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal)
SPMU, Atal Bhujal Yojana, invited tender through E-Procurement Portal for Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for following works:
Sl. No : 1) Tender Notification No : Atal Jal/Proc/24/2022-23
Name of the Work : Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 2223 Nos in Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bellary, Gadag and Davanagere Districts.
Sl. No : 2) Tender Notification No : Atal Jal/Proc/25/2022-23
Name of the Work : Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 2800 Nos in Kolar and Chikkaballapura Districts.
Sl. No : 3) Tender Notification No : Atal Jal/Proc/26/2022-23
Name of the Work : Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 3196 Nos in Chitradurga and Tumkur Districts.
Sl. No : 4) Tender Notification No : Atal Jal/Proc/27/2022-23
Name of the Work : Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 1352 Nos in Ramanagar and Bangalore Rural Districts.
Sl. No : 5) Tender Notification No : Atal Jal/Proc/28/2022-23
Name of the Work : Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 1223 Nos in Chikkamagalur, Hassan and Chamarajanagar Districts.
The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The tender document can be downloaded through 'E-Procurement' from 01.07.2022, 11.30 Hrs onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or before 30.07.2022, 17.30 Hrs.
Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 10.00 hrs to 17.30 hrs.
Sd/-
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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
HIRING OF TWIN ENGINE TURBO PROP AIRCRAFT ON WET LEASE BASIS
RFP No. 5383 dt. 29.06.2022
Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department desires to hire a twin engine turbo prop aircraft (2 pilots + 6 passengers) for a period of 1 year i.e. from 01.10.2022 to 30.09.2023 complying to all safety norms as prescribed by the DGCA from time to time for flying of VIPs like Governor, Chief Minister, Ministers and other dignitaries. The hired aircraft will be stationed at Bhubaneswar.
Eligible and interested aircraft operators may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document which contains the details of the requirement from the following website of Government of Odisha and submit their offer, <http://www.odisha.gov.in/tender> & <https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders>
Proposals complete in all respect should reach the undersigned latest by 03:00 PM on 25.07.2022. Bids received after the above deadline shall be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
Additional Secretary to Govt. & Director of Aviation, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department Government of Odisha
J-6: OIPR-38001/11/0003/2223

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022
Tender Call Notice No. IDCO.H.O./P&C/EST/E-1303/01/2017/ 16232 Dated : 28.06.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
1. Name of the Work : a) Construction of Internal approach Road & Culvert of 12mtr & 18mtr RoW at Indranipatna Industrial Estate, Dist. Cuttack. (Phase-I) b) Construction of Internal approach Road & Culvert of 25 mtr RoW at Indranipatna Industrial Estate, Dist. Cuttack. (Phase-II)
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.166.81 lakh & Rs.404.58 lakh
3. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) & 03 (Three) Calendar months.
4. Other details
Procurement Officer Bid ID/Tender reference No. Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar, Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-25/2021-22 07.07.2022 at 17.00 Hrs. 21.07.2022 up to 17.00 Hrs.
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-986 OIPR-14003/11/0067/2223

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Harish Kumar Verma S/o. Sh. Man Chand Verma is the Title Holder in possession of Leasehold Property Bearing Plot/House No. 235, Block-E, Sector-Gamma-1, Greater Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, hereinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property' vide Transfer Deed dated 05.12.05 registered as Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 1062, pp. 559-578, Par Kramank No. 10173 on 05.12.05 in the Office of the Sub Registrar-Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. That Original Documents w.r.t. Schedule Property i.e. Allotment Letter dated 14.02.1994 and Transfer Memorandum dated 10.12.2002 have been lost/ misplaced, in lieu of which Information Report dated 23.06.22 is filed with Uttar Pradesh Police at Beata-II Police Station bearing G.D. No. 072. This notice is issued to Public at Large, i.e. to any Persons, Companies, Authorities, Societies, Organisations, Financial Institutions, Banks, HUFs etc., having any knowledge, custody or possession of the lost/ misplaced documents as mentioned herein above or otherwise having any claim, right, title, interest, possession in the Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc., or objection to the sale of the Schedule Property, may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claims or objections, if raised or received, shall be treated as null & void and such claims or objection shall be treated as waived, and the Title Holder shall proceed to sell the Schedule Property as presently intended.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT
O/o Directorate of Aviation, near BPI Airport, Bhubaneswar - 751020
Tel. No: 0674-2596128 Email: orissa_aviation@yahoo.co.in
RFP No. 5391 dt. 29.06.2022
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department is looking for experienced qualified firms to provide the service for disassemble, shifting from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar, assembly, restoration and interior / exterior renovation of an old Dakota (DC-3) aircraft, which is presently lying inside the NSCBI Airport, Kolkata.
Eligible and interested firms/agencies may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document which contains the details of the requirement from the following website of Government of Odisha and submit their offer, <http://www.odisha.gov.in/tender> & <https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders>
Proposals complete in all respect should reach the undersigned latest by 03:00 PM on 30.07.2022. Bids received after the above deadline shall be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
Additional Secretary to Govt. & Director of Aviation, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department Government of Odisha
J-7: OIPR-38001/11/0004/2223

IN BRIEF



Five killed as power line falls on auto in A.P.

PUTTAPARTHI
Five agriculture labourers from Guddampalli in Tadimarri mandal of Sri Sathya Sai district of Andhra Pradesh were killed and two others suffered injuries when an 11-KV high tension live electric wire snapped at the insulator near a pole and fell on an autorickshaw carrying 11 women passengers besides the driver, on Thursday morning. Five of the women were electrocuted and killed. The snapped wire is said to have fallen on an iron frame being carried on top of the auto causing sparks that triggered a fire.

TRS to hold meet in support of Sinha

HYDERABAD
The Presidential candidate supported by the Opposition parties, Yashwant Sinha, is arriving in Hyderabad on Saturday to seek support of Members of Parliament belonging to other parties. A meeting is being organised in support of his candidature by Telangana Rashtra Samithi at Jal Vihar. Industries and Urban Development K.T. Rama Rao told his colleagues that a grand reception was being planned for Mr. Sinha.

Student dies of rabies despite vaccination

PALAKKAD
A college student died of rabies despite taking the necessary vaccinations in Palakkad district of north Kerala on Thursday, the police said. The 19-year-old woman, identified as Sreelekshmi, was bitten by her neighbour's dog on May 30 and had taken all necessary vaccinations as prescribed by the doctors, the police said. She started showing symptoms of infection a few days ago and was hospitalised with high fever.

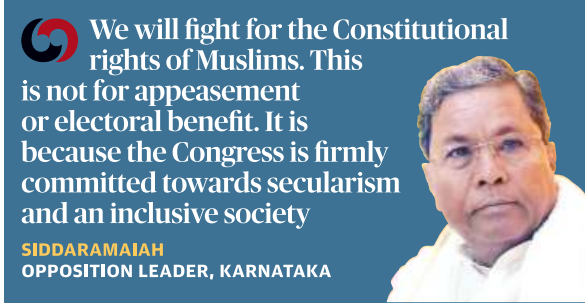
Congress to contest Karnataka elections on 'Kannadiga pride'

They will get job reservation if party comes to power, says Siddaramaiah

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Congress will be contesting the next Assembly elections in Karnataka, which is less than 10 months away, on the plank of "Kannadiga pride" against the BJP's effort to indirectly impose Hindi on the State, former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah was in Delhi to meet former Congress president Rahul Gandhi. He had a luncheon meeting on Tuesday, along with his colleague and State Congress president D.K. Shivakumar. Both are contenders for the Chief Minister's chair and have a long history of



power struggle. The meeting was called to arrive at a working relation before the upcoming elections.

Mr. Siddaramaiah argued that the BJP government in the State is driven by Delhi and is seeking to indirectly impose Hindi and Hindutva on Karnataka. The former Chief Minister asserted that if the Congress was to return

to power in the State, there will be domicile-based reservation in Class III and IV government jobs for Kannadigas. To drive this campaign, the Congress is planning to resurrect the 1984 Sarojini Mahishi report, which recommends a certain percentage of jobs to Kannadigas in public sector undertakings, private companies and mul-

tinational companies.

A section in the party led by Mr. Siddaramaiah feels that the Congress should not tread gingerly around issues concerning minority rights, and that the Congress should be heard and seen defending Muslims. Mr. Siddaramaiah insisted that the Congress will stand for Constitutional rights for everyone.

"We will fight for the Constitutional rights of Muslims. This is not for appeasement or electoral benefit. It is because the Congress is firmly committed towards secularism and an inclusive society," he said. He accused the BJP of trying to consolidate the Backward and Dalit communities on the basis of Hindu-Muslim polarisation.

UDF, LDF cross swords over ESZ in Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government faced off in Kerala Assembly on Thursday over the Supreme Court's decision to impose an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) within one kilometre radius of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said the previous LDF administration had "mindlessly" agreed to the Centre's proposal to keep the buffer zone free of development, construction, agriculture and human habitation. At a stroke, the LDF had cast 2.5 lakh families, mostly settler farmers, into

Kerala to file modification petition in ESZ case

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has tasked the Advocate General to file a modification petition to circumvent the SC order to impose an ecologically sensitive buffer zone within a 1-km radius of national parks and wildlife reserves. In a high-level meeting today, Mr. Vijayan said the government would move the committee to exempt population centres from the mandated zone.

an uncertain epoch of uncertainty.

The UDF later walked out of the House after Speaker M.B. Rajesh rejected the Opposition's demand for an adjournment motion.

A.P. tops country in ease-of-doing-business

State carried out 301 reforms in FY21

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) achieved No.1 rank in ease-of-doing-business (EoDB) for 2020-21 with a score of 97.89% leaving behind Gujarat (97.77%), Tamil Nadu (96.97%) and Telangana (94.86%) in the second, third and fourth positions respectively. Along with those States, Haryana, Karnataka and Punjab have been adjudged 'top achievers' in the implementation of the 2020-21 Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) jointly formulated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the World Bank.

According to a press release from the Industries Department, A.P. showed significant progress than any other State in introducing major regulatory, process, and transparency reforms. It implemented 372 reforms in 2017-18, 187 in 2019-20 and 301 in 2020-21 as the economy made a steady recovery from the blow by the pandemic.

The reforms were categorised as general, related to the Public Service Guarantee Act etc., and the specific ones laid out for the purpose of survey. The feedback of 10,200 investors and stakeholders was obtained for assessing the States' performance.

Nadda to launch BJP meet today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

For the next few days, till the weekend at least, expect the twin cities of Hyderabad-Secunderabad to be awash with saffron, with top leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) starting from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Home Minister Amit Shah, national president J.P. Nadda and others coming down to attend the national executive committee as well as the *Vijay Sankalpa Sabha* public meeting at the Parade Grounds on Sunday.

National executive meetings generally do not come with this much hype and hoopla, but this time it is different as the BJP wants to make a big show of its strength and claim the space of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) through the meetings, pressing in top-line leaders to the districts to have booth-level meetings and also hold community-level meetings within the twin cities and elsewhere to lure respective groups into its fold, said party sources on Thursday.

Grand beginning

Union Ministers V.K. Singh, Anurag Singh Thakur, Niyand Rai and others along with former Chief Ministers like Biplab Deb of Tripura, Babul Marandi of Jharkhand and others are currently touring the districts.

Mr. Nadda will kick off the proceedings with his road show at Shamshabad on Friday before proceeding towards the Novotel Hotel to hoist the party flag and inaugurate a cultural exhibition to show the region's unique culture, the party's growth and the milestones in the eight-year NDA government.

Forum to start caste census drive in Bihar

Members call for rights of the deprived

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Nine social organisations will carry out a campaign in Bihar to get the caste census done in the most "rational way" with population-wise representation and participation at all levels.

At a conference here by the Bihar Chapter of the All-India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz on Thursday to commemorate freedom fighter and social reformer Abdul Qayum Ansari and Param Vir Chakra awardee martyr Abdul Hameed, social organisations Rashtriya Ati Pichda Sangharsh Morcha, Samajik Nyaya Andolan-Bihar, Bahujan Bhagidari Andolan-Bihar, Bahujan Chaupal, Jankranti Morcha, Safaikarmi Jankranti Parishad, Ek Kaum Foundation, Pichda Pasman-

da Manch-Bihar and many OBC and Dalit intellectuals gave a clarion call for kicking off the campaign.

Renowned public intellectual Prof. Kancha Ilaiah said that the government at the Centre was rapidly privatising State enterprises and handing them over to private corporates which was a cause for serious concern.

Ali Anwar Ansari, national president of All-India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz and former Rajya Sabha MP, said that all groups present at the conference were opposed to communalism. Prof. Rambali Chandrawanshi, MLC, said some well-to-do castes had been included in the extremely backward class and that had deprived the rights of the genuine members of this section.

4 Sri Lankan refugees arrive at Dhanushkodi

Total number has touched 96: officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAMESWARAM

Four more persons, including a child and a woman, reached Dhanushkodi from Sri Lanka on an illegal vessel on Thursday.

Fishermen in Arichalmunai said they had spotted four people stranded in Manal Thidai near Arichalmunai and helped them reach Mandapam. The Marine Police interrogated the four persons and identified them as Dominic, 42, Sudarshini, 37, Anojan Fernando, 6, and Mahendran, 50. They were from Jaffna and Killinochi district, the police said.

In a brief chat with reporters, the refugees said that even after giving money,

they were unable to get essential goods from shops sometimes. By selling all the wares and home needs to neighbours, we managed to raise money and decided to reach Indian shores for safety," they said.

The refugees (Dominic and his wife Sudarshini) claimed to have paid ₹3 lakh to the boatmen in Jaffna and Mahendran said he had coughed up ₹1 lakh to reach the Manal Thidai from Killinochi district.

After examining them, the officials said, they were handed over to the Special Refugee Centre, Mandapam. With the arrival of these four, the total number of refugees rose to 96, they said.

'Govt. still interferes in affairs of universities'

Curb intrusion, says Karnataka HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

"The State government continues to poke its nose in the affairs of the universities even though the court, a little less than a quarter-century ago, had clearly asked the government to forbear from such interference," the High Court of Karnataka has observed.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice P. Krishna Bhat made these observations while allowing a writ appeal filed by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad.

The Bench also said that "the universities are not the notional extensions of the government departments, nor their vassals. They are autonomous bodies and therefore their autonomy should be respected."

The Secretaries of the go-

vernment departments, the Bench said, cannot interfere in the affairs of universities in the absence of statutory power and the justification for its exercise.

Contempt of court

Also, the Bench said that the court, way back in 1998, had directed the government to forbear from interfering in the affairs of the universities cautioning that it would amount to contempt of court.

The UAS-Dharwad, in its appeal, had questioned a single Judge order, which had asked the university to follow the 2019 communications of the State government to appoint only senior-most professors whenever appointments to the posts of the officer are to be made on ad hoc/temporary basis in the agricultural and the horticultural universities.

Torrential downpour



Water woes: A scene at the Kottara chowk in Mangaluru on Thursday as heavy rain continued to lash the coastal region, disrupting normal life. The meteorological department has issued an orange alert. •H.S. MANJUNATH

Alert in Thrissur after wild boars get anthrax

Animals found dead in Athirappilly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THRISSUR

Surveillance and preventive measures were intensified at Athirappilly in Kerala's Thrissur as anthrax has been confirmed in wild boars found dead in the area.

Farmers were in a state of panic as several wild boar were found dead in the last few days in areas near the Vettilappara forests and in the palm estates at Athirappilly where their cattle too graze. The Health department, the Animal Husbandry department, and the Forest department have conducted investigation and samples were tested to confirm the anthrax infection.

Confirming the outbreak, Health Minister Veena Gorge said the department was taking immediate steps to prevent the spread of the disease. According to the

Health department sources, as many as 13 people who went to remove and bury the carcasses of the wild boar have been added to the primary contact list and placed under medical surveillance. They have been given preventive treatment. The Health Department is trying to trace the source of the disease.

Meanwhile, Thrissur Collector Haritha V. Kumar said there was no need for panic. "Preventive measures have been intensified. There is less chance of the disease spreading from animals to humans. So far, cases of infection have not been reported in domestic animals or cattle," she said.

A control room has been opened (0487-2424223). A high-level meeting of all departments concerned was held to discuss the emergency measures to be taken.

Diaper-change facility in men's restroom

Bengaluru airport's effort to break gender stereotype catches public attention

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) was trending on social media recently for a different reason: a diaper-change facility in the men's restroom.

Lauded by men and women, the revelation, spotted and shared by an airport passenger, attracted applause from social media users. The passenger, sharing a photo of the facility, narrated how he would be in a fix at airports and public places, barring the one at Mumbai - which has family restrooms - when he was travelling with his young daughter.

The passenger, Nikhil Lanjewar, also wrote, "Baby-care has for long been considered a woman's responsibility. That's changing for



Positive change: Diaper-changing room in the men's restroom at Kempegowda International Airport. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



good. The next thing we need are gender neutral restrooms."

This was ended up being shared by his friend, who wrote: "Needs to be celebrated. Spotted in a men's washroom at @BLRAirport - a diaper change station. Child-care is not just a woman's

responsibility."

The flood of comments included many bouquets: "Excellent job. I felt the need and communicated the same to the authorities in Guwahati airport recently," said one Twitter user, while another said, "This should be the norm everywhere rather

than the exception."

As is the norm in the online space, there were some negative comments too, with some even questioning the Twitter user who had shared the post - a woman - why she was in the men's room, forcing Mr. Lanjewar to clarify.

Asked for a response, a BIAL (Bengaluru International Airport Limited) spokesperson clarified to *The Hindu* that the facility has been in existence since 2014.

"As an organisation, BIAL has always encouraged gender neutrality and has upheld inclusive practices. The diaper changing rooms have been operational since 2014. We are glad that our passengers have applauded our efforts," the spokesperson said.

Fraudsters swindle over 500 railway job aspirants in Kerala

Youth lured with work-from-home offer, attractive 'salary'

STAFF REPORTER
KOZHIKODE

A furtively operated job fraud in the name of the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) using fake official email addresses and instant messaging groups has duped over 500 youths from northern Kerala districts. Some of the victims, who approached the police, say that a majority of the applicants have lost between ₹50,000 and ₹3,00,000 in various phases in their attempts to secure a permanent government job.

The complainants in their petition said that fraudsters created fake email address of the RRB to communicate

with job aspirants and win their trust. Besides, the name and designation of the chairman of the Southern Railways were misused to endorse fake communications.

"The trickery began with a work-from-home job opportunity in the field of data entry. Attractive payment was given to the 'recruited' persons in the first couple of months and it won the trust of the 'employees'. There were fake WhatsApp groups in the name of the Railways to coordinate the work," said one of the complainants.

Sources said many fell prey to the fraud because of the mouth-to-mouth publici-

ty given by the 'salaried employees'. Since the salary was paid through bank accounts, there were no elements of suspicion on the part of anyone, they said.

Some complainants from the rural areas of Kozhikode district said there were many non-Kerala residents as well who fell prey to the fraud. The petitioners have named two persons from Mukkom and Thiruvambady areas who allegedly worked as agents for the kingpins of the fraud and pocketed huge commission.

District Police Chief (Kozhikode Rural) said a comprehensive investigation was underway into the fraud.

File affidavit against MLA's plea, says HC

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

A single-judge Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Thursday directed the CBI to submit a counter affidavit indicating its position on the quash petition filed by former MLA Amanchi Krishna Mohan against the notice issued to him under Section 41-A of CrPC for allegedly making derogatory comments on the judiciary.

Appearing for the CBI, Assistant Solicitor General of India N. Harinath said there was no 'threat of arrest' as long as the petitioner complied with the procedures and so far he did not respond to the summons served by the CBI by citing personal reasons.



Home and abroad

PM Modi's G-7 commitments on protecting freedoms will face scrutiny in India

Geopolitics trumped economics at the annual summit of the world's "most industrialised" countries, as the G-7 is known, at the German resort of Schloss Elmau, a summit Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended, along with other special invitees from Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal, and South Africa. While the G-7 countries did have some economic initiatives on their agenda, including the launch of a \$600 billion U.S.-led Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), commitments on fighting climate change, funding renewable energy changes, mitigating inflation and managing the continued global crisis over the COVID-19 pandemic, it was clear that most of the deliberations took aim at the twin challenges seen from Russia and China. The 28-page communiqué alternated between outlining the challenges to the international order that emanate from Moscow's war in Ukraine (including tightening sanctions, the impact on energy markets, and cybersecurity threats), and Beijing's "expansive maritime claims", rights violations, and unsustainable debt creation in lower income countries. The G-7 countries issued separate statements on support for Ukraine, food security and a 'Climate Club'. In addition, the G-7 and special invitee "partner countries" issued a statement on "Resilient Democracies", committing to free and fair elections, protecting freedom of expression, and gender empowerment. The message for Russia and China was made even more pointed at the subsequent NATO Summit in Madrid, where the U.S.'s Transatlantic allies invited the U.S.'s Trans-Pacific allies to discuss security challenges.

Given the targeted nature of the G-7 outcomes, India had its work cut out as a balancing power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear that it is the developing world that needs the most support, including to weather the "knock-on" effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Government sought to distance itself from the PGII, pitched as a G-7 counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative, and made it evident that India had only signed on to the statements on "Resilient Democracies" and a "Just Energy Transition", and not the many statements castigating Russia and China, much like Mr. Modi had, at the earlier BRICS summit, stayed away from President Putin and President Xi's stringent criticism of the West. On the global stage, the G-7 outcomes mean New Delhi will have to continue to walk a tightrope between these two blocs that are growing more polarised and inimical towards each other. On the Indian stage, Mr. Modi's G-7 commitments will be scrutinised for his pronouncements on democracy, and his written assurance that his government will protect civic society, freedoms of expression and "thought, conscience, religion or belief", which are facing challenges within the country.

Fallout of policy failure

The U.S. must humanely manage the inflow of migrants across its southern border

In what appears to be the worst episode in recent times of migrant deaths associated with dangerous border crossings into the U.S., the bodies of at least 53 people were recovered from an abandoned tractor-trailer in San Antonio, Texas. Reports suggested that the migrants, hailing from Mexico, the Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, died from the extreme temperatures inside the truck, amidst a lethal heat wave. The grim episode highlights yet again the perils faced by those seeking asylum or better economic prospects in the U.S., who come up against the country's immigration policies, which are yet very much a work-in-progress. On the one hand, the latest crisis underscores the serious lacunae in border policy enforcement. Despite the searing summer, border crossings in this region have remained stubbornly high over the past two years. In May 2020, the U.S. Border Patrol encountered 23,237 migrants, whereas in May 2022, that number was 2,39,146 – said to be more than in any single month in the past three years. Even worse, Mexican officials have confirmed that the truck passed through a federal immigration checkpoint within the territory of the U.S. and yet was not inspected. With approximately 20,000 trucks passing through the commercial corridor from Laredo to San Antonio every day, and even more across U.S.-Mexico crossing routes overall, there is a woeful shortage of manpower and surveillance systems.

Nevertheless, it is the bigger questions behind cross-border migration into the U.S. and its fallout, as shown above, that are troubling. Democrats and Republicans have locked horns over comprehensive immigration reform in a multitude of negotiations and across hundreds of bills proposed in Congress. Yet there is a fundamental unwillingness to find bipartisan solutions for immigration policy, in the way that the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act came out of a collaborative effort and now offers a glimmer of hope towards containing gun violence. While Democrats have dug in their heels on subjects such as a path to citizenship for law-abiding undocumented workers in the U.S. who meet certain conditions, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Republicans have tended to focus more on keeping undocumented migrants out at the border. The problem with their refusing to hammer out compromise solutions is that the resultant failure to evolve a well-funded yet enlightened immigration policy leads to avoidable deaths of the kind seen in San Antonio. Whatever they cede or do not cede politically to liberals, conservatives must realise that there is no resisting the "melting pot" effect coterminous with the U.S.'s social and economic progress, and for that process to work smoothly, the U.S. must rationally and humanely manage the inflow of migrants across its southern border.

Do not weaken the anti-defection law

The moral content of democracy cannot be eroded and India expects better compliance of the law by its lawmakers



P.D.T. ACHARY

The political developments in Maharashtra throw up troubling questions about how the political class is emasculating the anti-defection law which was described by the Supreme Court of India as "constitutional correctives against a legislatively perceived political evil of unprincipled defections induced by the lure of office and monetary inducements". Almost with the farsight of a clairvoyant, the Supreme Court drew the attention of citizens to the very danger of subversion of democracy by unprincipled defection.

The ongoing developments in Maharashtra have once again brought before the country the reality of what the Supreme Court also described as the political evil of unprincipled defection. But the greatest irony is that the order of the Supreme Court, on June 27, on petitions from the dissidents in the Shiv Sena, gives undue advantage to the dissenting legislators. The Court has granted them a longer time to submit replies than the rules mandate. This order is going to set in motion certain political developments which will resurrect in a big way what the Supreme Court characterised as political evil; it was to prevent this that the anti-defection law was enacted in 1985.

Important thrust areas

To put the issue in perspective, let us quickly run through the thrust areas of this law. It was enacted as the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India, in 1985, under Rajiv Gandhi's premiership. It was actually the culmination of long years of debate, deliberations, disagreements, formulations and reformulations, with finally a consensus. The law as it was enacted provided for the disqualification of

a legislator belonging to a political party if he voluntarily gave up his membership of his party or if he defied the whip of his party by voting contrary to its directions in the legislative house. Initially, there were two exceptions provided in the schedule which would exempt a legislator from disqualification. The first exception was a split in their original political party resulting in the formation of a group of legislators. If the group consisted of one third of such legislators of that party, they were exempted from disqualification. This exception was deleted from the schedule through a Constitution Amendment Act of 2003 because of frequent misuse of this provision.

The second exception was 'merger' which can be invoked when the original political party of a legislator merges with another party and not less than two thirds of its legislators agree to such a merger. So, if a legislator shows that his original party has merged with another party and he and his colleagues who constitute two thirds of the legislators of that party have agreed to the merger, then he and his colleagues will be exempted from disqualification.

Interpretation of 'merger'

It is this exception contained in paragraph four of the schedule which has been taken recourse to by a large number of legislators across States and even in Parliament to defect to the ruling party. These legislators interpreted for themselves the term 'merger' to mean the merger of two thirds of legislators. They convinced themselves that the merger of their original party is not necessary, mainly because it is not a possibility. Politics being the art of the possible, they believed that what is not ordinarily possible can be conveniently ignored.

Now, this story is being repeated in Maharashtra. But there is a little difference here. It appears that the dissidents of Shiv Sena believed that if they get the two third number they can form a separate group and topple the government



and then form a government with the help of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Although the Maharashtra Chief Minister has resigned and the direction of the Governor to hold a floor test has become infructuous, the issue arising out of the anti-defection petitions is still live and needs to be addressed by the next Speaker.

The law imposes the condition of merger of the original political party (namely, the Shiv Sena) which is not likely to happen now or in the future. If there is no merger of the original party, then these dissidents cannot claim any exception from disqualification no matter whether they are two thirds or three fourths. However, a recent judgment of the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court (*Girish Chandankar vs The Speaker, Goa State Legislative*) that held that the merger of two thirds of Members of the Legislative Assembly is deemed to be the merger of the original party seems to have given them a ray of hope. This judgment, unfortunately, does not reflect the correct law and needlessly complicates it. Nevertheless, this judgment too emphasises the need for merger with another party. So, the legal position is if the dissidents do not merge with another party they will be disqualified now or later. They cannot operate as a separate group in the Assembly because the law does not permit them to do so.

On disqualification

Now, disqualification petitions have been filed by the Shiv Sena against 16 of the dissidents under paragraph 2(1)(a) on the ground that they have voluntarily given up

the membership of the party. The question of whether they have voluntarily given up the membership of the party is decided on the basis of the conduct of a member. In *Ravi S. Naik vs Union of India* (1994), the Supreme Court had said "an inference can be drawn from the conduct of a member that he has voluntarily given up the membership of the party to which he belongs". Wilful non-participation in a crucial meeting of a party whose government is facing a serious crisis because of them, may, in the present circumstances, offer the ground for disqualification.

Point of intervention

However, the notice of no-confidence against the Deputy Speaker has added another piece to the jigsaw puzzle. The intervention by the Supreme Court too has thrown up some crucial questions regarding the operation of the anti-defection law.

The first question is whether the Court can intervene at a stage prior to the decision by the Deputy Speaker. A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had held in *Kihoto Hollohan* (1993) that judicial review cannot be available prior to the making of a decision by the Speaker nor at an interlocutory stage of the proceeding. Giving longer time to the dissidents to submit replies is contrary to this decision. The mandatory period for replying to the charge is seven days under the rule. The court gave them 15 days. It is an intervention at the interlocutory stage which was barred by the Constitution Bench.

Another question of considerable importance is whether the Deputy Speaker can decide the disqualification petition when a no-confidence motion is pending against him. The Supreme Court had held in *Nabam Rebia* (2016) that the Speaker shall not decide the disqualification cases till the no-confidence motion against him is disposed of. In the Maharashtra case, the Deputy Speaker who had assumed the duties of the Speaker because of the vacancy in the office of the Speaker, did not admit

the notice of no-confidence because he had doubts about the authenticity of the notice. The House rules clearly say that the notice of no-confidence against the Speaker/Deputy Speaker needs to be admitted in the first place which is done only by the Speaker. Rules do not recognise any other authority for admitting a notice. But it is the House which takes the final decision on the motion. If the notice of no-confidence does not contain specific charges, it can be disallowed by the Speaker. Therefore, in this case, there is no occasion to say that the Speaker cannot be a judge in his own cause. Disallowing a notice does not prevent Members from giving another notice complying with the requirements of the rule. Further, the notice can be given only if the House is summoned. When the notice was given, the Assembly was not convened. So, the notice against the Deputy Speaker can have no validity under the rules. Therefore, it cannot be said that the notice is pending against the Deputy Speaker.

An observation, its spirit

The anti-defection law is facing many challenges. Since it deals with the political class, the challenges are grave. The law, though not perfect, is a serious attempt to strengthen the moral content of democracy. Piloting the Bill on the Tenth Schedule, then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, said, "There are lots of areas in this Bill which are grey. We are covering new grounds... it is better for us to tread cautiously than to make serious errors and repent later. There will be shortcomings in this Bill but as we see and identify those shortcomings we will try to overcome them."

Parliament needs to recapture the spirit of this observation. The anti-defection law needs to be strengthened and not weakened. The nation expects better compliance of the law by the lawmakers.

P.D.T. Achary is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The selfishness and graft of the rich drive inequality

The central argument of Almása *et al.*, that this is seen in countries with weak institutions, is corroborated in India

AASHI GUPTA, VANI S. KULKARNI & RAGHAV GAIHA

G.K. Chesterton, the writer, asserted in *The Flying Inn* (1914): "The rich are the scum of the earth in every country". Perhaps not all but many.

Our contention is that their selfishness, criminality and corruption aggravate inequality. Much experimental evidence corroborates this hypothesis.

Some insights

A particularly compelling case for 'Selfish Rich Inequality' is constructed by Almása *et al.* (2022), based on an analysis of the Gallup World Poll of 2018; that is, whether the rich are richer than the poor because they have been more selfish in life than the latter. They demonstrate that the non-productive grabbing behaviour of the rich is typical of countries with weak institutions, stemming from a weak rule of law, malfunctioning bureaucracy and corruption. Hence, people in such countries are more likely to believe that the rich have become richer because they have been involved in selfish grabbing activities. Support for the selfish rich inequality hypothesis rises with the level of corruption and decreases with an individual's rank in the country's income distribution. This study's final analysis shows that popular belief in selfish rich inequality is positively associated with broad agreement that inequality in their country is unfair and that the government

should aim to reduce it.

A distillation of our econometric analysis using the Gallup World Poll Data of 2018 for India, along with the Fairness-Across-The-World module provided by FAIR-The Choice Lab, NHH Norwegian School of Economics, offers rich insights. Note that this is an analysis of respondents' beliefs and not the actual behaviour of the rich. Also, as these responses are focused on the rich inequality hypothesis, we cannot disentangle these from beliefs about selfishness of the rich per se; we restrict our analysis to the inequality hypothesis.

As the age of the respondent rises, the belief in the rich inequality hypothesis becomes stronger. We also find that religiosity of an individual reinforces this belief.

State-level characteristics yield rich insights too. State affluence is measured in terms of net state domestic product per capita. There is a strong negative association between the rich inequality hypothesis and state affluence. Or, more specifically, significantly larger respondents in more affluent states do not support this hypothesis. Whether better employment opportunities, health care and schooling more than offset the beliefs in this hypothesis are plausible. However, if more affluent states also are those with higher income inequality (measured as a ratio of share of the top 1% in total income divided by the share of the bottom 50% *a la* Piketty (2014)), it is confirmed that sig-



nificantly more respondents believe in the inequality hypothesis. In other words, if growth is not inclusive, it engenders resentment against the rich and a strong belief in the hypothesis in question.

Criminality and corruption

In a variation, if state influence is interacted with the incidence of crime (measured as the number of convictions per lakh of population), a significantly large number of respondents corroborate the rich inequality hypothesis. Or, a significantly large number of respondents are prone to believe that in an affluent state infested with criminality, the rich get richer through illegal, grabbing activities (rich traders, for example, evade local taxes by bribing officials).

However, it is intriguing that the state corruption index, obtained from the India Corruption Report (2019), is negatively associated with the rich inequality hypothesis, implying that more respondents in highly corrupt States reject this hypothesis. It is of course plausible that more corruption you observe in your community

and elsewhere makes you immune to corruption among the rich. However, respondents in States which are more corrupt and display greater extreme inequality are more likely to believe in corruption of the rich and thus corroborate the hypothesis in question.

States, their governments

The overall state political and economic environment conditions the principal (voters)-agent (public institutions in a State including the State government, judiciary and the police) relationship. The lower the trust/confidence in the agent, the harder it is to sustain growth, and maintain accountability and transparency. The National Democratic Alliance regime, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has overcentralised decision-making and pursued, aggressively, Hindutva, negating, if not destroying, State autonomy. While minorities have been humiliated, assaulted and killed, often without provocation, there are also serious allegations of promoting crony capitalism. So, it is not just some billionaires who have flourished but their criminality and corruption have been sidestepped, if not ignored altogether.

In order to probe the outcomes of drastic policy shifts, we have classified States into those ruled by the BJP and others. We do not find any association between BJP-ruled States and the rich inequality hypothesis. However, when we interact BJP-ruled States with the

corruption index, we get the striking result that the association between the hypothesis in question and the interacted variable is positive. In other words, more respondents in BJP-ruled States with high corruption corroborate the rich inequality hypothesis. So, while the BJP is not responsible for the inequality associated with the rich, in an environment of high corruption with the BJP as the ruling party, more respondents corroborate this hypothesis.

Issue of trust in institutions

To conclude, the central argument of Almása *et al.* (2022), that the rich are richer because they engage in non-productive grabbing behaviour in countries with weak institutions, stemming from a weak rule of law, malfunctioning bureaucracy and corruption, is largely corroborated in India. Whether it is feasible to strengthen public institutions in the present context seems a tall order. Indeed, as argued by us elsewhere, our trust in these institutions may be fast approaching a cliff effect, marking a very rapid erosion and a sharp worsening of the inequality driven by the selfishness, criminality and corruption of the rich.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

The end of chapter one

Now that the 'Maharashtra saga' may have an ending with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray stepping down as a result of a protracted internal rebellion, will someone enlighten us in the rest of India about the parliamentary discussions during the passage of the anti-defection law and, importantly, how and why Members of Parliament accepted the legal loophole of permitting defection as an acceptable one? It is that provision along with the

power to the Speaker to decide on defections that is the bane of politics in India. The time has come to rectify a defective law.

DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

With Mr. Thackeray stepping down, one would have thought that the lotus will once again be in full bloom in Maharashtra, its biggest prize catch ever since the launching of 'Operation Kamal' to unseat democratically elected non-BJP governments by whatever means possible.

But the sudden change of heart in this game plan seems to have caught many by surprise. If the aim is to diminish the influence of the Thackerays over the rank and file of the Sena, this may be difficult as the Sena cadre is by and large emotionally connected to the Thackeray family.

In all this, the power of money has once again been demonstrated, pointing to how crucial its role has been in the formation of a new dispensation. One can only make a guess about the staggering amounts that

would have been spent on these MLAs being flown from State to State and in luxury. It is obvious that the central agencies that matter will look the other way.

S.K. CHOUDHURY, Bengaluru

The political events only reiterate that politics which makes strange bedfellows is the art of managing the possible in which there are no permanent friends or foes, and where permanent interests reign supreme. As in the past, the underlying lesson from the fall of the

MVA government is that coalition governments that lack ideological coherence born out of yearning for power with a strong antipathy towards a principal political adversary as its binding glue (with the sole intention of keeping it out of power), is bound to collapse under the weight of its own internal contradictions.

B. SURESH KUMAR, Coimbatore

GST hikes

It is unfortunate that the GST net has spread its wings to cover a range of products of

daily use. One has to conclude that the hike is a 'gift' to the people after the BJP's impressive performance in the recent bypolls. The prices of essential commodities have already gone through the roof. When there is no dearth of avenues available to the Government to generate revenue, there is no justification to burden people even more. It affects the dream of aspirations too.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR, Chennai

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Should endorsers be held responsible for claims in advertising?

PARLEY

Monetary penalty is not going to solve the issue, but we should be clear about the grey areas

On June 9, 2022, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) notified guidelines for 'Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022'. The guidelines, brought in with immediate effect, are applicable to all forms of advertisements. While the Consumer Protection Act of 2019 does have a provision on misleading advertisements, the CCPA can impose a penalty of up to ₹10 lakh on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers for misleading advertisements and a penalty of up to ₹50 lakh for subsequent contraventions. It can also prohibit the endorser of a misleading advertisement from making any endorsement for up to one year; for subsequent contravention, prohibition can extend up to three years. In a conversation moderated by Sonam Saigal, Anushree Rauta and Akashmeel Dasgupta discuss the need for the new guidelines and how they overlap with the 'Code for Self-Regulation in Advertising', which was adopted by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). Edited excerpts:



Anushree Rauta is an advocate and partner heading Media and Entertainment at the ANM Global

According to data released by AdEx India, a division of TAM (Television Audience Measurement) Media Research, in March 2022, celebrity endorsements saw a 44% rise in 2021 over 2020. Why do companies hire brand ambassadors for a product or a service?

Anushree Rauta: In this country people worship certain celebrities. It's a cinema and cricket-loving nation. A lot of brands these days have either actors or cricketers as brand endorsers. It adds to the credibility of the brand. It's the trust which people repose in some of the celebrities [that they] pass on to the image of the brand. [Having such brand endorsers] impacts the buyers' purchasing decisions because of the celebrity's authority and/or relationship with the audience.

Akashmeel Dasgupta: There are all kinds of reasons for hiring a celebrity. Certain brand endorsements happen because of the right reasons, where there is a fit with the brand, a communication objective



Akashmeel Dasgupta is chief creative officer at Network Advertising



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NOTEBOOK

The police and the journalist

For crime reporters who depend on the police, instinct is an important factor

VIJAITA SINGH

There is a saying that goes: You show me the man and I will show you the rule. Recently, the Delhi Police arrested Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of the fact-checking website *Alt News*, for posting an "objectionable tweet" in 2018 that allegedly hurt religious beliefs. The tweet in question was a still from a 1983 Hindi movie, *Kissi Se Na Kehna!* A day later, K.P.S. Malhotra, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), claimed that transactions over ₹50 lakh had been made in Mr. Zubair's bank account over three months. *Alt News* co-founder Pratik Sinha responded on Twitter claiming that the police were linking donations received by *Alt News* to Mr. Zubair. The claim, in fact, was never a part of police submissions in court seeking Mr. Zubair's police remand, nor was it mentioned during oral arguments in court. As *Alt News* is a fact-checking platform, it was quick to provide its version on social media platforms. But there are several cases where the accused do not get such an opportunity.

The truth is, if the publicity that a case gets helps the police push a narrative to a specific end, the law-enforcers are more than happy to come on record. The police in each State have a media policy. In Delhi, for instance, no officer below the rank of DCP is authorised to give an official quote to the press. That does not mean that a reporter cannot have a source in the subsidiary ranks.

In 2010, the Ministry of Home Affairs sent an advisory to the States on the 'media policy of police.' One point said: "Officers should confine their briefings to the essential facts and not rush to the press with half-baked, speculative or unconfirmed information about ongoing investigations." The advisory also stated that "due care should be taken to ensure that there is no violation of the legal, privacy and human rights of the accused/victims." It is common knowledge that the police do provide half-baked, speculative statements to reporters. At what point then should the reporter stop trusting the police?

While the standard practice, at least in the print media, is to get the version of the accused, many in the television media seldom think along these lines. Individuals are branded guilty according to a script. No one waits for the court's verdict.

Crime reporters depend on the police for information. But a pavement-thumping reporter will always ask questions if the information is speculative or appears to be motivated. Often, thanks to instinct, the reporter drops stories that do not check the required boxes. There have been instances where reporters have been left out of police briefings for critical reports.

In an unhealthy trend, also fuelled by the desire to get likes and retweets, police officers or law-enforcement agencies plan press conferences if it is convenient to them. In the absence of implementation of the media policy, this in many cases adversely impacts the accused. The process becomes the punishment.

A point suggested in the 2010 policy was that "no opinionated and judgmental statements should be made by the police while briefing the media." In 2020, the then Bihar police chief Gupteshwar Pandey told press persons that making any kind of comment regarding the State Chief Minister was beyond the *aukaat* (status) of actor Rhea Chakraborty, who was being investigated in connection with the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Though Mr. Pandey later apologised for the statement, it sent the message that such conduct is acceptable if it suits the political narrative, for there was no known repercussion for his statement by the State or the Centre.

For the police to act as an extension of the political dispensation is not new. Poising cases and arresting individuals who are inconvenient to the establishment is also common. The system provides impunity to such officials. But what is new is the acceptance of such conduct by the media and the public at large.

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SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Since you mentioned penalty, the guidelines levy a fine of ₹10 lakh and can also prohibit an endorser for a year for a misleading advertisement. What do you think about this?

AR: Before the Consumer Protection Act came into place, there was a provision which had contemplated imprisonment as an option for a misleading advertisement. But I think the legislature rightly deleted that and imposed only a fine. The quantum of the fine is debatable. For any subsequent offences, there is also a penalty in terms of the celebrity not being able to endorse for a certain period, which is also loss of reputation, and which is good.

AD: For a celebrity, there is a talent management team, a legal team. There are so many people who do their due diligence, so that conscious decisions are taken to endorse or not endorse a product or a brand. But celebrities get away easily in case of a misleading ad with a public apology. So, a ₹10 lakh penalty is nothing if they had a deal of ₹4 crore. It should have been far more because I don't think a monetary penalty is going to solve the issue here. There have to be some other yardsticks of accountability, or punishment. Damage to their reputation and prohibiting them from endorsements for a period is the punishment that works for them.

The ASCI and the Consumer Protection Act already have a provision for 'due diligence' that needs to be done on the part of those who endorse products. Why were the new guidelines needed then?

AR: Section 21 (power of Central Authority to issue directions and penalties against false or misleading

Endorsers are service providers. They do have responsibilities given the kind of impact they have on the audience. But at the end of the day, it's not solely on them.

ANUSHREE RAUTA

advertisements) of the Act states no endorser will be liable to a penalty if they have exercised due diligence to verify the veracity of the claims made in the advertisement regarding the product or service being endorsed by them. With the guidelines, they are obliged to do their due diligence, and to make the disclosure of their new material connection with the brand. Now, it's come as a statutory obligation. Whether these guidelines were required to be there or not is questionable. In my view, the ASCI guidelines were already in place; maybe additional onus has been put now. It will have to be seen whether there is any reduction in misleading advertisements or not, following this new set of guidelines.

AD: It is difficult to define what's misleading. A lot of things are in the grey area in advertising. It is a little hard to believe that the brand ambassador is not aware of what a brand stands for. For example, some products may claim they make your child stronger, or taller, or provide vitamin C, but how do you prove that... A lot of things are intangibles in advertising. If the product does live up to the claim, to what extent nobody can say, because almost 80% of advertising lies in the grey area regarding claims. So, it's very difficult for a celebrity to verify claims because sometimes even the clients can't verify those claims. So, maybe the guidelines will help in that aspect.

Can you explain what sort of 'due diligence' can be carried out by brand ambassadors to ensure they do not sign up to misleading advertisements?

AR: There are various aspects to it. As far as technical information is concerned, they would not be equipped to do it on their own, so it will be something which they will have to outsource. They would require the brand to submit certain reports and get them verified, or they would go to the ASCI which has its own team of experts to carry out these exercises. The second is in terms of the experience with the products and goods. I don't know how this will pan out, because not all celebrities may be comfortable using the products they are endorsing. Nowadays, there is a liability perspective; I'm sure the brands would require them to give an undertaking that they have utilised the products and they affirm what they are endorsing. Celebrities will have to be more vigilant and responsible while endorsing products and services.

Speaking of liability, do any brand ambassadors ensure that there is a clause inserted in their contract that ensures zero responsibility if any part of the claim in the advertisement ends up being false?

AR: It depends on the kind of products or services being endorsed. If the celebrity has a good legal representation, they will definitely add clauses in the representations and warranties and the indemnification which are taken to ensure that whatever statements they are made to say are verified and there is no false statement which the brand is asking the celebrity to make. It also depends on the bargaining power. There are certain creative controls that certain celebrities would want to take. Sometimes the celebrities may want to get the storyboard verified at the scripting level itself. So, the clauses are typically there in all brand endorsement agreements, where representations and warranties are taken from the brands and any indemnification for any claims they mentioned.

AD: Most celebrities these days have these clauses inserted because they are handled by a security management agency. So they ensure

that the clauses of no responsibility are there.

In February 2021, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed the Lok Sabha that between 2017 and 2020, more than 12,000 complaints were received by the Grievances Against Misleading Advertisements, which was launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs. The number is appalling. What do you have to say about that?

AR: A misleading advertisement is defined under the statute (Section 2). To put it in simple words, in an advertisement there should be no false description made of any product or service, no false guarantee given, and it shouldn't constitute what is called an unfair trade practice. During COVID-19, there were a lot of false and misleading advertisements. I am sure the number 12,000 is hugely attributed to the COVID-19 time.

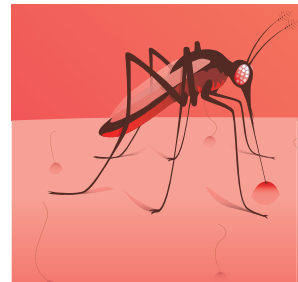
AD: There's no way to determine whether a claim is misleading or not. You can't really determine or measure whether a certain cement gives more life than the other. Of course, there has to be proof, but then if it's in the grey zone, you really can't prove it. From the number of misleading [advertising] complaints received by the Ministry, I'm sure only a few would be genuine. In our country, we see people and brands being trolled. A lot of it is also exaggerated. The number 12,000 has to be taken with a pinch of salt. Not all of them are genuine. But yes, there are many genuine complaints. Most of the promises are intangibles and lie in that grey area. There are always two ways of looking at it. If promises are not delivered, that's misleading.

Should brand ambassadors be held responsible for false claims in advertisements?

AD: Absolutely. They should be held responsible and there shouldn't just be a monetary punishment for that.

AR: The Act already provides for sufficient penalty. Of course, celebrities need to take some responsibility. They cannot shrug off responsibility.

DATA POINT



The many patterns of dengue

Dengue outbreaks follow a curious pattern. Once in five years, the case burden shifts to southern India. In 2022, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh formed 60% of India's cases. Similar spikes in the south were recorded in 2012 and 2017. A month-wise breakup of cases reveals another interesting trend. The dengue infections mimic the progression of the south-west and north-east monsoons. The share of dengue deaths is disproportionately higher in Maharashtra and Kerala. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Jasmin Nihalani

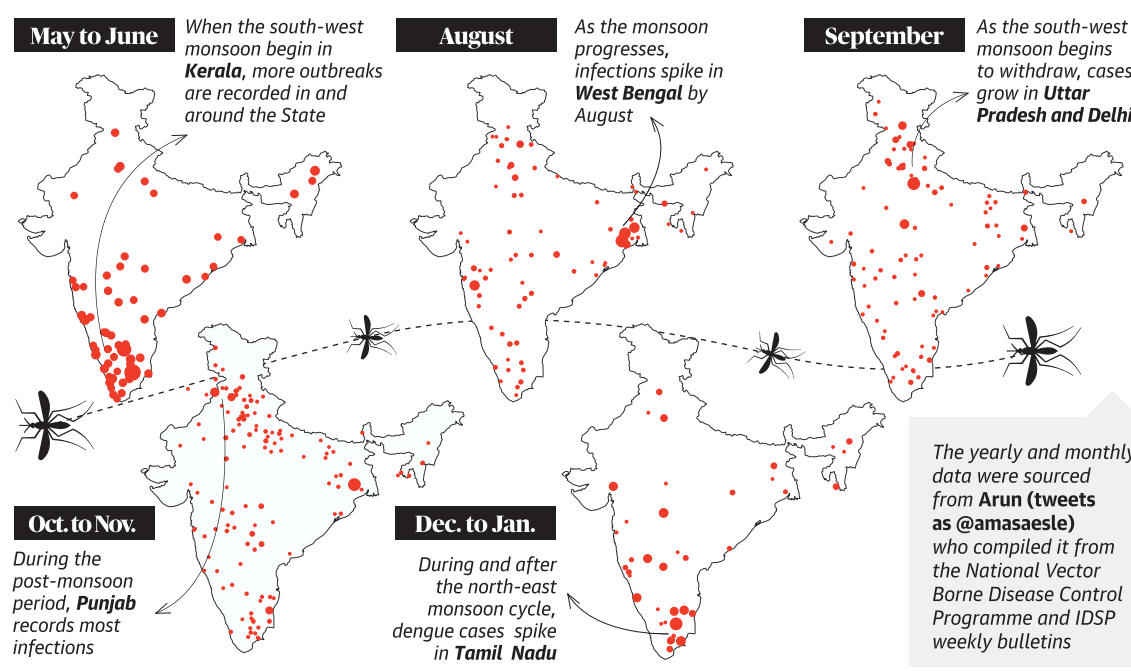
BACK IN THE SOUTH | The table shows a State's share of India's total dengue cases. For instance, Tamil Nadu accounted for 32% of all cases reported in 2022 (till May). In 2022, the dengue burden shifted to the south as three States — Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh — accounted for 60% of the dengue cases reported. The shift is part of a cycle in which cases in the south increase once in five years

| Years → | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Uttar Pradesh | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Uttarakhand | | | | | 13% | | | | | | 16% |
| Haryana | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Himachal Pradesh | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Punjab | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Delhi | | | | 16% | | 16% | | | | | 20% |
| Rajasthan | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gujarat | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maharashtra | | | | | 23% | | | | | | |
| Madhya Pradesh | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West Bengal | | | | | | 22% | | | | | |
| Odisha | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | | | | | | | | | | | 9% |
| Telangana | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Karnataka | | | | 9% | | | 10% | | | | 19% |
| Tamil Nadu | | | | 29% | | | 14% | | | | 32% |
| Kerala | | | | | | | 12% | | | | |

The table below lists a State's share of India's total cases and deaths between 2008 and 2022. The share of deaths in Maharashtra and Kerala is particularly disproportionate than their share in cases

| State | % of cases | % of deaths | Deaths/cases |
|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Maharashtra | 8 | 20.6 | 0.58 |
| Kerala | 6.5 | 10.3 | 0.36 |
| Rajasthan | 7.2 | 9.6 | 0.3 |
| Tamil Nadu | 7.7 | 8.6 | 0.25 |
| U.P. | 6.8 | 7.1 | 0.24 |
| M.P. | 3.6 | 3.3 | 0.2 |
| Punjab | 10.9 | 9.4 | 0.19 |
| H.P. | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.19 |
| Delhi | 7.1 | 5.9 | 0.19 |
| Haryana | 3.6 | 2.9 | 0.18 |
| Odisha | 4.7 | 3.7 | 0.18 |
| W.B. | 9.6 | 5.9 | 0.14 |
| Gujarat | 7.2 | 4.4 | 0.14 |
| Karnataka | 7.7 | 4.6 | 0.13 |
| Andhra | 3.3 | 1.4 | 0.1 |
| Telangana | 3.7 | 0.7 | 0.04 |

MONSOON SICKNESS The maps show dengue outbreaks across time periods. Each dot represents an outbreak. The size of the dot corresponds to the number of cases. The outbreak pattern is in sync with the movement of the south-west and north-east monsoons



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 1, 1972

P.M. Bhutto meet without aides

Simla, June 30: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and President Bhutto met for the first time to-day without any aides to discuss the elements of what they consider to be the proper basis for the establishment of durable peace between India and Pakistan in the light of the drafts exchanged at the official level talks by the two teams. Mrs. Gandhi met Mr. Bhutto at the Raj Bhavan this evening after she conferred with the members of the Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet on the progress of the summit discussions. The talks lasted 44 minutes and before he left, Mr. Bhutto told the waiting newsmen that they would meet again tomorrow to continue their discussions. Mrs. Gandhi, who stayed on for a short time at Raj Bhavan, met her senior Cabinet colleagues to give them a gist of her talk with the Pakistani President. After the first round of discussions on the agenda items, the Pakistani team presented a draft agreement yesterday for consideration by the Indian side. The Indian delegation put forward its draft containing some common elements, when the officials met in the afternoon. The Pakistani side came out with a revised draft to-day combining such elements which, in its view, were common between the two earlier drafts. The Indian team promised to consider it.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 1, 1922

Prisoners amused

The identity of Connolly and O'Brien who are charged with the murder of Sir Henry Wilson was revealed on their reappearance at Westminster Police Court as Reginald Dunn and Joseph O'Sullivan. They are described as ex-soldiers. Little public interest was shown in the trial. The prisoners were conveyed to the court in a motor car under armed guards. They entered the dock briskly, fully recovered from their injuries, and were smiling. They consulted typewritten copies of evidence given at the inquest, which were supplied to them and one made notes and sketched the witnesses during the proceedings which retold the story of assassination and pursuit. Both were amused during the evidence which showed how they had misled the police as to their identity. When a witness remarked that the bigger prisoner had foreign accent when, he solicited to crowd to stand back the defending solicitor said both were supposed to be foreigners. They were committed for trial at Old Bailey.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



India's fiscal deficit

12.3 In percentage, the Indian government's fiscal deficit of the annual budget target for 2022-23 at the end of May, mainly due to higher expenditure, according to data from the Controller General of Accounts. In actual terms, the deficit stood at ₹2,03,921 crore. The fiscal deficit was at 8.2% of the Budget Estimate of 2021-22 during the corresponding period. The country's fiscal deficit is projected at 6.4% of the GDP for this fiscal ending March 2023 as against the 6.71% for the previous year. PTI

Urban population rises

675 In million, the estimated urban population in India by 2035, the second-highest behind China's 1.05 billion, according to the United Nations Habitat's World Cities Report 2022, released on Wednesday. The global urban population is back on track to grow by another 2.2 billion people by 2050. By 2035, the percentage of the population in India residing in the urban region will be 43.2%. The report noted that the rapid urbanisation was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic but only temporarily. PTI

Assam floods

151 The death toll due to floods and landslides this year in Assam. The flood situation has worsened in the State with 31.54 lakh people affected in 26 districts as against the previous day's 24.92 lakh. In Silchar, several areas of the town are still waterlogged and the situation remains critical with the shortage of food, drinking water and medicines. Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli said that continuous work was going on to repair the damaged portion of the dyke breached at Bethukundi which led to the waterlogging. PTI

Rise in coffee exports

19 In percentage, the rise of coffee exports from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter, to 2,24,293 tonnes in the first half of this year, according to the Coffee Board. The country had exported 1,88,736 tonnes in the year-ago period. India ships both robusta and Arabica varieties, besides instant coffee. The shipment of Robusta coffee jumped 39.43% from January to June 2022, while Arabica coffee exports declined by 16.75%. The shipments of instant coffee increased by 24% compared to the year-ago period. PTI

Prisoners of war

6,000 The number of Ukrainian prisoners of war, the Russian defence ministry said it held on Thursday, a day after the two sides swapped imprisoned soldiers. On Wednesday each side received 144 detained soldiers. While the Ukrainian defence Ministry said that most of the Ukrainian soldiers were seriously wounded, the Russian Ministry spokesperson also stated the same about the troops who returned to Russia; that they were wounded and were receiving medical care. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The free fall of the rupee

Why are countries increasing their interest rates? What are the ways in which the RBI has tried to cushion the fall of the rupee?

THE GIST

■ The Indian rupee hit an all-time low against the U.S. dollar, weakening past the 79 rupees to a dollar mark and selling as low as 79.05 against the dollar on Wednesday.

■ Since March this year, the U.S. Federal Reserve has been raising its benchmark interest rate causing investors to pull capital away from emerging markets such as India and back into the U.S. This, in turn, has put pressure on emerging market currencies which have depreciated significantly against the U.S. dollar so far this year.

■ The RBI has been trying to rein in domestic consumer price inflation, which hit a 95-month high of 7.8% in April, by raising rates and tightening liquidity.

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

The story so far: The Indian rupee hit an all-time low against the U.S. dollar this week weakening past the 79 rupees to a dollar mark and selling as low as 79.05 against the dollar on Wednesday. Many analysts expect the rupee to weaken further in the coming months and move past the 80 rupees to a dollar mark. In fact, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects the rupee to weaken past the 94 rupees to a dollar mark by FY29.

What is happening with the rupee?

The Indian rupee has been witnessing a steady decline this year, losing more than 6% against the U.S. dollar since the beginning of 2022. India's forex reserves have also dropped below \$600 billion, plunging by more than \$50 billion since September 3, 2021, when forex reserves stood at an all-time high of \$642 billion. The drop in India's forex reserves is believed to be largely due to steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India to support the rupee. RBI officials, however, have noted that the drop in forex reserves is due to a fall in the dollar value of assets held as reserves by the RBI. For instance, if a portion of the reserves are in euros and the euro depreciates against the dollar, this would cause a drop in the value of forex reserves.

It should be noted that, as a matter of policy, the Indian central bank has usually tried to slow down or smoothen, rather than reverse or prevent, the fall in exchange value of the rupee against the U.S. dollar. The aim of the RBI's policy is to allow the rupee to find its natural value in the market but without undue volatility or causing unnecessary panic among investors. State-run banks are usually instructed by the RBI to sell dollars in order to offer some support to the rupee.

By thus selling dollars in the open market in exchange for rupees, the RBI can improve

demand for the rupee and cushion its fall.

What determines the rupee's value?

The value of any currency is determined by demand for the currency as well as its supply. When the supply of a currency increases, its value drops. On the other hand, when the demand for a currency increases, its value rises. In the wider economy, central banks determine the supply of currencies, while the demand for currencies depends on the amount of goods and services produced in the economy.

In the forex market, the supply of rupees is determined by the demand for imports and various foreign assets. So, if there is high demand to import oil, it can lead to an increase in the supply of rupees in the forex market and cause the rupee's value to drop. The demand for rupees in the forex market, on the other hand, depends on foreign demand for Indian exports and other domestic assets. So, for instance, when there is great enthusiasm among foreign investors to invest in India, it can lead to an increase in the supply of dollars in the forex market which in turn causes the rupee's value to rise against the dollar.

What is causing the rupee to lose value against the dollar?

Since March this year, the U.S. Federal Reserve has been raising its benchmark interest rate causing investors seeking higher returns to pull capital away from emerging markets such as India and back into the U.S. This, in turn, has put pressure on emerging market currencies which have depreciated significantly against the U.S. dollar so far this year. Even developed market currencies such as the euro and the yen have depreciated against the dollar and the dollar index is up more than 9% so far this year. In fact, some analysts believe that the RBI's surprise decision to raise rates in May could have simply been to defend the rupee by preventing any rapid outflow of capital from

India. In 2013, the rupee fell 15% against the dollar in about three months after investors were spooked by the US Federal Reserve's decision to trim down its bond purchase program that had helped keep long-term interest rates low.

Moreover, India's current account deficit, which measures the gap between the value of imports and exports of goods and services, is expected to hit a 10-year high of 3.3% of gross domestic product in the current financial year. This means that India's import demand amid rising global oil prices is likely to negatively affect the rupee unless foreign investors pour sufficient capital into the country to fund the deficit. But foreign investors are unlikely to plough capital into India when investment yields are rising in the U.S. Yields on U.S. 10-year Treasuries, for instance, have risen from around 0.5% in mid-2020 to over 3% now.

The rupee, it should also be noted, has consistently lost value against the U.S. dollar for several decades now. A major reason for this has been consistently higher domestic price inflation in India. Higher inflation in India suggests that the RBI has been creating rupees at a faster rate than the U.S. Federal Reserve has been creating dollars. So, while capital and trade flows gain a lot of attention in discussions on the rupee's value, the difference in the rates at which the U.S. Federal Reserve and the RBI regulate the supply of their currencies may play a much larger role in determining the value of the rupee in the long run.

What lies ahead?

Analysts believe that, over the long run, the rupee is likely to continue to depreciate against the dollar given the significant differences in long-run inflation between India and the U.S.

At the moment, as the U.S. Federal Reserve raises rates to tackle historically high inflation in the country, other countries and emerging markets in particular will be



forced to raise their own interest rates to avoid disruptive capital outflows and to protect their currencies. It should be noted that inflation in the U.S. hit a 41-year high of 8.6%.

The RBI too has been trying to rein in domestic consumer price inflation, which hit a 95-month high of 7.8% in April, by raising rates and tightening liquidity. As interest rates rise across the globe, the threat of a global recession also rises as economies readjust to tighter monetary conditions.

EXPLAINER

A road safety quartet and the road ahead

What are the key observations made by the new analytical series on road safety published in *The Lancet*?

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

The story so far: In spite of several years of policymaking to improve road safety, India remains among the worst-performing countries in this area with a toll of 1,47,913 lives lost to road traffic accidents in 2017 as per Ministry of Road Transport and Highways statistics. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figure for the same year is 1,50,093 road accident deaths. Further, India's data on road crash mortality are seen as an undercount, and the Global Burden of Disease report for 2017 estimates, based on verbal autopsy sources, that there were 2,18,876 deaths. The persistently high annual death toll brings into question the country's ability to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.6, which aims to halve the fatalities and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2030. The United Nations is holding a high-level meeting on Global Road Safety on June 30 and July 1, 2022 to review the progress and challenges.

What are the new findings on road safety?

A new analytical series on road safety worldwide, published by *The Lancet*, proposes that India and other countries could cut accident-related deaths by 25 to 40% based on evidence that preventive interventions produce good outcomes when applied to four well-known risk factors – high speed, driving under the influence of alcohol, not using proper helmets, not wearing seat-belts and not using child restraints. Globally, about 14

lakh people die in traffic accidents annually, and nearly five crore are injured; over half of those killed are pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists; Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC) bear the maximum burden of road fatalities and injuries, with high economic costs – an average of three to five per cent of GDP – suffered by these countries in 2014.

India amended its law on motor vehicles in 2019, but its implementation by State governments is not uniform or complete. A National Road Safety Board was constituted under the Motor Vehicles Act, with advisory powers to reform safety. The focus of State governments, however, remains conventional, with an emphasis on user behaviour (drivers and other road users), education and uneven enforcement. Low emphasis is placed on structural change such as raising engineering standards for roads, signages, signals, training for scientific accident investigation, raising policing skills and fixing responsibility on government departments for design, creation and maintenance of road infrastructure.

How can four factors improve safety outcomes?

The authors of *The Lancet* study used common predictors for individual countries, such as GDP per capita, population density, and governmental effectiveness measured through the Worldwide Governance Indicators, and built a statistical estimate of how interventions on the identified risk



factors would influence injuries and death.

Using the Global Burden of Disease data, a statistical model was constructed to estimate the number of lives that could be saved with interventions in the respective areas for each country. An average of 20,554 lives could have been saved in India with a reduction in speeds, 5,683 with helmet interventions and 3,204 with seatbelts. The savings for curbs on driving under the influence of alcohol were not quantified because the country does not report the percentage of such fatalities.

In addition, the study series in *The Lancet* also calculates that 17% of road traffic injury-related deaths in LMICs could be avoided if trauma care facilities improved. This is significant as several accidents take place in rural areas on highways, and victims are taken to poorly-equipped district hospitals or medical college hospitals.

While positive user behaviour – slower travel, wearing of helmets, seat belts and so on – could save thousands of lives, the structural problems linked to unplanned motorisation and urbanisation remain. In

India, speedy highway construction without reconciling fast and slow-moving traffic, presence of ramshackle vehicles, rampant wrong-side driving, absence of adequate police forces to monitor vehicles and curb drunk driving, and poor trauma care in non-urban centres contribute to high death and disability rates.

According to the Transport Ministry, more than 65% of those killed in road accidents in 2019 were in rural areas. Yet, the substantial death toll in densely populated urban centres – 32.9% – indicates that better engineering and enforcement can easily cut fatalities in the current decade, in the run up to the SDG goal year of 2030. This would be in consonance with the World Health Organization's (WHO) decade of action on road safety, recognising it as a major public health issue, launched last year.

What can be done to cut death and injury rates?

The ambitious amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act in 2019 (MV Act) have not yielded significant results, although the restrictions on vehicular movement for COVID-19 temporarily slowed the rising graph of fatalities and injuries. In many countries, post-COVID-19 driving has turned more unruly, leading to a rise in pedestrian deaths.

Major interventions in India, first suggested by the Sundar Committee (2007) and ordered by the Supreme Court in *S. Rajasekaran vs Union of India* have not made a dent in the problem. The measures include setting up of an

apex national body for road safety, and fixing decentralised responsibility at the district level.

The Sundar Committee pointed out that India lacked a technically competent investigation arm that could determine the cause of accidents; the National Road Safety Board Rules, 2021, provide for the formation of technical working groups covering, among other things, crash investigation and forensics. There is little clarity on whether the States have formed such units to aid traffic investigation, or whether the insurance industry has pressed for these to accurately determine fault. In the absence of scientific investigation, perceptions usually guide the fixing of liability. The MV Act stipulates only a fine up to one lakh for failure to follow norms and stipulations by the designated authority, contractor, consultant or concessionaire, leading to death or disability, and there is little evidence that even this has been enforced after a public inquiry.

The authors of *The Lancet* point out that legislation without enforcement ends in failure. Moreover, while proven interventions are proposed by WHO, absorptive capacities vary in LMICs. This is evident even in fast-growing India, since no single department bears responsibility to make roads safe. In the short term, slowing down traffic, particularly near habitations, segregating slower vehicles, enforcing seat belt and helmet use and cracking down on drunken drivers could produce measurable gains.

THE GIST

■ A new analytical series on road safety worldwide, published by *The Lancet*, proposes that India could cut accident-related deaths by 25 to 40% based on evidence that preventive interventions produce good outcomes when applied to well-known risk factors.

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A still from *Leila*. •FILE PHOTO

IN THE LIMELIGHT

The art of reading a film

In times of mob censorship, creators look for ways to make a point without attracting undue attention

ANUJ KUMAR

In the week when a scene from an innocuous 40-year-old Hrishikesh Mukherjee comedy is making headlines for its supposed subversive nature, suddenly the art of reading a film has become relevant. Evidently, scenes and dialogues convey new meanings as the context changes. That's how a film like any other art form survives and that's how the meme industry works. Even as the police could not see the satire in Mohd Zubair's tweet and Kissi Se Na Kehna emerged on everybody's lips, artist Shuddhabrata Sengupta of the Raqs Media Collective reflected on a scene from Mukherjee's classic comedy *Golmaal* (1979) wherein Bhawani Shankar (played by Utpal Dutt) has to spend a night in lock-up because a policeman (played by Om Prakash) mistakenly believes that Bhawani is a smuggler. Bhawani responds with a memorable line, "Aap police officer nahin, foolish officer hain."

Politics of censorship

Over the years, writers and filmmakers have found ways to bypass censorship and fragile sensibilities. When Kavi Pradeep wrote "Aaj Himalaya Ki Choti Se Phir Humne Lalkara Hai" for *Kismet* in 1943, director Gyan Mukherjee presented it as a warning to the Axis power, but the Indian audience connected it with the call for the Quit India Movement. It took the British government a long time to understand the true intent of the song.

The story of the Congress government banning Amrit Nahata's *Kissa Kursee Kaa* (1978) during the Emergency is well documented. Some of its negatives were allegedly burnt and the stinging satire could see the light of day only when the Janta Party government came to power. However, the film's protagonist Gangaram, a roadside performer who is catapulted as the supreme leader remains relevant. Played by theatre legend Manohar Singh, Gangaram is a master of word play and the bluster comes in handy while luring the mute public personified by Janta (Shabana Azmi). The kingmakers mortgage Gangaram to a corporate house to fulfil their interests, but don't realise that their Gangu has become a monster out

to bite his creators.

However, these are times of mob censorship and wafer-thin sensibilities that can use judicial access to take creative people on a tour of mofussil courts. OTT platforms and production houses have learnt their lessons. Every script is vetted by an in-house legal team and creators look for ways to make their point without attracting undue attention. Even in interviews, filmmakers often underplay the context and stick to the text.

Creating subtext

For instance, Cannes winner *All That Breathes* is a wonderful piece of creative non-fiction on environment protection, but one of the main reasons that the Shaanak Sen film is receiving global critical acclaim is because of the way it marries the ecosystem with the socio-political climate in the national capital. It deftly juxtaposes the life of two Muslim brothers who decide to save the kites at the same time that protests against the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the riots in North East Delhi rock the capital city. It changes the whole equation of who needs to be rescued. There are plenty of voices in the background and visuals that indicate the turmoil within and without. In one scene, one of the brothers says that while hatred was there earlier as well, they are now being seen as termites and vermin.

These are times of mob censorship and wafer-thin sensibilities that can use judicial access to take creative people on a tour of mofussil courts

Similarly, Amit Masurkar's *Sherri* plays out like a government-sponsored documentary on saving wildlife, but beneath its skin carries a biting comment on how the system seeks to create an animal out of its adversary for all those who care to delve deeper.

Shefali Bhushan's *Guilty Minds* is a sharp courtroom drama that breaks many stereotypes about the genre but it steers clear of cases on religious persecution and freedom of speech. However, if you look closely, there are subtle references to the politically-charged times,

without directly digging into them. When we are first introduced to the courtroom, a voice, perhaps of a lawyer, could be heard telling the bench in the background that, "Respect for all religions was the intention of the framers of the Constitution." There is a case wherein one of the takeaways is that start-up culture hasn't made the life of female employees any better.

Deepa Mehta's *Leila* fills you with fear because the discerning could watch the lines between fiction and reality blurring with a disconcerting frequency in the dystopian tale. Based on Prayag Akbar's book of the same name, on the surface, it is a mother's search for her daughter but as the narrative unravels, we could gauge its commentary. From the obsession with purity to hating the 'other' or for that matter water scarcity, one could easily join the dots. The violent detestation of mixed marriages becomes a brutal metaphor for the recent attacks on the plural character of the nation.

Perhaps, the most moving manifestation of this subversion comes through in Dibakar Banerjee's short in *Ghost Stories*, a horror anthology, where in the fictional zombie-land only those who don't move and speak could survive the fascist monster. The small town called Bees ghara, perhaps indicating the percentage of a minority, are being eaten up by big-towners named Sau ghara. Nobel laureate Toni Morrison once said that all good art is political but one didn't know it could be applied to horror stories as well.

Layered propaganda

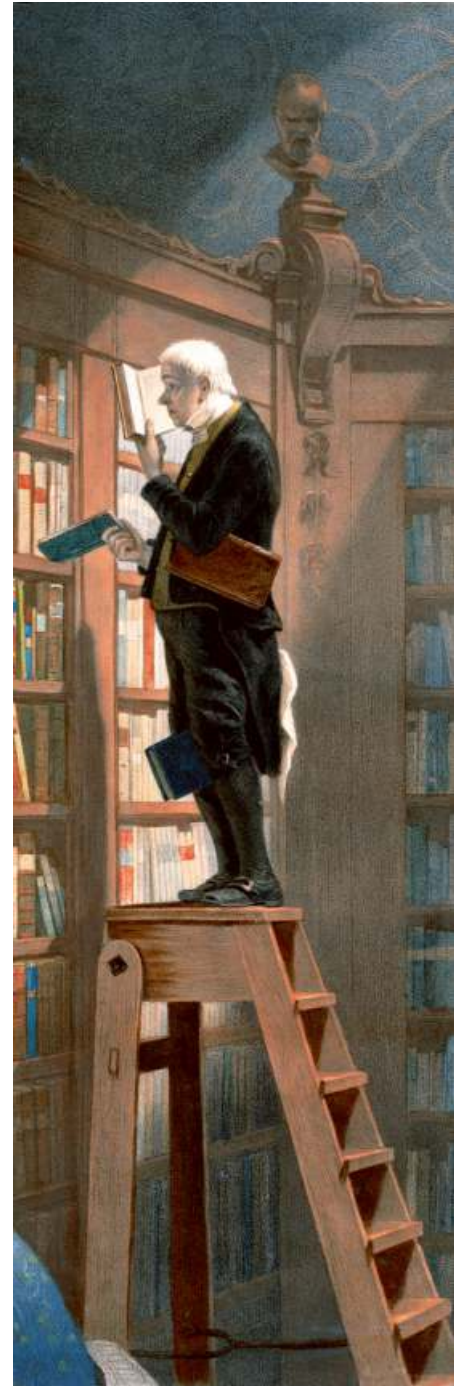
It is not that only those who want to expose the system are lining their narratives with explosives. Besides depicting the graphic violence perpetrated by one community against the other, *The Kashmir Files* questions the Sufi tradition of Islam in the Valley and subtly pushes the putrid thought that no Muslim is above suspicion. Sometimes, this layering is far too apparent and makes you chuckle. In *Dhaakad*, when Kangana Ranaut, playing an undercover agent, survives even after a bullet pierces the left side of her chest, a helpful doctor tells us that her heart is slightly on the right side. Isn't it a little too obvious?

THE GIST

Over the years, writers and filmmakers have found ways to bypass censorship and fragile sensibilities. For instance, in *All That Breathes* one of the main reasons why the film is receiving global acclaim is because of the way it marries the ecosystem with the socio-political climate in the national capital.

Perhaps, the most moving manifestation of this subversion comes through in Dibakar Banerjee's *Ghost Stories*, an anthology of horror films.

Films like *The Kashmir Files* show that it is not only those who want to expose the system that are lining their narratives with explosives.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning sir"
"Good morning."
"It is within walking distance, it is a walkable distance – which is correct sir?"

"Both are correct and both are used. But 'within walking distance' is more frequently used than the other."

"Sir, can you use 'sophisticated' in the sense of 'cultured'?"

"I notice that it is used in this sense these days. Words change their meaning with the passage of time. 'Sophisticated' is a very interesting word. The word is from Greek 'sophos' meaning 'wisdom'. Philosophy means 'love of wisdom'. With some it means 'love of sofas'. In Greece, till the middle of the fifth century B.C., the word 'sophist' was used to refer to seers and sages. Later it referred to those who taught wisdom as a profession. In the course of time, the teaching of the sophists deteriorated. Instead of teaching wisdom, they tended to teach easier things like rhetoric and subtle reasoning. They were clever at the art of making the worse appear the better. Hence sophism came to mean 'clever, subtle but false reasoning'. This sense is retained in the word 'sophistry'. Don't you see the fall from wisdom? In the middle ages, the word 'sophisticate' meant 'to adulterate, to mix some inferior substance'. A little later the word came to mean 'artificial or deprived of primitive simplicity and naturalness'. Later it came to be used in the sense in which we use it today. The sense is 'Wordly-wise, urbane, polished'. A sophisticated person is a cultivated person. The opposite of sophisticated is unsophisticated, simple, uncomplicated, natural. The seventh edition of COD records 'worldly-wise', 'cultured' under sophisticated. The use of 'sophisticated' in the sense of 'cultured' is rather recent. Perhaps one of these days it will get back its original sense 'wisdom'.

No living language is static: The meaning, pronunciation and usage of words change. What is considered unacceptable today maybe considered acceptable after some years. For many years, grammarians used to say that you shouldn't use 'aggravate' in the sense of 'annoy or exasperate'. They felt it should be used only in the sense of 'make worse'. However, 'exasperate' is given as one of its meanings in dictionaries published recently. I have said all this so that you won't apply some old grammatical rules to contemporary English and conclude that contemporary English is ungrammatical! I hope you follow."

"Yes, sir. How do you pronounce 'deity', sir?"

"It is pronounced 'deeiti', 'dee' rhymes with 'sea' and 'fee'. 'iti' rhymes with 'city'. The stress is on the first syllable. Let's call it a day. Goodbye"

THE DAILY QUIZ

According to UN figures, last week's earthquake in southeastern Afghanistan killed around 770 people. Here is a quiz on earthquakes, one of the most devastating natural disasters

1 The most powerful earthquake ever recorded measured 9.5 on the Richter Scale. In which country did this take place?

scale measures the intensity of the earthquake based on observational trends?

2 Seismology comes from the word seismos. What does seismos mean?

5 The Japanese word for earthquake – Jishin has another meaning (the Hiragana script for both these words are the same). Name the word.

3 Over 75% of the world's volcanoes are situated along this path and 90% of the Earth's earthquakes take place there. Which area is this and where is it located?

4 The Richter scale measures the magnitude of an earthquake. What



◀ This is an image from the aftermath of the 1992 Nicaragua earthquake. In terms of modern measurements, what first was achieved during this earthquake?
•HARRY YEH/NCEI

Please send in your answers to the dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

- Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. The asteroid collision which led to the extinction of dinosaurs happened at this location. **Ans: Chicxulub crater in the Yucatan Peninsula**
2. The difference between a meteor and a meteorite. **Ans: When a meteoroid enters the atmosphere, it is known as a meteor and when it hits the ground it is called a meteorite**
3. The two Italian towns destroyed by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. **Ans: Pompeii and Herculaneum**
4. The Fujita scale measures this. **Ans: Tornado intensity, primarily based on the damage it inflicts on human-built structures and vegetation**
5. Haumea, Makemake, and Eris are examples of this type of heavenly body. **Ans: Dwarf planets**
6. The point within the earth where the rupture starts. **Ans: Hypocenter**
7. Intracloud, Ground-to-Cloud, Cloud-to-Cloud are examples of this type of phenomenon. **Ans: Lightning**
Visual: This water body in Maharashtra was created by a meteorite collision during the Pleistocene Epoch. **Ans: Lonar Lake**

Early Birds: Pranzan Joshi| Gurjot Malhotra| Teena Achint| Kezia Yohana| Athira

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

FROM PAGE ONE

Small savings interest rates unchanged

This is the ninth quarter in a row that small savings rates have been held at the same level after rates were reduced in the range of 0.5% to 1.1% on different instruments for the April to June 2020 quarter. Further cuts, ranging from 0.4% to 1.1%, were announced for the April to June 2021 quarter but revoked overnight, citing an 'oversight'.

For July to September, the Sukanya Samriddhi scheme will continue to earn 7.6%, the Senior Citizens Saving Scheme will earn 7.4%, PPF 7.1%, Kisan Vikas Patra 6.9%, and NSC 6.8%. Five-year term deposits will fetch 6.7% interest.

In April, the Reserve Bank of India had said the rise in government bond yields had led to a reduction in the gap between the announced interest rates on small savings over the formula-based rates to a range of 9 to 118 basis points for the April to June quarter,

from a range of 42-168 basis points in the previous quarter. One basis point equals 0.01%.

However, yields have risen further since then. After hitting a four-year high of 7.6% during June, yields on government bonds with a maturity of 10 years stood at 7.46% on June 29.

With the central bank expected to hike interest rates further in the coming months to rein in runaway inflation, ICRA projected last week that the yield on these bonds could rise further to as much as 7.75%-8% in the July-September quarter.

"The average month-end G-Sec yields for one-year, two-year and five-year bonds have increased substantially to 5.26%, 5.65% and 6.79%, respectively, during March and May 2022, from 3.88%, 4.72% and 6%, respectively, during the December 2021 to February 2022 period," pointed out Ms. Nayar.

Eight killed, 45 missing in Manipur landslide

The disaster response teams have carted away much of the debris which had blocked the river Ijai. The blockage had threatened to flood the nearby villages. Haulianlal Guite, Deputy Commissioner of Noney district, issued an advisory of a flood alert as the debris had created an artificial dam. People have been warned against going near the river banks.

The advisory said, "Due

to the unfortunate landslide... where casualties are being reported and dozens buried alive, the flow of the Ijai river has also been obstructed by the debris, creating a dam-like storage condition, which if breached will wreak havoc to the low-lying areas of Noney district."

The advisory also told travellers to avoid NH-37 due to multiple road blockages.

(With PTI inputs)

'It is vital to protect Indian Ocean Region'

NSA Ajit Doval calls for coordination

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The changing geopolitical scenario in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) had led to "international rivalries, competition and clash of interests" and it was important for India to protect its interests in this area, said National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval on Wednesday, while calling for seamless coordination among all stakeholders involved in the maritime domain. He stated that the maritime domain was a multilateral construct and a nation "cannot unilaterally decide" in the maritime domain.

He was addressing the first meeting of the Multi-Agency Maritime Security Group chaired by the country's first National Maritime Security Coordinator Vice-Admiral Ashok Kumar (Retd.) who took charge on February 16 and for the first time also brought together maritime security coordina-



Ajit Doval

tors from all 13 coastal States and Union Territories as well as other stakeholders.

"In the national security discourse, maritime security has its own specific emphasis," Mr. Doval said. "We are destined for greater things. India's time will come. We, as a nation have to be strong. Coastal and maritime security will play an important role in this," he said. He said, "Maritime borders cannot be fenced. We cannot have the concept of zero per cent tolerance for intrusion. So we need technology and other ways of countering it."

Amarnath yatra begins after a gap of 3 years

Hundreds perform *darshan*; officials expect a turnout of 8 lakh pilgrims this year

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Enthusiastic about the reopening of the Amarnath cave shrine after a gap of three years, hundreds of devotees made their way up to the cave from the twin routes of Sonamarg and Pahalgam on Day 1 of the yatra on Thursday, amid tight security.

At first light, hundreds of pilgrims, including sadhus and women, queued up and left the Baltal base camp located at an altitude of 2,743 metres and trekked to an altitude of 3,657 metres to perform *darshan* at the shrine in central Kashmir.

Many batches of pilgrims opted for the toughest route in south Kashmir's Pahalgam where they trekked



Wait ends: BSF jawans keep vigil as pilgrims trek to the Amarnath cave on the Baltal route on Thursday. •NISSAR AHMAD

more than 30 km and climbed the highest peak of the Mahagunas Pass located at an altitude of 4,276 metres to reach the shrine. It takes two-three days to reach the shrine through this traditional route.

"We had registered for the yatra in 2020 and 2021

Deactivated Twitter account is back

The account's June 19 tweet formed the basis for the FIR against Alt News co-founder Zubair

ABHINAV LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

The Twitter account (Hanuman Bhakt @balajikijain) that led to the Delhi Police filing an FIR against Alt News co-founder Mohammad Zubair and eventually arresting him, came back online on Thursday after being deactivated for around a day.

The account's June 19 tweet, which was the first post made since its creation in October 2021, formed the basis for the Special Cell's FIR against Mr. Zubair.

Mr. Zubair had on March 2018 posted an image from a Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)-approved 1983 Hindi film *Kissi Se Na Kehna*, which showed a hotel's name being changed from "Honeyymoon Hotel" to "Hanuman Hotel". The text with his image said: "Before 2014: Honeyymoon Hotel; After 2014: Hanuman Hotel".

The IFSO (Intelligence Fusion Strategic Operations) officer who filed the complaint against this 2018 tweet based on @balajikijain's tweet, had said Mr. Zubair's post and the photo he had used "are highly provocative and more than sufficient to incite



Alt-News co-founder Mohammad Zubair being brought by the Delhi Police to Bengaluru on Thursday. •PTI

feeling of hatred amongst people".

Despite the tweet being from four years ago, the Delhi Police had made the case that its revival had led to a fresh barrage of hateful comments against one community, which hurt its religious sentiments.

An analysis of the tweet of @balajikijain that the police said revived Mr. Zubair's post from 2018, showed that it had received no interaction on the micro-blogging website until June 27, the day the scribe was arrested and

details of the FIR, registered on June 20, were made public.

The anonymous Twitter account saw a steep rise in followers from two before June 27 to over 1,900 as of Thursday evening. The post that the Delhi Police have referred to in their FIR also saw a jump in comments — all made on or after June 27.

None of these comments, seen by *The Hindu*, explicitly claimed that Mr. Zubair's post had hurt their religious sentiments — they were mostly congratulatory in na-

ture, praising the Twitter handle for "getting him arrested" and calling its operator a "king". A few asked how Mr. Zubair's post could hurt religious sentiments.

Congratulatory remarks Such congratulatory remarks continued to appear on Thursday too after the account came back online, with some users praising @balajikijain for getting Mr. Zubair arrested despite having almost no followers when an organised campaign to do the same did not succeed just days ago.

On the other hand, the social media users who did claim their sentiments were hurt, did so in their comments on Mr. Zubair's post in question — the frequency of such posts increasing from June 14 onwards.

Significantly, it was on June 14 that the four-year-old tweet was first revived by a user with the handle @thehawekeyx — in a thread picking out old tweets by Mr. Zubair.

This thread argued that when suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma could be booked for her remarks

Modified PSLV places three foreign satellites into orbit

ISRO uses PS-4 stage as an orbital platform for experiments

T.K. ROHIT
SRIRAHKOTA

On a hot summer evening accentuated by clear blue skies, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) workhorse launch vehicle on its 55th mission, the PSLV-C53, rose into the sky, painting it with a pencil-shaped plume of smoke before it curved away and injected three Singaporean satellites into their intended orbits in the second dedicated mission for the commercial arm of ISRO, New Space India Limited (NSIL).

The mission also served an additional purpose for ISRO, which decided to use the fourth stage, the PS4, as a stationary platform in orbit to conduct scientific experiments. ISRO Chairman, S. Somanath, described the manoeuvre as "a poem in orbit".

The modified PSLV-C53 took off from the second launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota Range, at 6.02 p.m. and placed the three satellites — a 365 kg Singaporean Earth Observation Satellite, DSEO, a 155 kg small commercial satellite with a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload, the NeuSAR; and a 2.8 kg satellite from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and SCOEB-1 — into orbit 19 minutes after lift-off.

"After the primary mission, the PSLV-4th stage is going to write some poems in orbit. The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) is going to be functional after this [placing of



The PSLV-C53 taking off from the second launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on Thursday. •S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

satellites into orbit] taking over the control of the primary mission computer to another computer. The fourth stage will be powered, generating power on board and will be stabilised with altitude control and host some experiments by some of young start-ups enabled by InSpace," Mr. Somanath said from Mission Control.

Mr. Somanath said that, normally, the fourth stage would end up as debris in space. But ISRO had repurposed the fourth stage and introduced a computer control system to fire its thrusters, sensors such as star sensors that will enable it look at the stars, find its own position, and also send commands from the ground. The fourth stage can be used in the missions where the load is light, like on the PSLV-C53. On missions with higher pay-

loads, such as an upcoming launch with a 1.5-tonne satellite, there will be too little propulsion left to operate the POEM.

S.R. Biju, Mission Director, said the PSLV was in a different configuration this time with the core-alone version being used after a long time.

"We had to introduce some changes to improve the production of PSLV so that we can meet the growing demand of customers, which we have implemented, and it has yielded results," he said.

Explaining about the fourth stage and POEM, Mr. Biju said ISRO would take over the PS-4 stage and give it some energy to do some cost-effective experiments in orbit that can satisfy the growing demand from startups, and the student and scientific communities.

BJP had misled MLAs in Rajasthan too: Cong.

Jairam refers to Pilot-led rebellion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

While attacking the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for unseating the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday blamed the BJP for "misleading" 19 Congress MLAs of Rajasthan, in a reference to the Sachin Pilot-led rebellion against the Ashok Gehlot government in that State.

Moments before Eknath Shinde took oath as the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Ramesh, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary for communication, accused the BJP of "undemocratically and unethically capturing yet another State government through the naked display of money and muscle power". "Under the Modi-Shah duo, the BJP wants to capture power at any cost, either directly or through remote control. What happened in Maharashtra is shameful for Indian democracy," the AICC leader said in a statement.

"Buying MLAs has become so commonplace that the Finance Minister blurted out the truth today when



Jairam Ramesh

she suggested imposition of GST on horse-trading," he added, referring to a slip of tongue by Nirmala Sitharaman, who, at a press conference on GST, referred to "horse racing" as "horse trading" before promptly correcting herself.

The Congress leader said that since 2014, the prime focus of the BJP has been to bring down elected governments in States, and the offices of Governors and Speakers, and Central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation are openly misused. "The BJP can go to any extent to win elections — from misuse of money power to polarisation and violence. Despite using all these tactics, if the voters reject them, then they start hatching conspiracies," he said.

UAPA necessary to act against terrorists: Minister

R.K. Singh addresses NHRC meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister R.K. Singh on Thursday said it was necessary to have certain laws like the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) so that action could be taken against terrorists and those who "behead other people", while addressing the National Human Rights Commission's conference on human rights in the Indian context.

Mr. Singh cited attacks by Naxals on security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir as examples.

Mr. Singh said it was "necessary to infringe on due process of a few citizens in order to protect the larger humanity".

Referring to the incident where a tailor was beheaded by two men in Udaipur earlier this week, Mr. Singh said, "It is necessary to have special laws like the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act so that we can act against terrorists, so that we can act against the type of people who behead other people. That is something which has to be said and has to be accepted."

Only Murmu, Sinha in fray for Presidential poll

Nomination papers of 92 rejected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu and her challenger Yashwant Sinha were the only two candidates left in the fray for the July 18 Presidential election after scrutiny of nomination papers, Rajya Sabha Secretary General P.C. Mody said on Thursday.

Mr. Mody, the returning officer for the Presidential election, said 115 nomination papers of 94 persons were received till Wednesday, of which 107 were rejected for not meeting the required criteria.

The nomination papers of Ms. Murmu and Mr. Sinha — four sets each — were

found to fulfil all the requirements and were accepted, he said.

Mr. Mody said the list of contesting candidates will be published in the Gazette on July 2 after 3 p.m., which is the last date for withdrawal of nomination.

According to the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election Act, a nomination for the Presidential poll is rejected if it is not backed by 50 proposers and 50 seconders from the electoral college made up of members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies.

APPEAL

Name of Patient: **UBEDUR REHMAN**, 5 years.
Hospital Name: CARE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Diagnosis: Thalassemia Major and has been on regular blood transfusion from 6 months of age. We plan to use bone marrow donated by the fully matched sibling donor for the transplantation. The overall cost of the transplant would be about **Rs. 10,00,000/-**.

We request kind hearted Philanthropists to save him. Kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D/M.O. favouring **Save Poor Lives** and on the back of Cheque write A/c Ubedur Rehman **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, and IFSC CODE: SBIN001855, You Can Donate through Google Play No. 9884607377, UPI ID: **savepoorlives@oksbil**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T.ACT.

Contact: **SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST**, (Admin Division), Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-600028.
Ph: 94442044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: **savepoorlives@gmail.com** Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot meeting the family of Kanhaiya Lal Teli at his residence in Udaipur on Thursday. • V. V. KRISHNAN

Police search factory in Udaipur murder case

Weapons could have been made there

DEVESH K. PANDEY
UDAIPUR

A Rajasthan police team on Thursday searched a metal factory where one of the prime accused in the beheading of tailor Kanhaiya Lal Teli used to work.

The search was conducted to reconstruct the sequence of events leading up to the murder over backing suspended BJP leader over her posts on Prophet Muhammad. The police suspect that the sharp weapons used in the murder were manufactured at the factory. It is not clear if the weapons have been recovered.

Preliminary investigations revealed that after hacking Kanhaiya Lal at his shop and recording the act using a mobile phone on Tuesday, accused Mohammed Riyaz Attari and Ghous Mohammed fled to the S.K. Engineering Factory at Sapetia village on a motorcycle. They made another video claiming responsibility for the killing and released the two clips on social media, after which they left for Deogarh in Rajasthan. However, they were intercepted by the police in Bhim.

On Thursday, the investigators went to the factory owned by one Shoeb, where Attari did welding work. His suspected links with a terror module, whose three alleged members were arrested by the Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh police in March with 12 kg of explosives at Nimbahera in Rajasthan, are also being probed.

Attari belongs to Asind in Bhilawara and lived on rent in the Khanjipeer area of Udaipur with his wife and two children. The house owner, Mohammed Umar, told the police that the accused had shifted to the room on June 12.

WhatsApp groups

The second accused, Ghous, is from Bhim and also lived in a rented room with his family in Khanjipeer. The police have found that in 2014, he had gone to Karachi in Pakistan and that he was allegedly affiliated to the Pakistan-based outfit Dawat-e-Islami. It is alleged that on June 17, he had posted a video message in various WhatsApp groups declaring his intention to target people. However, the police did not come to know about it.

The court remanded the two accused in 14-day judicial custody and sent them to the Udaipur Central Jail. Local lawyers refused to appear for the accused, who had to be taken away by the rear entrance of the court because of protests.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot met the family of Kanhaiya Lal and assured them of all possible assistance. Mobile phone Internet service remained suspended and prohibitory orders were still in place.

Heavy security deployments were made in different parts of the city in view of the Jagannath Yatra on Friday.

BJP leadership makes Fadnavis accept 'demotion'

Only on Thursday morning, he was told Shinde would be the CM, and he would have to make the announcement himself

NISTULA HEBBAR
ALOK DESHPANDE
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The 'demotion' of former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis in the new State government has reaffirmed the supremacy of the party, as Mr. Fadnavis has been made to follow its orders.

On the other hand, promoting Shiv Sena rebel Eknath Shinde as Maharashtra's Chief Minister at the expense of Mr. Fadnavis is seen as an attempt by the Central leadership of the party to detach emotionally charged Sena workers from party chief Uddhav Thackeray and to create a Maratha leadership in the State under the Hindutva banner.

The surprise announcement by the former Maharashtra Chief Minister that

Mr. Shinde, and not he, would be taking oath as the next Chief Minister was a move that quite obviously came from Delhi in a bid to appropriate at least part of the legacy of Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray.

According to sources in Delhi, even after government formation, there are apprehensions over the future of the new government, with the Sena under former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray girding up to establish his claim over the party. "This means that the matter will go to the Election Commission. Appointment of Shinde as Chief Minister would give strength to the claim that his is the real Shiv Sena, and that the BJP is supportive of the real thing and not the collaborative Shiv Sena that tied up with the party's rivals, the Congress and the NCP, just to get the Chief



Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis after claiming majority to form the government in Maharashtra. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

Minister's chair," said a senior leader in Delhi. "Also with Shinde as Chief Minister, he will be as interested as the BJP in the stability of this formation," added the source.

The BJP's move to promote Mr. Shinde, instead of Mr. Fadnavis, was also out of

a need to curtail the sympathy factor for Mr. Thackeray, following his emotional speech while resigning from the CM's post.

Mr. Shinde, a Maratha who is originally from western Maharashtra's Satara district, becomes the fourth Chief Minister from this area.

He, with the Hindutva banner, will be the key to the BJP's search to counter the Maratha-dominated politics of the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP. Mr. Shinde has been claiming that he revolted against the Thackerays to bring the Sena back to the Hindutva fold.

When asked about these claims, Mr. Pawar said such excuses were not to be taken seriously.

Twists and turns

If the choice of Mr. Shinde as the face of the new State government had twists, Mr. Fadnavis's demotion as Deputy CM had many more. The BJP leader, at a press conference, first said that he would not be a part of the State government. But a very public appeal made by BJP president J.P. Nadda changed the scenario in a few hours.

According to sources in

New Delhi, it was only on Thursday morning that Mr. Fadnavis was told that Mr. Shinde would be the new Chief Minister, and that Mr. Fadnavis would have to make the announcement himself. Mr. Fadnavis was also informed that he too would have to be a part of the government, as per the wishes of the party high command, despite having served as Chief Minister of the State in the past, and the deputy Chief Ministership being a demotion.

Plainly, Mr. Fadnavis was being put in a position where if he refused such a public appeal of the high command, he would be defying party discipline. Whatever the setback he received on Thursday, for a future career in the BJP he would have to fall in line. On Thursday evening, by taking oath, that is what he did.

Rebels will regret tryst with BJP, says Sanjay Raut

'We will be a constructive Opposition'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday stressed that the party [Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena faction] would play the role of a "constructive Opposition" to the new government while warning that the dissident Sena MLAs would regret their rebellion.

He further said that the Sena would not cause any hindrance in the rebel leaders' association with the BJP.

"Eknath Shinde was a staunch Shiv Sainik and worked for the party for many years. The other MLAs in this camp, be it Gulabrao Patil or Sandipan Bhurme have been staunch Sainiks for years and we have worked together. We will not create any impediment in their path. Now our paths are different," said Mr. Raut. The Sena MP, who has been the *bete noire* of the Shinde rebel camp for his



Sanjay Raut

harsh criticism, said the party would go forward unfazed by this setback.

Hitting out at the BJP for attempting to bring down the Maha Vikas Aghadi government right from its inception, the Sena MP said everyone had a sense of trust in the Uddhav-led government.

He also pointed out that many of the rebel MLAs who were justifying their revolt on the basis of Mr. Thackeray allegedly forsaking 'Hindutva' had earlier been with the NCP.

Bittersweet victory for Fadnavis

For the leader, the fall of the MVA government is a win after two-and-a-half years

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

It was in the last session of the previous Maharashtra Assembly, just before the State election in 2019, that Devendra Fadnavis had declared that he would be returning as Chief Minister of the State.

The phrase, in Marathi, *Mee Punha Yeil* (I will be back), was invoked after that as a rallying cry by Mr. Fadnavis's supporters and in mockery by his detractors after the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance broke up and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government was formed in 2019. On Thursday, when he prepared to anoint Eknath Shinde, the leader of the rebel Shiv Sena faction as the Chief Minister with the support of the BJP, a twist very few could foresee, he managed a partial pay-

back if not a return as Chief Minister.

For Mr. Fadnavis, 51, the fall of the MVA government was not just a political project but more importantly a grudge match with the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

Since that early morning hush-hush swearing-in on November 23, 2019, when the Sena had exited the alliance with the BJP and Mr. Fadnavis had managed to rope in a substantial chunk of NCP MLAs headed by Ajit Pawar to join a government to be headed by him, to all of it coming a cropper just 80 hours later with Mr. Pawar heading back to the parent body of the NCP, Mr. Fadnavis's image had taken quite a knocking.

The two-and-a-half years it took for him to serve pay-

back for that public denouement has been quite a journey. According to those close to Mr. Fadnavis, while he had always had a sound image with regard to organisation and administration, at least three instances showed that he was a quick study when it came to oppositional politics of the streets.

These were — his fiery speech at a large rally in Tardeo in 2019 in support of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, very uncharacteristic compared with his hitherto soft-spoken image, his tour organising relief work during the floods that hit the State in 2020, and the BJP managing to win the Pandharpur bypoll in 2021, a seat that the party had never managed to win so far.

If this was the art of oppositional politics, the events

that preceded the fall of the MVA were the craft.

It was Mr. Fadnavis's precise calculations that led to the BJP winning the extra seats in the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council polls.

He and Union Minister Narayan Rane and senior State BJP leader Girish Mahajan also kept a keen eye on inner party rumblings within the Shiv Sena. When Mr. Shinde felt left out of the Sena power hierarchy, Mr. Fadnavis was waiting in the wings with just the right combination of tea, sympathy and a private jet.

For Mr. Fadnavis, if not the return, then the fall of the MVA government will be sweet. How this plays out in terms of the future of the Shiv Sena, and Mr. Fadnavis's own future in State politics remains to be seen.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No. : Re-Tender 37 & 38/22-23/SE/PHC/PKD
JUM - WSS to Pudukudy & Muthalameda Panchayath - Construction of 5MLD WTP, 2LL, 3LL & 6LL OHSR, Supplying and laying RWP and CWP, distribution system including FHTCs, network design, RW and CW pumps, Transformer, Railway crossing.
• EMD : Rs. 50000 each • Tender fee : Rs. 17700/-
• Last Date for submitting Tender : 12-07-2022, 03.00 pm
• Phone : 0491 25449271
• Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in | www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-6-442-2022-23
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Palakkad

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
GUWAHATI- 781 039, INDIA
IIT Guwahati invites tenders for providing services, viz. South Indian food, Bakery, Sandwich, Pizza, Indian snacks and chaat, Ice Cream and waffle, Fine Dine and Dairy and Beverages shops in the Students' Food Court. Tender documents can be downloaded from http://www.iitg.ac.in/iitg_tenders_all_and_Central_Public_Procurement_portal_on_or_before_04.07.2022.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Contact Number: 96461-19583, Email: se-it@pspcpl.in
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SCG038113, Website: www.pspcl.in
Tender Enquiry No. 276/DIT-1088 Dated 29.06.2022
Superintending Engineer/IT (A&PM), Ground Floor, 7-Storey Building, PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala invites e-tender for Design, Development and O&M of MDM (Meter Data Management) System in PSPCL, Patiala. For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 29.06.2022, 11:00 AM onwards.
Note: - Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C 251/22 76155/12/961/2021/15321

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN- U40102RJ2000SC016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
CHHABRA THERMAL POWER STATION, CHHABRA
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 2176/RVU/2223GLOB00657
E-tenders are invited for Supply, Erection, Commissioning & Testing of submerged scraper chain conveyor system of Bottom Ash Handling System. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajabstan.gov.in> (for e-tender), www.energy.rajabstan.gov.in/rvum/ & www.sppp.rajabstan.gov.in
Raj.samwad/C/22/4256 RVUM/PR-3691 Dy.CE (O&M-I)

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune - 411 007.
Corrigendum
Refer our Tender Notice No. 02/2022-2023 for supply of (a) Laptops (b) Computer Servers (c) Compute Rack Servers. Due dates are extended as under:
Downloading of Tender Upto : 08.07.2022, upto 18.00 hrs.
Due date for Submission of Tender Upto : 14.07.2022, upto 18.00 hrs.
Date for Opening of Technical Bids 15.07.2022 at 14.30 hrs. to 16.00 hrs.
Bid (Part II, if sufficient bids are received).
For details visit: <http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/public-tenders-1>

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
WORKS BRANCH
MADRURAI DIVISION.
TENDER NOTICE NO. MDU-W-11-2022 dated 29.06.2022
e-tenders are invited for the following works by the Divisional Railway Manager / Works / Southern Railway/ Madurai. Tender closing date for Item No.1 on 20.07.2022 at 14.00 hrs.
Name of Work: Proposed Reconstruction of catwalk at pit line 1 & 2 at Ramswaram. App. Value: Rs. 1n lakhs : 360.68. EMD Rs.: 330400. Period of completion : 9 months.
(Item 1 only)
Further details are available in detail on website <https://www.irps.gov.in> (The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.irps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Madurai (For and on behalf of President of India), Madurai.
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INDIAN RAILWAYS
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION
DY.CEE/RE/PGT Acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Tender Notice No. RE/PGT/ELEC/ TQGL/27/OT-6 closing time and date 15.00 hrs on 28.07.2022.
Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offers received shall be ignored.
e-Tender Notice No. : RE/PGT/ELEC/TQGL/27/OT-6
Name of the work with its location: Electrification of Staff Quarters (TYPE II-16 Nos, TYPE III-17Nos, TYPE IV-5 Nos) And IPS rooms at various LC's in Salem-Vidhachalam-Cuddalore port Section, Dindugal - Pollachi-Minatchipuram Section & Pollachi-Podanur Section in connection with Railway Electrification Project under Railway Electrification Palakkad in the state of Tamilnadu.
Approximate cost of the work: Rs. 77,35,939.25/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Nine and Twenty Five Paise only). Cost of tender document: Nil. Address of the office: Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Palakkad, Kerala-678 009. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,54,700/-, Completion period of the work: 09 (nine) months.
Date of Commencement of Tender Document : Uploaded on 28.06.2022, Tender Closing date & time: 28.07.2022 at 15.00 hrs. Validity of the offer : 90 (ninety) days. Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen/ Downloaded : www.irps.gov.in.
Dy.Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification Palakkad
Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway)

URBAN IMPROVEMENT TRUST BIKANER ONLINE
No. 7132 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Date 23-06-2022
UIT invites Expression of interest (EOI) on online e-procure in the interested Agencies for DESIGN, BUILT, FINANCE, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (DBOT) FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WITH PARKING Near mohata sarai, BIKANER.
Bidding Procedure: The complete set of EOI document for work can be downloaded from www.epproc.com. Demand draft (towards EOI documents fee) for an amount of INR 5,000/- drawn in favor of Secretary UIT Bikaner shall be furnished with EOI in separate cover. Last date for online submission of Biodata/Company Profile, Documents for DESIGN, BUILT, FINANCE, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (DBOT) FOR DEVELOPMENT OF Commercial Complex with parking at BIKANER ON is 23-06-2022 Hard copy should reach at the address mentioned below on or before 22-07-2022 upto TIME 11.00 AM hrs by RPAD/Speed Post only. To, Secretary Urban Improvement Trust Bikaner UBN-ITB223W50B000082
नगर संवर्धन/सी/22/4218 Executive Engineer

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
NMDCLTD & Steel Plant, Post - Nagarnar (Bastar) C.G. PIN 484001
Email: srinivasprata@nmdc.co.in; mundenayan@nmdc.co.in; wskhwalra@nmdc.co.in
CIN: 143100TG1955G001074; GSTIN: 22AAACW7325A323
CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT
NMDC Limited, A 'NAVARATNA' Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites Offline bids from experienced domestic bidders for the following tender enquiry with start and end date as below for 3.0 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar, near Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh state.
Name of the work: Outsourcing Operational Jobs of Energy Management Department for 3.0 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar, Near Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh State.
Tender no & Date: NISP/CONTRACTS/M&C/235/O&M-21/2022/273
Date: 01.07.2022 Last date of submission: 21.07.2022.
The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from NMDC website <http://www.nmdc.co.in>, and Central Public Procurement portal (CPP PORTAL) <http://www.eprocure.gov.in> and www.nmdc.co.in website.
The Bidders, on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal websites for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.
For further clarification, please contact HOD (Contracts) Email: nispmaterials@nmdc.co.in; srinivasprata@nmdc.co.in; wskhwalra@nmdc.co.in
HOD (Contracts)

MISSING
Jose Rajan, Age 59/22, Son of Scaria, Eanthumplackal (house), Poonjar Thekkekkara Village, Kottayam (Dt), Kerala (State), is seen in this photo has gone missing from Rajasthan on 03.05.2022. Anyone with any information about him would like to report to the following numbers.
Inspector SHO, Erattupetta Police Station : 9497987084
Erattupetta Police Station : 04822272228, 9497980316
Symbol information
White, 5 feet 10 inches height.
Sd/- DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF KOTTAYAM
(RO/01631/F2/2022/ILPRD)

Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Science and Technology
19th ADVERTISEMENT call - 2022
INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship Scheme: A component under INSPIRE
Applications for the year 2022 are invited for INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship. INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship Scheme is a component under INSPIRE for young researchers in the age group of 27-32 years. The upper age limit as on 01 January 2022 is 32 years for General Category (i.e. those born on or after 01 January 1990) and 37 years for SC/ST/Women candidates (i.e. those born on or after 01 January 1985) candidates. For persons with a bench mark disabilities (Divyangjan with not less than 40 percent of a specified disability) the upper age limit will be 42 years (i.e. those born on or after 01 January 1980).
➤ Eligible candidates should apply only through ONLINE. Please visit the website: www.online-inspire.gov.in and follow the process prescribed therein. After submission of online application, the candidate must obtain a printout of the application thus submitted for their records only. The last date for ONLINE submission of application is 15th August 2022.
➤ Detailed Guidelines of the component are available at the Website: www.online-inspire.gov.in

GUJARAT METRO RAIL CORPORATION (GMRC) LIMITED
(SPV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Gujarat)
Block No.1, First Floor, Karmayogi Bhavan, Sector 10/A, Gandhinagar, 382010, Gujarat. (CIN): U62006GJ2010SC059407
TENDER NOTIFICATION No: GMRC/O&M/TRAIN CLEANING/PH-1/2022 Dated : 01.07.2022
E-Tender is invited from reputed and experienced Contractors for the following tender:
Tender Name Tender Fees
"Train Cleaning at Apparel Park and Gyaspur Depot for Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase -1" INR 25,000/-
Interested bidders are requested to visit <https://gmrc.nprocure.com> for eligibility criteria, applying/ downloading the tender document. Last date and time for Bid Submissions is 15:00 Hrs on 01.08.2022
Any alterations in Eligibility Criteria cum Qualification Requirements, and terms of the Tender Document, or any amendment to the Tender Document, etc, will be uploaded on <https://gmrc.nprocure.com> and GMRC's Website www.gujaratmetro.com without any obligation or press notification or other proclamation.
Sd/- Managing Director, GMRC, Gandhinagar

JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
धनवंतरि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी / Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006
Website: www.jipmer.edu.in/ / Phone: 0413 - 2296022
No.JIP/Admn-/Dep./1(35)/PDY/2022 Dated:01.07.2022
The Director, JIPMER, Puducherry invites application from eligible officers of Central / State Government / Autonomous Institutions / Universities / Research Institutions etc., for filling the various Group A posts on DEPUTATION BASIS given as under:
Sl. No. Name of the post Pay Matrix (as per 7th CPC) Vacancy
1 Senior Financial Advisor Level-13 1
2 Senior Accounts Officer Level-11 1
The format of the application, other details regarding pay scale, age, qualification, experience and other conditions of eligibility etc. for the posts are available in the JIPMER website www.jipmer.edu.in/.
The last date for receipt of filled-in application is 29.08.2022 till 4.30 P.M.
DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
GROUND WATER DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT
Following online tenders are invited by the Ground Water Department, Govt of Telangana from eligible bidders under National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
E-Tender Tender ID No. In Notice IEB No. procurement portal Details Important Dates
TSGW/NH/ 2022-23/ MWQ/40 2022_GWDTs_697466_1 Mobile Water Quality Testing Laboratory for Ground Water Department, Telangana State under National Hydrology Project. Start Date of Download: 30/06/2022 (10.30 hrs.) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: 11/07/2022 (11.30 hrs.) Last Date of Submission: 01/08/2022 (15.00 hrs.)
TSGW/NH/ 2022-23/ PZ/3299 2022_GWDTs_697560_1 Construction of piezometers (borewells) with protection works to improve GW monitoring network in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Hyderabad, Telangana State. Start Date of Download: 01/07/2022 (10.30 hrs.) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: 08/07/2022 (11.30 hrs.) Last Date of Submission: 01/08/2022 (15.00 hrs.)
TSGW/NH/ 2021-22/ PW/9045 2022_GWDTs_697607_1 Construction of 1231 Protection Works to the existing piezometers drilled in Telangana State. Start Date of Download: 01/07/2022 (10.30 hrs.) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: 12/07/2022 (11.30 hrs.) Last Date of Submission: 05/08/2022 (15.00 hrs.)
The details of IEB will be available on <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>, <https://gdw.telangana.gov.in> and <http://nhp.mwr.gov.in> websites. Sd/- Director & Nodal Officer, NHF R.O.No: 357-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 Ground Water Department

Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd
(A Government of India Enterprise-Mini Ratna Category-I)
South Central Zone
#9-1-129/1/302, 1st Floor, Oxford Plaza, SD Road, Secunderabad - 500003
CIN: U74899DL1999GO101707
Notice Inviting E-Tender
GGM/SCZ invites the following E-Tenders:-
Open E-Tender for engagement of service provider for operation, maintenance and provision of catering services in Refreshment Rooms, Jan Aahars, Refreshment Rooms (Integrated Kitchen unit), Food Plazas and Fast Food units at various stations over South Central Zone of Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (South Central Railway, East Coast Railway & South East Central Railway)
IMPORTANT DATES:
Sl. No. Type of unit Last Date and time for submission of tenders Date & Time for opening of E-Tender
1 Fast Food units 12:00 hrs of 21.07.2022 12:30 hrs of 21.07.2022
2 Food Plazas 12:30 hrs of 21.07.2022 13:00 hrs of 21.07.2022
3 Refreshment Rooms (IKU) 14:30 hrs of 22.07.2022 15:00 hrs of 22.07.2022
4 Refreshment Rooms 15:00 hrs of 22.07.2022 15:30 hrs of 22.07.2022
5 Jan Aahars 15:30 hrs of 22.07.2022 16:00 hrs of 22.07.2022
Tender document downloading & participation can be done on Website:- www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC
In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on website www.irctc.com and www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC. No newspaper press advertisement shall be issued for the same.

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हर एक काम देश के नाम

M ND-NDE

CGHS doctors to be deployed for pilgrimage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Medical professionals are being deployed from Central Government hospitals and Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) to ensure that adequate healthcare support is provided to Amarnath Yatra devotees, said a release issued by the Health Ministry on Thursday.

The Ministry added that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir through the Director Health Services (DHS Kashmir) had requested for 155 medical personnel (87 doctors and 68 paramedics) from Central Government Hospitals and CGHS.

In total, 176 nominations (115 doctors and 61 paramedics) had been received from the Central Government Hospitals and CGHS. The complete list had been communicated to DHS Kashmir for further deployment.

Help from States, U.T.s

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir through the Director Health Services (DHS Kashmir) had also requested for 437 medical personnel (154 doctors and 283 paramedics) from 11 States and U.T.s (Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, West Bengal, and Maharashtra). In total, 433 nominations (214 doctors and 219 paramedics) had been received from nine States. Deployment of 428 medical personnel (211 doctors, 217 paramedics) had already been made by DHS (Kashmir) for all the three batches.

States told to improve vaccine coverage

Revised COVID-19 surveillance strategy aimed at long-term integration with IDSP mechanism

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Over 3.66 crore first doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the 12-14 age group, according to a Health Ministry report on Thursday, with the Ministry advocating for increased vaccination coverage for children and the elderly, following a rise in number of cases in the country.

"More than 193.53 crore vaccine doses have been provided to the States and more than 11.59 crore balance and unutilised vaccine doses are still available with the States," the Ministry said.

It added that the States have been directed to accelerate vaccination coverage, especially of the 60-plus elderly population and of the second dose in the 12-17 population groups.

"States are to also ensure that vaccines that expire first



States have been advised to initiate random RT-PCR screening of 2% of international passengers.

are administered first, preventing any wastage of resources," the Ministry said.

The Ministry has now advised the States to follow the 'Operational Guidelines for Revised Surveillance Strategy in context of COVID-19' issued by the Centre on June 9.

The revised surveillance guidelines call for sewage and wastewater surveillance, which may provide early warnings on a potential local surge of COVID-19, the Ministry said in its communication to the States.

The Ministry has also ad-

vised the States to initiate random RT-PCR screening of about 2% of international passengers in each incoming flight, and genomic sequencing of all positive specimens. These measures are aimed at the long-term integration of COVID-19 surveillance within the existing Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) mechanism.

In his letter to the State governments, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan asked the States to adhere to the revised strategy, focusing on early detection; timely management of suspected and confirmed cases; and containment of outbreaks of new coronavirus variants.

According to the revised strategy, all healthcare facilities are to report "influenza-like illness" (ILI) cases, and monitor Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases in all district hospitals and se-

lect tertiary hospitals, and undertake their RT-PCR tests for COVID-19. District Surveillance Officers (DSO) will be responsible for analysing the data. "5% of ILI cases shall be tested through RT-PCR," the Health Ministry added.

The State-level IDSPs are required to share data on a fortnightly basis, and laboratories testing for COVID-19 should upload their data on the Indian Council for Medical Research portal. "Please ensure that the guidelines are disseminated to all districts, and identified health facilities and labs across the State and their implementation shall be ensured," the letter said.

The revised strategy further stressed community-based surveillance for early detection of unusual events in the community such as large outbreaks.

'Withdraw Air Suvidha form for travellers'

Travel bodies approach Jyotiraditya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The travel trade and hotel industry has sent multiple representations to the Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia demanding that the government withdraw the Air Suvidha form for self-declaration of COVID-19 vaccination status by international passengers arriving in India.

The country's top hospitality association, the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI), wrote to the aviation minister on the matter on June 20, raising three main issues with Air Suvidha - a clumsy website, passengers unaware that filling up the form is mandatory, as well as unavailability of physical forms at airports for those who fail to fill up the form online.

"It has been found in numerous occasions that the travellers are not aware of this mandatory requirement. The Online Travel Aggregators (OTAs), whom the customers mostly rely on for travel logistics, hardly inform the travellers about the same, resulting in the travellers getting to know about this form at the check-in counter only," said the letter by the FHRAI.

Difficulties faced

FHRAI vice-president Gurbaxish Singh Kohli told *The Hindu* that often when such passengers arrive at the airport, they have to grapple with poor-quality WiFi or lack of Internet access preventing them from filling up these forms online and consequently missing their flights.

"The government talks about ease of doing business, it must also look at ease of travel," Mr. Kohli said.

Uploading images of passports and vaccination certificates in specified file sizes and formats for those without high-speed Internet can also be time consuming, he said. He has appealed that as an alternative, the government should ensure passengers have the option to fill physical forms when they arrive at the airport. The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) too made similar representations to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Civil Aviation in June.

Less travel restrictions

"The U.K. doesn't require incoming passengers to fill a form any more, and many other countries such as the U.S., Germany and Canada have relaxed many of their travel restrictions," said Rajiv Mehra, President, IATO.

The U.K.'s passenger locator form introduced in 2020 was scrapped in mid-March when the country withdrew its last few travel restrictions, including a COVID-19 test for arrival. In June, the U.S. rescinded its order requiring international travellers to produce a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding a flight.

Germany requires only those passengers who are travelling from a country with a COVID-19 variant of concern to fill up the self-declaration form.

11 Afghan Sikhs arrive in India from Kabul

First such operation by Indian government and civil society groups since reopening of embassy

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Days after a deadly attack on the Karte Parwan Gurdwara in Kabul, 11 Afghan Sikh citizens were evacuated to Delhi by a special flight on Thursday. The evacuees brought with them the ashes of Savinder Singh, a priest of the gurdwara who was killed in the attack.

"There are 150 Sikhs and Hindus awaiting evacuation from Kabul. There are local restrictions on the movement of large convoys because of the prevailing secur-



The first batch of Afghan Sikhs on their arrival at the IGI Airport in New Delhi. ♦PTI

ity situation and we are trying to evacuate them as quickly as possible," said Puneet Singh Chandhoke, a ci-

vil society activist and leader of the Indian World Forum, who has been coordinating with the Government of In-

dia in evacuating Hindus and Sikhs trapped in Kabul.

The Islamic State-Khorasan claimed responsibility for the attack and declared that it was revenge for the controversial remarks on Prophet Muhammad by two Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokespersons, who have since been suspended. The attack on the gurdwara was strongly condemned by the Taliban, who provided additional security for the shrine.

Thursday's limited airlift from Kabul is part of an evolving aviation network

that Indian authorities are putting in place to nurture connectivity between India and Afghanistan.

Mr. Chandhoke said that the Amritsar-based Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee is providing financial support for Thursday's evacuation and the evacuated individuals. The operation was the first that was conducted by the Government of India and civil society groups since India sent a small technical team on June 23 to reopen its embassy in Kabul.

Punjab House seeks Agnipath rollback

BJP MLAs opposed the resolution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution urging the Union government to immediately roll back the Agnipath scheme, even as the Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs opposed the resolution.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, moving the resolution, said that the unilateral announcement of the government to introduce Agnipath scheme in the armed forces has witnessed widespread reactions across the country, including Punjab. The Punjab Vidhan Sabha strongly feels that the scheme where youth will be employed in armed forces only for a period of four years and out of which only 25% will be retained, is

neither in the interest of national security nor the youth of this country. This policy is likely to create dissatisfaction among the youth who wish to serve the armed forces of the nation throughout their life, he added.

"The Punjab Vidhan Sabha urges the Union government to roll back the Agnipath scheme immediately," he said, reading the resolution. Punjab is the only State so far to pass a resolution in the State Assembly against Agnipath scheme.

Taking a dig at the NDA government during the debate on the resolution, the Chief Minister dared the BJP leaders to enroll their own sons as Agniveers before supporting this anti-youth move.

Concern over shortage of leprosy drug in private sector

Doctors write to Ministry seeking urgent intervention in restoring supply of Clofazimine to fight the dreaded disease

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Clofazimine, a key drug for treatment of leprosy, which had been in short supply in the Indian market for several months, is now "not available", with the situation turning into a crisis over the past three months. Fearing the worst for their patients, doctors have written to the Health Ministry for urgent intervention and immediate restoration of the medicine's supply in the private sector.

"The medicine is available in the government sector [government hospitals and primary health centres]. It is in the private sector that the shortage is being felt and we request the government to help overcome this problem," Rashmi Sarkar, president, Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists, said.

The association's secretary-general, Dinesh Kumar Devaraj, said that India reports more than 1,25,000 new patients of leprosy every year.

"These official numbers apart, another 50,000 to one lakh patients of leprosy are seen at the private clinics of dermatologists all over India. Alternative three-drug regimens without Clofazimine are very costly and often not feasible. Leprosy is still a dreaded disease with potential risk of transmission," Dr. Devaraj said.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), leprosy is endemic in several States and Union Territories of India, with the annual case detection rate of 4.56 per 10,000 population.

The prevalence rate of leprosy is 0.4 per 10,000 population in the country. Of the



A leprosy centre in Chennai. The drug is still available in the government sector. ♦FILE PHOTO

new cases detected during 2020-21, 58.1% were multibacillary, 39% were women, 5.8% were children less than 14 years of age, and 2.41% had visible deformities. The rate of visible deformities was 1.1 per million population.

The association has written to the Ministry stating

that Clofazimine is needed not just for the therapy/cure of leprosy, but also for controlling acute exacerbations of this disease, which occur frequently.

The association noted, "Clofazimine is one of the three essential drugs in the Multi Drug Treatment of Multibacillary Leprosy (MB-

MDT) cases, along with Rifampicin and Dapsone. Under the NLEP (National Leprosy Eradication Programme), the government has been ensuring the steady supply of monthly blister packs for 12 months to all the multibacillary leprosy cases containing these three drugs. But, the present market crisis of Clofazimine is seriously affecting the Indian Leprosy Treatment scenario."

In the absence of Clofazimine in the market, dermatologists and leprologists are facing a serious challenge in treating leprosy patients who want private treatment.

"In this decade, when India is fighting to eliminate the disease, easy availability of essential drugs like Clofazimine is crucial not only in government set-ups but also with distributors and in

pharmacies from the public health point of view," the association said.

Also, Clofazimine has shown activity against Multi Drug Resistance Tuberculosis and has been recommended by the WHO to treat drug resistance, the association explained in its letter.

It added that many leprosy patients require extended treatment beyond the government's supply of 12-18 months.

Blister packs may also be lost, misplaced or damaged. In such cases too, medicines might need to be procured privately.

Doctors have said that though the other two drugs are very easily available, non-availability of Clofazimine is a dangerous situation as all three drugs have to be given together to prevent drug-resistant leprosy.

THE CROSSWORD + 13597
(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>

Across

- 6 Father force to secure (5)
- 7 Agreed to be valued without providing initial information (8)
- 10 So, everything eaten is in some vegetative state (7)
- 11 Duck gets everyone in a fit of bad temper (7)
- 12 Assistant worked with Hitler, it's theoretically possible (7)
- 13 Correspond with much that's worn by swimmers (7)
- 14 Explaining cryptic clue before hooking up with one (11)

Down

- 1 Free as to emerge senseless (8)
- 2 Broth will make you sick in the air (6)
- 3 Supports tests, where you get food and drinks (10)
- 4 Stop the rise of baseball club (4)
- 5 Cover up over time, will obstruct progress (6)
- 6 Nothing much - what about legal opinion? (6)
- 8 Italian film maker has some Indian spirit, gets sick, throws up (7)
- 9 With tide rising a bit, you see her (5)
- 13 Long winding definition describing communist uprising (10)
- 15 Dirty Sam, perhaps, gets a new base (7)
- 16 Gets help unopposed? On the contrary (8)
- 17 He comes up carrying a bag of virtual currency (1-4)
- 18 What to say when one is shot? (6)
- 20 Time for a short verse over short article (6)
- 22 After shock, love for a beautiful child (6)
- 24 Crash helmets, not the trees (4)

19 Redesigning Accra like a capital (7)
21 Current passing through antenna, perhaps it's wet (7)
23 Perhaps try and see to incorporate new polymer (7)
25 "Come back" - words on departure touch Bill's heart (7)
26 Delivery for our neighbour, perhaps (8)
27 The cream - you can feel it expanding a bit... (5)

SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | 4 | | 1 | | | | | 6 |
| | | 1 | | 5 | | | | 7 |
| 8 | | | 3 | | | | | 4 |
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| | 5 | | | 6 | | 4 | | |
| 1 | | | | 3 | | | | 8 |

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13596

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | D | U | L | M | B | | |
| S | T | E | R | E | O | P | R | I |
| U | I | M | B | B | M | D | | |
| C | R | O | U | P | I | E | R | O |
| G | N | N | A | E | R | G | | |
| P | E | P | E | R | O | N | I | T |
| O | | | D | T | A | G | | |
| S | N | I | F | T | E | R | C | O |
| S | P | E | E | D | O | R | E | M |
| I | N | S | A | M | A | H | R | |
| I | N | S | E | A | M | P | E | R |
| C | T | I | L | L | E | R | O | |
| B | E | L | I | T | L | E | Y | |
| R | C | Y | T | R | Y | N | | |

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 |

FAITH

Meaningful glances

Parasara Bhatta, in his Sri Guna Ratna Kosa, says that Goddess Mahalakshmi gives signs to Lord Narayana to indicate to Him whether He should create, protect or dissolve. The eye movements of the Goddess accomplish everything, whether it is creation, protection or dissolution. She achieves all these effortlessly, with just glances of Her eyes, elaborated Thenthiruppara Aravindalochanan in a discourse. If Her eyes are closed, it is an indication to the Lord that it is time for dissolution. If Her eyes are open only about one quarter, then She is indicating to Him that it is time to create. If Her eyes are half open, then it is an indication that His protection is now necessary.

While Guna Ratna Kosa is in a broad sense in praise of Goddess Mahalakshmi, it is more specifically a praise of Goddess Ranganayaki of Srirangam. In the Srirangam temple, where the vimana is known as Pranavakara vimana, Goddess Ranganayaki is a "deepa rekha", says Parasara Bhatta. In other words, She is a resplendent lamp, which lights up the Srirangam temple. This second sloka of Guna Ratna Kosa is a dhyana sloka, which is often recited before commencement of any auspicious activity.

In sloka three, Parasara Bhatta describes the Goddess as a creeper. A creeper needs support to climb up. In the case of Goddess Ranganayaki, the support on which She drapes Herself is Ranganatha. Usually, a creeper benefits from presence of a tree which acts as its support. But in this case, the tree, namely Lord Ranganatha, seems to be beneficiary, for the moment Ranganayaki begins to climb the tree, Ranganatha is joyful. The tree that is Ranganatha grows. In anticipation of a fuller embrace by Ranganayaki, His arms expand in such a way that all directions are encompassed by Him.

Russia withdraws from Snake Island

Ukraine says it has driven the enemy forces out after a massive artillery and missile assault overnight

REUTERS
KYIV

Russian forces abandoned the strategic Black Sea outpost of Snake Island on Thursday, in a major victory for Ukraine that could loosen the grip of Russia's blockade on Ukrainian ports.

Russia's Defence Ministry said it had decided to withdraw from the outcrop as a "gesture of goodwill" to show Moscow was not obstructing UN efforts to open a humanitarian corridor allowing grains to be shipped from Ukraine.

Ukraine said it had driven the Russian forces out after a massive artillery and missile assault overnight.

"KABOOM!" tweeted Andriy Yermak, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's Chief of Staff. "No Russian



Back in control: A satellite image of the Snake Island in the Black Sea taken on June 17. ■ AFP/MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES

troops on the Snake Island anymore. Our Armed Forces did a great job."

Ukraine's southern military command posted an image on Facebook of what appeared to be the island, seen from the air, with at least five huge columns of black smoke rising above it.

"The enemy hurriedly evacuated the remains of the garrison with two speed boats and probably left the island. Currently, Snake island is consumed by fire, explosions are bursting."

The bare rocky outcrop overlooks sea lanes to Odesa, Ukraine's main Black Sea

port, where Russia is blocking food cargos from one of the world's leading grain suppliers.

Snake Island has held the world's attention since Russia seized it on the war's first day, when a Ukrainian guard, ordered by Russia's flagship cruiser Moskva to surrender, responded by ridiculing them.

Grain exports

"The most significant aspect is that this could open the door to Ukrainian grain exports from Odesa, which is critical for Ukraine's economy and for the global food supply," tweeted Rob Lee, a senior fellow at the U.S.-based Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Lifting the blockade has been a primary strategic goal

of the West: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has accused Russia of deliberately causing world hunger, as "blackmail." Moscow denies blocking the ports and blames food shortages on Western sanctions it says limit its own exports.

"We do not prevent the export of Ukrainian grain. The Ukrainian military has mined the approaches to their ports; no one prevents them from clearing those mines and we guarantee the safety of shipping grain out of there," President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

Russia had defended the island since February, despite Ukraine increasingly claiming to inflict severe damage, sinking supply vessels and destroying Russian fortifications.

Xi: Hong Kong overcame challenges, 'reborn of fire'

China's leader visits city to mark its handover anniversary

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Chinese President Xi Jinping said Hong Kong had been "reborn of fire" as he arrived on Thursday to mark the 25th anniversary of the city's handover, in his first visit since the business hub's democracy movement was crushed.

Mr. Xi's trip is a chance for the Chinese Communist Party to showcase its control after huge protests engulfed the city in 2019, prompting Beijing to impose a harsh crackdown.

"In the past period, Hong Kong has experienced more than one serious test, and overcome more than one risk and challenge," Mr. Xi



Xi Jinping

said after arriving at a high-speed train station in the heart of the city.

"After the storms, Hong Kong has been reborn of fire and emerged with robust vitality."

Friday's anniversary also marks the halfway point of

the 50-year governance model agreed by Britain and China under which the city would keep some autonomy and freedoms.

Critics say a national security law imposed by Beijing after the 2019 protests has eviscerated those promised freedoms.

But Mr. Xi said on Thursday "the facts have proved that One Country, Two Systems has great vitality".

"It can guarantee long-term stability and prosperity in Hong Kong, and defend the well-being of Hong Kong people," he added.

Mr. Xi's visit is the first time he has left mainland China since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Two gunmen shot dead near Kabul 'jirga'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Two gunmen were shot dead in the Afghan capital on Thursday near the site of a gathering by thousands of religious scholars called to endorse the Taliban's hardline Islamist rule.

Taliban officials said the two started firing from a rooftop near where the meeting was taking place, but were "quickly eliminated by Mujahideen with the help of Allah the Almighty".

Officials have provided scant details of the three-day men-only "jirga" — a traditional gathering of clerics and influential people to settle differences by consensus — and the media is also barred.

Good progress in talks with Sri Lanka: IMF

The island nation is counting on the IMF to bail its economy out, with an Extended Fund Facility

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Thursday said it has made "significant progress" in talks with Sri Lanka, which has sought the global financial institution's help to cope with its unprecedented economic crisis.

Concluding a 10-day visit to the island nation, an IMF team said: "Significant progress was made, and discussions will continue virtually towards reaching a staff-level agreement on the EFF (Extended Fund Facility) arrangement in the near term."

Outlining its proposal for Sri Lanka's recovery, the Fund said in a statement: "The objectives of the new IMF-supported program would be to restore macroeconomic stability and debt

sustainability, while protecting the poor and vulnerable, safeguarding financial stability, and stepping up structural reforms to address corruption vulnerabilities and unlock Sri Lanka's growth potential."

Sri Lanka is counting on the IMF to bail its economy out of crisis, with an EFF. The government is also looking to restructure its piling external debt with the IMF-backed programme.

In April 2022, Sri Lanka announced a pre-emptive default on its nearly \$50 billion foreign loans, amid a severe dollar crunch stemming from a balance of payments crisis.

Reserves under strain Sri Lanka is still heavily reliant on imports, more so af-



A security guard keeping watch at a closed fuel station in Colombo. ■ AFP

ter domestic agriculture production dropped by half after a controversial ban on chemical fertilizer last year. The country spends about \$2 billion on essential imports every month. Gross official reserves in March 2022 stood at \$1,917 million, Central Bank data showed. This includes a currency swap from the People's Bank of

China, for nearly \$1.5 billion, usable only based on certain conditions. Effectively, Sri Lanka has about \$500 million at its disposal, accounting for a week's essential imports roughly, or a month's fuel imports alone. With the government unable to pay for fuel imports, Sri Lankans are currently experiencing acute shortages of petrol, diesel and kerosene, as the country comes to a near-standstill.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has warned citizens that the next few months would be "most difficult".

Meanwhile, as citizens' protests continue, demanding that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa step down, the government on Thursday gazetted a constitutional

amendment, the 22nd Amendment Bill, pitching it as political reform. However, it is far from addressing the core demands of the mass agitations, legal experts and government critics contended.

The Centre for Policy Alternatives, a Colombo-based NGO, noted that the Bill does not curtail the powers of the President, or introduce checks and balances "in any meaningful manner".

"In the absence of any genuine attempt to address the inherent problems of governance, this attempt at reform will only worsen the existing political and economic crisis and destroy whatever little remaining faith citizens might have in constitutional governance," it said in a statement.

Biden backs Senate rule change for abortion rights

He calls SC ruling 'outrageous behaviour'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MADRID

President Joe Biden said on Thursday that the Supreme Court's decision ending a constitutional right to abortion is "destabilising" and that he supports changing Senate rules to codify nationwide abortion protections. He maintained the ruling does not affect U.S. standing on the world stage as he took credit for modernising the transatlantic alliance to adapt to new threats from Russia and China.

Mr. Biden was speaking to reporters at the conclusion of a five-day foreign trip to huddle with NATO allies in Madrid and the leaders of the Group of Seven advanced democratic economies in the Bavarian Alps.

"America is better posi-

tioned to lead the world than we ever have been," Mr. Biden said. "But one thing that has been destabilising is the outrageous behaviour of the Supreme Court of United States in overruling not only *Roe v. Wade*, but essentially challenging the right to privacy."

He added: "I could understand why the American people are frustrated because of what the Supreme Court did."

Mr. Biden said he would support changing the filibuster rules, which require 60 votes to pass most legislation, to allow bringing a Bill extending nationwide abortion protections to pass by simple majority, but he said it would likely require voters to send additional Democratic Senators to Washington to get done.

Jackson takes oath as first Black woman SC Justice

Top court retains conservative majority

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. made history on Thursday as Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as the first Black woman to serve in the Supreme Court.

The 51-year-old's appointment by Democratic President Joe Biden means white men are not in the majority on the nation's highest court for the first time in 233 years.

While Justice Jackson's confirmation is a milestone, it would not change the 6-3 conservative majority in the court, which has come under fire for recent rulings broadening the right to bear arms and eviscerating abortion rights.

Justice Jackson spoke only to say her oaths during Thursday's brief ceremony.



Ketanji Brown Jackson

The appointment presents an opportunity for Biden administration to pivot from a spate of bad news in recent months, with Mr. Biden's poll ratings still languishing below 40% amid runaway inflation ahead of midterm elections in November.

Four of the justices on the nine-member court are now women, making it the most diverse bench in history.

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STEP

Israel Parliament dissolved, election set for November 1

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

Israeli lawmakers dissolved Parliament on Thursday, forcing the country's fifth election in less than four years, with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid set to take over as

caretaker Prime Minister at midnight.

The newly called election set for November 1 marks another sign that Israel remains mired in an unprecedented era of political gridlock.

| SOUTHERN RAILWAY | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| TRIVANDRUM (WORKS BRANCH) | | | | |
| E-TENDER NOTICE No.VW/TVC/12/2022 DATED 27/06/2022 | | | | |
| Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 invites online tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in . The tenderer (s)/contractor (s) to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Trivandrum Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. | | | | |
| S. No. | Description | Approx. value Rs. (in Lakh) | Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.) | Period of completion in months |
| 1. | ZONE A- Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works - From KM 1.850 TO KM 33.860 (Vallatholnagar & Trichur stations both INCLUSIVE) & Trichur - Guruvayur LINE KM 0.000 TO 22.630 (INCL. GUV) - Trichur permanent way section. | 36.00 | 72000 | TWELVE |
| 2. | ZONE B- Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works - From KM 33.860 TO KM.68.725 (Trichur & Koratti Angadi stations both exclusive) - Chalakudi permanent way section. | 30.00 | 60000 | TWELVE |
| 3. | ZONE C- Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works - From KM 68.725 TO KM.102.050 (in Koratti Angadi (incl) & Ernakulam North (excl) - Aluva permanent way section. | 36.00 | 72000 | TWELVE |
| 4. | ZONE D- Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works - From KM 102.05 TO KM.106.85, FROM KM.0.000 TO KM.13.520 (Ernakulam Town, Ernakulam C & D Cabin (incl.) - & Chottanikara Road) From KM 0.000 TO KM.8.170 (Ernakulam INCL & Kumbalam (incl). | 56.00 | 112000 | TWELVE |
| 5. | Zone D1 - Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works - Ernakulam -Diesel shed, trip shed, Ernakulam Marshalling Coaching depot, Ernakulam Marshaling Goods G station & colony, Irumpam station & colony, Mattachery- Cochin Harbour Terminus station & colony, Excl Ernakulam Jn. (KM106.85 TO KM.114.60 INCLERS-CHTS LINE). | 33.00 | 66000 | TWELVE |
| 6. | Zone E - Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works From KM 13.520 TO KM.96.230 (Chottanikara Road INCL & Chengannur INCLUSIVE) in Kottayam Pway section. | 55.00 | 110000 | TWELVE |
| 7. | Zone F - Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works From KM 8.170 TO KM.98.10 (Kumbalam EXCL & Kayankulam EXCLUSIVE) in ALLP Pway section. | 33.00 | 66000 | TWELVE |
| 8. | Zone G - Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works From KM 96.230 TO KM.141.250 (CNGR EXCL & MQO INCLUSIVE) in Mavelikkara Pway section. | 44.00 | 88000 | TWELVE |
| 9. | Zone H Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works From KM 141.250 TO KM.177.30 (Munrothuruttu EXCL & Varkala EXCLUSIVE) in Quilon Pway section. | 38.00 | 76000 | TWELVE |
| 10. | Zone I Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works From KM 177.300 TO KM.217.000 (Varkala INCL & Trivandrum Pettah EXCLUSIVE) in Varkala Pway section | 25.00 | 50000 | TWELVE |
| 11. | Zone J1 Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works in Trivandrum station and service buildings, Divisional Office, Poojappura colony and Thampanoor colony. -. (KM.219.000 TO KM.222.000) | 56.00 | 112000 | TWELVE |
| 12. | ZONE J2 Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works From KM 222.000 TO KM.287.100 Trivandrum Rural- TVC (Excl) - Nagercoil Town (EXCL) in Trivandrum Pway section. | 31.00 | 62000 | TWELVE |
| 13. | Zone J3 Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works in Trivandrum Coaching depot, Railway hospital / Pettah, Trivandrum Pettah station and Pettah colony (KM 217.000 TO KM.219.000). | 42.00 | 84000 | TWELVE |
| 14. | Zone K - Supply of materials and execution of miscellaneous works From KM.287.100 To Km.362.600 in Nagercoil Town (excl) & Melapalayam (incl) From KM 0.000 To Km.15.510 (Nagercoil to Kanniyakumari Line) - Nagercoil Pway section. | 55.00 | 110000 | TWELVE |
| E-TENDER NOTICE No.VW/TVC/13/2022 DATED 28/06/2022 | | | | |
| 1. | Sr. Divisional Engineer/North/TVC. Engaging of semi skilled labour by outsourcing for monsoon night patrolling. | 26.73 | 53500 | FOUR |
| Tender Closing date and time: S1 No: 1 to 7 : 25/07/2022 at 15.00 hrs 8 to 14 : 29/7/2022 at 15.00 hrs Tender Closing date and time : E-Tender No.VW/TVC/13/2022 12/07/2022 at 15.00 hrs | | | | |
| Details approximate value of tender, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, www.ireps.gov.in . For Details of bid submission, please refer www.ireps.gov.in . | | | | |
| Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination Trivandrum - 14 (for and on behalf of President of India) | | | | |
| Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway | | | | |

Bumrah's India looks to buck the trend at Edgbaston

The visitors, leading 2-1 going into the fifth Test, will be keen to win the series that was postponed due to multiple COVID-19 cases

INDIA IN ENG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

Never before has he navigated the choppy waters of leadership, but Jasprit Bumrah will certainly like to showcase his captaincy acumen while leading a slightly under-prepared India against a vastly improved England in the rescheduled fifth Test, starting here on Friday.

India was leading the five-match series 2-1 when multiple COVID-19 cases in its camp led to the postponement of the final game which was a part of the World Test Championship.

Rohit misses out

Nine months have passed since and a lot of water has flown through the Thames with the then captain Virat Kohli relinquishing Test captaincy.

His successor, Rohit Sharma, is missing out on this game after testing positive for COVID-19.

Worse, Rohit's designated deputy K.L. Rahul is also out after having undergone a surgery for sports hernia.

In this backdrop of musical chair of Indian captaincy, the gauntlet has been thrown at Bumrah, arguably one of the finest fast bowlers in the history of Indian cricket and now set to be the 36th man to lead the national Test team.

He has been acknowledged widely as the undisputed leader of the fast bowling group but come Friday, the challenge against Ben Stokes' side will be very different when he walks out for the toss at the Edgbaston.

The 3-0 demolition of New Zealand has shown that England, under new coach Brendon McCullum, has deconstructed its style-sheet as far as Tests are concerned. The pitches have become

Edgbaston calling

India needs a win or a draw in the fifth Test at Birmingham to regain the Pataudi Trophy after 15 years. For the record, it is yet to taste victory in a Test at Edgbaston in seven attempts



STOKES



Weather forecast
BBC.COM

SHINING BRIGHT

| Batting | M | Inns | Runs | HS | Avg | 100/50s |
|---------|---|------|------|------|-------|---------|
| Root | 4 | 7 | 564 | 180* | 94.00 | 3/1 |
| Rohit# | 4 | 8 | 368 | 127 | 52.57 | 1/2 |
| Rahul# | 4 | 8 | 315 | 129 | 39.37 | 1/1 |
| Pujara | 4 | 8 | 227 | 91 | 32.42 | 0/2 |
| Kohli | 4 | 7 | 218 | 55 | 31.14 | 0/2 |

BOWLING

| Bowler | M | Inns | Wkts | BBI | SR | SWI |
|-----------|---|------|------|------|------|-----|
| Robinson# | 4 | 8 | 21 | 5/65 | 47.5 | 2 |
| Bumrah | 4 | 7 | 18 | 5/64 | 50.3 | 1 |
| Anderson | 4 | 8 | 15 | 5/62 | 65.4 | 1 |
| Siraj | 4 | 7 | 14 | 4/32 | 54.3 | 0 |
| Shami | 3 | 5 | 11 | 4/95 | 52.8 | 0 |

Not playing the Test

India has played only two Tests at the venue since the turn of the century

- 1967: England won by 132 runs
- 1974: England won by an innings and 78 runs
- 1979: England won by an innings and 83 runs
- 1986: Drawn
- 1996: England won by eight wickets
- 2011: England won by an innings and 242 runs
- 2018: England won by 31 runs

Day 1: Light cloud and a gentle breeze (Max temp. 18°, min. 10°)

Day 2: Light rain showers and a gentle breeze (17° and 10°)

Day 3: Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze (19° and 10°)

Day 4: Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze (19° and 11°)

Day 5: Light cloud and a gentle breeze (19° and 12°)

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD | GRAPHIC: L. BALAMURUGAN

THE STORY SO FAR

First Test: Drawn, Nottingham (Aug. 2021)

Second: India won by 151 runs, Lord's (Aug. 2021)

Third: England won by an innings and 76 runs, Leeds (Aug. 2021)

Fourth: India won by 157 runs, The Oval (Sept. 2021)



BUMRAH

India has twice led 2-1 heading into the final match of a five-Test campaign, going on to win the series on both occasions

- 1952-53 vs. Pakistan (home)
First Test: India won by an innings and 70 runs
Second: Pakistan won by an innings and 43 runs
Third: India won by 10 wickets
Fourth: Drawn | Fifth: Drawn
- 1972-73 vs. England (home)
First Test: England won by six wickets
Second: India won by 28 runs
Third: India won by four wickets
Fourth: Drawn | Fifth: Drawn

Pataudi Trophy

| Year | Winner | Result |
|------|---------|---------|
| 2007 | India | 1-0 (3) |
| 2011 | England | 4-0 (4) |
| 2014 | England | 3-1 (5) |
| 2018 | England | 4-1 (5) |

"I am focusing on how I can help the team and not focusing on what I have done before or how the cricketing conventions or the rules have been set," said Bumrah.

a tad flatter, which is helping the batters and thus Bumrah, along with Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj will have an onerous task of tackling a batting line-up bubbling with confidence.

Joe at the Root of it

Joe Root has found his touch and Jonny Bairstow, with the confidence of IPL, has scored nearly 400 runs at a strike-rate of 120-plus, unheard of in Tests.

"England have done well

as they won a couple of Test matches from positions where they could have potentially lost the games," India coach Rahul Dravid said on Wednesday.

India will have to bat well in the absence of its regular opening pair of Rohit and Rahul.

Dravid expects a match-winning performance if not a hundred from Kohli, who looked good in the practice game but the Test match will be different.

James Anderson might be a month short of his 40th birthday, but those magical wrists can still make the ball dart around and it will be a different experience for Shubman Gill or Shreyas Iyer.

Edgbaston hasn't exactly been a happy hunting ground for India where it has lost most of its Test matches, but as it often happens with new beginnings, a new captain can always try to buck the trend.

The teams: India (from): Jasprit Bumrah (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Ravichandran Ashwin, Prasidh Krishna, K.S. Bharat (wk), Mayank Agarwal, and Umesh Yadav.

England: Alex Lees, Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes (Capt.), Sam Billings, Matthew Potts, Stuart Broad, Jack Leach, and James Anderson.

Match starts at 3 p.m. IST.

India steps into post-Mithali ODI era

Harmanpreet seeks an improved all-round show from team

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PALLEKELE

Starting a new era in 50-over cricket without the peerless Mithali Raj, the newly-appointed skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, will seek an improved overall performance as the Indian women eye a winning start against Sri Lanka in a three-match series, starting on Friday.

India will be without two pillars - Mithali, who has retired, and Jhulan Goswami, who is nursing a side strain.

The Indians made a positive start to the tour by winning the T20 series 2-1.

The batters struggled on the slow track at Dambulla, and the likes of Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma would hope for a better and consistent show in the 50-over format. Harmanpreet has been in good touch.

The young fast bowling unit comprising Pooja Vastrakar, Simran Bahadur, Meghna Singh and Renuka Singh will be tested. The spinners have been largely on the mark but struggled in the third game.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, will be keen to keep the winning momentum go-

Women in Blue's island journey

As India and Sri Lanka gear up for the ODIs, the visitors will look to continue their dominance over the hosts in the format

H2H IN ODIs

| Overall | Matches | India | Sri Lanka | NR |
|--------------|------------|----------|-------------|------|
| In Sri Lanka | Matches 12 | India 11 | Sri Lanka 1 | NR 0 |



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INDIA'S VICTORIES IN SRI LANKA

| Year | Margin | Venue |
|------|------------|------------|
| 2004 | 123 runs | Colombo |
| 2004 | 105 runs | Colombo |
| 2004 | 6 wickets | Colombo |
| 2004 | 10 wickets | Kandy |
| 2004 | 94 runs | Colombo |
| 2008 | 29 runs | Dambulla |
| 2008 | 8 wickets | Kurunegala |
| 2008 | 177 runs | Kurunegala |
| 2017 | 114 runs | Colombo |
| 2018 | 9 wickets | Galle |
| 2018 | 7 runs | Galle |
| 2018 | 3 wickets | Katunayake |

THE ONLY REVERSE
2018 | 3 wickets | Katunayake

ing after the conciliatory victory in the last T20I.

The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Capt.), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), S. Meghana, Deepthi Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Simran Bahadur, Richa Ghosh (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh, Taniya Bhatia (wk) and Harleen Deol.

Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (Capt.), Nilakshi de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Vishmi Gunaratne, Ama Kanchana, Hansima Karunaratne, Achini Kulasinghe, Sugandika Kumari, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Hani Perera, Udeshika Prabodhani, Oshadi Ranasinghe, Inoka Ranaweera, Sathya Sandeepani, Anushka Sanjeevani, Malsha Shehani and Tharika Sewwandi.

Match starts at 10 a.m.

Harmanpreet wants to lead by example

Her term as ODI captain begins today

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Harmanpreet Kaur seems keen on taking a leaf out of Virat Kohli's book. The skipper plans to raise the fitness level of the Indian women's cricket team by setting an example.

India takes on Sri Lanka in the first ODI at Pallekele on Friday. It is her first ODI in the leadership role after being named captain following Mithali Raj's retirement.

"I have set goals as a captain and fitness is very important," she said. "As for skills as a player, we have coaches around us, but I want to set a goal for my team in fitness. I want to set an example and motivate them. The team's fitness is



Ideas to implement: Harmanpreet wants the players to focus on fielding. •FILE PHOTO

something I really want to improve."

Fielding is another area she would like to focus on. "If we could improve our fitness and fielding, I think we could be the best side."

She is enjoying captaincy. "I really enjoy this part because when I lead, I feel I am more involved in the game," she said. "(When I am the captain) I always think about the game and that gives me lots of confidence."

On ICC chairman Greg Barclay's recent statement that he could not see women's Tests evolving at any particular speed, Harmanpreet said she wanted to play more games in the longest format.

Swiatek extends winning streak to 37

Pliskova, Shapovalov eliminated; Sania-Hradecka duo out



AGENCIES
LONDON

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek took her winning streak to 37, defeating Lesley Pattinama Kerkhove 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 and reaching the third round of Wimbledon on Thursday. Swiatek drew level with Martina Hingis, who also won 37 matches in a row in 1997.

Former champion Petra Kvitova defeated Ana Bogdan 6-1, 7-6(5).

Kvitova will next face fourth seed Paula Badosa, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Irina Bara.

Simona Halep beat Kirsten Flipkens 7-5, 6-4 to advance. Both players struggled to hold serve throughout their match on Court Two, with former World No. 1 Halep breaking her Belgian opponent six times.

Halep will play Poland's Magdalena Frech in the last 32.

Sixth-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who reached the final last year, was eliminated by British wildcard Katie Boulter 3-6, 7-6(4), 6-4.

In the men's draw, Nick



In full flow: Boulter downed sixth seed Pliskova. •AFP

Kyrgios advanced to the third round for the sixth time in eight Wimbledon appearances.

The unseeded Australian beat 26th-seeded Filip Krajinovic 6-2, 6-3, 6-1.

Kyrgios will take on fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsits

Buttler named England T20I, ODI captain

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Jos Buttler was named England's new white-ball captain on Thursday and took immediate charge of the T20I and ODI teams.

Buttler will lead in 12 games in July, with T20I and ODI series against India and South Africa.

India's squads: For first T20I: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaekwad, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, and Umran Malik.

For second and third T20Is: Rohit (Capt.), Kishan, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar, Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Karthik (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar, Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar, Avesh, Harshal and Umran.

For three ODIs: Rohit (Capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, Kishan, Kohli, Suryakumar, Shreyas, Pant (wk), Hardik, Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Chahal, Axar, Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, and Arshdeep Singh.

The schedule: T20Is: July 7 (Southampton); July 9 (Birmingham); July 10 (Nottingham).
ODIs: July 12 (The Oval); July 14 (Lord's); July 17 (Manchester).

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Malaysia Open, Sports-18 & Voot Select, 7.30 a.m.

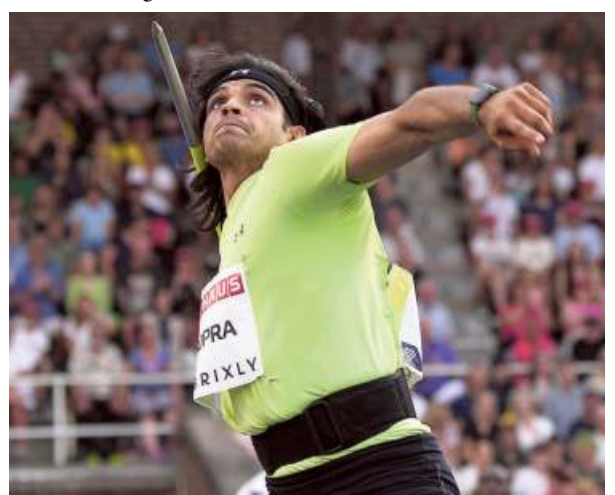
Sri Lanka vs Australia: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 10 a.m.

Sri Lanka Women vs India Women: 1st ODI, FanCode, 10 a.m.

England vs India: 5th Test, day 1, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3 p.m.

Wimbledon: SS Select 1 & Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Disney+ Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards.

Neeraj sets new National record, finishes second



Soaring high: Neeraj's effort of 89.94m helped him rewrite the National record and also win the silver. •REUTERS

Misses the 90m mark by a whisker

DIAMOND LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
STOCKHOLM

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra clinched his first top-3 finish at a Diamond League meeting with a National record-breaking effort, but missed the 90m mark by a whisker at a star-studded field on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Neeraj opened with a stunning 89.94m, just 6cm shy of the 90m mark, the gold standard in the world of javelin.

It turned out to be his best. Neeraj's other throws were 84.37m, 87.46m, 84.77m, 86.67m and 86.84m. He bettered his earlier National record of 89.30m, set in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, on June 14.

He finished second behind World champion and season's leader Anderson Peters of Grenada, who won with a best throw of 90.31m in his third attempt.

Julian Weber of Germany was third with a fifth-round throw of 89.08m.

U-17 women's coach recalled from Europe

IN BRIEF

Indian women finish second

NAKHON PATHOM (THAILAND) India won the silver after losing to Thailand 23-25, 25-12, 25-22, 18-25, 15-13 in the final of the 21st Princess Cup-third AVC women's Challenge Cup volleyball tournament here on Wednesday.

Riya Sachdeva enters semifinals

JHAJJAR Lucky loser Riya Sachdeva defeated Sharanya Shetty 6-1, 6-1 to reach the semifinals of the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament. In the semifinals, Riya will play qualifier Sonal Patil. **The results (quarterfinals):** Sonal Patil bt Gurleen Singh 6-2, 6-1; Riya Sachdeva bt Sharanya Shetty 6-1, 6-1; Tamanna Takoria bt Niharika Deshmukh 6-0, 6-2; Medhavi Singh bt Abhilasha Bista 6-2, 6-3.

ISL's online avatar proves a big hit

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian Super League (ISL) has become one of the most important talent scouting platforms of Indian football.

Seven years on, it found an online avatar – eISL – that not only gave the teams another platform to compete, but also encouraged a younger audience to engage in the sport.

A qualifying event for the FIFA Global Series 2022, it had a prize pool of ₹74 lakh, with an additional ₹4 lakh for the MVP (Most Versatile Player).

The tournament had 117 matches in its inaugural season and earned a viewership of over 10 million. Chennaiyin FC and Mumbai City FC were involved in the summit clash where the *Marina Machans*, represented by Navin Haridoss and Saransh Jain, triumphed. The duo registered two consecutive wins after an initial loss (2-1 in three matches).

"I used to play tournaments worth 5000-10000 and then eISL was announced with a huge prize pool. I think that changed the perspective for a lot of people," said Saransh.

Prannoy stuns World No. 4 Chou

Sindhu rallies to enter quarters; Satwik-Chirag and Kashyap out

MALAYSIA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KUALA LUMPUR

P.V. Sindhu and H.S. Prannoy secured contrasting wins to enter the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

Unseeded Prannoy registered the biggest upset of the day when he eliminated World No. 4 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 21-15, 21-7.

Fresh from his semifinal finish at the Indonesia Open last week, the 29-year-old was a slow starter in both the games. But once he gained his ground, there was no stopping the Indian, who sealed his last-eight passage with 12 points on the trot.

The World No. 21 Indian will next face seventh seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia, against whom his head-to-head record is 3-5.

Time to adjust

Former World champion Sindhu took some time to adjust to the game of Thailand youngster Phittayaporn Chaiwan losing the opening game before pulling off a 19-21, 21-9, 21-14 win.



In the spotlight: Prannoy registered the biggest upset of the day when he eliminated World No. 4 Chou. ■ AP

Sindhu, seeded seventh, will next face Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei, against whom she has a lopsided 5-15 head-to-head record including a string of five losses on the trot.

Meanwhile, P. Kashyap failed to make the last-eight, going down to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn 19-21, 21-9, 21-14.

Also, men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty conceded a walkover to the local pair of Goh Zhe Fei and Nur Izzuddin.

"Satwik had pulled a muscle, was better today but not enough to play. And, with the Commonwealth Games approaching, the coaches and physios advised him

against taking the court," said an official.

The results: Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Chou Tien Chen (Tpe) 21-15, 21-7; P. Kashyap lost to Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) 19-21, 10-21.

Doubles: Satwiksairaj & Chirag Shetty conceded w/o Goh Zhe Fei & Nur Izzuddin (Mas).

Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Phittayaporn Chaiwan (Tha) 19-21, 21-9, 21-14.

Sachin Siwach enters quarterfinals

BOXING

SPORTS BUREAU

Current World youth champion Sachin Siwach moved into the quarterfinals while Olympian Simranjit Kaur lost in the last-eight stage at the Elorda Cup boxing tournament in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

Sachin dominated the men's 57kg first round fight to beat promising Turkmenistan boxer Ykhlak Gylychjanov 5-0.

Simranjit lost to China's Xu Zichun 3-2 in a well-contested women's 60kg quarterfinal bout.

Two other Indians, Lakshya Chahar (86kg) and Harsh Lakra (80kg), also lost their respective bouts.

The results:

Men: Quarterfinals: 86kg: Lakshya Chahar lost to Abzal Kuttybekov (Kaz) 5-0.

Pre-quarterfinals: 57kg: Sachin Siwach bt Ykhlak Gylychjanov (Tkm) 5-0; **80kg:** Harsh Lakra lost to Yerassyl Zhakpekov (Kaz) 5-0.

Women: Quarterfinals: 60kg: Simranjit Kaur lost to Xu Zichun (Chn) 3-2.



Arjun and Cornea duo enters semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Arjun Kadhe, partnering Victor Vlad Cornea of Romania, beat Sergi Perez Contri and Adria Soriano Barrera of Spain 6-3, 6-2 in the doubles quarterfinals of the €45,730 Challenger tennis tournament in Malaga, Spain, on Thursday.

Other results: \$53,120 Chal-

lenger, Cali, Colombia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sri-ran Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan w/o Pedja Krstin & Miljan Zekic (Srb).

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Pre-quarterfinals: Jennifer Luikham bt Carola Cavelli (Ita) 6-2, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Los Angeles: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Brandy Walker (US) & Prathyusha Rachapudi bt Anne-Sophie Morandais (Glp) & Liz Pinson (US) 7-5, 6-2.

It will be an advantage for England: Curran

CRICKET

S. DIPAK RAGAV

England all-rounder Sam Curran feels India will be at a slight disadvantage with Rohit Sharma ruled out as the team would need to use a stand-in opener like Cheteshwar Pujara.

"It will be an advantage (for England), but Pujara is fantastic. He played in the county championship and scored runs. He has faced the new ball many times.

"He is a phenomenal player and his record is incredible. But there is a little advantage for England that India is missing a couple of players at top of the order," said Curran ahead of the fifth Test starting in Birmingham on Friday.

Curran also said that

despite trailing 1-2 in the series, after the first four Tests played last year, England would feel good about playing India considering it just blanked New Zealand 3-0 recently.

No fear of failure

"The team under Ben (Stokes) and Brendon (McCullum), play a fearless brand of cricket knowing they are going to be backed a lot. There is a lot of intent and it is a great time to play against India.

"The fear of failure is lost and England is going in more prepared," added the 24-year-old who played a key role in England's 4-1 series win at home in 2018.

(Watch the live coverage of the fifth Test between England and India on SONY SIX (English) starting from July 1 at 3 p.m. IST).

22-member squad named for the World Championships

Aishwarya included but Jeswin left out; Amoj gets the nod

ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Neeraj Chopra and Avinash Sable will lead the Indian charge at the World Championships next month as the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Thursday named a 22-member squad, with a couple of athletes being subject to satisfying the federation on their fitness and performance in the coming days.

Rohit Yadav is the other javelin thrower in the side with a world rank of 29 while the Commonwealth Games trio of triple jumpers – Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chitral and Eldhose Paul – have also been included.

Long jumper Jeswin Aldrin has been overlooked again despite achieving the qualifying mark for the same



Big quest: Neeraj Chopra will look to add the World crown to his Olympic title. ■ REUTERS

reason the AFI excluded him for the CWG – poor performance – even as Mohd. Anees Yahya has been included by making the cut in world rankings.

"Jeswin has one qualifying

jump and a constantly sliding performance since then, including in two overseas exposure events. The selection committee did not feel he merited a spot," said AFI president Adile Sumariwall.

Amoj Jacob, who got injured during the Inter-State, has been named in the 4x400m relay side subject to fitness even though his participation in the CWG is also doubtful. Arokia Rajiv has been named his stand-by.

Making the cut

Among the women, S. Dhanalakshmi has made the cut in the 200m while quarter-miler Aishwarya Mishra has also been included despite concerns about her doping status.

Aishwarya had gone uncommunicado last month after clocking a stunning 51.18 seconds in the Federation Cup in April with everyone including officials from AIU unaware of her whereabouts.

"Aishwarya's official explanation for going missing in May was her visit to her

sick grandmother. Also, as far as I know, she was tested at the Inter-State meet in Chennai.

"But she will be cleared only subject to time trials with anti-doping officials present," Sumariwalla said.

The squad:

Men: M.P. Jabir (400mH), Avinash Sable (300m steeplechase), Amoj Jacob, Noah Nir-mal Tom, Naganathan Pandi, Mohd. Anas Yahya, Mohd. Ajmal, Rajesh Remesh (4x400m relay), Tajinderpal Singh Toor (shot put), Neeraj Chopra and Rohit Yadav (javelin), M. Sreeshankar and Mohd. Anees Yahya (long jump), Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chitral, Eldhose Paul (Triple Jump), and Sandeep Kumar (20km walk)

Women: S. Dhanalakshmi (200m), Aishwarya Mishra (400m), Parul Chaudhary (3000m steeplechase), Annu Rani (javelin), Priyanka (20km walk).

Ankita wriggles past Costoulas into quarterfinals

TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Second seed Ankita Raina had a fortuitous entry into the quarterfinals as her opponent Sofia Costoulas of Belgium retired midway through the second set in the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at the Tennis Project, Baliawas, on Thursday.

On a day of persistent rain and long delays, with matches starting in the morning and finishing under floodlights, Ankita was in trouble as she had lost the first set 2-6. She recovered to be 3-2 in the second set when the 17-year-old world No. 3, Costoulas quit, with a calf muscle injury.



Lucky: Ankita lost the first set and was 3-2 in the second when Costoulas retired due to injury. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Like last week's champion Karman Kaur Thandi, who wilted under the scorching sun against Sahaja Yamalappalli, Costoulas was also unable to be at her physical best, especially in the high humidity.

For the best performers of

tukted, the Thai left-hander who thrives with her quick feet and stout heart.

Rutuja stops Vineetha

Rutuja Bhosale stopped wild card entrant Vineetha Mummadi in straight sets and will play third seed Viktoriya Morvayova of Slovakia in the quarterfinals.

Four other singles matches were interrupted by rain. Referee Puneet Gupta had no option but to postpone the matches for Friday.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Rutuja Bhosale bt Vineetha Mummadi 6-3, 6-4; Viktoriya Morvayova (Svk) bt Ikumi Yamazaki (Jpn) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; Punnin Kovapitukted bt Shreya Tatavarthi 6-1, 6-1; Ankita Raina bt Sofia Costoulas (Bel) 2-6, 3-2 (retired).

Pogacar well-prepped and ready to roll

The event will first traverse through Denmark before entering France on Monday

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COPENHAGEN

With a day remaining ahead of the Tour de France's 'Grand Depart' in Denmark, Tadej Pogacar sounded a warning to those hoping to dethrone the double champion.

The 109th edition of cycling's greatest test starts in Copenhagen with three days in Denmark before heading to France, the beginning of a 3,350km odyssey for the 22 teams of eight riders.

The goal, as ever, is to reach the fabled finale on the Champs-Elysees in Paris on July 24 when Team UAE lead-



Pedal Power: Pogacar rides during a training session. ■ AFP

er Pogacar will be looking to cement a place in history beneath the Arc de Triomphe with a third straight title at the tender age of just 23.

A confident Pogacar was thrilled by the prospect. "I can't wait," the fresh-faced Slovenian said. "We are all ready, we have a strong team

and it's just a matter of not stressing too much until Friday."

"I don't know what to think about the time-trial but I'm ready and I'm sure its going to be fast. It's short and technically challenging," said the 23-year-old Slovenian.

Ineos's Italian world champion Filippo Ganna is favourite to snatch the overall leader's yellow jersey after the opening stage, while Dutch rider Mathieu van der Poel could be the man to exit Denmark with it.

The caravan transfers to France next Monday for a treacherous week featuring old, cobbled mining roads.

Bangladesh recalls Taskin and Mehidy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Bangladesh on Thursday called up fast bowler Taskin Ahmed and off-spinner Mehidy Hasan for the three-match Twenty20 International series against the West Indies in Dominica from July 2.

Mehidy has not played a T20I since December 2018.

T20 squad: Mahmudullah Riyad (Capt.), Munim Shahriar, Liton Das, Anamul Haque, Shakib Al Hasan, Afif Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Nurul Hasan, Mehidy Hasan, Mehidy Hasan, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Taskin Ahmed and Nasum Ahmed.

Indian women aim for a maiden World Cup triumph

Co-host Netherlands in line for a hat-trick and a ninth crown

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TERRASSA (SPAIN)

The creme de la creme of women's hockey will be in action when the world's top 16 sides fight for the coveted FIH World Cup crown with record eight-time winner Netherlands eyeing a hat-trick of titles and India aiming for a first.

Most dominant

Defending champion Netherlands, co-hosting the tournament along with Spain from July 1 to 17, is the most dominant outfit in women's hockey, having won the eight times and finishing runner-



Custodians: Savita and Bichu Devi will be expected to star under the bar for India. ■ TWITTER/HOCKEYINDIA

up four times.

The Dutch women also have four Olympic golds, two silvers and three bronzes, making them favourites to defend the title.

The tournament starts with a Pool C game between Spain and Canada, whose best finish was a second spot in the 1983 edition in Kuala Lumpur.

The 16 teams in the tournament are divided into four pools. The top sides from each pool will directly qualify for the quarterfinals, while the second and third-placed teams will feature in the crossovers.

India on the rise

Even though India's best performance in the tournament was a fourth at the inaugural edition in 1974, it will be no pushover in this edition as it has been on a rise after a historic fourth at the Tokyo Olympics.

India achieved its best-ever sixth in the world rankings in May this year and gave some top teams a run for

their money in the FIH Pro League to finish on the podium ahead of sides like Argentina, Australia and England.

And the Janneke Schopman-coached Indians would be dreaming of registering its name in the record books by finishing in the top four in this tournament, which is definitely not impossible.

India starts its campaign against England on Sunday. **The groupings:**

Pool A: Germany, Chile, Ireland and the Netherlands.

Pool B: India, China, England and New Zealand.

Pool C: Argentina, Canada, Korea and Spain.

Pool D: Australia, Belgium, Japan and South Africa.

COVID-19 hits men's hockey team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

The Indian men's hockey team's preparation for the Commonwealth Games was hit by COVID-19 outbreak on Thursday as five persons, including striker Gurjant Singh and head coach Graham Reid, tested positive here.

The RT-PCR tests were conducted on Wednesday. The infected have been placed under isolation. "Two players and three members of the support staff of the Indian men's hockey team, currently preparing for the Commonwealth Games 2022, have tested positive for COVID-19," Hockey India said in a release without naming anyone.

However, a team source told PTI: "Gurjant and Reid have contracted the infection. Ashok Kumar Chinnaswamy, the video analyst, has also tested positive."

Besides Gurjant, the other player to have tested positive is midfielder Ashish Kumar Topno.