



## PERFECTION IAS

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#### IN BRIEF



#### Capital to host 'India's biggest shopping festival'

NEW DELHI  
The Capital will host a month-long shopping festival between January 28 and February 26 next year, the Delhi government announced on Wednesday. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it will be India's biggest shopping festival.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

#### Naqvi, R.C.P. Singh quit as RS term ends

NEW DELHI  
Union Ministers R.C.P. Singh of the Janata Dal (U) and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi of the Bharatiya Janata Party resigned on Wednesday, a day before the completion of their Rajya Sabha term.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 11

#### P.T. Usha and Ilaiyaraaja among four picked for RS

NEW DELHI  
Olympic sprinter P.T. Usha, music composer Ilaiyaraaja, philanthropist Veerendra Heggade and screenwriter V. Vijayendra Prasad have been nominated by the President to the Rajya Sabha.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 11

## SpiceJet gets DGCA notice for safety lapses

Regulator flags poor maintenance, failure to pay vendors

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday served a show-cause notice on SpiceJet over its failure to offer "safe, efficient and reliable" air services after as many as eight mid-air incidents in the past two months. The regulator blamed the airline for "poor safety oversight" and failure to procure spare parts for aircraft maintenance due to its poor financial status.

The DGCA has given the accountable manager of SpiceJet – its Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh – three weeks to explain why action should not be taken against the airline.

Responding to the notice, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia tweeted, "Passenger safety is paramount. Even the smallest error hindering safety will be thoroughly investigated and course-corrected."

In an interview to the news agency PTI, Mr. Singh said the airline would be "doubly careful", but called the incidents "minor".

The notice comes a day after the airline faced at least

#### Safety manifest | What the DGCA notice says:

■ SpiceJet failed to establish 'safe, efficient and reliable air services'

■ A review of recent incidents shows airline either forced to turn back aircraft on many occasions, or continue flight with "degraded safety margins"

■ Failure to pay vendors on time led to a shortage of spares, according to financial assessment in September 2021

■ In an implicit warning, the DGCA says airline's permit to operate commercial flights valid only till May 2023



The Dubai-bound SpiceJet Boeing 737 Max aircraft that landed in Karachi on Tuesday after a fuel indicator malfunction. ■ PTI

three incidents – the diversion of a Delhi-Dubai flight to Karachi due to a fuel indicator malfunction; a cracked windscreen on a Kandla-Mumbai flight; and a snag on the weather radar on its cargo aircraft flying from Kolkata to Chongqing, which forced the plane to return to Kolkata. These take the total incidents involving SpiceJet aircraft to eight since May 1.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## IndiGo, Vistara jets face snag

The crew of an IndiGo Raipur-Indore flight noticed smoke in the plane after it landed on Tuesday, DGCA officials said on Wednesday.

A Vistara flight from Bangkok to Delhi faced an electrical malfunction after the plane landed in Delhi on Tuesday.

## Kerala Culture Minister Saji Cherian quits

G. ANAND  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's Culture and Fisheries Minister Saji Cherian resigned from the Left Democratic Front (LDF) Cabinet on Wednesday after his remarks on the Constitution triggered an uproar.

At a press conference here, Mr. Cherian said the media had portrayed him as anti-Constitution by taking quotes from his speech out of context.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Mahua faces FIR in Bhopal for remarks

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

The row over Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra's comment on Goddess Kali intensified on Wednesday with a first information report (FIR) being registered against her in Bhopal for allegedly "outraging religious feelings".

Bengal BJP Mahila Morcha chief Tanuja Chakraborty also filed a complaint against her in Kolkata.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Raipur Police declare TV anchor an absconder

U.P. Police release him after 12-hour questioning

ANUJ KUMAR  
GHAZIABAD

Raipur Police on Wednesday declared TV anchor Rohit Ranjan an absconder after they could not find him at his residence in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, in a case pertaining to the telecast of an alleged doctored video of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. They said they were trying to trace him.

Earlier, after around 12 hours of questioning, the Gautam Buddha Nagar police released Mr. Ranjan on bail late on Tuesday night.

Udayan Dehar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Raipur, said the team visited the Zee News office in Noida, and also lodged a complaint against the Indirapuram police station officials with the Ghaziabad Senior Superintendent of Police for obstructing them in carrying out their duty.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## SC to hear appeal today

TV anchor Rohit Ranjan approached the Supreme Court seeking protection in view of the multiple first information reports (FIRs) against him. "He made an error in one of his shows. He has apologised but is facing multiple FIRs. We seek an urgent listing," senior advocate Siddharth Luthra submitted.

The court agreed to hear the case on Thursday.

## AIADMK general council can decide on leadership, says SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

In a boost to former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, the Supreme Court on Wednesday held that the question of "single leadership" of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam should be decided entirely in its general council meeting. A Vacation Bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Krishna Mura-

ri made it clear it would not interfere in the conduct of the meeting slated for July 11 in Chennai.

The Bench stayed a Madras High Court Division Bench order passed at dawn on June 23, which restrained the council that day from taking any decision on the leadership question. Mr. Palaniswami is keen on doing away with the current dual leadership structure and mi-

grating to a unitary leadership, which is opposed by the O. Panneerselvam camp.

The order came on a plea by Mr. Palaniswami that the "vexatious and prejudicial acts" of Mr. Panneerselvam had brought the AIADMK's functioning to a "standstill". He accused Mr. Panneerselvam of "disrupting" the June 23 general council meeting.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Shaken hills



**Tumbled earth:** Vehicles lie buried under debris after a landslide amid heavy rain in Shimla on Wednesday. At least four persons are believed to have been washed away in the Parvati river after a cloudburst hit Chojh village in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district. ■ PTI

## Accused held month after flashing incident at metro station

Manav Aggarwal, 40, Gurugram resident and currently unemployed, nabbed from near Saket court

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Wednesday finally arrested the man accused of molesting a 21-year-old woman and flashing at her at the Jor Bagh metro station last month. The accused, Manav Aggarwal, 40, is a resident of Gurugram and currently unemployed.

The incident took place on June 2 and went public the same night when the woman narrated her ordeal through a series of posts on Twitter.

In her statement to the police subsequently, the woman said she was a resident of Gurugram and on the day of the incident, a man approached her and inquired about the route to Delhi University while she was travelling from Huda City Centre to the Jor Bagh metro station.

She alighted from the train at Jor Bagh and found the accused tailing her on the platform. When she sat on a bench inside the station to book a taxi online, the accused showed her a file on the pretext of verifying the address. "While she was trying to see the file, he thrust his private part on her face, following which she ran away from the spot and later at midnight posted the entire episode on Twitter," said DCP (Metro) Jitendra Mani.

**Massive operation**  
Elaborating on how they managed to track Mr. Aggarwal down, the DCP said several teams of the Metro police were constituted to identify and arrest the accused after a case under sections of the Indian Penal

**The electronic surveillance systems of trains and metro stations were scanned in order to identify and trace the accused**

JITENDRA MANI  
DCP (Metro)

Code pertaining to assault or criminal force used on a woman was lodged at the INA Metro police station. "The electronic surveillance systems of trains and metro stations were scanned in order to identify and trace the accused," the DCP said.

Simultaneously, the Special Police Unit for Women and Children was in regular touch with the woman to counsel her and extend all necessary help, he said. Police teams intensified

the scrutiny of CCTV footage of all metro stations of the Yellow Line, particularly in and around the entry and exit points.

"The search to locate the perpetrator was successful and he was spotted entering through the escalator at Gate No. 1 of the Sikandarpur metro station in the morning," DCP Mani said. The information was shared with other team members who inquired at places nearby, asking shopkeepers, autorickshaw drivers and other local residents about Mr. Aggarwal.

"The CDRs (call detail records) and CAF (customer application form) of the accused and his location were obtained, and the photo on the accused's CAF matched with his face... the location was also matching from the

time of the CCTV footage," the DCP said.

#### Bid for bail

The police subsequently conducted a raid on the accused's house but found it locked. It later transpired that Mr. Aggarwal had fled to Nepal on June 4. He approached a Saket court for anticipatory bail and then the Delhi High Court after the lower court had rejected his plea. "The High Court was not inclined to grant a satisfactory order, so we withdrew it," Pradeep Kumar Arya, counsel for Mr. Aggarwal, told *The Hindu*.

Justice S.K. Sharma dismissed the anticipatory bail plea on July 4 as withdrawn. "He was eventually nabbed from near the Saket court," DCP Mani said.

## Ajmer man held for threat to Nupur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Police arrested a man in Ajmer late on Tuesday for allegedly offering to give away his house and property to anyone who beheaded suspended Bharatiya Janata Party leader Nupur Sharma.

The accused, Salman Chishti, is a *khadim* (worker) at the historic Ajmer dargah. He had recorded his announcement before the murder of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur on June 28, but the video was circulated later. He was on the run since the police registered a case against him earlier this week. The police arrested him from his house near the shrine.

Dargah custodian Syed Zainul Abedin condemned the video, and said it should not be considered a message from the shrine.

## Domestic LPG price up by ₹50

Households in Delhi now need to pay ₹1,053 per cylinder

N. RAVI KUMAR  
DEEPA H. RAMAKRISHNAN  
HYDERABAD/CHENNAI

Households will now have to spend more on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as national oil marketing companies increased the price of the 14.2-kg cylinder by ₹50, with effect from July 6.

The third revision in two months, including one to factor in increase in LPG distributor commission, is bound to compound the misery of households grappling with runaway inflation

and rising prices of various commodities.

With the latest increase in the price of non-subsidised cylinder, households in Delhi need to pay ₹1,053 as against ₹1,003. The new price in Mumbai is ₹1,052.50 (₹1,002.50), Chennai ₹1,068.50 (₹1,018.50) and Kolkata ₹1,079.00 (₹1,029).

Prices vary across cities and in Hyderabad, the rate has raced past the ₹1,100 mark. Condemning the increase, consumer activist T. Sadagopan in Chennai said it

imposes an additional burden on households reeling under price rise. The timing could not be worse as floods are causing havoc in many parts of the country thus impacting supplies of LPG cylinders to many households.

The increase was necessitated in view of "under-recovery" on LPG or in other words, the retail selling price not being in tandem with that of crude oil, sources in the oil industry say.

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### WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE MAINSTORMING?

- I was part of the **5 test HIT series program** of Shankar IAS and I found it helpful. I have interacted with Asif Sir from Shankar IAS few times and it helped me in my mains exam preparation. -**Yaksh Chaudhary (Rank 6, CSE 2021)**
- I was part of **Mainstorming series** and Guidance from Shankar IAS mentors and their **nuanced feedback and support** have helped me sail through both my attempts -**Divya Shakti (Rank 58, CSE 2021, Rank 79, CSE 2020)**
- I would like to thank Team Shankar IAS, especially Asif sir for all the help and guidance provided to me, especially with mains answer writing. **Mainstorming** helped me **boost my GS score from 360 in 2020 to 434 in 2021**. -**Shubham Shukla (AIR-43, CSE-2021)**
- I was part of Shankar IAS **mains booster** plan as well as **Mainstorming test series**. I'm extremely thankful to the team for their **personalized mentorship and support** throughout. **One to one session** was extremely helpful in identifying and working on my weak areas. **Surbhi Singla (AIR 75, CSE 2021)**

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TAMIL NADU | DELHI | BENGALURU | TRIVANDRUM

## Man kills neighbour who spurned his advances

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Wednesday arrested a 25-year-old man, Maan Singh, for allegedly killing a woman who spurned his sexual advances.

DCP (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram said that the victim, identified as Radha Devi, had gone to the terrace to put the clothes out for drying when the incident took place.

"A few tenants were questioned and some of them were also detained. We soon found that Singh was the only person present on the second floor at the time of the incident," added the DCP.

The senior police officer said that the autopsy report also revealed that the victim's throat was slit with a sharp weapon and that the chain around her neck was placed near the wound in order to stage the murder as an accident.

The police said that Singh confessed to his crime after his arrest. He reportedly told the police that he did not go out for work on the day of the incident.

"On the day of the incident, Singh consumed alcohol and went to the terrace where Devi was present. He made sexual advances at her, following which she scolded him. In a fit of rage, Singh assaulted her and then slit her throat," said a senior police officer.

## Shut for over a month, Ghazipur slaughterhouse to reopen today

Authorities grant permission subject to certain conditions

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Ghazipur slaughterhouse is all set to reopen from Thursday after remaining shut for over a month. The move, which comes days ahead of Id-ul-Adha, has been welcomed by meat traders.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi allowed the slaughterhouse to start operations following the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) approval subject to certain conditions, an official order stated.

Earlier this week, the National Green Tribunal had asked a joint committee of DPCC and CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) to consider giving consent to operate slaughterhouses.

Delhi Meat Merchants Association (DMMA) president Arshad H. Qureshi thanked the L-G, the NGT and the DPCC for allowing the slaughterhouse to reopen. He said livelihood of lakhs of people, dependent on the slaughterhouse, had been affected during the past one month due to its closure.

A senior MCD official said the reopening of the Ghazipur slaughterhouse is subject to certain conditions, including treatment of waste water from the site.

**Waste water treatment** "The waste water is supposed to be treated by an effluent treatment plant, and the treated water will have to be circulated and used properly in view of the shortage

of water. Similarly, animal waste has to be dealt with immediately through effective methods. Deadlines for each of these conditions vary; some of them have to be fulfilled at the earliest," said the senior MCD official.

Mr. Qureshi said in May in an ongoing case, the NGT had asked the CPCB and the DPCC to inspect the slaughterhouse. Their teams found some shortcomings and the DPCC withdrew its consent to the slaughterhouse to operate, following which it was shut down on May 30.

"We closed down illegal borewells and also got permission for five borewells from the Delhi Jal Board. Also, an effluent treatment plant is functioning now," Mr. Qureshi said.

## L-G seeks public advice on ways to boost MCD's finances

'Non-payment of property tax by 75% of residents causing distress to civic body'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday invited suggestions from the people of Delhi to improve the poor financial health of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). He tweeted that the public should "honestly" pay its dues to the civic body to maintain its revenue flow.

Mr. Saxena shared a graphic along with his tweet highlighting that from the financial year 2019-20 to 2021-22, the MCD's total income stood at ₹31,861.85 crore, while its total expenditure stood at ₹34,618.17 crore. He said the civic body's total cash deficit stood at ₹2,756.32 crore and its salary, pension dues and



L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena

other financial liabilities stood at ₹9,261.95 crore.

Mr. Saxena said though the civic body provides services to 94% of the Capital's areas, financial mismanagement in the past and non-payment of property tax by 75% of the residents have resulted in the civic body's financial status

"remaining in the red". Close to 98% of the city's population resides in areas under the jurisdiction of the MCD. "We [MCD] have to pull up our socks and increase our internal revenue from our sources. Higher collection of property tax will improve the situation but we will have to explore all revenue sources," said a senior MCD official.

**Dashed hopes** Prior to the merger of the three erstwhile municipal corporations, recurring delays in the payment of salaries to employees under the North and East corporations led to frequent strikes and disruption of services. The merger, according to civic of-

icials, was perceived as a solution to the MCD's growing financial distress as a bailout package was being expected from the Centre. The situation, however, has only grown worse while ambiguity remains on how the financial liabilities will be cleared, said the officials, adding that the latest emphasis on increasing internal revenue has only dashed their hopes of a bailout package in the future.

Over the past week, Mr. Saxena has invited suggestions and sought public participation in solving issues that affect the public - including the clearing of landfill sites, improving air quality, daily sewage discharge in Yamuna and shortage of water in the city.

## Ensure supply of sanitary napkins to schools: HC

Court disposes of plea by NGO which claimed pads not being supplied since 2021

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday ordered the city government to ensure uninterrupted supply of sanitary napkins to students in government schools here under the Kishori Yojana Scheme.

A Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad gave the direction after it was informed by the Delhi government's Directorate of

Education that an e-tender has been floated for the supply of sanitary napkins to government schools and government-aided schools.

**Sufficient funds** The Delhi government's standing counsel said in compliance with the court's earlier order, all heads of schools concerned, Deputy Director of Education and other officers have been sensitised in the matter and given sufficient funds to pro-

vide sanitary napkins from the government e-Marketplace for distribution to each girl student enrolled in Class VI to XII from July 2022.

The High Court disposed of a petition by NGO Social Jurist, which claimed that since January 2021, the DoE was not providing sanitary napkins under the Kishori Yojana Scheme to girl students of Delhi government schools due to which they were facing problems. The NGO stated that resto-

ration of sanitary napkins facility for students is very important and necessary for their personal hygiene and general health as in its absence, their education and attendance are adversely affected. It contended that the action on the part of the DoE to not provide sanitary napkins facility is "irrational, unreasonable, arbitrary", and violative of the fundamental right to education of girl students as guaranteed under the Constitution.

## Delhi govt.'s ad spend rose over 4,200% in 10 years: RTI replies

It spent ₹488.97 cr. in FY 2021-2022, ₹125.15 cr. in March alone

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI

The Delhi government's spending on advertisements increased by 4,273% over 10 financial years ending with 2021-2022, according to Right to Information (RTI) replies by the Directorate of Information and Publicity.

The government's advertising agency, Shabdarth, provided the data in response to a query by Bihar-based RTI activist Kanhaiya Kumar. According to the May 19 reply, the spending under two budgetary heads - "other charges" (advt. charges booked under this head in addition to some miscellaneous expenditure) and "advertisement and publicity" - totalled to ₹488.97 crore in 2021-2022, with March alone accounting for ₹125.15 crore. Being the end of the financial year, March tends to see the highest spending every year. In 2012-2013, the government spent ₹11.18 crore, according to another RTI reply to Mr. Kumar in 2021. In FY 2013-2014, ₹25.24 crore was spent on ads, which dropped to ₹11.12 crore in 2014-2015.

From 2015, when the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came to



In 2012-2013, the Delhi government spent ₹11.18 crore on ads, according to an RTI reply by the government to activist Kanhaiya Kumar.

power, the ad spending has increased in four financial years compared to the respective previous FYs and decreased twice - from ₹81.23 crore in 2015-2016 to ₹67.25 crore in 2016-2017 and from ₹117.76 crore in 2017-2018 to ₹45.54 crore in 2018-2019. In the two COVID-19 pandemic years, the ad expenditure was ₹199.99 crore in 2019-2020 and ₹293.20 crore in 2020-2021, according to the reply.

**Rise during pandemic** "There has been more than 4,200% increase from the ad spend in 2012-2013, when the

Congress-ruled Delhi government under Sheila Dikshit spent ₹11.18 crore on advertisements. This increase in expenditure on ads was during the time when the country was going through the pandemic," Mr. Kumar said.

Facing criticism from Union Home Minister Amit Shah for its government's spending on advertisements, AAP had on December 25, 2021 hit out at the BJP for the ad campaigns of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

"As far as advertisement costs are concerned, Mr. Amit Shah should go around Delhi once and see how every nook and corner has been hijacked by Mr. Narendra Modi and Mr. Yogi Adityanath... There are 850 hoardings of Mr. Modi and Mr. Adityanath in Delhi and in its stark contrast Delhi government has only put up 108 hoardings. Delhi government spends barely ₹70 crore on advertisements compared to Mr. Adityanath's splurge of ₹2,000 crore annually," an official AAP statement had said.

### Government of Jharkhand, Rural Works Department JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (VERY SHORT TENDER)**  
(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)  
Re-e-Tender No.-25/2022-23 Dated: 05.07.2022  
PR No- 268173 Dated. 11.04.2022

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered\* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State /Central Government Organization for construction of Bridge and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmsytendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (RCPLWEA- Batch-II, 2021-22).

The bid should be submitted online in the website pmsytendersjhr.gov.in. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.

Sl. No.	District/Block	Repackage	Name of Bridge	Length (in Km)	Total Package Cost (in Lakh)	Earnest Money (in Lakh)	Completion of Time
1	Garhwa / Bhandari a	JH-BR-LWE-II-GAR-01/21-22 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Call)	Bheraotoli to Amantand Construction of HL RCC Bridge Over River at Chainage 0+000 At Bheraotoli to Amantand	54.64	444.02	4.45	30th March 2023
			Bheraotoli to Amantand Construction of HL RCC Bridge At Chainage 1+700 Over River in between Bheraotoli and Amantand	20.64			
			Bheraotoli to Amantand Construction of HL RCC Bridge Over River At CH 2+000 in between Bheraotoli and Amantand	25.64			
2	Garhwa / Bhandari a	JH-BR-LWE-II-GAR-02/21-22 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Call)	O-Bheraotoli to Amantand Construction of HL RCC Bridge At CH 2+300 Over River in between Bheraotoli and Amantand	40.64	356.20	3.57	30th March 2023
			O-Bheraotoli to Amantand Construction of HL RCC Bridge Over River At Ch 2700 in between Bheraotoli and Amantand	20.64			
			O-Bheraotoli to Amantand Construction of HL RCC Bridge Over Seasonal Nalla At CH 4000 in between Bheraotoli and Amantand	20.64			
3	Giridih / Dumri	JH-BR-LWE-II-GIR-02/21-22 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Call)	KB road to Basgohra via Kubto Nawadiah Construction of H.L. Bridge Over Local Stream At CH-3600	34.26	308.82	3.09	30th March 2023
			Naukanja School to Maheshmunda River via Ghoskari Bridge Over Maheshmunda River at ch-2.175 km of Naukanja School to Maheshmunda River via Ghoskari	22.40			
			Chatakpur to Samadhi Construction of HL RCC Bridge Over Tenwa Dhorha Nalla in between Chatakpur and Samadhi	32.64			
			Pokhariburu to Masariburu LOCAL RIVER AT CH - 2.630KM	34.26			
			Palisai Chowk to Rengda Sekre Godown LOCAL RIVER AT CH - 2.720	34.26			

Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding		Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender	
		From	To	Technical bid	Financial bid
Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	07.07.2022 at 10.30 AM	16.07.2022 upto 3.00 PM	16.07.2022 at 5.00 PM	To be informed later

\* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.

**Note:-**

- Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
- Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited online in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d). Online payment through RTGS/NEFT should not be made through SBI.
- In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
- Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
- Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD, any department of GoI/GoJ (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
- Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s)/made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
- In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units/ amount in BOQ, units/amount as mentioned in Current TOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail. Discrepancy in amount shown in Form of Bid Part-II in words and figures shall make bids non responsive.
- Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at jh-cc@pmsgy.nic.in. Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
- Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
- Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
- For unbalanced bids, extra performance security will be required to be deposited by the bidder by the time of Agreement.

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website pmsytendersjhr.gov.in as per schedule mentioned above.

Chief Engineer JSRRDA, Ranchi  
PR 273025 Rural Work Department(22-23)#D

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Age: Approx 50/55 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'5", Built: Thin, Face: Long, was wearing White Floral Lower and Blue T-Shirt, was found at Faridabad Bus Stand, Pusta side Kashmir Gate, in the area of P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 45A U/s 174 CrPC, dated 25.06.2022, has been lodged at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi.

His dead body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi Mortuary for identification. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23968730, 8750870123 DP/2517/N/2022

### EASTERN RAILWAY

**E-Tender Notice No. EC/E-tender/OT-6/22-23, Dated: 01.07.2022.** E-Tenders (Open) are invited by the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (W), Eastern Railway, Kancharpara for the following work:  
**Tender No. EC/SW/TW-ENGINE/OT-6/22-23. Name of the Work / Location :** Periodical Overhauling of Cummins Sales and Services India make Diesel engine type 1710L of 02 Nos. 8-wheeler Trolley Car. Approx Cost of the work: Rs. 72,82,391.32. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,45,700.00. Advertisement Period: 01.07.2022 to 23.07.2022 till 10.30hrs. Offer Submission Period: 09.07.2022 to 23.07.2022 till 10.30hrs. Date and Time of closing of Tender: 23.07.2022 till 10.30hrs. Date and Time of opening of Tender: 23.07.2022 till 10.30hrs. Completion period for the work: 06 Months. Website particulars : A Complete set of Tender Document is available on the Indian Railways e-procurement website : <http://www.irps.gov.in> from 08.07.2022 to 23.07.2022 till 10.30hrs. (MIS-89/2022-23) Tender Notice are also available at website: [www.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in)

Follow us at: Eastern Railway Eastern Railway Headquarter

**E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE**  
The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.V, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Near Parvavaran Complex, Saurajpuri New Delhi 110030 invites on behalf of President of India, on line percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation and Flood Control Department up to 3.00 PM on dates mentioned as below.

1. NIT 19/2022-23/EE/CD-V/ACS/ID No. 2022, IFC\_225398\_1 (Percentage rate).  
H.O.A:- MLALAD.  
N.O.A:- Construction of road from Shamshah Ghat to Meethapur bridge in Meethapur Extension in Badarpur Constituency (AC-53).  
E.C.Rs. 37.67.535/- Earnest Money Rs. 75,351/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 11.07.2022).  
2. NIT 21/2022-23/EE/CD-V/ACS/ID No. 2022, IFC\_225399\_1 (Percentage rate).  
H.O.A:- 2711 Non Plan.  
N.O.A:- Construction of parapet wall of Malabund drain from RD 615 metre to RD 1335 metre. E.C.Rs. 90,75,981/- Earnest Money Rs. 1,81,502/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 11.07.2022).  
Note:- 1) The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case the last date of opening of tender is extended the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.  
2) Earnest Money in the shape of FDR/ Banker Cheque/Demand Draft of schedule bank issued in favour of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-V, I&FC department should be submitted in Tender Box.  
3) Details of above mentioned work can be seen and downloaded from website <http://goiprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
4) Tender submitted through e-procurement portal shall be accepted only.  
5) Corrigendum, if any will be published on e-procurement web site only.  
Executive Engineer CD-V Civil Division-V (I&FC) Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
DIP/Shabdarth/0194/22-23

### NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**Inviting of E-Tender Notice**  
मंडल रेल प्रबन्धक, इंडीयन रेलवे, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित निम्नों के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2022-23 : 87 कार्य का नाम व स्थान : Soft upgradation of various stations including provision of platform shelter at JSA, KOF, KVA, LDM, MBF, MBGA, MBW, MKSR, MON, MSQ, RNV, RMX, BBC, BIPR, BISH, BMSN, DQJN, DJK, GE, JARI, JNE, JNX, JNZ & JCR Stations in the jurisdiction of Sr. DENV/ West/JJ. अनुमानित लागत रूप्य : 3,58,55,555.58 बयाने की राशि रूप्ये : 3,29,300.00 ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2022-23 : 88 कार्य का नाम व स्थान : Zone contract (Water purification & Maintenance of Aqua Guard) Zone- 10- Maintenance and supply of consumables for effective operation of chlorinator and water purification equipments & water softening/filter plants, Thermostat lining under ADENIHO/JJ for year 2022-23 & 2023-24. अनुमानित लागत रूप्ये : 15,29,348.42 बयाने की राशि रूप्ये : 30,600.00 निविदा सूचना संख्या 2022-23 / 87 से 88 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 26.07.2022 को 15.00 बजे तक है। वेबसाईट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी जा सकेगी है- [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) 487-DG/22  
Please join us on <https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways> <https://www.instagram.com/NWRRailways>

### SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is here by informed that one Boy Name: Tauhid, S/o: Ilyas, R/o Don Bosco Ashalayam, Old Najafgarh Road, Palam Village, New Delhi. Age: 17 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Wearing: Fluorescent green lined in grey colour jacket and Black lower, Black sandal, has been missing since 30.12.2016 from the area of P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi.  
In this regard a FIR No. 439/2016, dated 30.12.2016, U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi.  
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Boy but no clue has come to light so far.  
If any person having any information or clue about this Boy kindly inform to the following.  
SHO P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi Ph. 011-25365981, 7065036227 DP/1256/SW/2022

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Name: Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: 48 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Beard: Short Black and White, Hair: Black and White, Wearing: Hospital cloth & barefoot, was found unconscious & admitted in L.N.J.P Hospital vide MLC No.114568467. In this regard, an information was received in PS Kotwali Vide DD No.06A, Dated 11.06.2022. Where during the treatment Doctors declared him dead on 30.06.2022. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the Mortuary of L.N.J.P Hospital. In this regard a DD No.96A, u/s 174 Cr.PC, dated 30.06.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.  
If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.  
SHO P.S. Kotwali, Delhi Ph.No.: 011-23977100, 23953442 DP/2526/N/2022



**Timings DELHI**

**THURSDAY, JUL. 07**  
RISE 05:30 SET 19:23  
RISE 12:40 SET 00:04

**FRIDAY, JUL. 08**  
RISE 05:30 SET 19:23  
RISE 13:41 SET 00:35

**SATURDAY, JUL. 09**  
RISE 05:31 SET 19:23  
RISE 14:45 SET 01:10

**Delhi Weather** max min

Delhi City	39	29
Safdarjang	39	29
Palam	38	30

**Delhi Palam Today**  
37°C The weather will be very warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be comfortable. Chances of light rain or thundershower.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C A warm and humid weather to continue. Night will be comfortable. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower is likely.

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# City to host 'India's biggest shopping festival'

Delhi Shopping Festival to be held in Feb. 2023; CM says it will generate thousands of jobs, boost tourism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Capital will host a month long shopping festival between January 28 and February 26 next year, the Delhi government announced on Wednesday.

Delhi Shopping Festival, which the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said will be India's biggest shopping festival, aims to attract people from across the world, boost local tourism and generate employment for the city's residents.

## Global ambitions

In a video statement on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that the government plans to make next year's event the biggest shopping festival in the world over the coming years.

"I invite people from the entire country and the world to book their tickets to visit Delhi for the festival, which will be a unique opportunity to buy quality products, and



All markets and malls of Delhi will be decorated and products will be available at 'unmatched discounts' during the festival.

experience the culture and tradition of the city," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He added that all the markets, shops and malls of Delhi will be decorated and that products will be available at unmatched discounts during the festival.

The Chief Minister said there will be exhibitions on spirituality, gaming, technology and health, while artists from across the country and

the world will perform in over 200 entertainment programmes during the month-long event.

He added that food would also be a major attraction at the festival, with special food walks being planned throughout the month.

"The festival will bring together Delhi's residents, corporates, businessmen and the government, as partners. We are in talks with hotels,

travel agents and airlines to provide comfortable travel and lodging arrangements for people travelling from outside to Delhi. Special packages will be offered to them," the Chief Minister said.

## Jobs bonanza

The Chief Minister in his statement said the shopping festival will provide thousands of jobs to Delhi's residents. "Most importantly, the festival will create thousands of jobs. We have made employment generation our priority, which is reflected in our budget and in every speech and interview I've given," Mr. Kejriwal said.

The Delhi government will divide the city into north, south, east, west and central zones, which will host different components of the shopping festival during the month. It will identify 15 iconic markets and 10 malls across all zones to host the festival.

The government also plans

to expand this festival to neighbourhood markets from the second year onwards.

The Kejriwal government had announced hosting the shopping festival in its Rozgar Budget, with an outlay of ₹250 crore.

The government said that the opening and closing ceremonies will host 20,000 people each along with millions of online visitors. The big attraction at these ceremonies will be performances by noted musicians, film personalities, comedians and dance groups. The government said that the closing ceremony will showcase a colourful display of Delhi's culture.

The government officials also said that a large-scale beautification campaign of the city will be undertaken before the festival, with street art, environment friendly installations, and lighting of select parks, monuments, flyovers, buildings, metro and railway stations, airport, ISBT, schools and colleges.

# Land pooling: more provisional notices likely

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is considering issuing provisional notices for the formation of consortiums in five more sectors that have been identified as part of the land pooling policy (LPP).

The five sectors are - sectors 1, 7 and 8 in Zone-P-II, sector 11 in Zone-N and sector 3 in Zone-L.

Currently, 104 villages - which have been divided into six zones and further di-

vided into 129 sectors - have been identified for land pooling.

The urban body recently held public meetings in Tigrpur and Mohammadpur-Ramzanpur villages which fall under sectors 2 and 3 (in zone P-II).

According to a statement issued by the urban body, the two main issues were discussed in these public meetings were - modalities to form consortiums and issues pertaining to the proposed amendments to the

Delhi Development Act, 1957, aimed at making land pooling mandatory.

In May, the DDA had issued conditional notices for the formation of consortiums in three high priority sectors falling under Zones - N and P-II, where 70% participation of landowners was achieved.

Notified on two occasions, in 2013 and 2018, the land pooling policy is aimed at providing 17 lakh dwelling units - including five lakh units for economically weak-

er sections - for a population of roughly over 80 lakh people.

According to the current policy, 60% of the land can be utilised by the owners or developer entity for developing residential and commercial facilities.

The remaining 40% of the land has to be surrendered to the service providing agencies, such as the DDA, for infrastructural development works such as laying roads, sewerage systems and developing parks.

# Centre of Excellence in AI at NSUT

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A Center of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence was inaugurated at Netaji Subhas University of Technology on Wednesday.

Inaugurating the Centre, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said universities need to move away from conventional ideas and think out-of-the-box for the progress of the country.

# Hunger strike against Stephen's admission criteria

Students demand interviews be junked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Student activists from the Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS) and Delhi University on Wednesday sat on a hunger strike, demanding scrapping of the interview criteria for admissions to St. Stephen's College.

The college has announced that it will conduct an interview for all applicants who have been shortlisted from Common University Entrance Test (CUET) list and admissions will be based on 85% weightage to CUET score and 15% to the interview, which is contrary to the new admission process announced by the university.

## 'Elitist tradition'

KYS activists said St. Stephen's College has been conducting interviews for admissions since a long time and called the practice an "elitist tradition".

"The criterion has been persistently used to deny students coming from deprived backgrounds to gain entry into the college, and thereby, maintain the elitism of granting admission and perpetuating the privilege of select clans and families," the KYS said in a statement.

The KYS said it would collect 1 lakh signatures on the issue and submit them to the Union Ministry of Education. The Delhi High Court,



Students protesting at North Campus on Wednesday.

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

meanwhile, is hearing two separate petitions on the issue. One has been filed by St. Stephen's College seeking to stay a DU letter asking it to withdraw its prospectus for undergraduate courses for the academic year 2022-23.

The second petition is filed by a law student seeking direction to the college to admit undergraduate candidates to its unreserved seats based only on marks received by them in CUET.

On Wednesday, the High Court adjourned the hearing on the issue till July 15 after UGC's counsel said Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, who was arguing for it, was down with COVID-19.

Earlier this week, Delhi University, in its response to the petitions, had said aided-minority educational institution cannot admit students under the unreserved category "as per its own whims and fancies".

# Weeks after demolition drive, stalls back on New Friends Colony footpath

Vendors say civic authorities 'aware' of their presence

MUNEER KHAN  
NEW DELHI

Over a month after the erstwhile South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) carried out an anti-encroachment drive at Gurudwara Road, New Friends Colony, the stretch again looks occupied with street vendors and hawkers.

The anti-encroachment drive, which was carried out on May 10, was part of a series of bulldozer-driven exercises conducted across the Capital by the erstwhile municipal corporations-North, South and East - which have now been merged into the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Civic officials said the drives were conducted with an aim to ensure there were no obstructions to the right of way on footpaths.

The vendors present at the Gurudwara Road, however, told *The Hindu* that they resumed setting up of their stalls a couple of days after the drive was carried out.

## Wait and watch

A 50-year-old man who runs a tea stall on the stretch said most vendors had removed their stalls prior to the anti-encroachment



Nowhere to go: Street vendors on the footpath at Gurudwara Road, New Friends Colony. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

drive by the civic authorities. He said it was a recurring trend to lie low during the drive and restart work after the exercise was over.

"The authorities are well aware that we vend on the footpath... Each vendor pays them [bribe] to run their stalls on this stretch. On an average, a food stall vendor has to pay ₹1,500 per month, while tea vendors like me pay ₹1,000 to the authorities," he said.

Agreed Kaleemuddin, a rickshaw puller, who said the footpaths are occupied by vendors from morning till evening, while the road remains crowded with pedestrians and vehicles. "E-rickshaw and auto drivers generally park their vehicles next to the footpaths and spend their time at the stalls. This haphazard parking obstructs the traffic movement on the stretch," he said.

According to the erstwhile SDMC, encroachments were cleared from a 2-km stretch in the area and a total of 12 sheds were removed.

During the drive, the area residents had complained that the civic body had removed plants and trees, while ignoring the "real issue" of vendors who occupied the footpath on a daily basis.

When reached for a comment, a senior MCD official admitted that the stretch has been encroached upon despite the civic body's demolition exercise, while adding that the Zonal Deputy Commissioner has issued a warning to the encroachers.

"It's the police which have to ensure that the footpaths remain free of encroachments after we finish conducting the drive," said the senior official.

# 'Share details of HIV tests of rape victims'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has issued notices to the Delhi government's Health Department and police seeking data on HIV testing of the victims of sexual assault cases.

The notices were issued to check whether the standard operating protocols are being followed to prevent the spread of HIV among rape victims.

The Commission asked for the details of cases where rape victims were brought to hospitals and were tested for HIV over the past three years.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG HQ AWANTIPORA**

GIST  
GIST for E-NIT S. 26 No./MIDA of 2022-23

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-Tenders in two cover system valid for 180 days, are invited from Original Pump Manufacturers (OPM's) or their authorized Dealers/representatives or registered, reputed and experienced Mechanical contractors/other firms / SSI unit holders/ workshop holders duly registered for the below mentioned works:-

S. No	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost ("Rs" in Lacs)	Cost of tender document/ (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Time of Completion of work	Major Head
1	Design, Manufacture, Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of horizontal pumping unit at lift Irrigation Scheme Furrah	3.20	500/=	9600/=	45 Days	M&E

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (ktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:-

	Publish Date	05.07.2022	1400 hrs
I	Document Download/sale start Date	05.07.2022	at 1400 hrs
II	Clarification start date	08.07.2022	From 0010 hrs
IV	Pre-bid Meeting date	13.07.2022	at 0010 hrs
V	Bid submission start date	13.07.2022	from 0012 hrs
VI	Clarification end date	12.07.2022	upto 1600 hrs
VII	Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	26.07.2022	upto 1600 hrs
VIII	Date and time of Bid opening	27.07.2022	at 0011 hrs or any date convenient to the Deptt.

All the terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in e NIT & PWD form No.25-double.

No. MIDA/ 1488-94, Dated:- 05.07.2022

Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag  
HQ Awantipora  
DIPK-5548/22

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) JAMMU.**

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**  
e-NIT No.-CEJ/PMGSY/708 of 2022-23 Dated: 30/06/2022

Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Govts up to 5.00 PM on 12-07-2022 for the following work including Defect Liability & Maintenance Period of three years for Stage-I and five years for Stage-II and five years for Bridges after construction.

S. No.	Name of Work/ Package No	Name of the RU	Const. Part (Rs. in Lacs)	Maint Part (Rs. in Lacs)	Total (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of documents (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Time Allowed for completion	Call of tender	Time and date of opening of tenders	Class of contractor
1	Balance Work For Construction of Road from L036 Hamusan To Dankot, Package No. JK14-442, Phase-X, Stage-I, Block Mahore, District-Reasi, Length-21.185 Kms. Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 708.91 Lacs	Mahore	708.91	-	708.91	0.06	14.18	06 Months	1st	14-07-2022 10:00 AM	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
2	Balance work for construction and maintenance of road from Kahpota to Upper Slay, Package No. JK05-99, Phase-VIII, Stage-II, Block Damsal, District-Jammu, Length 2.225 Kms. Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 27.28 Lacs	Jammu	27.28	3.97	31.25	0.06	0.63	03 Months	6th	14-07-2022 10:00 AM	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
3	Balance Work For Upgradation Of Road From L040 Danga Karwal To Teku Toda, Package No. JK05-212, PMGSY-II, Batch-I, 2019-20, Block-Mandal Phallian, District-Jammu Length-4.00 Kms. Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 140.72 Lacs	Jammu	140.72	23.83	164.55	0.06	3.29	06 Months	1st	14-07-2022 10:00 AM	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
4	Balance work for construction and maintenance of Kainthgal/Bariote road Km 44th to Lalli, District Udhampur, Pkg No. JK14-249, Phase-VIII, Stage-II, Block Pancheri, Length -2.08 Kms. Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 119.93 Lacs	Reasi	119.93	7.20	127.13	0.06	2.54	06 Months	2nd	14-07-2022 10:00 AM	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
5	i) Construction Of 36 Mtr. Span Through Type Steel Truss Girder Motorable Bridge In Km 2nd Rd 900-950 on Bhaga To Lalesareal Road Package No. JK14-555, Regular PMGSY (BATCH-I, 2017-18) Block Reasi, District Reasi. Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 99.90 Lacs ii) Construction Of 46 Mtr. Span Through Type Steel Truss Girder Motorable Bridge In Km 4th Rd 400-450 On Bhaga To Lalesareal Road, Package No. JK14-556, Regular PMGSY (BATCH-I, 2017-18) Block Reasi, District Reasi. Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 122.01 Lacs	Reasi	221.91	-	221.91	0.06	4.44	06 Months	1st	14-07-2022 10:00 AM	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works

1. (a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.06:55 P.M on 01-07-2022 to 12-07-2022 (5.00PM).

Sd/ Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu  
For and on behalf of The Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
DIP/J-4480/22

**HEADQUARTERS 99 ARTILLERY BRIGADE**

**NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR OPERATING FACILITIES AT STRIKE 1 SAINIK INSTITUTE MATHURA CANTONMENT FOR WAR WIDOWS/ WIDOWS OF DEFENCE PERSONNEL KILLED WHILE ON DUTY/DISABLED SOLDIER/EX-SERVICEMEN AND SPOUSES/WIDOWS OF EX-SERVICEMEN ONLY**

The Headquarters 99 Artillery Brigade invites application on prescribed format from eligible applicants for running of **Mobile Repairing /Accessories shop** at Strike 1 Sainik Institute, Mathura Cantonment, on monthly maintenance basis. The allotment will be on bid cum auction basis with the minimum base rate fixed before the auction.

- Application forms can be obtained from 99 Artillery Brigade Signal Company on cash payment of Rs 100/- along with the terms and conditions.
- A bank draft for Rs 500/- (Earnest Money) in favour of **Strike 1 Sainik Institute General Fund** to be encl with the Application, which is non-refundable.
- Last date of receipt of application is **15 July 2022**.
- Date of auction of shops will be held on **22 July 2022** at Strike 1 Sainik Institute Mathura Cantonment.

OIC  
Strike 1 Sainik institute

**CITY UNION BANK LIMITED**  
Credit Recovery and Management Department  
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar,  
Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in,  
Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

**TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**

The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Tender-cum Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under the Rules 8 (b) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs. 1,08,63,679/- (Rupees One Crore Eight Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Nine only) on 03-07-2022 together with further interest to be charged from 04-07-2022 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) M/s. Air Guru Travel Solutions Pvt. Ltd., At No. C 163, 1st Floor, Hari Nagar, Clock Tower, Near Gandhi Park, Delhi - 110064. No.2) Mr. Dhiraj Kumar, S/o. Mr. M.P. Shrivastava, At No. C 163, 1st Floor, Hari Nagar, Clock Tower, Near Gandhi Park, Delhi - 110064. No.3) Mrs. Shilpa Shrivastava, W/o. Mr. Dhiraj Kumar, At No. C 163, 1st Floor, Hari Nagar, Clock Tower, Near Gandhi Park, Delhi - 110064. No.4) Mr. M.P. Shrivastava, S/o. Mr. Prasad Shrivastava, At No. C 163, 1st Floor, Hari Nagar, Clock Tower, Near Gandhi Park, Delhi - 110064.

**Note:** That our 208 - New Delhi - Janakpuri Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (OTHER HOUSING LOAN - 25 L - 50131203004915) dated 14-09-2015 requested by No.2 of you for which No.3 of you stood as Co-obligors for the facility for a Total Amount of **Rs.23,50,000/-** at a ROI of 11.50%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 14-09-2015 and the outstanding balance as on 03-07-2022 is **Rs.19,24,602/-** plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 04-07-2022 till the date of realization.

**Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mrs. Shilpa Shrivastava, W/o. Mr. Dhiraj Kumar & Mr. Dhiraj Kumar, S/o. Mr. M.P. Shrivastava)**

Entire First Floor with its Roof / Terrace Rights, Part of Free Hold build-up Property bearing No.C-163, Area measuring 80 Sq.yards, out of Khassa No.2055 to 2058, in Block - C, Situated in the Area of Village Tihar and the Colony known as Hari Nagar, New Delhi - 110 064, along with proportionate undivided ownership rights in the freehold land underneath and bounded as under: East - Others Property No.C-162, West - Portion of Property No.C-163, South - Road, North - Gali.

**Reserve Price : Rs.78,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakh only)**

**AUCTION DETAILS**

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
17-08-2022	City Union Bank Limited, New-Delhi Janakpuri Branch, Ground Floor, Door No.30, Block-B1, Janakpuri, New Delhi -110058. Telephone No.011-25555343, Cell No. 9311542475.

**Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale:**

- The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself.
- The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Janakpuri Branch, Ground Floor, Door No.30, Block-B1, Janakpuri, New Delhi -110058.**
- The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd., on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified.**
- For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.011-25555343, Cell No. 9311542475.
- The properties are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever - there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be confirmed on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (if any) house tax, electricity charges and other dues). TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 05-07-2022 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001. CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com



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## Hate crime, punishment

There needs to be zero tolerance for violence over 'hurt sentiments' because of hate speech

India's laws on freedom of expression are clear about the reasonableness of the right to exercise it. But hate speech, directed at communities and intended to fan communal hatred, is not clearly defined in the law. However, there are provisions in the law that can be interpreted as allowing for criminalising offences that are related to hate speech, in particular those that are likely to incite violence. There have been rightful demands, including from the Law Commission of India, to add specific provisions in the Indian Penal Code to tackle hate speech. It is imperative that lawmakers work on doing so, especially in the age of online media and messaging, where hate speech incidents have burgeoned into an even more significant problem. That said, there is no justification for any form of hate speech to be countered with violence. As the adage goes, sticks and stones may break bones, but words will not. There must be zero tolerance for violence. The incident in Amravati, Maharashtra, where a chemist, Umesh Kolhe, was knifed to death allegedly by three men in retaliation for his sharing a post in support of former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Nupur Sharma's comments on the Prophet was on the same lines as the dastardly murder of a tailor, Kanhaiya Lal, in Udaipur a week ago. In both cases, suspects who were incensed by the remarks took to violence as a counter to what they perceived as an insult to their religion. The two cases are being probed by the National Investigation Agency. The culprits, those involved in the planning and execution of these murders, must be brought to book and accorded strict punishment for their crimes.

Even as these hate crimes are investigated, it is imperative on the part of the Union and the State governments to quickly reassure citizens on the need for communal amity and that the purveyors of hate speech and those indulging in violence in retaliation will be prosecuted. Justice and the application of the rule of law should not only be seen to be done, but needs to be applied in a fair manner without prejudice for or against specific communities. The Union and State governments should not adopt repressive measures by using enforcement authorities to inflict collective punishment on communities for individual acts of transgression. Political parties of all hues, but especially those in power, must refrain from fanning communal hatred. The unevenness of government actions has resulted in disenchantment among Muslims; the actions of a few criminals among the community have endangered others. It is unmistakable that the developing quagmire is related to the casual bigotry and the callousness of those who were in responsible positions in the BJP. Governments must reorient themselves to the rule of law and to strict adherence to constitutional values as the secular fabric of the country must be preserved at all costs.

## Changed equations

England is reshaping Test cricket with offence as the guiding philosophy

The long-drawn Test series involving England and India, which commenced on August 4 last year, concluded with a pulsating climax at Birmingham's Edgbaston on Tuesday. In the fifth Test, England galloped towards the fourth innings target of 378 in just 76.4 overs with centuries Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow building on the momentum gifted by openers Alex Lees and Zak Crawley. The seven-wicket victory helped England draw the series at 2-2 through a comeback that stunned the visitors. Four Tests were played in 2021 when a COVID-19 scare forced the postponement of the fifth match while India led 2-1. The administrators agreed to play the fifth Test after a year and this was an interval like none other. In the intervening period, Russia invaded Ukraine, the pandemic lingered and on the sporting front, both teams evolved. India's coach Ravi Shastri and captain Virat Kohli bowed out and Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma stepped in. In the rival dressing room coach Chris Silverwood and skipper Root stepped aside with Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes being the replacements. Even if Rohit sat out due to COVID-19, under Jasprit Bumrah and thanks to the centuries by Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja, India held the reins in the final Test before an indifferent second innings and marauding England batters altered the script in favour of the host.

McCullum and Stokes have preferred aggression as the solution to help England shed its dormancy. Fourth innings targets would be attempted even if they seem improbable and the opposition will not be given the time to react. New Zealand learnt it the hard way and now it is India's turn. McCullum, the former New Zealand captain, is known for his bludgeoning bat. His 158 for Kolkata Knight Riders against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the maiden Indian Premier League clash at Bengaluru in 2008 turbo-charged the league and put to shade the fireworks that Vijay Mallya had organised as part of the launch. McCullum's method is stunning when he prospers and deflating when he fails. Like he did with an ugly swipe against Mitchell Starc in the 2015 World Cup final which Australia won. For now, his 'Bazball' method is holding England in good stead. That Root and Bairstow, two Yorkshire batters from the land of the obdurate Geoffrey Boycott, have bought into McCullum's philosophy is a pointer to the 'Brave New England's' attempt to change the face of Tests. Meanwhile India, after losing the Test series in South Africa and allowing England to claw back, will have to evaluate its overseas record. The three T20Is and the three ODIs against Old Blighty beckon and in coloured clothes, India will hope to do better.

# Words from Bandung to relive in Bali and Delhi

With the Ukraine war shaping the future world order, it is time India brings a balanced outlook to its strategic policy



SUHASINI HAIDAR

Three back-to-back summits in the past fortnight have helped settle the dust on who stands where on the Russian invasion of Ukraine: the BRICS (June 23-24), followed by the G-7 summit (June 26 and 27), and then the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit in Madrid (June 29). Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the BRICS summit virtually, and then travelled to Germany for the G-7 outreach between the seven "most industrialised nations" and the special invitees this year, namely, Argentina, Indonesia, India, Senegal and South Africa. India was not a part of the NATO summit, which included an outreach to the United States's Indo-Pacific treaty allies, i.e., Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

In order to understand what they portend for the future global world order, it is necessary to study the messages sent out by each of these groupings against the backdrop of the situation in Ukraine. Some of the impact will be made clearer this week as India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attends a Foreign Ministers meeting of the G-20, "the world's largest economies", in Bali (July 7-8), and in the next few months, when Indonesia hosts the G-20 summit in November and India takes over the G-20 presidency in December. Most importantly, how can India, that has hitherto managed a careful balancing act between all the groupings, build a movement out of this moment of deep polarisation in the world?

### BRICS-G7-NATO

The Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa Summit hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping in virtual format was significant as it was the first such multilateral grouping Russian President Vladimir Putin attended since February 24, 2022 (the day Ukraine was invaded), and both Mr. Xi and Mr.

Putin took aim at the unilateral economic sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union. The fact that Mr. Modi agreed to join the summit showed India's commitment to BRICS as an alternate grouping of economies spotlighted India's refusal to shun Russia, and agreement to set aside the two-year stand-off with China's People's Liberation Army at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in favour of multilateral meetings such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The BRICS Beijing Declaration was a consensus document, as each member cited differing "National Positions" on the Ukraine issue. However, the BRICS economic initiatives, that Mr. Modi lauded as "practical", contain several challenges to the western-led sanctions regime against Russia. In addition to BRICS's New Development Bank (NDB), that has approved about 17 loans totalling \$5 billion for Russian energy and infrastructure projects, the "Contingent Reserve Arrangement" (CRA), and a BRICS Payments Task Force (BPTF) for coordination between their central banks for an alternative to the SWIFT payments system, Mr. Putin also proposed building a global reserve currency based on a "basket of currencies" and trading in local currencies. Russia also committed to providing more oil and coal supplies to BRICS countries, which will no doubt raise red flags in the West, as will the possible admission of countries such as Argentina and Iran that have applied to the BRICS mechanism.

A day after BRICS, Mr. Modi left for the G-7 Summit at Germany's Schloss Elmau, proof, if any was required, of India's flexibility in dealing with both sides of the conflict. In a number of statements, the G-7 (the U.S., the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the European Union) targetted Russia's war in Ukraine and China's economic aggression. However its outreach documents — "Resilient Democracies" and "Clean and Just Transitions towards Climate Neutrality" — the only ones that India and other invitees signed on to, were devoid of any mentions of either.



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At the NATO meeting, however, there was little sign of any restraint as the group comprising the U.S., Canada and European countries committed to more NATO actions against "Russian aggression". These included, for the first time, a reference to "systemic competition" from China as a challenge to NATO "interests, security and values". The presence of the U.S.'s trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific military allies at one conference sent out a clear message against a perceived Russia-China alliance. The launch of another Indo-Pacific coalition — of "Partners in the Blue Pacific" (PBP), i.e., the U.S., the U.K., Australia, New Zealand and Japan, in addition to last year's Australia-U.K.-U.S. (AUKUS), is another signal of the U.S.'s growing focus on countries that it has military alliances with, against its adversaries. Apart from the Indo-Pacific partners at the summit, there were leaders of the five countries that have applied to join NATO, i.e., Finland, Georgia, Sweden, Ukraine (President Zelensky gave a virtual address), and Bosnia Herzegovina (its Defence Minister attended). The direct message was that NATO would no longer consider Russian sensitivities on the subject of NATO expansion.

### India must lead

The outcome of all three summits points to a growing polarisation, even battle lines being drawn, between the Western Atlantic-Pacific axis and the Russia-China combine. So where does this leave India? The Narendra Modi government has committed to a singular strategy, albeit a defensive one, that does not condone Russia for its attacks on Ukraine, but one that does not criticise it either. First, India has joined China as global economies that have most increased their intake of Russian oil, and

where India continues to source fertilizer, cement and other commodities from Russia using different means, including even paying in the Chinese Yuan to circumvent sanctions. Second, India is working to diversify its defence purchases from Russia, hostilities with China are high, and a strategic tilt towards the U.S. and Quad partners in the Indo-Pacific is growing. On the multilateral stage, too, India remains a balancing voice in the room: along with Brazil and South Africa, India ensured that the BRICS Beijing declaration did not carry the Russian position on the Ukraine war or any criticism of the West, while making certain with other partners of the global South that the G-7 outreach documents carried no criticism of Russia and China.

This perilous tightrope walk, however, is unlikely to suffice as a long-term strategy. It is time for New Delhi to seize the moment for leadership in a world that is becoming increasingly uncomfortable with the growing polarisation and the disruption due to the Ukraine war. India is not alone. In Germany, Mr. Modi found common cause on this with the Indonesian President, Joko Widodo, who is trying to ensure that both sides of the world attend the G-20 summit he will host in Bali in November, amid growing worries that leaders of at least nine member countries (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the U.K., the U.S., as well as the European Union) could stay away from sessions where Mr. Putin speaks. As the next President of the G-20, Mr. Modi also must shoulder the burden of ensuring that the G-20 stays together, and reassuring those worried by the brinkmanship of the West on one side and Russia and China on the other.

### Gather the like-minded

These countries are more numerous than one can imagine. At the United Nations General Assembly, for example, a majority of 141 countries voted to castigate Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, but much fewer, only 93, voted to oust Russia from the Human Rights Council. Even more significantly, only 40 countries joined the U.S.

and Europe-led sanctions regime against Russia. This represents a large pool of independently-minded countries that do not see it in their own national interest to blandly choose one side over another. Instead of abstaining on every vote or being defensive about sanctions, therefore, India's national interests would be better served by building a community of those like-minded countries (from South America to Africa, the Gulf to South Asia and to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), who cannot afford the hostilities, and want to avoid the possibility of a global war at all costs. Like Mr. Widodo, who flew from Germany to Kyiv and Moscow to talk to Mr. Zelensky and Mr. Putin, Mr. Modi is amongst the few leaders today still able to speak to both sides. The group of those who can urge for sanity to prevail must grow.

### Words that matter

In 1955, it was in such a similar moment that India took leadership of (along with countries such as Indonesia and Egypt at the Asian-African Conference of 29 newly independent nations, at Bandung), a conference that eventually led to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). "If all the world were to be divided up between these two big blocs what would be the result?" asked Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru at Bandung. "The inevitable result would be war. Therefore, every step that takes place in reducing that area in the world which may be called the unaligned area is a dangerous step and leads to war. It reduces that objective, that balance, that outlook which other countries without military might can perhaps exercise."

While the Narendra Modi government has shown little interest in NAM or even in Nehruvian thought, it may be necessary to reconsider Nehru's words in a world fraught with danger nearly 70 years later. This is the time to rethink India's role in "growing the unaligned area" and bringing the "objective and balanced" outlook Nehru spoke of, to the forefront of India's strategic policy, by channeling that thought from Bandung, to Bali and Delhi this year.

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# A 'no' to pharma freebies, a 'yes' for public good

The recent Supreme Court judgment should be applied to other unethical practices and expenditure out of public funds



VINEET KOTHARI

The judgment by a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India in *M/s Apex Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. vs Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, Large Tax Payer Unit-II*, on February 22, 2022 has struck a blow for public good. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justice S. Ravindra Bhat dismissed the Special Leave Petition by Apex Laboratories to claim deduction on freebies given to doctors. Upholding a decision by the Madras High Court, the Bench said that the act of pharmaceutical companies giving freebies to doctors is clearly 'prohibited by the law'. Further, it cannot be claimed as a deduction under Section 37(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

The judgment will go a long way in checking unethical and illegal practices in the pharma sector which has become so out of reach for the common man.

### A case of misuse

Repelling the contention of the company by S. Ganesh, Senior Counsel, Justice Ravindra Bhat said that pharmaceutical companies have misused a legislative gap to actively perpetuate the commission of an offence of giving freebies to doctors to promote their brands, even though this was prohibited in the law framed by the Medical Council of India (MCI). In the said case, the company was giving out freebies to doctors in or-

der for them to create awareness about a health supplement it was manufacturing called Zincovit.

The judge said that in the process of interpretation of the law, it is the responsibility of the court to discern the social purpose which the specific provision subserves. The judgment said: "Thus, pharmaceutical companies' gifting freebies to doctors, etc. is clearly 'prohibited by law' and not allowed to be claimed as a deduction under Section 37(1). Doing so would wholly undermine public policy. The well-established principle of interpretation of taxing statutes — that they need to be interpreted strictly — cannot sustain when it results in an absurdity contrary to the intentions of the Parliament."

Upholding the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) circular dated August 1, 2012, and applying it to the case, the Court also cited and relied upon Regulation 6.8 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 framed under the Medical Council Act, 1956, now repealed and substituted by the National Medical Commission Act, 2019. The Court also highlighted *Quereshi* (2007) 2 SCC 759 and *Commissioner of Income Tax vs Khemchand Motilal Jain* to show that the assessee was not a wilful participant in any offence or illegal activity prohibited by law.

While overruling the Income Tax Tribunal's view in the case of *PHL Pharma* (2017) and *Max Hospital* (2014) 1 ILR 1 P. 620, the Court held that Regulations 2002 did apply to pharma companies also. Further, they could not be allowed to perpetuate the illegality of violations of norms by doctors. Invok-



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ing the principle of implied condition, the Court relied on the precedents in the case of *P.V. Narasimha Rao* (1998) 4 SCC 626 under the Prevention of Corruption Act, and *Jamal Uddin Ahmad* (2003) 4 SCC 257 under the Representation of the People Act.

Laying emphasis on the fiduciary relationship between doctor and patient, the Court noted that a doctor's prescription is considered as the final word on medication by the patient even if the cost of such medication is unaffordable. In a situation where such trust is reposed in doctors, having prescriptions manipulated by the lure of freebies is immoral. The Court was conscious that the cost of such freebies is factored in the cost of medicines sold, in turn driving up their prices and perpetuating a publicly injurious cycle. This fact was taken note of by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare in its 45th report, dated August 4, 2010.

### In the U.S.

In its elaborate judgment, the Court also took note of a report issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office called "Savings Available Under Full Generic Substitution of Multiple Source Brand Drugs in Medicare Part D" dated July 23, 2018. Here, it was stated that the

beneficiaries could have saved over \$600 million in out-of-pocket payments had they been dispensed generic equivalent drugs. In a previous study by ProPublica titled "Dollars for Doctors: Now There is Proof: Docs who get Company Cash Tend to Prescribe Brand Name Meds" dated March 17, 2016 also, similar feelings were echoed. In the U.S., by the reason of the Physician Payments Sunshine Act 2010 also known as Section 6002 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010, the law compels the manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologic and medical supplies to report to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, on three broad categories of payments or transfers of value such as meals, travel reimbursements and consulting fees. These include expenses borne by manufacturers such as speaker fees, travel, gifts, honoraria, entertainment, charitable contribution, education, grants and research grants, etc.

### The issue of retail price

Obviously, the uncovered field in this judgment — and it was not the controversy in hand before the Court — is the sale of medicines at Maximum Retail Price, or MRP. This is a scam and a case of under-hand dealing that happens in the pharma world (the giving away of freebies is a smaller part of it) because drugs are invariably sold in pharmacist shops at MRP only. This is what affects medical treatment. Even though the Drug Price Control Order and Drugs and Cosmetics Act are there on the statute book, there is hardly any action to keep the sale price of medicines under control with due and proper investigation into their so-called

research and development costs and keeping their profit margins within a prescribed limit.

One fails to understand why the law cannot be amended to compel the manufacturer of drugs to sell at the verified genuine cost, that also factors in a reasonable profit margin for each product by bringing manufacturers, both foreign or domestic, under the control of the MCI or any other equivalent body such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. This must be at a uniform rate throughout the country; further, classified life saving drugs should be sold at cost only or even at subsidised rates.

Nobody is against the pharma industry earning a reasonable profit. But there is an urgent need to check looting that is driven by drug manufacturers to distribute their products using freebies or 'bribes'.

### Further application

This judgment can also go far. It should be debated and applied to other unethical practices and expenditure out of public funds. The strategy here should be to use financial tools such as income tax provisions for disallowing such expenditure and taxing the same as perquisites or taxable income in the hands of recipients viz. assurances and declarations in election campaigns by political parties by giving away free laptops, waived electricity charges, food grains, loan waivers, etc. It is taxpayers money that is being used to garner votes.

Justice Vineet Kothari is a former Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat and Madras High Courts and Judge of the Rajasthan and Karnataka High Courts

## 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.

### Law guardians, politics

When the police, who are supposed to be protectors of the law, themselves turn perpetrators, very possibly on instructions from the top political hierarchy, it provides a fertile ground for anarchy to spread and for the truth to be blurred.

The face-off between the police from Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh and BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh over the arrest of a TV anchor wanted in connection with a fake video case involving a political leader from the Opposition has once again exposed the sordid

underbelly of Indian politics. It is time the political roulette ends and the law is allowed to take its course.

Dr. Biju C. MATHEW,  
Thiruvananthapuram

### The next State

The recent 'transfer of

power' in Maharashtra is perhaps the next template in Indian democracy. It is not surprising, therefore, that the focus has turned to Tamil Nadu, where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tamil Nadu president has a wish of the 'Maharashtra model' being replicated in

the southern State soon ('Tamil Nadu', "T.N. Cabinet waiting for an Eknath Shinde", July 6). Even if the vast majority of people in Tamil Nadu have snubbed the BJP electorally, it appears that the party is even more determined to capture power in the State

by hook or by crook. One hopes the ruling party is vigilant and aware of the early warning signals emerging from the BJP camp.

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,  
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

# Taking stock of five years of GST

Findings show that it has lowered inflation of food items and raised inflation of non-food items



SANTOSH KUMAR DASH & ANOOP S. KUMAR

The monumental indirect tax reform, the Goods and Services Tax (GST), has completed five years of existence. Before the implementation, it was said that it would be a boon to the economy in terms of higher revenue buoyancy, lower inflation, higher revenue, higher growth, and so on. On the completion of GST's five years, it makes sense to ask what happened to inflation.

During the 12 months preceding GST implementation, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was 3.66%, while it increased to 4.24% post-GST in the next 12 months. However, India is not alone in witnessing higher inflation. A similar pattern was observed in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. An Australian Competition and Consumer Commission study showed that GST initially increases inflation.

Based on the actual inflation numbers, one can conclude that GST had an inflationary impact on India. But this is not the correct approach to understand whether GST raised inflation in India. Before we systematically examine this issue, let us understand how GST can affect prices.

## Understanding the mechanism

In theory, implementing GST should not lead to a change in overall inflation. The revenue-neutral rate (RNR) is calculated so that it would not cause higher inflation. But revenue neutrality does not mean that prices would not go up or down in the economy. This is because the weight of goods in the consumption basket and their contributions to indirect tax collections are not the same. For example, food and drinks (which comprise 46% of the CPI index), rent, and clothing are all significant parts of the CPI basket that are either not taxed or taxed at low rates.

Importantly, the effect of GST on the prices of certain goods and services depends on the structure and design of taxation, such as the level of exemptions, the rate structure of GST, the weight of goods and services



For non-exempted food and beverages, implementation of GST is found to have a negative impact of 4.42% on price levels. • GETTY IMAGES

in the CPI basket, the tax base, the efficiency of the administrative machinery, and so on.

The RBI, in a 2017 report, showed that about half of the groups of items that GST covers are not in the CPI basket. This study found headline inflation might rise by ten basis points only. So, the effect of GST on prices was expected to be small. Finally, prior to the GST implementation, it was expected that prices would go down because GST harmonises indirect tax rates and eliminates the cascading effect. Thus, whether GST has any effect depends on how different factors affect each other.

So, how can we ascertain whether GST has had an inflationary impact in India? To answer this, we turn to statistical modelling, which will give us a precise and neat estimate of the causal impact of an intervention. In a nutshell, this model uses pre-intervention data (before July 2017) to train the data to estimate the counterfactual estimates of inflation. A counterfactual estimate is nothing but an estimate of inflation if the intervention (in this case, GST) had not occurred. Then the causal estimate would be the difference between the actual and the counterfactual trends. The outcome variable chosen is retail inflation (CPI).

Our statistical results provide us with an interesting picture of the impact of GST on price levels. First, we look into the overall price index (CPI). Here, the actual CPI growth in the study period is 4.61%, whereas the counterfactual estimate of inflation is 3.24%. This implies that without the GST implementation, the CPI inflation would have been 3.24%. This indicates that with the imple-

mentation of GST, CPI increased by 1.37 percentage points (pp). Second, we also find that CPI core inflation (which strips off volatile components such as food and fuel from the headline inflation) increased by 1.04pp in the post-GST period (actual inflation was 4.57%, counterfactual inflation was 3.53%).

Third, GST is found to have a significant positive impact on inflation of commodity groups such as paan, tobacco and intoxicants, clothing and footwear, housing, and miscellaneous sectors (mainly consisting of services).

In the case of non-exempted food and beverages, implementation of GST is found to have a negative impact of 4.42% on price levels.

## Rise in inflation post GST

The rise in inflation post-GST implementation could be due to the rise in the tax rate of some goods and services, the inclusion of business activities that were not taxed earlier, or the market structure. The average weighted GST rate was designed to be neutral, so it might not have contributed much to the observed higher inflation. Coverage of business activities under GST not taxed earlier would result in higher prices since the firms would pass on the cost to the consumers. Although the informal sector suffered following GST implementation, many firms have jumped to the tax net to take advantage of input tax credit and escape from the punishing reverse charge mechanism.

There is another possibility which would cause higher inflation after the GST implementation. Textbook microeconomics teaches us that

market competition leads to lower prices. And when market power increases, prices increase, and profit follows. As Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz opined, rising market power is bad for the economy as it raises economic inefficiency and lowers the economy's resiliency. Further, taking advantage of market power, it is possible that most firms would have passed the taxes to end consumers, resulting in a cost-push inflationary impact of the GST.

Our statistical exercises provide conclusive proof that GST implementation has had an inflationary impact on the Indian economy. Let us recall that prices of petroleum products increased significantly, which might have contributed to the rise in CPI after the GST implementation.

To summarise, our statistical results suggest that GST implementation has resulted in a decrease in inflation of food items and raised inflation of non-food items such as CPI, paan, tobacco and intoxicants, clothing and footwear, housing, miscellaneous, and non-exempted food and beverages.

Our analysis suggests that prior to GST implementation, market concentration measured by various indicators was rising, suggesting an oligopolistic market structure. This determines whether the benefits of GST are passed down to the consumers or not. However, with the existence of market power, firms' price includes a significant mark-up over marginal costs. Our results point out the possibility of profiteering in select segments after GST. To pre-empt this possibility, the government set up National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) to ensure companies did not use GST as an excuse to raise prices.

Our findings suggest that NAA should monitor the prices of critical or essential goods and services to see the price impact of GST. Similarly, the Competition Commission of India should observe anti-competitive producer behaviour that hurts consumers via excessive price increases. These measures may ensure that producers do not take advantage of the GST.

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# India-EU: global dynamics

Recent progress in the alliance opens up prospects of a customised partnership and mutual growth



VATSALA SHARMA & KHUSHI GUPTA

With carbon neutrality being the byword to a sustainable world, a host of countries – Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Japan, Germany, Canada, Costa Rica, the United States, Brazil, India, and China among others – have set for themselves net-zero targets for the middle and later part of the century.

At the forefront of the commitment to net-zero is the European Union, which wants to be the first carbon-neutral region in the world by 2050. It brought out the 'European Union Green Deal' in July last year to focus on a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU society into a fair and wealthy one with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy.

## CBAM: carbon-pricing system

To attain carbon neutrality, the EU has set forth immediate targets and has brought out the 'Fit-for-55' package, a communication of its 2030 climate targets. A provision in the policy plan is the introduction of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a carbon-pricing system proposed for imports into the EU. The CBAM suggests taxing the imported goods-based difference between carbon used in the production of domestic and imported goods.

Proposed to be complementary to the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EUETS), during the transition phase of CBAM – beginning January 1, 2023 – importers will only have to report emissions embedded in the production of goods and are not obliged to pay a financial penalty. The CBAM, however, will come completely into force from January 1, 2026 and the measure will see a gradual reduction of free EUETS allowance coverage of 10 percentage points per year and a complete phase-out by 2035. In the initial phase, five CITE (Carbon Intensive and Trade Exposed) sectors such as iron and steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizers and electricity will be taxed under CBAM.

The EU claims that CBAM is intended to reduce carbon leakage, create a level playground for EU producers and encourage producers in other countries to adopt cleaner technologies. But several discussions have cropped up around CBAM. Developing countries have raised their concern on the legality of CBAM pointing out its conflict with World Trade Organization (WTO) and the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) norms, and are afraid that it encourages protectionism.

History provides several instances of conflict between domestic restrictive policies stating environmental concern and trade openness such as the Shrimp-Turtle Case and *Air Transport Association of America vs Energy Secretary Case for Energy and Climate Change*. Rulings in these cases have been in favour of environmental laws, proving that the ongoing debate is a continuation of pre-existing issues and, in the past, environment concerns have outweighed those related to trade.

Developing countries also flag the use of revenue collected from CBAM. According to the EU, revenue collected from CBAM will be a part of the EU's budget, the NextGenerationEU, a recent initiative launched to provide economic support to EU member countries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries opposing the proposed revenue utilisation mechanism suggest that if CBAM is to be implemented, revenue collected from it should be used for cleaner technology adoption in developing countries.

India and the EU share a healthy trade relationship. The EU is India's third largest trading partner, while India is EU's 11th largest trading partner. In 2019-20, India-EU trade accounted for ₹63.8 billion (11.1% of total Indian trade) in goods, while a total of 1.9% of EU's total trade in goods in 2020 came to India. India exports almost 14% of its global exports to the EU.

## Progressive steps

Recently, there has been increasing initiative from both sides to deepen engagement with each other. Talks on India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that were stalled a while ago have picked up again and are scheduled to take place in June. The target to finalise the Free Trade Agreement has been set for 2023-24.

Both India and the EU are committed to climate change, and the recent progress in India-EU alliance opens prospects of a customised partnership and mutual growth. Rather than tax on exports to EU as proposed in CBAM, India and EU can cooperate better by investing in cleaner and greener technologies in India and helping in cleaning up production in India. Such a partnership will ensure that both India and the EU have their agendas of economic growth and sustainability fulfilled, a win-win situation for both entities.

Dr. Vatsala Sharma is Associate Fellow, and Khushi Gupta is an intern at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi

## STATE OF PLAY

# Deepening political faultlines

CPI(M), Congress are engaged in a hostile war of words inside and outside the Legislative Assembly

BIJU GOVIND

The attack on the office of Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi by the Students Federation of India (SFI), the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]'s student wing, has put the parent party in a tight spot and provided ammunition for the Congress leadership to put the ruling front in the dock. The incident triggered a spate of attacks and counter attacks on party offices across Kerala.

Mr. Gandhi, during his three-day tour of Wayanad, his parliamentary constituency, endorsed the allegation of Congress leaders that the CPI (M) had joined hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He observed that Central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation had failed to question Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the diplomatic gold smuggling case that had rocked the previous Left Democratic Front regime while he was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for five days.

Besides launching a broadside against the BJP, Mr. Gandhi also asked the Kerala Chief Minister to come clear on the issue of the one-km Eco-Sensitive Zone around all wildlife sanctuaries and national parks following the Supreme Court order on June 3.

In fact, the SFI workers had carried out the attack, alleging that Mr. Gandhi failed to act on the issue. But Mr. Gandhi later produced evidence that he had already written to the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister seeking their intervention to exclude human settlements from the buffer zone.

With the attack on Mr. Gandhi's office providing a trigger for the Congress-led United Democratic Front to step up its campaign against the CPI (M), the ruling party condemned the incident and the police subsequently arrested 29 SFI activists.

But just when the damage control exercise seemed to have succeeded in bringing down the political tem-

perature, the crude bomb attack on the AKG Centre, the CPI(M) State headquarters last week, gave rise to a fresh round of turmoil in the State. With the Opposition accusing the CPI (M) of carrying out the attack to divert public attention and the police still groping in the dark to trace the culprit, the CPI(M) leadership and the Chief Minister, who handles the Home portfolio, are left to face uncomfortable questions in the Assembly and outside.

The two incidents portend a further intensification of rivalry between the ruling CPI(M) and the Congress in Kerala. The attack on Mr. Gandhi's office happened when the CPI(M) leadership has been pondering the role of Congress in the national political arena and its part in forging a non-BJP political alliance. The timing of the attack also seemed to have exposed the vulnerabilities in the non-BJP camp when the country is preparing for presidential polls this month.

The Congress leadership in Kerala would never have imagined the political mileage it derived in recent times from the attack on Mr. Gandhi's office. Otherwise, it feels that the BJP, with its ambitious Central leadership, will leave no opportunity to occupy the Opposition space in the State, which is witnessing a paradigm shift with religion frighteningly progressing into politics.

Amid an increasingly hostile war of words between the CPI(M) and Congress leaders inside and outside the Legislative Assembly over the attack on the AKG Centre, the politically conscious citizenry is completely baffled over the unexplained occurrence when police stood guard outside the centre.

While the Home department definitely needs to get its act together, political parties and their feeder outfits should ensure practising a healthy political culture without resorting to hooliganism and violence.

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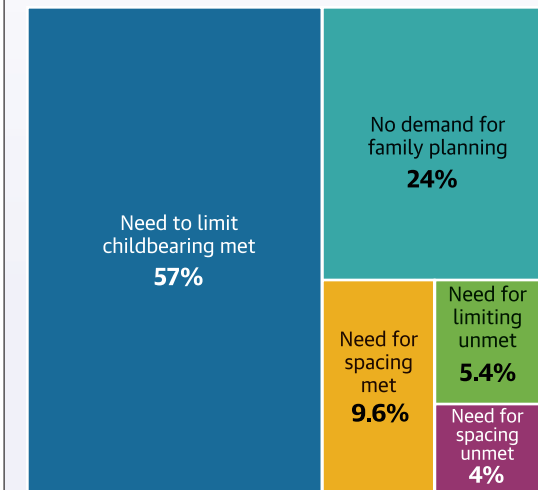
## DATA POINT



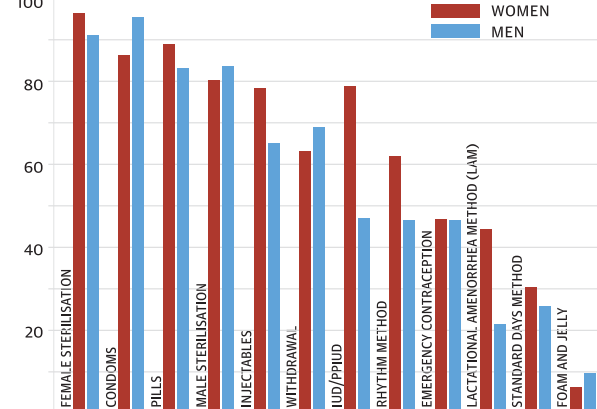
### Bearing the burden

Awareness of family planning and contraception methods has seen an increase, according to NFHS-5. The use of modern contraceptive methods is widespread, with 97% of women and 97.5% of men knowing at least one modern method. Still, the burden of this responsibility mostly falls on women, with female sterilisations being the most common form of contraception. Tubectomies (female sterilisation method) are performed about 10 times more than vasectomies (male sterilisation method). This can be tied to the fact that over one-third of men believe that women should handle contraception. The unmet need for family planning methods by women has decreased from 13% in NFHS-4 to 9% in NFHS-5. But the data also shows that 24% of women don't find family planning necessary. Further, the knowledge of contraception is not fully bridging the gap in women's family planning need. A trend seen across States. By Rebecca Rose Varghese and Sonikka Loganathan

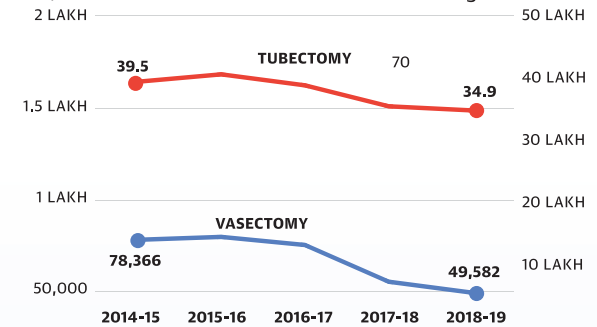
**3 | Still not enough** | The chart shows the total demand for family planning among married women in India. Though the demand has increased from 66% in 2015-16 to 76% in 2019-21, almost 24% of women still do not deem family planning a necessity



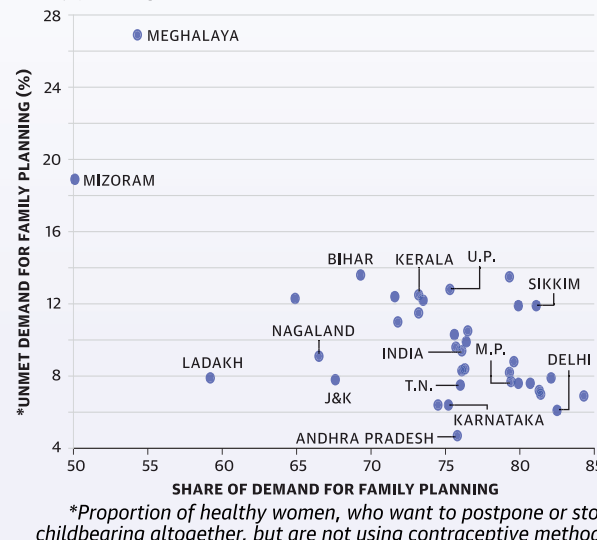
**1 | Knowing your options** | The chart shows the awareness of select contraception among men and women in India. Both genders are knowledgeable about female sterilisation and condoms with more than 85% of them being aware of the two



**2 | Tied up** | The chart shows the number of vasectomies (surgical procedure for male sterilisation) and tubectomies (surgical procedure for female sterilisation) performed in India between 2014 and 2019. Tubectomies performed every year is nearly 10 times higher than the vasectomies performed. (●) indicates vasectomy (left axis) and (●) tubectomy (right axis). The scale is different for both the left and right axes



**4 | State of unmet demand** | The chart shows the share of demand for family planning among women in different States/ U.T.s and the share of the demand unmet. While the demand for family planning is 76.1% in India, 9.4% of the demand is unmet



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 7, 1972

### Indian ocean as peace zone

Colombo, July 6: China has expressed its 'resolute support' for Sri Lanka's 'just proposition' to keep the Indian Ocean a peace zone. A joint communique on the 11-day visit of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, released simultaneously in Peking and Colombo to-day, contained the Chinese support to the proposal adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in December last year and added that the proposal "reflects the urgent desire of Afro-Asian countries to safeguard the national independence and State sovereignty and to oppose aggression and expansion of super powers." In the communique, both countries "expressed their concern over the present situation in the South-Asian sub-continent and reiterated that outstanding issues in the region should be settled through peaceful negotiations on principled basis of complete equality, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit and accommodation and without resorting to the use of threat or force." Mrs. Bandaranaike said the Chinese Premier Mr. Chou En-lai, in their "friendly, cordial and candid" talks during the visit also noted "that co-operation between the two Governments and people had expanded and advanced over a wide spectrum of areas including political, economic trade as well as in the fields of culture and sports." The joint communique also announced the Chinese government's decision to provide Sri Lanka with long-term interest-free loans but it did not disclose the loan amount.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 7, 1922

### Preventive measures

Bombay: Sunni Anjuman Islam recently submitted a memorial to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, calling his attention to the increase in crime in Bombay city and to the late frequent changes in the office of the Commissioner of Police. The Government has sent a reply which says the desirability of maintaining continuity in the office of the Commissioner of Police, Bombay is fully recognised by the government. The cost involves very severe mental and physical strain and of four changes in the appointment during the last three years, three were due to the officers concerned having to vacate owing to ill health. In the fourth case, the officer concerned was promoted to the post of Inspector-General of Police.

# Text & Context

## NEWS IN NUMBERS



### Jail break

# 600

The number of inmates that escaped in a jailbreak in Nigeria's capital city of Abuja. About 300 have been recaptured, authorities said and blamed the attack on Islamic extremist rebels. Nigeria's jihadist rebels have carried out several jailbreaks in the country's northeast in recent years, but this is the first in the capital city. The Islamic extremist rebels who attacked the prison have waged an insurgency in the country's northeast for over a decade. Extremist violence is the most serious security challenge in Nigeria. AP

### Two decade low

# 1.0238

The value of the euro against the dollar on Monday, a 20-year low for the currency. The euro sank as investors eyed aggressive interest rate hikes by the U.S. Federal Reserve, in contrast with the European Central Bank, seen as planning more modest increases. European stock markets fell nearly 3%, weighing on Wall Street early in the day before U.S. stocks staged a turnaround. The international crude oil contract, Brent North Sea, fell nearly 10%. AFP

### Price hikes

# 50

In ₹, the amount by which the cooking gas LPG price was hiked, the eighth increase in the last year that took the cumulative rise to ₹244. Non-subsidised LPG now costs ₹1,053 per 14.2 kg cylinder in the national capital, up from ₹1,003 previously, according to a price notification from State-owned fuel retailers. Firming international energy prices have led to non-subsidised cooking gas prices being increased. Of the ₹244 per cylinder hike in the past year, ₹153.50 increase happened since March 2022. PTI

### Power subsidy

# 600

Units of free power to every household per billing cycle in Punjab with effect from July 1. "All domestic consumers in the State will be eligible to get zero bills if their consumption is up to 600 units in every billing cycle. This will give a big reprieve to the domestic consumers who have to hitherto shell out huge money every month in form of a power tariff," the statement said. The Punjab Cabinet also approved the waiving of arrears of all consumers as on December 31, 2021 and unpaid up to June 30. PTI

### Life expectancy in China

# 77.93

Life expectancy in China, which increased by over 0.6, even as the world's second-largest economy grappled with a demographic crisis due to declining birth rates. As per the latest census, the number of Chinese people aged 60 or above reached 264 million by 2020, accounting for 18.7% of the country's population. China faced a demographic crisis as its child births decreased while the old-age population grew, warranting the government to expand geriatric care facilities. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

## LETTER & SPIRIT

# The new rules to keep advertisements in check

What are the provisions under the freshly issued guidelines of the CCPA? How is it addressing advertisements targeting children?

## THE GIST

■ The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) recently issued guidelines to prevent false or misleading advertisements. The guidelines are pathbreaking because they fill significant consumer protection gaps while explicitly outlining advertiser duties.

■ An advertisement is valid if it contains true and honest representation of goods and does not exaggerate the accuracy, scientific validity or practical usefulness or capability.

■ In a prominent move, advertisements that condone, encourage, inspire or unreasonably emulate behaviour that could be dangerous for children or take advantage of 'children's inexperience, credulity or sense of loyalty etc.' have been prohibited.

G.S. BAJPAI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) recently issued guidelines to prevent false or misleading advertisements. The guidelines are pathbreaking because they fill significant consumer protection gaps while explicitly outlining advertiser duties. The guidelines also try to discourage the promotion of illogical consumerism aimed at children. The problem of misleading, bait, surrogate and children-targeted advertisement has festered without respite for far too long. The guidelines perform an essential function in bringing the Indian regulatory framework at par with international norms and standards.

### Defining a 'valid' advertisement

The guidelines lay down the conditions for non-misleading and valid advertisements. Briefly, an advertisement can be considered non-misleading if it contains true and honest representation of goods and does not exaggerate the accuracy, scientific validity or practical usefulness or capability. In case of unintentional lapse, the advertisement may still be considered as valid if the advertiser has taken prompt action in letting the consumer know the deficiency.

### The youth form the most impressionable demographic for all advertisers. To catch them young is a well-known marketing strategy

It must be noted that rather than defining what constitutes a 'misleading or invalid advertisement,' the guidelines have sought to define 'valid or non-misleading advertisement.' This take on policy drafting significantly reduces the scope for exploitation of any inadvertent loopholes.

### Surrogate advertisements

"Surrogate advertisement" refers to the advertisement of goods in the shadow of other goods. For example, the advertisement of tobacco in the garb of pan masala. Advertisement of tobacco as such is prohibited by the law. While existing laws such as the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and

Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply, and Distribution) Act, 2003 already seeks to govern advertisements related to tobacco, manufacturers and advertisers have been able to circumvent the regulation through the grey area created by a surrogate advertisement. The guidelines seek to ensure that these grey areas are filled by the black letter of the law, completely disallowing any attempts to advertise products that are otherwise prohibited by law.

### Advertisements targeting children

Another important issue taken up by the new guidelines is the discouragement of "children targeted advertisements". Advertisements that condone, encourage, inspire or unreasonably emulate behaviour that could be dangerous for children or take advantage of children's inexperience, credulity or sense of loyalty etc. have been prohibited. It goes without saying that advertisements tend to influence children's buying behaviour and encourage them to consume unhealthy goods, or develop negative feelings toward healthy goods. The guidelines further require that the goods which require a health warning should not be advertised through children as well as personalities from music, sports and cinema. Advertisements that state "any health or nutritional claims or benefits without being adequately and scientifically substantiated" or any surgery which may have adverse effects on the physical and mental health of children are prohibited. Furthermore, an advertisement may be considered as children targeted if the advertisement of any goods, product or service which addresses or targets children may develop negative body image in children or give any impression that such goods, product or service is better than natural or traditional food. For example, advertisements relating to milk additive products often imply that the products have higher nutritional value for the growth of children, increase retention power of the brain during exams, strengthen bones in sports etc., even though these claims are yet to be scientifically proven.

The youth form the most impressionable demographic for all advertisers. To catch

them young is a well-known marketing strategy. Children can be influenced through advertisements fairly easily — they are individually capable of making buying decisions, can influence the decisions of their parents and make up the future adult demographic. A marketing strategy that seeks to aggressively play on the immaturity of the younger audience can invariably impinge upon their 'right to choose' as well as their right to be informed and protected against unsafe goods and services as well as unfair trade practices.

Additionally, the guidelines also require that advertisements including "chips, carbonated beverages and such other snacks and drinks" shall not be cast on channels exclusively meant for children. However, it remains to be seen as to whether such a guideline can survive a challenge under Article 14 and Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian Constitution in as much as it impinges upon the right of the channels such as Cartoon Network to earn revenue from such advertisements.

### Other reforms

The guidelines have also introduced the need to have "disclaimers in advertisements" to "clarify a claim made in such advertisement or make qualifications or resolve ambiguities therein in order to explain such claim in further detail." Moreover, the advertiser must not "attempt to hide material information with respect to any claim made in such advertisement, the omission or absence of which is likely to make the advertisement deceptive or conceal its commercial intent". The guidelines require that the disclaimer must be visible to normally sighted persons and prominently placed so that the consumer may read it carefully.

The guidelines also impose duties on the manufacturers, service providers and advertising agency to not claim and make comparisons in an advertisement which relate to matters of objectively ascertainable facts. Moreover, the advertisement must be framed to gain the trust of the consumers and not to "abuse the trust of consumers or exploit their lack of experience or knowledge".

The enforcement issues in existing



advertisement laws have been addressed by the guidelines in as much as it imposes severe penalties. The guidelines are momentous in empowering customers against mischievous advertisers. The advertisers, too, must take a cue from the guidelines and impose self-regulation to comply with the same. While the guidelines must be hailed as a step in the right direction, there is a definite need to ensure their implementation in the spirit they have been drafted with.

G.S. Bajpai is the Vice-Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab; contributions by Sangeeta Tak and Ankit Kaushik are acknowledged

## EXPLAINER

# Understanding the all-time high in India's trade deficit

After a year of record exports, why have India's exports moderated in the first quarter?

VIKAS DHOOT

**The story so far:** Having crossed a record \$400 billion mark in 2021-22, India's exports have moderated in the first quarter of this year, with May and June clocking upticks of 20.6% and 16.8%, respectively, slowing from a 30.7% rise in April. Sequentially too, overall goods exports declined for the third month in a row in June, even as imports continued to rise sharply, triggering fresh peaks for India's monthly trade deficit.

### How has the merchandise trade balance changed in recent months?

While India's exports were surging last year, imports were rising too, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Total goods exports in 2021-22 amounted to \$422 billion, up sharply from the pre-COVID levels of \$313 billion in 2019-20. This was the highest ever export number, and marked the first time in years that an official export target (\$400 billion) was not only met, but surpassed. Imports hit a fresh high of \$613 billion, compared to \$394 billion in the pandemic affected previous year and \$475 billion before that. The trade deficit thus stood at \$191 billion, nearly double of 2020-21.

The chasm between exports and imports has widened in the first quarter



of this year, with the cumulative trade deficit already hitting \$70 billion, translating into an average of \$23.3 billion a month. By contrast, the previous highest monthly trade deficit was \$22.9 billion in November 2021. That record has been surpassed significantly in the past two months, with the deficit hitting \$24.3 billion in May and peaking to a new high of \$25.6 billion in June. Economists reckoned the deficit was higher on a seasonally adjusted basis, with Nomura analysts estimating that it stood at \$25.8 billion in May and widened to \$29.9 billion in June. Economists at HSBC

Securities and Capital Markets (India) pegged the trade deficit even higher in seasonally adjusted terms, at \$31 billion from \$26 billion in May.

In value terms, imports jumped for the fifth month in a row to a fresh record of \$63.6 billion in June, 51% over the same month a year ago and 6.9% higher than May's tally, which in turn was 7.3% over the value of April's inbound shipments. On the other hand, exports slid 2.6% from May's \$38.9 billion to \$37.9 billion in June.

### What is driving up imports and denting exports?

While Russia's continuing conflict with Ukraine since late February this year has propped up commodity prices globally, the spill over effects of runaway inflation are hurting global growth prospects as well as trade demand. The 'lacklustre' exports in June reflect an underlying slowdown in external demand, with weakness seen in exports of engineering products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cotton yarn and plastic products, Nomura said in a note. Outbound shipments for these four categories, part of India's top ten exports, contracted. While petroleum exports were still up a sharp 98% from June 2021, they were \$0.7 billion lower than May 2022 levels. And

though exports of readymade garments, electronics and rice remained healthy, non-oil exports fell for the second successive month in June on a seasonally adjusted basis, HSBC cautioned in a note on Tuesday. "...We find that in volume terms, low-skill exports like agriculture and textiles have weakened more than high skill exports like engineering goods and pharma," said its chief economist Pranjul Bhandari (along with co-authors).

Imports, on the other hand, have literally been fuelled by energy sources — oil and coal, with the former driven by higher prices and the latter driven by India's domestic coal supply crunch compelling power producers to import more each passing month. The volatility in financial markets and the sharp inflation have also driven up imports of gold — considered a safe haven and hedge against price rise. Coal imports were up 242% in June, gold by 170% (after a dazzling 789% uptick in May), and crude oil imports grew over 94%. But non-oil, non-gold imports (also known as core imports) also grew by a robust 31.7% in June — spurred by higher inflows of plastics, chemicals, electronics and vegetable oils. While higher prices are feeding a large part of the increase in headline imports, import volumes are also growing in line with steady domestic

demand, Nomura analysts argued.

### What will determine the trade trajectory through the rest of the year?

With several developed economies expected to fall into recession over this year, the dip in exports could accelerate in coming months. The fresh taxes and restrictions imposed on petroleum exports could weaken outbound volumes further, while Indians' appetite for gold may not be dented much by the higher import duties levied by the Centre last week. Oil and gold prices may have corrected a bit recently, but still remain significantly high. Moreover, coal imports will only surge further as Coal India's production levels slide through the monsoon. The weakening rupee will continue to make imports costlier while slowing exports may not be able to capitalise enough on it. Indian exporters don't expect a change in the narrative till the war in Europe abates, along with the high volatility in commodity prices. Economists at Nomura and HSBC expect 'record high trade deficits' to remain the norm for India, for now. But India is not alone, and can perhaps, take solace from the fact that even super-exporter Germany recorded its first trade deficit in 30 years this May, albeit a minor one.

## THE GIST

■ The chasm between exports and imports has widened in the first quarter of this year, with the cumulative trade deficit already hitting \$70 billion, translating into an average of \$23.3 billion a month.

■ While Russia's conflict with Ukraine has propped up commodity prices globally, the spill over effects of runaway inflation are hurting global growth prospects as well as trade demand. The 'lacklustre' exports in June reflect an underlying slowdown in external demand.

■ India is not alone as even super-exporter Germany recorded its first trade deficit in 30 years this May, albeit a minor one.



KEYWORD

# Verstehen

A sociological concept used in qualitative research to better understand social action in society

REBECCA ROSE VARGHESE

## THE GIST

Verstehen requires researchers to place themselves in the position of the individual observed to see and comprehend the meanings behind the person's action and the meanings attached to the motivation, purpose or outcomes of their actions.

Social action determines structural transition in society. The causes and meanings attached to it is therefore important in understanding what pushes social change.

For example, Weber explained that the emergence of Calvinism promoted frugal living, saving money and business investments because profit-making was attributed to God's satisfaction with a person's actions. This religious idea eventually led to the emergence of capitalism in northern Europe.

The concept of Verstehen, which loosely translates to 'understanding' in German was made popular by Max Weber, one of the "founding fathers" of sociology. It became a critique of the positivist and naturalist approaches to sociology prevalent in the 19th century. It argues that human actions cannot be analysed by merely adopting the research methods followed in natural sciences with 'absolute objectivity'. Weber believed that the interpretation of human actions through recognition and empathy was crucial for a better understanding of social phenomena in society. Verstehen is the procedure by which sociologists gain access to the meanings behind human actions.

### Types of Verstehen

Verstehen requires researchers to place themselves in the position of the individual observed to see and comprehend the meanings behind the person's action and the meanings attached to the motivation, purpose or outcomes of their actions. This becomes important as actions can have different meanings in different cultures and societies. Without proper investigation, one is at risk of misinterpreting the data collected. A good example would be body gestures, which can be misleading if not contextually understood. Different meanings are attached to various body gestures like handshakes, hugs, waving, and clapping among others in different cultures. During the U.S. Presidential Inauguration day in 2005, President George W. Bush gestured the "Hook 'em, horns" (the salute of the University of Texas Longhorns), where he raised his fist with his index and little finger extended. Newspapers in many parts of the world were puzzled by the gesture as this was a sign shown to a person whose spouse cheated on them in countries like Argentina, Brazil, Spain and Portugal. To avoid the risk of misinterpretation that may lead to a misguided grouping of actions, one needs to understand the meaning attached to an action by an individual before ascertaining the cause of the action.

Weber distinguished between two types of understanding. The first is *Aktuelles Verstehen* or direct observational understanding, where a researcher observes what an individual was doing. Observation of a person cooking or writing could be an example of this. One can confirm and determine the meaning of the action by simply observing it. However, observational understanding alone is not sufficient to explain human action. Thus, empathetic understanding or *Eklarendes Verstehen* was also required.

**To avoid the risk of misinterpretation that may lead to a misguided grouping of actions, one needs to understand the meaning attached to an action**

Here, a researcher attempts to understand the meanings attached to an act in terms of the motives that have given rise to it. This requires them to find the reasoning behind an action – is a person cooking for themselves or others? Are they cooking to feed their family or is it part of their work? Do they get paid for their work? Are they enjoying the activity? To interpret such actions and the purpose behind them, Weber argued that one had to "get into the shoes" of the people doing the action.

### The motives behind social action

Social action determines structural transition in society. The causes and meanings attached to it is important in understanding what pushes social change. For Weber, changes were caused when society encouraged certain types of motives for actions by individuals which then led to changes in society, making human actions equally relevant in understanding social change. In his book, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, he explained that the emergence of Calvinism, a branch of Protestantism, promoted frugal living, saving money and business investments because success and profit-making were attributed to God's satisfaction with the person's actions. This religious idea eventually led to the emergence of capitalism in northern Europe in the 16th and 17th

centuries, one of the most relevant structural changes in human history.

According to Weber, there are four ideal types of social actions – traditional social action which refers to actions controlled by socio-cultural norms in the society, while affective social actions are determined by one's emotional state wherein one might not think of the consequences of actions. Value rational social actions are determined by a conscious belief in the inherent value of a type of behaviour and lastly we have instrumental-rational social actions which are carried out to achieve a certain goal. No social action is purely just one of the four types. These types are simply used as a tool to look at real actions and categorise them.

While modern society, obsessed with efficiency and utilitarianism, encouraged instrumental-rational social actions, it is important to look at other aspects that may influence human actions. For instance, a jeweller makes a diamond ring as part of his livelihood. Yet, he may also be motivated by the happiness he brings in the eyes of a young woman who is gifted the ring. Motivations behind a social action cannot be simply observed as one observes the outcome of a science experiment. Thus, Verstehen through its 'deep understanding' of individual actions aims to help social science researchers in comprehending social actions and structural changes in society.

### Criticisms of the concept

The concept of Verstehen was criticised by scholars on two grounds. The interpretations arrived at through Verstehen could not be easily validated as the researcher's understanding and biases influenced their interpretation of actions. Further, the concept still largely focused on society's role in encouraging certain actions which then led to social changes. This was criticised by scholars after Weber through theories like symbolic interactionism which discusses individual agency and explains how people possess more freedom to shape their identities and influence societal change than what was previously thought by sociologists.

## THE DAILY QUIZ

### A quiz on chocolate on the occasion of World Chocolate Day

1 The name chocolate comes from the Aztec Nahuatl word 'Xocolatl'. What does the native word translate to?

2 Which West African nation is the largest producer of cocoa accounting for nearly 40% of the global output?

3 '\_\_\_ Cacao' is the binomial name for the plant from which we get cocoa. Fill in the blank with the word that means 'food of the gods' which is also the name of a popular eatery chain in India.

4 Chocolate lovers should be grateful to the Briton Joseph Fry for what innovation?

5 What are Criollo, Forastero and Trinitario, and Nacional?

6 In the much-loved Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, in which type of chocolate bar does Charlie Bucket find his golden ticket?

7 Which popular brand was named after the favourite horse of the Mars Family known for chocolate-making?



◀ Name this innovator and chocolate-maker, famous all over the world for an eponymous brand, known for inventing the conching machine used in chocolate manufacture. • WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Please send in your answers to the [dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in](mailto:dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in)

**Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. Following the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, the 14th Dalai Lama was presented this award. **Ans: Nobel Peace Prize**

2. This approach is known for being the 14th Dalai Lama's adopted method for resolution of the issue between Tibet and China. **Ans: Middle Way Approach**

3. The term in Buddhism which denotes any person who is on the path towards Buddhahood. **Ans: Bodhisattva**

4. The Indian sitar player featured in *Inner World*, a studio album released by the 14th Dalai Lama in 2020. **Ans: Anoushka Shankar**

5. The 1959 Tibetan uprising triggered the 14th Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet to India, where he was welcomed in this town. **Ans: Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh**

6. This suburb in Himachal Pradesh is named after Sir Donald Friell McLeod. **Ans: McLeod Ganj/McLeodganj**

Visual: The Dalai Lama is said to be an incarnation of this spiritual being. **Ans: Avalokitesvara**

**Early Birds:** Parveen Rewri| Renuka Tanwar| Athira Unnikrishnan| Manoj Singh Bisht

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

# Know your English

"Good morning, sir."  
"Good morning."  
"What's the meaning of 'in the offing', sir?"  
" 'In the offing' means 'likely to appear in sight'."

*His marriage is in the offing.*  
*There is a riot in the offing.*  
*There is a cabinet reshuffle in the offing.*  
"Sir, can I improve my knowledge of English by going through good dictionaries?"

"Dictionaries are useful up to a point. They give you a lot of information. But you can't become a great speaker or writer by relying only on dictionaries. Dictionaries are not a substitute for good books."

If you read good contemporary works, you would know how words are used in context. You must consult a good dictionary frequently. More important is you must read good books. You will be confused if you depend only on dictionaries.

For example, dictionaries say that 'to start' means 'to begin'. This is by and large true. But these two words are not interchangeable. You start your car, but you don't begin it. You talk about the 'starting trouble' and not the 'beginning trouble'. Again dictionaries say that 'to finish' means 'to end'. I ended my speech as there was some commotion. I couldn't finish it. In 'finish' there is a sense of completion. This sense is absent in 'end'. I can give you a lot of examples. But the point to remember is that dictionaries are useful and they must be consulted. But you can't rely on them alone for improving your English. You must read good contemporary books."

"What's the meaning of 'come up roses', sir?"

"It means 'to come out perfect'.  
*It was a marvellous function. Everything came up roses.*

*Don't worry. Everything is coming up roses.*

"What's the difference between 'gift' and 'present', sir?"

"A 'present' is personal and is less formal. A 'gift' is formal. 'Gift tax' and not 'present tax'. A 'wedding present', a 'birthday present'. 'Gift cheques', 'gift vouchers'."

"How do you pronounce 'marriage', sir?"

"It is *marij*. It rhymes with carriage. The 'a' in the word is pronounced like the 'a' in 'bat', 'bad' and 'mad'. The stress is on the first syllable. Well, it is getting late for you. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) with the subject 'Text & Context'

FROM PAGE ONE

## SpiceJet gets DGCA notice for safety lapses

“Whereas the reported incidents on aircraft operated by M/s SpiceJet Ltd from 1st April 2022 till date have been reviewed and it has been observed that at a number of occasions, the aircraft either turned back to its originating station or continued landing to the destination with degraded safety margins,” says the notice issued by Sanit Kumar, Director, Air Safety, Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

“Whereas, a financial assessment carried out by DGCA in September, 2021, has also revealed that airline is operating on cash and carry, and suppliers/ approved vendors are not being paid on regular basis leading to a

shortage of spares and frequent invoking of MELs [minimum equipment list],” the notice said.

The airline incurred a loss of ₹998 crore in the financial year 2020-2021. An MEL is a document an airline seeks from a regulator to seek relief when all equipment on an aircraft is not operative.

In an implicit warning to the airline, the DGCA also said that the airline’s permit to operate commercial flights was valid only till May 2023.

Aviation safety expert Mohan Ranganathan however has cautioned that a three-week notice period may be “too long a rope during monsoons”.

## Raipur Police declare TV anchor an absconder

Earlier, an official release of the Gautam Buddha Nagar Police said a team brought Mr. Ranjan from his Ghaziabad residence to Noida in connection with an FIR filed in the Sector 20 police station under Section 505 (2). “After interrogation, Mr. Ranjan was arrested on the basis of evidence. As it was a bailable offence, he was released on bail,” the release said.

This was the Uttar Pradesh Police’s first official statement after a team whisked Mr. Ranjan away from his Ghaziabad residence on Tuesday morning, leaving the Chhattisgarh Police stranded. The Raipur Police had a non-bailable warrant against Mr. Ranjan.

Mr. Dehar said the Noida Police should have told them when they granted bail to Mr. Ranjan.

## AIADMK council can decide on leadership: SC

Staying the “operation and effect” of the June 23 High Court order, the Supreme Court said “who wants to do what or intends to do what in a General Council meeting of a party is essentially a matter within that party or compact... Can the court extend its jurisdiction to order what decision should or should not be taken in a General Council meeting?”

The parties [litigants concerned] are, however, free to approach the Single Judge of the High Court, who is examining civil suits related to the issue, for interim relief.

Senior advocate Venugopala Gowda, appeared for Natham Vishwanathan (supporter of E. Palaniswami).

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra represented P. Benjamin (Palaniswami camp).

On the respondent side, senior advocate Maninder Singh, for M. Shanmugam (another party functionary), countered that the “dual leadership” methodology between Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami had worked “without any difficulty for the past five years” and now the latter wanted to unilaterally preside over the entire party. Senior advocate Guru Krishnakumar, for Mr. Panneerselvam, argued that though the issue pertained to within party, the violation of its bylaws would attract judicial intervention.

## Kerala Culture Minister Saji Cherian quits

“I am resigning of my own volition. I felt my continuation as Minister would impede any free and fair inquiry. I submitted my resignation to CM Pinarayi Vijayan,” Mr. Cherian said.

The Raj Bhavan later tweeted: “Hon’ble Governor Shri Arif Mohammed Khan has approved the proposal of Chief Minister to accept the resignation of Shri Saji Cherian, Minister, Fisheries, Culture & Youth Affairs and to allot the portfolios held by Sri Saji Cherian

to Chief Minister.”

Mr. Cherian said the news clipping that showed him “belittling” the Constitution at a party meeting on July 23 was heavily edited and barely three minutes long. “I spoke for an hour. It was never my intent to denigrate the Constitution. I had merely said social justice and welfare remained a distant dream for the masses despite Constitutional guarantees. It was a political statement delivered in rustic Malayalam,” he said.

## Mahua faces FIR in Bhopal for remarks

The Crime Branch of the Madhya Pradesh Police has registered an FIR against the MP under Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code (outraging religious feelings), an official said in Bhopal.

“Ms. Moitra’s statement has hurt the religious feelings of Hindus. We will not tolerate disrespect to any Hindu gods and goddesses at any cost,” Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said. The FIR was registered on the complaint of a local tea seller, the police said.

However, the MP, in a series of tweets, said she was not afraid of anything. “Bring it on BJP! Am a Kali worshipper. I am not afraid

of anything. Not your ignoramus. Not your goons. Not your police. And most certainly not your trolls. Truth doesn’t need back up forces,” Ms. Moitra tweeted.

Ms. Moitra, while participating in a conclave arranged by a media house in Kolkata on Tuesday had pointed out a “version of the Goddess” to which her party immediately reacted by not only distancing itself from the remark but also condemning it.

“Kali to me is meat eating... Alcohol accepting Goddess. To me, that is a version of Kali,” Ms. Moitra had said.

(With PTI inputs)

# Two militants surrender in Kulgam

They were part of a recently recruited module of Lashkar-e-Taiba, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Two newly recruited militants were made to surrender during an encounter in Kulgam of south Kashmir on Wednesday. The action was hailed by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti.

The duo, identified as Kafeel Ahmad Mir from Mirpora of Qaimoh and Nadeem Abbas Bhat from Reshipora in Qaimoh, were encircled by a joint team of the security forces, including the police and the Army, around 1 a.m. in Hadigam village, Kulgam. Around 2.30 a.m., the search party came under fire from the hiding militants.

“As the identity of the trapped terrorists got ascertained, the joint team showed utmost restraint and provided the trapped terrorists an opportunity to surrender. Their family members were called to the encounter site to persuade them to surrender. After re-



**Locked and loaded:** Police and CRPF personnel conducting a search operation in the Prem Nagar area of Jammu on Wednesday. •PTI

peated surrender appeals made by their parents, police and security forces, both the trapped terrorists finally surrendered,” the police said.

An Army spokesman said both the militants surrendered after the morning

prayers. “Incriminating material, including arms and ammunition and other warlike substances, have been recovered from their possession. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation,” the police said.

According to the police, the terrorists were part of a recently recruited module of the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

“These youth were brainwashed and tasked to carry out anti-national activities and killings at the behest of the LeT,” the police said.

Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar appealed to the parents to keep a strict vigil on their wards to prevent them from indulging in any anti-national activities, especially joining the terror ranks.

“If every parent persuades and appeals to their terrorist sons to shun the path of violence, be it soon after joining terror ranks or during the time they are trapped during live encounters, many lives can be saved as two lives were saved in today’s encounter,” Mr. Kumar said.

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti also praised the security forces.

“Two lives saved thanks to the efforts of their families and the support extended by security forces. These kind of efforts must be continued so that youngsters who join militancy are given a second chance to live their lives,” she said.

## China hopes for fair probe in Vivo case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BEIJING

China on Wednesday expressed hope that India will conduct the ongoing investigations into the Chinese mobile manufacturer firm Vivo in accordance with the law and regulations and provide a “truly fair” and “non-discriminatory” business environment to China’s firms.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that the Chinese side is closely following the developments on this matter.

In New Delhi, the spokesman of the Chinese embassy said that the frequent investigations not only disrupt their normal business activities and damage their goodwill but also affect the confidence of market entities from other countries.

# Bihar CM visits Lalu Prasad in hospital

The RJD leader was later taken to Delhi by air ambulance for treatment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday reached a private hospital in Patna to meet Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad, 74, who had been admitted to the intensive care unit for health complications following a fractured shoulder.

“There seems to be some improvement in Laluji’s condition since he has been admitted in the hospital but it would be proper if he is taken to Delhi for better treatment. I pray for his speedy recovery,” the Chief Minister told presspersons. “We have known each other since we were young,” he added.

The ailing Mr. Prasad later left for Delhi on an air ambulance.

Mr. Prasad’s younger son and Leader of the Opposi-



**Enquiring after:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with RJD chief Lalu Prasad at Paras Hospital in Patna. •PTI

tion in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, told presspersons that his father’s condition was stable but they would be taking him to Delhi for further treatment. “Condition of Lalu Prasadji is stable now. Everybody knows about his kidney and heart issues, for which treatment was going on in Delhi, and

the doctors there know his medical history well, so we are taking him to Delhi,” Mr. Yadav said.

He also appealed to party leaders and workers to pray for their leader’s good health from their own house. “It is because of your prayer and wishes that he is stable now. We had also planned to take

him to Singapore for kidney issues but that will be done after doctor’s advice in Delhi,” Mr. Yadav said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and others, had enquired about his father’s health, Mr. Yadav said.

On July 4, Mr. Prasad, a former Bihar Chief Minister and political titan in the State, was admitted to hospital after he fell down the stairs in his home and had a minor fracture to his right shoulder, following which his health deteriorated. He was brought to the hospital by his family members at night and admitted to the ICU.

After being convicted in several fodder scam cases, Mr. Prasad is currently out of jail on bail.

# BKS slams Centre’s farm policies

Exim policy for agricultural produce should be in farmers’ interests, says union

ISHITA MISHRA  
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), the farmers’ group of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), criticised the Centre’s export and import policies. The BKS urged the government to frame long-term export and import policies that are in the interests of farmers.

The BKS, which held a meeting of its all-India managing committee in Raipur last week, said it was being seen in the past few years that whenever a crop is on the verge of harvest, the Ministry of Commerce ordered its import. The BKS also said that the Ministry either reduced or even waived off import duty, which further adversely affected farmers, especially growers of onions, edible oils, and pulses.

“Similarly, whenever there is additional production of any crop, the govern-

**The quantum of export or import must be based on the data/records provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare and there must be a clear-cut provision in the policy to determine the required quantity of import. Apart from this, free export of the additional (surplus) quantity of produce should be allowed** BHARATIYA KISAN SANGH

ment simultaneously imposes a sudden ban on export. This has been observed time and again. By doing so, the Ministry of Commerce not only causes a direct loss to farmers but keeps national interest also at stake. Because, in the event of import, foreign exchange is spent unnecessarily,” the BKS said.

The farmers’ body added that due to poor policies, market prices of crops fall and farmers don’t sow the crop in the next season. This leads to low production and increases the country’s de-

pendence on imports.

The BKS said that the estimated and actual figures on the area under cultivation and the production of all crops is available with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. “But the Ministry of Commerce finds it disgraceful to take these data/figures from the Agriculture Ministry. As a result, import and export are either allowed or banned without any valid reason. It makes us believe that this type of malicious act is specifically aimed to harm farmers’ interests,” the BKS said.

The BKS committee proposed that the Ministry of Commerce should frame a far-sighted plan in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture so as to ascertain there’s enough production of items being imported and the country becomes self-reliant, which would have a significant bearing, especially on the production of edible oils and pulses. For this, special incentives should be given for growing edible oilseed crops, the BKS said.

“The quantum of export or import must be based on the data/records provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and there must be a clear-cut provision in the policy to determine the required quantity of import. Apart from this, free export of additional (surplus) quantity of produce should be allowed. Policy to this effect should be framed,” the BKS said.

# Govt. running bulldozer on household budget: Cong.

It is mismanaging the economy: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government is running bulldozer on people’s budget with the ₹50 hike in the price of LPG cylinders, the Congress said on Wednesday even as the party’s former chief Rahul Gandhi accused the government of managing headlines and mismanaging the economy.

Separately, the All India Mahila Congress, in a tweet, asked if this was the cost for toppling the Maharashtra government.

Mr. Gandhi noted that the BJP earlier used to propagate [prachar] that the currency of a country goes down if it has a corrupt government. But now, he said, “Indian Rupee slips to ₹79.36 hitting record low” which is an “attack” [prachar] on the common man. On the employment

front, Mr. Gandhi noted that the claim was to create two crore jobs every year but India lost 1.3 crore jobs in June.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted, “Despite international prices of crude coming down in international market, the government is going on increasing domestic gas prices... The government is running bulldozer on people’s Budget.”

At a press conference at the Congress headquarters, party spokesperson Ragini Nayak said that under the Modi government, it is a surprise “if the prices of petrol and diesel do not increase and people’s back is not broken due to inflation”.

“The biggest achievement of Prime Minister Modi is that he has been successful in deceiving the country,” she said.

# Photo with Sharad Pawar puts Maharashtra CM in a predicament

It is an old photo, do not believe in rumours, clarifies Shinde

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

Amid predictions by the Opposition Nationalist Congress Party leaders about the stability of the new Maharashtra government, a photograph of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and NCP president Sharad Pawar created such a stir that Mr. Shinde had to issue a clarification saying it was an old photo.

The photo of Mr. Shinde visiting Mr. Pawar at the latter’s house in Mumbai started

circulating on Wednesday morning. The photo held significance as Mr. Pawar, at a meeting of party MLAs three days ago, had asked them to head to their respective constituencies and start working at the ground level. The veteran leader’s statement was seen as hinting at a mid-term election in the State, though he never said so.

In that meeting, NCP State president Jayant Patil had passed a remark that the new government of rebel Shiv Se-

na MLAs and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) may not go a long way as the BJP’s Devendra Fadnis had been made the Deputy Chief Minister which would give rise to discontent in the BJP camp.

As the photo went viral, Mr. Shinde issued a clarification on Twitter. “A photo is being made viral presently where I am with NCP president Sharad Pawar. We never had any such meeting. Do not believe in rumours,” he tweeted.

# Gehlot says his nikamma jibe at Pilot was in affection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday explained that his *nikamma* (useless) jibe, directed at his former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot, was said out of affection, “treating him [Mr. Pilot] as a child”.

Though Mr. Gehlot had made the reference to Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, his elucidation was apparently aimed at Mr. Pilot.

Mr. Gehlot, who recently accused Mr. Shekhawat of

trying to destabilise his government in 2020, said at a conference on the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) here that phrases like *nikamma* and *nakaara* were often used for “naughty children”.

“If a child close to you makes a mistake, you would definitely scold him,” he said.

The Chief Minister had earlier said in Sikar that Mr. Shekhawat, who represents the Jodhpur constituency in the Lok Sabha, had conspired to topple the State’s

Congress government two years ago. Since Mr. Shekhawat had himself mentioned Mr. Pilot’s name, it was a proof that he was “hand in glove” with the latter, Mr. Gehlot had said.

Mr. Pilot later sought to play down Mr. Gehlot’s remarks during a visit to Tonk, his Assembly constituency, and said he did not take offence to the use of words like *nikamma* and *nakaara* because Mr. Gehlot was a senior and experienced leader and a “father figure” to him.

IN BRIEF



## Punjab CM Mann to tie the knot today

CHANDIGARH Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will tie the knot with Gurpreet Kaur on Thursday at a private ceremony here. Only a limited number of people from the family and a few friends are likely to attend the event. AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is expected to attend the ceremony. Mr. Mann separated from his first wife a few years ago. He has two children from his first marriage.

## Lt. Gen. Subramanian to lead UNMISS

NEW DELHI United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on Wednesday announced the appointment of Lt. Gen. Mohan Subramanian of India as Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). He succeeds Lt. Gen. Shailesh Tinaikar also from India. Lt. Gen. Subramanian has a military career with the Indian Army for over 36 years. Most recently, he served as the General Officer Commanding, Military Region (Operational and Logistic Readiness Zone) in central India.

## Coast Guard rescues crew of merchant vessel

NEW DELHI The Coast Guard rescued all 22 crew of the merchant vessel Global King-1, 185 Km from Porbandar Coast in the Arabian Sea, responding to a distress call on Wednesday. The crew consisted of 20 Indians, a Pakistani and a Sri Lankan national. Despite adverse weather conditions, a Dornier aircraft from Coast Guard Air Station Porbandar and off shore vessel ICGS Shoor were launched for assessment of the situation and relaying information to the vessels in the vicinity, it explained. The crew, after failing to arrest flooding, abandoned the vessel in life raft around 10.45 a.m., the statement said.

## PM to launch education summit today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a three-day summit in Varanasi on Thursday that will culminate with the adoption of the Varanasi Declaration on higher education.

The summit is being organised by the Ministry of Education in association with the University Grants Commission and Banaras Hindu University, and will bring together over 300 Vice-Chancellors and Directors from public and private universities as well as educationists, policy-makers and industry representatives to discuss the implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020.

Discussions will be held on various themes such as multi-disciplinary and holistic education, skill development and employability and Indian knowledge systems.

# Union Ministers Mukhtar Naqvi, R.C.P. Singh quit as RS term ends

PM thanks them for their service; Smriti Irani given charge of Minority Affairs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Ministers R.C.P. Singh of the Janata Dal (U) and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi of the BJP resigned on Wednesday, a day before the completion of their Rajya Sabha term.

Mr. Singh and Mr. Naqvi have not been renominated by their respective parties, but they were technically entitled to continue for another six months without being an MP.

That option, however, was not exercised by either of them, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in fact, turning Wednesday's Cabinet meeting into a kind of valedictory meeting for the two Ministers, praising their performance and thanking them for their service. Mr. Singh held the Steel portfolio, while Mr. Naqvi was Minister for Minority Affairs.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan



New course: Former Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. •PTI

communicate, while stating that the resignations of the Ministers had been accepted under Clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution, said that Civil Aviation Minister Jyoti Raditya Scindia would be handling Steel as an additional portfolio, while Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani would be looking after the Ministry of Minority Affairs as an additional charge. Mr.

Naqvi went straight from the Cabinet meeting to the BJP's national headquarters on Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg to meet party chief J.P. Nadda. He also met Mr. Modi in the evening and handed over his resignation.

While it is being said that he may yet return to the Rajya Sabha as Chairperson and Vice-President, government sources said such reports were mere specula-

tion. Mr. Naqvi had been holding the position of Deputy Leader of the Rajya Sabha. The fact that neither Mr. Singh nor Mr. Naqvi got renominated was surprising, with the former's failure to get renominated also revealing an internal tug of war in the Janata Dal(U) and reports of him being seen as closer to the BJP than his own party.

Whatever the case, it made the continuation of Mr. Singh untenable in the Council of Ministers as the BJP and the JD(U) are running a government in Bihar. In fact, Mr. Singh, after sending his resignation by fax to Mr. Modi, met Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan who handles the party affairs in Bihar. A Cabinet expansion may be on the cards, but it is still not certain if the JD(U) would offer another name to be Minister.

## P.T. Usha, Ilaiyaraaja among four picked for Rajya Sabha

Veerendra Heggade, Vijayendra Prasad are the other choices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Olympic sprinter P.T. Usha, music composer Ilaiyaraaja, philanthropist Veerendra Heggade and screenwriter V. Vijayendra Prasad have been nominated to the Rajya Sabha in the category of eminent persons nominated by the President.

In total, the President nominates 12 persons as his nominees to the Rajya Sabha — persons known for their eminence in the fields of arts and letters and public service. Of the 12, seven seats were vacant, of which four have now been filled.

The nominees are from the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

The four nominees are achievers in their own right, but their selection also reflects a southern push by the Narendra Modi government.

Ms. Usha, born in Kozhikode in Kerala, is one of India's best known track-and-field stars. She also runs the Usha School of Athletics, training young athletes. She has been given the Arjuna Award and the Padma Shri in the past.

Mr. Ilaiyaraaja from Tamil Nadu, a recipient of the Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan and many awards for his music, has composed more than 7,000 songs for over 1,000 films (mainly in southern India), and has



P.T. Usha and Ilaiyaraaja



more than 20,000 concert performances to his credit.

Sivaji Ganesan (1982-86), Vyjayantimala Bali (1993-99) and "Cho" S. Ramaswamy (1999-2005) are the other Tamil film personalities who had served as nominated members of the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Heggade has been the Dharmadhikari (custodian) of the Dharmasthala temple in Karnataka from the age of 20.

A philanthropist, he runs the Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara Educational Trust, which provides education through more than 25 institutions. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2015.

K.V. Vijayendra Prasad, who is from Andhra Pradesh, is the noted screenwriter behind the blockbuster movies *Baahubali* and *RRR* that have made waves in India and abroad.

Prime Minister Modi congratulated all four and cited

their contributions in their respective fields.

"The remarkable P.T. Usha Ji is an inspiration for every Indian. Her accomplishments in sports are widely known but equally commendable is her work to mentor budding athletes over the last several years."

"The creative genius of Ilaiyaraaja Ji has enthralled people across generations. His works beautifully reflect many emotions. What is equally inspiring is his life journey — he rose from a humble background and achieved so much," Mr. Modi tweeted.

For Mr. Heggade, the Prime Minister said he was at the forefront of outstanding community service.

Praising Mr. Prasad, Mr. Modi noted that he had been associated with the creative world for decades and his work showcases India's glorious culture and has made a mark globally.

(With PTI inputs)

## Opposition plans to put up Vice-Presidential candidate

NCP chief Sharad Pawar holds preliminary talks in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties have started preliminary deliberations for zeroing in on a Vice-Presidential candidate for an election where the numbers are heavily stacked against them.

On Wednesday, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar held a meeting in Delhi to discuss the progress of the campaign of the United Progressive Alliance's Presidential nominee Yashwant Sinha and to have preliminary discussions on the Vice-Presidential candidate.

The meeting was attended by Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and RJD leader A.D. Singh. The Trinamool Congress did not attend the meeting, though it too is on



UPA's Presidential nominee Yashwant Sinha with other leaders, in this file photo. •PTI

board with the idea of putting up a fight. The election for the 16th Vice-President of India will be held on August 6. The last date for filing nomination is July 19. The incumbent M. Venkaiah Naidu's term comes to an end on August 10.

The arithmetic is far worse for the Opposition in the Vice-Presidential elec-

tion than the Presidential since the electoral college comprises only Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members. Currently, the BJP has 303 members in the Lok Sabha and 92 in the Rajya Sabha and therefore can sail through, even without the help of the allies.

Regardless, the Opposition parties are keen to force a contest. "We will put up a political and ideological fight," Mr. Yechury said.

As per the initial discussions, it has been decided that the candidate will not belong to the Congress or any Opposition party. "Elections are not always about winning or losing, it is about articulating your vision and present to the country an alternate paradigm. That is what democracy is all about," RJD leader Manoj K. Jha said.

## TRS pushes its national ambitions with Delhi HQ

Work on Telangana Bhavan in progress

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

In keeping with the party's national ambitions, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) is busy constructing the party's Delhi headquarters on 1,200 square metres of land at Vasant Vihar in south Delhi. Telangana Chief Minister and party supremo K. Chandrababhan Rao laid the foundation stone of the building last September, and the work is likely to finish in eight months or so.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Vemula Prashant Reddy, Telangana Minister for Roads, Buildings and Housing Department, said the decision to build the party headquarters in Delhi was prompted by the party's growing ambition to be a player in national politics.

"We are staking a claim in national politics, and our leader decided that we

needed a headquarters in Delhi to announce that intention," he said.

The land, allotted by the Urban Development Ministry, is still a distance away from the beating heart of Lutyens Delhi and even Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg, where the headquarters of the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party and the newly constructed office of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam are situated.

The Congress has land on Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg, but has not started work on a headquarters there and continues to operate from 24 Akbar Road. TRS leaders are unable to explain why they got land in posh south Delhi and not in central Delhi.

Work on Telangana Bhavan (an attempt to identify the party with the State) is being undertaken by a Hyderabad-based company.

## ED notice to crypto exchanges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has sent notice to crypto exchange companies seeking information pertaining to an inquiry under the Foreign Exchange Management Act.

CoinSwitch, from which the agency sought documents, said it received queries from various government agencies.

"Our approach has always been that of transparency. Crypto is an early-stage industry with a lot of potential and we continuously engage with all stakeholders," said a CoinSwitch spokesperson.

## NIA conducts searches in Kolhe case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at multiple locations in Maharashtra in connection with the killing of pharmacist Umesh Kolhe in Amravati on June 21 over a social media post supporting suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma.

During the searches on 13 premises linked to the accused persons and suspects, the agency seized digital devices, pamphlets bearing hate messages, knives, and other incriminating documents.

**MISSING**  
The man in the given photo by name KUMARAN, Age 60/22, S/o Choyi, Puthan Purayil (House), Koothali (P.O), Kozhikode (Dist) is found missing from his house since 04.03.2022 and nowhere about could he traced so far. In this regard a case in Cr. No. 163/22 u/s 57 of KP Act is registered at Perambra Police Station on 16-03-2022 and is under investigation. Anybody who has any information about the missing person, kindly intimate the details of information in the given address or phone shown below.  
**Sign information:** Height 170 cm, Lean body, Bald headed.  
**Perambra Police Station:** 0496-2610242  
**Kozhikode Rural.**  
**Station House Officer - 9497987190**  
**Sub Inspector - 9497980790** RO/01682/f2/2022/I&PRD

**ARMY COLLEGE OF NURSING, JALANDHAR CANTT**  
ACCREDITED WITH NAAC B+ GRADE  
**REQUIRES PROFESSOR-CUM-PRINCIPAL**  
Qualification: M.Sc. (Nursing) Experience: M.Sc. (Nursing) having total 15 years' experience with M.Sc. (Nursing) out of which 10 years after M.Sc. (Nursing) in collegiate program. Desirable: Ph.D. (Nursing) How to Apply: Candidates may download application form from the college website/ obtain from the college and submit alongwith attested copies of testimonials/ certificates to The Director, Army College of Nursing, Jalandhar Cantt, by 30 July 2022. Applications received after due date will not be entertained. Only Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed. No TA/DA admissible. Salary/Perks: Rs. 1,10,000/- per month/ Negotiable. Fully Furnished 3 BHK accommodation inside campus and mandatory to stay inside. Website: www.acn.co.in Contact. Tel: 0181-2266167, 2660080, 82383-24167 E-mail: acn@awesindia.edu.in

**ONGC Petro additions Limited**  
4th Floor, 35, Nutan Bharat Society, Alkapuri, Vadodra, Gujarat - 390007. Ph: 0265 6192600, Fax: 0265-6192666, CIN No.: U23930GJ2006PL0060282  
**Tender Notice:**  
ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPAL) invites the sealed tender under Two Bid System for following: Tender Number: OPAL/POLYMER/TPTN/2022. Tender Description: Hiring of Domestic Road Transportation Services for Distribution of OPAL's Polymer Products for PAN India Locations-2022. Tender sale period: 07.07.2022 to 18.08.2022 till 14:00 Hrs., Closing date and time for bid Submission: 18.08.2022 at 14:00 Hrs.  
The tender document can be downloaded from www.opalindia.in. For other details of this tender including corrigendum if any, Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website (www.opalindia.in) for the latest information in this regard. In case of exigencies OPAL, at its option may decide to extend tender sale/bid closing opening date/ time in future, which will be posted on the above referred website for information. Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website for the latest information in this regard.

**RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)**  
C-Block, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur  
RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:  

NIB No./Date/Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/EMD	Start of sale/Last date
2490/04.07.2022 (RIS2223GLOB00031)	Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for Rate Contract for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Integrated Video Conference solution at different Government offices across Rajasthan State (e-Tendering)	Rs. 10.00 Cr./Rs. 20.00 Lacs	05.07.2022 05.08.2022

Details can be seen on the websites <http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in>. Bids are to be submitted through <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.  
Raj.Samwad/C/22/4564 G M (Technical)

**Ministry of Education**  
Government of India  
Department of School Education & Literacy (SE&L)  
**Consultant Positions for New India Literacy Programme (NILP)**  
On behalf of Department of SE&L, Ministry of Education, EdCIL invites On-line Applications from eligible candidates for the Centrally sponsored scheme of **New India Literacy Programme (NILP)** for the following positions on Contractual basis:  
Chief Consultant (1), Senior Consultant (2), Consultant (4), Project Assistant (2) & Support Staff — III (6) for 'Education for All' (erstwhile Adult Education) Unit.  
The complete details of Discipline wise Educational Qualifications & Eligibility criteria are available on <https://www.edcilionline.co.in/TCareers>.  
Online application form shall be available from 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.  
The last date of receipt of application is 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.

**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(BHADRA GENERATING STATION)  
CIN: U85110KA1970SG001919  
**CORRIGENDUM-1**  
Refer our e-Tender Notification No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK\_INDENT 12376 Dt: 08.06.2022 for the work of Design, Engineering, manufacture, quality surveillance, testing at supplier's works, supply, transportation, delivery on FOR destination basis, Arranging transit insurance, Dismantling of existing Governor and Sequencer system, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of One No. of Digital Governor cum Auto sequencer system and associated equipments complete including supply, laying, testing, termination of cables, networking, communication etc. for 2MW Bhadra Left Bank Generating Unit. The Bid Schedule is extended as follows: Last Date & Time for submission of tenders: Extended upto 19.07.2022 upto 16.30 Hrs. Opening of the Technical Bid: 21.07.2022 at 10.30 Hrs. Opening of the Financial Bid: 25.07.2022 at 11.30 Hrs. The technical queries/clarifications are uploaded in GoK e-Procurement Website: [URL:https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) All other terms & conditions of bid notification shall remain unaltered. Further details can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, (O&M), Bhadra, BGS, KPCL, B.R. Project - 577115, Bhadravathi-Tq., Shivamogga-Dist., Karnataka, Mobile: 94495 98814.

**DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010  
Phones: 0522-4918510, Fax 0522-4918506 Website: www.drmlims.ac.in  
Ref. No. RMLIMS/MM(eq)/2022-23/1507 Dated: 06.07.2022  
**FRESH GEM BIDDING/RE-GEM BIDDING NOTICE**  
(1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> time offer)  
On-line offers are invited through BOQ based GeM bidding from Manufacturer/Direct Importers/Authorized Distributors/Dealer/ Accredited Agents for the supply & installation of various medical equipments. The Vendors are required to submit their offer on GeM portal only in two bids system i.e. technical & financial bid as per norms of GeM portal.  
Due to insufficient offers, the offers submitted earlier for the listed items by the bidders against tendered advertisement no. RMLIMS/MM(eq)/2021-22/5188 dated 21.03.2022, RMLIMS/MM(eq)/2021-22/3947 dated 04.01.2022 and RMLIMS/MM(eq)/2022-23/744 dated 25.05.2022 (against various GeM bidding id) will be treated as cancelled. Therefore, those who have already submitted their offers against above advertisements are also required to submit fresh offer but they are not required to deposit EMD again but enclose its proof in technical bid as per tender terms & conditions.  
For detailed information like list of items, Date of submission, tender fee and opening of bid etc., you may please visit the GeM portal [www.gem.gov.in](http://www.gem.gov.in). The list of equipments will also be available on our website [www.drmlims.ac.in](http://www.drmlims.ac.in) for reference only. The offer will be accepted On-Line only on GeM portal with terms and conditions as mentioned in GeM bidding documents.  
**Director**

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, BBMP Office Building, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru  
No.: EE/PN/TEND/10/2022-23 Date: 06.07.2022  
**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER**  
(Only through E-Procurement Portal) Two Cover  
The Executive Engineer (Pulikeshinagar Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. **Standard Tender Document KW4.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Comprehensive development of Road, Drain, Footpath, CC Drain, Asphaltting at Ashoknagar Slum, Basavanagar Slum, Saukarlane Slum, Kushalnagar, BDA Layout, Anwar Layout P&T Colony, Sophia School & surrounding area in ward No 31, Kushalanagar. <b>Package No. 01, (Govt Sl. No.: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12)</b>	1,000.00	15,00,000/-
2	Comprehensive development of Road, Drain, Footpath, CC Drain, Asphaltting at Saukar Lane Slum Main Road & 7th Cross, Karimariyamma Nagar Slum Roads, M.M. Layout, Chinnanna Layout, Hanumanthappa Layout, Kavalbyrasandra Govt School, Rama Temple, Muneshwaranagar Slum & Dubai Layout, Doddannanagar Slum, Modi Road, Siddhartha Layout, (Gundu Thopu) & surrounding area in Ward No. 31 Kushalanagar, 32 Kavalbyrasandra & 48 Muneshwaranagar. <b>Package No. 02, (Govt Sl. No.: 4, 8, 15, 17, 18, 24, 27, 41, 42, 70)</b>	1,000.00	15,00,000/-
3	Comprehensive development of Road, Drain, Footpath, CC Drain, Asphaltting at Siddhartha Layout, (Gundu Thopu) Slum, 2nd & 4th Cross Ganesha Block Athmananda Colony, Ambedkarnagar Cross Roads, Muniveerappa Layout, BDA Layout, Adarshanagar 1st to 4th Cross Roads, Adarshanagar 5th to 8th Cross Roads, Shani Mahathma Temple, Skin Mandi, Chikkanna Lane, Kaverinagar & surrounding area in Ward No. 32, Kavalbyrasandra & 48, Muneshwaranagar. <b>Package No. 03, (Govt. Sl. No.: 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 30, 31)</b>	1,000.00	15,00,000/-
4	Comprehensive development of Road, Drain, Footpath, CC Drain, Asphaltting at Pillanna Garden Slum, Old Bagalur Layout Slum, Giddappa Lane, 8th Main New Bagalur Layout, New Bagalur Layout, Charles Ground & Pillanna Garden Football Ground, Cleaveland Road, Boudilane Road, Standage Road & Wheeler Road 1st & 2nd Cross & surrounding area in Ward No 60, Sagayapuram & 78, Pulikeshinagar. <b>Package No. 04, (Govt Sl. No.: 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 64, 65, 66, 67)</b>	1,000.00	15,00,000/-
5	Comprehensive development of Road, Drain, Footpath, CC Drain, Asphaltting at D.J. Halli, S.R Block Slum, Vishweshwaraiah Layout & Muneshwara Temple Back side, SR Block Amudha Gully Slum, Velangana Church upto ITI Layout, Modi Garden, Old KEB Road, 2nd Main, S.K. Garden upto Naval Mess Compound, Williams Town, Srinivasnagar Slum, Thippu Mohalla Zanda Galli & surrounding area in Ward No. 32, Kavalbyrasandra & 48, Muneshwaranagar. <b>Package No. 05, (Govt Sl. No.: 25, 26, 28, 57, 43, 44, 58, 61, 40, 45)</b>	1,000.00	15,00,000/-
6	Comprehensive development of Road, Drain, Footpath, CC Drain, Asphaltting at Thangamallinagar Slum, D.J. Halli Main Road, Munimarappa Garden Slum, From Varalakshmi Nagar Slum to Subramanya Temple, Hussania Masjid, Modi Main Road, Urdu School compound wall, from Mardhana Hotel to 9th Cross of Goa Garden & Noor Masjid, Sonnappa Garden Slum, Byadrahalli & surrounding area in Ward No. 47, D.J. Halli & 61, S.K. Garden. <b>Package No. 06, (Govt Sl. No. 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 55, 56, 59, 60)</b>	1,000.00	15,00,000/-
7	Comprehensive development of Road, Drain, Footpath, CC Drain, Asphaltting at Compound Wall To Nelson Mandela Park, Modi Road Cement Gully And Cross Roads, Kenchappa Road, Stephens Road Reach-1, ITI Layout, A.K. Colony, Bangaragiri Nagar, Periyarnagar Slum, Jhani Bhai Compound, Lababin Masjid, Ayodi Das Nagar & surrounding area in ward no 48, Muneshwaranagar, 47, D.J. Halli & 61, S.K. Garden & 78 Pulikeshinagar. <b>Package No. 07, (Govt Sl. No.: 50, 62, 68, 69, 53, 54, 63, 29, 32, 33)</b>	1,000.00	15,00,000/-

**Calendar of events:** (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka from 15.07.2022, 4:00 p.m. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on 20.07.2022, 4:00 p.m. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road, Bengaluru. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 4:00 p.m. on 05.08.2022 and the opening of tenders will be as per e-procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical bids will be opened on the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on 08.08.2022 at 11:00 a.m. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, BBMP

**COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE**  
Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

Soon, buses, trucks to have fuel norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Buses and trucks will be required to comply with fuel consumption norms from April 2023 that applied only to passenger vehicles so far, according to a draft notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The Ministry has proposed to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules so that the Constant Fuel Consumption Standards (CFCS) include medium and heavy-duty motor vehicles of various categories.

The Ministry has invited comments for a period of 30 days.

Under the CFCS testing, a vehicle is driven on a test track at a constant speed to measure its fuel efficiency. Once the final notification is issued, the government will upload the test results for all vehicle models to enable buyers to make informed decisions.

COVID precaution dose can be had six months after second jab

Previous guideline mandated a nine-month interval between the two doses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry, on Wednesday, decided to reduce the gap between the second and precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to six months for all adults in view of the recommendation by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

Earlier, the time interval between the second vaccine shot and the precaution dose was nine months.

The Health Ministry, in its communication to the States, said that in view of the evolving scientific evidence, the Standing Technical Sub Committee (STSC) of the NTAGI had recommended revision of the duration between second dose and precaution dose from the existing nine months or 39 weeks to six months or 26 weeks.



Best practices: The Health Ministry said the revised timeframe is based on evolving scientific evidences. • FILE PHOTO

The letter signed by Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the Centre had decided that the precaution dose for all beneficiaries aged 18 to 59 will be administered after the completion of six months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of second dose at Government CVCs free of charge," he said.

"Corresponding changes have been made in the CoWin system to facilitate the new dispensation," Mr. Bhushan added.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 vaccination platform CoWin will be repurposed as a platform for universal immunisation, blood donation and later it will be used for organ donation, said R.S. Sharma, CoWin chief and CEO of the National Health Authority.

Integration in the works He explained that technology is now being used as an enabler and will be integrated with other ecosystems. "We had the digital CoWin global conclave last year and several countries who participated were interested in CoWin," Mr. Bhushan said. "Guyana with which India signed a Memorandum of Understanding is poised to use the CoWin platform for their vaccination programme," he added.

Kargil ride, cricket match to mark 75th Independence Day

Campaign to hoist Tricolour at all households in the works

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Exhibitions on moving trains, a motorcycle ride till Kargil, a cricket match between teams from India and rest of the world, and the launch of a campaign for all households to hoist the Tricolour will be rolled out in the month leading up to Independence Day, according to the Culture Ministry's programme.



Big event: A kilometre-long flag on display as part of the 75th Independence Day in Hyderabad. • FILE PHOTO

Under Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), the commemoration of 75 years of Independence, the government will be holding exhibitions on trains along with the Indian Railways titled Azaadi Ki Rail Gadi Aur Stations and Kargil Vijay Divas in July, when a motorcycle ride organised by the Defence Ministry will reach Tiger Hill. In August, birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya, who designed the National

Flag, will be observed, and a "world cricket match" will be played, according to the programme.

More programmes As a part of the commemoration, a collection of revolutionary poetry that was banned by the British and a repository of unsung heroes has been compiled on the AKAM website. A Culture Ministry official said the plans for observing August 14 as

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day were yet to be finalised.

In a written statement, Culture Secretary Govind Mohan said over 47,000 events had been organised in the past 15 months as a part of the two-year celebration. Mr. Mohan added that Har Ghar Tiranga will be the next big initiative under AKAM. "We encourage everyone to display the flag at home on August 15," he said.

'MSP should continue till markets become efficient'

NITI Aayog members' comment on procurement irks SKM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the nationwide protests by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) demanding a law to ensure minimum support price, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand said here on Wednesday that the MSP should continue till markets become competitive and efficient.

The MSP can be given through means other than procurement, he said at a conference on "Getting agriculture markets right," triggering reactions from leaders of the SKM.

Hannan Mollah, senior SKM leader and general secretary of the All-India Kisan Sabha, said farmers were demanding a law to ensure MSP. "Only two items are procured of the 23 crops that have an MSP. MSP without a legal guarantee will not be effective as the input cost has increased," he said.

Direct relation Pavel Kussa, coordinator of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Eka-Ugrahan), said the MSP was directly linked to the food security of the country. "MSP is linked to procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains through public distribution system. The NITI Aayog member seems to have forgotten the statement of Food Minister Piyush Goyal asking States to encourage paddy sowing. Farmers cultivate paddy as there is MSP and procurement of the crop. MSP with-



Far-reaching effects: The farmers' body said that MSP without a legal guarantee will not be effective. • FILE PHOTO

out procurement has no meaning," he said.

DPP method Addressing the conference, Mr. Chand had also said that "deficiency pricing payment (DPP)" was one such means of giving MSP to farmers, but added that the DPP could not be stopped once implemented. "Under DPP, the difference between the open market price and MSP is given to farmers. It has been implemented in some States like Madhya Pradesh," he said. "In some cases, MSP is justified in times of volatility in prices and glut. I feel what matters is how we give MSP to farmers. MSP has to be there as long as markets are not competitive and efficient. But MSP can be given through means other than procurement," he said.

Mr. Chand added that he

had given a detailed presentation on the issue to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the difference between open market price and MSP was about 12-15% and MSP-fixed 23 crops would require ₹80,000 crore based on 1920 price. He said in the future, there could be differences in sarkari crops (MSP-fixed crops) and bazaar (commercial) crops and added that corporates were showing interest in innovation in bazaar crops.

Revamped protests The SKM is relaunching its protests demanding legalised MSP from July 18, when the monsoon session of Parliament begins. The SKM will hold nationwide rallies asking the Centre to implement the promises it had made while repealing the three farm laws.

'TRS aiding BJP to stall Congress'

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

Telangana Chief Minister and Telangana Rashtra Samithi president K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) is aiding and abetting the BJP in the State to stymie the Congress, the party's State unit chief A. Revanth Reddy said in an interview to The Hindu. The BJP recently held its national executive meeting in Hyderabad, making its ambition to expand its presence in the State amply clear.

"Mr. Rao is well aware that the anti-incumbency against his government is rising and the TRS's vote share is shrinking, which is why he wants to force a multi-corner contest and for that he is covertly helping the BJP. His only target is to stall the Congress, because we are the only viable alternative against him," Mr. Reddy said, answering a question on whether he fears that the BJP's expansion plans could push the Congress to an insignificant position in the State. Mr. Rao, he added, wants a return of the 2014 Assembly election arithmetic where with just 34% vote share, the TRS managed to sail through gaining 63 seats.

As far as the BJP is concerned, he added that the Congress has nothing to worry though it remains in an "alert mode". "Telangana voters are tired of the eight years of the Modi government at the Centre and eight years of the KCR government in the State," Mr. Reddy said.

Toronto museum sorry over poster

Indian Mission had urged Canadian authorities to remove 'provocative material'

ISHITA MISHRA  
NEW DELHI

A day after the Indian High Commission urged Canadian authorities to withdraw "provocative" material related to Hindu gods from the poster of a film showcased at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, the museum authorities on Wednesday apologised for hurting religious sentiments.

Twitter removed a poster shared by film director Leena Manimekalai.

In its letter of apology, the museum wrote that the Toronto Metropolitan University had brought together works from students of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Each student was exploring individual sense of belonging as part of Canadian multiculturalism for the project named "Un-



der the tent". These works were hosted at the museum on July 2, in the context of its mission to foster an intercultural understanding and dialogue through the arts.

"Respect for diverse religious expressions and faith communities forms an integral part of that mission. The presentation is no longer being shown at the museum. The museum deeply regrets that one of the 18 short videos from 'Under the tent' and its accompanying social media post have inadvertently caused offence," it said.

Reacting to Twitter removing her film's poster, Ms. Manimekalai questioned if Twitter would withhold the tweets of the hate mongers.

"This is hilarious. Will Twitter withhold the tweets of the 200000 hate mongers? These lowlife trolls tweeted and spread the very same poster that they find objectionable. Kaali cannot be lynched. Kaali cannot be raped. Kaali cannot be destroyed. She is the goddess of death," she wrote on the microblogging site.

The microblogging site

wrote that the tweet from Ms. Manimekalai has been withheld in India in response to a legal demand.

Meanwhile, two organisations in Assam have lodged a first information report (FIR) demanding punitive action against Ms. Manimekalai for "hurting religious sentiments".

The Hindu Suraksha Manch and the United Trust of Assam lodged the FIR together at the Dispur police station in Guwahati on Tuesday. The complainants said the poster depicts Goddess Kaali in a manner "unacceptable by any Hindu" and that it was a "deliberate distortion of the Hindu religion and culture with malicious intent to insult Hindu religious feelings".

(With inputs from Rahul Karmakar, Guwahati)

'Faridabad probe marred by red tape'

Police yet to file chargesheet despite presence of evidence, says victim's mother

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

More than four months after a Class 10 student of a prominent school in Faridabad died by suicide over alleged sexual harassment by his classmates, his mother expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of the investigation into the matter.

In a press statement, the mother said that she had been running from pillar to post for the past four months trying to expedite the investigation, but the police were yet to file a chargesheet into the matter,

despite the presence of incriminating evidence and statements from witnesses. In a statement, she said the head of the Special Investigation Team carrying out investigation was replaced after she met Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij, but this did not help much. She said that she had only received "false assurances" from the police.

The teenager was allegedly sexually harassed and assaulted by his classmates, and died by suicide in February. The mother claimed that

she had shared evidence of sexual assault, including voice notes from her son, with the police on April 11. However, the police had not made any arrests. She accused the police of diluting the charges and intentionally delaying the investigation in order to give the school sufficient time to build its defence. She also accused the police of leaking the evidence shared by her to the school.

Holding an online press conference on Wednesday, the boy's mother said her son

had been interested in nail art, had had both his ears pierced, and was "exploring his sexuality". She said he was too young to express himself but the school teachers, instead of encouraging him to find his identity, would scold him.

Those who require assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts may contact Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline 011-4076 9002 (10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., Monday-Saturday).

TH CROSSWORD + 13602 To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ https://qr.go.page.link/jjptn

(set by Incognito)

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- 17 John performed first part of activity to produce some kind of yeast (7)  
19 Animal carrying Egyptian god and sticky sweet (7)  
22 Wrongly said, "At sports venues" (6)  
24 Erroneously perceived sound from Mr Depp's ex on radio (8)  
26 Altered toccatas to produce abrupt and disjointed notes (8)  
28 Wrongly reappraises, in absence of paper, to give increases in salary (6)  
30 Sign girl is in wash-room? (4)  
31 Outsider? A falsehood, no? (5)  
32 Ancient Roman church had, in the beginning, a curved support structure (4)
- Down  
1 Information contained in Golconda tablet (4)  
2 Swollen green dal is cooked (8)  
3 Spanish navy's weapon is with Aeronautical Development Agency (6)  
4 Yankee left settlement with the Spanish military officer (7)  
5 Wild beaver carrying hollow root shows a bit of spine (8)  
6 Delays constructions meant to house horses (6)  
7 Staff endlessly wreck building (4)  
14 Spilling paint is not appropriate (5)  
16 Encourage revolutionary queen (5)  
18 Attract ward (4,4)  
20 A man consumes rice pudding from the US (8)  
21 Munitions with National Investigation Agency produce noxious gas (7)  
23 Medical appearing briefly in Madras Central (6)  
25 Jump! Substitute one end of gadget with another and run! (6)  
27 Consumed potassium also, at first (4)  
29 Every idea changes to some extent (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13601

G	E	S	E	A	D			
F	L	O	P	C	A	M	E	M
A	I	H	P	I	A	R		
Q	U	I	C	H	E	S	C	A
C	M	R	A	G	O	V		
S	O	M	B	R	E	R	O	B
M	L	R	L	R				
M	A	C	A	R	O	N	D	E
A	L	L	E	G	E	S	A	C
P	R	E	S	E	N	T		
P	R	E	S	E	N	T		
I	L	E	M	N	Y	E	R	
C	R	O	I	S	S	A	N	T
W	S	L	S	D				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

For the soul's welfare

The theme of Adi Sankara's stotra grantha 'Bhaja Govinda,' also known as 'Moha Mudgara,' is to stir in each one of us the desire to know the meaning of our existence in earnest, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. This should be paramount in our life. The acharya's advice to all the jivatmas who are deluded and distracted by the infinite variety in life is to turn our focus inward and chant His name Govinda. The term 'dukrinch karane' in the very first verse, a grammatical principle from Panini's treatise, is symbolic of the secondary merit of material knowledge, as opposed to spiritual awareness. It echoes Vyasa's formula, 'athato brahma jigyasa,' that urges people to gain spiritual jnana by engaging one's thoughts on the nature of the Supreme Brahman rather than on gaining mastery over worldly knowledge which is mostly materialistic.

In our daily life, whatever physical activity one is engaged in, one's mind is always at work in the background. The mind has astonishing power to traverse time and space effortlessly. It is more than cramped with all kinds of thoughts. One has to train the mind to choose only what is most beneficial for the welfare of the atma. For, at the time of death, it is not one's worldly knowledge that will be of any help. The famous Bhagavad Gita sloka that speaks of 'antima kala smarana,' makes it clear that if the departing soul fixes its thoughts on God, that soul is sure to reach Him. The Lord also says that if the soul thinks of something else other than God at the time of death, it will not be able to reach Him. To be able to focus on thoughts of God at the last moment is not easy at all. So one has to prepare oneself to think and meditate on God at all times by conscious practice.

# British PM Johnson vows to 'keep going'

More ministers quit; a group of Cabinet members would ask the PM to resign, local media report

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Boris Johnson on Wednesday refused to quit as British Prime Minister despite a growing number of resignations from his scandal-hit government, piling on pressure as he faced a grilling from angry MPs.

The 58-year-old leader's grip on power appears to be slipping following 10 short minutes on Tuesday night, when Rishi Sunak resigned as Finance Minister and Sajid Javid quit as Health Secretary. Both said they could no longer tolerate the culture of scandal that has dogged Mr. Johnson for months, including lockdown lawbreaking in Downing Street.

A delegation of Cabinet Ministers met with him at his Downing Street office to press him to resign, Britain's Press Agency reported. Longtime loyalist Brandon Lewis was among those demanding he quit.

Earlier on Wednesday, members of the Opposition



**Tight spot:** Boris Johnson during the weekly session of Prime Minister's Questions at the House of Commons. • VIA REUTERS

Labour Party showered Mr. Johnson with shouts of "Go! Go!" during the weekly session of Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons as critics argued the leader's days were numbered following his poor handling of sexual misconduct allegations against a senior official.

But more damningly, members of Mr. Johnson's own Conservative Party — wearied by the many scan-

dals he has faced — also challenged his leader, with one asking whether there was anything that might prompt him to resign.

But brushing off calls to resign, Mr. Johnson told MPs: "Frankly, the job of a Prime Minister in difficult circumstances when you have been handed a colossal mandate is to keep going and that's what I'm going to do."

His fellow Conservatives listened quietly and offered

little support.

Mr. Javid, who helped trigger the current crisis when he resigned on Tuesday night, captured the mood of many lawmakers when he said Mr. Johnson's actions threatened to undermine the integrity of the Conservative Party and the British government. "At some point we have to conclude that enough is enough," he told fellow lawmakers. "I believe that point is now."

Mr. Johnson's grilling in Parliament was the first of two Wednesday. He was also questioned by a committee of senior lawmakers.

Under current party rules, another no-confidence vote cannot be held for another 11 months, but party members can change that rule.

More than 30 Junior Ministers and ministerial aides resigned on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Former Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi was immediately handed the finance brief and

acknowledged the uphill task ahead. "You don't go into this job to have an easy life," Mr. Zahawi said.

On Tuesday, Mr. Johnson apologised for appointing a senior Conservative, who quit his post last week after he was accused of drunkenly groping two men.

Days of shifting explanations had followed the resignation of Deputy Chief Whip Chris Pincher.

Downing Street at first denied Mr. Johnson knew of prior allegations against Mr. Pincher when appointing him in February.

But by Tuesday, that defence had collapsed after a former top civil servant said Mr. Johnson, as Foreign Minister, was told in 2019 about another incident involving his ally.

A snap Savanta ComRes poll Wednesday indicated that three in five Conservative voters say Mr. Johnson cannot re-gain the public's trust, while 72% think he should resign.

# Gotabaya turns to Putin for fuel supplies for Sri Lanka

He also seeks resumption of flights after tourist arrivals hit

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President on Wednesday reached out to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, seeking urgent credit for fuel imports for the crisis-hit island nation, even as Colombo negotiates a support package with the Washington-headquartered International Monetary Fund.

"Had a very productive telecon with the #Russia President, Vladimir Putin. While thanking him for all the support extended by his govt to overcome the challenges of the past, I requested an offer of credit support to import fuel to #lka in defeating the current econ challenges," President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said in a tweet.

Sri Lanka ran out of fuel last week, and the government said it was suspending fuel sales for two weeks to cope with the situation. An aide of a Prime Minister has indicated that supplies will likely arrive by July 22, while hundreds wait for days together in long queues to petrol stations. Colombo earlier dispatched its Ministers to Qatar and Russia to seek help. Scrambling for dollars for essential imports, the government is counting on credit lines from one of its bilateral partners. However, after Colombo opted for a pre-emptive sovereign default in April this year, global oil firms are less forthcoming with credit.

India, as part of its \$3.5 billion assistance this year, earlier extended a \$500 million credit line for fuel imports, and Sri Lanka has sought further credit. However, it appears that any future as-



**Persistent demand:** Police trying to disperse farmers seeking the ouster of Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Colombo. • AFP

sistance from most bilateral partners will depend on Sri Lanka firming up its debt restructure strategy, and the IMF's Extended Fund Facility coming through.

**Optics of outreach**

Apart from seeking credit for fuel, Mr. Rajapaksa also requested Mr. Putin to resume operations of Russia's national carrier to the island nation, suspended following a diplomatic spat last month. Colombo, based on a court order in a commercial dispute, detained a Russian aircraft, leading to a "resolute protest" from Moscow. The court later revoked the order, but Russia's subsequent decision to suspend operations resulted in a high number of tourist cancellations, local media reported.

"Further, I humbly made a request to restart @Aeroflot World operations in #lka. We unanimously agreed that strengthening bilateral relations in sectors such as tourism, trade & culture was paramount in reinforcing the friendship our two nations share," Mr. Rajapaksa said in the twitter thread.

His request to resume operations of the Russian carrier may have further diplomatic consequences, amid other geopolitical tensions. In March this year, Aeroflot announced suspension of its international operations, as western manufacturers, lessors, and repair companies implemented sanctions in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine. In Sri Lanka, the European Union has earlier raised concern with Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Authority over allowing Aeroflot operations, citing questions over its "air-worthiness", *The Hindu* learns.

**Tough negotiations**

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka is struggling to respond to its crippling economic downturn. Even ongoing negotiations with the IMF appear challenging, going by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's remarks in Parliament on Tuesday. "We are now participating in the negotiations as a bankrupt country. Therefore, we have to face a more difficult and complicated situation than previous negotiations," he said.

## July 4 gunman faces 7 counts of murder

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE HIGHLAND PARK

A 21-year-old man who allegedly opened fire on a July 4 parade in a Chicago suburb while disguised in women's clothing was charged with seven counts of first-degree murder on Tuesday, prosecutors said.

Robert Crimo, 21, was arrested on Monday.

"There will be more charges," Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart told reporters. "We anticipate dozens of more charges centered around each of the victims."

## 12 killed as Russia pounds Donetsk

Moscow claims its Air Force destroyed two HIMARS rockets provided by the U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS KRAMATORSK

Russian shelling killed at least eight civilians in Ukraine over the past 24 hours and wounded 25 more, Ukrainian officials said on Wednesday. Pro-Russia separatists said attacks by Ukrainian forces killed four civilians.

The Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's office said Russian forces targeted cities and villages in the country's southeast, with most civilian casualties occurring in Donetsk province, where Russia stepped up its

offensive in recent days.

Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko urged the province's more than 3,500,000 remaining residents to flee late on Tuesday, saying that evacuating Donetsk was necessary to save lives and allow the Ukrainian Army to put up a better defense against the Russian advance.

Donetsk is part of the Donbas, a mostly Russian-speaking industrial area where Ukraine's most experienced soldiers are concentrated. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared the complete sei-

zure of the region's other province, Luhansk, after Ukrainian troops withdrew from the last city under their control.

Luhansk Governor Serhiy Haidai denied on Wednesday that the Russians had completely captured the province. Heavy fighting continued in villages around Lysychansk, the city Ukrainian soldiers withdrew from and which Russian troops took on Sunday, he said.

To the north of Donetsk, Russian forces also hit Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest

city, with missile strikes overnight, the Kharkiv Governor Oleh Syniehubov said on Wednesday on Telegram.

Three districts of the city were targeted, Mr. Syniehubov said.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its air force killed up to 100 Ukrainian troops and destroyed four armored vehicles in Kharkiv.

The Ministry's chief spokesman, Igor Konashenkov, said air-launched high precision missiles also destroyed two HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems the U.S. sent to Ukraine.

## 'Afghan soil won't be used to launch attacks'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ISLAMABAD

Taliban supreme leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada said on Wednesday that Afghan soil will not be used to launch attacks against other countries, and he asked the international community to not interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

The Taliban say they are adhering to an agreement they signed with the U.S. in 2020 — before retaking pow-

er — in which they promised to fight terrorists. Since their takeover last year, they have repeatedly said Afghanistan would not be used as a launching pad for attacks against other countries.

"We assure our neighbours, the region and the world that we will not allow anyone to use our territory to threaten the security of other countries. We also want other countries not to interfere in our internal af-

airs," Akhundzada said in an address ahead of the Eid al-Adha holiday.

The Taliban were ousted by a U.S.-led coalition in 2001 for harbouring Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the 9/11 attacks in the United States. The religious group captured power again in mid-August, during the chaotic last weeks of the U.S. and NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The international com-

munity has been wary of any recognition or cooperation with the Taliban, especially after they restricted the rights of women and minorities.

Akhundzada, the spiritual chief of the Taliban, has remained a reclusive figure. He rose to become the leader of the Islamist movement in a swift transition of power after a 2016 U.S. drone strike killed his predecessor, Mullah Akhtar Mansour.

## 600 inmates escape in attack on Nigeria jail

ASSOCIATED PRESS ABUJA

At least 600 inmates escaped in a jail-break in Nigeria's capital city, officials said on Wednesday, blaming the attack on Islamic extremist rebels. About 300 have been recaptured, authorities said.

Explosions and gunfire were heard at about 10 p.m. in the Kuje area of Abuja when the attackers arrived and forced their way into the prison through a hole created by the explosives.

The rebels attacked the prison with "very high-grade explosives," killing one guard, said Shuaib Belgore, permanent secretary of Nigeria's Ministry of Interior.

The extremists have waged an insurgency in the country's northeast for over a decade.

## U.S., U.K. issue warnings over Chinese espionage

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON

The heads of the U.S. and British intelligence agencies raised alarms on Wednesday about the Chinese government, warning business leaders that Beijing is determined to steal their technology for competitive gain.

FBI Director Christopher Wray reaffirmed previous concerns in denouncing economic espionage and hacking operations by China as well as the Chinese government's efforts to stifle dissent abroad.

M15 Director-General Ken McCallum said the Chinese government and its "covert pressure across the globe" amounts to "the most game-changing challenge we face." "We need to talk about it. We need to act."

**TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, TWAD BOARD, MADURAI.

**SECOND EXTENSION NOTICE No.2 / Dt.05.07.2022 (E- Submission)**  
Ref: 1. This Office IFB: 04 & 05/F.Oddanchatram CWSS/JJM/ SDO / CW / Dt. 11.05.2022  
2. This Office Tender Extension Notice No.1 /Dt.20.06.2022 (1 Extension)

The receipt & opening of tenders called for in the reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited is extended as under:

<b>Name of Work :</b> Providing CWSS to Oddanchatram Municipality, Keeranur and Neikkarapatti Town Panchayats and 506 rural Habitations in Dindigul District with Bulk provision to 22 rural habitations in Tiruppur District with river Azhivar as source including paid maintenance for a period of 5 years. (Period of completion – 18 months)	
<b>1. Package I</b>	
<b>2. Package II</b>	
Period of sale of bid documents	upto 17.45 hours on 02.08.2022
Last date for receipt of tenders	upto 15.00 hours on 03.08.2022
Opening of tenders	at 15.30 hours on 04.08.2022

The other terms and conditions remain unaltered.

DIPR/3280/TENDER/2022 **தேவை இந்நாட்டளம் - குடிநீர் சிகிச்சை** Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai  
**சொந்தரை வட்டி கட்டுதல் அடங்கலம், சந்தரை பரிந்து சித்திரம் படைப்பதம்**

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU - WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**THAMIRAPARANI BASIN CIRCLE, TIRUNELVELI-2**

**TENDER NOTICE NO. 3<sup>rd</sup> / T.B.C / TNY / 2022-2023 DATED 05.07.2022**  
**FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMP SUM (TWO COVER SYSTEM)**  
**PRE QUALIFICATION - RATE TENDER SYSTEM**

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public works Department in the First Class to the Office of Superintending Engineer, WRD., Thamiraparani Basin Circle, Tirunelveli – 627 002. One sealed tender (Two cover system) consisting of two separate covers one for Pre-Qualification with EMD and other one for price tender for the work of (1) Reconstruction of Bridge across Palayankal at Thirumalaikulunthapuram village, Melapattam village and Keelamuneerpallam village of Palayamkottai Taluk in Tirunelveli District & Reconstruction of Bridge across Tirunelveli channel near Arasadi Vinayagar Temple in Tirunelveli Town of Tirunelveli Taluk and District and (2) Flood protection works to Kadambakulam surplus course, Marudur Melakal in Thoothukudi District with the name of works duly super scribed in all the covers.

Tender Schedule Available Date	15.07.2022 to 16.08.2022 upto 5.45 P.M.
Tender Schedule Receiving Date	upto 3.00 P.M. on 17.08.2022
Tender Schedule opening at	3.30 P.M. on the same day
Total No. of works	2 (Two)
Approximate Total value of all works	Rs. 3613.70 Lakhs

For further details and tender documents visit the website [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)  
(If any changes / Corrections / Corrigendum in the tender, it will be published in the above Government Website only)

DIPR/3271/Tender/2022 Superintending Engineer, WRD (I/c), Thamiraparani Basin Circle, Tirunelveli-2  
**சொந்தரை வட்டி கட்டுதல் அடங்கலம், சந்தரை பரிந்து சித்திரம் படைப்பதம்**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL**

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Nisha Rathore D/o Parmod Singh R/o C-3/35, Gali No.2, Nangli Vihar Ext. Baprola, Delhi Aged-21 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 22.03.2022 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi vide **DD No.134-A, Dated 23.03.2022** registered at Police Station Ranhola, Delhi. Her physical description is as under-

**Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'2". **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Black coloured kurta and Blue dark jeans.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Ranhola, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Ranhola, Delhi  
DP/1701/OD/2022 Tel.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

**Nisha Rathore**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that this girl **Namely:** Kajal Kumari, D/o Sh. Mantu Seth, R/o: H.No. 2099/1, Gali No. 15, Prem Nagar, Baljeet Nagar, Delhi and **Permanent Address:** New Market Tallu Mahan, Bakhsar, Bihar, **Age:** 17 Years 08 Month, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Golden Colour Payjami, Blue and White Colour lining (striped) Kurti and Black Colour Shoes in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 23.06.2022 from the area of P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 415/22, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 24.06.2022** has been registered at P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform to the following:-

**SHO**  
**E-Mail ID:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi**  
**Fax:** 011-23011334 **Ph.:** 011-25872637, 25874034, 8750870434  
**DP/1627/CD/2022**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one female **Namely Sakshi D/o Raj Kumar R/o H. No. S-27B/438, VP Singh Camp, Pul Prahlad Pur, New Delhi** has been missing since 23.05.2022 from her house in the jurisdiction of P.S: Pul Prahlad Pur South-East Distt, Delhi. In this regard, a case **DD No. 26 -A Dated 24.05.2022** has been registered at P.S. Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi. The description of the missing female is as under.

**Age:** 18 Years, **Height:** 5'2" **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal **Wearing:** Pink colour Kurti and Blue colour jeans and hawai chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing female then please inform P.S. Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.

**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641** Sd/- S.H.O.  
**Fax No. 011-24368639** Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi  
**DP/223/SE/2022** Tel No. 011-26366802

**SAKSHI**

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 70-75 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black Color Jacket and Red Color Shirt, Orange Lungi, was found dead at Front of Gate Baba Nagpal Hospital, CDR Chowk Chhattarpur, New Delhi, 05.07.2022.

In this regard a **DD No. 60-A, dated 05.07.2022** has been lodged at P.S. Mehrauli, New 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 the deceased has been preserved in AIIMS Mortuary for Identification for 72 Hrs.

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

**SHO**  
**DP/302/SD/2022** **P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi.**  
**ZIPNET NO-UIDS-MEH-0045-2022** **Ph.: 011-26643200, 8750870824**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
**(Through e-tendering)**

<b>Name of work with its location</b>	"Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of the Telecom work (Indoor & Outdoor) for provision for Tunnel Radio System for VHF Simplex Communication in 12 Tunnels (T1, T2, T4, T8, T15, T16, T17, T23, T24, T25, T26 and T27) in Jammu Tawi-Udhampur - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Section of Firozpur Division of Northern Railway".
<b>App. Cost of the work (₹)</b>	₹ 14,34,23,265/-only
<b>Tender Document Fee (₹)</b>	₹ NIL.
<b>Bid Security Amount (₹)</b>	₹ 8,67,100/-only
<b>Address of the office</b>	Deputy Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/MO, Northern Railway, 2nd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
<b>Date &amp; Time for upload the tender / closing of tender</b>	Tender closing /Uploading date & time- 22.08.2022 up to 11:30 hrs.
<b>Website particular &amp; notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.</b>	See the Northern Railway website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

Tender No. 561-SIG-NMO-TUNNEL RADIO-02-2022 Dated: 06.07.2022 1673/2022

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one person **Namely Prakash Babu S/o Ratan Mala R/o gali No.07, Sushila Garden, Pratap Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the jurisdiction of P.S-Harsh Vihar, Delhi. Since, 03.06.2022 In this regard, a case **DD No. 03A dated 04.06.2022** has been registered at P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing / kidnaped person is as under.

**Age:** 40 years, **Height:** 6', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue colour T-Shirt and Yellow colour Pajama and chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the kidnapped/missing person then please inform P.S. Harsh Vihar Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.

**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641** Sd/- S.H.O.  
**Fax No. 011-24368639** Harsh Vihar, Delhi  
**DP/1739/NE/2022** Tel No. 22342074

**PRAKASH BABU**

MARKET WATCH

	06-07-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,751	1.16
US Dollar	78.94	0.49
Gold	51,304	-1.43
Brent oil	100.25	-1.82

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	694.35	15.60
Apollo Hosp	3883.50	66.10
Asian Paints	2867.40	94.90
Axis Bank	657.95	9.45
Bajaj Auto	3773.05	90.30
Bajaj Finserv	12028.50	503.80
Bajaj Finance	5916.70	255.60
Bharti Airtel	693.95	9.50
BPCIL	321.30	8.20
Britannia Ind	3830.80	174.20
Cipla	945.60	8.20
Coal India	181.70	-0.75
Divis Lab	3644.80	34.75
Dr Reddys Lab	4390.00	-4.20
Eicher Motors	2907.95	102.35
Grasim Ind	1369.65	19.90
HCL Tech	986.60	4.45
HDFC	2229.50	26.60
HDFC Bank	1371.25	18.65
HDFC Life	557.45	-7.40
Hero MotoCorp	2831.80	94.55
Hindalco	340.95	-4.30
Hind Unilever	2498.40	96.90
ICIPI Bank	725.95	6.50
IndusInd Bank	836.55	12.50
Infosys	1491.65	15.70
ITC	289.30	2.40
JSW Steel	554.55	1.90
Kotak Bank	1704.50	41.45
L&T	1556.15	-8.75
M&M	1104.55	22.60
Maruti Suzuki	8630.05	281.35
Nestle India Ltd.	18388.65	403.65
NTPC	138.95	-1.90
ONGC	120.95	-6.45
PowerGrid Corp	210.45	-3.70
Reliance Ind	2411.85	-21.40
SBI Life	1116.10	5.10
State Bank	479.95	7.80
Surechem	19990.85	425.10
Sun Pharma	837.70	1.90
Tata Consumer	749.95	20.90
Tata Motors	416.35	4.35
Tata Steel	858.15	-2.00
TCS	3260.75	44.45
Tech Mahindra	1009.90	6.70
Titan	2013.55	59.30
UltraTech Cement	5828.05	98.10
UPL	662.50	6.10
Wipro	416.05	2.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.10	79.42
Euro	80.71	81.04
British Pound	94.34	94.73
Japanese Yen (100)	58.42	58.66
Chinese Yuan	11.80	11.85
Swiss Franc	81.45	81.79
Singapore Dollar	56.33	56.57
Canadian Dollar	60.65	60.90
Malaysian Ringgit	17.87	17.95
Australian Dollar	53.80	54.06

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



'Unprecedented inflation impacted consumption'

NEW DELHI  
FMCG firm Dabur said consumption pressure continued across the sector in the April-June quarter of FY23 on account of 'unprecedented inflation', which has impacted the share of the income available for spending on consumer staples. "This was witnessed across urban and rural markets," Dabur said. PTI

City Union Bank to raise up to ₹500 cr. via QIP

NEW DELHI  
City Union Bank on Wednesday said it will raise ₹500 crore from qualified institutional players. The board of directors at a meeting approved raising of further capital through the QIP route to the tune of ₹500 crore, City Union Bank said in a regulatory filing. The lender said that its AGM was scheduled to be held on August 18, 2022, and it would seek shareholders' approval for the capital raise plan. PTI

Good Glamm announces international division

NEW DELHI  
Beauty and personal care brand The Good Glamm Group on Wednesday announced an international division as it looks to expand to West Asia and Southeast Asia to garner \$150 million revenue from international markets over the next 3 years. The company added that it had also restructured its business into three key divisions — Good Brands, Good Media and Good Creator — to build revenue synergies.

Reliance Retail to bring Gap range to India

MUMBAI  
Reliance Retail Ltd. (RRL) said it had entered into a long-term franchise agreement with Gap Inc. to bring the American fashion brand to India. Through this agreement, Reliance Retail said it had become the official retailer for Gap across all channels in India. The firm said it would introduce Gap's latest offerings to Indian consumers through exclusive brands stores, multi-brand stores and digital platforms.

# RBI eases rules to boost forex inflows

It relaxes interest rates on NRIs' foreign currency deposits, doubles overseas borrowing limit for firms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday announced a slew of temporary measures aimed at boosting foreign exchange inflows, including a doubling in the overseas borrowing limit for corporates and removal of interest rate ceilings for NRIs' foreign currency deposits. The move comes as persistent capital outflows and a widening trade deficit have led to a sharp depreciation in the Indian rupee to new lows against the dollar.

Observing that the rupee had depreciated by 4.1% against the dollar (upto July 5) so far this financial year, the RBI asserted that, barring portfolio investments, capital flows remained stable with an adequate level of re-



Joining battle: The RBI says move is aimed at helping mitigate volatility and dampening global spillovers. • AFP

serves providing a buffer against external shocks. India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$593.3 billion as on June 24, supplemented by a substantial stock of net forward assets, it said.

"The Reserve Bank has been closely and continuous-

ly monitoring the liquidity conditions in the forex market and has stepped in as needed in all its segments to alleviate dollar tightness with the objective of ensuring orderly market functioning. In order to further diversify and expand the sources

of forex funding so as to mitigate volatility and dampen global spillovers, it has been decided to undertake measures... to enhance forex inflows while ensuring overall macroeconomic and financial stability," the RBI added. As part of the measures, banks have been exempted from maintaining the stipulated Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) on incremental FCNR(B) and NRE term deposits mobilised up to November 4. "It has been decided that with effect from the reporting fortnight beginning July 30, incremental FCNR(B) and NRE deposits with reference base date of July 1, 2022, will be exempt from the maintenance of CRR and SLR," the RBI said. It also freed banks to temporarily raise fresh FCNR(B) and NRE deposits without reference to extant regulations on interest rates, with effect from July 7 and up to October 31, 2022.

**FPI debt norms loosened**  
To encourage foreign portfolio investment into debt, the RBI said the choice of government bonds available for investment under the fully accessible route (FAR) would be widened, with all new issuances of G-Secs of 7-year and 14-year tenors, including the current issuances of 7.10% GS 2029 and 7.54% GS 2036, designated as specified securities.

The RBI also temporarily doubled the annual limit for External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) to \$1.5 billion or its equivalent.

# IRDAI okays tech-based add-ons for motor cover

It also permits floater insurance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has permitted general insurers to introduce technology-enabled add-ons to motor own damage (OD) insurance cover.

Pay-as-you-drive, pay-how-you-drive and floater policy for vehicles belonging to the same individual owner for two wheelers and private cars are add-ons it has allowed.

These will be provided as add-ons to the basic policy of Motor OD and are expected to give much-needed fillip to the cover in the country and raise penetration, the regulator said on Wednesday. The objective in allowing such covers is that

motor insurance becomes more affordable, especially for customers who primarily opt for only third-party (TP) insurance and overlook the benefits of OD covers, chief technical officer of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance T.A. Ramalingam said. He added that such initiatives were a push in the right direction in increasing much-needed penetration of motor insurance in India. With the latest circular, the insured can also purchase one add-on cover on a floater basis for multiple vehicles he/she owns, be it four-wheelers or two-wheelers, he said.

The changes will do away with the 'standard premium for all', said Reliance General's CEO Rakesh Jain.

## Govt. releases 4th tranche of PDRD grant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Wednesday released the fourth instalment of revenue deficit grant of ₹7,183 crore to 14 States for the current fiscal.

The States for which Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant had been recommended by the 15th Finance Commission during FY23 are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The 15th Finance Commission had recommended a total PDRD Grant of ₹86,201 crore to 14 States for FY23.

## Inflation hits FMCG sector 'hard', says Godrej

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The country's FMCG industry continued to be 'hit hard by inflation levels' leading to successive price increases as well as to an impact on volumes during the three months ended June, according to Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL).

In its update for the first quarter of the current fiscal, the FMCG player also said rural markets witnessed slower growth compared with the urban segment.

The company would have 'mid-single-digit' volumes drop on a high base, with a 3-year volume CAGR close to mid-single digits, in the domestic market, as per the update.

## NINL to restart in 3 months: Tata Steel MD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Tata Steel aims to restart the 1-million tonne NINL steel mill in the next three months, CEO and Managing Director T.V. Narendran said on Wednesday.

Tata Steel on Monday completed the acquisition of NINL through its subsidiary Tata Steel Long Products for a consideration of ₹12,000 crore.

The Odisha-based plant has been closed for almost two years.

"We hope to get the production started in the next 3 months and ramp up to the rated capacity over the next 12 months," Mr. Narendran told PTI to a query on the strategy for the newly acquired steel plant.

## Independent directors of FRL failed to act: Amazon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Amazon alleged that independent directors of Future Retail had failed to exercise their statutory duties and that their 'conduct and attitude' raised substantial questions on accountability, transparency and the fairness regime for corporate governance in India.

In a letter to Future Retail's independent directors on July 4, Amazon also raised objection to an alleged attempt by the Future Group to transfer its logistics and warehousing business to Reliance in violation of binding legal orders.

In August 2020, Future Group had announced a

## CESC flags rising fuel cost as constraint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

The rapidly rising cost of fuel, owing to the Russia-Ukraine crisis and demand-supply factors, is a short-to-medium-term constraint, said CESC chairman Sanjay Goenka.

He added that in such a scenario, it was vital for power producers and distributors to be able to pass on higher fuel costs via tariffs. "Unfortunately, while this forms a part of each power supply contract, we still see reluctance of State governments and regulators to give their assent in a timely manner. "This, in turn, negatively affects the financial results of power producers," he said in the annual report for FY22.

## Aiwa targets \$1-bn revenue from India in 5 years: MD

Unveils 'MAGNIFIQ' TVs from ₹29,990

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Japanese consumer durables firm Aiwa plans to diversify its product portfolio in India to foray into categories such as ACs, washing machines and refrigerators as it eyes a revenue of \$1 billion from the country in the next four to five years, said MD India Ajay Mehta.

The company, which on Wednesday entered the television market with the unveiling of the 'MAGNIFIQ' series at prices ranging from ₹29,990-1,39,990, said it would also be investing about ₹20 million (about ₹160 crore) in the next two years in expansion.

"We already have audio products in the market. Now, with the launch of our TVs, we aim to close the current fiscal with revenues of about \$50 million," Mr. Mehta said. "Our intent for



Ajay Mehta • PTI

the next 4-5 years is to be a \$1-billion business in India. The aim is to have revenue of about ₹8,000 crore over the next 4-5 years," he added.

Mr. Mehta said to achieve the target of \$1 billion, the company needs to diversify its products portfolio.

According to industry estimates, the television market in India is pegged at \$70-90 million, growing at about 8-9% annually. Aiwa India aims to garner 5% market share in TVs in five years.

## ALL plans alternate fuels across fleet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland said it had developed a roadmap with alternate fuel sources to deploy green energy vehicles across its fleet.

"We have developed a roadmap covering CNG, LNG, hydrogen, fuel cell and battery electric vehicles to cater to different applications and customer needs," chairman Dheeraj Hinduja said in the company's 73rd annual report.

"Action is already on to extend CNG and LNG across the full range of trucks and buses," he said.

"We are pursuing a proactive approach to develop technologies in the areas of safety, digital, and green energy," Mr. Hinduja added. With regard to safety, the company said it is working on enabling various levels of advanced drive assistance systems.

## NCLT allows IDBI to change liquidator

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Chennai has allowed a plea by IDBI Bank to replace the liquidator of Jeypore Sugar Company. The tribunal said it had powers to remove the liquidator.

An insolvency petition against the company was admitted in 2019 and in 2020, the tribunal had ordered liquidation and V. Venkata Sivakumar was appointed liquidator. IDBI Bank said the liquidator did not possess valid authorisation for assignment as required under regulation 7A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Resolution Professionals) Regulations, 2016, and sought his removal.

## TVS eyes 1 lakh unit sales for 'Ronin' this fiscal year

Company invests ₹100 cr. for product

N. ANAND  
GOA

TVS Motor Company on Wednesday announced its foray into the premium lifestyle segment with the roll-out of an industry-first 'modern retro' 225 cc motorcycle TVS Ronin starting at ₹1.49 lakh (ex-showroom). "Targeted at new-age riders, the bike offers a combination of style, riding comfort and technology," K.N. Radhakrishnan, director and CEO, told reporters at the unveiling.

"The company has invested more than ₹100 crore for developing this product," he added. "We are creating a new category. During this fiscal, we hope to sell about 100,000 units. TVS Ronin



will be exported to Asia, Middle East, LATAM and ASEAN countries," he said.

"The launch of TVS Ronin is a significant milestone for us," Sudarshan Venu, MD, said in a statement.

Mr. Radhakrishnan said the bike had an indigenisation level of 98%. (The writer was in Goa at the invitation of TVS Motor Company)

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI**  
Marketing Department e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for supply of "26,000 Tins agmark (each tin 15 kgs net) of Refined Sun Flower Oil through e-tenders" for a period of 04 months to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender Notice and tender details log on to the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.aeprocurement.gov.in>. For further details contact Phone Numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No.0877-2264554.

Roc.No.PR4/13944/Adv.No.118/PRO/2022, Dated:05-07-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited, Jaipur**  
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005  
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065, E-mail: edepmms-rj@nic.in

No. F-80/RMSC/EP/2022-23/41 Date: 1.7.22

**Notice Inviting Bids**  
Bid for item Pulse Oxymeter (Finger Tip), are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 01.07.2022, 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website "<https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>" or "[www.dipronline.org](http://www.dipronline.org)" or "<https://proc.rajasthan.gov.in>" or website "<http://msc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>"  
UBN:- MSC2223GLRC00035 Executive Director (EPM) Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Jaipur

Raj. Samwad/C/4459/2022-23

**Petronet LNG Limited**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)  
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR ASSISTANCE IN MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AT PETRONET LNG LIMITED, DAHEJ

Interested parties are requested to visit our website [www.petronetltd.com](http://www.petronetltd.com) for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of Tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification shall be issued in press. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated.

Deputy Manager (C&P)  
PETRONET LNG LIMITED  
GIDC Industrial Estate, Plot No. 7/A, Dahej, Taluka -Vagra, Dist. Bharuch - 392130, Dahej, Gujarat, Tel. No.: 02641-670232/233/235/231 E-mail id:- cpndahej@petronetltd.com, sumitkumar@petronetltd.com

**KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - TENDER NOTICE**  
PUBLIC NOTICE

Sub:- Expression of Interest (EOI) for appointment of Actuary for valuation of terminal liabilities of Kerala State Electricity Board Limited - Regarding

Kerala State Electricity Board Limited invites EOI from the registered certified actuaries for undertaking valuation assessment of pension, commutation of pension, gratuity and leave encashment liability of its employees (both for existing and retired employees) on quarterly and yearly basis for a period of three financial years viz. Financial year 2022-23 to 2024-25, in accordance with the IndAS-19. EOI documents containing the scope of work, instruction to bidders, selection criteria, Bid Format etc. can be downloaded from [www.kseb.in](http://www.kseb.in)

Eligible parties may send their offers in sealed envelope in the prescribed format along with supporting documents so as to reach the O/o the Financial Adviser, Kerala State Electricity Board Limited, 5th Floor, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Pattom Palace P.O., Thiruvananthapuram 695004, latest by 5.00 P.M. on 16.07.2022

Ref: PR/MC/1F251/2022

Government of Tamil Nadu  
**HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT**  
Chennai Construction and Maintenance Circle

**Tender Notice No. 17/2022-2023/HDO/Dated :05.07.2022**  
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Schedule tender through online only will be received upto 27.07.2022 at 11.30 AM by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for works under Permanent Flood Mitigation work (1 work) pertaining to Chennai City Roads (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available from 11.07.2022 onwards in the Government website <https://tenders.gov.in>. If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle.

DIPR/3268/Tender/2022  
"சென்னை வட்டத்துக்குள் அனைத்து இடங்களிலும், எந்தவித பரிந்துரையும் இல்லாமல் பண்படுத்தப்படும்".

**AURANGABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AURANGABAD**

**E-Tender Notice 2022 - 2023**  
Recall Notice (II Call)

E-Tender in B-1 form for the following work invited by the Municipal Administrator, Municipal Corporation, Aurangabad (M.S.)

**Name of Work :** Construction of Cement Concrete Roads at Various Places in Aurangabad City Package - B.

**Tender Value :** Rs. 42,52,36,586.00

Please Visit <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for detailed information from Date : 05-07-2022.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer - Roads  
Municipal Corporation Aurangabad.

**KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.**  
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)  
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014  
Tel: 0471-2945646, 2945600  
Website: [www.kmscl.gov.in](http://www.kmscl.gov.in), E-mail: enquiry@kmscl.kerala.gov.in  
CIN No. U24333KL09780021616

No. KMSC/EP/12463/2022 Dated: 06.07.2022

**e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)**  
Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T452/2022	Medical Gas Pipe Line for GMC Konni, Modular Laboratory furniture for GMC Konni.	14.07.2022 11.00 a.m.	27.07.2022 05.00 p.m.
2.	T453/2022	Laboratory Equipments required for GMC Konni, Microscope-Variuos Types, VDR/L Rotator, Distilled water Plant-Variuos Types, Bicarbonate Mixer	15.07.2022 11.00 a.m.	29.07.2022 05.00 p.m.
3.	T454/2022	Spectrophotometer, Densitometer with computer, PCR Machine, Fume Hood, Automated Rotary Microtome, Fully Manual Rotary Microtome, Multichannel Pipettes, Refrigerated Blood Transport Box-Variuos Types, RH View Box, Refrigerator - Variuos Types, Water Bath-Variuos Types, Weighing Balance-Variuos Types.	18.07.2022 11.00 a.m.	06.08.2022 05.00 p.m.
4.	T455/2022	RO water 100 LPH for autoclaves, Stretcher trolley higher end with CPR Facility, Polygraph, Multichannel Physiograph - 3 channels, OT Light Shadowless Microtome single dome, OT Light Shadowless ceiling mount single dome, Labour Cot, Fetal Doppler, Deep Freezer -20 degree, Ice Lined Refrigerator, Haemoglobinometer.	19.07.2022 11.00 a.m.	06.08.2022 05.00 p.m.
5.	T456/2022	Variuos Glass ware and chemicals for GMC Konni, Variuos furniture for Academic and Hospital Block of GMC Konni, Multilevel Racking System with Material Lift, Multilevel Shelving Light Duty Shelving, Medicine Rack, Modular Office Work Station, Material Trolley	20.07.2022 05.00 p.m.	10.08.2022 05.00 p.m.
6.	T457/2022	Functional Trainer Cum Multi Gym	N.A.	19.07.2022 05.00 p.m.
7.	T458(R)/2022	Dialysis Consumables, Negative Pressure Water Therapy System with Installation device, Neonatal Resuscitation Unit, Cervical and Lumbar Traction, Micro Slides, Portable Echo Machine - Pediatric and Neonatal, Embedding Station, Multi Stainer Work Station, Comprehensive Sleep Study 16 Channel, Hand Held Pulse Oximeter, High End Head Light with Rechargeable Battery, Urea Breath Analyzer	N.A.	19.07.2022 05.00 p.m.

**QUOTATION**  
Sealed Quotations are invited for the supply of the following items

Sl. No.	Description	Quantity	Rate	Last date of Online submission
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# The Indians lacked self-belief and failed to sustain the intensity

Both the batting and famed bowling have faltered in the decisive second innings in the last three away Tests; Dravid has enough issues on his plate

**INDIA IN ENG**  
S. DINAKAR  
CHENNAI  
A marauding England rocketing to a demanding target of 378 at Edgbaston sent all the wrong signals from an Indian perspective.  
At the start of the final day, the host still needed 119 runs. Couple of early wickets and the England batting could have imploded.  
**Innocuous bowling**  
But the Indian bowling was so innocuous and the players' body language so flat that it was clear the side lacked the belief, the key at-

tribute in any professional sport.  
Test cricket is all about maintaining intensity over five days. Here physical attributes intertwine with mental strength.  
India's last three Tests on foreign soil have seen the side taking its foot off the gas, unable to retain its intensity levels.  
India has failed in the big decisive moments. Both the batting and famed bowling have faltered in the decisive second innings.  
India was full of beans entering the second Test at Wanderers early this year after winning the first to raise



PATAUDI TROPHY  
visions of a first ever Test-series triumph in South Africa. In a contest of swinging

INDIA-ENGLAND TEST SERIES IN NUMBERS						
BATTING	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Root	5	9	737	180*	105.28	4/1
Bairdston	5	9	404	114*	50.50	2/1
Rohit	4	8	368	127	52.57	1/2
Pant	5	9	349	146	38.77	1/2
Rahul	4	8	315	129	39.37	1/1
BOWLING	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	SR	5WI
Bumrah	5	9	23	5/64	48.7	1
Robinson	4	8	21	5/65	47.5	2
Anderson	5	10	21	5/60	58.3	2
Siraj	5	9	18	4/32	51.1	0
Shami	4	7	13	4/95	61.7	0

fortunes, South Africa was given a target of 240 on a treacherous wicket with nasty bounce.  
However, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami dis-

appointed. Skipper Dean Elgar, taking blows on his body, was unbeaten on a blood and guts 96 and the Proteas were home by seven wickets.  
The seamers needed to bowl around the good length area and attempt to seam the ball rather than trying to swing it and over-pitching in the process. And India seemed to be holding all the aces when a rejuvenated Rishabh Pant and Virat Kohli had added more than 90 for the fifth wicket in the Indian second innings in the decider at Cape Town.  
India had the opportunity to take the game away from South Africa. Then Kohli

chased a delivery on the seven stump from Lungi Ngidi, was held in the cordon, and India collapsed. Pant remained unbeaten on 100 but India ended up with just 198.  
A target of 212 was still defendable on a tricky pitch of seam movement and bounce, but the Indians failed to cling on to sharp chances and the pacemen, as at Edgbaston, bowled on both sides.  
**Dispirited attack**  
At Edgbaston, the Indian attack was dispirited, without control or consistency.  
Shardul Thakur's pace and effectiveness have

dropped, Ravindra Jadeja bowled a defensive over-the-wicket line and Mohammed Siraj has forgotten how to bowl with an upright seam.  
**No extra bite**  
Bumrah and Shami do not seem to be having the extra bite in their bowling that made them so dangerous. With the England batters possessing high back-lift why didn't we see more yorkers?  
In the days ahead, coach Rahul Dravid has enough issues to think about while dealing with a Test squad that has struggled earlier in South Africa and now in England.

## Dhawan to lead India in WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI  
Shikhar Dhawan was on Wednesday named India captain for the three ODIs against the West Indies in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, while Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant were among those who have been rested for the series beginning on July 22 in Port of Spain. Ravindra Jadeja has been named Dhawan's deputy.  
Two other senior players, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Shami have also been rested.  
Hardik Pandya, who recently made his India comeback following a successful IPL, is also not a part of the side.  
**The ODI squad:** Shikhar Dhawan (Capt.), Ravindra Jadeja (Vice-capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasad Krishna, Mohd. Siraj, and Arshdeep Singh.  
**The schedule:** July 22, 24 and 27, all at Port of Spain, 7 p.m. IST start.

# India's quest for best XI for T20 World Cup continues

Rohit back at the helm as the visitors take on England in the first of the three-match series today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SOUTHAMPTON  
Experimentation will go out of the window as India will get down to finalising their best eleven for the World Cup during the three-match T20 series against an ultra-aggressive England, beginning here on Thursday.  
Skipper Rohit Sharma, who missed the fifth Test in Birmingham after contracting COVID-19, will be travelling to the port city on Wednesday and is expected to feature in the series-opener. Test players including Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant will join the T20 squad from the second game onwards.  
**Another chance**  
Their absence would give fringe players like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson one more game to make a statement though they seem to have fallen in the pecking order in India's list of probabilities for the World Cup in Australia.  
With Kohli expected to be back at No. 3 from game two,



Deepak Hooda will be aiming for another match-winning effort to keep himself in the mix.  
In the bowling department, pacer Umran Malik will be brimming with confidence after defending 17 runs in the last over of a high-scoring second T20 against Ireland. However, he remains a work in progress and needs to improve on his accuracy. Yuzvendra Chahal is expected to replace Ravi Bishnoi in the eleven.  
For England, the series marks the beginning of the Jos Buttler era following the retirement of Eoin Morgan. Ben Stokes and star of the

### India-England in T20is

Overall	Matches 19	India 10	England 9
In England	Matches 6	India 2	England 4

- 2009: England won by three runs, Lord's
- 2011: England won by six wickets, Manchester
- 2014: England won by three runs, Birmingham
- 2018: India won by eight wickets, Manchester
- 2018: England won by five wickets, Cardiff
- 2018: India won by seven wickets, Bristol

#### TOP PERFORMERS\* FOR INDIA

Most runs	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
Kohli#	5	180	66	133.33	0/1
Rohit	5	147	100 n.o.	138.67	1/0

#Kohli is in the squad for the second and third T20is

Most wickets	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W
Hardik	3	6	4/38	8.25	1

#### FOR ENGLAND

Most runs	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
Buttler	4	127	69	135.10	0/1
Roy	4	120	67	164.38	0/1

Most wickets	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W
Wiley	3	3	1/18	7.72	0

\*Players from the current squads and their performances in India-England T20is in England

**THE SCHEDULE | July 7: Southampton, 10.30 p.m. | July 9: Birmingham, 7 p.m. | July 10: Nottingham, 7 p.m.**

'Time will tell if Test loss will impact T20is'  
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SOUTHAMPTON  
India is defeated and dejected now. But skipper Rohit Sharma on Wednesday said only "time will tell" how the crushing loss at Edgbaston impacts the side in the long run.  
India let slip a golden opportunity to record its first series win in England since 2007 as the hosts, in an incredible turnaround, recorded their highest-ever run chase in Test cricket.  
**Disappointing**  
"It's obviously disappointing to not come out as victors. The Test series was for India to win. That said, time will tell whether that loss will have any impact in the T20I and ODI series against England," Rohit said on the eve of the first T20I here.  
"That was a different format and this will be a different one," Rohit, who missed the rescheduled Test after contracting the viral infection, added.

## India looks to sweep series



Key batters: Smriti and Shafali, after a relatively poor start to the campaign, have come into form. • PTI

**INDIA IN SL**  
PALLEKELE  
A confident India will look to complete the formalities and assert its supremacy by completing a whitewash of Sri Lanka in the third and final women's ODI here on Thursday. India won the opening two games to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The visitors had bagged the preceding T20I series 2-1.  
Chasing similar targets, India looked much more confident in the second ODI as it galloped to 10-wicket win on Monday.  
India controlled all aspects of the game. It was the kind of dominant display expected out of Harmanpreet Kaur and her troops. Star opener Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma finally joined the party with unbeaten half centuries.  
The duo, that had struggled to build a decent partnership and provide electrifying starts in the first ODI and the T20 series, would be keen for an encore in the final game.  
New full-time skipper Harmanpreet has been in-

**I felt if it was a good ball, I would rather go for a single. I wanted to play long innings**  
SHAFALI  
dia's most consistent player this series. While India's spinners ruled the roost on the slow tracks in the T20s, the ODI series has belonged to pacer Renuka Singh, who has picked up seven wickets including a career best 4/28.  
A 3-0 win will also boost the visitors' confidence ahead of the Birmingham-Commonwealth Games.  
**The squads:** India: Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia, S Meghana, Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Simran Bahadur, Richa Ghosh, Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh, Taniya Bhatia, Harleen Deol.  
**Sri Lanka:** Chamari Athapaththu, Nilakshi de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Vishmi Gunaratne, Ama Kanchana, Hansima Karunaratne, Achini Kulasinghani, Sugandika Kumari, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Hasini Perera, Udesika Prabodhani, Oshadi Ranasinghe Inoka Ranaweera, Sathya Sandeepani, Anushka Sanjeevani, Malsha Shehani, Tharika Sewwandi.  
Match starts 10 a.m. IST.

## Kohli slips out of top-10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI  
India's star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant blazed his way into a career-best fifth spot in the latest ICC Test rankings on Wednesday, even as Virat Kohli dropped out of top-10 for the first time in six years.  
Pant's meteoric rise in the rankings comes after his heroics in the COVID-delayed fifth Test between India and England in which he scored 146 and 57 across two innings. Pant has scored two tons and three half centuries in his last six Test innings.  
However, Kohli dropped four places to 13th in the batting rankings. It is for the first time in six years that Kohli has found himself out of top 10 in the Test rankings.  
Rohit Sharma, who missed the Edgbaston Test after testing COVID-19 positive, dropped one place.  
England batter Joe Root consolidated his position at the top with 923 points, with Australians Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith taking second and third spots respectively.  
Kohli. • GETTY IMAGES

# Resilient Nadal defies odds, scripts an epic win over Fritz

Spaniard takes a medical time-out in the second set after losing the first, prevails in fifth set tiebreaker



REUTERS  
LONDON  
A hurting Rafa Nadal exhibited heroic mental strength to edge out American 11th seed Taylor Fritz in a final set tiebreaker in a captivating Wimbledon quarterfinal on Wednesday and kept alive his quest for a calendar year Grand Slam.  
Struggling with an abdominal injury, Nadal appeared close to retiring mid-match on Centre Court but found the will to beat the 24-year-old Fritz 3-6, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10-4) in four hours and 20 minutes to set up a semifinal showdown with Australian maverick Nick Kyrgios.  
Fritz, who beat Nadal in the final at Indian Wells to put an end to the Spaniard's 20-match winning run at the start of the 2022 season, overturned an early deficit to race through the opening set, winning five straight games from 1-3, 0-30 down.  
The 36-year-old Nadal, who won the Australian and French Open titles back-to-back this year for the first time in his career, left the court for a medical time-out for an abdominal issue with his father fervently urging him from the player's box to put an end to his misery.  
But the two-time former Wimbledon champion paid no heed and returned to the packed showcourt amid huge applause. He then broke Fritz in the 12th game to level the match at one set apiece.  
Still struggling while serving, Nadal was broken two times as the American won



Remarkable Rafa: Nadal's never-say-die spirit came to the fore again as he overcame Fritz in a marathon. • REUTERS

the third set comfortably. Not ready to throw in the towel yet, the Spaniard traded two breaks before breaking the American's serve a third time to take the contest to the decider.  
With the crowd firmly behind him, Nadal converted his fourth breakpoint in the seventh game to take the lead and stared back at his player's box. But Fritz once again broke back to force a 10-point tiebreaker.  
The 22-time Major winner surged 5-0 ahead in the tiebreaker, then won a 25-shot rally amid raucous applause. Nadal converted his second match point with a stinging forehand winner to secure a memorable victory.  
Kyrgios advanced to the semifinals of a Grand Slam for the first time, beating Cristian Garin 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (5). The unseeded 27-year-

**Sania-Pavic level 1-1 with Skupski-Krawczyk**  
Sania and her Croatian partner Pavic, the sixth seeds, won the first set 6-4 before losing the second 5-7 to the second-seeded Skupski (GBR) and Krawczyk (USA) in the mixed doubles semifinal  
old lost the opening nine points on Court One but ultimately had too much firepower for Garin who had hoped to become Chile's first Wimbledon semifinalist.  
In surpassing his previous best Wimbledon run to the quarterfinals eight years ago, Kyrgios became the first Australian man to reach a Grand Slam semifinal in 17 years.  
It was a generally low-volume Kyrgios, who has been summoned to appear in a Canberra court next month on an alleged assault charge, although he did lambast his sizeable entourage as the match dragged on.  
There were few baseline fireworks from the Australian but his serve once again underpinned his game, digging him out of trouble whenever Garin threatened to make a match of it.  
Garin battled hard to extend the third set into a tiebreaker and looked set to drag the match into a fourth when he led 5-3, but Kyrgios hit back to take the set to a tie-breaker where he won.  
In the women's quarterfinal, Simona Halep handed out a tennis lesson to Amanda Anisimova during the 6-4, 6-2 win on Centre Court.  
When the Romanian broke for the fourth time to take 6-2, 4-1 lead, a tormented Anisimova expressed her disgust by rejecting one racket after another into her red bag.  
That she ended up keeping Halep engaged on Centre Court past the hour-mark was an accomplishment in itself. Staring at defeat at 1-5 down, the American managed to win three games on the trot for the first time in the contest, including breaking the 2019 champion when she served for the match in the eighth game.  
Two games later, Anisimova was 40-0 on Halep's serve when the Romanian made a second attempt to serve out the match. But a few hard-hitting slaps to her thigh got the 30-year-old going again and Halep secured the win when Anisimova swiped a backhand long.  
"It's great to be back in the semifinals. I'm very emotional right now... it means a lot," a beaming Halep told the crowd after setting up a last-four showdown with 17th seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan.  
Rybakina recovered from a shaky start to outlast Australian Ajla Tomljanovic 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, becoming the first Kazakh to reach the last four of a Grand Slam. The first set was close but swung on the third game when, after five deuces, Tomljanovic broke. She then served strongly to take the set 6-4.  
Rybakina, 23, broke early in the second and went on to win the set. In the decider, she took a 3-0 lead and broke again to make it 5-1. Though the Australian won two successive games, the Kazakh served out the match, fittingly finishing the contest with an ace.  
**THE RESULTS**  
**Quarterfinals: Women:** 16-Halep (Rou) bt 20-Anisimova (USA) 6-2, 6-4; 17-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Tomljanovic (Aus) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.  
**Men:** Kyrgios (Aus) bt Garin (Chi) 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(5); 2-Nadal (Esp) bt 11-Fritz (USA) 3-6, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(4).

## LIVE TELECAST

**Badminton:** Malaysia Open, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 7.30 a.m.  
**Sri Lanka Women vs India Women:** 3rd ODI, FanCode & DD Sports, 10 a.m.  
**Wimbledon:** SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6 p.m.  
**TNPL 2022:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7 p.m.  
**England vs India:** 1st T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 10.30 p.m.  
**West Indies vs Bangladesh:** 3rd T20I, FanCode, 11 p.m.  
**Hockey Women's WC:** India vs New Zealand, Star Sports 3 & Hotstar, 11 p.m.

## Clarke wins stage five

TOUR DE FRANCE  
 AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
 ARENBERG



Simon Clarke. ■ AFP

Simon Clarke of Israel Premier Tech won stage five of the Tour de France on Wednesday in a photo finish after a 157km run from Lille to Arenberg featuring 20km of cobbled mining roads.

Belgium's Wout van Aert of Jumbo retained his overall leader's yellow jersey despite a nasty fall, but his teammate Primož Roglič lost around two minutes to defending champion and fellow Slovenian Tadej Pogacar.

## India eyes win for a place in quarters

Needs to tick all the boxes in the final Pool B match against New Zealand

## WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
 AMSTELVEEN

A lacklustre Indian women's hockey team needs to tick all boxes against New Zealand in its final Pool B match to seal a direct quarterfinal place in the FIH World Cup, here on Thursday.

The Indians, who achieved a historic fourth place finish in last year's Olympics, drew 1-1 against Tokyo bronze medalist England and China in their first two pool matches.

The Savita-led side is currently placed third in Pool B with two points below China and leaders New Zealand, who defeated England 3-1 on Tuesday.

According to the tournament format, the 16 teams are divided in four pools of four teams each. The top



Time to buck up: India's defence was impressive, but the frontline was found wanting against England as well as China. ■ FIH

four sides from each pool will directly qualify for the quarterfinals, while the second and third placed teams will feature in the crossovers.

The winner of the crossover matches will take the remaining four quarterfinal spots. So, India would look for an outright win against New Zealand and hope for a

Chinese draw or a loss against England to top Pool B.

But going by the way they played in the first two matches, it would be easier said

than done.

While the Indian defence has impressed in both the matches, denying England a single penalty corner in the first game, it is the performance of the forward-line and midfield which was found wanting.

## Sole exception

Barring Vandana Katariya, who scored India's two goals, no other striker could live up to expectations so far with the likes of Lalremliam, Sharmila Devi and Navneet Kaur cutting a sorry figure.

In terms of rankings, there is hardly anything to separate the two sides as New Zealand is placed eighth while India is a rung below.

The Black Sticks women, however, would be brimming with confidence after the win over England.

## Sindhu and Prannoy move up; Saina ousted

## MALAYSIA MASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
 KUALA LUMPUR

Two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu had to toil before emerging victorious in the opening round of the Malaysia Masters here on Wednesday.

The seventh-seeded Sindhu took close to an hour to knock out China's He Bing Jiao 21-13, 17-21, 21-15 and move to the second round.

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal squandered a one-game lead to go down 21-16, 17-21, 14-21 to Kim Ga Eun of South Korea.

In the men's singles, H.S. Prannoy sailed into the second round with a comfortable 21-19, 21-14 victory over Frenchman Brice Leverdez.

B. Sai Praneeth and P. Kashyap also moved to the second round, but with con-

trasting wins.

While Praneeth hardly broke a sweat against Kevin Cordon, registering an easy 21-8, 21-9 win, Kashyap came back from a one-game deficit to beat local favourite Tommy Sugiarto 16-21, 21-16, 21-16. However, it was the end of the road for Sameer Verma, who went down fighting to fourth seed Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen 21-10, 12-21, 14-21.

## The results:

**Men:** H.S. Prannoy bt Brice Leverdez 21-19, 21-14; B. Sai Praneeth bt Kevin Cordon 21-8, 21-9; P. Kashyap bt Tommy Sugiarto 16-21, 21-16, 21-16; Sameer Verma lost to Chou Tien Chen 21-10, 12-21, 14-21.

**Women:** P.V. Sindhu bt He Bing Jiao 21-13, 17-21, 21-15; Saina Nehwal lost to Kim Ga Eun 21-16, 17-21, 14-21.

**Doubles:** N. Sikki Reddy & Ashwini Ponnappa lost to Fabiana Kusuma & Amalia Pratiwi 19-21, 21-18, 16-21.

## Shoe issue bars Rojas from Worlds long jump

## ATHLETICS

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
 MONACO

Olympic triple jump champion Yulimar Rojas cannot compete in long jump at the World Championships in Oregon this month because her qualifying leap was done in unapproved shoes.

World Athletics said on Wednesday that a jump by Rojas in Spain in June — which was long enough to qualify for the Worlds — “was not a valid result as she was wearing triple jump shoes which are not approved for long jump”.

The soles of long jump shoes are allowed a maximum thickness of 20mm, while the limit for triple jump is 25mm.



Rojas. ■ FILE PHOTO

Rojas's long jump in Spain measured 6.93m — a distance that would have taken silver at the 2019 Worlds. She was then prevented by injury from competing again to get a valid qualifying mark, the governing body said in a statement.

## Tejaswin included in the Commonwealth Games squad

High jumper replaces Arokia Rajiv who has been 'disqualified'

UTHRA GANESAN  
 NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India has included Tejaswin Shankar for the Commonwealth Games, replacing Arokia Rajiv in the 36-member squad, but the high jumper is more relieved than elated.

The AFI made the statement in the Delhi High Court on Wednesday, informing Justice Yashwant Varma that the change had been following Rajiv's disqualification and was directed by the court to forward the name to the Indian Olympic Association, also a party in the case filed by Tejaswin last month challenging his exclusion from the squad despite achieving the qualifying mark set by the AFI.

The National record holder,

currently in Kansas, said it was a fight only to seek what he deserved as per the AFI rules and he would have been happier if others too had benefited.

“I am happy at the decision but I would have been happier if others who had made the cut were also included. After all, if there is a qualifying mark set, then anyone who meets it should get a chance,” Tejaswin told *The Hindu*.

Interestingly, Rajiv had been initially named as a reserve subject to Amoj Jacob's fitness. His disqualification, presumably on form after trials in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, doesn't change the original relay

side. Also, with the last date of submission being June 29, the AFI has said it was up to the CWG committee to decide. However, given that it is only a change of entry without increasing the squad size, it shouldn't be difficult.

The AFI, in a statement, confirmed the decision. “We have requested the Indian Olympic Association to replace Arokia Rajiv, who withdrew from the National Interstate athletics championships due to illness, with Tejaswin Shankar,” AFI president Adil J. Sumariwalla said.

“We continue to request IOA to increase the quota for athletics so that others who have met the qualifying standards can also compete in CWG.”



Good tidings: Tejaswin is more relieved than elated at the decision. ■ FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

## TENNIS ROUND-UP

## Aleena to face Saanvi in semifinals

**GURUGRAM:** Second seed Aleena Farid beat Snigdha Ruhil 6-3, 7-6(6) to set up a semifinal against Saanvi Reddy in the girls' section of the Asian under-14 tennis tournament on Wednesday.

In the other semifinal, Vennela Gaarugupati will play sixth seed Sri Lakshmi Purmani.

In the boys' section, unseeded Prakaash Saran continued with his fine run and beat the fifth seed Praneeth Reddy. Prakaash will play third seed Rudra Batham in the semifinals. The other semifinal will feature top seed Om Verma against fourth seed Tavish Pahwa.

**The results (quarterfinals):** Boys: Om Verma bt Shashank

Sai Prasad Karnati 6-4, 7-5; Tavish Pahwa bt Mohd. Shees 6-2, 6-2; Rudra Batham bt Kushagra Arora 7-5, 6-4; Prakaash Saran bt Praneeth Reddy 6-1, 6-3.

**Girls:** Vennela Gaarugupati bt Neelakshi Lather 6-1, 6-0; Sri Lakshmi Purmani bt Miraya Agrawal 6-4, 6-3; Saanvi Reddy bt Diya Chaudhary 6-3, 6-4; Aleena Farid bt Snigdha Ruhil 6-3, 7-6(6).

**Shefali in last four**  
**JHAJJAR:** Second seed Shefali Arora fought her way past lucky loser Joell Nichole 7-5, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy, Jhajjar, on Wednesday. In the semifinals, Shefali will play fourth seed Hitakmya Singh Narwal.

**The results: Singles**

**(quarterfinals):** Sonal Patil bt Hannah Nagpal 6-1, 6-3; Kavya Khirwar bt Shruti Gupta 6-3, 6-4; Hitakmya Singh Narwal bt Riya Ubaveja 6-3, 6-4; Shefali Arora bt Joell Nichole 7-5, 6-4.

**Doubles (semifinals):** Medhavi Singh & Ayusshi Singh bt Gurleen Singh & Harnoor Kaur Sidhu 6-1, 6-4; Kavya & Sonal bt Ritu Ohlyan & Abhilasha Bista 6-2, 6-2.

**Ananya stuns Ekam**  
**CHANDIGARH:** Ananya Sharma beat top seed Ekam Kaur Shergill 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 to set up a title clash with Rabiah Dullet in the girls' under-12 section of the AITA Championship series junior tennis on Wednesday.

**The results: Boys Under-18:** Quarterfinals: Svarmanyu Singh bt Arnab Bishnoi 3-6,

6-4, 6-4; Bhicky Sagolshem bt Daksh Gupta 6-0, 6-0; Anirudh Sangra bt Aaradhya Dwivedi 6-2, 6-2; Yagna Patel bt Keshav Dangi 6-2, 7-5.

**Under-12: Quarterfinals:** Heet Kandoriya bt Mohit Singh 6-0, 6-1; Ranbir Singh bt Manav Shatrunga 6-2, 6-1; Aarush Jain bt Takshel Naagar 6-2, 6-1; Asshwin Chauhan bt Ashish Kumar 6-3, 6-0.

**Girls: Under-18:** Quarterfinals: Riya Kaushik bt Rubani Kaur Sidhu 6-3, 6-1; Bhumi Kakkur bt Rhoyn William 6-1, 6-0; Vanya Arora bt Ananya Chaudhary 6-4, 6-2; Radha Sadhra bt Saanvi Garg 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

**Under-12: Semifinals:** Ananya Sharma bt Ekam Kaur Shergill 6-3, 3-6, 7-5; Rabiah Dullet bt Maahira Bhatia 7-6(4), 6-2.

## Prarthana in doubles quarterfinals

## INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Prarthana Thombare and Emily Appleton of Britain beat Vivien Sandberg & Annick Verhaar 6-1, 6-3 in the \$100,000 ITF women's tennis doubles pre-quarterfinals Versmold, Germany, on Wednesday.

**Other results: €134,920 Challenger, Braunschweig, Germany: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Philip Florig & Liam Gavrielides (Ger) bt Artem Sitak (Nzl) & Sumit Nagal 5-7, 7-5, [10-8].

**€45,730 Challenger, Porto, Portugal: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Purav Raja & Divij Sharan bt Fabio Coelho & Goncalo Falcao (Por) 6-2, 7-6(7); Marek Gengel (Cze) & Patrik Niklas-Salminen (Fin) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 7-6(3), 5-7, [10-8].

**\$25,000 ITF men, Marburg, Germany: First round:** Sidane Pontjodikromo (Ned) bt Rishab Agrawal 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(3). **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Constantin Frantzen & Tim Sandkaulen (Ger) bt Vasilios Caripi

(RSA) & Rishab Agarwal 6-1, 6-2.

**\$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: First round:** Niccolo Catini (Ita) bt Karan Singh 6-2, 6-4. **(pre-quarterfinals):** Anis Ghorbel & Aziz Ouakaa (Tun) bt Aron Paul Samson & Amaan Siddiqui 6-0, 6-2; Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta & Manish Suresh Kumar bt Chukang Wang & Ze Zhang (Chn) 7-6(3), 4-6, [10-8]; Guy Orly Iradikunda (Bdi) & Karan Ssingh bt Niccolo Catini & Matteo Meneghetti (Ita) 6-3, 6-2; Keisuke Saitoh & Daiki Yoshimura (Jpn) bt Boriss Butulija (Srb) & Niki Poonacha 7-6(4), 6-3. **Women: First round:** Bhuvana Kalva bt Emma Tothova (Svk) 6-4, 6-3; Miriana Tona (Ita) bt Jennifer Luikham 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Waco, USA: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Cleeve Harper (Can) & Johanus Monday (GBR) bt Tom Dynka (Can) & Babji Siva Atturu 6-1, 6-1.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Fountain Valley, USA: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Kelly Keller & Anne Obregon (US) bt Annesophia Morandais (Glp) & Prathyusha Rachapudi 6-2, 6-2.

## Sathiyam and Harmeet lodge a complaint about missing baggage

## TABLE TENNIS

K. KEERTHIVASAN  
 CHENNAI

India's top table tennis players G. Sathiyam and Harmeet Desai reached Portugal for the Commonwealth Games preparatory camp by an Air France flight. While they arrived safely, their baggage hasn't come and the paddlers have lodged a complaint. But even after three days there has been no proper response from the flight authorities.

“We reached Porto on July 3. We waited for two hours in Porto to lodge a complaint. Till now, there are no updates.

“Luckily, my sponsor Butterfly sent me the rubbers and other apparels after I requested them. Being a priority member of Air France, this has not happened to me before,” Sathiyam told *The Hindu* from Porto on



Sathiyam. ■VELANKANNI RAJ

Wednesday.

Harmeet said it's been more difficult for him than Sathiyam. “I am suffering more than him (Sathiyam).

“I had two rubbers stuck on my racquets which were in my hand baggage. But the new rubbers and apparels are in the main baggage. I've asked my sponsor (Joola) to send me the rubbers,” he said.

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