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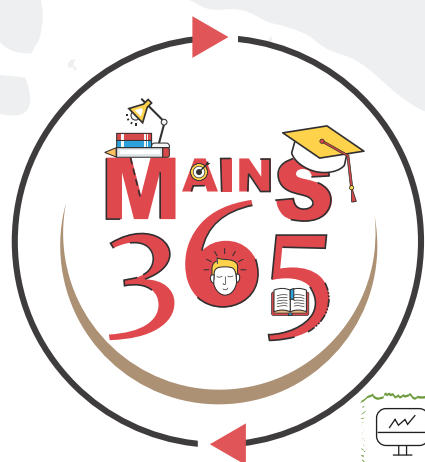


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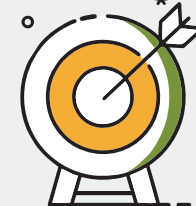
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Delhi Police arrest two more for Sidhu Moosewala murder
page 3



Bhagwant Mann adds five more Ministers into Punjab Cabinet
page 11



Root, Bairstow put England on course in chase of 378
page 15

Renuka, opens help India seal ODI series against Sri Lanka
page 15



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IN BRIEF



Karnataka ADGP held in PSI recruitment scam
BENGALURU
The CID on Monday arrested Additional DGP Amrit Paul in the police sub-inspectors' recruitment scam. Mr. Paul was heading the Police Recruitment Cell, Karnataka, when the scam broke out and it was found that the OMR sheets were allegedly tampered with in the office.
STATES • PAGE 5

Delhi's MLAs one step closer to 66% pay hike
NEW DELHI
Delhi's MLAs came one step closer to getting a 66.7% salary increment after five related Bills were passed in the Assembly on Monday. The legislators of the Opposition BJP also supported the Bills. The pay hike for will come into effect after the Bills get the final nod from the President.
CITY • PAGE 2

Tribal woman tortured and paraded in M.P.
RAIPUR
A 30-year-old tribal woman was tortured and paraded by a mob, including her husband and his parents, over a suspected extramarital affair in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas on Sunday. Her purported lover was also humiliated.
NEWS • PAGE 12

Shinde wins vote, says he is with Sena

164 MLAs vote in favour of new government



New chapter: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy, Devendra Fadnis, along with MLAs, after a special session of the Assembly in Mumbai on Monday. • PTI

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI
After the new Maharashtra government won the trust vote in the Assembly on Monday, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said he and the MLAs with him had not left the Shiv Sena and remained loyal to the party.
Mr. Shinde, without naming anyone, was countering former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who had said that the new government was not of the Sena.

The government won the trust vote with 164 MLAs voting in favour and 99 against. Two NCP and seven Congress MLAs remained absent. Later, former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan and the other absentees said they had arrived late and the Assembly doors were closed for voting.

In his speech in the Assembly, Mr. Shinde said, "When the Maha Vikas Aghadi (the previous ruling coalition of the Sena, the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party) was formed in 2019 and meetings were being held, all agreed on my name as the Chief Minister. Later, I was told by Ajit dada [NCP leader Ajit Pawar] that though the other two parties had no problem, it was the Sena that decided against my

appointment."
He was replying to a discussion on the resolution moved by Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnis to congratulate him on winning the trust vote.

Hinting that he would now turn his attention towards the party organisation, Mr. Shinde said that once all the court battles were over, he would turn his focus to it.

"[We [Shinde group MLAs] have maintained patience even after you called us names, threatened us, and attacked us. Do not forget that each of these 50 MLAs has supporters as well, but we won't let the blood of Sena workers spill on the road. But do not stretch us to the limit," he said.

Commenting on the warning of NCP leader Ajit Pawar that no leader who quits the Sena gets elected the next time, Mr. Shinde said he had not quit the party. "When these MLAs came with me, I decided that come what may, I will not let them down. I may end my political career, but will ensure that they get elected next time," he said.

'Invisible votes'
Mr. Fadnis, while thanking all those who voted for the government, said he was grateful to those who remained "invisible" during the vote.

The trust vote victory brings to an end to the political drama that unfolded in Maharashtra since June 20.

Pointing to Mr. Fadnis, the Chief Minister said he was the mastermind behind the rebellion.

Mr. Shinde left Mumbai on the night of June 20 with a group of MLAs for Surat and then flew to Guwahati, where they were stationed for 10 days. After the court directed a floor test, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray resigned.

Revealing that after 2019, he was repeatedly approached by Sena MLAs to get the party snap ties with the Congress and the NCP, Mr. Shinde said he communicated the same to Mr. Thackeray at least five times. "We are not rebels. Betrayal is not in our blood," he said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Ajit to lead Opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

NCP leader and former Deputy CM Ajit Pawar was selected as the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Pawar said that he will work in an unbiased manner as earlier in his new capacity as the Opposition leader. Faced with a challenge to steer the struggling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Mr. Pawar will face the first challenge to keep the Opposition flock together.

FULL REPORT ► PAGE 11

SC to hear plea on July 11

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to list on July 11 a petition filed by Uddhav Thackeray camp loyalist Sunil Prabhu, challenging Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar's decision to recognise the appointment of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's man Bharat Gogawale as the new chief whip of the Shiv Sena.

FULL REPORT ► PAGE 11

Cong. moves against Rathore for fake video

FIR and police complaints filed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With BJP leaders refusing to apologise for sharing doctored videos of Rahul Gandhi, the Congress on Monday said a first information report (FIR) in Chhattisgarh and police complaints across six States had been filed against former Information and Broadcasting Minister and BJP leader Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Lok Sabha member Subrat Pathak.

On Saturday, All India Congress Committee general secretary Jairam Ramesh wrote to BJP president J.P. Nadda, asking the party to take action against its leaders for spreading fake news against Mr. Gandhi, and get the doctored video removed from their Twitter timelines and apologise.

However, even after 48 hours, Mr. Rathore had not removed the video, flagged by Twitter as out of context.

The video, in which Mr. Gandhi described those who attacked his Wayanad office as children and said he had no ill-will against them, was used by a news channel as the former Congress chief's comments on the killers of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal.

At a press conference with Supriya Shrinete, Pa-



Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

wan Khera of the Congress said the FIRs against Mr. Rathore, Mr. Pathak and three others were registered at Bilaspur on a complaint that the "doctored" video was aimed at disturbing communal harmony. Police complaints were lodged against them in Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

"Why are these people spreading this fire of hate all over the country? We ask the Prime Minister why he has converted MPs and former Ministers to 'two-rupee trolls'. The problem is those who peddle fake news get promotions in the BJP," Ms. Shrinete said. "Everyone knows what the current I&B Minister said during Delhi riots and he was promoted," she added.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Alt News gets back payment service

ABHINAV LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

After the Delhi Police on Saturday told a Delhi court that they were investigating alleged violations of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) by Alt News in their probe against co-founder Mohammed Zubair, Razorpay, the payments gateway, deactivated the fact-

checking website's account on its platform for a day "as a safety precaution, while the investigation was ongoing".

Alt News has denied any violations of the FCRA.

A spokesperson for the payments gateway said the Alt News account had been reactivated on Monday evening "following clarity on the issue from the authorities".

The spokesperson added, "We have extended our full cooperation to all stakeholders in the probe and will continue to do so, as needed. Razorpay is a trusted company and we will always ensure transactions on the platform are safe and compliant with all laws and regulations."

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

13 killed in Himachal bus accident; CM orders probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

At least 13 persons were killed and two injured on Monday after a bus they were travelling on skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge near Shainshar in Sainj of Kullu district in Himachal Pradesh.

The private bus was on its way from Shainshar to Kullu, according to a government statement. The bus was ferrying some 15 persons.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur visited the accident

site to take stock of the situation and ordered a magisterial investigation to ascertain the cause of the accident. The probe will be conducted by the Additional District Magistrate, Kullu.

The Chief Minister said ₹5 lakh would be provided to the next of kin of the deceased and ₹15,000 would be given as immediate relief to the injured persons.

The incident took place around 9.18 a.m., said a report by the State's Emergency Operation Centre.



Relatives of the victims mourning in Kullu. • ANI

The relief and rescue, conducted by the local administration and a team of the National Disaster Response

Force, has been completed and the injured have been sent to a hospital at Kullu.

Twelve of the 13 dead have been identified as Armina Tanu, 20, Anita Devi, 19, Khim Dasi, 45, Roshi Devi, 45, Parvati Devi, 40, Jhablu Devi, 32, Prem Chand, 52, Fathe Chand, 70, Sunil Kumar, 21, Amit Kumar Rajak, 22, Aakash, 16 and Bin Maya, 30.

PM approves ex gratia
Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh each from the

Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the accident. The injured would be given ₹50,000 each, Mr. Modi said in a tweet.

"The bus accident in Kullu is heart-rending. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families, I hope those injured recover at the earliest. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to those affected," Mr. Modi added.

(With inputs from PTI)

SHUBHRA RANJAN

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By Jayesh Khaddar, Sahil Saini & Team

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Hotels can't force customers to pay service charge: Centre

'No such amount can be added to bill'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued guidelines here on Monday asking hotels and restaurants not to collect service charge from customers. These establishments should not add service charge automatically or by default to the food bill, the guidelines say.

The guidelines, issued by Nidhi Khare, Chief Commissioner, CCPA, adds that if any consumer finds that a hotel or restaurant is violating the guidelines, he or she may make a request to remove the service charge from the bill amount or lodge a complaint with the National Consumer Helpline. Complaints can be filed with the Consumer Commission too or with the District Collector.

"No hotel or restaurant shall force a consumer to pay service charge and shall clearly inform the consumer that service charge is voluntary, optional and at consumer's discretion," the Consumer Affairs Ministry said in an official release. "No restriction on entry or



The National Consumer Helpline has got complaints against the levy. • ISTOCK

provision of services based on collection of service charge shall be imposed on consumers. Service charge shall not be collected by adding it along with the food bill and levying GST on the total amount," it added.

Inherent in price

The Ministry said the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has received a number of complaints by consumers against levying of service charge.

The guidelines added that component of service is inherent in the price of food and beverages offered by the restaurant or hotel.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Delhi's MLAs get one step closer to 66% pay hike

Delhi MLAs still paid lowest in the country, says Sisodia; monthly pay to rise from ₹54,000 to ₹90,000

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi's MLAs came one step closer to getting a 66.7% salary increment after five related Bills were passed in the Assembly on Monday. The opposition MLAs of the BJP also supported the Bills.

The pay hike for the 70 legislators will come into effect after the Bills get the final nod from the President.

The Bills propose to increase the salaries and allowances of all the MLAs – including the Chief Whip, Assembly Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Leader of Opposi-

tion – from the current sum of ₹54,000 to ₹90,000 per month.

Delhi's MLAs last received a pay rise 11 years ago.

Attracting talent

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that "respectable" salaries for the legislators were not only justified but also a prerequisite for talented individuals to enter politics.

Mr. Sisodia added that the salaries of Delhi's MLAs would remain the lowest in the country despite the proposed hike.

He cited the monthly salaries of MLAs of States such as Goa was ₹1.17 lakh, Uttarakhand ₹1.60 lakh and Telangana ₹2.50 lakh.

The Bills propose to increase the basic salary of Delhi's legislators from the existing ₹12,000 to ₹30,000, constituency allowance from ₹18,000 to ₹25,000, conveyance allowance from ₹6,000 to ₹10,000 and daily allowance from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500, among other components.

"There has been persistent demand from the MLAs for the increase in their salaries and perks/ facilities having regard to the increase in the price index," the Ministers of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2022, states.

"It was also felt that salaries/perks/ facilities of Ministers/ Speaker/ Deputy Speaker/ Leader of Opposition/ Chief Whip are a bit inadequate which should be upgraded and enhanced to a commensurate extent," it added.

In May, the Ministry of Home Affairs had conveyed its prior approval to the Delhi government to introduce legislative proposals in the Delhi Assembly for the revision of MLAs' salaries and allowances.

The Delhi Assembly had, in 2015, formed a committee to formulate a proposal to hike salaries and allowances of Assembly members under Karol Bagh MLA Vishesh Ravi. This committee had proposed certain types of increments to the Centre which were, however, not accepted at that time.

AAP says Centre, L-G 'toying with officials'

BJP says Saxena is Delhi's 'guardian', calls AAP 'narrow minded'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A war of words broke out between the MLAs of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the issue of services in the Delhi Assembly on Monday.

AAP MLAs including Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia lashed out at the BJP-led Centre for "making a mockery of the Constitution" by allegedly snatching matters related to services from the elected AAP government and bringing it under the purview of the Lieutenant-Governor.

During a discussion on the topic, Mr. Sisodia expressed displeasure over the Centre "forsaking public interest" and "toying around" with senior officials posted in the Higher Education Department because of which, he added, lakhs of students were bearing the brunt.

'Deck of cards'

"The Central government is playing with the future of 6 lakh children of Delhi by repeatedly transferring senior officers after unconstitutionally stanching away the Services Department from the Kejriwal government," Mr. Sisodia alleged.

"The BJP Central government is playing musical chairs with the elected government. Officers are being shuffled like a deck of cards. The higher education sector in Delhi is under threat because of the Centre's tyranny," the Deputy Chief Minister added.

Mr. Sisodia also said that the admissions in Delhi go-



BJP MLAs Mohan Singh Bisht and Abhay Verma (right), who were marshalled out of the Delhi Assembly on Monday, the first day of the monsoon session. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

vernment-run universities were under way but no one had been appointed to the post of Director of Higher Education since the previous director was transferred 22 days ago.

Frequent transfers

AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that junior engineers employed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi were allowed to remain in the same post for years but the principal secretary of the Higher Education Department got "transferred every other day".

"Nine principal secretaries and seven directors have been changed in the Department of Training and Technical Education," Mr. Bharadwaj alleged. Training his guns at the L-G, Mr. Sisodia said since the L-G was a representative of the Centre, any failures or lapses on his part were also failures of the Central government.

BJP responds

Mr. Sisodia's allegations against the Centre and the L-G were rebutted by Leader of the Opposition in the Del-

hi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

Mr. Bidhuri said the Services Department was currently under the L-G and the legal dispute between the Delhi government and the Centre over administrative services was pending in the Supreme Court.

Till the time the apex court decides on the matter, Mr. Bidhuri added, the authority of transfers and postings of officials will remain with the L-G. "The Delhi government should act with restraint and respect in this matter as the L-G is working to bring about reforms in the city," Mr. Bidhuri said.

Mr. Bidhuri added that the recently appointed L-G, V.K. Saxena, was working as the "guardian" of the city's residents and that accusing Mr. Saxena of abuse of authority showed the "narrow-mindedness of the AAP government."

"The L-G is not sitting in his AC room, but holding meetings with various departments. He has suspended DDA's officers on charges of corruption," Mr. Bidhuri said.

3 injured following tiff over pet dog

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three people were injured after allegedly being hit with an iron pipe by their neighbour following a quarrel over a pet dog in west Delhi's Paschim Vihar, the police said on Monday.

DCP (Outer) Sameer Sharma said a man, identified as Dharamvir Dahiya, 63, was taking a walk in the street when the incident happened.

Upset over a pet dog barking at him, Mr. Dahiya had grabbed the dog by its tail and threw it, the police said. The owner of the dog, Rakshit Mohlia, 25, came to save his dog but Mr. Dahiya attacked the canine again, following which, he bit Mr. Dahiya. It led to a minor scuffle between the two persons.

Mr. Dahiya came back to the spot with an iron pipe and hit the dog on its head. He also hit his neighbour He-

mant Atal and Mr. Mohlia with the pipe. Later, Mr. Dahiya barged into Mr. Mohlia's house and hit his kin Renu Atal.

All the injured persons have been examined and are stable. Mr. Dahiya, meanwhile, was rushed to a hospital in Khyala. The dog's condition is also better now, the police said. Mr. Mohlia said Mr. Dahiya has been infamous for verbally harassing the residents.

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI - 834010
(CIN-U85100JH2013SGC001276), E-mail: jmhidpc2014@gmail.com
EOI No.: JMC/NIT-22/Spectacles/14 Date: 04.07.2022
VERY SHORT EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS (EOI)
FOR SUPPLY OF SPECTACLES (2nd Call)

Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Ltd (JMHDPL), Jharkhand invites separate Technical and Commercial Bids (Two Cover System) through e-tender from the registered and eligible Manufacturers/Distributors/Authorized stockiest/Dealer for supply of spectacles. Interested Manufacturers/Distributors/Authorized stockiest / Dealer may visit the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> for the detailed notice inviting "expressions of interest". Based on details furnished thereon, bidders may submit their "expressions of interest" with all requisite credentials. The detailed document can be seen and applied through website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only. Hard Copy of Technical Bid & Price bid will not be entertained except Tender Fee & EMD.

1	Name of Work	Supply of Spectacles
2	Time of Completion	As Specified
3	Date of Publication of EOI	05.07.2022
4	Date/ Time for Receipt of bids	From 05.07.2022 to 12.07.2022 upto 6.00 PM
5	Date of Technical Bid Opening	14.07.2022
6	Application Fee (Not refundable)	Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only)
7	EMD	Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)
8	Contact No. of Procurement person/ Helpline No. of e procurement cell	7004871564

Note: The above dates may change due to abrupt declaration of Holidays. For further details and subsequent corrigendum, addendum (if any) please log on to website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

PR 272826 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd(22-23)D

Managing Director, JMHDPL, Govt. of Jharkhand, Namkum, Ranchi

Information & Public Relations Department Government of Jharkhand, Suchana Bhawan, Ranchi.

Very Short Request for Proposal (RFP)

Sealed RFP are invited from eligible reputed qualified firms/companies with sound Technical and Financial capabilities for **Conceptualization, Production, and On-ground execution of Innovative sound & light /holography /projection show and outreach ideas on the occasion of Shrawani Mela**

1. The following table provides a quick overview of the key activities and some important information about this RFP:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Details
1.1	RFP Reference No.	1121
1.2	RFP issuing Authority	Information & Public Relations Department Government of Jharkhand, Suchana Bhawan, Ranchi.
1.3	Name of the Project	Conceptualization, Production, and On-ground execution of Innovative sound & light /holography /projection show and outreach ideas on the occasion of Shrawani Mela
1.4	Date of issue of tender document	04/07/2022
1.5	Last date and time of submission of RFP document	11/07/2022 till 12:00pm
1.6	Date of opening of Bids / RFP	11/07/2022 at 04:00pm
1.7	Date of Presentation	On Same day.
1.8	Validation of RFP	Proposal must remain valid for 90 days after the submission Date.
1.9	EMD	The bidders are required to submit the EMD in the form of a demand draft of Rs.50,000/- (Fifty Thousand only) in favor of Director, Information & Public Relations Department, Govt.
1.10	Address of communication / submission of proposal	Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Jharkhand, Suchana Bhawan, Ranchi. Tel: 0651-2281522, 0651-2282458

The Terms & Conditions and detailed copy of the RFP document should be obtained from departmental notice board or may also be downloaded from our website www.prd.jharkhand.in.

Director Information & Public Relations Department
PR 272896 IPRD(22-23)#D

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement System

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, Tughlakabad, New Delhi on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	43225108	(1) Supply of Anti Corrosive painting of underframe of LHB coaches as per specification ICF/MD/Spec-357. Quantity required for per under frame is 12.5 gallon/50 ltrs. (2) Application of Anti-Corrosive Paint for underframe of LHB coach.	25 Nos. each	28.07.2022
2.	43225095	(1) Supply of Seats for 2nd AC Chair for LHB coach as per MDT5-219 Rev: 03 (78 seats) (2) Fitment of Seat for 2nd AC Chair Car for LHB coaches (78 seats)	10 Set each	28.07.2022

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

1633/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice

Div. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.00 hours on 25.07.2022 as below:-

Tender No.: 84, Name of work with its Location: Balance work for construction of RCC boundary wall to safe guard track and as well as to avoid encroachments in the jurisdiction of DEN/South/ NWR/BKN under control ADEN/NWR/RTGH, Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 6169438.86, Earnest Money: Rs. 123400.00, Tender No.: 85, Name of work with its Location: Extension of passenger platform no. 1 at Mandi Dalwai & Sangaria stations to accommodate 24 coaches trains (576 Mtrs) and Provision of 1 no. standard Ramp from waiting hall to PF at Amarpura rathan and 1 no. general water booth at Manakpur for the convenience of Divyangjans under ADEN/HHM, Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 3383669.94, Earnest Money: Rs. 67700.00, Tender No.: 86, Name of work with its Location: Raising of passenger Platform as High Level at Kishangarh Balawa, Jatwana, Nanakpur, Patuwas Mahrana & Fatehgarh Haryana on RE-HSR section under ADEN/Bhiwani, Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 76888669.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 534500.00, Tender No.: 87, Name of work with its Location: Civil work in c/w development of freight terminal at Satrod station under ADEN/Sirsa, Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 7309866.60, Earnest Money: Rs. 146200.00, Tender No.: 89, Name of work with its Location: Provision of additional second PF at DBI station and raising of PF no. 1 & 2 at PKG station on BTI-SOG section under ADEN/HHM, Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 78239409.18, Earnest Money: Rs. 541200.00, Tender No.: 90, Name of work with its Location: Provision of office accommodation & allied works in c/w Infrastructure Development at SGNR Coach Care Complex under ADEN/HHM, Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 10704274.96, Earnest Money: Rs. 203500.00, Tender No.: 91, Name of work with its Location: Provision of office accommodation at Bikaner and Lalgarh coach care complex & allied works under ADEN/HQ/BKN, Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 14042603.95, Earnest Money: Rs. 220200.00, Tender No.: 92, Name of work with its Location: Hiring of Tractor with trolley and Truck for transportation of Men and Material in the jurisdiction of ADEN/Bhiwani, Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 43300.00, Note: Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in.

479-SN/22
Follow us at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NWRailways) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/NWRailways) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/NWRailways) [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/NWRailways) [WhatsApp](https://www.whatsapp.com/NWRailways)

THE HINDU PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

GOING BEYOND CURRICULUM

Prithvi Singh, a class 8 student of DAV Public School, Faridabad, invented a system which can control the speed of vehicles on different roads. This system has now been patented by the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India. School Principal, Mrs. Anita Gautam and Vice Chairperson, Mr. Navdeep Chawla felicitated Prithvi Singh and congratulated his parents for this accomplishment.

WHEN STUDENTS BRING LAURELS TO THEIR SCHOOL

Students of Delhi Public School Ghaziabad Vasundhara, brought laurels to their school with their excellent performance in extra curriculars. Suhani Mahajan, class 9, bagged the first position in Table Tennis U-19 Girls category and was a runner up in U-15 Girls category at the Ghaziabad District Table Tennis Tournament at ITS, Mohan Nagar. Pratyush Shivani, class 9, won the gold medal in North Delhi District Championship in 10 m Air Pistol event in U-15 category. Avinabh Rishi and Yashvardhan Tyagi, class 8, were selected in the U-14 Basketball State Championship. The school's U-17 Girls Basketball team bagged first position in U-17 District Championship. Principal, Mr. Trilok Singh Bist congratulated the students and their coaches for guiding the players and bringing laurels to the school.

SESSION ON FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Parevartan School, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, in association with AMFI, organised a session on 'Financial Empowerment Through Wealth Creation' for all the staff members of the school. The session was conducted by Mr. Surya Kant Sharma a finance expert. The session culminated with the Principal, Ms. Sangeta Sharma, thanking Mr. Surya Kant, and urging every staff member to make smart investments.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Kapil Nagar :
Handphone:+91 9810089457/Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.
(A State Govt. Undertaking)

"PRESS TENDER NOTICE" (E-tendering mode only)

ONLINE TENDERS are hereby invited on partial turnkey basis (two part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEBL Ltd., Shimla-4 from the Bidders/Joint venture firms having A-Class Electrical contractor license from Chief Electrical Inspector, for the following work:-

Tender No.	Description of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Cost of Tender Documents inclusive GST	Completion Period
CEO/M&CT No.03/SOP-Kandi-Sund-raadi (LWSS)/2022-23	Providing SOP to 11 kV new Incomer/ outgoing panel at 33/11kV, 2x6.30 MVA Sub Station along with Augmentation of Existing 11 kV HT Line, and providing New 400 kVA Substation and LT line under LWSS Scheme for Augmentation and Improvement of LWSS Kandi-Sundraadi, Naya and Kunhat in Tehsil Shillai in ESD Shillai, Under ED HPSEBL Poanta Sahib, Operation Circle, HPSEBL, Nahan.	Rs. 1,37,52,632/-	Rs. 1,37,526/-	Rs. 2360/- (Non-refundable)	8 Months

Key Dates:-

1. Date of online publication: 06.07.2022
2. Start date & time of bid submission: 06.07.2022 (at 11.30 AM)
3. End date & time of bid submission: 20.07.2022 (upto 11.30 AM)
4. Date and time of opening of techno comm. bid: 21.07.2022 (at 11.30 AM)

The bid document is available online and bid shall be submitted on line on website <https://www.hptenders.gov.in> Bidders would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidders are required to have digital signature certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authority (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPSEBL may obtain the same from the website <https://www.hptenders.gov.in> DSC is mandatory to participate in e-tendering. Bidders already possessing valid DSC issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

Chief Engineer
Energy Saved is Energy Generated Follow COVID Protocol (OP) South, HPSEBL Ltd., Shimla-4.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD / CORR. / AUTH.	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORR. / AUTH.	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	HPGCL	EOI NO.01/CE/PROJECTS/ EV DATED 01.07.2022 FOR SETTING UP OF SMART ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION AT FARIDABAD	CLOSING DATE 15.07.2022	NIL	www.hpgcl.org.in	9355061819

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in SAMVAD - 13/2023/40/1083/11/1997

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION RTIC KATHUA
-----Telefax:- 01922-238973, Email ID:- mdvirvtic@gmail.com
GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No.22 of 2022-23 Dated: 30-06-2022 due on 12-07-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Kathua invites e-tenders from well reputed manufacturer/suppliers/dealers in two covers for Improvement of Illumination / Electrification of RTIC Colony and divisional office along with allied works. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen downloaded from the Govt. Website ktenders.gov.in from 30-06-2022 (16.00 hrs).

1. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above Website from 01-07-2022 (10.00 hrs) to 12-07-2022 (16.00 hrs) in two covers.
2. The bid uploaded on the Website up to due date and time will be opened on 13-07-2022 (12.00 hrs) or any other convenient date in the Office of Executive Engineer Mech. Divn, RTIC Kathua.
3. The intending bidders should keep a check on bid website for any change in the technical specifications/terms and conditions if any.

-sd-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
Ravi Tawi Irrigation Complex
Kathua
DIP/J-4403/22

PATRACHAR VIDYALAYA
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
OUTRAM LANE, G.T.B. NAGAR, DELHI - 110009
CBSE Affiliation Number: 2758042
(website: www.edudel.nic.in)

No.F.10(30)/PV/Adv.22 Dated

The students who are residents of Delhi & fulfil the criteria/guidelines mentioned in the prospectus 2022-23 may apply for admission for class IX, X, XI, and XII in Patrachar Vidyalaya (CBSE Curriculum) for the session 2022-23 from 27.06.2022. The prospectus and online admission form are available on the official website of Directorate of Education www.edudel.nic.in (Patrachar Vidyalaya Icon) w.e.f. 27.06.2022.

Sl. No.	Criteria	Class IX	Class X	Class XI	Class XII
1.	Eligibility Criteria • A valid date of birth proof is mandatory	i) Students who have passed or failed in any class from a recognized school are eligible for admission. ii) Students who have studied privately at home are eligible on submission of affidavit by parents/guardians.	i) Students who have passed or failed in any class from a recognized school are eligible for admission. ii) Students who have studied privately at home are eligible on submission of affidavit by parents/guardians	Class X pass-out students	Class XI Passed/ failed or after a gap of one year passing class-X
2.	Minimum age required	13 years as on 31 st March 2022	14 years as on 31 st March 2022	-	-
3.	Maximum age	No maximum age restriction	No maximum age restriction	No maximum age restriction	No maximum age restriction
4.	Date of admission without late fee	27.06.2022 - 26.07.2022	27.06.2022 - 26.07.2022	27.06.2022 - 26.07.2022	27.06.2022 - 26.07.2022
5.	Date of admission with late fee	28.07.2022 - 26.08.2022	28.07.2022 - 26.08.2022	28.07.2022 - 26.08.2022	28.07.2022 - 26.08.2022

Note: Patrachar Vidyalaya, Outram Lane, GTB Nagar Delhi - 110009 is the only Patrachar Institution working under the Directorate of Education GNCT Delhi and affiliated to CBSE. It has no branch or Institutions or Agents. Students should be careful with the institutions having similar names.

Director (Education)
Directorate of Education
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
DIP/Shabdarth/0188/22-23

Timings
DELHI

TUESDAY, JUL. 05
RISE 05:29 SET 19:23
RISE 10:46 SET 23:35

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 06
RISE 05:30 SET 19:23
RISE 11:43 SET 00:00

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

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	37	27
Safdarjang	37	27
Palam	38	28

Delhi Palam Today
36°C A comfortable morning and very warm and humid day with cloudy sky. One or two spells of rain and thunderstorm may occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C A warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be comfortable. Spell of rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Two more held in Sidhu Moosewala murder case

Acting on a tip-off, Ankit and Sachin Bhiwani were nabbed by the Delhi police; were planning to execute a 'heinous crime'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
More than a month after Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead allegedly by members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, the Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested two gang members, officers said on Monday.

The police said one of the accused Ankit, 19, alias Chhota, was a sharpshooter from Sonapat in Haryana. Sachin Bhiwani, 25, the other arrested, gave shelter to the shooters.

H.G.S. Dhaliwal, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), said Ankit was ambidextrous and fired at Moosewala with two pistols. "He was the closest to Sidhu Moosewala's vehicle while firing and is a close aide of the main shooter, Priyavrat, and hails from the same region as him," he said.

The police said that after killing Moosewala, Ankit kept changing his hideouts in Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pra-



Ankit and Sachin Bhiwani in police custody; officers display items recovered from the accused on Monday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

desh, Jharkhand and Delhi. "He was involved in two previous incidents of firing in April carried out on the directions of Lawrence Bishnoi," Mr. Dhaliwal said.

"He was the youngest in the team of sharpshooters and was a Class IX dropout. He had joined the gang only two months back and was in-

involved in two previous incidents of firing, one of which was intended to extort money from a realtor in Sriganagar in Rajasthan," a senior police officer said.

The police said the accused persons had changed as many as 35 locations after the killing.

Bhiwani, also a member of



the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, has a criminal nexus across Haryana, Rajasthan and bordering areas of Punjab, the police said.

"Immediately after the murder, Bhiwani had provided shelter to the module of four shooters and helped them escape to Haryana, Rajasthan and other States and

provided them shelter," the police said.

A police source said Bhiwani was the "right-hand" man of Lawrence Bishnoi and used to work with him on important operations.

"Sachin Bhiwani had become the synonym of terror in Haryana and bordering areas of Punjab as he was en-

Immediately after the murder, Bhiwani had provided shelter to the module of four shooters and helped them escape to Haryana, Rajasthan and other States and provided them shelter there

DELHI POLICE

gaged in criminal activities on ground on behalf of Lawrence Bishnoi-Goldy Brar-Kala Jathedi," the police said.

The police said they got a tip-off on Sunday regarding two members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang coming to the ISBT in Delhi for "executing a heinous crime".

Subsequently, a trap was laid and they were nabbed. On May 29, the Punjabi singer was shot dead allegedly by members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang in Punjab's Mansa district.



READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
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4 held for fake raid

NEW DELHI
Four persons were arrested for conducting a fake raid by posing as income tax officers, the police said. The accused looted cash, gold and molested the complainant.

Delhi govt.'s ACB can probe police officers: HC

SI had challenged charges against him

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said the Delhi government's Anti-Corruption Branch has the jurisdiction to probe offence of corruption against city police officers who come under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"Any official of the Central government accused of corruption cannot get away with the mere technicality of the Anti-Corruption Branch not investigating them," Justice Jasmeet Singh said, while dealing with a petition by a Delhi police sub-inspector who challenged the framing of charges against him under the anti-corruption law by a trial court here.

The sub-inspector had argued that the ACB cannot investigate offences pertaining to Central government employees such as him who fall under the Ministry of Home Affairs as any action taken by the ACB would be impermissible and contrary to law.

Bribery charges

As per the order, a Delhi resident had applied for an arms licence for himself on January 12, 2014. The sub-inspector had visited his residence for inquiry regarding the same. The complainant claimed that the sub-inspector had asked him to pay a bribe of ₹20,000 for sending his report across for grant of the licence. After some negotiation, he had reduced the amount to ₹10,000.

The complainant initially handed over a sum of

₹1,000 to the sub-inspector but recorded the conversation. Later the sub-inspector contacted the complainant again and collected the remaining balance amount of ₹9,000.

Later, during the raid proceedings, the complainant handed over GC Notes of ₹9,000 smeared with phenolphthalein powder to the sub-inspector on his demand.

Subsequently, after the sub-inspector was raided, GC notes of denomination of ₹500 and four notes of ₹1,000 amounting to a total of ₹9,000 were recovered from him and the serial number of the recovered currency notes tallied with the serial numbers noted in the pre-raid proceedings.

Trial court hearing

The sub-inspector was interrogated and an FIR was lodged against him. After investigation, charges were framed and he was summoned. After hearing the arguments, the trial court framed charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act against him.

The police officer later moved the High Court seeking to quash the trial court proceedings on the ground that he has been exonerated in departmental proceedings and hence, criminal proceedings cannot continue against him.

The High Court did not agree with the sub-inspector's submission that the ACB of the Delhi government can have no jurisdiction to investigate the offence.

Trash jam



Single-use plastic bags and other trash blocking a drain on GT Karnal Road in New Delhi on Monday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Admission deadline for Delhi Sports School extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday announced that it had extended the admission window for its Sports School till July 12 and relaxed the age criteria by six months.

The school was launched last month as a feeder school for the Delhi Sports University. The co-educational school for classes 6-12 will be fully residential and will provide professional sports training and facilities for 10 identified Olympic sports, the Delhi government said.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in a statement said, "We have extended the deadline for applications, and have also relaxed the age criteria by six months. This will give an opportunity to young sportspersons to prepare themselves better".

The school is currently admitting students of classes 6-9 who will have to undergo various tests such as motor ability, speed endurance and agility tests, among others.

DFS rejects fire NOC of Vikas Minar, cites shortcomings

The entire building has not been declared unsafe: DFS Chief

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Vikas Minar building in ITO here has failed to meet fire safety guidelines mandated by the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) and the renewal of its fire no-objection certificate has been rejected, according to a letter issued by the agency.

The building houses several key offices of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). The 23-storey building, which stands at 82 metres, was once the tallest building in the Capital.

According to the letter dated July 1, the DFS observed several shortcomings in the

building, which include unsealed electrical shafts, staircase and lift lobby encroached by dumped furniture, among others, in the inspection of the five-decade-old building carried out on June 23. DFS director Atul Garg said while the request for the NOC has been rejected, the entire building has not been declared unsafe. He added that a request for the renewal of the fire NOC has to be made every three years.

"Only the request for renewal has been rejected and after rectifying the said shortcomings at the earliest, they can request for the renewal

again," said Mr. Garg. Other safety issues noted by the agency included fire pumps without auto start provision, dysfunctional fire detectors and manually operated electronic fire alarm system, according to the DFS Chief.

Responding to the development, a DDA spokesperson said, "Vikas Minar was constructed in 1972. Many changes in advanced fire technologies, bye-laws etc. have occurred in the course of time. Observations raised by the DFS will be acted upon priority and the DFS will be called for re-inspection."

Man sexually assaults minor girl in East Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A seven-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted on Sunday by a man in East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar.

DCP (East) Priyanka Kashyap said they received a PCR call regarding the assault. An enquiry revealed that while the victim was playing outside her residence, an unknown person came and took her to an abandoned place where he allegedly sexually assaulted her. "The suspect has been zeroed in and efforts are on to nab him," the DCP said.

Centre, Delhi govt. granted 4 weeks to respond to petition on water harvesting

Authorities asked to share details of rainwater harvesting structures

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday gave four weeks to the Centre, Delhi government and local authorities here to submit their response related to the lack of rainwater harvesting structures and easing traffic jams in the Capital during monsoon.

A Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad listed the public interest litigation (PIL) initiated by the High Court for further hearing on August 17.

Lack of RWH structures

Last month, the High Court took cognisance of a news report that highlighted the lack of rainwater harvesting structures in the Capital, following which it issued notices to various government departments.

Taking suo motu cognisance of



the matter due to its public importance, the High Court had issued notices to Union Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Road Transport, the Delhi government, the Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Jal Board, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Public Works Department, Commissioner of Police and Special C.P. (Traffic).

The Vacation Bench of Justice Jasmeet Singh and Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma had sought to

know from the authorities the steps undertaken to address traffic jams and snarls in Delhi during monsoons.

Taking note of the traffic snarls in Delhi that exist despite the monsoon season, the Bench had said it can "easily be controlled and regulated instantly through rainwater management as well as with the assistance of Google Maps which shows traffic jams in various parts of Delhi".

In August last year, the Delhi Jal Board introduced a scheme to provide financial assistance of up to ₹50,000 to install rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in group housing societies, schools and hospitals having properties of plot size of 100 square metres and above. The Delhi government has been extending the last date for the compulsory implementation of rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, for long.



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Court issues bailable warrant against Raut

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI**
A court here on Monday issued a bailable warrant against Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut after he failed to appear before it in connection with a defamation complaint filed by former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya's wife Medha Somaiya.

month issued a process (summons) against Mr. Raut, asking him to appear before it on July 4. However, neither Mr. Raut nor his lawyers were present in the court, Ms. Somaiya's lawyer Vivekanand Gupta said. "Hence, we made an application for the issuance of a warrant against him, which the court allowed," Mr. Gupta added. The court later adjourned

the matter and kept it for hearing on July 18. Earlier, the Magistrate, while issuing summons, had held that documents and video clips produced on record prima facie revealed that the accused made defamatory statements against the complainant (Ms. Somaiya), so that it will be seen by the public at large and read by people in newspapers. It

was also prima facie proved by the complainant that the words spoken by accused Sanjay Raut were such that it harmed the complainant's reputation, the court said. Ms. Somaiya claimed Mr. Raut had made baseless and defamatory allegations against her and her husband, accusing them of being involved in a scam of ₹100 crore.

'Won't interfere in religion, but will oppose when used to divide Tamils'

Only language has the power to defeat religious pretensions, says Stalin

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI**

Maintaining that he will never interfere in the religious beliefs of individuals, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday said he opposed religion being used as a tool to divide Tamils.

As divisive forces were increasing and attempting to divide Tamils on caste and religious lines, Tamil had the power to unite Tamils against such forces, Mr. Stalin said.



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin addressing an event virtually on Monday.

said during his virtual address at an event organised by the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA).

However, the same would not apply to caste, he said. "Caste is the primary factor dividing the Tamil community," he said.

Claiming that only those who did not accept the concept of 'Everything for Everyone' were opposing the Dravidian Movement, Mr. Stalin said, "They were the ones who opposed this government as well as the word 'Dravidam'."

"The term 'Dravida', which once referred to a community and a regional expression and a language,

has since become a reference to a political philosophy," he said.

"It refers to a political philosophy which advocates 'Everything for Everyone'. Those who oppose this [Dravida] are those who oppose 'Everything for Everyone' and the Dravidian Movement," Mr. Stalin said.

Though critics had been there for "a thousand years", members of the Tamil community continued to live through their challenges, he said.

During the function, the Ulaga Tamil Peedam Award was conferred posthumously on Thamizhko Ilankumar for 2020 and Erode Thamizhanban for 2021.

Tool for division

"Only language has the power to defeat religious pretensions. When I say religion, I'm not referring to anyone's religious faith. Re-

ligious faith is every individual's belief, choice and right. We will not interfere in that. At the same time, we will oppose religion when it is used as a tool to divide Tamils," Mr. Stalin

A. Raja's 'separatist' remarks draw criticism

It is DMK's acceptance of failure: BJP

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI**

DMK leader A. Raja has implored Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to provide 'State autonomy' to Tamil Nadu, and not push them to seek an independent country.

Though the icon of the Dravidian movement, Thanthai Periyar stood for an independent Tamil Nadu, the DMK moved away from it, Mr. Raja said on Sunday addressing a party meet of representatives of urban local bodies. The conference was held in Namakkal in western Tamil Nadu. The party, though accepted Periyar, backed integrity and democracy and said, 'long live India' and the party continues to stick to that line.

"I am telling Amit Shah and the Prime Minister with utmost humility, I implore you in the presence of (our) leaders on the dais, our Chief Minister is journeying on the path of Anna (C.N. Annadurai, former Chief Minister and DMK founder),

do not push us on the path of Periyar. Do not make us seek a separate country, give state autonomy and we will not rest till then," he said.

Mr. Raja's remark invited sharp criticisms in the social media with several hitting out at him for his 'separatist' comment while others backed him.

BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi termed the DMK leader's statement regarding as the regional party's acceptance of failure of its Dravidian politics.

Mr. Ravi, who is BJP in-charge of Tamil Nadu, said the party's growth in the State has turned the heat on the ruling DMK there.

Tamil Nadu BJP vice-president Narayanan Tirupathi condemned Mr. Raja's remark as "blatantly divisive". "But what is shocking and surprising is that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin remained a mute spectator. I condemn his silence. He has taken oath of office, affirming allegiance to the Constitution," he added.

People of Gujarat must get free power: Kejriwal

AAP promises many welfare schemes

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD**

Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener, on Monday promised that the people of Gujarat will get free electricity if his party is voted to power in the upcoming Assembly elections to be held later this year.

On the second day of his visit to the poll-bound State, Mr. Kejriwal addressed a Town Hall "Bijli Jansamvad" event where he spoke about how the AAP governments in Delhi and Punjab have offered free electricity, bringing massive relief to the poor and the middle class.

"Why is electricity very expensive in Gujarat? Why is the BJP government not able to provide subsidised power to the poor and the middle class households in the State?" he asked.

"Gujarat can also get cheap or free 24-hour electricity, but there is one condition, and that is you will have to change the politics, the government, and bring in an honest party to the govern-



Arvind Kejriwal. •PTI

ment. I will be back on Sunday with a solution to the State electricity problem," he added.

Mr. Kejriwal said if the Ministers and the politicians of the BJP can enjoy zero electricity bills despite consuming thousands of units, then why could not the general public who were paying taxes. "If farmers in Gujarat are supplied electricity at night, then the Ministers should also be given the opportunity to work at night at the Secretariat," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said he would visit Gujarat once a week and hold a dialogue with the people on issues like the MSP and corruption, till the elections.

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Gauri's sister records statement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Kavita Lankesh, sister of the slain editor-activist Gauri Lankesh, recorded her statement before the KCOCA Special Court, when examination of witnesses began in the case on Monday. Trial in the case began on May 27.

Ms. Kavita is also the complainant in Gauri's murder case. During her examination, she recounted how a week before Gauri was killed, she had told her that suspicious people were moving around the house. She recounted how on September 5, 2017, her mother was informed by Gauri's neighbours through a call that she had "collapsed". She recounted the murder scene and how she saw more than one cartridge.

During her cross-examination, she denied that Gauri and her siblings had property disputes. She said that her sister did not have any life threat from Naxals. She also denied the allegation that Gauri and herself had a fight when the former came to her house a few days before being killed.

Earlier in the day, Special Public Prosecutor S. Balan examined a key witness in the case, who was an associate of A-17 K.T. Naveen Kumar. He is a witness in both K.S. Bhagawan attempt to murder case and Gauri murder case.

He identified four key accused who were present in the courtroom through videoconference facility from the prisons. He identified Naveen Kumar and three others whom he said he met at a farmhouse in Maddur with Naveen Kumar. They asked him if he could make circuits.

The trial in the case will be held till Friday.

People disappointed with PM Modi's 'empty' speech, says TRS

BJP leaders' focus was to highlight their urge for power in Telangana: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) has observed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting held here on Sunday was highly disappointing as his address did not specify his plans for the country or for the State, but it purely revolved around Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) desire to come to power in the State.

Not just the Prime Minister, but also other BJP bigwigs such as Union Home Minister Amit Shah too were engaged in spreading misinformation and lies as they had no facts to share about their (Centre's) role in the development of Telangana for the last eight years, Minister for Finance and Health, T. Harish Rao, said



Telangana Health Minister T. Harish Rao addressing the media in Hyderabad on Monday. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

while addressing the media in Hyderabad on Monday.

Mr. Harish Rao asked Mr. Shah and other Central leaders of the party to visit districts in Telangana to know how the TRS slogan of 'neelid, nidhulu, niyamakaalu'

(water, funds and jobs) is being realised.

But for better availability of water for irrigation by executing world's largest Kaleshwaram lift project in a record time and completing several pending projects and

other supportive measures such as revival of minor irrigation tanks, provision of 24x7 free power to about 30 lakh agriculture pump-sets, investment support given under Rythu Bandhu scheme at ₹5,000 per acre for two crop seasons a year and making available other inputs in time, how the production of foodgrains had multiplied in the State, he sought to know.

"Mr. Modi himself has acknowledged that the Centre had purchased paddy worth over ₹1 lakh crore during the last eight years. Is such a huge production of paddy possible without water? Telangana is second only to Punjab in paddy production now and last year the production was about 2.6 crore tonnes", he said.

'Probe flying of black balloons near airport'

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

BJP Andhra Pradesh president Somu Veerajulu has expressed concern at the release of black balloons by some persons, suspected to be Congress party activists, in the vicinity of the Vijayawada airport at Ganavaram when Prime Minister Narendra Modi started flying to Bhimavaram to participate in the birth anniversary celebrations of Alluri Sitarama Raju.

He demanded that the incident should be investigated and stern action taken against those behind the conspiracy.

In a press release, Mr. Veerajulu said the flying of balloons in the high security area should not be taken lightly as the Prime Minister's safety was at stake. He said he would be complaining about it to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Centre stops work on Rajasthan canal project

Says 'lack of consent' by other States



Rajasthan has been demanding the national project status for ERCP for quite some time. • FILE PHOTO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The proposed Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP), set to benefit 13 districts of Rajasthan through interlinking of three rivers, has taken a political twist following the Centre's directive to stop the work in view of "lack of consent" by other States. The Congress government has termed the Centre's interference undesirable and described it as crossing the line of cooperative federalism.

Rajasthan has been demanding the national project status for ERCP for quite some time, while pointing out that any delay in its implementation would lead to a phenomenal increase in its cost, which was at present estimated at ₹37,200 crore. The ambitious project stipulates transfer of excess water from the Chambal river basin to the regions facing water scarcity.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said at a workshop on ERCP with the Congress leaders here that the objections raised by neighbouring Madhya Pradesh were baseless, as any of the two States could use water from its catchment area as well as 10% of the water received from the catchment areas of the other, after an agreement reached in the Inter-State Water Control Board.

Mr. Gehlot pointed out that M.P. had itself built the Mohanpura dam on the Ne-

vaj river, a tributary of Parvati river, and the Kundalia dam on Kalisindh river, because of which about 2.65-lakh hectare irrigation area was developed in that State. The no objection certificate was obtained by M.P. after the construction of dams in 2017.

The Rajasthan government has maintained that M.P.'s objection on ERCP was baseless, as it had got its own projects cleared as per the decision taken in an inter-State meeting in 2005. Rajasthan has also prepared the detailed project report in accordance with the decision and in compliance with the 2010 guidelines of the Central Water Commission.

CM questions move

The Union Jal Shakti Ministry's Secretary has written to the Rajasthan Chief Secretary directing that all kinds of works on the ERCP should be stopped until the issues with M.P. were resolved. Mr. Gehlot asked how the Centre could ask the State governments to stop the work when the State was meeting the project cost and utilising its share of water within its own borders.

"Water is a State subject. The Centre is adopting a discriminatory attitude towards Rajasthan and is trying to deprive people of the State of drinking water and farmers of irrigation waters," Mr. Gehlot said.

Karnataka ADGP held in PSI recruitment scam

60 people have been arrested in the case so far

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Monday arrested Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP) Amrit Paul in the police sub inspectors' (PSI) recruitment scam.

Mr. Paul was heading the Police Recruitment Cell, Karnataka, when the scam broke out and it was found that the OMR sheets were allegedly tampered within the office. The CID arrested him after questioning him four times.

The State government had transferred Mr. Paul to the



Amrit Paul

Internal Security Division, replacing him with Kamal Pant, while probing his role.

Earlier, P. Shantha Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, and the other staff involved in the scam had been arrested.

The CID has so far arrested over 60 persons, including the PSI exam topper,

who allegedly tied up with middlemen and officials to get the OMR sheets filled after submission.

On Monday, the CID questioned Mr. Paul and later took him to hospital for medical examination.

Mr. Paul, who was heading the recruitment division having its office in the CID headquarters, is now sitting in the interrogation cell on the same premises, after being taken into custody till July 13 by the CID sleuths.

The probe so far revealed that Mr. Paul had given the keys of the strongroom to his assistant Mr. Shantha Kumar, who, along with three of his associates, allegedly tampered with the OMR sheets after switching off the CCTV cameras.

According to sources, 30 aspirants had paid money, ranging from ₹30 lakh to ₹40 lakh, to Mr. Shantha Kumar to get into the toppers' list.

Mr. Shantha Kumar allegedly roped in first division assistant Harsha and RSIs Sridhar and Srinivas to help him.

Sources said that ever since Mr. Paul was promoted as ADGP and posted to head the recruitment division in 2020, Mr. Shantha Kumar, who was working in the division for over a decade, became close to such an extent that he took over all the responsibilities of the department - from preparation of question papers to selection of centres, printing question papers and supply of OMR sheets.

Mr. Shantha Kumar took charge of the strongroom in CID annexe building where the OMR sheets were kept under tight security. Since he was in charge, Mr. Shantha Kumar, along with his associates, went to the strongroom and tampered with the OMR sheets, the sources alleged.

Reacting to the developments, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, said: "We are committed to cleanse the entire system through an unbiased and uncompromising probe. The CID has been given a free hand to investigate the scam. They have taken action based on the evidence."

Hours after the arrest, the State government issued an order suspending Mr. Paul.

BJP to take stock of 'successful' meet

Telangana unit leaders, led by Bandi Sanjay, to attend the review meeting today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State unit leaders, led by their president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, will be meeting on Tuesday at the Telangana party office to review the proceedings of the meeting of national officer-bearers, executive committee and 'Vijay Sankalp Sabha'.

State office-bearers and district in-charges are also expected to attend the meeting on Tuesday.

For now, party leaders are in high spirits over the 'successful' conduct of the programmes, and especially the response to the public meeting which was also appreciated by Mr. Modi, when he patted Mr. Kumar for the gathering.

Union Ministers Amit Shah, Piyush Goyal and others were also seen happily



Sea of support: Supporters at a public meeting of PM Narendra Modi, in Hyderabad on July 3, 2022. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

gesturing, pointing to the crowd that had gathered for the meeting.

Thanking cadre

Mr. Kumar along with other senior leaders like former MLC N. Ramchander Rao (media in-charge), Vice Pre-

sident G. Manohar Reddy, general secretary G. Premender Reddy and others began to see off the leaders at the airport, including BJP national President J.P. Nadda, Union Minister Smriti Irani among others.

The State chief and other

leaders have used their respective social media handles to hail the support shown to the Prime Minister during the meeting.

Mr. Premender Reddy thanked the party cadre and leaders for working tirelessly over the fortnight to ensure everything is in place for the 340-odd leaders, including Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and others who had arrived at Hyderabad from across the country.

Though there was a relative calm at the party headquarters, National Vice-President D.K. Aruna criticised the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi for putting up posters and hoardings against Mr. Modi around the capital.

"We too could have replied in kind, but we did not wish to indulge in such unethical practices," Ms. D.K. Aruna said.

SC agrees to hear EPS' plea against HC order on July 6

HC restrained AIADMK GC from deciding on leadership

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday tentatively agreed to hear on July 6 a petition filed by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, challenging a Madras High Court order restraining the AIADMK general council (GC) from taking any decision on the party's leadership question.

Mr. Palaniswami argued that the decision of the Madras High Court, pronounced after a midnight hearing, was "flawed, fallacious, non-est and untenable in law. It interfered with the inner democratic working of the AIADMK, which is against the law and contradicts common sense and cannot be allowed to stand".



Madras HC decision was 'flawed', says EPS. •

He contended that the "dual leadership" experiment, under which he had shared power with O. Panneerselvam, had failed, which was quite evident from the poll results. The party members wanted him to take over and steer a "single leadership" mechanism.

Kerala govt., Opposition spar over AKG Centre blast

Assembly debate over explosion in Thiruvananthapuram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A heated adjournment debate in the Kerala Assembly on the crude bomb explosion outside AKG Centre, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] headquarters, ended in an Opposition walkout on Monday. The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had resorted to 'obfuscation and disingenuous denials' when the Opposition confronted him with 'pointed questions' about the 'fishy' incident.

The government had allowed the debate on the adjournment motion moved by Congress legislator P.C. Vishnunath to put 'political

embarrassing' speculations to rest.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said Mr. Vijayan had no explanation on why Left Democratic Front (LDF) convener E.P. Jayarajan had jumped the gun and blamed the Congress for the attack. Mr. Satheesan said the ruling front 'celebrated' the incident to distract public attention from scandals dogging the government. The police enabled the attack by scaling down night patrol, he alleged.

Surprisingly, the officers in front of the AKG Centre failed to chase the 'bomb-thrower'. He said the police were in the dark about the attacker's identity or motive. In the aftermath, the CPI(M)

'unleashed widespread violence against Congress offices and workers'. Mr. Satheesan said Mr. Jayarajan and senior leader P.K. Sreemathy had arrived at the scene within seconds. "Did they have a premonition of the attack?" Mr. Satheesan asked.

Mr. Vijayan said the AKG Centre attack was well-plotted. The conspirators were harbouring the attacker. "The police are getting to them." The government feared no scandals because its hands were clean. In contrast, the Congress brazenly courted discredited persons who allied with right-wing elements hell-bent on denigrating the government.

The Assembly rejected the motion by voice vote.

'Dhyana Mandir to be built at Alluri birthplace'

PM attends his 125th birth anniversary fete

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
BHIMAVARAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said an Alluri Dhyana Mandir would be constructed at Mogallu, the birthplace of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Modi, along with Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and Union Minister for Tourism and Culture G. Kishan Reddy, kick-started the year-long 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Manyam Veerudu Alluri Sitarama Raju, here.

The Prime Minister virtually unveiled the 30-foot bronze statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju at ASR Nagar.



Narendra Modi paying respects to an elderly person at an event in Bhimavaram on Monday. • PTI

Addressing a meeting at Chinna Amaram village in Kalla Mandal, Mr. Modi recalled the services of Alluri and other tribal leaders who sacrificed their lives in the freedom struggle. The sacrifices of the great leaders would be taken door-to-door. "We are celebrating the 125th Jayanti celebrations of Sitarama Raju as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. I am fortunate to attend the

celebrations along with his family members," he said.

Mr. Modi felicitated Alluri Srirama Raju, great-grandson of Alluri Sitarama Raju, and Bodi Dora, great-grandson of Mallu Dora, who participated in the freedom struggle in the forests.

There was a huge applause from the public when Mr. Modi said in Telugu, *Manyam Veerudu Alluri. Maa nayakudu Alluri Sitarama*

Raju. Telugu veera levara, deeksha booni saagara. Maha nayakudu puttina yee nelameeda kalusu kovatam adrushtam.

"We are celebrating the 100 years of the Rampa rebellion which will be observed across the country. The memorials of Alluri will be constructed at Pandrangi and Chintapalli villages," the Prime Minister said.

Recalling the sacrifices of Potti Sriramulu, Pingali Venkaiah, Kanneganti Hanumanth, Kandukuri Veeresalingam Pantulu and Vuyyalawada Narasimha Reddy, Mr. Modi exhorted the youth to join hands and come forward to fulfil the dreams of the freedom fighters.

Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said in Andhra Pradesh one district was named after Alluri Sitarama Raju, ASR District, during the reorganisation of districts.

HC judge who disputed ACB faces threat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Justice H.P. Sandesh, judge of the High Court of Karnataka, on Monday orally disclosed in the court hall that there was a "threat" to him after he raised questions about the functioning of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

The judge revealed this during the hearing of a petition filed by Mahesh P.S., deputy tahsildar, who is an accused in the ₹5 lakh bribery case involving J. Manjunath, an IAS officer and the then Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district. Justice Sandesh, during earlier hearings of the petition last week, had questioned why ACB had not acted against Mr. Manjunath.

Though the judge did not disclose the source of threat, he asked ACB's counsel whether ACB's Additional Director-General of Police was so powerful.

"State government and the ADGP are protecting corrupt public servants, all for 'vitamin M'...", he said.

BJP set to roll out Mission Dakshin: Ravi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi on Monday said the party was gearing up to strengthen its position in the southern region of the country through "Mission Dakshin" programme. Under this, the party would make efforts to woo beneficiaries of the Central schemes in Southern States.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also proposed the concept of "Sneha Yatra" to reach out to people, he said.



In the political thicket

Election of Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly revealed Governor's partisan role

The office of the Speaker in the Maharashtra Assembly was vacant for nearly 17 months, but it was filled up by an election held within two days of a new regime taking over. Rahul Narvekar of the BJP won with 164 votes in his favour and only 107 against, a margin that reflects the extent of support that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde enjoys in the House now. What facilitated Mr. Narvekar's election was the change of heart on the part of Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, who has been refusing to fix a date for the election. In a partisan manner that has become typical for Governors, Mr. Koshyari has been citing the pendency of litigation, related to amendments to the Assembly Rules on the mode of electing a Speaker, to avoid fixing a date as required by Rule 6. Even though the Supreme Court is yet to dispose of an appeal in this matter, the Governor seems to have quietly withdrawn his objection and fixed the date for the Speaker's election. Significantly, the election took place by open ballot as envisaged by the changed rules. The BJP, while in the opposition, was rooting for a secret ballot in the Speaker's election, apparently in the expectation, even much before the Shinde camp's revolt, that some members of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents will vote against the ruling alliance. On the other hand, former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray favoured an open ballot as a possible deterrent against crossvoting.

It is worth noting that the Constitution envisages no role for the Governor in the Speaker's election, which is the prerogative of the House. It is only as a courtesy to the fact that the Governor is part of the legislature that the Assembly Rules say that the Governor shall fix the date for the Speaker's election. It obviously means that the Governor shall do so on the advice of the Council of Ministers, but incumbents in Raj Bhavan entertain a perverse notion these days that they exercise power at their whim. If any Governor believed that he had any say in the matter of fixing a date for the Speaker's election, it is both contrary to the constitutional scheme and a sign of playing a politically partisan role. One part of the problem was that the amended rule said the Governor shall fix a date "on the recommendation of the Chief Minister", raising a doubt whether it was an individual piece of advice. The Bombay High Court, however, noted that there is nothing to suggest that the CM's opinion did not have the support of his Cabinet or that any constitutional provision has been violated. As the erstwhile dissidents from the Shiv Sena have emerged the present-day rulers and demonstrated their majority in the Assembly, these controversies may mean little now. However, it again shows that constitutional functionaries never rise above the political thicket.

Deal or no deal?

The U.S. and Iran should start direct talks to find common ground on the nuclear deal

Revising the Iran nuclear deal was a campaign promise of U.S. President Joe Biden. In the White House, Mr. Biden appointed a special envoy for Iran, starting indirect negotiations with the country and direct talks with other signatories of the 2015 agreement to meet this objective. But almost one and a half years later, there has still been no breakthrough in one of the most contentious issues he faces in West Asia. Multiple rounds of talks in Vienna made progress in bringing the deal back on track, which had sought to scuttle Iran's nuclear programme in return for lifting international sanctions. But the talks collapsed earlier this year as the Biden administration reportedly refused to remove the terrorist designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a critical arm of Iran's armed forces. Last week, Qatar, which hosted the U.S.-Taliban talks that led to the February 2020 agreement between the Afghan Sunni fundamentalist insurgency and the Trump administration, held indirect talks between the U.S. and Iran. However, as Mr. Biden prepares for his first West Asia tour as U.S. President later this month, a deal is still elusive. While Iran says the Doha talks were positive, U.S. officials say the prospects of reviving the agreement are now worse. That they stay engaged in talks shows that both sides are still keen on a solution, but they face structural impediments.

To be sure, the current mess was created by Donald Trump. The Obama administration and the Rouhani presidency, along with other world powers, had engaged in painstaking negotiations to reach the 2015 agreement, which practically cut off Iran's path towards building nuclear capabilities. Iran was fully compliant with the agreement's terms when President Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the agreement. He had hoped that Iran, under economic pressure, would renegotiate the agreement. Instead, Iran began enriching large amounts of uranium to a higher purity and developing advanced centrifuges, besides strengthening its military presence in the region through its proxies. Mr. Biden, like Barack Obama, also sees a negotiated agreement as the best way to limit Iran's nuclear programme. But he is facing pressure from America's allies in West Asia, especially Israel, to include Iran's weapons programme in the ambit of a fresh agreement. Iran is strongly resisting any attempt to expand the scope of the agreement. As negotiations go on, Israel has stepped up its shadow war with the Islamic Republic, targeting its military and nuclear personnel and weapons facilities. This is a dangerous slope. What the world wants now, at a time when it is struggling with the after-effects of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, is not another open conflict. The U.S. and Iran should start direct negotiations to overcome differences and find common ground on the deal before it is too late.

A chaotic world, the perils of multilateralism

Instead, bilateral engagements may be much more productive at this point in history



T.P. SREENIVASAN

Today at a Quad summit, tomorrow at a BRICS summit and the day after at a G7 summit is a statesman's dream come true. The exchange of ideas with world leaders, seeking common ground on burning issues and recalibrating our policy accordingly are at the heart of diplomacy. But at a time when the world is trying to grapple with the impact of unprecedented problems which arose in the first two decades of the 21st century, the various intergovernmental organisations and groupings, which are undergoing fundamental changes, may not be fertile places for building peace. The time is not opportune for collective bargaining when countries are holding their cards close to their chest and scheming for positions of advantage. The least common denominators are so shallow that joint statements read like a string of diverse statements without any political glue. Bilateral engagements may be much more productive at this point in history.

In-built contradictions

The 14th virtual BRICS summit hosted by China (June 23-24) was a clear attempt by China to hijack the grouping, going by a blueprint it has prepared for the new world order. Curiously, BRICS was not meant to be a political grouping when the acronym, BRIC, was coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill in 2001 to categorise Brazil, Russia, India and China, which were expected to collectively dominate global growth by 2050. Seeing the possibility of developing a non-western global economic system, China welcomed the idea of BRICS as the nucleus of

a new economic grouping and invested energy and resources in building it. The others, joined later by South Africa, were also attracted by the idea of creating a catalyst for an alternative to the Bretton Woods Institutions.

The composition of the group had its own contradictions right from the beginning. Two permanent members of the Security Council together with three aspirants to permanent membership appeared like two carnivores and three herbivores invited to the same meal with little possibility for a change in menu. But the grouping focused on possibilities of cooperation among them by developing institutions such as the New Development Bank, the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement and cooperation in certain sectors. The fundamental question of support for the three countries to secure permanent membership was fossilised on China's position that the role of the developing countries should be enhanced, implying that there shall be no expansion of the permanent membership of the Security Council. Russia's support for India also got diluted as a result. Even at the best of times, the BRICS partnership did not result in support for its three partners.

There has been a sea change

The situation in BRICS had undergone a sea change by the time the BRICS summit was held virtually under the presidency of China towards the end of June. The entire fragile framework of limited cooperation was shattered with the bloodshed at Galwan, when China unilaterally sought to alter the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and, even worse, halted the process of disengagement from certain sectors. The treaties, agreements and agreed procedures are required to be rewritten to form the basis of future cooperation. If Pakistan's raising bilateral issues and the Kashmir issue on every occasion merited a boycott



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), India, attending a BRICS meeting under the chairmanship of China was a major concession. The only justification for India's attendance was that it did not want to miss a conclave that could determine the dynamics of the future course in the Indo-Pacific. But both China and Russia do not favour even the change of nomenclature of the region from Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific.

Russia-China link

The joint statement of BRICS was of 7,500 words, none of which seemed to indicate the beginning of a new relationship within BRICS. The change of Russia was even more dramatically different since February 2022. Neither the Soviet Union nor Russia had supported India against China since 1962, because of the "brother and the friend" syndrome. Russia showed some inclination to facilitate a discussion between India and China, but after February 2022, Russia is legally obliged to take the Chinese side in any future showdown between India and China. If Russia had agreed to end the war and begin negotiations with Ukraine and China had disengaged from areas occupied in 2020, it would have marked a change for the better. With Russia continuing its war in Ukraine and China continuing to occupy Indian territory in Ladakh, there was little credibility in many of the words they used in the Joint Communiqué. Words such as responsive, effective, transparent, democratic, objective, ac-

tion oriented and credible sound hollow as they come from Russia and China, which have violated every one of them.

The way China brought in 13 like-minded countries through the back door for a high-level dialogue on global development smacked of unfair means to expand the group with their friends. China pushed for expansion at the summit itself even at a time when BRICS had no credible global agenda. China showed no enthusiasm to bring India into the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) even after India met the criteria of a liberalised economy. Repeating sentences from old BRICS documents as though there was no change in the world has not contributed to the solidarity of BRICS. China seems to think that BRICS would be an extension of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was designed to dominate the world by getting small and weak countries in a debt trap. The Sri Lankan experience has exposed the Chinese strategy; it has been India, not China, which has come to the rescue of Sri Lanka.

On the G7 meet

India's presence at G7 meetings are not rare and Germany invited the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to attend the G7 summit in Bavaria (June 26-28) even when there were rumours that in the clamour about democracy and religious freedom and India's neutrality in the Ukraine war, India might be excluded. The G7 made its own statement on the Ukraine war on expected lines and India was only involved in other issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, gender equality and democracy. But the G7 was so preoccupied with its increasing involvement in the war through the supply of money, sophisticated weapons, etc., that other issues were cursorily treated. The imposition of sanctions has been difficult without the cooperation of all countries; the European nations

were pressured to impose sanctions against Russia even if it was not in their own interest. Since it was a war summit, it did not produce any results on other major issues. Curtailing energy supplies from Russia would hurt Germany, France, Japan and others, but they could not get any exemption.

Mr. Modi's presence at the G7 summit enabled him to pursue several vital projects with G7 countries, but they will have to be pursued away from the theatre of war — an issue that has fully occupied the G7 countries. India's gain has been the opportunity it got to interact with world leaders, though it was tinged with the disappointment that India, as a Quad member, did not condemn Russia's action in Ukraine.

At the UAE

The limited gains of India at the BRICS and G7 summits have been in contrast with the enthusiastic welcome Mr. Modi received in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which the Prime Minister visited for a few hours. Apart from paying his respects to the late President of the UAE, Mr. Modi must have smoothed the ruffled feathers of the UAE and other West Asian countries, which were hurt by the totally objectionable remarks made by two former spokespersons of the ruling party. The few hours of bilateral meetings in the UAE were more productive for Mr. Modi than the days he spent at the two summits.

Multilateral negotiations will be increasingly difficult in the present chaotic global situation. It is only by working bilaterally with potential allies that India can attain the status of a pole in the new world with steadfast friends and followers.

T.P. Sreenivasan is a former Indian Ambassador with long experience in multilateral diplomacy. He is presently Mentor and Adjunct Professor of Eminence at the Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai

India needs to scale up direct nutrition interventions

Preconception nutrition, maternal nutrition and child feeding practices in the first 1,000 days of life need priority



SHEILA C. VIR

As India launches the celebrations of its 75th anniversary of Independence, there is much to be proud about; significant advances have been made in science, technology, and medicine, adding to the country's ancient, traditional, and civilisational knowledge base, wisdom and wealth.

Still, it is disconcerting that even after seven decades of Independence, India is afflicted by public health issues such as child malnutrition (35.5% stunted, 67.1% anaemic) attributing to 68.2% of under-five child mortality. Poor nutrition not only adversely impacts health and survival but also leads to diminished learning capacity, and poor school performance. And in adulthood, it means reduced earnings and increased risks of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.

The good news is that the Government appears determined to set it right — with an aggressive push to the National Nutrition Mission (NNM), rebranding it the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition, or POSHAN Abhiyaan. It has the objective of reducing malnutrition in women, children and adolescent girls.

The Ministry of Women and Child (MWCD) continues to be the nodal Ministry implementing the

NNM with a vision to align different ministries to work in tandem on the "window of opportunity" of the first 1,000 days of life (270 days of pregnancy and 730 days; 0-24 months). Global and Indian evidence fully supports this strategy, which prevents the largely irreversible stunting occurring by two years of age. POSHAN Abhiyaan (now referred as POSHAN 2.0) rightly places a special emphasis on selected high impact essential nutrition interventions, combined with nutrition-sensitive interventions, which indirectly impact mother, infant and young child nutrition, such as improving coverage of maternal-child health services, enhancing women empowerment, availability, and access to improved water, sanitation, and hygiene and enhancing homestead food production for a diversified diet.

NHFS data is a pointer

Data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 2019-21, as compared to NFHS-4 2015-16, reveals a substantial improvement in a period of four to five years in several proxy indicators of women's empowerment, for which the Government deserves credit. There is a substantial increase in antenatal service attendance (58.6 to 70.0%); women having their own saving bank accounts (63.0 to 78.6%); women owning mobile phones that they themselves use (45.9% to 54.0%); women married before 18 years of age (26.8% to 23.3%); women with 10 or more years of schooling (35.7% to 41.0%), and access to clean fuel for cooking (43.8% to 68.6%).

But, alarmingly, during this period, the country has not pro-



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

gressed well in terms of direct nutrition interventions. Preconception nutrition, maternal nutrition, and appropriate infant and child feeding remain to be effectively addressed. India has 20% to 30% undernutrition even in the first six months of life when exclusive breastfeeding is the only nourishment required. Neither maternal nutrition care interventions nor infant and young child feeding practices have shown the desired improvement. A maternal nutrition policy is still awaited.

Despite a policy on infant and young child feeding, and a ban on sale of commercial milk for infant feeding, there has only been a marginal improvement in the practice of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF). Child undernutrition in the first three months remains high. Creating awareness on EBF, promoting the technique of appropriate holding, latching and manually emptying the breast are crucial for the optimal transfer of breast milk to a baby. Recent evidence from the Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas (CTARA), IIT Mumbai team indicates that well-planned breastfeeding counselling given to pregnant women during antenatal checkup prior to delivery and in

follow up frequent home visits makes a significant difference. The daily weight gain of a baby was noted to average 30 to 35 grams per day and underweight prevalence rate reduced by almost two thirds.

Another key intervention

NFHS-5 also confirms a gap in another nutrition intervention — complementary feeding practices, i.e., complementing semi-solid feeding with continuation of breast milk from six months onwards. Poor complementary feeding is often due to a lack of awareness to start feeding at six to eight months, what and how to feed appropriately family food items, how frequently, and in what quantity. The fact that 20% of children in higher socio-economic groups are also stunted indicates poor knowledge in food selection and feeding practices and a child's ability to swallow mashed feed. Where are we going wrong?

So, creating awareness at the right time with the right tools and techniques regarding special care in the first 1,000 days deserves very high priority. We must act now, and invest finances and energy in a mission mode. The Prime Minister can give a major boost to POSHAN 2.0, like he did to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, using his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme.

There is a pressing need to revisit the system spearheading POSHAN 2.0 and overhaul it to remove any flaws in its implementation. We need to see if we are using opportunity of service delivery contacts with mother-child in the first 1,000 days to the optimum. There is a need to revisit the nodal system for nutrition programme ex-

isting since 1975, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) under the Ministry of Women and Child and examine whether it is the right system for reaching mother-child in the first 1000 days of life. By depending on the ICDS, we are in fact missing the frequent contacts with pregnant mothers and children that the public health sector provides during antenatal care services and child immunisation services. There is also a need to explore whether there is an alternative way to distribute the ICDS supplied supplementary nutrition as Take-Home Ration packets through the Public Distribution (PDS) and free the anganwadi workers of the ICDS to undertake timely counselling on appropriate maternal and child feeding practices.

We need to systematically review the status, and develop and test a new system that would combine the human resource of ICDS and health from village to the district and State levels. This would address the mismatch that exists on focussing on delivery of services in the first 1000 days of life for preventing child undernutrition by having an effective accountable system.

It is time to think out of the box, and overcome systemic flaws and our dependence on the antiquated system of the 1970s that is slowing down the processes. Moreover, mass media or TV shows could organise discourses on care in the first 1,000 days to reach mothers outside the public health system.

Dr. Sheila C. Vir is a public health nutrition expert and the editor of the book, 'Public Health Nutrition in Developing Countries'

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.

On Telangana

The report, "Telangana needs twin-engine govt.: PM" (Page 1, July 4), is certainly a clear admission by the Prime Minister himself that Opposition-ruled States do not get the same support as National Democratic Alliance-ruled States. Such a statement is not only against federalism, which has been held to be a basic feature of our Constitution, but also exposes the hollowness of the leader's

call for cooperative federalism. What is worse, such statements in election-bound States, for instance, evidently amount to undue influence over voters, vitiating the need for free and fair elections. S.N. SHUKLA, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Courses and caution

Private universities in Karnataka have begun introducing new courses and subjects, the

justification being that they are more relevant to the current job scenario ("Pvt. varsities introduce new courses and subjects, July 4). First of all, these courses are branches of the existing curriculum. When the basic curriculum itself lacks quality teachers in most colleges, where will colleges find qualified and experienced teachers for these courses? This only seems to be a ploy by these universities to generate more revenue at

the expense of quality. The onus is on the parents not to let their wards be misled by such courses and claims. G. PADMANABHAN, Bengaluru

Tackling rabies

The unexpected death of a girl student in Palakkad from rabies is shocking. Following this incident, there are some voices now demanding that all stray dogs should be culled. This is not a solution. Instead, people should be more

vigilant about this disease and vaccination procedures. Municipal authorities must undertake a massive campaign to vaccinate animal at regular intervals. This must also be done in combination with dog sterilisation programmes. There also needs to be an audit of stray animals. K.A. SOLAMAN, Alappuzha, Kerala

■ The problem of stray dogs seems to be growing. It is not just bad roads that are a

cause of road accidents. Stray dogs too have become a potential threat especially for bikers. Another serious problem is that stray dogs are often not vaccinated and are a source of rabies. Stray dogs must be caught and kept in shelters. They must also be vaccinated. The government needs to make provisions for a special fund to take care of dogs in shelters. A. ROHAN, Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu

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The problem with our university vision

Instead of taking local conditions and market demands into account, India tries to ape the West



MILIND KUMAR SHARMA

It has now become an annual ritual in India to discuss the international rankings of higher education institutions (HEI) only when global ranking systems such as the coveted QS World University Rankings are announced. The QS World University Rankings rank HEIs on the following components: academic reputation (40%), employer reputation (10%), faculty student ratio (20%), citations per faculty (20%), international faculty ratio (5%) and international student ratio (5%). The international research network and employment outcomes were 0% for this edition.

While it is heartening to see that the number of Indian institutes among the top 1,000 globally has risen to 27 from 22 last year, and that the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has moved up 31 places to emerge as the highest ranked Indian institute in the 2023 edition, there is no serious debate on the abysmal performance of Indian universities barring the Institutes of Eminence (IOE). IOEs occupy a special place as they are granted more academic and administrative autonomy, and public IOEs get additional funding. Therefore, their dominance in the top 500 in the QS World University Rankings comes as no surprise.

Step-motherly treatment

Among the other HEIs too, there is great inequality. As per the All-India Survey on Higher Education (2019-20), 184 of the 1,043 HEIs in the country are centrally funded institutions. The Indian government generously allocates financial resources to these institutions. However, the financial support provided by State governments to State HEIs is far from adequate even though the number of under-graduate students is largest in State public universities (13,97,527) followed by State open universities (9,22,944) of the total students' enrollment. State-sponsored HEIs barely manage to pay salaries and pensions.

While the number of universities increased by almost 30.5% in 2019-



The IIT Madras campus in Chennai. • VELANKANNI RAJ.B.

20 compared to 2015-16, academic and administrative infrastructure has not been strengthened commensurate to this growth. The lackadaisical attitude we see in filling up faculty positions has further worsened the quality of teaching and research in HEIs. In fact, quality education and the world class research output that policymakers expect from State public universities remain elusive as these HEIs have never had financial and other resources to attain academic and professional growth.

On the other hand, the institutions that are generously funded by the Centre perform better than their State-sponsored counterparts on all academic performance indicators – faculty strength, modernised laboratories, building infrastructure, digitised libraries, sponsored research project grants, computing facilities, etc. Therefore, that the State-funded HEIs would not perform well in these rankings was a forgone conclusion. It is a consequence of the unequal and unfair system in the Indian higher education system, where State-sponsored HEIs are provided step-motherly treatment and positioned poorly vis-à-vis centrally funded institutions. No ranking system seems to ra-

tionally rank institutions after examining their administrative challenges, infrastructural constraints and financial predicaments; they only pay attention to performance metrics based on academic strengths and other achievements. For India to perform better on these rankings, we need to pay more attention to the State HEIs.

The NEP vision

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has envisaged all HEIs to become multidisciplinary institutions by 2040. The aim is to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education, including vocational education, from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035. The NEP also aims to ensure that by 2030, there is at least one large multidisciplinary HEI in or near every district. This means that single-stream specialised institutions will eventually be phased out.

However, the fact that prominent multidisciplinary universities such as Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, the University of Hyderabad, and Jamia Millia Islamia have slipped in the QS World University Rankings should compel national think tanks to revisit the NEP's pro-

posal in this regard. A close study of the QS World University Rankings reveals that single-stream specialised HEIs such as the Indian Institutes of Technology and IISc have performed better than their multidisciplinary counterparts. Eight IITs (Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati and Indore) are placed among the top 500 globally, in addition to IISc, Bangalore. IIT-Indore ranked highest among the second-generation IITs by securing the 396th position and IIT-BHU made its maiden presence in the 651-700 band.

A plan in the NEP for multidisciplinary education and research universities is also being contemplated in order to achieve the highest global standards in quality education. While everyone is demanding multidisciplinary education, the performance of the specialised HEIs in the QS World Rankings bears testimony to their superiority over multidisciplinary/multi-faculty institutions. The idea of converting a specialised institution into a multi-faculty university does not seem to augur well for an economy driven by specialist professionals. It would be perplexing if the IITs decided to offer courses in physical education and medicine or the National Law Universities ran undergraduate degree programmes in mechanical engineering.

It is crucial to emphasise here that nobody is averse to the idea of multidisciplinary/multi-faculty education if there is a 15% to 20% flexibility in the total academic strength. But converting all HEIs into multidisciplinary institutions is not an idea that holds water given the unique conditions and demands in India. No study or data support the idea of transforming specialised institutions into multidisciplinary/multi-faculty universities either. Such an idea may have worked in the West where HEIs invest substantial resources in multidisciplinary research through private and public research grants and funding. But a 'one size fits all' approach may not be of help to India. The need of the hour is to build and develop our higher education system while taking into account Indian conditions and market demands.

Milind Kumar Sharma is professor at Department of Production & Industrial Engineering, MBM University, Jodhpur, erstwhile, MBM Engineering College, Jodhpur. Views are personal

Right intent, confusing content

The core changes proposed by the Draft E-waste Management Rules require careful deliberation



KALYAN BHASKAR & RAMA MOHANA R. TURAGA

Last month marked a decade since the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules came into effect in India. The Rules have been amended a few times since. The most recent amendment is the Draft E-waste Management Rules, 2022, released for public comments in May 2022 by the Environment Ministry. Despite retaining the underlying extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework, the new draft Rules depart significantly from the previous regulations.

E-waste market

One major change is the introduction of a market for e-waste recycling certificates. The draft rules state that producers of e-goods have to ensure that at least 60% of their produced e-waste is recycled by 2023. This shift from collection rate targets (which set targets for the collection of e-waste as a percentage of the quantity of products sold by weight in the market in the previous year) in the current Rules to recycling rate targets in the proposed Rules is another important change.

The proposed market for e-waste recycling appears unrealistic. First, large-scale recycling of e-waste is still in its infancy in India. Most of the recycling of valuable material is carried out within the informal sector using inefficient and unsafe technologies. At a time when the technical feasibility and commercial viability of different recycling technologies and approaches for e-waste components is being worked upon in India, a target to recycle 60% of the e-waste generated in 2022-23 appears too optimistic. Second, if the regulatory targets were to create a vibrant market for recycling, the existing formal and informal players would have to play a crucial role. In light of this, the complete silence on regulating registered collectors, dismantlers, and producer responsibility organisations is puzzling. Who will ensure that these entities are carrying out their responsibilities in an environmentally safe manner? Or are these entities no longer covered under the EPR framework?

In addition, the informal sector accounts for a vast majority of e-waste processed in India. Most e-waste policy debates have centred around the integration of the informal sector into the formal systems. The proposed regulations, however, place the responsibility of such integration on the State

governments without specifying what the incentives are for them to do this.

Experience from European countries suggests that recycling targets would likely be much more difficult for the regulators to monitor and enforce compared to collection targets. Does the recycling target apply to every component of an e-product or does it apply to its aggregate weight? This is important because the technological complexity and cost could vary by component. If it is by aggregate weight, as the Rules indicate, it could incentivise recycling of materials that are easy and inexpensive (plastics, copper, glass) to recycle as opposed to materials that are costly and technologically more difficult to recycle but perhaps have greater environmental footprint (rare earth metals). If the Ministry and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) decide to go ahead with recycling targets, they should come up with guidelines on how the regulated entities must demonstrate compliance with the targets.

Steering Committee powers

The other major change is the introduction of a Steering Committee to oversee the "overall implementation, monitoring, and supervision" of the regulations. This Committee, for example, has the power to decide on the product-wise "conversion factor" that determines the value of the recycling certificate, specify how the environmental compensation fund could be utilised, resolve disputes, and "remove any difficulty in smooth implementation of these regulations." While such an institutional mechanism could provide more certainty in implementation, there is lack of representation in the Committee. The Rules propose the Chairman of the CPCB as the Chairperson of the Committee, which would include representatives of the Environment Ministry, the Electronics and IT Ministry, and the associations of producers and recyclers. But it is surprising that representation from science/academia and civil society organisations is not deemed appropriate.

The draft e-waste Rules propose a few positive changes, including expanding the definition of e-waste, more clearly specifying the penalties for violation of rules, introducing an environmental compensation fund based on the 'polluter pays' principle, and recognising the informal waste workers. The core changes it proposes within the EPR framework, however, require careful deliberation with all the relevant stakeholders before the Rules are finalised.

Rama Mohana Turaga and Kalyan Bhaskar teach sustainability and public policy at IIM Ahmedabad and XLRI, Jamshedpur, respectively. Views are personal

STATE OF PLAY

A status check on battling graft

Over a year since the DMK assumed power, it is unclear how it is proceeding against "corrupt" officials

D. SURESH KUMAR

While he was in the opposition, DMK leader M.K. Stalin would often say that once elected to power, his government would jail corrupt ministers of the AIADMK regime. It was not mere political rhetoric. In July 2018 and December 2020, Mr. Stalin met the then Tamil Nadu Governor, Banwarilal Purohit, seeking prosecution of Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and others. On the latter occasion, he submitted a 98-page memorandum listing specific charges of corruption between 2016 and 2020 against Mr. Palaniswami, his Deputy O. Panneerselvam, and Ministers S.P. Velumani, P. Thangamani, R. Kamaraj, C. Vijayabaskar, R.B. Udhayakumar, and D. Jayakumar - in that order. Mr. Stalin said then that under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Governor could himself take action against them. Before this, a few DMK leaders filed multiple complaints and petitions before law-enforcing agencies and courts to proceed against top AIADMK leaders. Citing the representations to the Governor, the DMK in its Assembly election manifesto promised to "establish special courts to handle such corruption cases."

With Mr. Stalin heading the government for over a year, there are calls for a status check on the promise to battle corruption. The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) has so far gone after six former ministers: Mr. Velumani, Mr. Thangamani, Mr. C. Vijayabaskar, M.R. Vijayabhaskar, K.C. Veeramani and K.P. Anbalagan. The agency has not found it necessary to arrest anyone. There is no tangible action against the others even though Mr. Stalin believed he was levelling cogent allegations of serious and cognisable criminal offences against them. "A bare reading of these allegations would reveal and establish prima facie cases of acts of corruption, accumulation of assets disproportionate to known sources of income

and other offences..., unlawfully influencing commercial tenders..., misappropriation of public funds, criminal breach of trust as a public servant and other offences under the Indian Penal Code 1860, etc.," he had told the Governor 18 months ago.

Observers point out that even a day before the Assembly polls, the DMK had sent a complaint to the Governor accusing Mr. Palaniswami, Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Udhayakumar of alienating 10.5 acres of government land in Chennai at a throwaway rate to a real estate developer causing an estimated ₹500 crore loss to the exchequer. What the DMK government has done in this case is unclear. There is no word on the formation of the special courts.

Contrasting this with 1996 when the DMK captured power on an anti-corruption wave, observers recall how former Chief Minister Jayalalitha was arrested within six months and three special courts were established to try 46 cases of corruption against her, former ministers, and IAS and IPS officers. It was this action that led to Jayalalitha being unseated as Chief Minister in 2001 and 2014.

Last November, the DVAC said it found evidence to arraign as co-accused 12 officials in the case registered against Mr. Velumani. Anti-corruption activists and political parties have asked why the government has not sanctioned their prosecution yet.

The government is also facing criticism for using different yardsticks in dealing with "corrupt" officials. It has arrested some while merely transferring a Deputy Transport Commissioner from whose office the DVAC seized ₹35 lakh of unaccounted cash. Also, a section is disillusioned at the presence of some members in the Stalin cabinet against whom the DMK had previously initiated cases or demanded prosecution on corruption charges. Perhaps, it is time for the Chief Minister to walk the talk.

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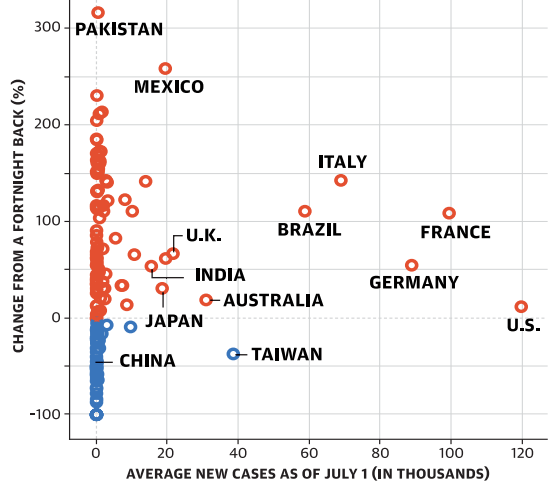
DATA POINT

Dissecting the recent COVID-19 wave

In at least 93 nations, the average number of new COVID-19 cases is rising. The U.S. is leading the list with the seven-day average of new cases nearly touching 1.2 lakh cases as of July 1, a 12% increase from a fortnight ago. Italy and Brazil have recorded more than a 100% increase in cases from a fortnight ago. However, the severity of cases seems to be lower in this wave. The share of patients in ICUs is relatively low compared to what we saw in the previous waves in select high-burden countries. In most countries, the BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron is still the leading sub-variant responsible for most cases. Except the U.S., at least 50% of the population have received their booster shots in other high-burden countries.

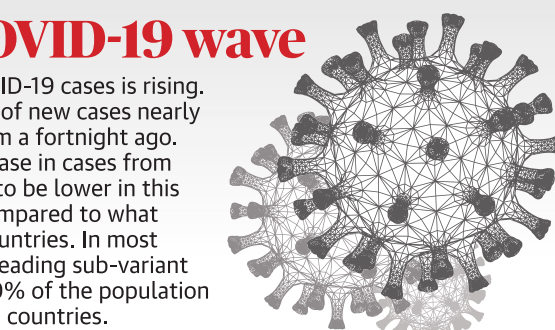
By Rebecca Rose Varghese and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Cases creeping up again | The chart shows the average new cases as of July 1 and the % change from a fortnight ago. In Germany, for instance, 88,788 average new cases were reported on July 1, a 55% increase from a fortnight ago



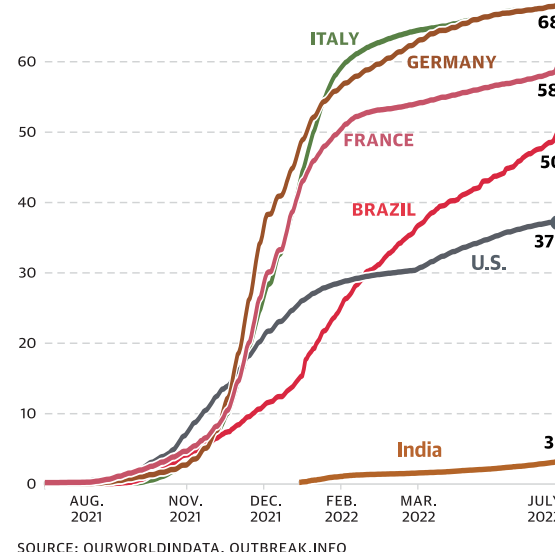
Variants of concern | The table shows the share of Omicron lineages and sub-lineages responsible for COVID-19 cases in India and in select countries. The BA.2 and its sub-lineages are responsible for a majority of the infections in the ongoing wave

Lineage	U.S.	France	Italy	Germany	Brazil	India
BA.1					3	
BA.1.1					5	
BA.2	20	48%	53%	52%	59%	32%
BA.2.10						4
BA.2.11		1				
BA.2.12.1	55	3	2	3	2	5
BA.2.18		1				
BA.2.23						1
BA.2.3	4		3		3	
BA.2.36		3		2		
BA.2.38						26
BA.2.40.1						1
BA.2.9	3	11	11	16	5	
BA.4	3	3	7	2	2	1
BA.5	4	5	9	9	3	4
BA.5.1	1	11	5	4	6	



Small threat? | The chart shows the number of ICU patients as a share of the total patients hospitalised in select high-burden countries. The share of ICU patients due to the new wave of COVID-19 infections is lower than the previous waves. This indicates lower severity of infections

Booster progress | The graph shows the COVID-19 vaccine boosters administered per 100 people in India and in select countries. Except the U.S., at least 50% of the population in other countries have received booster doses



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 5, 1972

S.&N. Korea agree on reunification

Tokyo, July 4: As a result of secret negotiations held in Seoul and Pyongyang recently, South and North Korea to-day announced the first major breakthrough since the Korean war of 20 years ago towards a peaceful reunification of the divided country. A comprehensive joint communique released simultaneously by both sides this morning shows that they have reached an important and far-reaching agreement on a wide range of subjects all intended to bring about the main goal of reuniting the country which has remained divided ever since 1945. The most important point in the joint communique is the fact that North Korea, as well as South Korea, have solemnly agreed to renounce the use of force to bring about the mutually desired goal of reunification which is to be sought through peaceful negotiations. This is a major achievement because this is the first time that North Korea has formally agreed to renounce the use of force to bring about reunification. The agreement followed the visit paid to North Korean capital of Pyongyang by the Director of South Korea's Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Hu Rak-Lee from May 2 to 5 last which was reciprocated by a visit to Seoul of North Korea's Second Vice Premier, Mr. Sung Chul Pak, acting on behalf of the Director of Organisation and Guidance Department, Mr. Young Joo Kim from May 29 to June 1.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 5, 1922

Palestine mandate

London, July 3: A white paper published contains a letter from the Secretary of Cabinet to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, in reply to a recent communication, from Cardinal Gappari, Papal Secretary of State, which contended that Jews would be given privileged and preponderant position under the Palestine mandate. The Cabinet's reply says that the Cardinal's letter is based on an important understanding of the measures which it is proposed to introduce into Palestine and encloses various documents relating to the mandate. The letter emphasises that the British Government has always contemplated that the status of all citizens of Palestine, should be Palestinian, and that the special position assigned to the Zionist organisation, does not imply any administrative functions. Ample safeguards adds the letter have been provided against the risk of any nationality or creed being subordinated to any other.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Spiralling inflation

78.6 In percentage, the inflation in Turkey in June, the highest in 24 years, according to official data released on Monday. But independent estimates published by Turkish economists showed prices rising at more than double that figure. The inflation rate reported by Turkey's state statistics agency was the highest since the currency meltdown in 1998. According to official data, the surge in inflation in June was driven by a jump of 123.4% in the cost of transportation and a 94% increase in non-alcoholic drinks. AFP

Windfall tax

12 In \$ per barrel, the margin by which Reliance (RIL) will be hit due to the windfall taxes imposed by the government. The new levies will give the government up to ₹1.3 lakh crore additional revenue. In a surprise move, the government on July 1 increased import duties on gold, added export duties on petrol, ATF (aviation turbine fuel) and diesel and slapped a windfall tax on domestic crude production. Nomura said the windfall taxes could potentially impact RIL's gross refining margin by \$12 per barrel (₹47,000 crore on an annualised basis). PTI

Locking down

1.7 In million, the number of people locked down in central Anhui province, where authorities reported nearly 300 new cases on Monday. The outbreak in Anhui — where officials first found hundreds of cases last week — comes as the Chinese economy begins to rebound from a severe lockdown in Shanghai and disruptive COVID restrictions in the capital Beijing. While cases remain low relative to China's vast population, officials insist that a zero-COVID policy is necessary to prevent a healthcare calamity. AFP

Record revenue

7 In \$ billion, the highest ever revenue earned by Egypt's Suez Canal Authority (SCA). The income is over a fifth higher than the previous fiscal year's \$5.8 billion in transit fees. Connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, the canal accounts for roughly 10% of global maritime trade. It is also a source of foreign currency for Egypt, which is battling crippling inflation and a currency devaluation triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Earlier this year, the SCA reported the canal's highest annual revenue for a calendar year, netting \$6.3 billion in 2021. AFP

Winning trust vote

164 The number of MLAs in the 288-member House who voted for the motion of confidence allowing the Eknath Shinde-led government a comfortable win. While 99 voted against it, three legislators abstained from voting, and 21 were absent. Ahead of the floor test, Sena MLA Santosh Bangar, from the Uddhav Thackeray camp, joined Mr. Shinde's faction, taking its tally to 40. On Sunday, Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar reinstated Eknath Shinde as the Shiv Sena legislature party leader. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Enforcing the single-use plastic ban

How will the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules be implemented? What has been the response to the move?

THE GIST

■ A ban on the use of single-use plastics that was notified by the Union Environment Ministry on August 2021 came into effect on July 1 this year. A single-use plastic is an object made of plastic that is intended to be used "only once" before being disposed off or recycled.

■ So far 32 States/UTs have reportedly constituted a dedicated Task Force to eliminate the use of single-use plastics.

■ The All India Plastic Manufacturers Association said that the ban would shutter 88,000 units in the plastic manufacturing business. These employ close to a million people and contribute to exports worth ₹25,000 crore.

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: A ban on the use of single-use plastics that was notified by the Union Environment Ministry on August 2021 came into effect on July 1 this year. The notification said national and State-level control rooms would be set up to check illegal manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of banned single use plastic items. The Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, will also prohibit manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than 120 microns with effect from December 31, 2022.

What is single-use plastic?

The Centre defines it as an object made of plastic that is intended to be used "only once" before being disposed off or recycled. For the purposes of the ban, there is a list of 21 items that come under the definition of single-use plastic including ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns, stirrers.

Mineral water bottles or plastic bottles of aerated drinks are unaffected by the ban, though, in popular imagination, they are representative of 'plastic pollution.'

These objects were listed by the Environment Ministry in August when it notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021. Single-use plastic items such as these had "low utility and high littering potential," it noted. Plastic

packaging waste, a major contributor to the much larger problem of plastic waste pollution, isn't yet covered under the phase-out of single-use plastic items. Mineral water bottles or plastic bottles of aerated drinks are unaffected by the ban, though, in popular imagination, they are representative of 'plastic pollution.'

How will the ban be implemented?

So far 32 States/UTs have reportedly constituted a dedicated Task Force to eliminate the use of single-use plastics. Of these 14 states/UTs and 12 Central Ministries, as of March, had developed action plans describing how they would be enforcing this.

A few States, for example Maharashtra, already have legislation banning the manufacture and storage of such plastic. But implementing it wasn't always successful as there was regular supply from States where such bans were not in force. An all-India ban, it's hoped, would make enforcement more effective.

According to the Environment Protection (EP) Act, violating the ban could invite "punitive action". Manufacturers and distributors of single-use plastic goods were directed to have zero inventory by June 30, according to officials in the Union Environment Ministry. The EP Act says that violating the ban could invite a five-year imprisonment and a fine of upto ₹1 lakh, or both. If the violations are repeated, it could mean additional fines up to ₹5000 for each day. There are different penalties for companies, organisations, and government departments under the EP Act.

What is the history of the single use plastic ban in India?

The Environment Ministry told the Rajya Sabha last July of its plan to phase out some categories of single use plastic by 2022. A draft outlining the manner in which the ban

was to be implemented was issued in March and involved amending the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. Before the amendments came into force, the Plastic Waste Management Rules only prohibited the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags and plastic sheets less than 50 microns in thickness in the country. There is a ban on sachets using plastic material used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. Since October 2021, there is a ban on the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic less than 75 microns as opposed to 50 microns under the earlier version of the rules. At the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019, India piloted a resolution on addressing single-use plastic products pollution.

Is there popular support for the ban?

The All India Plastic Manufacturers Association has said that the ban would shutter 88,000 units in the plastic manufacturing business. These employ close to a million people and contribute to exports worth ₹25,000 crore. Fast Moving Consumer Goods companies (FMCG) would be severely affected by the ban due to their dependence on plastic straws, plates. Their replacements, industry representatives say, are available but cost much more than their plastic alternatives. There is also limited capacity in India to provide biodegradable replacements. Average and prominent consumer goods companies have written to the government requesting a six-month extension before the ban takes effect and that companies that are likely to go out of business be compensated. The government has, however, signalled its firm commitment to the ban. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said the government had multiple consultations with the industry since 2018. Stakeholders had nearly a year to



find alternatives to the use of such plastic and that industries should work to introduce new technologies and alternatives to preserve livelihoods of those who worked in plastic manufacturing industries, he added.

What is the environmental damage from single-use plastic?

Unlike thicker and denser plastic material, single-use plastic objects being light and flexible are less amenable to being recycled. While 99% of plastic is recycled, they constitute heavier plastics that are likely to be collected by ragpickers and plastic waste recyclers. Single use plastics do not provide an incentive enough for the effort needed to collect them and hence they lie around, leach their toxins into the soil and cause environmental damage in both land and sea.

Complete overhaul: The government has banned the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of all identified single-use plastic items with effect from July 1. •PTI

EXPLAINER

The need for space sustainability

How does orbital crowding, space debris work against the sustainability of outer space? What is the U.K.'s Astro Carta model?

HARINI MADHUSUDAN

The story so far: On June 23, the U.K. hosted the fourth summit for Space Sustainability in London in collaboration with the Secure World Foundation. In line with the ambitious U.K. National Space Strategy, George Freeman, the Minister of Science, announced a new 'Plan for Space Sustainability.' According to him, this plan aims to "set a global commercial framework for the insurability, the licensing and the regulation of commercial satellites." It also aims to reduce the cost for those who comply with the best sustainability standards and thus encourages a thriving ecosystem for the industry.

What does sustainability in outer space mean?

The earth's orbital environment has more than tripled in the past decade. As the cost of missions reduce and the number of players increase, the complexity of missions and slot allotment issues also increase. With the emergence of large constellations and complex satellites, there is a risk of collisions and interference with radio frequencies. As the outer space is considered a shared natural resource, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) in 2019 adopted a set of 21 voluntary, non-binding guidelines to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

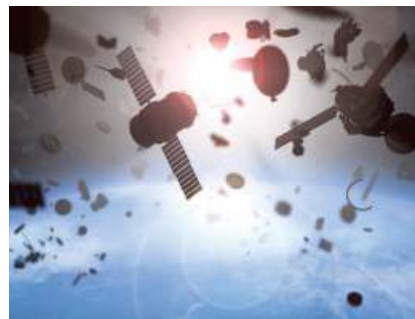
One of the hot issues when it comes to space sustainability is orbital crowding. It poses a direct threat to the operations and safety of a mission and is likely to

cause legal and insurance-related conflicts. Space debris is another prominent issue. After the completion of a mission, an 'end-of-life protocol' requires space objects to be moved to the graveyard orbit or to a low altitude. Neither of the options are sustainable in the long run. Other causes of concern are solar and magnetic storms which potentially damage communication systems. Such space weather threats need to be addressed along with the efforts to identify the terrestrial carbon footprint of outer space missions.

Long-term sustainability looks toward space research and development of technology to ensure the reuse and recycling of satellites at every stage. The U.K. plan proposes active debris removal and in-orbit servicing.

What does the U.K. plan for space sustainability entail?

The U.K. calls for an "Astro Carta" for space sustainability, based on the Artemis Accords model for sustainable space exploration. The U.K. Space Sustainability plan mentions four primary elements: to review the regulatory framework of the U.K.'s orbital activity; to work with organisations such as the G-7 and the UN to emphasise international engagement on space sustainability; to try and develop safety and quality-related metrics that quantify the sustainability of activities; and, to induce additional funding of \$6.1 million on active debris removal. The U.K. also confirmed investments in its National Space Surveillance and Tracking Programme, which works on collision



assessment services for U.K.-licensed satellite operators.

Post-Brexit, the U.K. space programme has been transformed. It now hopes to drive the sustainability factor internationally and provide an opportunity for the private sector to develop models that enhance operations' safety and reduce debris footprint. The U.K. aims to draw investments not only from government investors but also from others.

Where does India stand on space sustainability?

The headquarters of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (In-SPACe) was formally inaugurated last month. One can expect an increased role of the private sector in India's space activities. India hosts promising start-ups like Agnikul and Skyroot, which are developing launch vehicles for small payloads and Dhruva Space, which works on high-tech solar panels for satellites and satellite deployers. India is well on its way to create a subsystem that addresses global

sustainability questions.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated 'Project NETRA' to monitor space debris. The domestic surveillance system would provide first-hand information on the status of debris, which would aid further planning on protecting space assets. In April 2022, India and the U.S. signed a new pact for monitoring space objects at the 2+2 dialogue. The controlled anti-satellite weapons (ASAT) tests and the risk of collisions must be collectively addressed.

To provide in-orbit servicing, ISRO is developing a docking experiment called 'SPADEX'. It looks at docking a satellite on an existing satellite, offering support in re-fuelling and other in-orbit services while enhancing the capability of a satellite. According to Professor P. G. Diwakar at NIAS Bangalore, this would not only ensure the longevity of a mission but would also provide a futuristic option to combine missions/experiments.

What next?

Outer space in the 2020s can no longer be considered a 'space race' because of the cost, when compared to the beginning of this century. Today, any entity (government or private) with the necessary access to resources and technology can invest in outer space. Sustainable practices in outer space would directly help reduce orbital crowding and collision risk while nurturing future technologies. As the natural course of evolution, the Plan for Space Sustainability, which includes private industries, is a timely move. This

would serve as a model for other space programmes.

However, the broad question of sustainability cannot be driven by one country/entity alone. While most National Space Programs set sustainability standards, a collective effort by all space players, with the active role of the UN COPUOS or the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), is needed to set equitable standards for the ease of activities. Many of the measures for sustainability are resource-consuming and expensive for medium-and-small space programs. In this case, private initiatives of sustainability standards would make accessibility more challenging, giving undue advantage to programs with stable investments.

The UK's Astro Carta idea throws light on the need for addressing the principles and rules that guide the activities of entities in outer space. More clarity is required to know the exact framework and guiding principles of the Astro Carta to determine the path it intends to take. India has always emphasised cost-effective and efficient missions with problem-solving applications. Its debris footprint is minuscule; it has 114 debris among the 25,182 pieces, of sizes larger than 10 cm, in the lower earth orbits. The emerging private sector could be encouraged with a set of sustainability guidelines to ensure optimum utilisation of resources and increase the safety and productivity of missions.

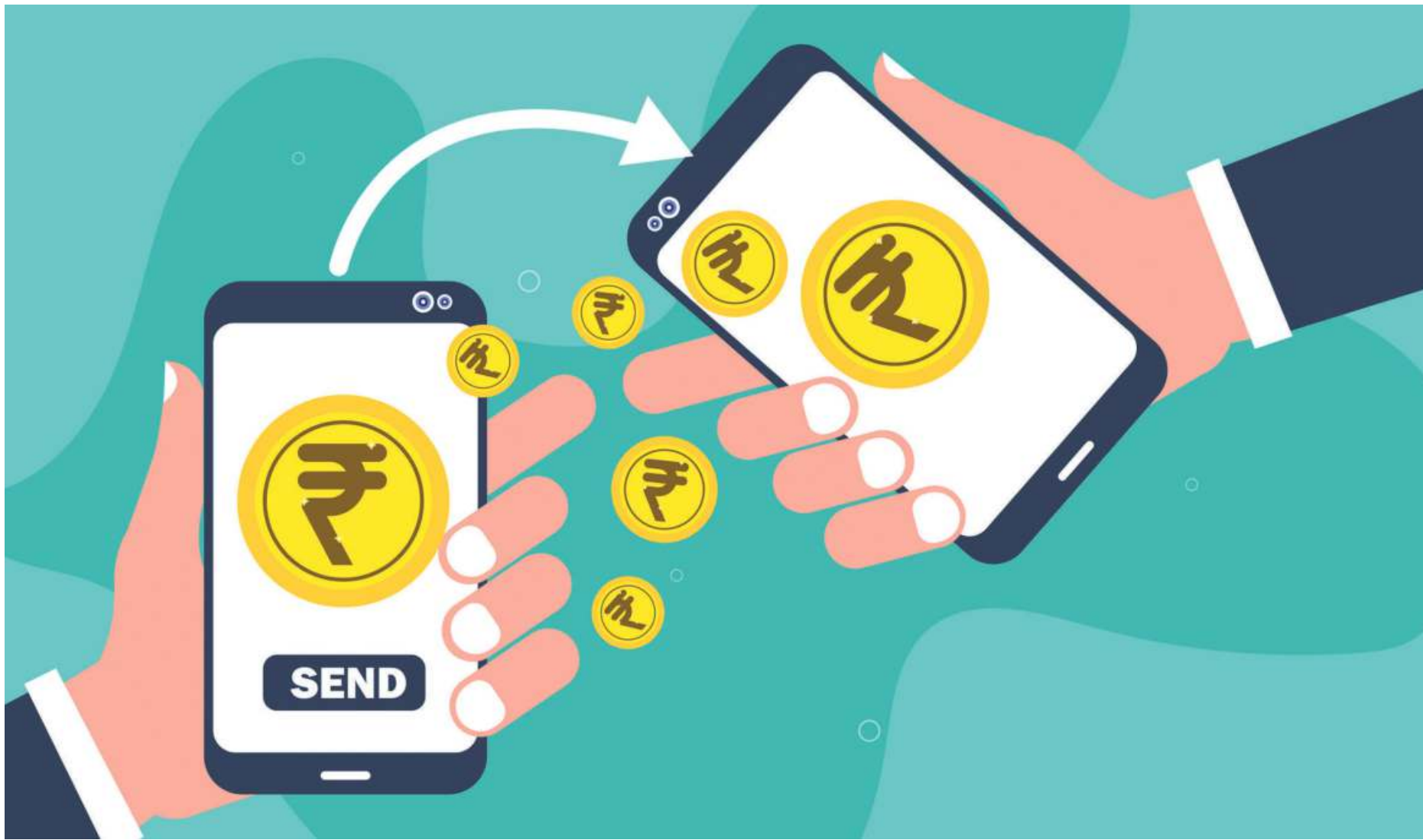
The author is a doctoral scholar at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru

THE GIST

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CACHE

UPI: the dawn of digital fintech nirvana

This virtual payment interface is an Indian technological success story, one which enables us to move around with an empty pocket barring a smartphone

THE GIST

■ The UPI was launched in 2016 and is operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It operates on top of the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) which was created by the NPCI for immediate fund transfers.

■ The primary reason for the popularity of UPI is that it accepts transactions as small as one rupee and for merchants, the absence of MDR that they have to pay to their banks.

■ The ecosystem in which UPI thrives is not to be missed: the presence of high-speed internet in many parts of the country, technologies that power a smartphone, cloud computing and modern software engineering technologies that fulfil a transaction in a few seconds.

S. VARAHASIMHAN

If you own a smartphone, you have most probably done UPI-based payments using BHIM or some other mobile application. The Unified Payments Interface or the UPI, processed ₹10,41,520 crore worth of transactions just in May of this year in India. More than 40% of all retail digital payments (non-cash and non-paper payments) in India happen through UPI now.

The functioning of UPI

The UPI was launched in 2016 and is operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The NPCI was formed in 2009 as an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) with the goal to create a robust payment and settlement infrastructure. UPI operates on top of the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) which was created by the NPCI for immediate fund transfers.

UPI based payments function broadly through three steps. First, one's bank account is mapped to a Virtual Payment Address (VPA). A VPA eliminates the risk of mentioning account details in every transaction. It can be created in a couple of minutes using a UPI app. The only prerequisite is that your bank account be linked to a mobile number. Secondly, a Payment Service Provider (typically a bank) takes care of the to-and-fro transactions to this VPA (and hence to the underlying bank account) and finally, the UPI software orchestrates the fund movement from a customer's VPA to a target VPA and completes the transaction.

This transaction is different from paying with a debit card or credit card as it does not involve a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR). The MDR is a fee that the recipient bank collects from the merchant. For UPI transactions, there is no MDR (like in the case of the Indian government's Rupay

card which also does not have an MDR) and hence there is no price to be paid by the merchant.

A ubiquitous payment system

The popularity of UPI is evident – from tiny roadside shops to large brands, many merchants accept UPI-based payments. The primary reason for this penetration is that UPI accepts transactions as small as one rupee and for merchants, the absence of MDR that they have to pay to their banks is a significant incentive to accept UPI payments. Also, just your smartphone being the only device needed to complete a transaction makes the process as simple as it can get, instead of using devices like the Point-of-Sale card-swiping machines. If there is no extra price to be paid by customer or merchant, how does NPCI manage the cost of running the infrastructure for UPI? Is it sustainable in the long run to continue without MDR to fund the infrastructure? The answer can be that cost savings from the reduction in hassles and overheads for banks (by supporting UPI) will be used to bear the cost of operating UPI in the long run.

In 2019, Google requested the U.S. Federal Reserve to develop a solution similar to India's UPI citing the thoughtful planning, design and implementation behind it

The ecosystem in which UPI thrives is not to be missed: the presence of high-speed internet in many parts of the country, technologies that power a smartphone, cloud computing and modern software engineering technologies that fulfil a transaction in a few seconds. The security of a UPI transaction is tied to the user's authentication with the mobile phone – there is a mobile personal identification number (MPIN) for

the UPI application and there is one more layer of security when the bank's online transaction PIN is to be keyed in as part of every UPI transaction. If you block a mobile number due to theft, for example, then UPI transactions on that mobile number will also be halted.

Continuous innovation

The NPCI has come up with multiple new innovations over the past few years: recurring payments for monthly bills, international payments, linking UPI to credit cards, 123PAY that allows people without smartphones but with only ordinary mobile phones to use UPI using missed calls, allowing one-time payment by letting a merchant generate a QR (Quick Response) code that is valid for just that specific transaction and many more features. The dynamic QR code is a great boost to security and trust because there is no risk of someone having tampered with a static QR code (a static QR code is what is widely prevalent now and we see it on the wall in many shops). The merchant generates a QR code specific to that transaction amount and the customer pays through UPI by scanning the QR code.

The UPI is a phenomenal Indian technological success story. In 2019, Google requested the U.S. Federal Reserve to develop a solution similar to India's UPI citing the thoughtful planning, design and implementation behind it.

UPI brings us one step closer to the age of digital fintech nirvana.

From the dawn of civilisation, man has always accumulated and hoarded; however, UPI enables one to move around with an empty pocket barring a smartphone; it makes us un-learn to carry a wallet but be assured that we can pay when we want to.

The author is a senior employee at a software product MNC in Chennai



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"Sir, how do you use 'owing to' and 'due to' sir?"

"The general rule till recently was that 'due to' should have a noun or pronoun to agree with. For example, you should say—*His absence was due to his illness.*

His success was due to his hard work.

His anger is due to his disappointment.

You were not expected to say 'He didn't come due to his illness.' In this sentence, 'owing to' should have been used. "Owing to" means 'on account of' or 'because of.' It is a prepositional phrase.

Owing to heavy rains, the trains were cancelled.

Owing to poor health, he didn't come.

However, the prepositional use of 'due to' is not considered incorrect now. That is, the following sentences are considered all right now.

Due to illness, he couldn't come to office.

He did not attend the meeting due to pressure of work.

The revised edition (1965) of Fowler's Modern English usage says: "The offending usage has indeed become literally part of the Queen's English. Due to inability to market their grain, prairie farmers have been faced for some time with a serious shortage of sums to meet their immediate needs." (Speech, from the Throne on the opening of the Canadian Parliament by Elizabeth II, 14 Oct., 1957). When the Queen herself makes no distinction, why should we? What was unacceptable once is acceptable now."

"Is there any difference between 'meanwhile' and 'in the meantime' sir?"

"No, they mean the same. But don't say 'in the meanwhile', it is always 'meanwhile.' Also don't say 'meantime', it is always 'in the meantime'."

"What's the difference between 'Enquiry' and 'Inquiry', sir?"

"In America 'inquiry' is displacing 'enquiry'. In Britain a distinction is sought to be made between enquiry and inquiry. Enquiry is used when you ask questions. Enquiry is a formal word. 'Inquiry' is used for any investigation.

He made some enquiries about the date of the Inquiry.

"How do you pronounce 'etiquette' sir?"

"'Etiquette' as you know means the formal rules of proper behaviour in polite society. It is pronounced 'etiket'. 'eti' rhymes with petty and 'ket' rhymes with 'let'. In 'etiket' the stress is on the first syllable. It's threatening to rain. You may go, now."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye"

THE DAILY QUIZ

Amazon was founded by Jeff Bezos from his garage in Washington, on July 5, 1994. Here is a quiz on similar big businesses from across the world

1 Mac is Apple's line of personal computers that use the macOS operating system. What is Mac short for? What is it named after?

2 Before Bill Gates and Paul Allen founded Microsoft in 1975, they formed a business partnership with Paul Gilbert. The objective was to read raw data from roadway traffic counters and create reports for traffic engineers. What did they call it?

3 Which was the first video to be uploaded on YouTube in 2005?

4 This was an audio streaming service provider, originally launched in 1999, as a peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing software service with an emphasis on digital audio file

distribution. It shut down in 2001 after losing a wave of lawsuits and filed for bankruptcy in 2002. Name the service.

5 Tizen is a Linux-based mobile operating system backed by the Linux Foundation. Which multinational manufacturing conglomerate primarily uses Tizen?

6 Facebook acquired Oculus in 2014, entering the virtual reality market. It was later amalgamated into a business of Facebook to produce virtual reality and augmented reality hardware and software. What is it called now?

7 Amazon entered negotiations to acquire an American media company in 2021. One of its famous cartoons include Tom and Jerry. Which is the media company that Amazon acquired?



◀ This 2010 film was directed by David Fincher. It portrays the founding of a social networking website. What is the film called? Which website is the subject of the film?

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

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1.

The inscription on the tablet the Statue of Liberty carries. **Ans: JULY IV MDCCCLXXVI (July 4, 1776, in Roman numerals)**

2. Apart from George Washington and Abraham Lincoln these are the other two U.S. Presidents inscribed on Mt. Rushmore. **Ans: Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt**

3. The tallest brick building in the world with a steel framework. **Ans: Chrysler Building**

4. The Independence Hall completed in 1753 is located here. **Ans: Philadelphia**

5. This architectural Henry Bacon masterpiece is located on the western edge of the National Mall. **Ans: Lincoln Memorial**

6. This entertainer owned Graceland, the most-visited privately owned home in the U.S. **Ans: Elvis Presley**

7. The largest dam in the U.S. **Ans: Hoover Dam**

8. This building in Los Angeles' designed by the famed architect Frank Gehry was completed in 1996. **Ans: Walt Disney Concert Hall**

Visual: The U.S. State where the Gateway Arch is located. **Ans: Missouri**

Early Birds: Jahnvi Taak| Vineetha O.K.| Mahmood Lebbaj| Varun Chauhan| Kanishka Fanin

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

FROM PAGE ONE

Shinde wins vote, says he is with Sena

“But we fought the election with the BJP as it is our natural ally. How can we remain in alliance with the Congress and the NCP,” Mr. Shinde asked.

He said the Sena was systematically weakened despite Mr. Thackeray being Chief Minister. “When my department was facing interferences, Sena workers used to come to me with their complaints and I listened to them. If the power I have is not beneficial to my party workers, then what is the use of it,” he asked.

A politician, who rose from being the Sena branch head in Thane to Chief Mi-

nister, Mr. Shinde attributed his success to the trust bestowed upon him by his mentor and former Sena leader Anand Dighe. “We have not given up on the Hindutva of Balasaheb Thackeray and this has to be told aloud to everyone. What the BJP government did at the Centre, including about Article 370, is the agenda of our leader Balasaheb Thackeray. Because we were with the Congress and the NCP, we couldn't even praise Savarkar, we had to keep a Minister with Dawood links in the Cabinet [reference to Nawab Malik]. How can we tolerate this?” he asked.

Cong. moves against Rathore for fake video

The Prime Minister spoke for nearly half an hour at Hyderabad but did not make a single appeal for peace, she added. Targeting Mr. Rathore for sharing the doctored video on Twitter, Ms. Shrinete said if a former Union Minister attempted to spread fake news with the intention of disturbing communal harmony, it amounted to sedition.

“Peddling fake news on social media is one thing but using social media in cahoots with terrorists will not be accepted. At such a sensitive time in the country, how can they dare to spread a fake video involving Rahul Gandhi. Apart from fake news, this is also a conspiracy because even if Twitter posts are deleted, What-

sApp messages would remain in circulation and disturb peace,” she said

The Congress also targeted the BJP over arrested Lashkar-e-Taiba militant Talib Hussain Shah, who was BJP Minority Morcha social media head in Jammu and Kashmir. “His photograph appeared with Home Minister who himself is not safe if he didn't have information about Talib,” Mr. Khera said.

Reiterating the BJP's alleged connections with one of the killers of Udaipur tailor, the Congress media department chairman added, “We showed you photos of how the BJP Udaipur chief inducted Attari as a member in November 2019. What more evidence does anyone need?”

Centre gives direction on service charge to hotels

“Pricing of the product thus covers both the goods and services component. There is no restriction on hotels or restaurants to set the prices at which they want to offer food or beverages to consumers. Thus, placing an order involves consent to pay the prices of food items displayed in the menu along with applicable taxes.

Charging anything other than the said amount would amount to unfair trade practice under the Act,” the guidelines added.

“No hotel or restaurant shall add service charge automatically or by default in the bill. Service charge shall not be collected from consumers by any other name,” the guidelines said.

Alt News gets back payment service

This came shortly after Alt News issued a statement, declaring its account had been disabled and that it was looking for other payment gateways to receive donations. Hours after the July 2 hearing, where the Delhi Police first alleged violations of the FCRA, sources said Alt News received an email from Razorpay, informing that its account was being “temporarily suspended”. In court, the police had submitted they were now also probing charges under Section 35 of the FCRA in the case against Mr. Zubair.

‘CDR analysis’

The police had said on Saturday “CDR analysis” and transaction records from Razorpay showed funds worth ₹2.31 lakh were sent to Alt News/ Pravda Media Foundation, in which either the mobile phone used was from outside India or the IP address was of foreign countries such as Pakistan, the UAE, Singapore, Syria, Bangkok, and the U.S.

Citing this, senior public prosecutor Atul Srivastava on Saturday told a Patiala House court, on behalf of the Delhi Police, that they need to probe these funds from “foreign sources” and hence were adding Section 35 of the FCRA.

FCRA defines “foreign source” as a government of a foreign country or territory; an international agency other than the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, United Nations or any such agency notified by the Union government; foreign

companies or corporations, which are either wholly or partly incorporated outside of India; trade union of a foreign country or territory; foreign trust or foundation; a society or other associations registered outside of India; or a citizen of a foreign country.

International mobile numbers, IP addresses and CDR details identify the location and identity of the user and not any other information about them or the transaction, unless specifically sought from the authorities concerned.

After saying they were adding FCRA Sections, Mr. Srivastava had on Saturday said they were in the process of securing bank details and information on the users involved in making these transactions from foreign countries.

On the Alt News donation webpage, the company declares in bold: “We do not accept foreign remittance as we are not registered under the FCRA Act.”

On Monday morning, Alt News issued a statement denying any violations of the FCRA.

“These allegations are categorically false. Our payment platform through which we receive donations does not allow receipt of funds from foreign sources and we have received donations from Indian bank accounts only... All of this is an attempt to shut down the very critical work that we do, and we will fight this attempt to shut us down and come out on top,” Alt News said.

Zubair taken to Sitapur for tweet on seers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair was on Monday taken to Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh, where the local police formally arrested him in a separate FIR registered for calling Hindu seers Bajrang Muni, Yati Narsinghanand and Anand Swaroop “hatemongers” in a tweet.

In the last few months, all three of the above-mentioned Hindu seers have faced FIRs for alleged hate-speech against Muslims.

A local court in Sitapur remanded him to 14 days in judicial custody, which his counsel, Soutik Banerjee, said he will be serving in Tihar jail.

“He was asked to be produced before the Sitapur Court on Monday, where U.P. police formally arrested him,” Mr. Banerjee said. The police have said that the Investigating Officer concerned will be questioning Mr. Zubair and will later take a call on whether they need his remand.

Soil samples from T.N. sent for project at new Parliament site

They pertain to the five ecological regions mentioned in Sangam literature

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

The rich cultural history of the Tamils will be featured in a project relating to the new Parliament being constructed by the Union government in New Delhi.

Soil samples from five ecological regions mentioned in ancient Tamil Sangam literature – *Kurinji*, *Mullai*, *Marutham*, *Neithal* and *Paalalai* – have been collected and sent to the capital recently.

On a request from Delhi, multiple State government departments coordinated to collect the soil samples and sent them to the capital late last month, multiple sources confirmed.

A brief synopsis of each sample, such as the place of origin, its geological features and historical importance, has also been sent, a senior official told *The Hindu*.

The soil samples for *Kurinji* (mountains and



Providing insight: A brief synopsis of each sample has also been sent to New Delhi.

R.V. MOORTHY

slope) were collected from the Nilgiris, Kodaikanal and Palani Hills in Dindigul district, Kolli hills in Namakkal district, Yercaud in Salem district, Courtrallam in Tenkasi district and Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai district. Soil samples from the foothills of the Eastern and Western Ghats in Coimbatore, Salem, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Theni and Kanyakumari districts have been collected for *Mullai* (forests and grasslands).

Samples from Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Salem, Tirunelveli and Krishnagiri were collected for *Marudham* (plains, valleys and agricultural lands). The soil samples for *Neithal* (coastal or seashore) were collected from Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi and Kanyakumari districts and those for *Paalalai* (barren wasteland or desert) were collected from Ramana- thapuram, Thoothuku-

di, Sivaganga and Virudhunagar districts.

Some of the samples collected were from some historical sites.

Agriculture museum

It may be recalled that Tamil Nadu's first Agriculture Budget presented for 2021-22 also announced that a museum for agriculture would be established in Chennai, which would also depict the traditional land classification modes.

After arrest of LeT's Hussain, J&K police to widen probe

Police seized six sticky bombs, a pistol and three grenades

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Fresh recovery of arms and ammunition, even sticky or magnet bombs, based on the disclosure of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) “commander” Talib Hussain on Monday has forced the security agencies to widen the investigation beyond the three blasts that took place in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir this year. “The probe is on. We are investigating Hussain's role in other cases too,” a senior official said.

Hussain, who worked with the BJP for several years in the district, had access to top leaders and party offices in the Jammu province. A BJP leader's house came under grenade attack in August 2021, in which a two-year-old child died. The police are working on the links of Hussain “within and outside the Valley” and “his role in the militant activities in the Pir Panjal Valley”.

The police on Monday said they seized six sticky bombs, a pistol and three grenades in Reasi district following the disclosure made by Hussain, who, along with his aide Faisal Ahmed Dar from Pulwama, were arrested.

Sticky bombs are the lat-



Threat thwarted: Arms and explosives recovered from Draj village on Monday. •PTI

est acquisition by militants in Jammu and Kashmir. The magnetic bombs with timers can be attached to a target vehicle without being noticed. The police said a pistol, three grenades, two magazines of a Glock pistol, one magazine of a 30-bore pistol, one under-barrel grenade launcher, 75 rounds of AK rifles, 15 pistol rounds, four rounds of a 30-bore pistol and an IED remote with antenna were recovered from a hideout in Reasi.

Sticky bomb attacks

In the Jammu province, one person was killed in a sticky bomb attack in Udhampur in March. Three persons were held in the case. An explosion inside a vehicle carrying pilgrims left four dead in Katra in May. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is

probing the incident. Sources said the use of sticky bomb in the incident was not being ruled out by the investigating agencies.

According to the police, Hussain was behind the three blasts in Kotranka town and Shahpur of Rajouri in March and April, which left four persons injured. The police described Hussain as “the mastermind of all terrorist activities in the Pir Panjal Valley” and the brain behind the “recruitment of locals from Rajouri”. Two of his recruits were arrested in June.

Hussain had received three major consignments of arms and ammunition from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in January, March and April “to revive militancy in the Jammu province”, the police said.

Cong. stages protest over Hussain's 'links' with BJP

The Opposition party demanded a probe by NIA in the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU

The Congress held a street demonstration in Jammu on Monday and demanded a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the arrested Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant ‘commander’ Talib Hussain's ‘links with the BJP’.

Carrying placards with the pictures of Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and LeT ‘commander’ Talib Hussain, scores of Congress leaders demanded a probe and a statement from the BJP leadership.

“The NIA should investigate the role of BJP leaders and their links with Hussain. His presence in the BJP not only posed a threat to the Amarnath Yatra but also to civilians. The BJP compromised with the nation's security,” Congress spokesman Ravinder Sharma said.

Leading the protest rally, senior Jammu and Kashmir Congress leader Raman Bhalla said a thorough investigation should focus on what Hussain had access to and what reconnaissance he did using his presence in the Bharatiya Janata Party.



'Act against terrorists': The Congress staging a protest against the BJP in Jammu on Monday. •PTI

“The BJP needs to answer why it is recruiting terrorists in its ranks. Why is the BJP silent? Why is the Union Home Minister Amit Shah silent and not issuing a statement, Mr. Shah too has a picture with Hussain,” Mr. Bhalla asked.

LeT's Hussain and his aide, believed to be behind a number of attacks in the Pir Panjal Valley this year, were apprehended with the help of locals in Reasi's Tukson when they were hiding at a local villager's house on Sunday.

A viral picture indicated that Hussain from Draj Kotranka, Budhan, Rajouri, was appointed as IT and social media in-charge by the BJP's Minority Morcha, Jammu Province, in May this year. He also allegedly worked as a media coordina-

tor for the BJP in Rajouri district.

However, Mr. Raina described Hussain's presence in the party as “a part of conspiracy hatched from Pakistan to target him and the party headquarters”. But Mr. Raina admitted that Hussain introduced himself as a journalist and accessed his office for interviews several times.

“We came to know from the security agencies that Talib was a mole planted by Pakistan-based terrorists to target BJP headquarters and the leadership, including me. I also came to know that he had shared the pictures of the BJP headquarters with his handlers across the border and would keep a close watch on my movement in Poonch and Rajouri,” Mr. Raina said.

Cases against journalists condemned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Several journalists' bodies on Monday passed a resolution expressing concern over the cases registered against many journalists in the recent past. They requested the government to restore access of coverage of government events to the media as before “in the interests of a robust democracy”.

Representatives of the Press Club of India (PCI), Delhi Union of Journalists, Indian Women's Press Corps, Indian Journalists' Union and the Working News Cameramen's Association attended the meeting, said a PCI statement.

“The recent arrest of the AltNews co-founder for cognisable offences is a case in point. AltNews as we all know has been at the forefront of exposing fake news. The arrest of its co-founder is what we understand based on exaggerated and trumped up charges. One the other hand, those who actually make hate speeches are moving around freely,” it said.

Court adjourns Gyanvapi mosque case till July 12

Masjid panel challenged maintainability of Hindu side's suit

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The district court in Varanasi on Monday resumed the hearing in the ongoing Gyanvapi Mosque-Kashi Vishwanath Temple civil dispute, with the Anjumana Intezamia Masjid Committee completing its submissions on all points raised by the Hindu plaintiffs in their suit.

District judge A.K. Vishvesha heard submissions from the masjid panel on its Order VII Rule 11 application challenging the maintainability of the Hindu side's suit and has now posted the matter for next hearing on July 12. Senior advocate Mumtaz Ahmed, representing the masjid panel, told *The Hindu* that they took the court through all the averments mentioned in the Hindu side's suit. “We will continue the rest of our arguments on specific legislation and other points of law on the next date of hearing,” he said.

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, who is leading the legal team representing the Hin-



A shivling was reportedly found inside the mosque.

du plaintiffs, said the Muslim side was arguing on “hyper-technicalities”. “For example, they are saying that we have mentioned the incorrect police station in our suit, which I do not think is tenable.”

Advocate Ranjana Agnihotri, a lawyer of the team representing the Hindu plaintiffs, said they would begin their submissions after the masjid panel concluded its arguments.

“Our submissions will counter the points raised by the masjid panel in their challenge to the maintain-

ability of our suit,” the advocate said.

Australia to give minerals to Indian EV makers

India will try to source lithium, cobalt

KALLLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Australia is all set to supply critical minerals required for India's electric vehicles, solar power projects and other strategic areas, said Canberra's Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia Madeleine King on Monday. Welcoming India's Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Prahlad Joshi, Ms. King said Australia will commit \$5.8 million to the three-year India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership.

“Australia has the resources to help India fulfil its ambitions to lower emissions and meet growing demand for critical minerals to help India's space and defence industries, and the manufacture of solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles,” said Ms. King, following her first meeting with the Indian counterpart since the Albanese government was elected in May this year.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, soon after his May

23 election victory, had participated in the Quad Summit in Tokyo along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, where all sides pledged to focus on green and sustainable forms of energy. Australia's Defence Minister Richard Marles visited India during June 20-23.

Presenting the emerging outline of India-Australia collaboration in the critical minerals sector, Mr. Joshi referred to the recently signed MoU between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) and the Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) of Australia that will try to source lithium and cobalt from Australia and said, “Both CMFO and the Indian JV KABIL will jointly fund the due diligence process with an initial total amount of U.S. \$6 million. Once due diligence is completed and potential projects are identified, we will explore investment opportunities through different methods as envisaged in the MoU.”

Congress plans Gujarat poll strategy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The upcoming Gujarat Assembly election should not be pitched as a Congress versus Prime Minister Narendra Modi battle, top leaders of the Congress opined at a meeting of the party's task force on Monday.

Instead of personal attacks, the party should focus on the policies of the Modi government and failures of the State government. They are said to have discussed the emergence of the Aam Aadmi Party that could potentially dent the party's voter base in the State.

Sources said senior general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K.C. Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala, Ajay Maken, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Congress poll strategist Sunil Kanugolu brainstormed about the party's prospects in a closed-door meeting that went on for over three hours.

In the 2017 Assembly election, on the back of the Hardik Patel-led Patidar Andolan, the Congress had given a scare to the ruling BJP by restricting its MLA strength to 99 and winning 77 seats on its own. However, since then Hardik Patel and several others have defected to the BJP.

NCP's Ajit Pawar to lead MVA in Assembly

On Monday, one more Shiv Sena MLA joined the ruling fold

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

As the new government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis won the trust vote in the Maharashtra Assembly on Monday, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar was selected as the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Pawar said that he will work in an unbiased manner in his new position as the Opposition leader.

"We will support the government in schemes that will benefit the State but will also keep a check on government functioning," he said, adding that he will ensure that no Bill was passed without a discussion.

Faced with a challenge to steer the struggling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Mr. Pawar will have as his primary challenge keeping the Opposition flock together.

On Monday, one more Shiv Sena MLA - Santosh Banger from the Kalamnuri constituency in Hingoli district - joined the Shinde camp reducing the Opposition strength.

Earlier, in the day, the new government won the trust vote with 164 MLAs vot-



Turning tides: Ajit Pawar being congratulated after he was appointed the Leader of the Opposition. ■ EMMANUAL YOGINI

ing in its favour while 99 members voted against it.

The Opposition votes came down to 99 from 107 it had secured a day earlier during the election for the Speaker's post.

Two NCP MLAs, Sangram Jagtap and Anna Bansode, and seven Congress MLAs, former CM Ashok Chavan, Vijay Vadettiwar, Zeeshan Siddiqui, Dheeraj Deshmukh, Kunal Patil, Raju Awale and Mohan Hambarde, were missing during the vote.

Later Mr. Chavan and other MLAs claimed that they came late and the Assembly door was closed for voting as per the procedure by the time they arrived.

Additionally, the State Legislative Secretariat has acknowledged Mr. Shinde as the Shiv Sena Legislature Party

leader and Bharat Gogawale as chief whip.

Notice to Sena MLAs
On Monday morning, Mr. Gogawale issued notice to 15 Sena MLAs who defied the party whip and voted against it during the Speaker's election.

The ruling side passed a resolution in Assembly expressing faith in the speaker.

"We did this because the Opposition had moved a no-confidence motion against the Speaker and they would have used this to prohibit him from taking action against those 15 members. Now that the House has passed a resolution expressing faith in Speaker, the said resolution by Opposition stands null and void," Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said.

SC to hear plea on new Sena whip

Petition on recognition of a Shinde camp member will come up on July 11

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to list on July 11 a petition filed by Uddhav Thackeray camp loyalist Sunil Prabhu, challenging Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar's decision to recognise the appointment of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's man Bharat Gogawale as the new chief whip of the Shiv Sena.

The petition, mentioned before a Vacation Bench led by Justice Indira Banerjee, came just a day after the election of Mr. Narvekar, a BJP MLA, as Speaker.

'No authority'
Formerly, amidst the dissent within the Sena which ultimately led to Mr. Thackeray's resignation as Chief Mi-



Chief Minister Eknath Shinde with rebel Sena MLAs at the special session of the State Assembly. ■ EMMANUAL YOGINI

nister, Mr. Prabhu had been designated chief whip.

Appearing for Mr. Prabhu, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi argued that the Speaker had no authority whatsoever to recognise whips.

"This changes the status quo of proceedings before this court," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

But the Vacation Bench posted the case on July 11 along with other petitions, including challenges by the Shinde camp against dis-

qualification notices issued by former Speaker and Mr. Narvekar's predecessor, Narhari Zirwal, on June 25 for defection and another filed by the Thackeray camp against the process leading to the Governor's order for a floor test on June 30.

"Let all of this come up together on July 11, 2022," the court said.

Mr. Narvekar, on Sunday, recognised Mr. Gogawale as the new chief whip of Shiv Sena.

The Thackeray regime had removed Mr. Shinde as the Sena Legislature Party leader and appointed Ajay Chaudhary in his stead along with Mr. Prabhu as chief whip. The Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat has now cancelled both these appointments.

New Indian envoys for key countries

Ruchira Khamboj to take over as Permanent Representative to United Nations

SUHASINI HAIDAR
MAHESH LANGA
NEW DELHI

Indian diplomacy is preparing for new faces in key countries this month, as several senior Ambassadors have retired.

India's Ambassador to Bhutan Ruchira Khamboj is taking over as the Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami is likely to be the next High Commissioner to the U.K.

The two decisions are among the first few major postings with the new Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra's stamp on them, given that they indicate a higher profile for the neighbourhood as well.

The envoys will take over from T.S. Tirumurti in New York, and Gaitri Issar Kumar



Ruchira Khamboj

in London, both of whom retired at the end of June.

Two other important postings are expected with India's Ambassador to Japan Sanjay Kumar Verma set to take over as the next High Commissioner to Canada, as India's outgoing High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria has retired. Two senior officers, including one who has been dealing with Quad negotiations, and an Ambassador in West Asia, are being consi-

dered for the post of Ambassador to Japan. Mr. Bisaria, who had managed India-Canada ties through a turbulent time, especially after a diplomatic freeze over Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handling of the farmers' protests, leaves Ottawa after a rapprochement was signalled last month at the Modi-Trudeau meeting on the sidelines of the G-7 summit.

Among the youngest

If confirmed, Mr. Doraiswami, a 1992-batch officer in his early 50s who has been in Dhaka since 2020, will be among the youngest High Commissioners to the United Kingdom, matching his counterpart U.K. High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis, who is also much younger than his predecessors. They

will both be key in completing a Free Trade Agreement this year. Mr. Doraiswami was earlier posted as Ambassador to South Korea and Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced that Virendra Kumar Paul, India's High Commissioner to Kenya, as the next Ambassador to Turkey (formerly Turkey), and Vishvas Vidu Sapkal, the Joint Secretary (South) as the next Ambassador to Peru.

While the next envoys to Thimphu and Dhaka are yet to be finalised, India's Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington, Sudhakar Dalela, an experienced hand is tipped to return to the region, as are India's Ambassador to Vietnam, Pranay Verma, and Ambassador to Iran, Gad-dam Dharmendra, who earlier handled the policy planning desk.

CM Mann expands Punjab Cabinet

Five new Ministers inducted in the first expansion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday expanded his Cabinet by inducting five MLAs as Ministers.

The Ministers took the oath of office and secrecy at a swearing-in ceremony held here. The oath was administered by Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Punjab Raj Bhavan.



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann with Governor Banwarilal Purohit and the newly inducted Ministers. ■ PTI

The Ministers who have

found a place in the Cabinet include Aman Arora, Inderbir Singh Nijjar, Fauja Singh,

Chetan Singh and Anmol Gagan Mann. It was the first Cabinet expansion of the Aam Aadmi Party government led by Bhagwant Mann, which stormed to power in State, around three months ago, after bagging 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly. With the induction of five fresh Ministers, the strength of the Punjab Cabinet has reached 15, including that of the Chief Minister. There are 18 berths in the Cabinet, including of the Chief Minister.

AAP spent ₹6.23 crore on Punjab campaign, Akalis ₹16.57 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party's central headquarters spent ₹6.23 crore on its successful campaign for the Punjab Assembly election held earlier this year, according to its expenditure report submitted to the Election Commission (EC).

The report, which was published by the EC on Monday, showed that the party spent ₹80.53 lakh, ₹78.81 lakh and ₹3.49 crore on the Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Goa Assembly elections, respectively.

In Goa, most of the expenditure was on advertisements - ₹2.43 crore.

The AAP's Punjab expenditure included ₹1.49 crore on publicity, ₹35.54 lakh on travel of star campaigners Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Raghav Chadha, and ₹91.58 lakh as cash payment to candidates. The party spent ₹16.31 lakh on the declaration of criminal antecedents of candidates, which is a requirement.

The Shiromani Akali Dal, whose expenditure report was also uploaded on the EC website on Monday, spent ₹16.57 crore on the Punjab Assembly campaign. Of this, the Akali Dal spent ₹13.19 crore on media advertisements, including print, electronic, bulk SMS etc. The All India Trinamool Congress declared spending of ₹40.77 crore for the Goa elections, of which ₹1.63 crore was spent on virtual campaigns, ₹6.76 crore on candidates, and ₹3.38 crore on media advertisements and ₹4.76 crore on the travel of star campaigners.

Jadavpur University V-C is AIU President

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The Association of Indian Universities on Monday announced the appointment of Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Suranjan Das as its President.

Professor Das will be the Association's 101st President and takes over from G. Thiruvagam.

He has won acclaim as a specialist in South Asian History and Politics, especially in the realms of identity politics, nation-building and Indian Foreign Policy.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
P.H. DIVISION, BALANGIR
E-mail ID: eepbhgr@yahoo.co.in ; Ph.No.-(06652 - 234647)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS - NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Bid Identification No. EE PH BGR 14/2022-23 Dt. 28.06.2022

01. Name of the Work : Supply of ISI Marked DI (K-7) pipes for different pipe water supply projects under Special Central assistance 2022-23 in Subarnapur Municipality, Binika NAC and Tarava NAC.

02. Estimated Cost : Rs.260.35 Lakhs

03. Period of Completion : 2 (Two) Calendar Months

04. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 AM of dt.05.07.2022 to 5.00 PM of dt. 19.07.2022

05. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5 PM of dt. 19.07.2022

06. Date & Time of opening of bids : At 11.30 AM of dt.20.07.2022

07. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Balangir, At-Tulsinagar, Dist- Balangir-767001.

Further details can be seen from the web site "http://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersorissa.gov.in"

Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Balangir.
ODPR-13005/11/0014/2223

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA.
PIN: 751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN -21AAACO2571KZ2M

"e" Procurement Notice No. 07 /OCCL/2022-23 (on-line)

On-line percentage rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Period of Completion	Cost of Bid Documents (in Rs.)	Bid Security	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of Tender (on-line)
01	Construction of In stream storage structure across river Mahanadi at Choudhury Gada in Jagatsinghpur district and Tikhuri across river Paika in Kendrapara.	OCCL-MBGP/02/2022-23	36 (Thirty Six) calendar months	11,800/-	Bid Security Declaration to be furnished as per F.D.O.M No.8484, dated 05.04.2022	From 07.07.2022, 10.00 AM to 20.08.2022, 5.30 PM	From 07.07.2022, 10.00 AM to 20.08.2022, 5.30 PM

Procurement Officer - Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid: 22.08.2022, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CAD-1016 ODPR-3412011/0010/2223

idco ODISHA
Your partner in growth
ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation
NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022
Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-1817/03/2021/ 16413 Dated : 29.06.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Up-gradation of Industrial Estate, Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha under Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) Scheme.

2. Estimated Cost : Rs.337.51 lakh (Approx.).

3. Period of Completion : 06 (Six) Calendar months.

4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-27/2022-23	08.07.2022 at 17.00 Hrs. up to 25.07.2022 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
ODPR-14003/11/0069/2223

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS

The Executive Engineer (E), Postal Electrical Division, Bengaluru invites on behalf of the President of India, on line percentage rate e-tenders from eligible contractors for the work of "Internal Wiring & Providing EI & Fans ,UPS, LAN works for Construction of International Business Centre (IBC) & Foreign Post Office (FPO) building at Shamshabad (Near Railway Station) Vacant Site under Hyderabad South East Division, HQR." Estimated cost - Rs. 27,57,177/- EMD - Rs 55,144/- Time of completion: 12 Months vide NIT No. 17/EEE/PEDB/BLU/2022-23. The last date of submission of online Tenders-14.07.2022 at 11.00AM and Date of opening of tender-14.07.2022 at 11.30AM. The detailed tender notice, tender documents, corrigendum (if any) and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the website <https://dopcivil.eunivizardc.com>. For further clarifications, please contact: 080-26676804/802.

Executive Engineer (E)

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
ADDENDUM/CORRIGENDUM
First Extension of Tender Notice
No. 27-1/F.CWSS to 667/Thiruvavur/JJM/SDO/CE-TN/2022/Dt: 01.07.2022.

Name of Work : CWSS to 667 Habitations in Thiruvavur, Nannilam, Koradachery, Kottur, Mannargudi & Thiruthuraiipoondi Unions of Thiruvavur District. For Package-I & Package II under Jal Jeevan Mission fund-Extension of e-tender Notice - reg.

Ref: This office FB No. 27/F.CWSS to 667-Thiruvavur/JJM/SDO/CE-TN/2022/ Dated : 11.06.2022. (Second call)

The sale period, Last date of receipt and opening of the e-tender called for in the reference 11 cited for the above work is hereby extended as below

Sl. No.	Description	Extended up to
1	The last date for Sale of Tender	09.07.2022 upto 5.45 PM
2	The last date for receipt of Tender	11.07.2022 upto 3.00 PM
3	Date & Time of opening of Tender	12.07.2022 at 3.30 PM

All other terms and conditions already published remain unaltered.

ODPR/3223/TENDER/2022 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Thanjavur.

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

19-A, Rukmini Lakshmi Pathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. Phone: +91-44285 54479, 2855 4480 Fax: +91-44285 53729 | Website: www.tidco.com CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

e-Tender Notice
NOTICE NO. TIDCO/Demolition Contract/2022

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO), invites online tenders from Contractors for work of Demolition of existing Buildings and Sale/ Disposal of Serviceable/Unserviceable Materials in IDPL, Nandambakkam Village, Alandur Taluk, Chennai District. The scope of work and terms & conditions are described in the Tender document. Interested agency can download the Tender document from the website <https://tidco.com> and <https://tntenders.gov.in> at free of cost.

The schedule for the bidding process is as follows:-

- Last date and time for online submission of e-tender is through <https://tntenders.gov.in> on or before **3.00 PM on 21.07.2022.**
- Opening of Technical Proposals is at **3.30 PM on 21.07.2022.**

Managing Director
Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmi Pathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com, Website: <https://tidco.com>

ODPR/3219/Tender/2022
"சொந்தான கடன்து கத்திரிம அடைந்தோம், சாந்தான புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

MISSING INFORMATION

The person shown in the photo named one HANEEFA age 50/2022, S/o Abdul Khader, Thoppilpaambil House, Vedimara, N.Paravoor Ernakulam, Kerala has been missing from his North Paravoor THQ Hospital Canteen 20.05.2022 at 01.00 pm. In this regard a case in Cr. 561/2022 U/s 7 of KP Act was registered at North Paravoor Police Station. Any information is received about the missing person please inform in the following phone number.

- DySP, C-Branch, Aluva 9497990075
- C-Branch Aluva 0484 2623122, 8075922194
- DMPTU Team, C-Branch 953907725, 9645148525

IDENTIFICATION MARKS
Height -5'8", Colour fair, Black & White Hair, Medium body (60 Kg.)
Deputy Superintendent of Police
Ernakulam Rural
(01650/F2/2022/1&PRD)

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 27-06-2022 to 03-07-2022
State Water Transport Department

Tender ID: 2022 SWTD 497361_1 * DIRECTOR SWTD * 30PAX SOLAR BOATS* Closing Date: 01-Aug-2022 * PAC: Rs10000000

Tender ID: 2022 SWTD 497700_1 * DIRECTOR SWTD * 120PAX PASSENGER CUM TOURIST SERVICE BOAT * Closing Date: 01-Aug-2022 * PAC: Rs24000000

Visit <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> for more details.
Ro.No:27-03/Jun-Jul/2022/PRD(N)10

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES POST HARVEST TECHNOLOGY & TRAINING
Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Deptt. Of Fisheries
P.O. No. 1801, Kochi-682 016, Tel: 0484-2361317, Email: ifpchn@nic.in, Web: ifpchni.gov.in
NIF/COM/1-8/2017 TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDER) Dated: 01-07-2022
TENDER ID: 2022 DADF_697570_1

E-Tenders are invited for leasing out of Sashimi Grade Tuna Plant/Chilled fish Export Processing facility at NIFPHATT, Cochin-16 from registered exporters of MPEDA.

Document download Start date : 30.06.2022
Closing date : 01.08.2022
Bid Opening Date : 04-08-2022
Details can be downloaded from <https://eprocure.gov.in> or ifpchni.gov.in
Sd/- Director

ओएनजीसी ONGC
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

RAJAHMUNDRY ASSET
NATURAL GAS CONSUMER MEET

ONGC, Rajahmundry Asset is looking for interested consumers/buyers of Natural Gas who possess relevant approvals/licenses from central/state/statutory/other bodies/agencies for purchase/use of this gas. A Consumer meet is planned to assess the market demand for the gas produced from the following fields which would be sold through tendering process.

Sl. No.	Field	Estimated Gas Quantity (scmd)	Period of gas availability	Nearest Town & Distance	Nearest ONGC Installation
01	Malleswaram	35000-50000	5 Years	Kruthivenu Mandal	Malleswaram- EPS
02	South Velpur	30000-50000	3 years	14 kms. to Tanuku	SVLAB Production Facility

Date: 21st July, 2022, Time: 11:00Hrs to 14:00Hrs,
Venue: Golf View Building, ONGC Base Complex, Rajahmundry - AP.
The prospective consumers may confirm their participation via mail / call by 15-07-2022 Email: baraily_sudamakar@ongc.co.in / n_aadarsh@ongc.co.in / prasad_vvv@ongc.co.in. Contact No.: 9385261788 / 9966282973. For all details regarding the consumer meet, please visit our website: <https://tenders.ongc.co.in>

Sweden and Finland hold NATO talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

The Foreign Ministers of Sweden and Finland were holding talks with NATO on Monday on formally starting the process to join the military alliance.

The negotiations, led by Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde and Finnish counterpart Pekka Haavisto, were made possible after existing NATO member Turkey last week dropped objections.

Ambassadors from NATO's 30 member states were on Tuesday expected to sign the accession protocols for Sweden and Finland, opening a months-long period for alliance countries to ratify their membership.

In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, Sweden and Finland in parallel announced their intention to drop their military non-alignment status and become part of NATO.

Putin orders Russians to fight on

It will cost \$750 bn to rebuild the war-shattered country, Ukraine tells world leaders

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SLOVIANSK

President Vladimir Putin on Monday ordered Russian troops to press their offensive deeper into the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine after Moscow's forces seized the strategic city of Lysychansk.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told Mr. Putin at a meeting that Moscow's forces were now in full control of the Luhansk region.

In a sign there would be no let-up in the fighting and that Russia now had its eyes on the entire Donetsk region, Mr. Putin told Mr. Shoigu that troops stationed there must continue their operations. "Military units, including the East group and the West group, must carry out their tasks according to previously approved plans," Mr. Putin said. "I hope that everything will continue in their direction as has happened in Luhansk so far."

The Ukrainian Army said on Sunday it was retreating



Risky ride: A cyclist riding past the tail section of a rocket embedded on a road in Kramatorsk on Monday. ■ AFP

from Lysychansk to preserve the lives of its troops who were outnumbered and outgunned by Russian forces.

More weapons

With the war now well into its fifth month, Ukraine told a reconstruction conference in Switzerland on Monday that it would already cost \$750 billion to rebuild the country.

"The key source of recovery should be the confiscated assets of Russia and Russian oligarchs," Prime

Minister Denys Shmyhal told leaders of dozens of countries in Lugano.

In a video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described rebuilding Ukraine as the "common task of the whole democratic world" and the "biggest contribution to the support of global peace."

The loss of Lysychansk over the weekend prompted Mr. Zelensky to step up calls for an increased supply of weapons from the West so Kyiv can keep up the resis-

Cosmonauts celebrate Luhansk capture

Cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station on Monday celebrated Russia's capture of Luhansk. Roscosmos, the Russian space agency, posted pictures of cosmonauts Oleg Artyemeyev, Denis Matveev and Sergei Korsakov smiling as they held up flags of Russia's proxies in eastern Ukraine, the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic and Donetsk People's Republic. ■ REUTERS

tance and regain lost territories.

After giving up on its initial war aim of capturing Kyiv following tough Ukrainian resistance, Russia has focused its efforts on securing control of the Donetsk and Luhansk areas which make up the Donbas region.

The capture of Lysychansk — a week after Ukraine retreated from the city of Severodonetsk — frees up Russian forces to advance on Kramatorsk and Sloviansk in Donetsk.

Six killed, 24 injured in U.S. July 4 parade shooting

Suspect likely fired on the festivities from a rooftop, say police

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HIGHLAND PARK

At least six people were killed and 24 injured in a shooting at a July Fourth parade in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park, the police said on Monday, adding that officers were searching for a suspect who likely fired on the festivities from a rooftop. Highland Park Police Commander Chris O'Neill, the incident commander on scene, urged people to shelter in place as authorities searched for the suspect, described as a white male wearing a white or blue T-shirt.

Lake County Major Crime Task Force spokesman Christopher Covelli said at a news conference that the gunman apparently opened fire on parade-goers from a rooftop using a rifle that was recovered at the scene. He didn't know which building.



First responders: Security personnel reaching the scene of the shooting in Highland Park, Illinois. ■ AFP

Mr. Covelli said the police believed there was only one shooter and warned that he should still be considered armed and dangerous.

He and Mr. O'Neill described the shooting as random.

Hundreds of parade-goers — some visibly bloodied — fled the parade route after shots rang out, leaving their belongings behind. As of

early afternoon, ominous signs of a joyous event suddenly turned to horror filled both sides of Central Street where the shooting occurred.

Dozens of baby carriages, some bearing American flags and children's bikes were left behind in their haste. Blankets, lawn chairs and water bottles were knocked over as people fled.

Copenhagen shooting suspect sent to mental health facility

22-year-old acted alone; motive likely not terror-related

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COPENHAGEN

A gunman who killed three people when he opened fire in a crowded shopping mall in Copenhagen acted alone and apparently selected his victims at random, the Danish police said Monday, all but ruling out that the attack was related to terrorism.

Authorities filed preliminary charges of murder and attempted murder against a 22-year-old Danish man, who will be held for 24 days

in a secure mental health facility while authorities investigate the crime, prosecutor Soren Harbo told reporters.

After the custody hearing, defence lawyer Luise Hoj said she agreed to have her client undergo a mental exam. She did not comment on the charges. The police have said the man was known to mental health service without elaborating.

The police have not identified a motive for Sunday's attack inside one of Scandi-

navia's biggest shopping centres. The suspect, carrying a rifle and knife, was quickly arrested, and Copenhagen chief police inspector Soren Thomassen said the man also had access to another gun. He said the firearms were obtained illegally but gave no further details.

"It was the worst possible nightmare," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said on Monday, calling the attack "unusually brutal."

Myanmar hosts first regional meeting since coup

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and counterparts from Mekong Delta nations take part

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BANGKOK

Myanmar's military government on Monday hosted the first high-level regional meeting since the Army took power last year with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and counterparts from Mekong Delta nations.

State broadcaster MRTV reported that Mr. Wang met with his colleagues from Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam at the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation group meeting held under the theme "Solidarity for Peace and Prosperity" in



Fresh link: The Foreign Ministers of China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam in Bagan on Monday. ■ AP

the central city of Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The TV report showed Mr. Wang and the other Foreign Ministers bumping elbows in a show of solidarity before

the start of the meeting, but did not provide further details.

The grouping is a Chinese-led initiative that includes the countries of the Mekong

Delta, a potential source of regional tensions due to an increasing number of hydroelectric projects that are altering the flow and raising concerns of ecological damage. China has built 10 dams along the upper stretch of the Mekong, the part it calls the Lancang.

China has been criticised for the dams upstream on the Mekong river which affect water levels and downstream fisheries that are important to several Southeast Asian nations' economies.

Military government spokesman Maj. Gen. Zaw Min

Tun said last Friday that the Ministers were expected to sign several agreements. He said that the presence of the Foreign Ministers was a recognition of Myanmar's sovereignty and its government.

China is Myanmar's biggest trading partner and an old ally. Beijing has invested billions of dollars in Myanmar's mines, oil and gas pipelines and other infrastructure and is its major arms supplier, together like Russia. Many in Myanmar suspect China of supporting the military takeover.

Protests in U.S. over shooting of Black man

Police release body camera footage

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
AKRON

Several hundred protesters marched on Sunday in Akron, Ohio after the release of body camera footage that showed police fatally shooting a Black man with several dozen rounds of bullets.

As anger rose over the latest police killing of a Black man in the United States, and authorities appealed for calm, a crowd marched to City Hall carrying banners with slogans such as "Justice for Jayland".

The slogan refers to Jayland Walker, 25, who was killed last Monday after officers tried to stop his car over a traffic violation, the police said.

Fourth day in a row Sunday marked the fourth straight day of protests.

Demonstrations were peaceful but for a tense moment in which some protesters got close to a line of police



A woman speaking into a megaphone outside Akron City Hall on Sunday. ■ AFP

ice and shouted at them.

After the first rally, a crowd of people remained in the street protesting as evening fell but it was in a less organized fashion. There were no reports of violence.

But fearing unrest, authorities in the city of 190,000 people moved snowploughs and other heavy equipment near the police department to serve as a barrier.

Al Jazeera journalist was likely shot by Israel: U.S.

But it wasn't intentional, says State Dept.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The United States said on Monday that Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was likely killed by gunfire from Israeli positions but that there was no reason to believe her death was intentional.

The State Department also said the United States could not make a "definitive conclusion" on the origin of the bullet that killed her on May 11, which was handed over by the Palestinian Authority.

"Ballistic experts determined the bullet was badly damaged, which prevented a clear conclusion," State Department spokesman Ned Price said after what he called "extremely detailed forensic analysis" with outside examiners.

Abu Akleh's death provoked a furor, with the Palestinian Authority alleging a war crime, prompting angry

denials by Israel, a close U.S. ally which President Joe Biden is visiting in two weeks.

Full access

The U.S. Security Coordinator (USSC), which directs security assistance to the Palestinian Authority in coordination with Israel, said that both sides granted full access to their own probes over the past several weeks.

"By summarising both investigations, the USSC concluded that gunfire from IDF positions was likely responsible for the death of Shireen Abu Akleh," the State Department said, referring to the Israeli Defense Forces.

"The USSC found no reason to believe that this was intentional but rather the result of tragic circumstances during an IDF-led military operation against factions of Palestinian Islamic Jihad," it said.

Pak. Army told to stay away from politics

Avoid interacting with politicians, General Bajwa directs commanders, officers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has issued fresh directions to his commanders and officers, including from the ISI, to stay away from politics after leaders of ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan's party alleged that some officials of the country's intelligence agency were trying to "manipulate" the upcoming by-elections in Punjab, according to a media report on Monday.

The Pakistan Army had earlier said it had nothing to do with politics and it would remain apolitical in the future as well.

Chief of the Army Staff



General Qamar Javed Bajwa

General Bajwa has issued fresh directions to all his commanders and key officers to stay away from politics and avoid interacting with politicians, *The News* newspaper reported.

These directions have been given in the wake of Imran Khan-led Pakistan Teh-

reek-e-Insaf's propaganda against the military establishment alleging certain ISI officials of trying to manipulate the upcoming by-elections in Punjab to the disadvantage of the party, the report said.

Defence sources lament that the ISI sector commander, Lahore, Brigadier Rashid, who is being maligned by the PTI leaders, is not even in Lahore for over a fortnight in connection with some of his professional work in Islamabad.

PTI leader and former Health Minister of Punjab Yasmin Rashid recently named the sector commander and alleged him of having been involved in politics

to manipulate by-elections in Punjab.

Former Foreign Minister and Deputy Chairman of PTI Shah Mehmood Qureshi had also alleged that some invisible forces are active to influence the by-elections in the province against the party.

Recently, Mr. Khan also alleged that some of his candidates have complained to him of receiving telephone calls from unknown numbers. Months back, operatives of the country's top intelligence agency, the ISI, were strictly directed to stay away from politics.

The bypolls to the 20 vacant seats of Punjab Assembly will be held on July 17.

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The Hindu Book of Editorials 2021 captures what made news in the year that just passed, with a selection of editorials that were published in the editorial pages of India's national newspaper.

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MARKET WATCH

	04-07-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,235	0.62
US Dollar	78.95	-0.01
Gold	52,048	1.14
Brent oil	113.52	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	682.00	4.10
Apollo Hosp	3770.10	33.95
Asian Paints	2790.30	17.15
Axis Bank	654.35	10.40
Bajaj Auto	3679.75	55.15
Bajaj Finserv	11388.30	65.75
Bajaj Finance	5630.30	15.90
Bharti Airtel	681.90	8.45
BPLCL	316.35	-2.00
Britannia Ind	3700.45	116.10
Cipla	930.65	-18.65
Coal India	182.05	-1.20
Divis Lab	3639.55	2.00
Dr Reddys Lab	4354.45	-31.45
Eicher Motors	2796.40	13.60
Grasim Ind	1350.80	3.55
HCL Tech	984.60	9.25
HDFC	2216.85	6.30
HDFC Bank	1355.65	1.90
HDFC Life	574.30	8.85
Hero MotoCorp	2760.45	-3.35
Hindalco	340.50	-0.65
Hind Unilever	2375.20	92.85
ICI Bank	720.10	16.20
IndusInd Bank	832.00	24.80
Infosys	1488.00	8.60
ITC	291.90	7.55
JSW Steel	551.50	-27.35
Kotak Bank	1670.90	3.15
L&T	1581.70	9.55
M&M	1091.20	-16.15
Maruti Suzuki	8443.35	40.75
Nestle India Ltd	17994.55	199.50
NTPC	141.40	0.75
ONGC	126.00	-5.05
PowerGrid Corp	210.70	4.20
Reliance Ind	2413.70	5.00
SBI Life	1117.65	17.80
State Bank	473.45	6.60
Shree Cement	19292.40	78.60
Sun Pharma	829.40	0.15
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	730.15	10.60
Tata Motors	408.45	-4.25
Tata Steel	854.55	-18.30
TCS	3235.05	-80.05
Tech Mahindra	999.95	-10.75
Titan	1962.50	16.30
UltraTech Cement	5709.05	17.35
UPL	654.50	11.00
Wipro	420.30	-1.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	78.75	79.07
Euro	82.34	82.68
British Pound	95.75	96.14
Japanese Yen (100)	58.18	58.42
Chinese Yuan	11.77	11.82
Swiss Franc	82.00	82.37
Singapore Dollar	56.45	56.59
Canadian Dollar	61.28	61.54
Malaysian Ringgit	17.84	17.93
Australian Dollar	54.18	54.41

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Yamaha unveils Fascino 125 Fi Hybrid in silver

CHENNAI India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt. Ltd. has unveiled a drum brake variant of the Fascino 125 Fi hybrid in silver colour at ₹78,098 (ex-showroom, Chennai). IYM introduced this colour scheme after gathering feedback from customers who wanted a colour option that was easier to maintain, the company said in a statement.

Chola, Kinetic Green ink pact for EV retail finance

CHENNAI Kinetic Green Energy and Power Solutions Ltd. has partnered with Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (Chola) to offer retail finance for electric vehicles. The pact will enable customers to buy Kinetic Green range of battery-operated three-wheelers and electric two-wheelers in an easy and affordable manner, the company said in a statement.

Va Tech Wabag bags ₹430-cr. order from RIL

CHENNAI Va Tech Wabag said it had secured a ₹430-crore order from Reliance Industries Ltd. towards engineering, procurement and construction of a desalination plant with capacity of 53 million litres per day at Jamnagar. The scope includes design, engineering, procurement, construction, supply and performance guarantee test run of the sea water reverse osmosis plant, the firm said in a statement.

'Office leasing more than doubled in April-June'

NEW DELHI Gross leasing of office space more than doubled in April-June across six major cities to 14.7 million sq. ft on lower base effect and rise in demand from corporates, according to Colliers India. The gross leasing of office space stood at 5.6 million sq. ft in the year-earlier period, Colliers India said. Demand for housing as well as office was badly impacted in the April-June quarter of last year due to the second wave of the pandemic. PTI

Exports grow 16.8%, imports surge 51% widening trade deficit

Coal, gold purchases expand June trade shortfall to a new record of \$25.63 billion

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI
India's merchandise trade deficit hit a fresh high of \$25.63 billion in June as imports surged 51% to \$63.6 billion, significantly outpacing the 16.8% rise in exports, preliminary trade data show. The previous record trade gap was May's \$24.3 billion.

While exports increased to almost \$38 billion last month, overseas purchases of goods, including coal and gold, swelled imports.

Coal imports more than tripled, while imports of gold grew over 169% to exceed \$2.6 billion. And petroleum imports rose 94.2%. The value of non-petro-



Slow lane: Four of India's top 10 export items, including engineering goods, saw a contraction last month. *K.R. DEEPAK

leum imports was \$42.84 billion in June, reflecting a growth of 36.4%, while non-oil and non-gold, silver and precious metals imports rose 31.7% to \$36.7 billion. "Despite an expected fall

in the gold imports, the merchandise trade deficit widened further to a worrying \$25.6 billion... with a sequential dip in exports and a rise in the non-gold imports relative to May," said ICRA

chief economist Aditi Nayar. "With a steady uptick in the size of the merchandise trade deficit over the course of the quarter, we expect the current account deficit to more than double to \$30 billion in Q1 of 2022-23, from the modest \$13 billion in the previous quarter," she said.

Key exports slide
Four of India's top 10 export items saw a contraction.

Engineering goods, a major growth driver in the last year, slid 1.6%, drugs and pharmaceuticals fell 1.3%, cotton yarn and handloom products shrank 22.5% and plastic and linoleum contracted 23.2%.

Govt. said to hold firm on deficit target

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's macroeconomic fundamentals were strong enough to deal with global challenges, official sources said on Monday, adding that the central government was committed to sticking to the fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of the GDP for the current fiscal.

The government was taking steps to deal with the spiralling crude oil prices in the international market, the sources said.

India meets close to 85% of its oil demand through imports and a weaker rupee makes imports costlier.

Prices of commodities, including crude oil, are ruling high due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Oil slips as recession fears balance tight supply

Traders worry about slowing demand

REUTERS
LONDON

Oil edged lower on Monday as fears of a global recession that would hit demand overshadowed concerns of tight supply amid lower OPEC output, unrest in Libya and sanctions on Russia.

Figures on Friday showed Euro zone inflation hit yet another record high in June, firming the case for rapid European Central Bank rate increases starting this month.

U.S. consumer sentiment hit a record low in June.

Brent crude fell 25 cents, or 0.2%, to \$111.38 a barrel at 1015 GMT, after falling over \$1 in early trade.

"The risk is tilted to the downside as traders are concerned about slowing oil



demand due to a strong possibility of an economic recession taking place in the U.S. and in other parts of the world," said Naeem Aslam of Avatrade.

Brent came close this year to an all-time high of \$147 a barrel reached in 2008 as Russia's invasion of Ukraine added to supply concerns.

Despite concern of a recession, tight supply is limiting losses.

'Oil can touch \$380 if Russia cuts output'

REUTERS

Brent prices could soar to a 'stratospheric' \$380 a barrel in 'the most extreme scenario' of Russia slashing oil production by 5 million barrels per day (bpd) in retaliation to a price cap being considered by the Group of Seven, analysts at J.P. Morgan wrote in a note.

"The most obvious and likely risk" is Russia not cooperating and retaliating by reducing exports of oil, it said, adding that Moscow can cut output by up to 5 million bpd "without excessively hurting its economic interest".

"Given the high level of stress in the market, in the worst-case scenario, a 5 million bpd cut could drive oil price to a stratospheric \$380/bbl," J.P.Morgan said.

Centre said to take steps to tackle rupee volatility

'As oil prices rise, CAD will go up too'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India was trying to 'address volatility' in the Indian rupee that has tumbled to record lows against the dollar in recent weeks, a government official said on Monday, amid concerns of a widening trade deficit and sell-off of assets by foreign investors.

The rupee has plunged 6% against the dollar this year, weighed down by broad strength in the greenback and as investors retreated from the domestic share markets.

Meanwhile, India's trade gap touched a monthly record of \$24.3 billion in May, hurt by higher commodity prices. "When oil prices are this high, obviously CAD

HDFC Bank logs 21.5% loan growth in Q1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

HDFC Bank on Monday said the bank has registered a 21.5% rise in loans to ₹13,95,000 crore in the first quarter of this fiscal.

The credit book was ₹11,47,700 crore as of June 30 last year.

Advances grew by about 22.5% over June 30, 2021, HDFC Bank said in a filing.

Deposits aggregated to approximately ₹16,05,000 crore as of June 30, a growth of about 19.3% over ₹13,45,800 crore a year earlier. The bank purchased loans aggregating ₹9,533 crore via the direct assignment route under the home loan arrangement with parent Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd., it added.

The rupee ended Monday at 78.95 to the dollar, close to a record low it touched last week.



"What is the dollar to rupee, the international price of diesel, crude, what is the domestic cost of crude, we'll keep reviewing it. You can decipher it yourself once we review it."

The government last week slapped an export tax on petrol, diesel and jet fuel (ATF) and imposed a windfall tax on crude oil produced locally.

Air India deploys Amadeus tech solution

Bid to enhance customer experience

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Amadeus IT Group SA, a travel technology company, said Tata Group's Air India (AI) has signed an agreement to deploy the best-in-class technology solutions to enhance customer experience and operational effectiveness as part of the carrier's revitalisation plan.

AI is implementing the full Amadeus Altéa PSS suite, including components such as revenue management, revenue accounting, retailing and merchandising, website, mobile and frequent flyer programme management, Amadeus said.

"The platform delivers a modern and efficient reservations solution to customers and travel partners. The advanced system will also



equip Air India with technology that will enhance its operational efficiency," it added.

"In line with the vision laid out by the Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran to make Air India a world-class airline, we are adopting several cutting-edge technology solutions to transform Air India's customer experience," Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial Officer, AI, said in a statement.

Tata firm secures NINL ownership

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The privatisation of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) was completed on Monday, with its handover to Tata group firm TSLP, the Finance Ministry said.

NINL is the second successful privatisation by the current government. Incidentally, Air India - the first company on the privatisation list - too was bought by the Tata group.

Tata Steel Long Products (TSLP) had in January emerged as the winning bidder, putting in bids worth ₹12,100 crore for loss-making NINL, which is a joint venture of 4 CPSEs and two Odisha government PSUs. NINL's 1.1 mt a year capacity steel plant at Kalinganagar in Odisha was shut in March 2020 due to continued losses.

Akasa Air conducts first proving flight

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-promoted Akasa Air on Monday carried out its first proving flight for the DGCA to secure an air operator's permit.

The airline would have to demonstrate 10 hours of flying in total, and would therefore be required to conduct a few more proving flights. All the flights are expected to take place within this week, after which the AOC is likely in a couple of days.

Akasa Air plans to start flight operations in the last week of July with two planes. The airline also unveiled crew uniform, which includes orange jackets as well as sneakers for its cabin crew - a first for an airline in India.

'Smart washing machine demand has doubled'

Monsoon onset a trigger: Flipkart

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

The demand for washing machines with intelligent features doubled in the last six months compared with the year-earlier period, e-commerce firm Flipkart reported on Monday.

The trend had been visible in the last six months, but it gained momentum with the onset of monsoons, the company said.

Driving demand

While metros and tier-1 cities were the initial adopters, it's the 'tier-3 and beyond' cities such as Godavari, Chittoor, Anantapur and Muzaffarpur which are now seeing increased customer demand for washing machines with intelligent features such as in-built wa-

Some 40% of customers opted for affordable payment options, says Flipkart

ter heater, steam, wi-fi and, zero pressure fill technology, as per Flipkart.

"Customers' preferences have greatly evolved over the past three years and they are looking at intelligent appliances that can help make lives easier," Hari Kumar G., VP, large appliances, Flipkart, said.

According to a market insight report released by Flipkart, some 40% of its customers have been opting for affordable payment options such as prexo (product exchange) and 'No Cost EMI's to acquire intelligent appliances.

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Root, Bairstow put England on victory path

Their 150-run unbeaten stand, after a solid opening foundation, leaves team needing just 119 more



Taking charge: Root, in the company of Bairstow, dominated the Indian bowling attack in the chase of 378. ■ AFP

INDIA IN ENG

REUTERS
BIRMINGHAM
Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow took the attack to India as England closed in on a fourth successive winning run chase under the new Test leadership duo of captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum.

England was 259 for three at stumps on the fourth day of the rescheduled fifth Test, needing just a further 119 runs to reach a target of 378 on Tuesday's last day at Edgbaston and end the five-match series 2-2.

Former captain Root was

unbeaten on 76 while Bairstow was 72 not out. The Yorkshire duo was involved in an unbroken 150-run stand after coming together at 109 for three, with England having lost three wickets in quick succession either side of tea.

Reviews lost

India lost two of its three reviews when Root was on 11 and 16, with left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja and pacer Mohammed Shami denied lbw verdicts.

Bairstow was rerieved on 14 when an edge off Mohammed Siraj burst through the hands of Hanuma Vihari

stationed at second slip.

Root, driving stylishly, brought up his fifty in 71 balls. The in-form Bairstow took four more deliveries to reach the landmark before late-cutting Shami for four and pulling Siraj for six.

There have been only two successful fourth-innings chases above 200 in a Test at Edgbaston, with South Africa making 283 for five in 2008 and England 211 for three against New Zealand in 1999.

Openers Alex Lees and Zak Crawley, with a blizzard of boundaries, shared a century stand in 19.5 overs – the fastest in England Test histo-

ry. But India captain Jasprit Bumrah bowled Crawley, shouldering arms, for 46 with an excellent off-cutter.

Ollie Pope was out for a duck to the first ball after tea, caught behind off Bumrah, to the raucous delight of the Indian supporters. England then suffered a self-inflicted blow when Lees was run out for 56 off just 65 balls.

Stokes takes four

Earlier, India was bowled out for 245 in the second innings, with half-centuries from Cheteshwar Pujara (66) and Rishabh Pant (57). Stokes mopped up the tail to finish with four wickets.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS
416 in 84.5 overs

ENGLAND – 1ST INNINGS
284 in 61.3 overs

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS

Shubman Gill c Crawley b Anderson 4 (3b, 1x4), Cheteshwar Pujara c Lees b Broad 66 (168b, 8x4), Hanuma Vihari c Bairstow b Broad 11 (44b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Root b Stokes 20 (40b, 4x4), Rishabh Pant c Root b Leach 57 (86b, 8x4), Shreyas Iyer c Anderson b Potts 19 (26b, 3x4), Ravindra Jadeja b Stokes 23 (58b, 1x4), Shardul Thakur c Crawley b Potts 4 (26b), Mohammed Shami c Lees b Stokes 13 (14b, 2x4), Jasprit Bumrah c Crawley b Stokes 7 (20b, 1x6), Mohammed Siraj (not out) 2 (9b); Extras (b-6, lb-7, w-3, nb-3): 19; Total (in 81.5 overs): 245.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Gill, 0.3 overs), 2-43 (Vihari, 16.3), 3-75 (Kohli, 29.5), 4-153 (Pujara, 52.3), 5-190 (Shreyas, 59.2), 6-198 (Pant, 62.2), 7-207 (Shardul, 69.1), 8-230 (Shami, 73.4), 9-236 (Jadeja, 79.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Anderson 19-5-46-1, Broad 16-1-58-2, Potts 17-3-50-2, Leach 12-1-28-1, Stokes 11.5-0-33-4, Root 6-1-17-0.

ENGLAND – 2ND INNINGS
Target 378

Alex Lees run out 56 (65b, 8x4), Zak Crawley b Bumrah 46 (76b, 7x4), Ollie Pope c Pant b Bumrah 0 (3b), Joe Root (batting) 76 (112b, 9x4), Jonny Bairstow (batting) 72 (87b, 8x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-7, w-1, nb-1): 9; Total (for three wickets, in 57 overs): 259.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-107 (Crawley, 21.4), 2-107 (Pope, 23.1), 3-109 (Lees, 24.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Bumrah 13-0-53-2, Shami 12-2-49-0, Jadeja 15-2-53-0, Siraj 10-0-64-0, Shardul 7-0-33-0.

England needs 119 more runs with seven wickets in hand.

Pant learning from mistakes under Dravid's influence

The dasher has evolved into a game-changer, match-winner

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

There was shock all around. Rishabh Pant walked back in anguish. Coach Rahul Dravid was aghast.

It was January this year. The second Test at the Wanderers was on the boil. A cameo from Pant could have swung the closely-fought Test, India's way.

Reckless

Kagiso Rabada, in the midst of a hostile spell, got one to climb nastily and struck Pant on the gloves. The next delivery, only the third he faced, saw Pant recklessly charging down the track, and managing only a fatal top-edge to a Rabada lifter.

Pant had been consumed by his 'closed' mindset in the Bull Ring.

The Indian camp was fuming. It was, arguably, the pivotal moment of the Test that the Proteas won against the odds.

After the match, Dravid spoke about shot-selection, the need to read situations and revealed he would have a dialogue with Pant. Whatever the conversation was, it worked magic! Dravid's message had travelled to Pant.

His second innings 100 net out on a spicy pitch at the picturesque Newlands, Cape Town, in the decider was all about solidity and quality. He disrupted the South African attack's line with his left-handed brilliance.



Innovator: Pant exudes poise and balance even when playing his trademark falling shots. ■ REUTERS

That hundred against that South African attack on that pitch should rank among the great knocks conjured up by Indian batters on foreign soil.

Pant had learnt from his mistakes. His hundred consumed only 139 deliveries but it was a knock where heavy blows, cuts, pulls, drives, whips, and sweeps, were sandwiched between sound defensive work.

The punishing Pant is a game-changer and a match-winner. He has poise and balance even if he innovates with his falling shots.

Pant's 89 not out of marauding strokeplay took India to a sensational Test series victory in the fourth innings at the 'Gabbra, 2021.

He picks the length early and is ready with his response. Pant fires the ball through the gaps, smokes 'em for huge sixes, and is now more circumspect with

his shot selection. Watch closely and you will notice his footwork is organised.

Masterstroke

In a masterstroke, the Indian think tank sent Pant in at No. 5 in the ongoing Edgbaston Test. Given responsibility and with India at 71 for four, Pant, during his scintillating 146, crossed 2,000 runs in only his 31st Test with an average closing in on mid-40s.

Stunningly, four of his five centuries have come in South Africa, England and Australia. His 114 at the Oval in 2018, and 159 not out at Sydney, 2019, in a series-clinching knock, are nuggets that glitter bright.

An improving 'keeper, Pant is a natural. His mental attributes now complement his power game.

The conversation with Dravid certainly lent the sunshine a timely lift.

India seals ODI series with 10-wicket win

Bowlers, led by Renuka, set it up; Smriti, Shafali complete the annihilation

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PALLEKELE
India dominated from start to finish to hammer Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the second One-Day International and claim an unassailable 2-0 in the three-match series here on Monday.

The Indian openers fired for the first time on the tour, sharing a partnership of 174 runs to see the visitors home in just 25.4 overs.

Best against Sri Lanka

The bowlers set it up for the tourists by dismissing Sri Lanka for 173, and after that, Smriti Mandhana's stroke-filled 94 off 83 balls and Shafali Verma's run-a-ball 71 paved the way for the convincing win.

The duo's partnership is India's best for any wicket against Sri Lanka. India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur asked Sri Lanka to bat first on a surface favourable to bowlers.

At her best

The hosts soon found themselves in all sorts of trouble as pacer Renuka Singh was on point with her lengths from the word go. The 26-year-old reigned supreme with the ball, with a career-best four for 28

Even as wickets fell at regular intervals, lower-order batter Ama Kanchana held fort for with an unbeaten 47 off 83 balls. Seasoned off-spinner Deepti Sharma's two wickets off the last two balls helped India bowl out the Lankans.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Hasini Perera b Renuka 0 (4b), Vishmi Gunaratne b Renuka 3 (14b), Chamari Athapaththu c Shafali b Meghna 27 (45b, 3x4), Harshitha Samarawickrama lbw b Renuka 0 (3b), Anushka Sanjeevani run out 25 (44b, 2x4), Nilakshi de Silva c Deepti b Meghna 32 (62b, 3x4), Kavisha Dilhari run out 5 (7b, 1x4), Ama Kanchana (not out) 47 (83b, 2x4), Oshadi Ranasinghe c Deepti b Renuka 10 (19b), Inoka Ranaweera st. Yastika b Deepti 6 (18b), Achini Kulasuriya c Harleen b Deepti 0 (1b); Extras (b-2, lb-6, w-10): 18; Total (in 50 overs): 173.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Hasini, 0.4 overs), 2-7 (Vishmi, 4.4), 3-11 (Harshitha, 6.1), 4-42 (Chamari, 15.4), 5-70 (Anushka, 22.3), 6-81 (Kavisha, 24.2), 7-123 (Nilakshi, 38.1), 8-

150 (Oshadi, 44.2), 9-173 (Inoka, 49.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Renuka 10-1-28-4, Meghna 10-0-43-2, Pooja 4-0-15-0, Rajeshwari 10-2-24-0, Deepti 10-0-30-2, Harleen 3-0-13-0, Harmanpreet 3-0-12-0.

INDIA

Shafali Verma (not out) 71 (71b, 4x4, 1x6), Smriti Mandhana (not out) 94 (83b, 11x4, 1x6); Extras (w-9): 9; Total (for no loss in 25.4 overs): 174.

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Achini 5-0-24-0, Oshadi 5-0-36-0, Ama 3-4-0-33-0, Inoka 6-0-42-0, Kavisha 3-0-18-0, Chamari 3-0-21-0.

Toss: India.

Player-of-the-Match: Renuka.

India won by 10 wickets with 24.2 overs to spare to lead three-match series 2-0.

Third ODI: July 7, Pallekele.



Striking it rich: Renuka came up with a career-best effort to lay the platform for the comprehensive win. ■ FILE PHOTO

'Gained much from playing alongside Jhulan'

Seamer Meghna also praises Renuka for her work ethic

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

How the young Indian pace attack would perform was one of the topics of interest ahead of the tour of Sri Lanka. By omitting the seasoned duo of Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey, the selectors had put a lot of faith in the relatively inexperienced bowlers.

Those young bowlers have not disappointed. Renuka Singh and Meghna Singh were instrumental in restricting the host to 173 in the second ODI at Pallekele on Monday.

Renuka claimed four wickets and Meghna two. Shortly after their fine show helped

India score a 10-wicket win in the second ODI, Meghna praised her younger colleague for her hard work. "She prepares well and puts into practice what we plan," she said.

She added that the young Indian attack had gained from the experience of playing alongside Jhulan. "We are carrying on with that experience," she said.

About the second ODI, Meghna said the bowlers had prepared for the slowness of the wicket. "The wicket today was slightly better than the one for the first match," she said. "We had planned for a bowling partnership and were able to do that."

Garin scripts an incredible comeback, progresses to the quarterfinals

Down two sets and 0-3 in the third, the Chilean turns the tables on de Minaur; Kyrgios outlasts Nakashima; Halep stuns fourth seed Badosa



AGENCIES
LONDON

Chile's Cristian Garin showed amazing tenacity to rally from two sets and 0-3 down and save two match points as he beat Australian Alex de Minaur in a five-set slugfest to reach his maiden Grand Slam quarterfinal on Monday.

Garin triumphed 2-6, 5-7, 7-6(3), 6-4, 7-6(10-6) after four hours and 34 minutes of superb tennis that earned a standing ovation from the packed No. 2 Court.

The two hit only a handful of first-serve winners, but had a crowd-pleasing sprinkling of classic drop shots and volleys among the relentlessly accurate groundstrokes and lung-busting chases.

De Minaur seemed to be cruising as he took the first two sets and led 3-0 in the third, but Garin showed great spirit to fight back via a

tiebreak and set up a decider. Garin saved two match points at 4-5 to take the match to the first-to-10 final set tiebreak where he won 10-6. The Chilean will meet Nick Kyrgios, who reached his first Slam quarterfinal in seven years when he recovered from a slow start to outlast American Brandon Nakashima 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(2), 3-6, 6-2 on the Centre Court.

The Australian was on his best behaviour in front of the Royal Box as he ground out a gutsy win.

Until Monday, Wimbledon's 11th seed Taylor Fritz was not even the best tennis player in his own family. But, with some hefty swipes of a garish coral-coloured racket on Court One, the American finally earned his family stripes by reaching the quarterfinals of the grass-court Grand Slam.

His 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 win over qualifier Jason Kubler put him in the last eight and saw him match the Slam feat of his mother who, as Kathy May, reached three Major quarterfinals in the late 1970s.

Kazakh 17th seed Elena Rybakina hit twice as many winners as unseeded opponent Petra Martic of Croatia



Contrasting routes: While Garin had to dig deep to advance, Halep eased past Badosa in straight sets to emerge as a strong contender for the title. ■ REUTERS

on Monday to progress to her maiden Wimbledon quarterfinal with a 7-5 6-3 victory.

On Sunday, top seed Novak Djokovic raised his level to put an end to the fairytale run of Dutch wildcard Tim van Rijthoven during a 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory.

In the women's section, Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina reached the quarterfinals for the first time with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Petra Martic of

Croatia on Monday.

Amanda Anisimova ended Harmony Tan's surprising run and reached the quarterfinals at the All England Club for the first time. The American, a 6-2, 6-3 winner, will take on 2019 champion Simona Halep. The Romanian stunned fourth-seeded Spaniard Paula Badosa 6-1, 6-2 and extended her winning streak at The Championships to 11. Halep, who also won



the French Open in 2018, is yet to drop a set in this year's tournament and consistently got the better of Badosa in baseline rallies. Badosa's loss meant that Ons Jabeur, the third seed, is the only top-10 player left in the women's draw.

Ajla Tomljanovic came from a set down to beat Alize Cornet and reach her second straight Wimbledon quarterfinal. The Australian won

4-6, 6-4, 6-3 to set up a meeting with Rybakina. She was in tears after a gruelling match that lasted two hours and 35 minutes. "I didn't

really think I could do it," said Tomljanovic, who had lost to eventual champion Ashleigh Barty in the quarterfinals last year.

THE RESULTS

Fourth round: Men: Garin (Chi) bt 19-De Minaur (Aus) 2-6, 5-7, 7-6 (3), 6-4, 7-6(10-6); Kyrgios (Aus) bt Nakashima (USA) 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-2; 11-Fritz (USA) bt Kubler (Aus) 6-3, 6-1, 6-4.
Women: 17-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Martic (Cro) 7-5, 6-3; 16-Halep (Rou) bt 4-Badosa (Esp) 6-1, 6-2; 20-Anisimova (USA) bt Tan (Fra) 6-2, 6-3; Tomljanovic (Aus) bt Cornet (Fra) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.
On Sunday: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt van Rijthoven (Ned) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

All England Club appeals WTA fine

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WIMBLEDON

The All England Club is appealing a fine levied by the WTA women's professional tennis tour for banning Russian and Belarusian players from tournaments in Britain because of the war in Ukraine.

The Lawn Tennis Association – the British federation for the sport – also is expected to appeal a financial penalty imposed by the WTA after no players from Russia or Belarus were allowed to take part in grass-court tune-up events last month at Eastbourne, Nottingham and Birmingham.

The fines, totalling \$1 million, were first reported by *The Daily Mail*. The newspaper said the LTA was docked \$750,000, and the All England Club \$250,000.

"It's the subject of a legal process, so I can't comment specifically on that," All England Club CEO Sally Bolton said.

Golden debuts for Gitika and Alfiya

BOXING

SPORTS BUREAU

World youth champions Gitika and Alfiya Pathan secured gold medals on their elite international debut at the Elorda Cup boxing tournament in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on Monday.

Gitika beat compatriot S. Kalaivani 4-1 in the women's 48kg final to emerge as the champion.

Alfiya upset 2016 World champion Lazzat Kungeibayeva of the home country 5-0 to take the +81kg crown.

Silver for Boro

Worlds bronze medallist Jamuna Boro (54kg) signed off with a silver medal.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs India: 5th Test, day 5, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3 p.m.

Wimbledon: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m.

TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7 p.m.

Hockey: Women's World Cup: India vs China, Star Sports 3 & Hotstar, 8 p.m.

IN BRIEF



WI eases to victory in second T20I

ROSEAU (DOMINICA) Half-centuries by man-of-the-match Rovman Powell and Brandon King highlighted a formidable West Indies batting effort on the way to a 35-run victory over Bangladesh in the second T20I on Sunday. **The scores:** West Indies 193/5 in 20 overs (Brandon King 57, Nicholas Pooran 34, Rovman Powell 61 n.o.) bt Bangladesh 158/6 (Shakib Al Hasan 68 n.o., Alif Hossain 34). **MoM:** Powell; West Indies won by 35 runs to lead three-match series 1-0; **Third T20I:** July 7, Providence.



Poston is champion at PGA John Deere Classic

WASHINGTON J.T. Poston became the first wire-to-wire winner at the John Deere Classic in 30 years on Sunday to capture his second career US PGA Tour title and book his British Open debut. The 29-year-old American fired a two-under 69 to finish on 21-under 263. AFP



WBBL: Harmanpreet returns to Renegades

MELBOURNE India captain Harmanpreet Kaur will return to Melbourne Renegades for a second season in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) during the eighth edition of the T20 tournament later this year. Harmanpreet was Renegades' leading run-scorer and wicket-taker last year. PTI



Ronaldo misses United training

LONDON Cristiano Ronaldo missed training with Manchester United on Monday due to "family reasons", just days after he reportedly told the club he wanted to leave. United players who were away on international duty over the close-season were scheduled to meet up with the rest of the squad on Monday. AFP

India starts favourite

Looks to plug holes in the attack as it takes on China



Defensive shield: The Indian defenders, who produced a superlative performance against England, will hope to do the same against China. ■FIH

HOCKEY WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMSTELVEEN (NETHERLANDS)

With its defensive prowess on display in the 1-1 draw against Olympic bronze medallist England, India will look to plug holes in the attack and register its first win of the women's hockey World Cup against China here on Tuesday.

India produced a superlative defensive performance, spearheaded by skipper and goalkeeper Savita Punia, in the drawn game against England on Sunday.

The likes of vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka, Nikki Pradhan, Gurjit Kaur and Udita dished out an excellent show,

denying England a single penalty corner. The only blemish was the ninth-minute goal India conceded when Isabella Petter neatly deflected in a pass from outside the 'D'.

Near-perfect effort

Barring that, it was a near-perfect effort from the Indian backline against England, which fielded almost the same set of players from the Great Britain side that featured in Tokyo Olympics.

Savita, as usual, was brilliant in the goal, making a couple of fine saves with quick reflexes.

However, India was found wanting in penalty corner conversion as it could score just once from the seven it got, with Vandana Katariya

getting the equaliser from a rebound in the 28th minute.

India also created a lot of chances against England but the forwardline failed to utilise most of them.

India will look to address the attacking woes and beat world No. 13 China, which held New Zealand to a 2-2 draw on Sunday.

Chief coach Janneke Schopman will hope for a more clinical performance from forwards Vandana, Lalremisiam and Sharmila.

Complacency

Going by form and rankings, world No. 8 India will definitely start as the favourite but complacency is something the Savita-led side will look to avoid.

Arsenal ropes in Jesus on long-term contract

Manchester United agrees on deal for Eriksen, say reports

TRANSFERS

AGENCIES
LONDON / BARCELONA

Arsenal signed Manchester City forward Gabriel Jesus on a long-term contract on Monday.

The Brazil international makes the move in a reported £45 million (\$54 million) deal. He scored 95 goals in 236 games over nearly six seasons at City and won the Premier League four times, League Cup three times and the FA Cup.

Jesus, 25, reunites with Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta, who was Pep Guardiola's assistant at City before taking over the Gunners.



Saviour? Arsenal will hope Jesus redeems its fortunes in the coming season. ■TWITTER/ARSENAL

Manchester United has agreed a deal in principle to sign Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen on a free transfer, according to reports on Monday.

United manager Erik ten

Hag made the three-year contract offer to Eriksen after the Dane's impressive comeback with Brentford.

The 30-year-old is reported to have a verbal agreement with United and will of-

Aldrin fails to qualify for World meet

ATHLETICS

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Long jumper Jeswin Aldrin fell short in his bid to make the Indian team for the World Athletics Championships here on Monday.

The Tamil Nadu athlete, who needed to jump at least 8.10m to qualify, could only jump 7.99m in the long jump selection trials held at the newly-laid synthetic track at the LNCPE Kariyavattom.

Struggling with run-up

Aldrin struggled with his run up and managed to hit the take off board only twice during his six attempts. Though he managed to cross 7.90m thrice, Aldrin couldn't reach anywhere near the qualifying mark.

A disappointed Aldrin la-

AFI to give another chance to Aldrin, Aishwarya and Arokia

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

With long jumper Jeswin Aldrin and quartermilers Aishwarya Mishra and Arokia Rajiv not achieving the targets set by the Athletics Federation of India in the World Championships' trials held at Thiruvananthapuram's LNCPE on Monday, the National body has decided

to conduct retrials in Patiala on Friday.

"They did not meet the standards. We have informed all the three that they can do one more trial on July 8 along with the junior World championship final trial," Adille Sumariwalla, the AFI president, told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Stars like quartermiler Priya H. Mohan will be

attending the junior trials, to pick the Indian team for the under-20 Worlds (in Cali, Colombia, from Aug. 1-6), but it is not clear whether they will be competing with the three who would be hoping to attain the AFI's targets for the Worlds which begin in Oregon, USA, on July 15. "I don't know the set-up of that trial," said Sumariwalla.

Dadra & Nagar Haveli triumphs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Dadra & Nagar Haveli defeated Bihar by a solitary goal to emerge champion in the Hero Junior (U-17) Women's National Football Championship 2022-23 here on Monday.

Pooja was the difference between the two teams as she scored the winner in the 87th minute.

Sindhu, Prannoy lead Indian challenge



Consistent performer: Prannoy has made a mark every time he has taken the court this season. ■AP

MALAYSIA MASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KUALA LUMPUR

P.V. Sindhu and H.S. Prannoy spearhead the Indian challenge at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament, starting here on Tuesday.

Sindhu and Prannoy lost in the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Open Super 750 last week and will look to make amends this week.

Good shows, but...

Sindhu has been consistently reaching the quarterfinals or semifinals of world tour events but has looked slightly vulnerable against top players like Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon and Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei. In the opening round, she

will face Bing Jiao, who beat her at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 last month.

Prannoy, on the other hand, has made a mark every time he has taken the court this season. With a series of quarterfinal finishes since the Worlds last year, Prannoy has proved to be a tough competitor on the circuit, but a podium finish has eluded him.

B. Sai Praneeth will meet Kevin Cordón of Guatemala in the opening round, while Sameer Verma is pitted against fourth-seeded Taiwanese Chou Tien Chen.

In the women's draw, Saina Nehwal is pitted against Kim Ga Eun of Korea.

In doubles, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will meet Malaysia's Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan.

Sonal beats top seed Sachi

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU

Qualifier Sonal Patil knocked out top seed Sachi Sharma 6-1, 6-2 in the first round of the ₹1,00,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy in Jhajjar on Monday.

Second seed Shefali Arora beat lucky loser Gurleen Singh 7-5, 6-3 to set up a clash against Kanupriya Rajawat.

The results: First round: Sonal Patil bt Sachi Sharma 6-1, 6-2; Abhilasha Bista bt Shilpi Das 6-4, 6-0; Sanjivani Kutwal bt Muskan Prajapati 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; Hannah Nagpal bt Ritu Rai 6-3, 6-4; Kavya Khirwar bt Bhumiika Rohilla 6-0, 6-3.

Harnoor Kaur Sidhu bt Jigyasa Narsinghani 6-3, 7-6 (5); Sanjami Arora bt Danica Fernando 6-4, 6-3; Shruti Gupta bt Shikha Tyagi 6-1, 6-0; Riya Uboveja bt Tamanna Panwar 6-1, 6-0; Medhavi Singh bt Ayushi Singh 6-2, 6-2; Gia Alana Pereira bt Vanishika Pathak 6-0, 6-3.

Hitakmya Singh Narwal bt Veshnavi Basnet 6-1, 6-1; Ritu Ohlyan bt Gnana Ashwitha Boyanapalli 6-2, 6-4; Joell Nichole bt Diya Tyagi 6-0, 6-1; Kanupriya Rajawat bt Pragati Solankar 6-3, 6-1; Shefali Arora bt Gurleen Singh 7-5, 6-3.

All hail the 'halo' for saving lives

FORMULA ONE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SILVERSTONE

In a season of technical strife and tension, Formula One united on Monday and saluted the sport's ruling body and its 'halo' device for saving two lives in horrific accidents during the British Grand Prix.

In a spectacular race won by Ferrari's Carlos Sainz, Chinese rookie Zhou Guanyu survived a high-speed opening lap crash in which he was sent bouncing and scraping upside down across asphalt and gravel into the barriers.

Remarkable survival

His Alfa Romeo car was severely damaged, but the 23-year-old driver survived unhurt and conscious thanks to the once-controversial 'halo' cockpit protection device, made from titanium, which had earlier also saved the life of a Formula Two driver.

Zhou's remarkable survival, without a scratch, enabled the sport to push aside arguments over 'ground effect' technology, bumpy and porpoising cars and mid-season threats of looming rule changes in praise of something more important.

The 'halo' was pioneered by the FIA, led by Charlie Whiting, the long-serving race director and safety delegate, who died suddenly at the Australian Grand Prix in 2019.

He overcame opposition from traditionalists, including seven-time World champion Lewis Hamilton and



Proving its worth: The once-controversial 'halo' cockpit protection device has turned saviour on several occasions. ■REUTERS

Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff who wanted to retain the "purity and danger of open cockpits".

Wolff said he wanted to "take a chain saw" to the device, introduced in 2018, but both men have since changed their views.

Before Sunday's stunning evidence, the 'halo' had helped save several other drivers from serious injury or worse in recent years including Charles Leclerc at the 2018 Belgian GP, Romain Grosjean at the 2020 Bahrain GP and Hamilton at last year's Italian event when he collided with eventual champion Max Verstappen.

At Silverstone, it was Zhou who escaped after being trapped in his car just seconds after the race had started as it landed on its side in the fencing at the 240kmph Abbey Curve. "I'm ok, all clear," he tweeted. "Halo saved me today. Thanks everyone for your kind messages."

Only hours earlier in the F2 race, Dennis Hauger's car had landed on top of Roy

Nissany in another crash, reminiscent of Hamilton's in Monza last year when Verstappen's Red Bull vaulted across his Mercedes' cockpit.

After claiming his maiden F1 victory at the 150th attempt, Sainz admitted he had initially shut the shocking Zhou accident from his mind during the one-hour delay before the race re-started.

Credit to marshals

"Today, the FIA saved two lives and we need to give it to them, for the amazing work they are doing in safety... I thank them for this and I love the sport for that," he said.

Hamilton's teammate George Russell, whose collision with Zhou at the start instigated the multi-car crash said: "That was a scary incident. All credit to the marshals and the medical team for their quick response..."

"It was the scariest thing I've seen in my life. He was stuck there and there was nothing I could do."

ficially complete his move to Old Trafford after a medical.

Dream move

England midfielder Kalvin Phillips completed a "dream" move to Premier League champion Manchester City in a £45 million (\$53 million) transfer from Leeds on Monday.

City agreed an initial fee of £42 million for Phillips, with a further £3 million to be added in potential bonuses.

Kessie for Barcelona

Barcelona on Monday announced the signing of Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie on a free transfer from Italian champion AC Milan.

Ridhima shocks Prasamsa; Vennela outplays Khushi

SPORTS BUREAU

Ridhima Singh defeated top seed Prasamsa Moktan of Nepal 7-5, 6-4 in the girls' first round of the Asian under-14 tennis tournament at the Tennis Project, Balia, on Monday.

Other results (first round): Boys: Om Verma bt Jaiditya Seth 6-0, 6-0; Chandra Koppurapu bt Avi Garwal 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; Kanishk Dhingra bt Gur-

shaan Mehta 6-1, 6-0; Shashank Sai Prasad Karnati bt Ronit Bhola 6-4, 6-4; Tavish Pahwa bt Ranvir Singh 6-1, 7-5; Amrit Dhanar bt Devansh Singh 6-0, 6-1; Mriganak Rawat bt Dishender Lamba 7-6(4), 7-5.

Mohd. Shees bt Aarav Chawla 6-4 (retd.); Kushagra Arora bt Advit Tiwari 6-0, 6-0; Ayan Dahiya bt Om Choudhary 6-4, 2-1 (retd.); Aarav Dhekiel bt Rehaan Malhotra 6-1, 6-0; Rudra Batham w/o Mokshak Challa.

Praneeth Reddy bt Lakshya Dhiman 6-0, 6-0; Tanush Gureja bt Parth Sane 6-0, 6-1; Praakash Sarran w/o M. Dhanush; Saksham Shah (Nep) bt Adhrit Gautam 6-0, 6-1.

Girls: Vennela Gaarugupati bt Khushi Gaur 6-0, 6-1; Vaishnavi Singh bt Navya Sharma 6-4, 6-3; Neelakshi Lather bt Alexa Jagdeep 6-3, 6-3; Nandini Kansal bt Mokshika Yadav 6-2, 6-1; Miraya Agrawal bt Aashritha Maheshwari 6-1, 6-1; Sarah

Chaudhary bt Varneka Dixit 6-3, 6-3.

Sri Lakshmi Purmani bt Arshia Yaav 6-2, 6-0; Maanvi Gupta bt Keavika Singh 6-2, 6-0; Saanvi Erva bt Srinithi Sai Patolu 6-0, 6-0; Diya Chaudhary bt Katyaini Rawat 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

Hirwa Rangani bt Aarusha Balpande 6-2, 6-1; Aura Malik bt Sara Sonu 7-5, 6-3; Snigdha Ruhil bt Agrima Jaiswal 6-2, 6-2; Aleena Farid bt Sana Sesh 6-1, 6-2.

Aryan ousted

SPORTS BUREAU

Qualifier Abhinav Sangra beat seventh seed Aryan Aggarwal 6-1, 6-2 in the under-18 boys first round of the AITA Championship series junior tennis tournament in Chandigarh on Monday.

Other results (first round): Boys: Under-18: Parmarth Kaushik bt Harsh Shandilya 6-4, 6-2; Svarmanju Singh bt Aryan Jolly 6-3, 6-1; Gagneesh Chugh bt Tanav Gupta 6-3, 7-5; Arnav Bishnoi bt Krishanpal Rajput 6-2, 6-1; Bhicky Sagolshem bt Chaitanya Soni 6-2, 6-0; Arnav Chaudhary bt Dilshan Singh 7-5; Daksh Rajpurohit bt Ayush Singh 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

Under-12: Heet Kandoriya bt Divyansh Dhuper 6-1, 6-2; Nikunj Bansal bt Tanmay Singla 6-2, 5-7, 6-4; Sarthak Jaglan bt Shaurya bisht 7-5, 6-1; Kabir Mehta bt Ansh Sharma 6-2, 7-5; Astiya Sodhi bt Tanisqa Makhija 7-6(4), 6-2.

Girls: Under-18: Rhosyn William bt Tanishq Yadav 6-3, 6-4; Ananya Chaudhary bt Yana Gupta 6-4, 6-2.

Under-12: Ekam Kaur Shergill bt Navya Singla 6-3, 7-5; Amaira Aulakh bt Sanvi Verma 6-1, 7-6(5); Avni Uttam bt Riya Jangid 7-6(6), 6-2.

'India needs more coaches'

Thakur says he had tough time getting data from the States

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur believes India needs more coaches.

Speaking at a function by the SAI centre here to honour international athletes from the region on Monday, he said there was no shortage of athletes or stadia in the country, but a lot more coaches were needed.

"We are just creating stadium after stadium and indoor stadium after indoor stadium," Thakur said. "We have 5,000 swimming pools in this country, but do we have 50 coaches for swimming?"

He said he had a tough time getting the data from the States after assuming charge as the Sports Minister. "I had requested the States to send the list of the sports infrastructure and the availability of coaches, in each district," he said.

"That should have been a job of five minutes for any



That's sharp! Anurag Thakur gets a feel of a traditional sword on Monday. ■K. RAGESH

State, if they had actually been working on the promotion of sports at the ground level. It took me six to seven months to compile all the data from the States. Despite that, I didn't have the full data available in this country."

Paying dividends

He said that the Khelo India programme was paying dividends and that it provided a stage for the athletes.

He also spoke about the need for educational institutions to promote sports.

Former athletes from different sports, including P.T. Usha (athletics), Tom Joseph (volleyball) and K.P. Sethumadhavan (football), interacted with the minister.