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Batch Schedule

Calendar Dates	Subjects
20th June - 28th July 2022	Polity
29th July - 6th September 2022	History
7th September - 10th October 2022	Geography
12th October - 21st November 2022	Economy
22nd November - 8th December 2022	Society
9th December - 26th December 2022	International Relations
27th December 2022 - 4th January 2023	Internal Security
5th January - 20th January 2023	Science and Tech
20th January - 8th February 2023	Ethics
9th February - 3rd March 2023	Environment
4th March - 10th March 2023	Art and Culture
11th March - 17th March 2023	Disaster Management
18th March - 26th March 2023	World History
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Sonia being treated for respiratory tract infection post COVID

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Ideological battle, says Yechury on Oppn. unity on Presidential poll

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EU backs Ukraine's bid for EU candidate status; Russia cuts gas supplies

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Karthik, Hardik and Avesh help India make it 2-2

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IN BRIEF



CBI raids Gehlot's brother's premises

NEW DELHI
The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday conducted searches at multiple locations, including the premises of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasain Gehlot, in connection with an alleged fertilizer exports scam that caused a loss of ₹52.80 crore to the exchequer.

NEWS PAGE 10

Kejriwal: people worried wherever BJP has won

NEW DELHI
The Rajinder Nagar Assembly bypoll got some much-needed star appeal with a roadshow by Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal, who asked people not to vote for the BJP as "wherever the BJP has won, people have become worried". Meanwhile, the BJP demanded action against an AAP spokesperson for allegedly calling the BJP's candidate a "Pakistani".

CITY PAGE 3

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Anger rages against Agnipath in many States

■ Man killed as police open fire to stop protesters in Telangana's Secunderabad ■ Hundreds injured, scores arrested as agitation turns violent at several places ■ Trains and public property damaged; Railways say over 340 trains affected

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI/ KOLKATA/
PATNA/ HYDERABAD

Massive protests demanding the rollback of the Agnipath scheme continued across the country for the third day on Friday.

One protester was killed in police firing in Secunderabad in Telangana and hundreds of people injured in various places in the violence that marked the agitation against the new armed forces recruitment scheme. Scores of people have been arrested or detained by the police in various States.

The Opposition parties, trade unions and outfits of students, youth and farmers pledged support for the protests and demanded immediate reversal of the scheme that "contractualises" Army jobs. Trains and other public property remained the target of the protesters with over 340 trains getting affected on the day due to protests.

One protester was killed and 13 others were injured when police opened fire to quell a violent mob at the Secunderabad railway station on Friday. About 1,000 Army recruitment job aspirants entered the platforms in the morning and started damaging railway property.

The gathering was apparently mobilised using four WhatsApp groups created by these job aspirants. The vast majority of these protesters



Collateral damage: Firefighting efforts on after a train was set afire in Secunderabad on Friday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

hailed from north Telangana and some from south Telangana. They said they had appeared for the physical and medical tests and were waiting for the written exam which was postponed on account of the pandemic.

BJP office set on fire
Bihar remained in the eye of the storm of protests. Protesting aspirants attacked Bihar BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal's residence and business establishments in his hometown Bettiah and set the BJP office in Madhepura on fire. They

also vandalised the house of Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi in Bettiah. Over half-a-dozen trains and several vehicles were burnt down.

Protests erupted in several districts of West Bengal too. Though there was no report of any violence, rail and vehicular movement was disrupted at various places.

In Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, hundreds of men demonstrated at the Khereshwar temple crossing.

At least two public transport buses were set on fire in Aligarh and several official

vehicles were damaged. In neighbouring Jattari, the vehicle of the panchayat chairman was set on fire. The protesters tried to storm into the panchayat office.

Around half-a-dozen police personnel sustained injuries and police vehicles were vandalised in Haryana's Jind amid Statewide protests for second day in a row. The protesters and the police clashed in Faridabad's Balabgarh around noon. Seven persons were arrested and several rounded up across the State in connection with the First Information Reports registered for violence and blocking of highways during the protests over the past two days.

Prohibitive orders under Section 144 of the CrPC were imposed in Gurugram and Faridabad restricting free movement and gathering of more than four people. Mobile internet services were suspended in Mahendragarh for 24 hours.

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Xi to host BRICS virtual summit; Modi to attend

Putin will also join the June 23 meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chinese President Xi Jinping will host a virtual summit of the leaders of the BRICS countries on June 23, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa in the virtual meet next week, which will mark the first summit of the leaders following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Mr. Xi and Mr. Putin on Wednesday held a second phone conversation since the invasion, with Beijing saying it would support Russia's sovereignty and security.

Mr. Xi will also host a BRICS Business Forum on June 22 and a dialogue on global development on June

24 to be attended by leaders from BRICS and other developing countries, the Foreign Ministry in Beijing said.

In the lead-up to the summit, the National Security Advisers of the five BRICS nations on Wednesday attended a virtual meet aimed at boosting "political and security cooperation". A statement said "multilateralism and global governance, new threats and challenges to national security, and governance in new domains" were on the agenda.

Chinese officials have said Beijing is keen for the grouping to explore expansion and include new developing country members. Under the "BRICS Plus" format, the next week's summit is also expected to be attended by leaders of invited emerging countries.

China foils bid to designate LeT deputy chief a terrorist

India slams the move, accuses Beijing of double standards

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India slammed China for blocking a proposal to list Pakistani terror convict and Lashkar-e-Taiba/Jamaat-ud-Dawa (LeT/JuD) deputy chief Abdul Rahman Makki as a UN Security Council-designated terrorist.

Calling the decision by China to place a "technical hold" on the listing requested by the United States and India this month "regrettable" and "extremely unfortunate", India said that China's actions ran counter to its claims of combating terrorism. It added that evidence against Makki was "overwhelming".

"China should reflect on



Abdul Rahman Makki. ■ ANI

its response that signals double standards on combating terrorism. Protecting well-known terrorists from sanctioning in this manner will only undermine its credibility and risk exposing even itself more to the growing threat of terrorism," government sources said, pointing to a similar blocking by Chi-

na of the UNSC terror designation proposal against Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar for several years, until Beijing agreed to his designation in 2019.

Defending its actions on Friday, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs insisted that it "opposes terrorism in all its manifestation".

"The actions we take in the 1267 Committee in the UNSC always abide by relevant procedures and rules. China will continue to carry out work in a constructive and responsible attitude," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Darbhanga blast: probe shows lapses by staff

Security to be strengthened at all parcel booking offices

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

An investigation into last year's bomb blast at the Darbhanga railway station in Bihar (East Central Railway) has exposed serious lapses on the part of parcel booking authorities at Secunderabad (South Central Railway) in Telangana in not verifying the identity of the consignor/consignee and the contents of the parcel booked.

The accused persons, who gave fake documents to book the consignment containing the explosive on the Secunderabad-Darbhanga special train (Train No. 07007) on June 17, 2021, had conspired to trigger the blast on the moving train. However, the explosion occurred when the parcel was unloaded



A parcel containing a bomb exploded at the Darbhanga railway station last year. No one was injured in the incident. ■ FILE PHOTO

at the destination station and was being moved to the godown. Nobody was injured. The National Investigation Agency took over probe and filed a chargesheet against five suspected operatives of the Lashkar-e-Taiba in December last year.

SOP devised

An inquiry conducted by the Railways revealed several lapses and loopholes, forcing the authorities to devise a standard operating procedure (SOP) for booking/delivery of parcels.

Accordingly, an advisory was sent to the General Managers of all Zonal Railways to direct the parcel booking staff to take an attested copy of the photo identity proof of the consignor at the time of booking and that of the consignee at the time of delivery.

The Centre for Railway Information Systems was asked to develop a module for the Parcel Management System where the consignor

and consignee would get a one-time password to authenticate booking/delivery of parcels. Orders were given to install a sufficient number of CCTV cameras at the entry/exit points of parcel offices and to maintain the footage for at least a month.

Scanners to be installed

Parcel scanners would be set up at booking offices where the consignments would be screened and stamped as "scanned, checked and found in order" by the official on duty. While trained personnel of the Railway Protection Force would be stationed at the booking counters to check on attempts to transport illegal/unauthorised goods by train, the dog squad team would conduct checks at random.

The parcel booking staff and lease holders were instructed not to bring any inward consignment within 30 minutes of the scheduled departure of the train.

HC dismisses plea of Rajiv case convicts

They sought release sans Governor's nod

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday dismissed the writ petitions filed by S. Nalini and R.P. Ravichandran, life convicts in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, seeking a direction to the Tamil Nadu government to release them forthwith without waiting anymore for the Governor's nod to a September 9, 2018 Cabinet recommendation.

Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice N. Mala concurred with Advocate-General R. Shunmugasundaram that the Governor's signature was *sine qua non* under Article 161 of the Constitution and that the Supreme Court, too, in the famous *Maru Ram* case (1980) had held that it was "obligatory" to obtain his/

her signature. "If the argument of the petitioners that a mere recommendation of the Council of Ministers to grant remission is sufficient and authorisation of the Governor is not required is accepted, then virtually the court would be declaring Article 161 of the Constitution of India redundant qua [with respect to] the power of the Governor," the Bench wrote.

It went on to state, "It may be true that the Governor of the State is bound by the recommendation of the Council of Ministers, but it would not mean that the formal acceptance as per the constitutional courtesy would not be required... Therefore, Article 161 of the Constitution has to be read as it stands without omitting the word - Governor."

Off to school through swirling waters

Lack of bridge across Chaliyar hits tribal students

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
MALAPPURAM

Dozens of children from four marooned tribal hamlets in the jungle across the Chaliyar river at Munderi near Nilambur in Kerala are risking their lives to reach schools every day. They have been forced to use bamboo rafts to cross the river since two bridges were washed away in the floods that devastated one of the hamlets in 2018.

The government has done nothing to re-establish physical connectivity for the 105 tribal families living in Vaniyampuzha, Tharippappotti, Iruttukuthi and Kumbalappara hamlets to reach the mainland since 2018. Although the Malappuram Collector and his revenue col-



Risky move: Tribal children crossing the Chaliyar river to reach their school, near Nilambur in Kerala. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

leagues raised a fund and built a hanging bridge to help the 400-odd tribespeople, it did not last beyond 2019.

The hardship of the tribal children has come to the fore with the reopening of schools in full swing after a hiatus of two years brought about by COVID-19. With the government deciding to wind up single-teacher multi-grade learning centres, all

the children of the marooned hamlets have no means but to depend on the mainland for education.

SPECIAL

About half of them have joined tribal schools with hostels in the State. When all students of Kumbalappara, the remotest hamlet of the Kattunaikar tribe, were shift-

ed to residential schools, more than 40 students of Iruttukuthi, Vaniyampuzha and Tharippappotti hamlets cross the river twice a day for their education.

The Chaliyar, one of the mighty rivers of Kerala, swells in its upstream region during the monsoon and poses a huge risk for the children crossing it on raft. "When it rains heavily, crossing the river on the raft is risky. Our men cannot operate the raft when the current is strong," said V.K. Sudha, a parent who helps the children cross the river daily.

On a couple of days last week, the children crossed the river by wading through it as the rains had stayed away. "They waded largely because they did not have money to pay for the bamboo raft," said Ms. Sudha. The men operating the raft charge a fee from the users.

U.K. clears Assange's extradition

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain on Friday approved a U.S. government request to extradite WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to face trial over the publication of secret military files, prompting outrage from his supporters.

Home Secretary Priti Patel's Interior Ministry said Mr. Assange had 14 days to appeal the decision.

WikiLeaks called Ms. Patel's decision a "dark day for press freedom and for British democracy" and vowed to pursue the appeal to the High Court.

REPORT
PAGE 13



Timings
DELHI

SATURDAY, JUN. 18
RISE 05:24 SET 19:22
RISE 23:18 SET 09:20

SUNDAY, JUN. 19
RISE 05:24 SET 19:22
RISE 23:55 SET 10:27

MONDAY, JUN. 20
RISE 05:24 SET 19:22
RISE 00:00 SET 11:30

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	37	23
Safdarjang	37	23
Palam	38	24

Delhi Palam Today
36°C The weather will be very warm and uneasy. Dust storm with rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

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

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THE HINDU
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'Wherever BJP won, people worried'

CM tears into BJP at roadshow; Oppn. party objects to candidate being called 'Pakistani'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Rajinder Nagar Assembly bypoll got some much-needed star appeal with a roadshow by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal, who asked people not to vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as "wherever the BJP has won, people have become worried".

On the same day, the BJP demanded action against an AAP spokesperson for allegedly calling the BJP's candidate a "Pakistani".

Mr. Kejriwal asked people to vote for his party if they wanted work done in their constituency.

"There is no benefit in voting for the BJP. If you vote for the BJP, they won't do any work. The BJP fights with us all the time. If you want an MLA, who will fight all the time and not do any work, then vote for the BJP. If you want an MLA who works, then vote for jhaadu [AAP



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal waving at people during Friday's roadshow in Rajinder Nagar. COURTESY: TWITTER

symbol]]," Mr. Kejriwal said. "Wherever the BJP has won, people have become worried. I do not know how to fight, I know how to work," the AAP chief added.

Mr. Kejriwal said he will ensure that works in the public interest are carried out when AAP wins the seat, calling it his "personal guarantee".

Mr. Kejriwal said that people of the constituency had

showered AAP with a lot of love in the last Assembly polls. He requested them to double AAP's winning margin in this bypoll.

BJP demands action
Earlier in the day, a BJP delegation met the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer demanding action against an AAP spokesperson for allegedly terming Rajesh Bhatia, the BJP's candidate for the As-

sembly seat, a "Pakistani".

The delegation, led by the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, accused AAP of insulting Mr. Bhatia and violating the model code of conduct.

In a recent debate on a news channel, an AAP spokesperson had allegedly said that Mr. Bhatia's ancestors "must have come to India from Pakistan, so he was a Pakistani" in response to the BJP describing AAP's candidate from the seat, Durgesh Pathak, as an outsider to the Rajinder Nagar constituency.

Mr. Bidhuri said that lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs came to India after Partition in 1947 and thousands of such families were settled in Rajinder Nagar. "By terming Rajesh Bhatia a Pakistani, the AAP spokesperson has insulted an entire community," he said.

When contacted, an AAP spokesperson did not offer a comment.

Mercury drops to its lowest this month, more rain likely

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With most parts of the city receiving rainfall on Friday, the minimum and maximum temperatures

dropped to the lowest this month, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Cloudy skies and moderate rain have been predicted for Saturday and Sunday. On Friday, the maximum temperature settled at 36.7 degrees Celsius, three notches below the season's normal.

Eight arrested for child trafficking

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Eight persons, including six women, were arrested on charges of child trafficking earlier this month from Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, the police said on Friday. A child of seven-and-a-half months was recovered from the accused.

A case was registered on May 12 on a complaint filed by a counsellor of the Delhi Commission for Women. The counsellor told the police that on Saturday she received information about someone selling their three-day-old baby.

Desilting work of all drains complete: MCD

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Friday said that it has completed desilting work in all its areas, with a total of 91,380.25 metric tonnes of silt being removed from 688 drains. The MCD said it extracted 9,920.29 metric tonnes of silt from 195 drains in north Delhi, 35,044.63 and 46,415.33 metric tonnes in south and east Delhi, respectively.

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MVOP No.199 of 2018
Balchetti Geetha and 2 others
Vs.
Pravin Shashikumar (Minor) rep. by his NFG father Shashikumar and 2 others
To, Respondent No.2
M/s Vajra Car Pvt. Ltd., rep. by its Manager, New Delhi owner of the Maruti Swift car bearing No.DL01 NA 1413 having its office at No.1, B-7, LSC Nelson Mandela Road, Vasantkunj, Delhi, New Delhi - 110 070.
Sir,
Please Take Notice that the Accident O.P. was filed by the Petitioners for Rs.15,00,000/- and the same has been posted on 06-07-2022 for your appearance. Please attend on that day before the above said court by 10.30 a.m. and file your objections if any. Otherwise the matter will be decided ex parte.
Sd/- V.SUDHAKAR
Advocate for Petitioners
Cell No.9393605963.

Maharashtra parties wooing Independents

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The race for the 10th seat in the Maharashtra Legislative Council is set to intensify as all parties are going all out to attract Independents and also keep their own flock together.

On Thursday, Mr. Pawar had said the MVA will demonstrate its skills of winning the elections on June 20. "This time, we will not discuss it in public," said Mr. Raut.

The Sena has called the MLAs to Mumbai on Friday. They will be kept in a hotel for two days.

The Opposition BJP claimed that the MVA allies are fighting for votes and the victory of the fifth BJP candidate is assured. "The court's decision to deny voting right to the two jailed NCP MLAs has boosted our claim," said Leader of the Opposition in the Council Pravin Darekar.

The BJP has named five candidates - Pravin Darekar, Ram Shinde, Shrikant Bharatiya, Uma Khapre and Prasad Lad. The Sena has given ticket to Sachin Ahir and Amshya Padvi while the NCP has fielded Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar and Eknath Khadse. The Congress has given tickets to Chandrakant Handore and Bhai Jagtap.

The election is likely to be between Mr. Lad and Mr. Jagtap.

Dera chief gets parole

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Jailed Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh walked out of jail in Haryana's Rohtak on Friday morning on a month-long parole. Haryana's Jails Minister Ranjit Chautala said the parole was granted by the Rohtak Divisional Commissioner on the recommendation of officials concerned.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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Surrounded by smoke, screams, slogans

Hawkers and stall operators recount horror at Secunderabad railway station

B.PRADEEP HYDERABAD

Counted among the most beautiful railway stations in the country, the Secunderabad railway station resembled nothing less than a battleground on Friday.

An unusually empty platform no.1 showed workers putting out flames from train bogies with water from the side-filling pipelines. Gunny-packed motorcycles, parcels, trash bins, coffee machines, refrigerators and railway linen were strewn on the tracks and platforms, and were partly ablaze.

The broken window glasses of the East Coast Express (Hyderabad-Shalimar) on platform no.2, the passenger lifts, and the destroyed audio-video and security equipment offered a glimpse of the vandalism and riot.

"It was about 8.40 a.m.,

just when the train was about to move, the protestors started from the engine, hit the driver with a pipe and stalled the train. Then tens and hundreds of them came bogie after bogie, breaking glasses, or pouring diesel and setting them on fire," Rajiv, a platform stall operator, said.

"It was the screams and cries of the children and women that rang like alarm for nearly 45 minutes, till all the passengers deboarded and ran pell-mell in every direction," he added.

For Santosh Kumar, who was sitting on his damaged aluminium food cart and making inventory, the other loud sound from the platforms was of "Bharat Mata ki Jai", "Modi down down" and "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" slogans.

Other stall operators Ravi



Free run: Police trying to control a mob vandalising trains and railway property in Secunderabad on Friday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

Rajawat, Sonu and Pratham Tomar recounted how they left their businesses and ran to safety. They estimate their losses to be to the tune of ₹3 lakh.

According to them, many youngsters were armed with long sticks, who picked steel rods from the station's railings and fire extinguishers for the attack. They terrorised passengers in general coaches, broke glasses of all A/C coaches and burnt the li-

nes, and torched the luggage and the Railway Mail Service.

The scale of violence took the railway officials and police by surprise as the protestors had a free run. They systematically went about ransacking the food stalls on the platforms and simultaneously breaking the glasses of the coaches. A group managed to open the parcel van and threw away the booked goods. Two-wheelers booked for being transport-

ed on the train were thrown on the tracks and set ablaze.

At one stage the police had to open fire to bring the situation under control. Over a dozen youth sustained bleeding injuries in the firing and were seen lying on the platform.

Of all the eyewitnesses and survivors on the 22 coaches, three staff of the South Eastern Railways have a satisfying story to remember. It was the generator car, positioned just after a bogie that was on fire from the engine, which was under the control of Suman Kumar Sharma, and his mechanics Ram Pyari and Albert Barla. "It had about 4,000 litres of fuel. Any attack to it would have caused a disaster and killed hundreds. We disconnected the mains and supply underneath, locked the car and guarded it throughout, saving lives of all passengers," Mr. Sharma said.

RELATED REPORTS ON NEWS 2

TMC moves privilege motion against Adhikari

'Disrespectful remarks against Speaker'

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA

A privilege motion was on Friday moved against Leader of the Opposition and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Suvendu Adhikari for allegedly making disrespectful remarks against West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee.

The development came a day after the Speaker withdrew the suspension of seven BJP MLAs, including Mr. Adhikari.

Trinamool Congress MLA Partha Bhowmick moved the privilege motion against the Nandigram MLA. Mr. Bhowmick alleged that Mr. Adhikari had made derogatory remarks against the Speaker while expressing his views in MLA Mukul Roy's disqualification case. The Speaker informed the House that the motion had been sent to the Privilege Committee of the

Assembly, which would look into the matter.

Earlier this month, the Speaker rejected a petition to disqualify Mr. Roy. This was the second occasion that the Speaker rejected the petition by Mr. Adhikari to disqualify Mr. Roy.

Mr. Adhikari had approached the Speaker for the disqualification of Mr. Roy on the grounds that he defected to the Trinamool after getting elected on BJP ticket in the 2021 Assembly election.

Mr. Bhowmick said the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition amounted to an insult to the chair of the Speaker and expressed hope that action would be taken in the matter.

Manoj Tigga, MLA and chief whip of the BJP Legislature Party, said that the allegations were "politically motivated".

HC stays trial in Attappady murder case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday stayed the trial in the case regarding the lynching of tribesman A. Madhu of Attappady pending before a special court.

Justice Mary Joseph passed the interim order on a petition filed by Malli, mother of the deceased, seeking a directive to hold the proceedings till the government took a decision on her plea for removing special public prosecutor C. Rajendran.

Textbook row: govt. to give 'correction booklets'

People have a week to raise objections

JAYANTH R. BENGALURU

With the controversy about the content of revised school textbooks in Karnataka refusing to die down, the Primary and Secondary Education Department has now decided to bring out "correction booklets" and distribute them along with the textbooks to students.

This has become inevitable because the government, following strong protests, agreed to make some corrections after the process of printing and distribution of textbooks had already begun.

While the government

has already agreed to change portions of the content related to Basaveshwara and B.R. Ambedkar, it is likely to make more changes based on suggestions.

In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, B.C. Nagesh, Primary and Secondary Education Minister, said that the government had an open mind about further changes to the textbooks revised by the Rohith Chakrathirtha-led committee.

Mr. Nagesh said that soft copies of all textbooks were in the public domain and people could raise objections within the next one week.

Stop use of loudspeakers in prohibited hours: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the State government to conduct a drive to stop the use of loudspeakers or public address systems by religious institutions, pubs, and restaurants during prohibited hours - between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., by misusing licences granted for using such instruments during day.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi issued the direction during the hearing on the PIL petitioners, who complained about noise pollution caused due to illegal

use of loudspeakers as well as using them beyond the permitted sound level.

The Bench issued the direction after the State government, in its status report, said that action has been initiated against use of loudspeakers or public address system without obtaining permissions under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

As it is clear from the statement by the government that loudspeakers cannot be used between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., it is necessary for the authorities to take action against those violating this norm, the Bench said.

SIT to probe appointment of staff in W.B. secondary schools

Court has ordered CBI investigation in a total of eight cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Friday directed that a special investigation team (SIT) of the CBI to look into cases of irregularities in recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff in West Bengal government sponsored and aided secondary schools. The court had earlier this week directed the SIT to probe alleged illegal appointment of teachers in the State-sponsored and aided primary schools.

Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay asked Joint Director of anti-corruption branch N.

Venugopal to supervise the whole investigation process.

It was at the suggestion of former State Minister and former Additional Director of the CBI Upen Biswas that Justice Gangopadhyay directed the setting up of the SIT.

Mr. Biswas had appeared before the court of Justice Gangopadhyay earlier this month. The court said that all cases where it has directed CBI probe in connection with irregularities in recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff in secondary schools will now be looked into by the SIT. Justice Gan-

gopadhyay has ordered CBI investigation in at least eight cases in connection with appointments of Group-C, Group D staff and teachers for government-sponsored and aided schools both at primary and secondary level since November 2021.

Meanwhile, in another development an advocate appearing for Minister Parash Adhikari's daughter submitted that ₹7.94 lakhs, which she had drawn as salary has been returned to the State Education department as the first of two instalments that has been asked of her.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Mohit S/o Manoj Chauhan R/o Home No. A-56, Ambica Vihar, Near Viky Savariyan Office, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi since **05.07.2022**. In this regard DD No. **82-A**, dated **07.05.2022** has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5'6" ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Black Pajama, White Strip T-Shirt.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **Ph. No.:** 011-25946710, 25946700
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 **Mob. No.:** 7065036129
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इस कार्यालय के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या- DWS/D/KH-09(CLUS/SVS)/2021-22 (7th Call), Dt.- 28.05.2022 P.R. No.- 270448 Drinking Water & Sanitation (22-23)#D के द्वारा प्रकाशित एवं प्रचारित निविदा (Name of Work- Construction of Solar based Mini Pipe Water Supply Scheme (SVS) in different block comprising of suitable R.C.C./Framed Structure ESR distribution line sources (as required) and FHTC all complete job in the different blocks of District- Khunti under D.W. & S. Division, Khunti.) के लिये निम्न प्रकार से संशोधन किया जाता है।

Date Revision	Previous Date	Revised Date
Bid Submission End Date	18.06.2022/05.00 PM	04.07.2022/05.00 PM
Last date of Submission of Cost of BOQ and EMD (Hard Copy)	20.06.2022/02.00 PM	05.07.2022 up to 02.00 PM
Date of Opening of Tender	21.06.2022/11.00 AM	06.07.2022/11.00 AM

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PR 271771 Drinking Water and Sanitation(22-23).D

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location:- 30-Elect-11-T-2022-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with development of "Knowledge management Centre cum conference room with multi media facilities" for TT & BRU and operating department along with provisions of Digital Library and Customer interaction lounge and relocation of existing offices of operating branch at Baroda House, Northern Railway Head Quarter Office.

Approx cost of the works in:- Rs. 25.34 lacs

Address of the office :- Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Bid Security :- Rs. 50700.00

Date & time of submission of tender :- 11.07.2022, 12.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender :- 11.07.2022, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board :- www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divil. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

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E-Tender Notice

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

Name of work with its location	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & commissioning of 25kV ac OHE modification work in connection with construction of 6.10m wide FOB at HNZM Railway Station.
1	Rs.6114270.12
2	Rs.122300 (payment mode available on IREPS website)
3	30.06.2022
4	14.07.2022 (15.00 hrs.)
5	29536203
6	www.ireps.gov.in
7	1471/2022

E-Tender No.: 09-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Dated : 16.06.2022

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its location 30-Elect-10-T-2022-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with Augmentation of electric load from 55 KVA to 175 KVA at Raitel Building Th. Road New Delhi

Approx cost of the works in Rs. 74.95 lacs

Address of the office Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

Bid Security Rs. 1,49,900.00

Date & time of submission of tender 11.07.2022, 12.00 Hrs.

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Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T.No.	S.N.	NIT-03 & 03-A-2022-23-NRCH
1	1	Renovation of Doctor's Cabins no 20,21,35,36, Room no 125, T&P matron room, Female Dressing room and Repair of Patients Rest House & its surrounding area in Northern Railway Central Hospital in S/O SSE/W/NRCH under ADEN/NRCH, New Delhi. Similar nature of work: Any Civil work other than track work.
	2	Repair of worn-out pipe lines, leaky roof, parapets old plaster and other misc. work in Northern Railway Central Hospital in S/O SSE/W/NRCH under ADEN/NRCH, New Delhi. Similar nature of work :- Any Civil work other than track work.
2	1	Rs. 10089163.36
	2	Rs. 9500005.77
3	Earnest Money Deposit (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)	
	1	Rs. 200500.00
	2	Rs. 190000.00
4	Completion period of Work 1 8Months 2 8Months	
5	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15:00 hrs on 12.07.2022 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 12.07.2022.	
6	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in	

No. 128-W/280/OET/2022-23/NRCH/NIT-03 & 03-A
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Dated : 17.06.2022

1480/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown **R/o:** Unknown **Age:** about 35-40 Years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion :** Shallow, **Wearing:** White & Purple colour T-Shirt and Red & White colour Gamcha has been found dead at Lala Lajpat Marg Panch Peer, under Bara Pula, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi on 11.06.2022. In this regard a case vide DD No. 29A dated 11.06.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO P.S. Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi South East Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-26366800, 26366801
DP/207/SE/2022

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified human body part (Hand) of a **Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age:** Unknown years, **Height:** Unknown, **Complexion:** Unknown, **Face:** Unknown, **Built:** Unknown, was found on 08.06.2022 in Rameela Maidan Sanjay Lake, Opposite Police Station Cyber East Delhi. After that human body part (hand) has been preserved in LBS Hospital Mortuary vide MLC No.3202 dated 08.06.2022. In this regard a **DD No.105A, dated 08.06.2022** has been lodged at P.S. Pandav Nagar, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased human body part (Hand) may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.
SHO P.S. Pandav Nagar, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-22780090, 8750870629
DP/1118/ED/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Bhawana D/o Hiralal R/o RZH 29/3, Gali No.4, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** **Aged-18 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 09.05.2022 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi vide **DD No.110-A, Dated 10.05.2022** registered at Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5'1", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Yellow coloured suit and salwar.

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

Tel. No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 **Sd/-**
FAX No.: 011-24368639 **SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
DP/1855/OD/2022 **Tel.:** 011-25946700, 25946710

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely:** Kamni, **D/o** Ramvinay, **R/o:** H.No. 44B Gali No. 5 Harizan Basti Nasirpur Sagarpur, New Delhi, **Age:** 16 Years **about, Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Black Suit and Slipper in feet has been missing since 09.06.2022 from her home. In this regard **FIR No. 322/2022, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 10.06.2022**, has been registered at **P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform to the following:-
SHO P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-28522653, 28522664
7065036228
DP/1265/SW/2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const./Northern Railway, 4th Floor, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001 invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

Name of work and location	Design, supply, Erection, Testing & commissioning for the work of second circuit of 132 KV 2 phase transmission line between TRR-SHDN including associated works at both ends to improve reliability of power supply.
Completion period of the work	12 (Twelve) months
Approx. Cost of work	₹3,28,53,795.12/-
Bid security (Cash/BG) amount	₹3,14,300/-
Date & Time for submission of E-Tender and opening of tender	Tenders uploaded 12:48 hrs. on date 17.06.2022 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs. on 17.06.2022
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nrdinarailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 27.06.2022 to 11.07.2022. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 319-Dy CEE/C/NLDS/2022-23 Dated: 17.06.2022 1476/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
(ISO 9001: 2015 Certified)
1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ring Road No.1, Telibanda, Raipur(C.G.)-492006
CIN: U45203CT1981SG001853, PAN: AABCM6288N, GST Regn. No. 22AABCM6288N5ZY
Phone: 0771-662100 FAX: 0771-2583794 Website: www.csidc.in,
Email address: csidc.esidc.cg@nic.in, csidc_raipur@yahoo.com

Notice Inviting Tender (4th Call)
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)
NIT No. 09/CSIDC/E.E.1/Division-I/2022-23/102572 Raipur, dated 13/06/2022
Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., Raipur (CSIDC), a Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking Consituted under the Companies Act, engaged in Industrial Infrastructure Development & Other Related Activities in the state invites online tender for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of work	Registered Contractor in CGPWD or in appropriate class in other dept.	Probable Amount of Contract (PAC) (INR Lacs.)	Last Date for Submission of Tender
1	Infrastructure development Work Including Road, Drain, Culvert, the work under Water Supply, Street light & Building works at Proposed New Food park Area at Gram- Farsabhar Distria-Jaspur (C.G.)	Class-B & Above	400.58	27.06.2022

The tender document Containing detailed terms & Conditions, scope of Works and other details can be downloaded from the web portal (website) <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> from 16/06/2022 and shall be submitted online only. Amendment in tender, if any, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper.

NOTE: I) The interested tenderers for online submission of tender may contact CG eProc Helpdesk Operated by Mjunction Services Limited, they may reach Helpdesk using 18004199140 (from 9 AM to 11 PM) (therein press 2 for CG e-Proc) or you can email them at Helodesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in.

Samvad-32894/4 **Executive Engineer**
Division-I

DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD
DELHI CANTONMENT

No.DCB/12/VI/Apptt./2022-23 Dated 16 June, 2022

INVITES ONLINE RECRUITMENT APPLICATION (ORA*)
FOR RECRUITMENT OF THE ASSISTANT PROGRAMMER
(*: by using the Website: www.delhi.cantt.gov.in)

VACANCY DETAILS
ADVERTISEMENT NO.01/2022

Name of Post	Pay Scale	Number of Vacancies	Educational Qualification	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Assistant Programmer	Level 7 in the 7th CPC Pay Matrix (Rs. 44900-142400)	01 Unreserved	ESSENTIAL (i) Master's Degree in Computer Applications; or M.Sc. (Computer Science/Information Technology) from a recognized University / Institute; OR (ii) BE./B.Tech (Computer Science and Engineering / Computer Science/ Computer Technology / Computer & Network Security / Software System / Information Technology) from a recognized University / Institute; Desirable: 4 years post qualification experience in the field of development of software or Web Applications, Mobile Application etc. Working experience in Open source technology, Java, PostgreSQL, Drupal, Wordpress in preferable. Advance knowledge of computer programming. OR 2 Years post qualification experience in the field of development of software on PHP 5 and above, PostgreSQL, GIS Knowledge.	The Post is identified as suitable for Persons with the following Bench Mark Disabilities: (a) B.LV (b) D.HH (c) OA, OL, OAL, CP, LC, Dew, AAV (d) ASD (M), SLD, MI (e) MD Involving (a) to (d) above

NOTE:

- Age limit: 21-30 years
- Age limit and experience will be reckoned as on the "Last Date" for submission of online application.
- Applications from eligible candidates are to be filled up online only on the website www.delhi.cantt.gov.in Online application forms would be available for filling up by the candidates on the website from 23-06-2022 till 26-07-2022. Applications received from any other source/incomplete applications shall not be entertained and will be summarily rejected .
Last date for submitting online application: 26-07-2022
- For further details and online application, please log on to our Website: www.delhi.cantt.gov.in
- The vacancies advertised are provisional and liable to vary. Decision of the Competent Authority would be final, with regard to all matters connected with the recruitment including cancellation of recruitment process at any stage and no correspondence in this regard will be entertained.

Chief Executive Officer
Delhi Cantonment
(S.V.R. Chandra Sekhar)

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI
(PHE) DIVISION QAZIGUND

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (RE-TENDER)
e-NIT No. PHQ/13_OF 2022-23 Dated: 13-06-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Qazigund, invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways for any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Qazigund of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Name of Water Supply Scheme	Description of work	Jal Shakti (PHE) Division	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
14	Kawan G.B.	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings, Construction of 2 No. spring protection works, const. of chain link fencing, const. of collecting chamber, sluice chamber and impts., to existing pipe network	Qazigund	17.244	90 days	All Classes
15	Hallan	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings, Construction of 2 No. collection chamber and 2 No. sluice chamber	Qazigund	16.508	90 days	All Classes
16	Hengipora	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings, const. of 30000 gains capacity SSFP, chain link fencing, & impts., to existing pipe network	Qazigund	37.98	90 days	All Classes
17	Peth Hallan, Chohan, Nakadodki Khahdar	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings, const. of collecting chamber, spring protection, supporting pillars, grate protection bund, chain link fencing, incl. impts., to existing pipe network	Qazigund	35.22	90 days	All Classes
18	Sirmarg	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings, const. of 2 No. spring protection, chain link fencing, const. of chowkidar quarter	Qazigund	21.182	90 days	All Classes
19	Chowgund	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings and impts. To existing pipe network	Qazigund	9.92	60 days	All Classes
20	Rein GB/ Brenard GB	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings, const. of spring protection and sluice chamber	Qazigund	7.048	90 days	All Classes
21	Ringmandoo	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings, const. of spring protection, supporting pillars & stabilization of old pipe network system	Qazigund	12.41	60 days	All Classes
22	Tanjoo	L/F of pipes incl. P/F of pipe specials	Qazigund	3.658	30 days	All Classes
23	Mujmandoo Sheikhpura	L/F of pipes incl. P/F of pipe specials	Qazigund	2.422	30 days	All Classes
24	Zyarat Sharief Chohan	L/F of pipes incl. P/F of pipe specials	Qazigund	3.83	30 days	All Classes
25	Doga G.B.	L/F of pipes incl. P/F of pipe specials	Qazigund	1.50	20 days	All Classes
26	Drabihall	L/F of pipes incl. P/F of pipe specials	Qazigund	1.173	20 days	All Classes
27	Chaki Drabihall G.B.	L/F of pipes incl. P/F of pipe specials	Qazigund	5.956	40 days	All Classes
28	Kulamchinar	L/F of pipes incl. P/F of pipe specials	Qazigund	3.929	30 days	All Classes
29	Sadwara	L/F of pipes incl. P/F of pipe specials	Qazigund	8.25	60 days	All Classes
30	Kharman Ganesh	L/F of pipes incl. P/F of pipe specials	Qazigund	6.874	60 days	All Classes
31	Bachoo G.B.	L/F of pipes, Const. of chain link fencing, Retain wall	Qazigund	22.093	90 days	All Classes
32	Wavhur Arbal	L/F of pipes, Const. of chain link fencing, Retain wall	Qazigund	35.88	90 days	All Classes
33	Gulitgund	L/F of pipes and Revamping of 30,000 gains capacity SSFP	Qazigund	24.44	90 days	All Classes
34	Lisser G.B.	L/F of pipes and Const. of approach road	Qazigund	12.635	90 days	All Classes
35	Manzmonh	Laying and fitting of pipes and Construction of chain link fencing, grate work, Revamping of 45000 glns. Capacity SSFP	Qazigund	39.934	90 days	All Classes
36	Her-Gawass	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings and Construction of 2 No. SR of 8000 and 7000 gallons capacity, construction of 02 No. sluice chambers	Qazigund	25.25	90 days	All Classes
37	Chaki Muswani	Laying and fitting of pipes, Construction of Sluice chamber, construction of chain link fencing, construction of approach Path	Qazigund	40.00	90 days	All Classes

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Qazigund.
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

CRITICAL DATES

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (Days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting of GMS Tubes and Ductile Iron Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves incl. other allied works.	As Per Annexure-I to this Bid document	500/-	02% Of the Estimated Cost	90 Days	As Per Annexure-I to this Bid document
1	Const. of Grounds SRs & Filtration Plants					
1	Execution of ancillary civil works like spring covers, boundary walls, protection works etc at various Water Supply schemes of Division Qazigund of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)					

ANNEXURE-I
SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S. No	Name of Water Supply Scheme	Description of work	Jal Shakti (PHE) Division	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	Shahoo Sachan	L/F of pipes, Construction of SR, PST, sluice chamber, Chowkidar quarter, Approach path, Chain link fencing and sump	Qazigund	164.856	120 days	All Classes
2	Pachgam-Nard	Laying and fitting of pipes, Construction of 0.50 lac glns. Capacity slow sand filtration plant, sluice chamber, renovation of chowkidar qtr	Qazigund	81.755	120 days	All Classes
3	Augmentation Lammar	Laying and fitting, construction of Pre Siltng Tank for 0.16 MGD RSFP, Construction of 04 No sluice chamber Washout chamber for SR, Construction of RCC Dome to 0.45 and 0.10 lac gallons RCC SR s and truss to existing SSFT, Construction of Chain Link Fencing around Structure, Construction of Chowkidar Quarter, intake chamber and construction of collection chamber for spring	Qazigund	177.94	180 days	All Classes
4	Nigeenpora Nard	Laying and fitting, construction of slow sand filtration plant, Construction of sluice chamber, path	Qazigund	79.865	120 days	All Classes
5	Dachimnal	Laying and fitting of pipes, construction of chain link fencing, Sump, catch water drain, Retaining wall, Sluice chamber	Qazigund	76.87	90 days	All Classes
6	Nowgam-Nard Sashkudan	Laying and fitting of pipes, construction of chain link fencing, Intake chamber, Sump, RCC jacketting to SR, Retaining wall, Approach path	Qazigund	114.94	120 days	All Classes
7	Hiller Shahabad	Laying and fitting of pipes, Construction of Sluice chamber, construction of chain link fencing, construction of D.G.Shed	Qazigund	35.213	90 days	All Classes
8	Baghpura Khoshipora	Laying and fitting of pipes, Construction of 0.35 lac glns. SR, RCC jacketting to old SR, Sluice chamber, construction of chain link fencing, construction of Gang Hut, const. Of path	Qazigund	59.494	90 days	All Classes
9	Waripora	Laying and fitting of pipes, construction of 0.20 lac gallons RCC SR, Construction of sluice chamber, renovation of JE Quarter / inspection hut at Vasknag Waltengoo and construction of approach path to various structures including beautification/development of premises and other miscellaneous work	Qazigund	66.36	90 days	All Classes
10	Dardgund	Laying and fitting of pipes, construction of 0.10 lac gallons add. RCC SR 0.35 lac gallons RCC SR, Construction of sluice chamber, Fencing, Retaining wall, construction of approach path to various structures including beautification / development of premises	Qazigund	56.356	90 days	All Classes
11	Dantheri Zaipora	Laying and fitting of pipes, construction of sluice chamber, Fencing, Retaining wall, construction of approach path to various structures	Qazigund	61.2	90 days	All Classes
12	Zrend	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings, Construction of 2 No. spring protection works, const. of 6000 gallons capacity SR, Renovation of chowkidar quarter, const. of grate work at spots	Qazigund	19.30	90 days	All Classes
13	Trajan	Laying and fitting of pipes incl. P/F of pipe fittings, Construction of 3 No. spring protection works, const. of chain link fencing, RCC jacketting incl. Const. Of dome for 35000 gallons capacity SR and impts. to existing pipe network	Qazigund	46.00	90 days	All Classes

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Qazigund. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Qazigund.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover. 5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of Submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Queries by email if any should be made at qazigundpheedivision@gmail.com.

No: PHQ/1384-99
Date: 13/06/2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Qazigund

DIPK-4130/22

Want to make a

chocolate sandwich cookie?

Discover something new today.

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE(TRD)/JP, acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for following works. 1. **NIT No. EL/TRD/JP/04/2022-23, Name of work:** TRD Work in connection with common loop line at Gehlota, Sakinun and Gagai Akhri Station in FL-MD section of Jaipur Division, NIT cost (Rs.): 90,91,337.60, Bid Security (Rs.): 1,61,800.00, Tender opening date: 11.07.2022. Note: Date & time of closing e-tenders: On tender opening date upto 15.00 hrs. Date & time of opening e-tenders: On tender opening date after 15.00 hrs. Complete details of tender can be seen on website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> 411-AC/22

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction)-I, North-Western Railway, Jodhpur through for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders (Open Tender-Single packet system), for the following work:- SN.1. Tender No.: JU/Const./T-17/2022-23/ROB/27, 72 & 189 2. Name of the work with its location: Preparation of GAD of ROB's with topographical survey by "TOTAL STATION" & conducting soil investigations for working out safe bearing capacity, casting of test pile, initial load test of pile, design and drawing of (foundation, sub structure & super structure) for 03 ROB in lieu of LC No. 72 at Km.107/7-8 between Degana - Makrana section and at LC No.27 at Km.525/5-6 on Merta Road - Bikaner section of Jodhpur Division and at LC No. 189 (KM 234/7-8) between Ringus - Sikar Section of Jaipur division 3. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 1,29,88,427.44 4. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 2,15,000.00. Tender Closing date & time: 12.07.2022 upto 15 hrs 6. Detail of particular, where e-tender can be seen & filled up: www.ireps.gov.in 7. Official email address: dyceju@nwr.railnet.gov.in 411-AC/22

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INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, ASSAM
SIXMILE, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22
Web site : www.assamtenders.gov.in, www.dmeassam.gov.in,
email:dme@assam.gov.in, dmeassam@gmail.com.

No. DME/128CT-AMCH/11/2022/13577

INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB)
GLOBAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Re-e-Tenders are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from the intending Manufacturer/Accredited Dealers for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Whole Body 128 Slice C.T. Scanner for Assam Medical College & Hospital, Dibrugarh on Turnkey Basis, under the Medical Education & Research Department, Govt. of Assam.

The Equipment had invited for bid earlier vide no. DME/128CT-AMCH/11/2022/992, dt 24-01-2022, however due to minimum participating bid, the equipment is tender again.

The e-Tender is Two-Bid System, to be submitted with affixed Court Fee Stamp Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight point two five paise) only (for local bidders) or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of the State of Assam) in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

Important dates of the e-Tender

Sl. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1.	e-Tender Publishing	18-06-2022	12.00 Noon	-	-
2.	e-Tender Download	18-06-2022	12.00 Noon	25-07-2022	12.00 Noon
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	30-06-2022	11.00 AM	Venue - Room No. 4C, 2 nd Floor, Directorate of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Guwahati- 32	02.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission	01-06-2022	02.00 PM	25-07-2022	02.00 PM
5.	Bid Opening	26-07-2022	05.00 PM		

1. Brief Schedule

Sl No.	Description (Name of the Items)	Bid Security (E.M.D.)	Delivery/ Installation schedule/ Completion period	Tender fees in Rs.	Eligibility
1.	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Whole Body 128 Slice C.T. Scanner on turnkey basis for Assam Medical College & Hospital, Dibrugarh on Turnkey Basis	Rs. 5,00 Lakh	120 days	Rs. 10,000/-	Manufacture/ accredited Dealer

The detailed information of bidding documents are available online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in only. The bidders would be required to register in the website for submission of the bids. The bidders are required to have Digital Signature (DSC) from any of the Certifying Authorities. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement may obtain the same by registering in the www.assamtenders.gov.in. The requirements to register with the e-procurement portal are available on the website indicated above. The tender fees is non refundable and payable in favour of the "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022, at SBI-Dispur (Guwahati) Branch.

Sd/-
Janasanyog /C/4956/22
Director of Medical Education, Assam



Playing with fire

Hold back the Agnipath given the failure to push it as anything but a cost-cutting measure

All non-officer appointments to the three wings of the Indian armed forces will be through the Agnipath (literally, the path of fire), the Centre announced on June 14. The Government has enumerated its reasons for the move that fundamentally disrupts not only the process of recruitment but also the character of the soldier. Almost on cue, a section of experts has jumped in praising the move as transformative for the country's defence. But many in the defence community and also political observers have not shied away from expressing their reservations and shock. Youth aspiring to join the forces are on the streets in protest in several States, and are even turning violent in many places. With no recruitment in the last two years due to COVID-19, these youngsters were already frustrated. With modest education and skills, they fear the new process stalls an accessible escape route from poverty. As opposed to the existing 15 years plus service followed by lifelong pension, the new recruits, or Agniveers (literally, fire heroes) will have a four-year tenure including six months of training. Upon completion they will be given an opportunity to apply for permanent cadre and up to a fourth would be enrolled as regular cadre. The rest will exit with a tax-free purse of approximately ₹11.71 lakh and return to civil life to aid in 'nation building'. The process of recruitment will commence in 90 days with an intake of about 46,000 youngsters.

The Government claims the new scheme will help build a younger, fitter defence force, with personnel more trainable in the changing technological environment. It says it will also inculcate military discipline, ethos and skilling as a value addition, improving the prospects for those who return to civil society. To start with, there will be no permanent recruitment in the armed forces for the next four years. Critics who include many fellow travellers of the ruling BJP have raised concerns such as potential damage to operational preparedness given the crises on the borders, with personnel hired for the short term, trained in a rush and lacking the camaraderie that professional forces possess. If a soldier's job is now turned into a contractual employment, it might not motivate aspirants who hope for job security, pension and honour. The argument that defence should not be treated as an employment guarantee scheme is rhetorically impressive, but the fact is that from the manufacturing of arms to the employment of soldiers, the sector plays a critical role in the economy. For a country like India, where unemployment remains a major policy challenge, the concerns cannot be dismissed easily. The Government also faces the very credible charge that this is nothing more than a cost cutting plan. Considering all this, the Centre must put the plan on hold and revisit it in consultation with political parties, and a wider range of experts.

Bubble in the air

Without regulation of crypto currencies, retail investors will have no protection from scams

The crash in the price of cryptocurrencies is a timely reminder to retail investors to stay far away from this highly speculative asset class. Bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency, has lost over two-thirds of its value since its peak in November last year and has wiped out many retail investors. Other cryptocurrencies have witnessed even larger losses with some (Luna) plunging to zero. The current crash was a long time in the making. Cryptocurrencies were initially touted to be alternatives to fiat currencies. Since the supply of a lot of cryptocurrencies is limited by design, investing in them seemed like a good way to protect one's wealth from inflation fuelled by central banks. But as it became obvious that cryptocurrencies have had very little acceptance as money, crypto-enthusiasts began to argue a slightly different case. Cryptocurrencies were now touted as an independent asset class like gold and silver that could serve as an effective hedge in times of crisis. The crash in the crypto market amidst wider market correction has put to rest the argument that crypto, as an asset class, is as good a hedge as precious metals. There is little reason to believe that cryptocurrencies possess any intrinsic value that can make them serve the role of widely accepted money or as a legitimate asset class such as precious metals.

The acceptability of cryptocurrencies in the wider economy has remained minuscule and there are no signs of their use for purposes other than wild speculation. But the only tailwind that has kept cryptocurrencies rallying despite concerns about their fundamental or intrinsic value has been the climate of easy monetary policy adopted by central banks. Easy money from central banks fuelled the rise of a get-rich-quick industry that depended on selling to a gret-her fool. Just as Internet stocks and tulip bulbs were the hallmarks of liquidity-fuelled bubbles in the past, cryptocurrencies are the leading symbol of the current bubble in markets. But perhaps the biggest threat to their prospects has been an existential one. Governments and their central banks have been largely unwilling to recognise cryptocurrencies as a legitimate investment asset. They are also unlikely to recognise private cryptocurrencies as they infringe on the state's fiscal and monetary authority. Moreover, this hostile attitude is at least partly to blame for the shady nature of the crypto industry at large. Retail investors looking for quick market gains have had to plunge into an unregulated space marked by scams and other pitfalls in the absence of a legal environment that can protect investor interests. So, regardless of the investment prospects of cryptocurrencies, a proper regulatory framework may help in protecting retail investors, at least from outright scams.

Agnipath, a fire that could singe India

The Government's defence recruitment plan could endanger the safety of the country and affect the stability of society



SUSHANT SINGH

It was on September 15, 2013 that Narendra Modi addressed an ex-servicemen rally at Rewari, Haryana as the Bharatiya Janata Party's prime ministerial candidate, where he vociferously supported the demand of 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) for all soldiers. Mr. Modi was then campaigning in poetry, and nine years later, as the Agnipath scheme for recruitment of short-term contracted soldiers was announced, he has been forced to contend with the reality of governing in prose. However hard the Government may try to obfuscate, the driving factor for this U-turn – from 'One Rank One Pension' to 'No Rank No Pension' – is economics.

Financial motivations

The OROP demand became tricky to fulfil once Mr. Modi became Prime Minister, but it was officially instituted in November 2015 for more than 25 lakh defence pensioners. It came with an immediate annual financial implication of ₹7,123.38 crore and the actual arrears from July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015 were ₹10,392.35 crore. The financial burden increased cumulatively over time and has substantially increased the budgetary expenditure on defence pensions. In the current financial year, ₹1,19,696 crore has been budgeted for pensions, along with another ₹1,63,453 crore for salaries – that is 54% of the allocation for the Defence Ministry.

It has been argued that the savings in the pensions bill – which will show up on the books only after a couple of decades – would be directed towards the modernisation of defence forces. The armed forces do not have that kind of time available to them to postpone their already long-delayed modernisation. The money must come now. The Indian Air Force is already down to 30 squadrons of fighter jets against the 42 squadrons it

needs, and the Indian Navy is at 130 ships when its vision was to be a 200-ship navy; the Indian Army is already short of 1,00,000 soldiers. The announcement of the Agniveer scheme is an implicit acknowledgement that the Indian economy is incapable of supporting the armed forces that India needs. It faces an active military threat from two adversaries, China and Pakistan, and the internal security challenges in Kashmir and the northeastern States. These realities cannot be wished away. Instead of expanding the economy to support the military, the Government has resorted to shrinking the military.

Damaging consequences

As the short-term recruitment policy has neither been theoretically modelled nor tried out as a pilot project, the exact consequences of the move will only be known as they play out. But its adverse effect on the professional capabilities of the armed forces is certain. It starts with the very high turnover of young soldiers, the increase in training capacities and infrastructure and the augmentation of the administrative setup for greater recruitment, release, and retention of soldiers. An armed forces boasting of a poor teeth-to-tail ratio is further increasing the tail. The Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy employ their airmen and sailors in very specialised roles, which require technical skills, and a high degree of training and experience. They form the backbone of the system that keeps the warships at sea, the fighter jets in the air, and high-tech weapons and platforms operational. Because the short-term contractual soldier model (the Agniveer scheme) is going to take a few years to fully play out at an organisational level, the actual degradation of operational capability will only be known then.

In the case of the Indian Army, the challenge is two-fold. The Indian Army has emerged from a legacy which traces to 1748. In the early years, says a paper by Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, the emphasis was on discipline and efficiency, and their separation from the fragmented Indian society. This turned the Indian soldiers into a professional, united and auto-



NAGARA GOPAL

nomous fighting force whose loyalty, in Stephen Rosen's words, was to their 'homogeneous military units' for which they served 'full time, long term' rewarded with a secure pay and pension system. As the homogenous nature of the Bengal army was seen as one of the factors that contributed to the outbreak of the 1857 Mutiny, the British Crown thereafter maintained distinction and separateness of castes and class in the Indian Army, as described in the paper.

Even after Independence, class-based recruitment – the euphemism for caste – has defined the nature and the character of the Indian Army, shaping its ethos and fighting capabilities. In an affidavit in court a couple of years ago, the Government asserted that the Army has "performed exceedingly well while maintaining the class composition in recruitment of presidential bodyguards and changing to All India class composition will not only affect the functioning of the PBG (President's Bodyguard) Presidential but will also affect the seniority structure of the regiment". It defended class-based units by claiming that "after selection, personnel are grouped based on functional requirements to have optimum operation effectiveness".

In the Agnipath proposal, the class-based recruitment has been replaced with an all-India all-class recruitment. The reasons for this drastic shift in the Government's thinking are a secret but it will strike at the core of the organisational management, leadership structures and operating philosophy of the Indian Army. Even though the soldiers in the Indian Army are professionally trained, they also draw their motivation from their social identity – reflect-

ed in the characterisation of *naam, namak* and *nishan* – where each soldier cares for his reputation among the peers in his caste group or his village or his social setting. To replace that with a pure professional identity of a soldier will bring its own challenges in a tradition-bound army, where units showcase their campaigns in the 18th century as battle honours. Running a Gorkha regiment with a Jat soldier from Haryana, a Malayali from Kerala and a Meitei from Manipur needs massive restructuring, something the Army currently seems unprepared for. It is driven more by a hope that as an adaptive institution with great resilience, the Army will somehow find a way to deal with this upheaval while protecting its operational capabilities.

There are other challenges thrown up by the model. There will be major problems in training, integrating and deploying soldiers with different levels of experience and motivations. The criterion of identifying the 25% short-term contracted soldiers to be retained could result in unhealthy competition. An organisation which depends on trust, camaraderie and esprit de corps could end up grappling with rivalries and jealousies amongst winners and losers, especially in their final year of contract. Even though the Government has kept the contract at four years to deny the Agniveer gratuity and is not counting the contractual period towards regular service, these provisions are bound to be challenged legally; and just like the OROP issue, could become a politically attractive demand for longer tenures and pensions to be picked up by the Opposition parties. Over time, this will lead to the salary and pension budget creeping back up again.

Political, social implications

The Agnipath scheme also does away with the idea of a State-wise quota for recruitment into the Army, based on the Recruitable Male Population of that State which was implemented from 1966. This prevented an imbalanced army, which was dominated by any one State, linguistic community or ethnicity, as it happened in the case of Pakistan with its province of Pun-

jab. Academic research shows that the high level of ethnic imbalance has been associated with severe problems of democracy and an increased likelihood of civil war, a worrying scenario for today's India where federalism is being severely tested by the ruling party's ideology.

Coupled with this is the lack of hope in India's economy, where over 45 crore Indians have stopped looking for jobs, there are high levels of unemployment and underemployment. It is to this mix that these few thousand young men who have been trained in inflicting organised violence will be thrown up every year. From erstwhile Yugoslavia to Rwanda – and closer home, during Partition – there are numerous examples of demobilised soldiers leading to increased violence against minorities. Today's India is characterised by weak state capacity, where the state has ceded its exclusive right to violence to majoritarian groups. This provides a heady cocktail which only needs a spark to consume India.

In India, the Indian Army has so far provided salary, uniform and prestige, an inheritance of the British who took care of the living conditions, facilities for the soldiers' families, and post-retirement benefits and rewards, such as grants of land. This meant that military service remained attractive to many generations of the same families, anchoring them in tradition. It also resulted in social standing and privilege where pensions resulted in a comfortable life for the retired soldier. A short-term contractual soldier, without earning pension, will be seen as doing jobs after his military service that are not seen to be commensurate in status and prestige with the profession of honour. It will reduce the motivation of those joining on short-term contracts while diminishing the "honour" of a profession which places extraordinary demands on young men. The Government's yearning for financial savings runs the risk of reducing the honour of a profession, the stability of a society and the safety of a country.

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A 'man's Parliament' striving for an inclusive India

Despite an encouraging start in the 1950s, its discourse, communication and laws now are a concern



RITIKA JAJOO & GAUTAM GANESH

In 1952, when the Indian Republic held its first Parliamentary session, 39 strong, intelligent, and passionate women leaders sat in the hallowed halls of power, challenging a centuries-old tide of men's dominance over the polity.

A slide from the initial years

At a time when women formed only 1.7% of the total members of the United States Congress and 1.1% of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, India was leading the way in the fight towards more inclusive world democracies with 5.5% women representation. The struggle for India's Independence can never be detached from the contributions of thousands of our women across profession, class, caste, and religion. A testament to their invaluable contribution has to be their louder voice in our parliamentary democracy; what happened in 1952 was a highly progressive step, but 70 years hence, it seems we have strayed from that path.

Despite a woman Prime Minister, a President, and a relatively higher percentage of women parliamentarians when compared to some of the other mature democracies in the past, our struggle with inclusivity has not eased. Due to systemic issues, Parliament continues to alienate women. The number of women representatives is still considerably small, but even more subtly, Parliament as a work-

space continues to be built exclusively for men.

India has witnessed a burgeoning movement for gender inclusivity during the past few years. The Supreme Court judgment (*National Legal Services Authority vs Union of India*, 2014) on gender identity has given the movement greater impetus. In solidarity, citizens have begun asserting their gender identity by specifying their personal pronouns (she/her, he/his, they/them, etc.). Parliament, being the pinnacle of law-making and the symbolic centre of our democratic aspirations, must reflect this change too. However, the matter seems to have largely escaped the notice of the Legislature.

Not gender neutral

A closer look at our parliamentary discourse and communication reveals a concerning and disconcerting absence of gender-neutral language. For instance, after 75 years of Independence, and 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Parliament often refers to women in leadership positions as Chairmen and party men.

In the Rajya Sabha, the Rules of Procedure continue to refer to the Vice-President of India as the ex-officio Chairman, stemming from the lack of gender-neutral language in the Constitution of India. Additionally, references to inherently masculine pronouns are made over 150 times in the former and 600 times in the latter. The alarming degree of usage of masculine pronouns assumes a power structure biased towards men. This tends to manifest itself in parliamentary debates, for instance, when a senior woman MP from Tamil Nadu was referred to as "Chair-



V.V. KRISHNAN

man madam" in the Lok Sabha during last year's winter session.

The issue further extends to law-making. In the last decade, there have hardly been any gender-neutral Acts. Acts have made references to women not as leaders or professionals (such as policemen), but usually as victims of crimes.

The root of such instances lies with a gender-conforming Constitution. In its present state, the Constitution reinforces historical stereotypes that women and transgender people cannot be in leadership positions, such as the President and the Vice-President of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Governor of States, or a judge. It is not a criticism of the Constitution but of the failure of the many Union Governments which did not take the initiative of amending it. In the past, amendments have been brought about to make documents gender neutral. In 2014, under the leadership of the then Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Meira Kumar, the Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha were made entirely gender neutral. Since then, each Lok Sabha Committee Head has been referred to as Chairperson in all documents. This initiative is proof that amend-

ing legal documents to make them inclusive for all genders is an attainable goal if there is a will.

Despite certain course corrections, both Houses of Parliament and Central Ministries have failed in one common aspect. In a compilation of ministerial replies to questions from the 17th Lok Sabha so far for 75 women Parliamentarians, it was found that 84% of the answers that used salutations (sir/madam) referred to women Parliamentarians as 'sir'. During the 15th Lok Sabha, when we had a woman Speaker, only about 27% of the answers made this error. However, there is no indication of a clear reason for such lapses, either due to pure administrative errors or ignorance of the rules of addressal.

In other countries

Internationally, even mature democracies that legalised universal suffrage after India, such as Canada (1960 for Aboriginal women), Australia (1962 for Indigenous women), and the United States (1965 for women of African-American descent), have now taken concrete measures towards gender-inclusive legislation and communication. Canada's Department of Justice has guidelines for using gender-neutral language in all forms of legislation and legal documentation; the Australian government has incorporated gender-neutrality in its drafting Style Manual; the U.K.'s House of Commons declared in 2007 that all laws would be drafted gender-neutrally.

When Parliament and government offices reinforce gender biases in their communication, stereotypical language in reference to women and transgender people

becomes more palatable to the rest of the country. The country's leaders must send the right message for citizens to follow. They can and must begin with an amendment to the Constitution and the entire reservoir of laws.

Moving ahead

Once the language is corrected, the entire country, including Parliament, can focus on the deeper issues of the aspirations and growth of its woman workforce. In 2018, the U.K. Parliament conducted a gender audit to understand its culture, environment, and policies as a workspace. If the report is any indication as to what might also be the scenario in the Indian Parliament, with an even lesser number of women employees, it opens questions about whether there is a single, transparent appointment and promotion process for women staff in Parliament, and whether their professional growth is being hindered by other issues such as harassment and domestic responsibilities.

In the 21st century, when people of all genders are leading the world with compassion, strength and ambitions, the Indian Parliament needs to reflect on its standing. Recognition and correction of past errors through amendments to rulebooks, laws, and the Constitution are just starting points, and must lead to sensitivity, equal treatment, and appreciation for the people of India, regardless of gender.

This article has also been co-authored by Pallavi Baraya and Devak Namdhari. The four writers are former Legislative Assistants to Members of Parliament (LAMP) Fellows

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.

Agnipath aftermath

Some of the tweaks to the Agnipath scheme – an afterthought – are too little a concession to calm the anger of frustrated job aspirants. Unless their principal grievance of a drastically reduced tenure of four years for 75% of

such men without any post-release benefits is withdrawn and tenure rules existing till now are restored, the agitations are only likely to intensify. Even from the military point of view, such radical changes in the recruitment rules seem totally

unwarranted. Letting such trained soldiers go home after barely four years of service does not make any military sense either. The least the Government can do is to suspend the scheme.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

Bulldozer politics

When lawmakers turn lawbreakers, as is happening in Uttar Pradesh, the judiciary is probably the only hope left for the citizenry. But, are mere declarations by the judiciary sufficient to rein in an executive which is

trampling on the life, liberty and property of citizens with impunity? How does one hold officials who are flouting laws accountable? In the current context in the country, Uttar Pradesh is perceived to be a laboratory of majoritarianism to perfect

techniques to marginalise the minorities. One shudders to think of the day when bulldozers start rolling out to other parts of the country.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur, Kerala

In search of livelihoods and loved ones

For Sri Lanka's north, whose economy was already set back by war and poor recovery, the current economic downturn is proving debilitating. **Meera Srinivasan** reports on the affected people, especially women who are juggling jobs, housework and care, while persisting with their struggle for justice



Working women are among the worst affected by Sri Lanka's crippling economic crisis. A group of women from Kayts, Jaffna, employed in a crab factory, who have had no employment for weeks. (Below): Families which have suffered enforced disappearance of youth have put up pictures of their missing sons and daughters on a wall in a room in Kilinochchi, where they protest every day, seeking answers and demanding justice. • MEERA SRINIVASAN

In March this year, women of Thambaddy village were thanking their stars for the good crab season. It ensured they were employed throughout the month at the local crab factory. Those who put in longer hours made some extra money that helped them cope with the spiralling cost of essentials. Barely three months later, residents of this coastal village in Kayts island, off the northern Jaffna peninsula and connected to it by a causeway, are on the brink of starvation.

As Sri Lanka faces acute shortages of food, fuel, LPG, and medicine in the midst of a crushing economic downturn, people here have witnessed their livelihoods vanish. With no kerosene available in the market, the men are unable to take their boats out to sea to fish. And without the catch, the women who make a living by removing crab shells are jobless. So are other villagers who subsist on allied livelihoods such as cleaning, transporting or selling the fish locally. While most of the island's southern fishermen use large boats that run on diesel, 90% of those living in the north use small boats that run on kerosene. As of today, neither fuel is available.

"In May, the factory only offered us work on nine days," says Sugathevan Sailathevi of the early yet sure signs of a rapid breakdown of their rural economy, still beaten years after the civil war in the Tamil-majority region ended in 2009. Poverty and joblessness were entrenched in the local economy well before this crisis arrived to make things worse. Families here were displaced at least twice during the war. Many moved all the way to Mullivaikkal on the north-eastern coast, the site of the final, gory battle between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the armed forces. They witnessed scores of fellow Tamil civilians perish in the shelling, or forcibly disappear, with their whereabouts not known till date.

Sailathevi's husband has been unwell and unable to work after he was assaulted by soldiers during the war, not uncommon among Tamil civilians who the army assumed had links with militant groups. Since then, she has single-handedly raised four daughters. The family's enduring economic hardships forced her two older daughters to discontinue their education. Now, they too work in the crab factory with their mother. Together, the three women run the household and support the education of the two younger girls. "This job was everything to us," Sailathevi says, fighting tears. As post-war reconstruction efforts of successive governments have evidently failed to sustain livelihoods and durably revive the regional economy, the sole factory in this isolated village is precious. And its closure, understandably devastating.

Over the last two months, the family has been surviving on one meal a day. "We just can't go on without jobs. That is our only source of income," Sailathevi says, sitting in the verandah of her friend's modest home, minutes away from the factory whose tall, metallic gates are closed.

For women like her, each day of the job matters as wages are tied to the number of days of labour. The women must work at least 25 days to be eligible for a basic monthly pay of LKR 16,500



(roughly ₹3,590), as they boost Sri Lanka's lucrative crab trade. Rarely affordable to locals, Jaffna crabs are a delicacy and make up about 10% of the island's seafood export basket. In 2021, the island netted \$318 million, a record high, from seafood exports when foreign reserves were fast depleting due to a balance of payments crisis. The 120 women employed at the factory must work all day, standing in a heavily air-conditioned room, to make LKR 640 (about ₹140) for the day, if they manage to reach the target of 4 kg of crab meat. Their wage is much like the scanty meat — just about 20 grams per crab — that they scrape off the hard-shelled creatures, toiling long hours.

"The work is not easy, but it has been vital for us, so we can't complain," says a young worker, Tharmaraja Thavapriya, underplaying the difficulties of the job and unaware of her contribution to the national economy. Be it tea or garment exports, or remittances from domestic workers in West Asian countries, all major foreign exchange earning sectors are powered by the labour of women like her.

Self-reliance over aid

In a situation as dire, poor families have only aid to count on, however sporadic it might be. "We went to the sea a few days last week after receiving a few litres of kerosene as Indian aid. It was very helpful. But we cannot live our lives waiting for relief materials every day. The government needs a plan to rescue our livelihoods so we can manage our lives," says C. Sivachelvan, a fisher leader in the village.

Many women voice a similar sentiment, despite the hard, often exploitative, physical labour that their jobs demand. They appreciate humanitarian assistance, but don't think it is sustainable in the long run. They welcome aid, but not at the cost of their autonomy. They seek an enabling economy in which they can either produce if they have the means, or at least sell their labour for a fair wage.

Meanwhile, there are no signs that the government has a plan yet, as Sri Lanka's farmers have desperately been pointing out. A rash policy shift to or-

ganic fertilizer last year, although subsequently reversed, made them the early victims of the national crisis. Grappling with a 50% drop in crop yield now, many are unwilling to sow again. The pandemic, the government's damaging policy choices and the rapidly aggravating economic crisis over the last two years have shattered Sri Lanka's two main rural livelihoods — farming and fishing — and slashed domestic production. A few years after becoming self-sufficient in paddy, Sri Lanka is now struggling to find rice for the months ahead. Despite living on an island with enviable marine resources, many Sri Lankans now seldom eat fish, their main or often only source of protein, especially when red meat costs over LKR 2,000 (about ₹435) a kg in the local market. Families say children are losing weight and the elderly take ill more often.

The economic distress is once again pushing poor women to take appallingly high-interest (60%-200%) loans from microfinance companies, known for their predatory terms and aggressive collection strategy. "We know we are paying exorbitant amounts as the interest alone, but who else is ready to trust us with loans," asks Thangarasa Thayalini, a worker at the crab factory. "Without an income, a loan is the only option we have." It is a familiar problem in rural Sri Lanka. Over the last decade, scores of Tamil and rural Sinhalese women agitated for relief from the stifling debt they were entrapped in. Their campaigns pushed former Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera (2017-19, in the Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe administration) to devise programmes that promised debt relief and affordable credit for women. That brought some respite to women then, but is now proving inadequate in the absence of other substantial economic programmes.

Collapse of ecosystem

Barring the roads and the electricity networks that were restored soon after 2009, claims of 'post-war reconstruction and development' mostly remain goals on paper, awaiting more funding, a bureaucratic push, or both. The pervading sense of hopelessness and insecurity in the north and east prompted nearly 100 people to take boats to Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu in the last few months. More recently, the Sri Lankan Navy said it intercepted another 200 Sri Lankans, including dozens from the north and east, who tried migrating "illegally" to a "foreign country" via the

sea.

Residents of Shanthapuram village in neighbouring Kilinochchi district say harsh economic conditions seem to be driving many local women to consider jobs as domestic workers in West Asian countries. "These supposed employment agencies could exploit their situation and take huge sums of money from the women, promising them jobs abroad. We are going to see more families breaking up, and children growing up with no one to care for them," says Ganapathy Sathyaseelan, who runs a small grocery store here. With almost all the locals buying essentials on credit from him, he is awaiting payments totalling LKR 3 lakh. "I don't think anyone is in a position to pay," he says, fearing that his own small business might soon fold.

Residents of this village are mostly Malayaha Tamils who fled the central and southern parts of the island during the 1983 anti-Tamil pogrom. They relocated in the north, mainly the Vanni, the mainland south of the Jaffna peninsula, only to face incessant, brutal violence in the following decades. Many of their youth initially joined or were later conscripted by Tamil militant organisations, and lost their lives in combat or disappeared in the final stages of the war.

Most earning members of the nearly 900 families in the village are daily wage workers, who find employment in other farms or construction sites in nearby towns and villages. The fuel shortages have made it harder to find jobs, because transport to workplaces is not easily available. About 150 women here have regular jobs at a garment factory nearby, which produces clothes for export. Their wages are tied to the whole team turning up at work. "Even if one of us does not turn up, the entire team stands to lose, so we are under a lot of pressure," says a worker, requesting that she not be named, fearing reprisals from the company. To make it to the morning shift, she now wakes up at 2 a.m. to cook, clean and leave for work on time. "It takes a very long time to cook using firewood. I had only recently started using cooking gas for the first time, thinking it would help me save time. But with the shortages, I'm back to firewood," says the single mother of two. Between her garment factory job, caring for her children and mother-in-law, and housework, the young woman barely has time to rest. "It feels like I am running all the time. What to do," she says, smiling gracefully.

The national economic crisis may have brought people's misery and fury under the global spotlight, but economic progress is only one of the many unfulfilled demands of Tamils living in the north and east. While they brave financial challenges after years of violent dispossession, scores of Tamil women, notably mothers of disappeared youth, have been resolute in their demand for truth and justice. The two are not unrelated. The agony of living without sons and daughters, many of whom were in their late teens when they were disappeared, also means that the families have fewer earning members now.

Struggles old and new

A board in bright yellow hangs outside a small room along A-9, the main highway running up north, in Kilinochchi town. 'Association of the Families of Disappeared' read the bold Tamil letters on it. The walls of dimly lit rooms have not an inch of space left, with printed photographs of the missing youth put up in rows. "Had our children been around at this time, they would be working and supporting our family. Regardless, they would have at least been around," says Yogeswari Vijayalakshmi, one of the protesting mothers. "I don't need gas, or fuel or light. But I need to be alive so I can continue looking for my child."

A total of 133 people who were part of the struggle have died already, according to Kadirgamanathan Kohilavani, leader of the Kilinochchi association, one of many such groups in the north and east. "It is the stress, really. We have been running from pillar to post, testifying before one commission after another, and are still waiting for answers."

Recalling that she rarely stepped out in her youth, "not even to buy a packet of salt", the 51-year-old mother says: "Today, I am ready to go just anywhere for the sake of our children. Colombo, Geneva (United Nations Human Rights Council), wherever. Many of our children surrendered to the army. We have a right to know what happened to them."

Like most other Sri Lankans the mothers too are severely affected by the stifling downturn, and spend long hours queuing up for essentials. "Today a kilo of rice costs 340 rupees. Most of our basic food items are not affordable. We are used to adversity like this, we had to cope with shortages when we were displaced. But it is still very hard," Kohilavani says. Being used to deprivation does not make coping with it again any easier, that too while dealing with haunting memories of loved ones and the anxiety about their whereabouts. "We are all growing older, dealing with ailments, economic hardships, and must also take care of our families. It is hard," she says. In her apprehensions, economic relief and justice do not exist in neat, separate compartments.

Women like her, who have been protesting for nearly 2,000 days despite the pressures of their daily lives, see the current citizens' agitations over the economic crisis, going on for about 70 days in capital Colombo and other southern districts, as somewhat distant, and clearly different. "The southern (Sinhalese) people have come to the streets because they are suffering without gas, food and fuel. I feel for them, but where were they all when our people were

killed," she asks.

The Sinhalese community's resistance to the Rajapaksa is unprecedented, just like the economic crisis that sparked it. But it is not a superglue that can instantly seal the deep ethnic divisions, as long as troubling questions linger. Although some Tamil groups have been holding anti-government protests in the north and east as well, customising demands to include accountability, justice and a political solution, the feeling that their southern counterparts let them down in the past frequently surfaces in conversations. "They (Sinhalese) are experiencing a crisis for the first time"; "Maybe they will better appreciate our suffering now"; "Will they stop protesting once the economic crisis lets up?"

Scepticism and fear

Fear is still palpable in the region, well over a decade after the strife ended. The region is starkly more militarised than the south, with armed soldiers manning the many checkpoints in northern towns and villages.

"When you've been beaten so badly, it is only natural to step back, isn't it," says Arulappu Casilda, who is raising her grandchildren in Manthuvil village in Mullaitivu district. Severely affected by the crisis, she too has reduced the family's meat intake: "The children ask me, is this even a meat curry, grandma? But then what do I do. These are times you feed them for hunger, not for nutrition, not for taste."

Many women like her, who head and run their households, are struggling to send their children to school as the crisis worsens. "A copy (notebook) that was 70 rupees two months ago now costs 160. A 10-rupee pencil now costs 40 rupees. How do you tell your child you can't even buy them a pencil," asks Mayuran Ramitha.

Although sceptical of the mass agitations in the country, the women are not cynical. They are willing to give protesters the benefit of the doubt. "We have our concerns about how people in the south ignored the bloodshed here, but I believe that the Sinhalese alone can evict the Rajapaksa from power. For that alone, let them win this. It will help us all," says Vilvarasa Komala.

The distrust of the Sinhalese that is voiced by some Tamils stems from the one-sided narratives that some political leaders push both in the north and south, observes a senior activist in Mullaitivu. "Some in the north deliberately conflate the Sinhala state with the Sinhalese people, knowing well that there were Sinhalese who spoke up for us during the war. Similarly, in the south some leaders repeatedly paint Tamils as 'terrorists'," she says, requesting anonymity. "I have faced repercussions for pointing this out."

She says there is a tendency in the island's south to see the current moment as a purely economic crisis but she contends that is not the case. "Even after the war, how did our governments treat the Tamils and Muslim minority in this country? What did the government do to address the ethnic divide? All their so-called post-war reconciliation efforts were a total failure. Had there been a fundamental political shift, they could have built our economy very differently. We wouldn't be here today."



FROM PAGE ONE

Anger rages against Agnipath in many States

Farmer unions in Haryana – Bharatiya Kisan Union (Chauri) and the State unit of the All-India Kisan Sabha – also announced support to the armed forces aspirants' demand for the withdrawal of the Agnipath scheme.

House attacked

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi, whose house in Bettiah was vandalised by protesters, said: "The large-scale violence and arson is a handiwork of goons instigated by the Opposition parties, otherwise what else explains the targeted attack on BJP leaders?" In neighbouring district of east Champaran, BJP MLA Vinay Bahari's car was attacked but the driver and the MLA escaped unhurt.

At least three trains stationed at Danapur near Patna were set on fire along with over two dozen vehicles. Incidents of violence by protesting aspirants came from Bhagalpur, Sul-tanganj, Munger, Khagaria, Aurangabad, Lakhisarai, Gaya, Bihta, Fatuah (in Patna district). Movement of several trains and vehicles on national highways got affected in these districts due to violent protests. The protesting aspirants also at-

tacked and set the BJP office in Madhepura on fire.

The All India Kisan Sabha and the All India Agriculture Workers Union have decided to observe June 21 as protest day against Agnipath. "Historically, youth from the peasant families constitute a major chunk of soldiers in the armed forces. This connection between the peasantry and the armed forces was evident in the open and subtle support expressed by several serving and retired armed personnel to the historic farmers' struggle against the draconian farm laws," said AIKS leaders Hannan Mollah and Ashok Dhawale in a statement. The AITUC, CITU and the HMS issued separate statements condemning the Centre's move. Various students and youth federations too held joint protests in Delhi.

The Railways said 94 mail and express trains and 140 passenger trains have been cancelled due to the protests and 65 mail and express, and 30 passenger trains were partially cancelled. "Eleven mail and express trains have been diverted. The total number of trains affected so far stands at 340," an official said.

Plea for IP rights waiver for COVID jabs hits a wall

While some wording in the text "mitigated some of the most worrisome elements" of a draft text presented in May 2022, the latest agreement failed overall to offer an effective and meaningful solution to help increase people's access to needed medical tools during the pandemic, as it did not adequately waive intellectual property on all essential COVID-19 medical tools, and did not apply to all countries, the MSF said in a statement.

The measures outlined in the decision will not address pharmaceutical monopolies or ensure affordable access to lifesaving

medical tools and will set a negative precedent for future global health crises and pandemics, their statement underlined.

Earlier Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, who led the Indian delegation at the talks, had also publicly expressed disappointment. "Some of the countries who are opposing this, in a way, they have almost clearly hinted and indicated that IP rights are extremely important. We are flowing with the wind only because of the international pressure, but on diagnostics and therapeutics there is no way we are going to yield," he said.

China opposes labelling LeT convict a terrorist

Asked if the refusal to designate the LeT deputy chief would further strain India-China ties, Mr. Wang said China hoped that "India and China can work together and promote the relations to be more sound and stable", without elaborating on the question.

On how the action squared up with the BRICS NSA meeting hosted by Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi on Wednesday, which committed to closer cooperation on combating terrorism, Mr. Wang said he had already shared China's position quite clearly, adding, "I won't go back to that".

At the BRICS NSA meeting, Ajit Doval had specifically raised the need to cooperate on fighting terrorism "without reservations".

Waiting till last day

China's "technical hold" on adding Makki's name to the UNSC list could hold up the process for up to six months, after which a new proposal would have to be introduced to designate him. The proposal to list Makki under the UN Security Council sanctions regime was circulated to all the members of the UNSC's 1267 Committee under a "no-objection procedure" on June 1 with a deadline of 16 June, the sources said, indicating that China waited until the last possible day to raise objections to the listing.

According to the UNSC resolution on designating terrorists linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, a designated terrorist cannot access funds, buy weapons or travel outside the jurisdiction. Pakistan has been held

on the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force for several years, including most recently since June 2018, for its failure to effectively prosecute and convict terrorists on the UNSC list, as it is obliged to.

Makki, who is the brother-in-law of LeT chief and convicted mastermind of the Mumbai 26/11 attacks Hafiz Saeed, is wanted for a number of cases of terrorism and terror-financing in India, and has been designated a wanted terrorist by the government.

The sources said he held a "leadership position" when the LeT carried out the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack in 2008, the Red Fort Attack on 22 December, 2000, as well as several attacks on security force personnel in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years.

He was arrested on terror financing charges by the Pakistani police in 2019, and convicted and sentenced to nine years in prison by a court in April 2021 along with other senior LeT/JuD leaders. However, later in the year, the men were but was acquitted by the Lahore High Court that cited lack of evidence presented by the prosecution.

Makki has also been on the U.S.'s list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists since 2010, and the U.S. announced a reward of up to \$2 million for information that would help convict him in its "Rewards for Justice Program", specifically castigating the "Pakistani judicial system [that] has released convicted LeT leaders and operatives in the past".

(With inputs from Ananth Krishnan)

Pak. may get off FATF 'grey list' after on-site check

Continued political commitment to combating terror financing, money laundering has led to significant progress: watchdog

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pakistan on Friday got a reprieve from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as the international watchdog announced that the country could be removed from the "grey list" after a visit by a fact-finding team to verify the measures it has taken to deal with terror financing. FATF noted Pakistan's claims of actions to curb terror funding.

The Hindu had earlier reported that Islamabad was confident of a positive outcome from the current FATF Plenary as it believed, it had "completed" the list of tasks that were assigned to it by the global body.

According to sources aware of the process, Pakistan would formally be taken off the "grey list" in October. They said the process really kicked off after the meeting between U.S. Secretary of



On the agenda: Money laundering and terrorist financing issues were discussed at the FATF plenary held in Berlin on Friday. ©@FATFNEWS/TWITTER

State Antony Blinken and Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto at the UN in May.

India's stance

Subsequently, most Western nations and China, who are members of the FATF working group, cleared Pakistan's case at an emergency internal meeting.

As the decision was by consensus, India was not asked to vote on the decision, but New Delhi has been sceptical of Pakistan's commitment to completely end terror safe havens in the country. Officials also pointed to Jammu and Kashmir where, they said, infiltration continued and "small arms

and IEDs" were being pushed across the LoC. Agencies were preparing for an "increased threat" in the next few months, the officials added.

"Pakistan continued its relentless efforts towards successful completion of these Action Plans despite many challenges including the CO-

VID-19 pandemic," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan said in a statement after FATF announced a favourable observation about Pakistan's actions.

Officials had told The Hindu that Pakistan received support from the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in getting itself out of the "grey list". Pakistan was brought back on the "grey list" in 2018 which allowed the country to be monitored closely by FATF.

The Ministry said, "Pakistan has covered a lot of ground in the AML/CFT [anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism and proliferation] domain during implementation of FATF Action Plans. The engagement with FATF has led to the development of a strong AML/CFT framework in Pakistan and resulted in improving our systems

to cope with future challenges."

Marcus Pleyer, the President of FATF,

said an on-site inspection by the watchdog in Pakistan would take place before October, and that a formal announcement on Pakistan's removal would follow. He said FATF was praising Islamabad for implementing the organisation's action plans – a clear indication that Pakistan is moving closer to getting off the "grey list".

"Pakistan's continued political commitment to combating both terrorist financing and money laundering has led to significant progress," FATF said in a statement. The country's efforts were sustained, it said and added that Pakistan's "necessary political commitment remains in place to sustain implementation and improvement in the future."

(With agency inputs)

Sonia being treated for respiratory tract infection

She had tested COVID positive recently

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Sharing a health update on Congress President Sonia Gandhi who is undergoing treatment at Sir Gangaram hospital, the Congress on June 17 informed that Ms. Gandhi is being currently treated for a fungal infection in the respiratory tract and underwent a nasal procedure.

In a statement, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary for communication, Jairam Ramesh said Ms. Gandhi is currently under observation for post-COVID symptoms.

"Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, on the afternoon of June 12, 2022 when she developed profuse bleeding

from the nose following a recent COVID infection. She was immediately put under treatment and underwent a related follow-up procedure yesterday morning," Mr. Ramesh said.

"A fungal infection in her lower respiratory tract was also detected upon admission. She is currently being treated for it along with other post-COVID symptoms. She continues to be under close observation and treatment," the statement added.

Ms. Gandhi, 75, too has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald. Ahead of her June 8, questioning, Ms. Gandhi tested COVID positive and asked for another date.

EC wants people to run from one seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Reviving a nearly two-decade-old proposal, the Election Commission has made a fresh push for amending law to bar people from contesting from more than one seat and has said that if it cannot be done, then a hefty fine should be imposed on those vacating one of the constituencies and forcing a bypoll.

In a recent interaction with the Legislative Secretary in the Law Ministry, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar made this push for the reform first proposed in 2004. As electoral law stands today, a candidate is permitted to contest an election from two different constituencies in an election.

54% of income of eight parties went to BJP, says ADR report

Out of the total ₹1,373.78 crore income, BJP had ₹752.33 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP continued to out-earn and out-spend all other national parties in 2020-2021, with 54% of the income of the eight national political parties going to the BJP, a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said on Friday.

The ADR analysed the annual audited reports submitted to the Election Commission by the BJP, the Congress, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Trinamool Congress, the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Nationalist Congress Party and the National Peoples' Party.

Out of the total declared income of ₹1,373.78 crore,

the BJP had ₹752.33 crore, while the Congress was second with ₹285.76 crore, followed by the CPI(M) with ₹171.04 crore. The Trinamool Congress declared ₹74.41 crore in income, followed by the BSP (₹52.46 crore), the NCP (₹34.92 crore), the CPI (₹12.12 crore) and the National Peoples Party (₹69 lakh).

While the BJP spent 82% of its income, the Congress spent 73.14% of its earnings. The Trinamool Congress's expenditure was 78.10% over its earnings.

Primary source

The primary source of income for the BJP was voluntary contributions, while the Congress got the most of its

income from issuing coupons and the BSP from bank interest, the report said. The BJP spent the most of its total expenditure on "election/general propaganda" (₹421.01 crore); the Congress on "election expenditure"; and the NCP spent 84% of its total expenditure on "administration and general expenses".

The BJP, the Trinamool Congress and the Congress declared income from electoral bonds worth ₹22.38 crore, ₹42 crore and ₹10.07 crore respectively.

The ADR report observed that all the parties submitted their audit reports past the deadline, ranging from 59 days (the BSP) late to 201 days (the BJP).

president of women's wing Vanati Srinivasan, national spokesperson Sambit Patra and Assam unit vice-president Rajdeep Roy.

Hopeful of victory

According to sources, this management team will coordinate with all State units of the BJP and its allies for the presidential election and is also expected to guide its elected voting representatives on the voting process.

With numbers on its side, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance is expected to ensure the victory of its candidate in the Presidential election scheduled to be held on July 18 with results to be announced on July 21.



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday appointed Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as head of a 14-member "management team" for the upcoming Presidential election to coordinate with State units and allies for the same. This comes after the BJP empowered party president J.P. Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to reach out to political parties to consult on the poll.

BJP general secretaries Vinod Tawde and C.T. Ravi are the co-conveners of the team. Another general secretary, Tarun Chugh, is also part of the team, according to a release issued by the

CBI raids Gehlot's brother's premises

The Central agency is investigating a case linked to fertilizer export scam

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday conducted searches at multiple locations, including the premises of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasain Gehlot, in connection with an alleged fertilizer exports scam that caused a loss of ₹52.80 crore to the exchequer.

"The searches have been carried out in Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal, against 15 accused persons. They include private companies and its directors or proprietors," said a CBI official. Unknown officials of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, and Indian Potash Limited (IPL) are also under the scanner.

The CBI had earlier instituted a preliminary enquiry



Under the scanner: Agrasain Gehlot's farm house in Jodhpur under probe by ED officials in July 2020. ©FILE PHOTO

during which it found that Muriate of Potash (MOP), a restricted item, could be exported only with the prior permission of the Central government. The imported MOP is supplied by the IPL to farmers through its authorised dealers at subsidised rates, and the subsidy is

claimed from the government.

Concealed transaction

The agency came across evidence that MOP had allegedly been exported under the guise of feldspar powder/industrial salt to overseas buyers. In order to conceal

the transaction, fictitious purchases of feldspar powder/industrial salt through dealers in Rajasthan and Kolkata were shown by the accused.

During 2007-09, they conspired with unknown officials of the Central Board of Excise and Customs, and IPL to buy and export 24,003 metric tonne of MoP by declaring the consignments as that of industrial salt/feldspar powder.

In 2020, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had carried out searches in the same matter, following the legal action initiated by the Customs Department. It was alleged that Agrasain Gehlot – through his Jodhpur-based company Anupam Krishi – exported MOP at higher rates to countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam.

India backs China's plan for joint border activity

Solidarity-2023 to have all SCO nations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has supported an initiative by China to conduct a "joint border operation" in 2023 of all member countries of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) that includes Russia, Pakistan and Central Asian countries.

The border operation called 'Solidarity-2023' will be organised by China, a statement by the Border Security Force (BSF) said.

Exchanging information

The BSF hosted the 21st meeting of Experts' Group and Border Security Conference of SCO countries from June 15-17 that was attended by China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the

Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)-SCO.

The statement issued at the meeting said that the participants exchanged information reflecting assessments of the situation on the State borders of the SCO member states, trends and forecasts of its development.

"The results of the Joint Border Operation 'Solidarity-2019-2021' carried out in 2021 by the border services of the competent authorities of the SCO member states were discussed and highly appreciated. The plan for the preparation and conduct of the Joint Border Operation 'Friendship Border - 2022' this year was reviewed and approved," it said.

Presidential election is an ideological battle: Yechury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Presidential election is about saving India's secular democratic character and in the 75th year of India's Independence, it is a battle of Gandhi vs Godse, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said.

Speaking to The Hindu, he said that the Opposition might not have the numbers but this is an ideological fight and crucial because it precedes the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "It is an opportunity for the Opposition to send a message to the people of this country on what we stand for," Mr. Yechury said. Barring the 1977 election, every Presidential poll



Sitaram Yechury

has seen a contest between the Opposition and the ruling party.

And this is why the Left parties, he said, is supporting the candidature of former West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi. "He has a vast experience in public life and he represents an

ideology that stands in contrast to the ruling party's idea of India," he said.

Mr. Yechury said that it is unfortunate that political parties such as the TRS and the AAP did not participate in the joint Opposition meeting held on June 15, but added that ultimately the position of these parties viz-a-viz the Opposition will be decided on the basis of which bloc they vote for.

He accused the government of not taking the initiative to hold a dialogue on the Presidential candidate. Mr. Yechury dismissed the calls made by BJP president J.P. Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to the political parties.

BJP leaders, Army chief mount defence for Agnipath scheme

Both Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah emphasise upper age limit relaxation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid escalating protests and violence over the 'Agnipath' scheme which fundamentally revamped the recruitment of soldiers into the armed forces, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday that the one-time waiver, increasing the upper age limit of recruitment to 23 years for the first cycle, indicates that "the government cares for our youth."

Army Chief Gen. Manoj Pande told news agency ANI that training of first Agniveers will begin in December 2022 and active service will commence in the middle of 2023.

"The government has announced a one time upper age limit relaxation for the recruitment process through Agnipath scheme for 2022 to 23 years. The relaxation of age indicates that the government cares for our youth. Department of Military Affairs, MoD and Services are committed to commence the recruitment process at the earliest, we invite youth of our country to join Armed Forces and serve the nation through Agnipath," Mr. Singh said in a message.



This decision will provide an opportunity for many of our young, energetic and patriotic youth who, despite the COVID pandemic, were preparing to join the recruitment rallies, which couldn't be completed in the last two years due to COVID restrictions

GENERAL MANOJ PANDE
Army chief

age relaxation, Army Chief Gen. Manoj Pande said it will provide an opportunity for many youth who were preparing to join the recruitment rallies but were not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Late on Thursday evening, the government announced a decision to grant a one-time waiver, increasing the entry age of recruitment to 23 years, for the recruitment cycle of 2022 given that it was not possible to undertake recruitment during the coronavirus pandemic, the Indian Navy said.

"This decision will provide an opportunity for many of our young, energetic and patriotic youth who, despite the COVID pandemic, were preparing to join the recruitment rallies, which couldn't be completed in the last two years due to COVID restrictions," Gen. Pande in

a message released by the Army.

"The schedule of recruitment process will be announced shortly. We call upon our youth to avail this opportunity for joining the Indian Army as Agniveers," he further added.

The one-time waiver for age relaxation would facilitate entry of those youth who could not join the Armed Forces - Army, Navy or Air Force - due to temporary stoppage of recruitment during the coronavirus pandemic, the Indian Navy said.

"The Indian Navy is ready to welcome the first batch of Agniveers in our service, for which the recruitment process will start very soon. We call upon all young men and women of our country to join the Indian Navy as Agniveers and contribute to National security and nation

building," the Navy said in a statement.

Bright future: Shah
Meanwhile, in an attempt to allay the concerns of the protesters, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the decision to increase the upper age limit for joining in defence services through Agnipath scheme will benefit a large number of youth.

"The recruitment process in the Army was affected due to the corona pandemic for the last two years, so Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji has taken a sensitive decision, showing concern for the youth, to give them two years concession in the age limit from 21 years to 23 years in the first year of Agnipath scheme," Shah said in a tweet in Hindi.

A large number of youth will benefit by this decision. Through the Agnipath scheme, they will move forward in the service to the country and their bright future, he said. "I thank @narendramodi ji," he added. The government increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the Agnipath scheme to 23 years from 21 years for 2022 for the enrolment of soldiers into Army, Navy and Air Force.

Trade unions pledge support to stir

Government is attempting to 'contractualise' defence work, they say

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Central trade unions, farmers' organisations affiliated with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha and outfits of agriculture workers pledged support to the nationwide protests against the Agnipath scheme of recruitment in defence forces. The organisations equated the protests with farmers' struggle against the three farm laws and urged the Centre to withdraw Agnipath the way it repealed the three Acts. They have also decided to draft a joint strategy in support of the agita-

tions at national level.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions expressed serious concern and shock at the move for recruitment in armed forces of the country on fixed term contract without any provisions of pension. "Such a retrograde move is going to severely compromise as well as negatively affect the quality of employment and efficiency of our armed forces, militating against the country's security as a whole and also the quality of employment, determination and professionalism, much to the detri-

ment of our national interests," CITU general secretary Tapan Sen said.

All India Trade Union Congress general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said the string of policy decisions by the Narendra Modi government over the past eight years had put ordinary people to great sufferings. "The list is unending and the result is an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor, unbearable price rise, all time high unemployment and blatant lawlessness by the government itself using bulldozers against suspects,"

she said.

Harbhajan Singh Sidhu, General Secretary, Hind Mazdoor Sabha said such a scheme was being launched when the unemployment and inflation had reached their peak. "The decision is cruel joke on unemployed youth, another step to encourage a 'contractualisation' or precarious work. It will induct an ill-trained and ill-motivated soldier and will discharge a disappointed and unhappy youth, who would not be termed ex-serviceman and will not be given any benefits," he said.

On the draw



Cong. warns of scheme meeting fate of farm laws, demands roll back

Congress MPs spar on Twitter as Tewari supports new recruitment policy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid widespread protests against the Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces, the Congress on Friday demanded its immediate rollback and said that it is neither in country's interest nor security.

The party also demanded that the government convene either a special session of Parliament or an all-party meeting to discuss the armed forces recruitment issue and

build a bipartisan consensus on the matter.

Rajya Sabha member and party general secretary (organisation) K. C. Venugopal also wrote to the chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence to immediately convene a meeting and seek the opinion of defence experts on the issue.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters, party spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Deepinder Singh Hooda said



Erupting in fury: Protesters against Agnipath scheme block road near Patna on Friday. *PTI

the scheme should be rolled back immediately and a three-year age relaxation should be given for youth

who could not join the armed forces due to delays in recruitment.

"The government should

immediately roll back the Agnipath scheme. It is neither in favour of national security nor national interests and certainly not in favour of the country's youth," he told reporters at a press conference. Mr. Hooda also urged the protesters to be patient and not resort to violence and assured that the Congress would take up their cause.

"Don't make the same mistake as you (government) did during the farmers' agitation which saw the death of over 700 protesting farmers. Please withdraw the scheme immediately," Mr. Hooda

said, adding that the BJP gets fascinated by "imported schemes" without paying attention to Indian conditions.

In his letter to Jual Oram, Mr. Venugopal said, "There is a widespread anger among the youth with regard to this scheme, particularly due to its temporary nature, lack of pension and health care benefits." Mr. Venugopal said the scheme can damage long standing military traditions and there are apprehensions about the proposed six month training period to prepare a soldier.

The issue also saw Lok Sabha member Manish Te-

wari spar with his colleague Saptagiri Ulaka on social media after Mr. Ulaka pointed out that Mr. Tewari's opinion that weighs in favour of the new scheme should be seen as an individual opinion and not the Congress party's view.

"Dear @saptagiriulaka ji, You are valued colleague in Lok Sabha. However May I respectfully point out that when you may have been running around in your knickers my dear friend I was actively working for @INCIndia. I would request you to kindly refrain from these snide tweets," Mr. Tewari

tweeted in response to Mr. Ulaka.

Among other Opposition leaders, CPI general secretary D Raja tweeted, "We are witnessing our demographic dividend turning into a demographic disaster. Our youth is unemployed and restive. Modi Ji should understand this and stop forcing our youth on the 'Path of Fire!'"

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also condemned the decision of the Centre to implement the scheme to recruit youth into the defence forces, terming it as a retrogressive step.

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail: seec_bls@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. CCEEC-05/2022-23
No.2607 / Dt.08.06.2022

Nature of work :- Building Works
Number of works :- 06 (Ten) No Buildings
Amount put to Tender :- Rs.148.91 Lakh to Rs.312.49 Lakh
Class of Contractor :- "B" Class / "A" Class / "Special"
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal :- Dt.08.06.2022 at 10.00 AM
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal :- Dt.04.07.2022 up to 05.00 PM
Date of opening of bid :- Dt.05.06.2022 at 11.00 AM
Name & address of the Office inviting bid :- Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in".
All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.
Sd/- R.Rout, Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore
B-283: OMR-34026/11/0007/2223

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Ernakulam Junction

TENDER NOTICE NO. DCE-IL-CN-ERS-OT-02-2022 DATED:16.06.2022

Name of the work: Ernakulam Marshalling Yard-Proposed "L" Catwalk 325 m long at eastern side of pit line no.3-Balance work for drainage between Pit line no.3 & Rd-4
Tender Value: Rs. 45.82 lakhs
Completion Period: 2 months
Date of Opening: 11.07.2022 @ 15.00 hrs
Complete details & tender document will be available at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Dy. Chief Engineer, Con/Ernakulam Jn.
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Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for preparation of panel for engagement as Consultants on Contract basis with proven expertise. Details of service proposed, requisite qualification, experience, etc., are as in the document uploaded on the website link <https://www.niot.res.in>. Interested experts possessing the requirements in the said document may send proposal to the Director, National Institute of Ocean Technology on or before 30th June, 2022 subscribing the envelope with name of the post for which application is furnished.

Director

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE (NACS)
(MPEDA, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
ISO 9001-2015
D.No.70-1A-6/1, Vasireddy Vaari Street, Near Municipal High School, Ramanayya Peta, KAKINADA-533005, Ph: 0884-2350655, ISO 9001-2015

REQUIRES FOR MAHARASHTRA STATE

Name of the Post: Field Managers: 01 No
Qualification: B.F.Sc. or B.Sc in Biological Science preferably in Zoology / Aquaculture Fisheries with 2 years experience.

Last date for receiving applications through online is 2nd July 2022

Appointment is purely on contract basis.
Eligible candidates may apply online
For further details, please visit our website: www.nacsmpeda.org.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004
e-mail id : se_sicbam@yahoo.com

e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 08 / 2022-23

1. Type of Work : Flood Control Works.
2. Total No. of Works : 03 (Three) Nos.
3. Amount put to Tender : Rs.610.70 lakh to 208.96 lakhs
4. Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven) to 17 (Seventeen) Calendar months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE,RBB,(BEID)-09/2022-23	610.70	From 21.06.2022, 10.00 AM to 05.07.2022, 5.00 PM
	ACE,RBB,(BEID)-10/2022-23	495.55	
	ACE,RBB,(BEID)-11/2022-23	208.96	

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 06.07.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur
OIPR-32411/11/0012/2223

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore

Tender Notice No. E-CN-MDU-EOT2-RT-2022-23 DATED:15.06.2022

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Dy Chief Elec Engineer/Gen/Cons/S. Rly/Egmore, Chennai - 600008 invites E-Tender for the following work:

Name of work: Madurai - Bodinayakanur - Gauge Conversion work - I) Electrification and Power supply arrangements to newly proposed Goods Platform, Goods shed and Other Service Buildings at TENI Railway Station; ii) Electrification and Power supply arrangements to proposed Running Room, Pump House, JE/AC office, TRP (RPF) Building and Type II Quarters at Bodinayakanur Railway Station; iii) Provision of Trilingual LED Signage Station Name board for Station buildings and Residential works in Station buildings, Approach road and LC gate lodges in Madurai - Bodinayakanur section-Works contract.

Tender Notice No. and Date: E-CN-MDU-EOT2-RT-2022-23 dt.15.06.2022

1. Period of completion: 12 Months
2. Approximate cost of work: Rs. 2,32,87,415.59
3. Cost of tender form: Nil
4. Earnest money deposited: Rs. 2,66,400
5. Tender closing date: 08.07.2022
Complete details can be seen www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Elec. Engineer General/Construction/Chennai
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

TNP&L TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, KARUR Dist. Tamil Nadu
Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
222313 001579	Procurement of Spreader Roll for Wire & Press PM #2	04.07.2022
222313 001580	Procurement of Imported Burnt Lime for production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate by OMYA	04.07.2022
222313 001619	Enlistment of Vendors for supply of Sulphuric Acid, Sulphur dioxide and Ortho Phosphoric Acid	05.07.2022

Email: 222313001579 - purchase.imp@tnpl.co.in
222313001580 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in
222313001619 - purchase.rawmat@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNP&L Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com, www.tenders.tn.gov.in.
DIPR/2853/Tender/2022 **TNP&L - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**
"செய்துள்ள வகத்து கருத்தினை அனைத்துமே, எடுத்துரைப்பதற்கு எந்திரிப்பும் பண்புமே."

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

RECRUITMENT OF JUNIOR COURT ASSISTANT

Online applications from eligible candidates are invited for the post of Junior Court Assistant (Group 'B', Non- Gazetted Post) placed in Level 6 of Pay Matrix with initial Basic Pay of Rs. 35,400/-. The approximate Gross Salary as per existing rate of allowance including HRA comes to Rs. 63,068/- per month (pre-revised pay scale PB-2 with Grade Pay of Rs. 4200/-). The details about eligibility conditions etc. can be downloaded from Supreme Court Website www.sci.gov.in.

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 18.06.2022
(Deepak Jain)
Registrar (Recruitment)

CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)
(Scientific Society under Min. of Electronic & Information Technology)
Govt. of India, Panchwati, Pune - 411 008

Advertisement No. 002/2022

C-MET invites online applications from Indian nationals possessing excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the following Group A posts in its Laboratories at Pune, Hyderabad and Thrissur on Direct Recruitment /Transfer (Absorption)/Deputation basis :-

Sl. No.	Name of Post & PML	No of posts	Reservation	Mode	Upper Age Limit#
1.	Scientist 'E' PML -13	01	UR	DR/ToA	50
2.	Scientist 'D' PML -12	02	01-UR, 01-OBC (NCL)	DR/ToA	45
3.	Scientist 'B' PML -10	04	02-UR, 01-ST 01-OBC(NCL), (including 1 post for PwBD)	DR	35
4.	Senior Finance Officer PML -11	01	UR	DR/ToA/ Deputation	45
5.	Finance Officer* PML -10	01	OBC (NCL) Reserved for PwBD	DR/ Absorption/ Deputation	35

* Pending approval of GC. # Relaxation as per Govt norms

Last date for receipt of online applications: 5 PM, 15.07.2022
Visit www.cmet.gov.in or www.parikshaworld.com for detailed advertisement.
Sd/- Registrar

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA
At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladevjeev, Email : erwsskendrapara@gmail.com
Identification No.RWS/103/2021-2022
Letter No. 4352/Dated 13/06/22
8th Corrigendum

This corrigendum has been made for the NIT-103 invited online vide this office letter No. 1518 / Dated. 04.03.2022 with date for selling, closing, clarification and opening which was on dt.20.06.2022 (selling date), 05.07.2022 (closing date), 22.06.2022 (clarification date) 06.07.2022 (opening date) as per 7th corrigendum will remain valid. But there is need of correction for Estimated Cost of Tender as follows.

Sl No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Approx.) Rs. In Lakhs	EMD to be deposited online	Class of Bidder	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of completion
1.	Execution of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to Parakula and Jamapada, on dubbed up mode under Marshaghai Block in the District of Kendrapara. (JJM Funds)	₹ 339.44	Nil	"A" and "Special"	Rs. 10000	360 days
2	Execution of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to Kharianta of Mahakalapada and Pakshyot of Marshaghai, on dubbed up mode in the District of Kendrapara. (JJM Funds)	₹ 284.30	Nil	"B" & "A"	Rs. 10000	330 days

(Er.B.K.Nayak) Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara
OIPR-25004/11/0061/2223

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
Phone: 0471-2314288. E-Mail: dcoidb@gmail.com
Website: www.travancoredevaswombd.org

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD INVITES E-TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF:

Dry Rice, Raw Rice, Jaggery Powder, Sugar Candy, Black Raisins, Cardamom, Dry Ginger, Cumin seed, Buttery Paper Bag, Pure Ghee, Ghee Pouch, Carton Box, BOP Tape, Composite Cans, Easy Open Lids at Sabarimala & Green Gram Dal, Beaten Rice at Pamba in connection with the festival period 1198 ME (2022-2023) of Sree Dharmasastha Temple, Sabarimala.

E-Tender Closing Date : 04-07-2022 - 05.00 PM
E-Tender Opening Date : 06-07-2022 - 11.00 AM

Venue : Office of The Commissioner, Travancore Devaswom Board, Thiruvananthapuram
Detailed e-tender notifications and special instructions to the bidders are available on www.travancoredevaswombd.org
For the submission of tender visit the website : www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

ROC NO : 4/22/Sab. Sd/- DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER
Dated : 16-06-2022 (For and behalf of Travancore Devaswom Board)

IN BRIEF



Mumbai police in Delhi to serve summons to Nupur

MUMBAI A Mumbai police team is in Delhi in connection with the probe against now suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma for alleged objectionable comments against Prophet Muhammed, an official said on Friday. She has been summoned to appear before Pwdhonia police on June 25 for recording her statement, the official added. PTI

Highest single-day rainfall in Mawsynram

GUWAHATI Mawsynram in Meghalaya on Friday recorded 1,003.6 mm of rainfall, the highest single-day precipitation ever in June, the Guwahati-based Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) said. Cherrapunjee experienced the third highest rainfall for a 24-hour period in June. The two places together are the rainiest places on earth.

6 religious leaders from Bangladesh blacklisted

GUWAHATI Six religious leaders and a singer from Bangladesh have been blacklisted in India for engaging in "objectionable activities" in Assam and elsewhere in the country. Their visas had also been cancelled after the Assam government took up their issue with the Centre citing intelligence reports, officials here said.

AIWC issues apology to Gorkha community

GUWAHATI The All India Women Conference (AIWC) has issued an unconditional apology to the Gorkha community for an objectionable comment by one of its members about the community. The Bharatiya Gorkha Parishad accepted the apology note and withdrew its decision to take any legal action against the AIWC.

Pakistan to release 20 Indian fishermen

AHMEDABAD As many as 20 fishermen from Gujarat, who had been captured at sea by Pakistan in the past, will be released and handed over to the Indian authorities on June 20, a state government official said on Friday. These fishermen will be brought to Gujarat following their release, State Director of Fisheries, Nitin Sangwan, said. PTI

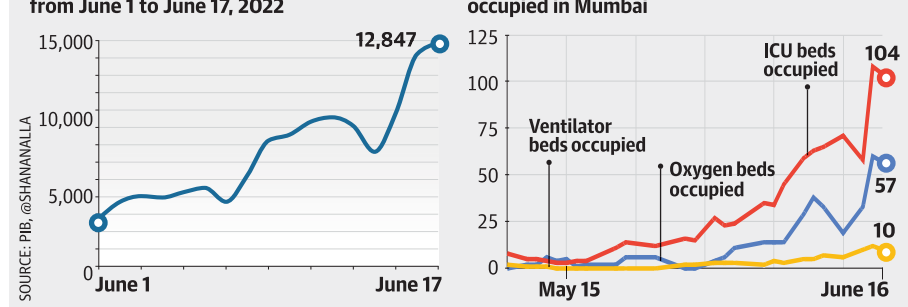
ED conducts raids against Satyendra Jain in NCR

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate is conducting raids at multiple locations in the National Capital Region (NCR) in connection with a money laundering probe against Delhi Minister Satyendra Jain and his associates, officials said on Friday morning. At least 10 residential and business locations are being covered by the ED. PTI

Rising worry | With 12,847 COVID-19 infections being reported in India on Friday, the case count stayed above the 12,000 mark for the second day in a row. With this, the number of active cases has increased to 63,063, while 14 fresh fatalities were also reported, according to the Union Health Ministry data. Maharashtra (20,631) has the highest number of active cases followed by Kerala (19,809)



Cautious approach: Street vendor selling face masks outside of a hospital in Lucknow. • SANDEEP SAXENA



Won't allow migration of minorities in J&K: Rajnath

'People should maintain social fabric'

PEERZADA ASHIQ
JAMMU

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who concluded his two-day visit of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, said no forcible migration of minorities would be allowed any more and hinted at Assembly election by 2022-end in the Union Territory. "We have witnessed a migration of minorities in the past. Whether Hindus or Christians, such forcible migration won't be allowed at any cost now," Mr. Singh.

Mr. Singh blamed Pakistan for the recent targeted killings in Kashmir, which have left nine persons dead, including members of the minority communities and non-locals. "Our neighbour is playing a crucial role in sowing the seed of hatred here. From the tribal raid of 1947-48 to the recent targeted killings, these are all foreign conspiracies. We need

to defeat this conspiracy. The future of J&K has to be shaped by its people. The neighbouring country cannot digest the fact that India is rising," he said.

Without mentioning any role of regional Muslim leaders in J&K, Mr. Singh said, "The rulers from Ranjit Singh to Gulab Singh and Prem Nath Dogra worked for unity of people in J&K. They are the role models under whom Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists worked together."

The Union Defence minister appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir "to maintain multi-cultural fabric". "I appeal to people to maintain the social fabric and think above the religious lines. There are forces who are trying to damage the fabric and make efforts to radicalise locals," Mr. Singh said.

Floods, landslips kill 20 in Assam, Meghalaya; death toll reaches 88

Vital stretches of roads, several bridges washed away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A series of landslips killed at least 13 people across three districts of Meghalaya on Friday, while seven people were killed due to floods in Assam, taking the death toll due to rain across the north-eastern States to 88.

Meghalaya CM Conrad K. Sangma took to Twitter to mourn the death of seven people in East Khasi Hills district's Mawsynram block and two others, including a Border Security Force jawan, in South West Khasi Hills district.

This followed the death of four people in two separate incidents of landslips in South Garo Hills. While three of a family, including a minor, were buried alive in district headquarters Bagmara, a woman was killed in the Siju area. "Four regional commit-

Covaxin shows robust safety in 2-18 age group: Bharat Biotech

'374 adverse events were reported and most of them were mild in nature'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL), on Friday, announced that COVID-vaccine Covaxin (BBV152) has proven to be safe, well-tolerated, and highly immunogenic in paediatric subjects in phase II/III study. The study, according to the company, has been accepted and published in *Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

The company, in its press release, said that Bharat Biotech had conducted phase II/III, open-label, and multi-centre study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity, and immunogenicity of Covaxin in healthy children in 2-18 years of age group. "The clinical trial conducted in the paediatric population between June 2021



Bharat Biotech has a stockpile of over 50 million Covaxin doses ready to be distributed. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

and September 2021 has shown safety, less reactogenic, and robust immunogenicity. The data was submitted to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) during October 2021, and received a nod for emergency use in children aged 6-18 years," said the release.

Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Biotech, said, "Safety of the vaccine is critical for children. Covaxin has now proven data for safety and immunogenicity in children. We have now achieved our goal of developing a safe and efficacious COVID-19 vaccine for adults and children, for

primary immunisation and booster doses, making Covaxin a universal vaccine. It has proven to be a highly safe vaccine based on data from more than 50 million doses administered to children in India. Vaccines are a great preventive tool; the power of vaccines can only be harnessed if used prophylactically."

He added that in the study, no serious adverse event was reported. A total of 374 adverse events were reported, and the majority of adverse events were mild in nature and resolved within a day.

The release also stated that Bharat Biotech has a stockpile of more than 50 million doses of Covaxin ready to be distributed as required.

Soren case: SC refuses to pass interim orders

Court to take case after the holidays

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to pass any interim orders in an appeal by the Jharkhand government challenging a High Court decision upholding the maintainability of a plea seeking CBI probe against Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a money-laundering case.

A Vacation Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Hima Kohli prima facie said the Jharkhand High Court ought to decide the matter and the top court should not be asked to entertain the case in a piecemeal fashion.

However, the Vacation Bench said the case would be posted before an appropriate Bench of the Supreme Court after the holidays.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the State government, said the case was politically motivat-



Hemant Soren

ed. The State had moved the top court in appeal against the High Court order upholding the maintainability of the PIL, petitions seeking investigation against Mr. Soren for alleged irregularities in granting mining leases and the transactions of shell companies said to be owned by his family members and close associates.

In its order on June 3, the High Court had concluded that the "writ petitions cannot be thrown away on the ground of maintainability".

ADP to be extended to block, city level: PM

'The programme will help develop districts'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Aspirational districts should be 'inspirational districts' of India, and the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) should be extended to block and city levels, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.

The ADP, launched in 2018, aims to transform 112 districts that have shown re-



Narendra Modi

latively lesser progress in key social areas.

"Lauding the success of the Aspirational Districts Programme, the Prime Minister said the government

should strive to make these the 'inspirational districts' of India and extend the programme to block and city levels," an official statement said on Thursday.

The Prime Minister was chairing a three-day national conference of chief secretaries at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The conference began on June 15.

The statement said the Prime Minister stressed that India's best, young officers should be posted to the aspirational districts to bring

about noticeable changes through their creative thinking and fresh ideas. The experience and learnings gained by them while working in these districts would be unparalleled and prove useful for the entire country, the statement said, quoting Mr. Modi.

Mr. Modi said that award-winning retired teachers could also be roped in for training teachers. He suggested that there could be a dedicated TV channel for teachers' training.

Modi to launch maternal nutrition scheme in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KEVADIA

On a two-day visit to Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday will launch a scheme on maternal nutrition in the State at an outlay of ₹800 crore.

Under the "Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana", pregnant and lactating mothers will be given 2 kg of chickpeas, 1 kg of tur dal and 1 kg of edible oil free of cost

every month from anganwadi centres in Gujarat. An estimated 1.36 lakh women will benefit from the scheme.

The Prime Minister will also disburse around ₹120 crore towards 'Poshan Sudha Yojana', which is now being extended to all tribal beneficiaries in the State. The scheme was being implemented as a pilot project in 10 talukas of five tribal-dominated districts and is now

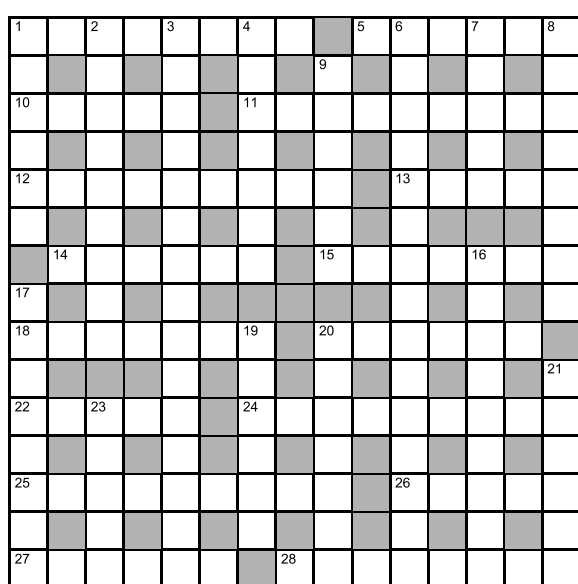
being expanded to 14 tribal-dominated districts. It offers one nutritious meal a day to pregnant and lactating women.

The schemes aim to intervene during the first 1,000 days of a child's life, which is the period from conception till the time the child turns two.

Their objective is to improve infant mortality and maternal mortality rates.

THE CROSSWORD + 13586
(set by Dr. X)

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



- 15 Celebrity, largely overwhelmed by depression, becoming aloof (7)
- 18 Vanquishment of most evil right-wing politician (7)
- 20 Industrial town containing commercial centre in Venice (6)
- 22 Wealthy husband leaves to acquire the Spanish artefact (5)
- 24 Doddering initially after drink on island, boyfriend gets stoned (9)
- 25 Esteemed head of nurses enthralled by a cute doc perhaps (9)
- 26 Bicycle has good saddle (5)
- 27 Dropping a tea tray nervously in convention (6)
- 28 Planned move pinning pawn back, thus ending in checkmate (8)

■ DOWN

- 1 Student abandons plan to take course showing lack of interest (6)
- 2 Son left immobile after drinking a rum cocktail - it's upsetting (9)
- 3 It's an offence by cheat to seduce essentially woolly female on date (8,2,5)
- 4 Consuming cocaine, went out animated (7)
- 6 Turning despondent, argue and become angry (3,4,6,2)
- 7 Losing head, yelled and had a row? (5)
- 8 Where food might be served easily (2,1,5)
- 9 Hurt by bad result (6)
- 16 Views bolt situated over patient's back (9)
- 17 Covers at ground? It's cloudy (8)
- 19 Agreed to restrict rent in Russian city (6)
- 20 Blame alcoholic drink, losing head quicker (7)
- 21 Learner lost, confused about number in part of a sum (6)
- 23 English philosopher in bar, starting to enlighten (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13585

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

All pervasive Tripurasundari

Abirami Bhattar praises Ambal as 'Muppurai.' The name is used because of various attributes of Ambal, said M.A. Manickavelu, in a discourse. She is present in the three fires - Ahvaneya, dakshina, gaarhapaty. She is in all three kinds of bodies - sthoola sareera (gross body), sookshma sareera (subtle body) and kaarana sareera (causal body). She is the force behind the qualities of sattva, rajasa and tamasa. She is in the three lights - Sun, Moon and Agni. She is in the three important aspects of Sri Chakra. She is present in the celestial region in this world and also in patala (netherworld). She is in all three nadis - ida, pingala and sushumna. Moondru in Tamil means three, and since Ambal is present in all these above-mentioned sets of three, Bhattar addresses Her as Muppurai.

He also extols Her as Tripurasundari for the same reason. She wears a copper ornament on Her breasts, says Bhattar. Her devotees are blemishless like pure gold. A jewel is made with an alloy of gold and copper. Her bhaktas, who have pure thoughts, are like pure gold, and through their bhakti, they reach Ambal. In verse five of his Abirami Andadi, Bhattar refers to Ambal as "Manonmani." This means that She is the One who purifies us, and gives us jnana. Manonmani is one of the Goddess' names in Lalitha Sahasranama. When Lord Siva consumed the Halahala poison, She put Her hand on His neck, and stopped the poison from doing any harm. Kumaragurupar in his Meenakshi Ammai Kuram says that Goddess Meenakshi converts poison into nectar. Ambal is present in all of us. Bhattar says Ambal is antari. In Sanskrit antariksha means sky. Ambal is present in the sky above, and so She is Antari. Lalitha Sahasranama refers to this aspect of the Goddess by praising Her as Parakasa.

EU backs Ukraine's 'European dream'

Zelensky thanks the bloc's leadership for their 'historic decision'; Russia cuts gas supplies to the West

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

Europe sent a powerful symbol of solidarity with Ukraine on Friday, when Brussels backed Kyiv's bid for EU candidate status, even as Russia shelled frontline Ukrainian cities and cut back gas supplies to the West.

With the European Commission's backing, Ukraine could now be added to the list of countries vying for EU membership as early as next week, when member state leaders meet at their Brussels summit.

In response, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that his country had "nothing against" Ukraine's possible membership of the EU. "We have nothing against it. It's their sovereign decision to join economic unions or not... It's their business, the business of the Ukrainian people," Mr. Putin told Russia's annual economic showcase,



Set in motion: Boris Johnson shaking hands with Volodymyr Zelensky prior to talks during his visit to Kyiv on Friday. • AFP

the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

All 27 EU leaders will have to agree to the candidacy, but the heads of the European Union's biggest members – France, Germany and Italy – already gave their full-throated support to the idea on Thursday, on a trip to a

war-torn suburb of Kyiv.

Then on Friday, the European Commission gave the executive's formal backing to the bid, and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen made her position clear by donning a striking jacket in Ukraine's national colours. "We all know that Ukrainians are

ready to die for the European perspective. We want them to live with us for the European dream."

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky immediately welcomed the decision as a "first step on the EU membership path that'll certainly bring our victory closer".

He thanked Ms. von der Leyen for the commission's "historic decision" and said he expected that EU leaders would give Ukraine a "positive result" at the June 23-24 summit.

Once Ukraine joins the EU candidates' list – alongside several countries in the western Balkans – it could still take years to meet all the formal membership requirements, even if Kyiv prevails in the war.

"Yes, Ukraine should be welcomed as a candidate country – this is based on the understanding that good work has been done but im-

portant work also remains to be done," Ms. von der Leyen said.

In the meantime, the fighting continues, with Russian forces bombarding Ukrainian pockets of resistance in frontline Severodonetsk, including civilians holed up in a chemical plant in the eastern Ukrainian city.

And Moscow turned up the pressure on the Western allies, sharply reducing flows of natural gas in its pipelines to Western Europe, driving up energy prices.

France's network provider said it had not received any Russian gas by pipeline from Germany since June 15, and Italy's Eni said it expected Russian firm Gazprom to cut its supplies by half on Friday.

Several European countries, are highly reliant upon Russian gas and, as the West sides with Ukraine, Moscow is cutting supplies.

U.K. govt. orders Assange's extradition; appeal planned

We are going to fight this, says the WikiLeaks founder's wife

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

The British government on Friday ordered the extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the U.S. to face spying charges, a milestone – but not the end – of a decade-long legal saga sparked by his website's publication of classified U.S. documents.

WikiLeaks said it would challenge the order, and Mr. Assange's lawyers have 14 days to lodge an appeal. "We're not at the end of the road here," said Mr. Assange's wife, Stella Assange. "We're going to fight this."

Mr. Assange has battled in British courts for years to avoid being sent to the U.S., where he faces 17 charges of espionage and one charge of computer misuse.

American prosecutors say the Australian citizen helped U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk.

To his supporters, Mr. Assange, 50, is a secrecy-bust-



Protracted battle: Julian Assange's lawyer Jennifer Robinson, left, and his wife Stella Moris in London on Friday. • REUTERS

ing journalist who exposed U.S. military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A British court ruled in April that Mr. Assange could be sent to face trial in the U.S., sending the case to the U.K. government for a decision. Britain's Interior Minister, Home Secretary Priti Patel, signed an order on Friday authorising Mr. Assange's extradition.

The Home Office said in a statement that the government had to approve his move to the U.S. because "the U.K. courts have not found that it would be oppressive, unjust or an abuse

of process to extradite Mr. Assange".

Barry Pollack, Mr. Assange's U.S. lawyer, said it was "disappointing news that should concern anyone who cares about the First Amendment and the right to publish."

Mr. Assange's lawyers said they would mount a new legal challenge, and legal experts say the case could take months or even years more to conclude. "We will appeal this all the way, if necessary to the European Court of Human Rights," Mr. Assange attorney Jennifer Robinson said.

5 mn Indians affected by disasters: UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS

Nearly five million people in India were internally displaced due to climate change and disasters in 2021, the United Nations has said in a report.

The annual Global Trends Report by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) highlighted that globally 100 million people were forced to flee their homes last year due to violence, human rights abuses, food insecurity, the climate crisis, war in Ukraine and other emergencies from Africa to Afghanistan.

"The largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021 occurred in China (6.0 million), the Philippines (5.7 million) and India (4.9 million)," it said.

The majority of the internally displaced persons returned to their home areas, but 5.9 million people worldwide remained displaced, the report said.

Biden hosts climate summit overshadowed by fuel costs

Russia to give meeting a miss, India not on list of attendees

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden hosts a virtual summit of major economies on Friday attempting to tackle climate change just as fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine underlies the globe's reliance on fossil fuels.

This is Mr. Biden's third convening of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate since he took office in 2021 with a vow to make the United States a leader in the world's attempt to halt catastrophic global warming.

"This meeting of the MEF is a continuation of the President's efforts to use all levers to tackle the global climate crisis, urgently address rising costs around the world exacerbated by Russia's war on Ukraine, and put the U.S. and allies on a path to long-term energy and food security," the White House said.



Joe Biden

"In urging countries to enhance climate ambition, he invited fellow leaders to join the United States in a set of concrete, collective initiatives that will accelerate global action on climate."

A senior Biden administration official said 23 countries would be represented at the video conference, representing most of the world's major economies and "focused around the mitigation that they will be taking" on climate impacts.

Friday's gathering will be the largest leader-level gathering before COP27, the follow-up summit, set to take place in Egypt this November.

No Xi's presence But Russia will not be attending Friday's summit.

China will be represented only at the level of its climate envoy, rather than President Xi Jinping, the White House said. And India is not on the official list of attendees, either.

For Mr. Biden, the push to move the world away from fossil fuels comes also at an awkward domestic political moment.

Western sanctions aimed at crippling major energy producer Russia have helped send fuel costs sharply higher in Europe and the United States, with inflation generally soaring as a result.

2 mn stranded in Bangladesh due to floods

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYLHET

Bangladesh has deployed troops to help two million people stranded by floods after relentless monsoon rains inundated huge swathes of territory for the second time in weeks.

Much of the country's northeast is underwater and the situation could worsen over the weekend with more heavy rains forecast.

Authorities suspended imminent high school graduation tests across the country, with hundreds of classrooms now being used as makeshift shelters.

China gets its third aircraft carrier

Technology onboard includes electromagnetic catapults to launch jets off deck

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI

China on Friday launched its biggest and most modern aircraft carrier, marking a major military advance for the Asian superpower.

The announcement comes at a time of heightened tensions between China and the United States over Beijing's sabre-rattling towards Taiwan, which it views as a breakaway province to be seized by force if necessary.

China's carrier development programme is part of a massive overhaul of the People's Liberation Army under President Xi Jinping, who has vowed to build a "fully modern" force to rival the U.S. military by 2027.



Growing fleet: The launch ceremony of the PLA aircraft carrier Fujian at a shipyard in Shanghai on Friday. • AFP

The new carrier, named *Fujian*, is the "first catapult aircraft carrier wholly designed and built by China", said state broadcaster CCTV.

It has significantly more advanced technology than China's two other carriers,

including electromagnetic catapults to launch aircraft off its deck, the official *Xinhua* news agency reported. The other carriers use a ski-jump-style ramp for takeoffs.

And with a displacement

of more than 80,000 tonnes, according to *Xinhua*, it is comparable in size to the supercarriers of the United States Navy.

Collin Koh, a research fellow at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, said it could be a "game changer" for the Chinese navy. "The conventional flight deck with (electromagnetic catapults) will at least in theory allow the carrier to launch aircraft faster and with heavier payloads – which constitute key deciding factors during battle," he said.

It will take years before the *Fujian* becomes operational. Authorities have not said when it will enter service.

U.S. approves vaccines for its youngest lot

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted emergency authorisation on Friday for the use of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines in the youngest children, the final age group awaiting immunisation in most countries.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must now also recommend the vaccines before they are put into use – a final green light that will be given after a meeting of a committee of experts expected to be held shortly.

3 killed in Israeli raid in West Bank, says Palestine

Traded fire with militants, insists Israel

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Israeli forces shot dead three Palestinians and wounded eight others on early Friday during a military operation in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The military said the troops traded fire with militants.

The Israeli military has been carrying out near-daily raids in the occupied West Bank since a string of attacks earlier this year killed 19 persons in Israel. Many of the arrest raids have been

launched in and around Jenin, the hometown of several of the attackers.

The military said it raided two locations in search of weapons. At the first, it says soldiers fired back after Palestinians opened fire and hurled explosive devices at them. On their way to the second location, they exchanged fire with Palestinian gunmen in a vehicle.

The military did not say whether any of the militants were killed. It said the troops confiscated rifles, and other equipment from inside the vehicle.

Saudi Prince to visit Turkey next week

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISTANBUL

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will visit Turkey next week, the Turkish president said on Friday, as Ankara and Riyadh heal a bitter rift following the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul.

It is Prince Mohammed's first visit to Turkey since the brutal killing of Saudi insider-turned-critic Khashoggi inside the kingdom's consulate, which shocked the world and dealt a blow to ties between the regional rivals.

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MARKET WATCH

	17-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	51,360	-0.26
US Dollar	78.05	0.06
Gold	50,802	0.39
Brent oil	114.15	-4.48

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	668.95	-12.75
Apollo Hosp	3701.25	37.60
Asian Paints	2580.20	-77.25
Axis Bank	635.20	0.30
Bajaj Auto	3628.95	-29.25
Bajaj Finserv	11754.85	282.95
Bajaj Finance	5419.55	135.65
Bharti Airtel	643.65	-10.55
BPLCL	301.00	-10.65
Britannia Ind	3332.10	-58.30
Cipla	914.75	-26.20
Coal India	182.65	2.75
Divis Lab	3481.95	-82.95
Dr Reddys Lab	4146.70	-140.80
Eicher Motors	2604.80	-47.70
Grasim Ind	1290.05	5.00
HDFC Tech	958.75	-6.20
HDFC	2052.70	-3.80
HDFC Bank	1289.75	8.45
HDFC Life	550.80	-19.75
Hero MotoCorp	2467.40	-51.65
Hindalco	333.70	-2.40
Hind Unilever	2110.45	-36.25
ICI Bank	686.85	8.35
IndusInd Bank	806.90	-2.70
Infosys	1387.30	-9.90
ITC	263.30	2.60
JSW Steel	554.60	8.75
Kotak Bank	1673.60	-2.20
L&T	1489.95	-37.45
M&M	997.65	-7.60
Maruti Suzuki	7688.15	-145.45
Nestle India Ltd.	16642.40	-231.60
NTPC	140.45	-2.50
ONGC	141.45	-2.10
PowerGrid Corp	211.35	-5.00
Reliance Ind	2590.00	30.00
SBI Life	1082.10	-23.05
State Bank	441.00	-0.60
Shree Cement	18045.75	-666.10
Sun Pharma	793.40	-21.20
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	711.65	-13.30
Tata Motors	388.95	-4.00
Tata Steel	906.70	5.00
TCS	3088.90	-53.10
Tech Mahindra	965.05	-10.25
Titan	1936.45	-124.50
UltraTech Cement	5177.30	-127.95
UPL	665.15	-18.50
Wipro	405.20	-17.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.87	78.19
Euro	81.89	82.23
British Pound	95.75	96.15
Japanese Yen (100)	57.97	58.22
Chinese Yuan	11.61	11.67
Swiss Franc	80.74	81.07
Singapore Dollar	56.18	56.42
Canadian Dollar	59.97	60.24
Malaysian Ringgit	17.68	17.79
Australian Dollar	54.46	54.69

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



HDFC Life to raise up to ₹350 cr. debt capital

NEW DELHI
HDFC Life Insurance Company on Friday said it will raise debt capital of up to ₹350 crore by issuing bonds on a private placement basis. The board's Capital Raising Committee approved a proposal for raising up to ₹350 crore through issuance of 3,500 non-convertible debentures, HDFC Life said in a regulatory filing. PTI

Govt. prices sovereign gold bond at ₹5,091/gm

MUMBAI
The issue price of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2022-23 Series I has been fixed at ₹5,091 per gram of gold of 999 purity. The issue will be open for subscription during June 20-24. "The nominal value of the bond, based on the simple average closing price for gold of 999 purity of the last three business days of the week preceding the subscription period, works out to ₹5,091 per gram of gold," the RBI said in a statement.

RBI is not behind the curve: Das

'Premature focus on inflation target would have been disastrous for economy'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday refuted criticism of the RBI being behind the curve in its policies, making it clear that the consequences of focusing on the 4% inflation target would have been "disastrous" for the pandemic-hit economy.

In comments that came two days after former chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian co-authored an article blaming the RBI for acting late on inflation, Mr. Das said the central bank acted as per the evolving economic developments.

"Tolerance of a higher inflation during the pandemic was a necessity," Mr. Das said speaking at an event organised by the Financial Express.



Being mindful: RBI's flexible inflation targeting mandate requires it to take care of price rise and growth'. •REUTERS

He said the RBI switched into ultra-accommodation as soon as the country went into the lockdown and shifted focus to inflation two years later in April 2022, when it saw the GDP had exceeded the pre-pandemic level.

Despite its accommodative policies, the economy

contracted by 6.6% in FY21 and recovered to barely above the pre-pandemic levels in FY22, he said, stressing that a shift in policy management to focus on inflation even 3-4 months before April would not have been apt.

"We are very much in line with the requirements of our

time, the RBI has acted proactively and I would not agree with any perception or any sort of description that the RBI has fallen behind the curve," Mr. Das stressed.

He said the RBI's mandate is that of flexible inflation targeting where it is required to take care of both price rise and growth, especially in extraordinary situations.

"If we had been very firm in maintaining 4% (inflation) and kept the rates unduly high, I'm sorry, the consequences of that approach would have been disastrous for the economy.

"If we had attempted to keep... monetary policy tighter at that time, the economic damage that you would have caused" would have taken years for India to recover from, he observed.

Sensex falls a sixth day amid slowdown fears

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex declined for a sixth straight session on Friday as fears that global monetary tightening to tame inflation could stymie growth roiled financial markets worldwide.

The Sensex slid 0.26% to close at 51,360.42. Titan led losses slumping 6.06%, with Wipro (4.07%) and Dr. Reddy's (3.35%) among the losers.

"It was the worst week for our markets in the current calendar year," said Sameet Chavan, Chief Analyst-Technical and Derivatives, Angel One. "There has been no respite in macro factors globally and hence, markets continue to feel the heat," he added.

Govt. keen to keep capex growth supportive: CEA

'Focus is on preserving momentum'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The government is committed to ensure that capital expenditure will continue to support the economic growth momentum regained after the third COVID-19 wave, Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Friday.

"Given the ongoing sense of uncertainty among the private sector participants, both in banking and the non-banking world, the government is committed to making sure that capital expenditure continues (in) such a way that growth impulse that we have regained after the third wave is not surrendered," Mr. Nageswaran said while speaking at a banking event.



V. Anantha Nageswaran

"For the current financial year, if the government is able to execute the capital expenditure of ₹7.5 lakh crore, then that is the biggest real economic intervention," he emphasised.

"We are becoming inflation intolerant and that is important to stabilise inflation expectations," he said.

U.S. factory output in May unexpectedly weak

'Evidence of economy slowing'

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Production at U.S. factories unexpectedly fell in May, the latest sign of cooling economic activity as the Federal Reserve aggressively tightens monetary policy to tame inflation.

The first decline in manufacturing output since January, reported by the Fed on Friday, followed news this week of a drop in retail sales last month as well as steep declines in homebuilding and permits.

The weakness in production also reflects a shift in spending from goods to services. "It adds to the evidence that the economy is slowing," said Andrew Hunter, a senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics. "But

there is still little in activity data to suggest a recession is on the horizon, or to dissuade the Fed from pressing ahead with more aggressive policy tightening."

Manufacturing output dipped 0.1% last month after increasing 0.8% in April.

Manufacturing, which accounts for 12% of the U.S. economy, has been supported by strong demand for goods. But spending is gradually reverting back to services, while Russia's dragging war against Ukraine and China's zero-tolerance COVID-19 policy have further entangled supply chains.

GoM fails to concur on GST rationalisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A panel of state ministers on GST rate rationalisation on Friday failed to reach a consensus as some opposed changes to tax slabs and rates, sources said.

The Group of Ministers will, however, present a status report to the GST Council on the consensus arrived at the previous meeting of the GoM on November 20, 2021, the sources added.

The GoM will seek an extension to submit its final report, they said, adding issues of tax rates would also be raised in the upcoming Council meeting later this month. The council, chaired by the Finance Minister would meet on June 28 and 29 in Srinagar.

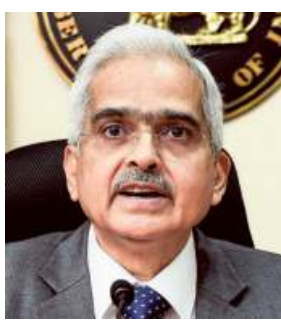
'Big Tech's financial services play may add to systemic risks'

Das flags lenders' increasing reliance on fintech platforms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The increasing role that large technology companies (Big Tech) are playing in the provision of financial services has the potential to accentuate systemic risks such as over-leverage, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday.

"Companies, whether from e-commerce, social media and search engine platforms, ride hailing and similar businesses have started to offer financial services in a big way on their own or on behalf of others," Mr. Das noted. "These companies have an enormous amount of customer data which has helped them to



Shaktikanta Das

offer tailored financial services to entities and individuals lacking credit history or collateral," he said in a speech at a banking industry meet, the text of which the RBI posted on its website.

Observing that banks and other lenders sometimes

utilised platforms provided by fintech companies in their internal processes for credit risk assessment, Mr. Das said: "Such large scale use of new methodologies in credit risk assessment can create systemic concerns like over-leverage, inadequate credit assessment".

"Big techs also pose concerns related to competition, data protection, data sharing and operational resilience of critical services in situations where banks and NBFCs utilise" their services, he added.

"Regulators have to strike a fine balance between enabling innovation and preventing systemic risks," the RBI Governor cautioned.

'Pick up in use of capacity, a sign of growth'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Dinesh Khara on Friday said the improvement in capacity utilisation to 74% from 69% shows that the economy is geared up for its natural growth.

He said among the large nations across the globe, India is one of the most stable economies in the current situation.

"The way the capacity utilisation has improved from 69% to 74%, and is inching upwards, it is a clear sign that the economy is poised for its natural growth," Mr. Khara said at a banking event.

On credit demand, Mr. Khara said retail and corporate sectors are both witnessing momentum.

'EVs to match petrol vehicle price in a year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The prices of all electric vehicles (EVs) will be equal to the cost of petrol vehicles in the country within one year, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

He further said the government is promoting ethanol produced from crop residue instead of petrol and diesel. "I am trying... within one year, the cost of electric vehicles will be equivalent to the cost of petrol vehicles and we will save money spent on fossil fuels," he said.

He said said the government was already promoting green fuels in a big way.

Mr. Gadkari noted that waterways are a cheaper mode of transportation than road and it is going to come up in a big way.

RBI unveils document focusing on e-payments

Aims to impart safe, affordable options

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India has come out with "Payments Vision 2025" with a core theme of 'E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Everytime' (4Es) with an objective to provide every user with safe, secure, fast, convenient, accessible and affordable e-payment options.

"It promises to further elevate India's payment systems towards a realm of empowering users with affordable payment options accessible anytime and anywhere with convenience," the RBI said in the vision document.

"Considering the current geopolitical developments across the world, the document also seeks to address the potential risks arising out of any adverse situation



that may arise," the banking regulator said.

"With the change/shift in customer behaviour towards embracing digital and touchless modes of payments, there is a spike of 50% in mobile banking users, indicating inclusion of first-time users into the digital fold.

"The challenge is to make this an irreversible shift," the central bank said in the vision document.

India said to impose ceiling on next season's sugar exports to check prices

'Curbs may lift benchmark white sugar prices already trading near 5-1/2 year highs'

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India is likely to impose a ceiling on sugar exports for a second straight year starting this October, aiming to ensure ample domestic supplies and keep a lid on local prices, industry and government sources said on Friday.

India, the world's biggest sugar producer, could cap exports of the sweetener at 6 million to 7 million tonnes (mt) in the 2022/23 October-September season, about one-third less than the total to be shipped out in the current season, industry and government sources said.

They asked not to be named as they were not authorised to speak to media. A government spokes-



man did not respond to a request for comment.

The curbs on exports by India, also the world's second-biggest sugar exporter, could further lift benchmark white sugar prices, which are already trading near 5-1/2 year highs, traders said.

Among factors underpinning global sugar prices this

year are lower sugar output in Brazil, the biggest exporter, and crude oil prices at multi-year highs. Higher crude oil prices encourage sugar mills to divert more cane to produce ethanol for blending into gasoline.

Brazil's sugar production is set to rebound during the current season, but with restricted exports from India, traders do not expect prices to come down and they instead could go higher.

"There is a need to regulate exports to avoid any kind of panic in the market," said a senior government official. While the sources expected next season's export cap to be set between 6 million and 7 million tonnes, the exact quantity will be

fixed near the start of the 2022/23 season, they said.

The government will look at the performance of the monsoon before fixing the quota, they added.

Monsoon rains in sugarcane growing areas of the western India State of Maharashtra, the biggest producer in the country, were 60% below average since the start of the rainy season on June 1, according to weather office.

Aditya Jhunjhunwala, president of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, has requested that the government allow mills to export 8 million tonnes of sugar next year, as output could exceed this year's record 36 million tonnes, according to a letter seen by Reuters.

Root carves his niche in the pantheon after an immortal 18 months

The Englishman's purple patch since January 2021 has lifted his standing among Test cricket's batting greats. He is now more than 2,000 runs clear of the other members of the Fab Four and on par with Tendulkar's tally at the same age



HOT STREAK | Root has scored 2,371 runs and 10 hundreds in the last 18 months. This has helped him open up a significant lead in runs over other members of the Fab Four, who have played fewer Tests; but while he averages more than Kohli currently, he is still behind Smith and Williamson

THE FAB FOUR ON JANUARY 1, 2021

	Tests	Innings	Runs	Ave	100s	50s
Steve Smith	75	135	7,237	61.33	26	29
Kane Williamson	82	143	6,877	52.90	23	32
Virat Kohli	87	147	7,318	53.41	27	23
Joe Root	97	177	7,823	47.99	17	49

THE FAB FOUR ON JUNE 15, 2022

	Tests	Innings	Runs	Ave	100s	50s
Steve Smith	85	151	8,010	59.77	27	36
Kane Williamson	87	152	7,289	52.81	24	33
Virat Kohli	101	171	8,043	49.95	27	28
Joe Root	119	220	10,194	49.97	27	53

ON COURSE? | Root got to 10,000 Test runs at 31, much like Tendulkar did. But the Indian did it in fewer innings with a higher average. Tendulkar played another 78 Tests after that point, scoring 5,844 runs, which gives a sense of the size of the task Root faces

TENDULKAR VS. ROOT AFTER THE TEST DURING WHICH THEY PASSED THE 10,000 MARK

	Age	Tests	Innings	Runs	Ave	100s
Sachin Tendulkar	31	122	196	10,077	57.58	34
Joe Root	31	118	218	10,015	49.57	26

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

Batters are forever judged against two elusive benchmarks. One is a staggering numerical yardstick: 99.94, Don Bradman's Test average. This is divine consistency marred by the mortal blemish of a meagre .06 percentage points. The other is a mystical aura that combines swagger, the disdainful emasculation of chewing gum and those rip-roaring shots deflating most bowlers, the kind that Vivian Richards exuded all through his career. The first yardstick is like the horizon, far and staying out of reach. The second gifts shock and awe in addition to a pathos-infused nostalgia about a past when men from the Caribbean ruled the cricketing world. Bradman's numbers and Richards' halo can never be replicated and all that the other batting greats could do was to carve their own niche through their respective statistics – runs scored, centuries etched and longevity at the crease. In that distinct space, Sachin Tendulkar reigns supreme: 200 Tests, 15,921 runs, 53.78 average and 51 hundreds. We are not even getting towards his ODI yield which is equally staggering.

At different points in the last decade, a few names were whispered as possible chal-

lengers to Mount Tendulkar. But most wilted in that final stretch, suddenly conscious about their age, waning reflexes, sore limbs and a mind that said it was time for the rocking chair. There was a time when South African Graeme Smith, especially during his prolific start, was seen as one of those who might chase down the Mumbaikar. Incidentally during those Smith-ruling-the-charts days, Tendulkar was in Bangalore as part of an Indian training camp. A television reporter, once the cameras and microphones were turned off, walked beside the maestro and picked his brains on Smith. Tendulkar appreciated the South African's dream-run and then said: "We need to see how he does in the next few seasons and then we can judge. He is a good batsman but we need to watch how he performs in the coming seasons." This wasn't a man speaking from envy, this was a legend talking from experience, acutely aware of the cyclical nature of form and conscious about the surprising way injuries could crop up in a sportsperson's life.

Challengers fade Smith eventually finished with 9,265 while Tendulkar's immediate contemporaries like Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis

and Rahul Dravid ended their act after crossing 13,000 runs. In the subsequent generation, Alastair Cook, based on his initial consistency and with fewer summers in his rear-view mirror, was deemed a challenger. But at 33 and with 12,472 Test runs, he bid adieu and is placed fifth in the all-time list. Now another Englishman has nudged fans to ask that question – could Mount Tendulkar be scaled? Root, in the middle of a Bradmanesque run, has suddenly steered clear of his other three middle-order challengers in the sweepstakes. His nimble ways at times remain unnoticed like a pickpocket hoodwinking passengers in a heaving bus. It is a contrast to the muscular look-at-me-ye-brethren aggro and angst that Virat Kohli exudes. Equally Root remains different from Kane Williamson's sense of the philosopher – who can forget his 'it is what it is' quip? And at the other end of the spectrum is Steve Smith whose batting style blends a maverick's exaggeration with cascading runs. The four present a varied combo, like the bouquet of choices that the famous 1980s gang of Richards, Allan Border, Javed Miandad, David Gower

and Dilip Vengsarkar offered through their middle-order heroics. At one point in the evolution of batting, Mount IOK was seen as this impossible peak until Sunil Gavaskar late-cut Ijaz Fakhri at a raucous old Motera Stadium at Ahmedabad in 1987. **Sportstar** ran out of its commemorative copies and had to go for a reprint. Gavaskar eventually got company and with the latest entrant Root, there are 14 batters occupying this exclusive club. **Batter-skipper dynamic** In his last 22 Tests, starting with the 228 against Sri Lanka at Galle during January 2021, Root the batter has largely held fort, while the skipper waned, especially after an Ashes defeat Down Under and another loss in the West Indies. As a willow-wielder there wasn't much to fault him about as he vacillated among the 30s, 50s and the big hundreds with two double tons to boot. Overall in these 22 games, he struck 10 tons and specifically in the last 10 innings, he crossed the three-figure mark on four occasions. This wasn't a case of a captain going down with the bat tucked behind. It was more about a skipper's shelf-life darting up with a terse reminder while the batter within him had no cobwebs to deal with. And while his relatively more acclaimed rivals like Kohli (8,043 runs), Smith (8,010) and Williamson (7,289) trail behind him, Root is now at 10,194, riding on a fine stint against the visiting Black Caps. Root may look relatively lean-

er than the other three but in those wiry limbs there is boundless energy and a battle-ready heart is always ticking. Even during those early days that involved a nasty pub brawl with David Warner, Root showed that he could stand up and counter. As a batter, he has scored on all surfaces across countries, adept against pace and spin. Most importantly like he showed recently against New Zealand at Lord's, he can handle the pressure of a tricky fourth innings chase. The result was a classy unbeaten 115 that helped new skipper Ben Stokes start on a winning note. **Shades of great** Cook said that Root was the 'most complete English batter' he has seen while Kevin Pietersen could play an incredible innings. Those remarks also hinted at the different strains of English batting. Be it Geoff Boycott's more famous obduracy that spawned varied followers, ranging from the acclaimed Cook to the forgotten Chris Tavare. Or the muscular style that marked Graham Gooch, Allan Lamb and Robin Smith. The constant poetry and frustration associated with the stylish Gower. Or the game-altering dynamics inherent in Pietersen, Stokes and earlier Ian Botham. England has seen diverse batters over the decades and to this

mix steps in Root, with his unique traits, ticking the scoreboard over and not averse to a cheeky remark, much akin to Miandad. He can drop anchor and Boycott once said Root reminds him of himself. Equally Root could reverse scoop a six as the New Zealand bowlers learnt. The right-hander did himself a good turn by relinquishing captaincy. Age is on his side but form, as earlier mentioned, is cyclical and cricket loves its cliched law of averages. England is more invested in Tests and he will get more avenues to score but Ashes jousts can be a drain when fortune looks the other way. Root is aware of this but for now he appears the most probable challenger to Tendulkar's Test runs. As comebacks go, this is as good as it gets and the hackneyed 'England strikes roots' might become a recurring headline. For now he is in the form of his life and like veteran scribe R. Mohan wrote about Vengsarkar's scorching runs in the mid-1980s, Root can now even score with a toothbrush! At 31 he is on par with what Tendulkar was at the same age in the Test arena. As for what lies ahead, it all depends on his form, fitness and above all the desire to stay the course, a trait that defined the great Tendulkar.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Daniil Medvedev	26	7,950	22
2	Alexander Zverev	25	7,075	20
3	Novak Djokovic	35	6,770	12
4	Rafael Nadal	36	6,525	10
5	Casper Ruud	23	5,050	27
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	23	4,945	24
7	Carlos Alcaraz	19	4,893	20
8	Andrey Rublev	24	4,125	26
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	21	3,895	26
10	Matteo Berrettini	26	3,570	18
11	Cameron Norrie	26	3,455	27
12	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,258	25
13	Jannik Sinner	20	3,185	28
14	Taylor Fritz	24	2,920	27
15	Denis Shapovalov	23	2,473	22



F1 Drivers' standings

#	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS	WINS
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	150	5
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull Racing	129	1
3	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	116	2
4	George Russell	Mercedes	99	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	83	0
6	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	62	0
7	Lando Norris	McLaren	50	0
8	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	40	0
9	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	31	0
10	Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	16	0
11	Fernando Alonso	Alpine	16	0
12	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	15	0
13	Daniel Ricciardo	McLaren	15	0
14	Sebastian Vettel	Aston Martin	13	0
15	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	11	0
16	Alex Albon	Williams	3	0
17	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	2	0
18	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	1	0
19	Mick Schumacher	Haas	0	0
20	Nico Hulkenberg	Aston Martin	0	0
21	Nicholas Latifi	Williams	0	0



Badminton Men's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Viktor Axelsen	119,806	39
2	Kento Momota	112,554	27
3	Anders Antonsen	98,300	37
4	Chou Tien Chen	93,776	38
5	Lee Zii Jia	90,378	42
6	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	87,879	36
7	Chen Long	84,400	18
8	Jonatan Christie	82,812	36
9	Loh Kean Yew	75,934	32
10	Lakshya Sen	75,874	40
11	K. Srikanth	72,481	43
12	Ng Ka Long Angus	70,257	35
13	Rasmus Gemke	69,151	37
14	Kanta Tsuneyama	67,848	32
15	Wang Tzu Wei	65,876	44



Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Joe Root	897	917
2	Marnus Labuschagne	892	936
3	Steve Smith	845	947
4	Babar Azam	815	815
5	Kane Williamson	798	919
6	Dimuth Karunaratne	772	781
7	Usman Khawaja	757	757
8	Rohit Sharma	754	813
9	Travis Head	744	773
10	Virat Kohli	742	937

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	901	914
2	Ravichandran Ashwin	850	904
3	Jasprit Bumrah	830	835
4	Shaheen Afridi	827	827
5	Kagiso Rabada	818	902
6	Kyle Jamieson	796	836
7	James Anderson	795	903
8	Neil Wagner	762	859
9	Trent Boult	753	825
10	Josh Hazlewood	752	863

Top Indians

Rank 166 ▲9 spots	Rank 278 ▲2 spots
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WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Iga Swiatek	21	8,631	17
2	Anett Kontaveit	26	4,511	21
3	Paula Badosa	24	4,245	25
4	Ons Jabeur	27	4,150	20
5	Aryna Sabalenka	24	4,145	21
6	Maria Sakkari	26	4,075	19
7	Karolina Pliskova	30	3,678	17
8	Jessica Pegula	28	3,255	19
9	Danielle Collins	28	3,255	19
10	Garbine Muguruza	28	3,060	19
11	Emma Raducanu	19	2,975	24
12	Daria Kasatkina	25	2,765	21
13	Coco Gauff	18	2,756	17
14	Barbora Krejickova	26	2,642	17
15	Leylah Fernandez	19	2,605	23

Top Indians

Rank 374 ▼11 spots	Rank 492 ▲25 spots
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F1 Constructors' standings

POS	TEAM	POINTS	WINS	PODIUMS
1	Red Bull	279	6	11
2	Ferrari	199	2	8
3	Mercedes	161	0	4
4	McLaren	65	0	1
5	Alpine	47	0	0
6	Alfa Romeo	41	0	0
7	AlphaTauri	27	0	0
8	Haas	15	0	0
9	Aston Martin	15	0	0
10	Williams	3	0	0



Top Indians

Rank 10	Rank 11
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Badminton Women's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Akane Yamaguchi	111,963	36
2	Tai Tzu Ying	109,845	23
3	An Se Young	103,603	44
4	Chen Yu Fei	103,456	27
5	Carolina Marin	100,380	22
6	Nozomi Okuhara	96,560	25
7	P.V. Sindhu	94,018	41
8	Ratchanok Intanon	87,549	37
9	He Bing Jiao	81,664	30
10	Pornpawee Chochoiwong	78,265	42
11	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	70,294	48
12	Michelle Li	70,130	39
13	Sayaka Takahashi	66,573	34
14	Wang Zhi Yi	64,678	27
15	Mia Blichfeldt	63,819	29

Top Indians

Rank 7	Rank 24
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ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	892	898
2	Imam-ul-Haq	815	815
3	Virat Kohli	811	911
4	Rohit Sharma	791	885
5	Quinton de Kock	789	813
6	Ross Taylor	775	841
7	R. van der Dussen	769	776
8	Jonny Bairstow	746	796
9	Aaron Finch	745	798
10	David Warner	737	880

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	726	770
2	Josh Hazlewood	691	733
3	Matt Henry	683	691
4	Shaheen Afridi	681	688
5	Jasprit Bumrah	679	841
6	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	676	712
7	Chris Woakes	676	711
8	Mehedi Hasan	661	725
9	Mohammad Nabi	657	657
10	Shakib Al Hasan	657	717

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	818	896
2	Mohammad Rizwan	794	798
3	Aiden Markram	772	796
4	Dawid Malan	728	915
5	Aaron Finch	716	900
6	Devon Conway	703	784
7	Ishan Kishan	689	689
8	Rassie van der Dussen	673	780
9	Pathum Nissanka	661	689
10	Martin Gupthill	658	793

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Josh Hazlewood	792	806
2	Adil Rashid	746	746
3	Tabraiz Shamsi	733	821
4	Rashid Khan	709	816
5	Adam Zampa	698	743
6	Anrich Nortje	672	695
7	Wanindu Hasaranga	668	797
8	Maheesh Theekshana	647	647
9	Ashton Agar	640	717
10	Nasum Ahmed	637	637

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Badminton: Indonesia Masters, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 10.30 a.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m., 6.30 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 3, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
F1: Canadian GP (Qualifying), SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

IN BRIEF



Liston Colaco clinches FPAI awards

NEW DELHI
 ATKMB's Liston Colaco was named the Indian player-of-the-year while Hyderabad FC's Akash Mishra was adjudged the young player-of-the-year at the Football Players' Association of India (FPAI) Awards. HFC's Bartholomew Ogbeche was declared the foreign player-of-the-year while Manuel Marquez scooped the coach's award. In the women's section, Anju Tamang won the Indian women's player-of-the-year award while the young player award went to Manisha Kalyan. ANI

Double for Jaya Kapoor

CHANDIGARH
 Jaya Kapoor won the under-18 and 16 girls' titles in the AITA Super series junior tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Friday. Jaya did not drop a set in beating Riya Kaushik and Aarushi Raval in the two finals. In the boys' section, Vatsal Manikantan beat Anmol Nagpure 6-4, 7-5 for the under-18 title, but lost 6-0, 6-3 to Kabil Chothani in the under-16 final.
The results (finals): Boys:
Under-18: Vatsal Manikantan bt Anmol Nagpure 6-4, 7-5.
Under-16: Kabil Chothani bt Vatsal Manikantan 6-0, 6-3.
Girls: Under-18: Jaya Kapoor bt Riya Kaushik 6-4, 6-3.
Under-16: Jaya Kapoor bt Aarushi Raval 7-6(4), 6-1.



Ridhima Dilwari triumphs

BENGALURU
 Ridhima Dilwari shot a par final round to win the eighth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, at Karnataka Golf Association course. Ridhima (one-under 215 overall) won by four shots over Jahanvi Bakshi, Seher Atwal and Pranavi Urs. Pranavi kept her position at the top of the Hero Order of Merit.
The scores (top five): 215: Ridhima Dilwari (69, 74, 72); **219:** Jahanvi Bakshi (73, 74, 72), Seher Atwal (76, 71, 72), Pranavi Urs (74, 69, 76); **220:** Siddhi Kapoor (76, 72, 72), Afshan Fatima (73, 73, 74).

Tottenham congratulates Sunil Chhetri

LONDON
 Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri received a congratulatory message from Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur for equalling Hungarian legend Ferenc Puskas' tally of 84 international goals. "Congratulations to India's @chhetrisunil11 for equalling the great Ferenc Puskas with his tally of 84 international goals! #IndianFootball," Tottenham Hotspur wrote on its Twitter handle. PTI

Japan beats India in under-16 Asian basketball

DOHA
 Japan defeated India 91-84 in the quarterfinals of the FIBA Under-16 Asian basketball championship here. India entered the last-eight stage for the first time in the history of the championship. **The result:** India 84 (Kushal Singh 31, Lokendra Singh 23, Harsh Dagar 21) lost to Japan 91 (Yuto Kawashima 32).

Warriors assert their supremacy

Curry's masterclass earns him a Finals MVP for the first time

NBA FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
 BOSTON

A dazzling performance from Stephen Curry powered Golden State Warriors to a seventh NBA Finals crown on Thursday, securing a 103-90 victory over Boston Celtics to clinch a 4-2 series triumph.

Warriors talisman Curry produced yet another masterpiece with 34 points, seven assists and seven rebounds as Golden State wrapped up a fourth title in eight years.

The 34-year-old Curry was named NBA Finals Most Valuable Player after the victory – the first time the four-time NBA champion has earned the award.

Remarkable turnaround

The win completed a dramatic journey back to the pinnacle of the NBA for the Warriors, who just two seasons ago had the worst re-



Linchpins: Iguodala, Green, Thompson, and Curry celebrate the Warriors' fourth triumph in eight seasons. •AFP

cord in the league as the franchise battled injuries and the departure of key personnel.

Curry, ever-present through the highs and lows of the Warriors' journey since 2015, led a balanced offensive effort as Golden State

became just the second visiting team to lift the trophy on Boston's home court after the 1985 Los Angeles Lakers.

Andrew Wiggins came up with 18 points, six rebounds, four steals and three blocks in a superb all-round display, while veterans Klay Thomp-

son and Draymond Green chipped in with 12 points each. Jordan Poole added 15 from the bench.

Jaylen Brown led the Boston scoring with 34 points while Al Horford added 19 points.

A pulsating game swung

decisively in Golden State's favour during the first two quarters.

The Warriors sprinted to a 15-point lead, up 37-22 after a 21-0 run – the largest run in NBA Finals history.

The Warriors maintained the 15-point advantage up to half-time, leading 54-39 at the break.

Curry ominously looked increasingly comfortable from beyond the arc, and a step back three from 28 feet put the Warriors into a 72-50 lead – a 22-point margin their biggest lead of the night in the third quarter.

But, Celtics chipped away at the lead, but every time they got to within single digits, Warriors managed to find a big play to extend their lead.

The result: Boston Celtics 90 (Jaylen Brown 34, Al Horford 19, Robert Williams III 10) lost to Golden State Warriors 103 (Stephen Curry 34, Andrew Wiggins 18, Klay Thompson 12, Draymond Green 12, Jordan Poole 15).

RACING

General Patton for D. Kumar Siddanna Memorial Trophy

BENGALURU: General Patton, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the D. Kumar Siddanna Memorial Trophy (1,200m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (June 18). False rails (width about 3m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

TREASURE GIRL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2:00 p.m.: 1. Three Aces (1) Darshan 60, 2. Ocean Dunes (2) S. John 59.5, 3. Unyielding (1) Ajinkya 59.5, 4. Dr Logan (10) Anjar 59, 5. Tiffany (4) Sandesh 57.5, 6. Murrane Gabriella (8) S. Mubarak 57, 7. Blazk Whizz (6) Raghuveer 56, 8. Ansaldo (7) Akshay K 54.5, 9. Impeccable (5) Vinod Shinde 54.5, 10. Jokshan (3) Ashhad A 54 and 11. Stunning Beauty (9) Arvind K 54.

1. ANSALDO, 2. OCEAN DUNES, 3. TIFFANNY

ROYAL CHALLENGE PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 2-3:0. 1. Elite Agent (1) Angad 62.5, 2. Klockner (2) Salman 62.5, 3. Luminary Star (5) A. Prakash 62.5, 4. Red Lucifer (6) Likith 62.5, 5. Limited Edition (7) G. Vivek 62, 6. He's The One (2) Abhay S 58.5, 7. Russian Romance (8) J.H. Arul 57.5 and 8. Smile Around (4) Siddharaju 56.

1. LIMITED EDITION, 2. RUSSIAN ROMANCE, 3. LUMINARY STAR

DUPONT PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 3:00: 1. Chirag (2) B. Nayak 60.5, 2. Turkoman (8) Sandesh 60.5, 3. Divya Shakthi (4) Dhanu S 59.5, 4. Exalted Dream (5) G. Vivek 59.5, 5. Noble Ruler (6) Ajinkya 59.5, 6. Knotty Princess (1) Vishal B 59, 7. Lightning Flame (7) Dashrath S 58.5 and 8. Osibisa (3) Ajeet K 57.

1. TURKOMAN, 2. CHIRAG, 3. LIGHTNING FLAME

SIR CECIL CUP (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3:30: 1. Adjustment (-) 56, 2. Aldgate (2) Trevor 56, 3. Ripple N Storm (6) Ajinkya 56, 4. Splendilo (1) Ranjeet S 56, 5. Agulla (5) C.S. Jodha 54.5, 6. Arrowette (3) Akshay K 54.5, 7. Konabas (4) Suraj 54.5 and 8. Victoria Punch (-) 54.5.

1. ARROWETTE, 2. ALDGATE

D. KUMAR SIDDANNA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4:00: 1. Griffin (10) Salman 62, 2. General Patton (5) Akshay K 58.5, 3. Golden Vision (1) Siddharaju 57, 4. Secretpuperstar (11) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 5. Powerful Lady (7) K. Nazil 55.5, 6. Donna Bella (8) C.S. Jodha 55, 7. Indian Pharaoh (6) Arvind K 55, 8. Super Gladiator (9) Ashhad A 55, 9. Michigan Melody (2) Arshad 54, 10. Wings of Desire (4) P.S. Chouhan 53.5 and 11. The Strength (3) Ajeet K 52.5.

1. GENERAL PATTON, 2. DONNA BELLA, 3. WINGS OF DESIRE

NOBLE PRINCE PLATE (2,000m), rated 20 to 45, 4-35: 1. Muirfield (5) S. John 60, 2. Windstorm (3) Darshan 59, 3. Serdar (4) C.S. Jodha 58, 4. Only You (1) Sandesh 54.5 and 5. Elite Crown (2) Vishal B 51.5.

1. ONLY YOU, 2. SERDAR

BORSALINO PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5:10: 1. Queen Regent (1) Bhawani S 60, 2. Hope Island (9) S. John 59.5, 3. Lycurgos (10) Arvind K 58.5, 4. Embosom (6) J.H. Arul 55.5, 5. Je Ne Sais Quoi (7) B. Nayak 55.5, 6. Star Domination (4) Kiran N 54.5, 7. Marco Polo (2) P.S. Chouhan 53.5, 8. Shan E Azeem (8) Ashhad A 53.5, 9. Tyto Alba (3) Angad 53.5 and 10. She's All Class (5) T.S. Jodha 53.

1. EMBOSOM, 2. HOPE ISLAND, 3. MARCO POLO

TREASURE GIRL PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5:45: 1. Good Time Indeed (6) L.A. Rozario 62.5, 2. Anakin (1) Vinod Shinde 61.5, 3. Smithsonian (1) A. Prakash 61, 4. Baltimore (8) S. John 60, 5. Benediction (7) Akshay K 60, 6. Chul Bul Rani (9) B. Nayak 60, 7. Fernet Branca (3) Ajinkya 59.5, 8. Perfect Rendition (10) J.H. Arul 59.5, 9. See My Heels (4) Suraj 59, 10. The Response (2) Ajeet K 58 and 11. Realia (5) Ashhad A 56.5.

1. BENEDICTION, 2. SEE MY HEELS, 3. BALTIMORE

Day's best: ONLY YOU
 Double: TURKOMAN – EMBOSOM
 Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (1): 3, 4 and 5; (1): 6, 7 and 8.

Sania and Hradecka pair loses

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Sania Mirza and Lucie Hradecka, the third seeds, lost 6-7(5), 6-7(7) by second seeds Lyudmila Kichenok and Jelena Ostapenko in the semifinals of the \$251,750 WTA tournament in Birmingham on Friday.

Other results:
€134,920 Challenger, Ilkely, Britain: Doubles (quarterfinals): John-Patrick Smith (Aus) & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Jason Kubler & Luke Saville (Aus) 6-4, 6-4.

€45,730 Challenger, Blois (France): Sriam Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Boris Arias and Federico Zeballos 6-0, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Quarterfinals: Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Ha Minh Duc Vu (Vie) 6-0, 6-2.

Manini Kaushik wins rifle 3-position gold

A courageous performance as she competes with an injured trigger finger

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
 NEW DELHI

Manini Kaushik made a strong start and competed hard at the crunch to beat Ayushi Podder 17-13 in the gold medal match of the 50-metre rifle 3-position event in the 20th Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Friday.

From trailing 7-13, Ayushi came up with a string of better shots than her rival, but Manini rose to the challenge in time to seal victory.

It was a courageous performance by Manini, as she had to compete with an injured trigger finger. She also did not have adequate time to have the sighter shots before the kneeling, prone and standing positions of the final.



On target: Manini in action. •KAMESH SRINIVASAN

While Manini qualified in the second place with 583, behind Priya (584) the eventual bronze medalist, Ayushi had just about qualified in the eighth place. However, Ayushi topped the second stage 1.1 point ahead of Manini to make the gold match.

Heena wins

In the junior event, Heena Gohei beat the consistent topper Khushi Bharat 16-10 for the gold. Khushi had

topped qualification 15 points ahead of Heena, and had topped the second stage 3.1 points ahead of the eventual gold medalist.

In men's air pistol, staged at the Madhya Pradesh Academy in Bhopal, Shiva Narwal beat Dharmendra Gaharwar 17-5 for the men's gold, and outclassed Sahil 16-0 for the youth gold. He also bagged the junior bronze behind Sarbjot Singh and Vijayveer Sidhu.

Results:
10m air pistol: Men: 1. Shiva Narwal 17 (255.7) 586; 2. Dharmendra Gaharwar 5 (255.8) 581; 3. Vijayveer Sidhu 254.6 (586).

Juniors: 1. Sarbjot Singh 17 (257.3) 582; 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 13 (257.0) 586; 3. Shiva Narwal 254.0 (586).

Youth: 1. Shiva Narwal 16 (254.4) 586; 2. Sahil O (253.5) 577; 3. Monu Kumar 251.3 (578).

Sub-youth: 1. Sahil 577; 2. Mohit Singh 576 (20x); 3. Manav Patel 576 (18x).

50m rifle 3-position: Women: 1. Manini Kaushik 17 (392.2) 583; 2. Ayushi Podder 13 (393.3) 577; 3. Priya 391.0 (584).

Juniors: 1. Heena Gohei 16 (396.6) 565; 2. Khushi Bharat 10 (399.7) 580; 3. Prachi Gaikwad 392.6 (565).

Tavish Pahwa stars as India beats Pakistan

The girls also bag the gold, beating Sri Lanka in their last round-robin league match

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU

Tavish Pahwa won both his singles and doubles matches to help India beat Pakistan 2-1 in the final of the ITF South Asia under-12 tennis championship in Kathmandu on Friday.

The Indian girls' team also bagged the gold as it won its last round-robin league match 2-1 against Sri Lanka.

Tavish gave a strong start for India with a 6-3, 6-3 victory in the first singles. However, Pakistan equalised with Abubakar Talha beating Fazal Ali Meer 6-2, 6-7(1), 6-2. In the decisive doubles, Tavish and Fazal Ali combined very well to beat Omar Jawad and



Champions: The Indian under-12 boys' and girls' teams with the captains. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Abubakar Talha 6-3, 6-3.

Both the teams, guided by coaches Irfan Ahmed and Shivika Burman, qualified for the ITF Asia under-12 championship to be played in Kazakhstan.

India girls asserted them-

selves against Sri Lanka, with Prachi Malik and Aahan cruising to victory in their singles matches, dropping two games in all. Sri Lanka won the inconsequential doubles rubber.

Sri Lanka also qualified



for the ITF Asian under-12 championship along with India.

The results: Boys (final): India bt Pakistan 2-1 (Tavish Pahwa bt Muhammad Rizwan 6-3, 6-3; Fazal Ali Meer lost to Abubakar Talha 2-6, 7-6(1), 2-6; Fazal &

Tavish bt Omar Jawad & Abubakar 6-3, 6-3).

Girls (round-robin league): India bt Sri Lanka 2-1 (Prachi Malik bt Akeesha Silva 6-1, 6-1; Aahan bt Sandhithi Archachi 6-0, 6-0; Aahan & Anandita Upadhyay lost to Akeesha & Sandhithi 4-6, 1-6).

Did the AFI err while setting the women's 400m entry standard?

The qualifying standard is very close to the Games record

C'WEALTH GAMES

STAN RAYAN
 KOCHI

Did the Athletics Federation of India err while fixing the qualifying standard in the women's 400m for next month's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham?

It seems so. The AFI's entry standard for the Games' women's quartermile is 50.13s which is a lot faster than the gold-winning time at the last two Commonwealth Games, 2014 Glasgow (Jamaican S. McPherson's 50.67s) and 2018 Gold Coast (50.15s by Botswana's Amantle Montsho).

In fact, the AFI's qualifying standard is very close to the Commonwealth Games record (50.10s) of Montsho which came at the 2010 edi-

tion in New Delhi.

Incidentally, Montsho – the 2011 World champion – was sent home in disgrace from the 2014 Commonwealth Games, and later suspended for two years, after testing positive for the banned stimulant methylhexanamine in Glasgow where she had finished fourth.

Lenient for men

While the task was tough for women, the AFI appears to have been very lenient when it came to the men's 400m entry standard (45.30s), which is almost the time (45.31s) clocked by National record holder Muhammad Anas while finishing fourth in the 2018 Commonwealth Games (Botswana's Issac Makwala

Those standards we set nine months ago on our website. Why are you raising it now? No one raised it till today.

SUMARIWALLA
 AFI president

took the gold in 44.35s).

The fourth place in the women's 400m in the 2018 Games came in 51.17s.

Surprisingly, the World Athletics' entry standard for next month's World Championships in Oregon (USA) is more than a second slower at 51.35s, a time Maharashtra's Aishwarya Mishra comfortably beat while winning the Federation Cup gold at Thенипalam, Kerala, in early April.

The qualification stan-

dard for last year's Tokyo Olympics was also 51.35s.

One was surprised to see names like Aishwarya Mishra, Kiran Pahal, and Priya Mohan, Asia's three fastest quartermilers this year, missing from the Indian team for Birmingham which was announced on Thursday.

"Those standards we set nine months ago on our website. Why are you raising it now? No one raised it till today," Adille Sumariwalla, the AFI president, told *The Hindu* on Friday.

But what was the logic behind setting such a tough standard?

"I'm sure there is a logic with the team of experts that worked on it. I can't tell you offhand."

PM to flag off Chess Olympiad Torch Relay

Anand excited to be part of the historic moment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 NEW DELHI

Legendary Viswanthan Anand is "immensely proud" of the fact that the 44th Chess Olympiad starting in Mahabalipuram, near Chennai, from July 28, will have its own Torch Relay, which is in similar lines to the Olympics.

The first-ever and historic Chess Olympiad Torch Relay will be flagged-off by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Sunday and the chess community including officials of parent body All India Chess Federation (AICF) termed the event "epoch-making".

"I'm really excited to be

part of this historic moment. I was always fascinated by the Olympic Torch Relay concept and now we also have one in chess. But the most amazing thing about it is, it will always start from India. And as an Indian, I feel really proud about this fact," said Anand.

Across 75 cities

The torch relay will be held across 75 Indian cities before reaching its destination on July 27, a day before the start of the event.

It is also the first-time ever, a record number of 189 countries are going to participate at the Chess Olympiad.