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 No Artificial Coloring

 No Chemicals used to increase Shelf Life

 No Traces of Heavy Metals



**OKRA
 (BHINDI)**

₹5
 500 g

ONE FARM

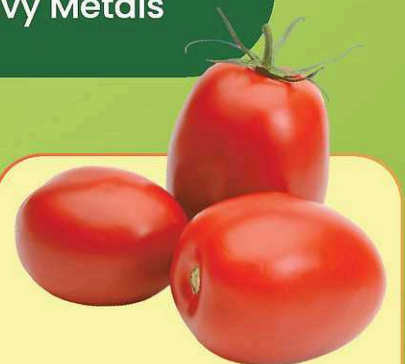
**KACHI GHANI
 MUSTARD OIL**

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SOYA OIL

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₹169
 1L



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 HYBRID**

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THE HINDU CLASSIFIEDS

thehindu.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU MATRIMONIAL

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

- INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
- BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
- BRIDES WANTED
- BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

- Assamese
- Awadhi
- Bengali
- Bhojpuri
- Bihari
- Chhattisgarhi
- English
- Gujarati
- Haryanvi
- Hindi
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Konkani
- Malayalam
- Manipuri
- Marathi
- Marwari
- Nepali
- Oriya
- Parsi
- Punjabi
- Saurashtra
- Sindhi
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Tulu
- Urdu
- Advocate
- Business
- Defence
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Finance/Banking
- Government/Quasi-Govt.
- IAS/ Allied Services
- Information Technology
- MBA/ CA/ ICWA
- NRI
- Cosmopolitan
- Divorcee
- Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COMPUTER / INFO. TECH.

COSMOPOLITAN

DOCTOR

WANTED POSTGRADUATE, professional/ settled groom in India for Vadakalai Bharadwajam Hastam, Dc 1987, 178 cms, BALLB (Hons), double PG Bide. Kala no bar. Email: matrimonynew07@gmail.com.

DOCTOR

MCH SURGICAL Oncology (Ongoing), 27, 5ft 8inch, slim, good looking, Rohini, Fishabam seek DM / MCh / DNB doing vegetarian groom / 27-30, from Chennai. CNB. Contact: 6363189302.

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 from affluent elite family of doctors. Working in top hospital Chennai. Fair beautiful good mannered and cultured. Father doctor Kerala. Nair Engineer & doctor groom with MD MS MCh DM from good family background from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Preferable. Ct: 9840050381/9840985383

WANTED MEDICAL PG or MBBS Bide Groom For A Medical PG Bide. 9677366350

TAMIL VISWAKARMA Govt Doctor Bide MD (GM) 31/167 Fair Vishagam Seeks Doctor / Engineer / Govt. Officer Bidegroom Ct: 94459 84295

HINDU SC-PR, 26yrs/5.6', Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Govt. Medical Officer, Parents Govt seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing PG Groom preferably Govt. below 30 yrs. 94446 53587/9781 54437

MUDALIAR/HINDU VELLALA Pillai Doctor girl/MBBS, 29yrs/153 cm, Bharani, well settled doctor family seeks groom MD/MS/Specialty below 30 yrs from well settled family. Ct: 7010366515 / DRNS0097@gmail.com

HINDU SC-PR, 26yrs/5.6', Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Govt. Medical Officer, Parents Govt seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing PG Groom preferably Govt. below 30 yrs. 94446 53587/9781 54437

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REQUEST SUITABLE alliance, for a 28 yr old girl from Kerala had on a degree M.Tech from IIT Chennai, currently working in Chennai. Bengali, Hindi, SC. Paravastar Vishagam, caste no bar, contact no: 9947573461, mohananks@hotmail.com

DOCTOR

REQUEST SUITABLE alliance, for a 28 yr old girl from Kerala had on a degree M.Tech from IIT Chennai, currently working in Chennai. Bengali, Hindi, SC. Paravastar Vishagam, caste no bar, contact no: 9947573461, mohananks@hotmail.com

MALAYALAM

CALICUT BASED Thisy girl, 26, Corporate Lawyer (Mumbai), LLB from National law school, parents Gazetted officers, Caste no bar. 9633046765.

NAIR GIRL 28/154 B.E. Revathi, Chennai settled - employed (2-Dosham), seeks from Nair Family. 9500012855

GROOMS WANTED FOR MUSLIM WOMAN

Proposals invited for a Muslim Divorcee (39/162), religious, fair, doctor, financially moderately stable, with two sons (14&9) settled in New Zealand, from suitable persons or parents. Mob: 94470 04992

NRI

SEEKING ALLIANCE from Canada / US for Toronto based Naidu girl, 31, Product & Digital Strategy Manager, Caste no bar. E: alliance4vriveks@gmail.com Whatsapp: +91 8148809055

TAMIL

OUR TWIN girls both BE/MNC 25/5.5ft slim settled Chennai seeks suitable Tamil muslim grooms Ct:98412 17645.

CHRISTIAN 26/165 Born again fair good looking MS employed Canada seeks God fearing well educated employed willing to settle in Canada Christian groom. Caste no bar. 989423694

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadori Fair Girl, Good Looking, 03-04-1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil - working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private). Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

CHRISTIAN NADAR/HINDU Nadori Groom only for very affluent Christian Nadori PG girl, April 1992, nadori@rediffmail.com

SEEKING PROFESSIONAL Groom for a God fearing CSI Christian Nadori Bide. SWE Bangalore, 35 yrs/165 cm, 25 L.P.A. Contact: 94438 83665

MUSLIM TAMIL 21 yrs fair studying MBBS Chennai (grooms below 26yrs). SMS 94447 21694.

YANNIAR/MUDALIAR 29/162, Fair & Beautiful, B.Arch. Business, Chennai. Only Daughter, Elite Family, Seeks Affluent Business Groom Chennai or Coimbatore-9840480334, 8939012419

HINDU, SC Adr Dravida, BE-MBA, working in Accenture, Age - 29, contact: 9444991091.

YANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA Fair Slim, 25/164, Avitara, B.E. Seeks Groom from Well Settled family. Ct: 9840028346

HINDU NADAR, 1991 /165CM, MBBS, MD (Anaesthesia), Poosam, Kalagam, Fair seeks Suitable Groom. reshmi91@gmail.com, 9942082505

HINDU SC AD 27 Fair, B.E. Tichy Seeks Groom from Same Caste. 9750040359 / 9442539235

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M.S. working in own house, properties seeks suitable M.P. Seeks settled groom CNB. 9489935653

CASTENOBAR CHETTIAR/1977 Nov/ MCA/ Fair and Very young Looking Seeks Hindu forward community Groom. Ct: dree202203@gmail.com, Ph:9790775450

HINDU SC/AD 28yrs/160cm BE, ECE Chennai seeks Professional/ settled groom below 32 yrs. Ct: 9710943632

MUDALIAR 33/152 PG Doctor Thiruvallur seeks PG Doctors/ Business family/ Highly qualified groom between 33-36 yrs. CNB. Ct: 9884202894

TAMIL

HINDU VELLALA Pillai 37 163 Visakam Fair MBA Working in Qatar/ Willing to Relocate to any Place seeks well qualified Professional Groom rasanani1948@gmail.com Ct: 81220 59734

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom 33-35 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. Ct: 9345855735

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 26 B.E. Kettai Working in Leading MNC, Reputed Business Family Seeks Alliance for His Daughter Call 98400 93322

HINDU SOZHA Vellalar 28/157, Divorced Fair Girl, B.E. short lived requires educated Govt/ Bank working groom unmarried or divorced. Ct: 63907 98748/4386 83733.

INTER CASTE Parents seek for daughter 27/156 SWE employed Chennai, from suitable Hindu groom, 90032 87101

MATCH FOR Fair/Saiva Pillai girl, Veg. Dentist, 24/158. Groom should be well educated and working in Singapore. Contact WhatsApp: +65 91670073

HINDU NADAR Bide 34/163 B.Tech, VP.BANK, Canada/Divorced within 10days Null/void Poosam/Kadagam. Seeks groom below 38yrs CNB preferably working in Canada, US, 9941302113.

HINDU NADAR Sister Girls, age 28, 23, HI 167/167cms, M.E. Asst Prof B.E. (IT), Upper middle class. Seeks upper middle class, equally qualified brother boys of age below 30 in job of business. Marriage both at a stage. Contact: 96265 15511

SCAD TAMIL Hindu 31/57 6inch MBA MNC B.LR HR 16 LPA Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9463517099

HINDU/SC/AD, SIRMAMMA/AGAM/26/52' MCA, ITA @TCS, 6.40U.P.A. Same Caste Groom from Chennai. 9840365908

WIDOW 34YRS B.Tech, well settled good looking with yr old child. Needs life partner who is progressive and broad minded. Age below 40yrs caste no bar 80727 50829/ 98846 95374

HINDU, VANIA Chettiya Widow (2 Female Child Age 10& 6) 34yrs/5.1 Feet, B.Com, Worked as Clerk in S. Rly, Chennai. Seeks any BCMBC Groom from Chennai. 9444452670/ 9982997998

GAVARA, 30/159cm, M.E., Divorced without encumbrance, Parents-Central Govt. seeks qualified Groom from middle/ affluent family. Ct: 9489325252

MUDALIAR AVITAM 26/155 B.E. fair Non-IT Bangalore, 8.6 Lacs p.a. seeks from Chennai/Bangalore 9840143908

MUDALIAR: 26/160, Fair & Beautiful, B.E. MBA (USA), Data Analyst, MNC, USA, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Abroad/ India - 89250191776

VANIYA CHETTIYAR Aswini Mesam 28/163cm, MBBS, MD final year, Pulmonology seeks Doctor/Physician Sub cast no bar. Ct: sendhu94@gmail.com 8148895304

MUDALIAR 24/170 Pooram BA PGDIB Ch seeks Affluent Business Profile in Chennai/ C. Goetham 9884589014

HINDU NADAR BE/MBA 30/170cm 100000 Income Seeks Suitable Groom KA Ram Nador 9380791999

ASST. PROF. Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 34 Uthirathurai, Meenam, Ph.D(Physics), Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bndegroom Age 34-38 Yrs, Employed, Caste no Bar. Contact: After 7 PM: 7550243959

ALLIANCE INVITED from professional/ qualified Groom well placed within India from upper class family with clean habits for a charming, fair, lyengar, Vaidialal, Girl 27, 150cms, Koundinya, Moolam 4th pdam, B.Tech MBA, Chennai employed belonging to educated / affluent family, lyengar/ yer/ any brahmin acceptable. Age difference 3 years. Horoscope matching optional. Call/ whatsapp: 9849341294 or 9849302242.

37 YRS Iyer girl divorcee, no kids, seeks well educated working age gap up to 5 yrs, clean habits, same community, except konkani/ yatra, Chennai only. Ct: 9940392328

TAMIL

HINDU AGAMUDAYAR, 28/148, B.E. M.S. Design Eng. Germany seeks well educated Groom working at Germany - same caste. Ct: 9442883070

HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital, seeks suitable groom. Ct:9443680973

44 Yrs, SC - Madiga Telugu Christian Chennai diploma/ invtd decent family. Phone - 93908 45532

BALLUA, 1990 bom, CA triplet, 5ft 5inch charming seeks professional groom, ct: 7339373793

NAIDU, 40/160cm, Uthirathurai, Ph.D, Asst.Prof, 1st Marriage seeks suitable Groom. Sub sect No Bar. 7358166806

NAIDU DIVORCEE No issues 1977 Slim, MNC Transfer Job, Caste no bar. Wanted Employed Groom. 9443344936

24 MANAI Telugu Chetty BE.MBA 25/162/55 working in pvt bank chennai. 9790919406 gptivasudevan@yahoo.com

SM FOR my son 39/5ft 6inch Masters/ IT Sr. Software Consultant in Leading MNC. Ph: 6951222097 or 8918967453

TELUGU SC Mala groom, 29, 175 cm, handsome, B.Tech and Masters, from well to do educated family, working in U.K., seeks educated beautiful bride between the age 23-27. Caste or language no bar. Christians can also apply. No brokers. Send bio, photo to raagaswara07@gmail.com.

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 35yrs B.E. MNC Bangalore, 13 LPA, UnMarried, seeks suitable Educated Bide from same caste - 9886572314

WANTED BRIDE for Nambiar youth, 27 years, fair, 177cm, Post graduate Engineer from IT, Employed as Post Graduate Engineer in Qualcomm at Bangalore. Middle class family of Kannur District Kerala, mother is employed in State Govt and father is a Group A officer of central govt. In search of suitable Girls (similarly qualified/ well employed at Bangalore/ well employed elsewhere but transferable to Bangalore) from Nambiar/ Poduvai/ Nambiar/ similar communities, having age below 25. Interested parents please contact parents of bridegroom with Horoscope details to 202kshishna191@gmail.com. WhatsApp number may please be given for further communication

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TELUGU

YADAVA 28 B.Tech Girl Veg Chennai seeks well settled family groom. Whatsapp Horoscope & Photo: 9791167005

NAIDU 25/167, Fair/Very Beautiful, B.E.50000, Business Family, 100.Ct. Property.CNB. 7239576844,7239576866

Naidu Girl 30/158 with HIB Visa in USA from Educated Family Seek Alliance from Naidu Boy (Ballaj Kapu others) with PFI HIB Visa Working in USA. Contact +91 8985039128.

SEEKING PRACTISING SMU with no Diagrah practices, never-married bridegroom, 36 yrs or below / 170cm or above, BE / BTech / MCA, IT professional, working abroad or in Tamil Nadu / Bangalore for my employed MCA, MPHil educated, never-married, pious, upright by nature, 1987 born, 165cm good-looking daughter. Please write to: 90057319 hiba.yadav@gmail.com/fahabb_abbas@yahoo.com

SMU GIRL 27/165 B.Tech Team Lead MNC Chennai Seeks Suitable Alliance Contact: 9442141520 / htegun823@gmail.com

SMU PARENTS Seeks Alliance PG Doctor, CA Groom for Daughter 27, Slim, Fair MS, Ophthal Working 944024991

WANTED BRIDE for Nambiar youth, 27 years, fair, 177cm, Post graduate Engineer from IT, Employed as Post Graduate Engineer in Qualcomm at Bangalore. Middle class family of Kannur District Kerala, mother is employed in State Govt and father is a Group A officer of central govt. In search of suitable Girls (similarly qualified/ well employed at Bangalore/ well employed elsewhere but transferable to Bangalore) from Nambiar/ Poduvai/ Nambiar/ similar communities, having age below 25. Interested parents please contact parents of bridegroom with Horoscope details to 202kshishna191@gmail.com. WhatsApp number may please be given for further communication

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TAMIL

BRAHMIN 32/182cm BE, MBA MNC H.E., professional 8Lacs PA, seeks suitable Brahmin Educated bide, contact: 766724406/g.nishanth85@gmail.com

SAIVA MUDALIYAR Well Settled 41/ B.E.50000, Business Family, 100.Ct. Property.CNB. 7239576844,7239576866

INTERCASTE PARENTS Kithigal 27/178 B.Sc.MBA US Voice Sr. AR seeks suitable bride Caste nobar 9840388489

1984 AUG Born 198cm, Advocate (Bank & Co.) seeks Educated & Good Looking Bride Veg Only Ct: 9841289539

REDDIYAR 32 Swathi, Thelam B.A IT 60,000pm Seeks any Good Family No Expectation, Chennai: 9789015037

YANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA 32 BE Mech Vrudhigam Kettai Own IT Infrastructure Services well Settled affluent family, Chennai seeks employed good family background bide. 6380923434

SC/AD 29/167 Fair Mirugasarisham BE SBI (Associate) 5L pa seeks suitable employed bride. Ct: 9840515359

THULUVA NAIYAKAR Pooramam 39/154 Wheatish DME & Ac Fridge Mech. Own House/Job, Seeks bride. Caste No Bar. Cont: 9940630864

PILLAI MUDALIYAR Punaarooms 35, 175 CM MCA Software MNC 3L / PM Bangalore Seeks Graduate Bide Ct: 9176245008/8143351235

YANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA Groom 34yrs B.A. 178cm Handsome, Own Business, Seeks Fair, Homely Bride. 8939140180

HINDU (AD), MBBS - 29 Fair - Pooramam, Kumbam (Seeks alliance) Ct:9940622977.

PROFESSIONAL WORKING in Chennai seeks graduate/post graduate woman aged bet. 45-50 yrs widow & divorcee. Caste religion no bar. 86673 8758

CHETTIAR (CNB) 29/175cm M.Tech MBA (UK) fair, Seeks BE/Medical professional Bide. Ct: 6381980158.

MUDALIAR, DIVORCEE, 34 M.Tech, 14Lacs P.A.,178cm, Smart/seeks Suitable Bide.CNB. Ct:8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU PILLAI 52/1



Policeman killed in J&K in fourth such targeted attack since May
page 7



COVID-19 worsened matters in Sundarbans, says UN report
page 9



Zelensky visits southern Ukraine front as battle rages in Donbas
page 10

India takes on South Africa in final T20I at Bengaluru today
page 15



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IN BRIEF

Modi inaugurates revamped temple
AHMEDABAD
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday unfurled a flag after inaugurating the revamped Mahakali temple, which was destroyed by the 15th century Gujarat ruler Mahmud Begda.

Will fix Rajinder Nagar's drinking water woes: CM
NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday acknowledged that shortage of drinking water was an issue facing the residents of Rajinder Nagar and promised to resolve it.

BJP using probe agencies to threaten MLAs: Cong.
MUMBAI
The Maharashtra Congress on Saturday accused the BJP of using the Central agencies to threaten Congress MLAs to vote for the Opposition party in the Council polls on June 20.

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Centre offers to sweeten Agnipath deal

Defence, Home Ministries promise job reservation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid continuing protests and violence over the new Agnipath scheme for recruitment of soldiers into the armed forces, the Centre has offered a slew of support measures to accommodate Agniveers in various government departments after their four-year service.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved reservation for Agniveers for jobs within the ambit of the Defence Ministry. Several other Union Ministries have also promised the same.

Mr. Singh on Saturday gave his nod to a proposal to reserve 10% of the job vacancies in the Defence Ministry for Agniveers meeting the eligibility criteria. "The 10% reservation will be implemented in the Coast Guard and defence civilian posts, and all the 16 defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs). This reservation would be in addition to existing reservation for ex-servicemen," the Defence Ministry said in a statement. The announcement was made after Mr. Singh chaired a meeting with the three Service chiefs at his residence.

Necessary amendments to relevant recruitment rules



Arresting violence: A group of Railway Protection Special Force personnel patrolling the violence-hit Secunderabad junction railway station on Saturday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

will be undertaken to implement these provisions, the Ministry said adding, "DPSUs will be advised to make similar amendments to their respective recruitment rules. Necessary age relaxation provision will also be made."

Home Ministry promise
On similar lines, the Ministry of Home Affairs too announced a decision to reserve jobs covering 10% vacancies in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and the Assam Rifles for Agniveers and also give three years' age relaxation beyond the pre-

scribed upper age limit for recruitment in CAPFs and Assam Rifles. Further, this upper age relaxation has been extended to five years for the first batch of Agniveers, it stated.

"Also, by augmenting their skills, Agniveers will be a well-trained and highly disciplined youth force that can be harnessed for nation building and will be an asset to the society," a government statement said.

However, the Congress has termed the Agnipath recruitment scheme "directionless". While assuring the youth of her party's support,

Congress president Sonia Gandhi appealed to protesters to express their demands through non-violent means.

"I am sad that the government has announced the scheme of new army recruitment ignoring your voice, which is completely directionless. Along with you, many ex-servicemen and defence experts have also raised questions on this plan," Ms. Gandhi said in a statement that was released by Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 7

Stir spreads; railway station gutted in Bihar

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI

The protests against the Agnipath recruitment scheme to the armed forces continued for the fourth consecutive day in many parts of the country despite announcements of reservation. The Opposition parties have started parallel agitations against the scheme, though they distanced themselves from the violence witnessed during the protests.

Tensions mounted in Warangal town in Telangana during the funeral procession of Rakesh, who was killed in Friday's police firing on a rampaging mob at Secunderabad railway station. The crowd in the procession barged into a BSNL office on the way and burnt a board.

In Bihar, the situation remained out of control as aspirants set a railway station and ambiances on fire and clashed with police personnel. The Railways suspended movement of many trains till 8 p.m. on Saturday, and said property worth ₹200 crore was damaged in the protests.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 7



Under watch: A Taliban fighter standing in front of a gurdwara that came under attack in Kabul. ■ AFP

Two killed in Kabul gurdwara attack

Taliban 'strongly condemn' the assault

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Unidentified gunmen attacked a gurdwara in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Saturday morning. Mr. Chandhoke said the gurdwara's main prayer hall, where the Guru Granth Sahib was kept, caught fire after the exchange of fire. Sawinder Singh, a *granthi* (ceremonial reader of the Guru Granth Sahib) of the gurdwara, was killed in the attack.

Puneet Singh Chandhoke, president of the India World Forum, who has been coordinating with the Indian government to evacuate Sikhs from the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, said at least two persons were killed and the fate of several remained unknown as they were taken to hospital by

emergency workers.

Ahmed, a security guard at Gurdwara Karte Parwan, was shot dead in the attack that is being blamed on the Islamic State. Mr. Chandhoke said the gurdwara's main prayer hall, where the Guru Granth Sahib was kept, caught fire after the exchange of fire. Sawinder Singh, a *granthi* (ceremonial reader of the Guru Granth Sahib) of the gurdwara, was killed in the attack.

"The cowardly attack on Gurdwara Karte Parwan should be condemned in the strongest terms by all," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in response to the attack.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 7

BJP targets JD(U) over violence

Home Ministry gives VIP security cover to Bihar BJP leaders

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

As the anti-Agnipath stir continued for the fourth consecutive day in Bihar, the BJP, part of the ruling alliance, on Saturday accused the State administration of targeted vandalism and said "if it [violence] continues, it will not be good for anyone". The Janata Dal (United) reacted saying that the Chief Minister knew how to run the administration.

The Union Home Ministry has accorded VIP security cover of the Central Reserve Police Force to at least 10 Bihar BJP legislators and leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi and State BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal, citing threat to them in the wake of the violent protests.

"Nothing wrong with protest as everyone has got the right to oppose. We are from different political parties and everyone has got the right to protest but targeting



Security personnel patrolling the streets of Patna during the Bihar bandh. ■ PTI

people at the behest of administration, torching offices of a particular party with the police acting as mute spectators is wrong. What isn't happening in India, is happening in Bihar and if it continues, it will not be good for anyone," Mr. Jaiswal said.

Mr. Jaiswal's residence and business establishment in his home town Bettiah was vandalised by protesters on June 17. Ms. Devi had to put off her visit due to the protest on the same day. Earlier, protesters damaged the vehicles of BJP MLAs Aruna

Devi and Vinay Bihari. "What action has been taken against policemen who have been mute spectators during protest," Mr. Jaiswal asked. "As the State BJP chief, I oppose such lackadaisical approach of the administration."

However, the JD(U) reacted, saying "lessons from BJP are not needed". "Instead of clearing doubts of protesters on the Agnipath scheme, the BJP is accusing the State administration. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar knows well how to run an administration and he is known in the country for his good governance," said JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.

While clarifying that "violence cannot be justified", he cited similar eruptions in BJP-ruled States. "Why is Jaiswal not asking governments there to fire upon protesting students and get thousands of them killed?"

Assam under water



Rescue mission: Army men, along with villagers, rescuing flood-hit people in Kamrup (Rural) district of Assam on Saturday. Heavy rain continued to lash the State, affecting over 26 lakh people and claiming 62 lives. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR (REPORT ON PAGE 7)

No resolutions against other countries in Parliament

NISTULA HEBBAR
SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Parliamentary proceedings in a country shouldn't be used to make allegations and counter allegations against the Parliament of another country, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has said.

Mr. Birla made these remarks in the context of a lawmaker in the Maldives trying to move a resolution against India in the Maldivian Parliament over the controversy surrounding a suspended BJP functionary's statement on Prophet Muhammad.

"This issue doesn't strictly concern the functioning of Parliament. Rather, it's about relations between nations. Everyone has the right to speak about issues in their own country. But it is our expectation that the parliamentary proceedings of any country should not get reduced to making allegations and counter-allegations about another country. You can surely discuss events, but Parliament should not be used to pass resolutions concerning another country," Mr. Birla said.

In an interview with *The Hindu* on the occasion of his completing three years in office, the Lok Sabha Speaker shared his views on the Parliament functioning under COVID protocol.

"During the coronavirus pandemic, the duration of sittings was reduced, but if you look at the figures, Lok Sabha clocked 167% productivity and this is a record high," Mr. Birla noted.

FULL INTERVIEW
► PAGE 8

400 under scanner for helping Chinese firms

Chartered accountants and company secretaries help set up shell companies

VUJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Union government has recommended disciplinary action against 400 chartered accountants (CAs) and company secretaries (CSs) for their alleged role in incorporating Chinese shell companies in metropolitan cities by flouting norms and rules, *The Hindu* has learnt.

The stringent action is among a series of measures taken by the government against Chinese business entities after the 2020 Galwan incident when 20 soldiers were killed in clashes with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). Though the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Chinese companies has come to naught in the past two years

due to various regulatory measures initiated by the government, the trade between the two countries hit a record \$125 billion last year. In April-June 2020, FDI from China (counted from the year 2000) stood at ₹15,422 crore while in the first quarter of 2022 it has come down to ₹12,622 crore, according to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the CAs and CSs against whom disciplinary action was initiated had helped incorporate a large number of Chinese-owned or Chinese-run shell companies without

Tightening grip

The government took a series of steps to tighten the grip on the functioning of Chinese companies in the past two years

April 2020: FDI policy tweaked to mandate government nod for investment from countries that share a land border with India

August 2020: Customs rules notified to prevent dumping of cheap Chinese goods in India by a wrongful representation of the country of origin

May 2022: MCA makes it compulsory for companies to obtain government approval before offering securities to any entity from a country that shares a land border

June 2022: MCA mandates a security clearance if an individual from a country sharing a land border intends to become a director or shareholder in an Indian company

adequate compliance of rules and law. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) recommended the action after receiving inputs from financial intelligence units in the past two months. A Ministry spokesperson did not comment.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), a statutory body that regulates the profession of chartered accountancy in the country, said in a statement to *The Hindu* that the "disciplinary directorate of ICAI is in receipt of complaints from office of various Registrar of Companies across the coun-

try against CA professionals for their involvement in relation to companies alleged to be linked with Chinese nationals." "The said complaints are being processed in terms of the Chartered Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of Professional and Other Misconduct and Conduct of Cases) Rules, 2007. Hence, guilt, as alleged, as well as the number of Chartered Accountants alleged to be involved, is yet to be ascertained/determined," the ICAI said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 7

Farooq Abdullah opts out of presidential race

NC vice-president says J&K needs his efforts more

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

National Conference (NC) vice-president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday withdrew from the presidential race, saying Jammu and Kashmir was passing through a critical juncture and required his efforts to navigate uncertain times.

"I believe that Jammu and Kashmir is passing through a critical juncture and my efforts are required to help navigate these uncertain times. Therefore, I would like to respectfully withdraw my name from consideration and I look forward to supporting the joint Opposition consensus candi-



Farooq Abdullah

date," Dr. Abdullah said, in a statement.

Dr. Abdullah said he had a lot more active politics ahead of him and looked forward to making a positive contribution in the service of J&K and the country. Dr. Abdullah, also a Member of Parliament from Srinagar, thanked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for proposing his name.

Agnipath: man arrested for 'instigating' agitators

Accused gave inflammatory speeches, got into a scuffle with the police: DCP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after protests against the Agnipath scheme were staged in the Capital, the Delhi police on Saturday arrested a man for making an "inflammatory speech" and "instigating" the protesters.

DCP (Dwarka) M. Harsha Vardhan said the accused, Surender Sharma alias Fauji, addressed a gathering of 50-60 agitators during a protest near the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) office in Baba Haridas Nagar.

According to the DCP, at 10.45 a.m., 50-60 persons came towards the Dhansa bus stand from Khaira and



Students and activists protesting against the Agnipath scheme at ITO, New Delhi, on Friday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

assembled near the MCD office. They then started raising slogans against the Agnipath scheme, which would recruit soldiers in defence services on a four-year contract basis.

The protesters were moved to one side of the road to ensure traffic movement and were asked to disperse peacefully. Mr. Vardhan said. He added that later, Sharma, a resident of

Asalatpur Khawad near Daulatpur, joined the protesters and started to "instigate" them through inflammatory speeches. He also got into a scuffle with the police personnel there.

An FIR under Sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty) of the Indian Penal Code was registered against Sharma. On Friday, a total of 18 protesters were booked under preventive action, the police said.

Kejriwal promises to fix drinking water problem in Rajinder Nagar

Group of protesters show black flags during the roadshow, AAP sees BJP hand

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday acknowledged drinking water shortage as an issue bothering the residents of the Rajinder Nagar area and promised to resolve it soon while campaigning for Aam Aadmi Party candidate Durgesh Pathak, who is contesting the June 23 bypoll from the Assembly constituency.

"In the last seven years we have done a lot of work in Delhi. I know there is a problem with the water supply. It will also be fixed. All issues will be fixed. Just like last time, vote overwhelmingly for jhaadu [AAP's symbol] and elect us with double the margin," the AAP chief said.

A group of people with placards demanding clean water showed black flags to Mr. Kejriwal during his roadshow in Naraina village. AAP said the BJP was behind the people showing black flags,



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his roadshow at Naraina village in Rajinder Nagar on Saturday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

while the BJP insisted they were the local residents of the area. This led to a stand-off between the AAP workers and the protesters, following which the police had to intervene and disperse the crowd. DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said no protester was detained. "We haven't received a complaint as of now. If we do, we will investigate further," she said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said AAP has a "habit of turn-

ing a blind eye to and denying reality". "The fact of the matter is that there is an acute water shortage in the Rajinder Nagar constituency, especially in Naraina village, which brought people to the streets today," he said.

"AAP will get work done" Mr. Kejriwal, while addressing the residents, reiterated that there is no benefit in voting for the BJP, the Delhi government is run by AAP and they have to do the work.

"They [BJP] keep fighting with me 24 hours a day. If you want work to get done, vote for me. If you want violence and fighting, then vote for them," he said.

The BJP candidate, Rajesh Bhatia, meanwhile, embarked on what the party described as an "intensive public campaign" in Rajinder Nagar even as the BJP deployed several senior leaders on the ground to canvass for him. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw interacted with residents and assured them that their issues would be addressed, especially a ban on the use of an overbridge connecting Naraina to the local crematorium.

The BJP organised 11 large street meetings, which were attended by Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, MPs Manoj Tiwari and Gautam Gambhir, among others.

Water supply to remain affected today

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Water supply will remain affected in several parts of Delhi on Sunday due to Haryana releasing less water into the Yamuna and two canals, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said on Saturday.

Operations at the Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla water treatment plants have been hit, the DJB said. It added that water will be available at low pressure in north-east Delhi, west Delhi, north Delhi, central Delhi, south Delhi, including Delhi Cantonment, and New Delhi Municipal Council areas. The utility had last week written to the Haryana Irrigation Department asking it to release water.

MCD hearings: 570 complaints raised in 2 weeks, 95 addressed

Not all issues can be dealt with immediately, says official

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has received 570 complaints since it started a daily public hearing campaign two weeks ago. Of the total grievances, only 95 of them have been resolved so far, according to the civic body's statement on Saturday.

A senior MCD official said most of the complaints put forward by residents are on issues of waste management, unauthorised construction and encroachments. Not all complaints can be dealt with immediately, he said.

Most civic officials said the move to hold daily public hearings - which take place

for one hour at 14 different locations, including the MCD headquarters and 12 zonal headquarters - was to fill the vacuum created after the departure of ward councillors who were a crucial point of contact for residents to voice their grievances.

Manoj Tyagi (AAP), former ward councillor from east Delhi's Khajuri Khas, said residents continue to reach to him with their grievances.

"Earlier, I would get close to 25 calls a day from the residents in the ward. Now I get over a 100 calls per day. Their grievances are not being dealt with and I plan to attend the public hearings myself in order to ensure

that actual solutions are being provided," said Mr. Tyagi who was also former Leader of the Opposition at the erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation.

However, the senior MCD official denied that public hearings were a replacement for the councillors, adding that not all complaints were previously brought to light from the latter's end.

"These hearings are also an open field for political activists and former councillors to come forward and inform the civic body about the public's grievances. We [MCD] are trying to implement a system that is transparent," he said.

Dummy IEDs to keep policemen on their toes

Police to 'plant' explosives randomly

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police will randomly "plant" dummy improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in areas of high footfall in each of the 15 districts to check the level of alertness of officers. The Special Cell unit of the city police issued the order.

As soon as the district police detects the dummy

IED, regular protocol of handling such a situation like cordoning off the area, using sandbags for buttressing and calling bomb disposal team must be followed, said an officer.

The order comes months after an unattended bag containing an IED was detected at Ghazipur flower market in January this year. The device was diffused promptly.

'Inebriated' man kills wife for not serving dinner

He fled home in morning, nabbed later

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 47-year-old man allegedly killed his wife following an argument after she refused to serve him dinner. The couple was in an inebriated state at the time of the scuffle on Friday night in south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri, the police said on Saturday.

DCP (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said the accused, Vi-

nod Kumar Dubey, beat up his wife, Sonali, and smothered her with a pillow. He then slept with the body not realising that the woman was dead, the police said.

On Saturday morning, the accused fled with over ₹40,000. However, he was tracked down and arrested. Two bottles of liquor and a blood-stained pillow were also recovered from him.

IN BRIEF

Revamp Roshanara Bagh by October-end: L-G

NEW DELHI
The Roshanara Bagh in Shakti Nagar should be restored to its past glory by October-end, L-G V.K. Saxena told officials after his visit to the park on Saturday. With a restored lake, nursery, walkways and landscaped greens, the 400-year-old park should be the pride of north Delhi and on par with Lodhi Garden and Nehru Park, he said.

Two held for running fake currency racket

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police Special Cell busted an international fake Indian currency notes cartel based in West Bengal's Malda and arrested two members, officers said. The notes with a face value of ₹4 lakh are of high quality with security features and watermarks.

Furniture factory at Bindapur catches fire

NEW DELHI
A fire broke out in a furniture factory in south-west Delhi's Bindapur on Saturday morning, fire officials said, adding that no casualties were reported. According to the police, a short circuit is suspected to be the cause of the fire.



श्री अशोक गहलोत
मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान



सत्यमेव जयते
राजस्थान सरकार



श्री शांति धारीवाल
नगराध्यक्ष विकास, स्यायन रामन,
एवं आवासन मंत्री

नगर विकास न्यास, कोटा

देश की अनूठी

देवनारायण आवासीय योजना

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सामाजिक और शैक्षणिक विकास होगा

'कोटा होगा कैटल फ्री शहर'

पशु-पालकों के गृह प्रवेश समारोह में दिनांक: 19 जून, 2022, समय: प्रातः 11 बजे
आप सादर आमंत्रित है।

योजना में पशुओं के लिए बाड़े, गोदाम, चारागृह, तालाब बनाये गए हैं तथा पशु-पालकों के लिए आवास के साथ-साथ स्कूल, हॉस्पिटल, दूध मण्डी, पुलिस चौकी, हाट बाजार, बायोगैस प्लांट सहित अन्य सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराई गई है।



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- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



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CORRIGENDUM EXTENSION NOTICE

- Ref- 1 This office ENIT No. 21 of 05/2022 dated 19.05.2022 issued vide No. PHE/Bl/CC/1475-85.
2 Date Extension corrigendum issued vide No. PHE/Bl/CC/1930-40 dated 30.05.2022.
3 Date Extension corrigendum issued vide No. PHE/Bl/CC/2481-91 dated 07.06.2022

In order to ensure greater participation in respect of the works having no response advertised vide this office above referred ENIT, the online Bid Submission End Date is hereby extended upto to 25-06-2022 4:00 P.M. and Tender Opening Date shall be 27-06-2022 02:00 P.M.
Sd/- Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti, (PHE) Department
Division Baramulla.

DIPK-4218/22

Timings
DELHI

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

TUESDAY, JUN. 21
RISE 05:25 SET 19:22
RISE 00:28 SET 12:30

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 33 24
Safdarjang 33 24
Palam 32 25

Delhi Palm Today
33°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Few spells of rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

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

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THE HINDU
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Modi inaugurates revamped temple

Country witnessing restoration of its cultural and spiritual glory, says PM after unfurling flag

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Asserting that India is now witnessing "cultural independence that started with Sardar Patel renovating Somnath temple" after Independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday unfurled a flag after inaugurating the revamped Mahakali temple, which was destroyed by the 15th century Gujarat ruler Mahmud Begda.

"For five centuries and 75 years of Independence, there was no *dhwaja* atop Mahakali temple. Today, the flag once again unfurls on the temple. This flag is not only a symbol of our faith and spirituality but it shows that centuries change, eras go by, but our faith remains eternal and strong," Mr. Modi said addressing a small gathering on the Pavagadh hill in central Gujarat.

The 11th century temple has been redeveloped with a new spire and flag atop after a *dargah*, or a shrine which



Back to glory: Narendra Modi visits the redeveloped Mahakali temple in Pavagadh, Gujarat, on Saturday. • PTI

stood atop the temple for nearly 500 years, was shifted with the consent of its caretakers.

The temple is being run by a trust headed by Gujarat BJP treasurer and senior leader Surendra Patel. The temple trust on Saturday issued an advertisement in local media which read, "After being destroyed by Mohamad Begda 500 years ago the temple atop and *Dhwaja* will be res-

tored today."

As per historical details, the temple is said to have been destroyed by 15th century Gujarat ruler Sultan Mahmud Begda (1458 to 1511), who had set up his capital in Champaner near Pavagadh after defeating the Rajput rulers. Begda was the most prominent ruler of the Gujarat Sultanate and had earned title Begda after conquering two main forts of

Gujarat: Junagadh and Pavagadh.

It is said that during Begda's reign, the Sadanshah Pir Dargah was built after the spire of the temple was destroyed. Now, the shrine has been shifted "amicably" paving the way for redevelopment of the temple with a spire and flag atop.

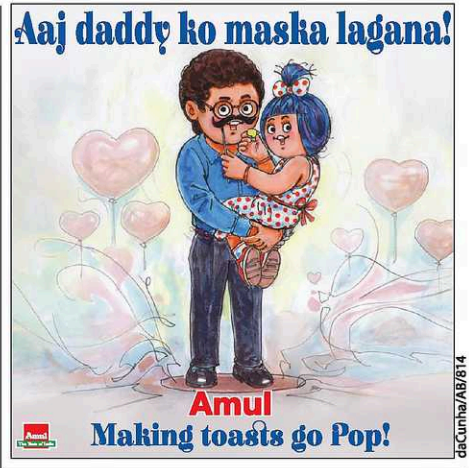
In his address, Mr. Modi, without mentioning about the temple's controversial

history, said that the country is witnessing restoration of India's cultural and spiritual glory as a grand temple of Lord Ram is being built in Ayodhya while Kashi Vishwanath temple has already been built. He referred to the redevelopment of Kedar-nath in Uttarakhand.

"Our centres of faith and spiritual glory of India are being re-established. The rebuilding of Mahakali temple at Pavagadh is part of the same 'gaurav yatra', the PM said in his address.

In fact, neither the State government nor the temple trust have made any statement about shifting of the shrine to pave the way for restoration of the ancient temple on the hill.

The PM said that in the glorious tradition of Somnath, Pavagadh temple has been redeveloped. The Somnath temple, which is said to have been plundered and demolished by Mahmud of Ghazni, was restored after Independence by Sardar Patel.



'Accused asked me to make pistol replica, arrange for bullets'

Key witness reveals in Dabholkar case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

Virendrasinh Tawde, the prime accused in rationalist Narendra Dabholkar's murder case, had asked Sanjay Sadvilkar, now a key prosecution witness, to arrange for bullets, code-named "chocolates", and make a pistol replica, the prosecution said on Saturday.

This was revealed by Mr. Sadvilkar during his examination in the special court by special public prosecutor (SPP) Prakash Suryawanshi.

"Sanjay Sadvilkar who owned a shop selling idols etc. told the court that due to his business he was attracted to a Hindutva organisation. He got in touch with Mr. Tawde, an accused in the Dabholkar murder case, and started working with him occasionally. On the occasion of Sant Gadge Maharaj Jayanti, Mr. Tawde had a verbal spat with Dabholkar," Mr. Suryawanshi said quoting Sadvilkar.

Mr. Sadvilkar later stopped social work after he suffered a heart attack, he

said. "Tawde again met him and asked if he could do some business. Sadvilkar was then called at a railway crossing where he was introduced to a person. Sadvilkar was told that the person will bring him a revolver and a pistol and he should make a replica," the special public prosecutor said.

"Sadvilkar then rented a flat to do the work. Later Tawde started calling Sadvilkar repeatedly. On one occasion, he told Sadvilkar that a man sent by him had come with a revolver to his shop. Sadvilkar grew suspicious that he might be framed and contacted a police officer he knew, but the officer was not present," Mr. Suryawanshi said.

Later, Mr. Tawde called him up and said he was sending two men to stay at his place to keep a watch on people's movement. Mr. Tawde then met Mr. Sadvilkar and asked him to do the "final job" to arrange for "chocolates", a code name for bullets, said Mr. Suryawanshi.

Court denies extension of bail for clash accused

He wanted to prepare for entrance tests

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has dismissed an application for interim bail by an accused in the Jahangirpuri communal violence case, who had sought relief to prepare and appear for entrance examinations for higher studies.

The accused, Neeraj Sarkar, 19, had been released on interim bail earlier to sit for his Class XII examinations. He had approached the court seeking an extension of the interim bail for 90 days.

Vague in nature

Vacation Judge Virender Kumar Kharta of the Rohini court complex said that while education is a fundamental right and a court had upheld this by granting relief to Sarkar to sit for his Class XII examination, the pleadings for extension with respect to preparing for entrance examinations were "vague in nature".

"The accused/applicant has not produced any material as to in which entrance exam he has to appear. The accused/applicant can apply for the entrance exam while remaining in JC [judicial custody] also, there is no bar in this regard," the court said.

Sarkar was arrested in connection with the violence that erupted in Jahan-

girpuri on April 16, 2022, when two communities clashed over a procession being taken out on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti.

'Shed of rights'

Noting that the offences Sarkar was accused of were heinous in nature and the Hanuman Jayanti procession in question was held illegally, which had breached the right under Article 25 of the Constitution (free profession, practice and propagation of religion), the court said in its June 14 order, "The accused/applicant cannot take the shed of his fundamental rights under Article 25 to 28 of the Constitution of India by indulging in violence and riots."

Sarkar's counsel had argued before the court that he was "falsely implicated" in the case and that as a devotee, he "has a fundamental right of freedom of religion under Article 25 to 28 of the Constitution and "he was exercising his right to freedom of religion peacefully".

The prosecution had opposed the application saying two policemen had recorded statements under Section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure with specific allegations against Sarkar and they had also recovered a sword from the possession of the father of the accused.

Flying dining



All aboard: An old Air India aircraft being converted into a restaurant on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway. • R.V. MOORTHY

Jain denied bail; court says can't rule out risk of influencing witnesses

AAP Minister suffered from sleep apnoea, a 'fatal condition', for which he used a CPAP, his counsel had submitted

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A special court here on Saturday denied bail to Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case, noting that while Mr. Jain is not a flight risk, but the possibility of him influencing witnesses or tampering with evidence cannot be ruled out at this stage.

Special CBI Judge Geetanjali Goel of the Rouse Avenue court complex said, "Considering the facts and circum-

stances of the case and the nature of allegations against the accused and that the application for bail does not pass muster even on the triple test for the grant of bail at this stage, the application is dismissed [for] being without merits."

Mr. Jain's counsel, senior advocate N. Hariharan, had argued that the Minister met the "triple test" for bail, which entails that he be available for the investigation and that there is no chance of him

tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses.

Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, appearing for the ED, submitted the statements of two witnesses linked to the alleged laundering transactions. Mr. Raju said the witnesses were afraid of having their statements confronted with Mr. Jain because they apprehended a threat to their lives.

As for the possibility of influencing witnesses, the

court said, "... However, looking to the fact that the matter is still at the stage of investigation and the accused enjoys an influential position, it cannot be ruled out that the accused could influence the witnesses."

Medical grounds

Earlier, Mr. Jain's counsel had submitted that the Minister suffered from sleep apnoea, a "fatal condition" for which he used a CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure)

machine, which needed an uninterrupted power supply and this was not possible inside the jail.

The court dismissed the ground of Mr. Jain's medical condition, noting that "no specific ground" was mentioned in the bail application regarding the medical condition and no medical documents had been produced to show the medical history of Mr. Jain, except the medical examination papers which were produced by the ED at

the time of remand. It added, "Only on the ground that the accused suffers from sleep apnea, he cannot be enlarged on bail, by virtue of the first proviso to Section 45 (1) of PMLA."

Allegations by ED

The ED has alleged that accommodation entries worth ₹4.81 crore were made into four companies in Delhi, allegedly owned by Mr. Jain, in the check period between 2015 and 2017.

New species of bamboo-dwelling bat found in Meghalaya

First report of a thick-thumbed bat not only from India but also the entire South Asian region

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Scientists have discovered a new species of bamboo-dwelling bat in Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya. The species, found near the forested patch of Nongkhylliem Wildlife Sanctuary, has been named *Glischropus meghalayanus*.

The present discovery is the first report of a thick-thumbed bat not only from India but also from South Asia.

Small in size

The scientists behind the discovery are Uttam Saikia from the Zoological Survey of India, who collected the specimen from the forested patch in the summer of 2020; Gabor Csorba of the Hungarian Natural History Museum and Manuel Ruedi of the Natural History Museum of Geneva.

Thick-thumbed bats of the genus *Glischropus* are currently composed of four recognised species from Southeast Asia. The newly

discovered species is small in size and has a dark brown colour with sulphur yellow belly.

"Two recently collected *Glischropus* specimens from Meghalaya in northeastern India extend the known distribution range of the genus westward into South Asia by ca. (approximately) 1,000 km. Morphological examination of these specimens and comparison with all known species in this genus revealed marked differences in colouration, dental characters and bacular traits. We therefore describe the Meghalaya specimens as a new species," the paper published in the peer-reviewed journal *Zootaxa* said.

Another species

The paper titled 'Out of Southeast Asia: A new species of thick-thumbed bat (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae: *Glischropus*) from Meghalaya, north-eastern India' was published on June 15.



New species of bat *Glischropus meghalayanus*.

Mr. Saikia said that from the same forested patches outside the Nongkhylliem Wildlife Sanctuary, he found another species of disk-footed bat *Eudiscopus denticulus* which was a new record in India.

"In the past few years we have reported three bamboo-dwelling bats from the area which highlight the ecological significance of the region. Since the bamboo forest around the wildlife sanctuary has a rich biodiversity there should be attempts to conserve it," he ad-

ded. Bamboo-dwelling bats are a particular kind of bats living in the internodes of bamboos with specialised morphological characters that help them to adopt to the life inside a bamboo.

With this new discovery, the total number of bat species known from India stands at 131. Meghalaya, a State with a small geographical area, harbours the highest bat diversity in the country with 67 species, which is about 51% of total bat species in the country.

Dhriti Banerjee, Director of the ZSI, said that Meghalaya, because of its unique terrain, vegetation and climate condition, was a haven for both flora and fauna.

Roosting places

She pointed out that the unique caves in the northeastern State provided roosting opportunities for a large number of bats.

Mr. Saikia also pointed out that there were a number of cave-dwelling bats species from Meghalaya, the most common being horseshoe bat and leaf-nosed bats.

The nomenclature of the newly discovered species *Glischropus meghalayanus* celebrates the State of Meghalaya, where the new species was found.

A few of these bat species from Meghalaya are endemic to the region.

The ZSI Director added that the northeastern States were less explored and more studies would lead to many more such discoveries.

Karan Johar was on gang's list for extortion: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI/PUNE

Siddhesh Kamble alias Mahakal, an alleged member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, has told investigators that Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar was on the list of persons whom the gang planned to target for extortion, a police officer said on Saturday.

A senior officer however, added that these claims have

not yet been verified, and there was a possibility that there was an element of bragging in the statement.

Kamble was a close aide of Santosh Jadhav, a suspected shooter in the Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala murder case, and well aware of the murder conspiracy, a police officer said. Kamble is in the custody of the Pune rural police in a previous case in the district.

APPOINTMENT

KANNUR UNIVERSITY
Kannur, Kerala
(ACADEMIC BRANCH)

No. Acad B3/23389/2019 Dated: 15.06.2022

NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the posts of Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in various Teaching Departments of the University on regular basis

Assistant Professor - 37 Posts
Associate Professor - 05 Posts

Online Application will be available on the University website from 18.06.2022 to 15.07.2022. Commencement, if any, will be posted only on the University website.

Last Date of receipt of Online Applications is 15.07.2022.

For more details, visit
www.kannuruniversity.ac.in

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General Manager

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found Unconscious Near Gate No. 04, Lok Nayak Hospital at JLN Marg Delhi on Dated 18/05/2022. Who was declared brought dead at Lok Nayak Hospital on 18-05-2022 vide MLC No. 114511049. In this regard a DD No. 58-A U/s 174 Cr.Pc. Dated 13.06.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved 72 hours at MAMC Mortuary, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown, Age: about 40 years, Height: 5'4", Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Sky Blue T-Shirt, Grey Colour Jeans Pant and Bare Feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi
Ph: 011-23274683, 23279331
DP/1577/CD/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Manish Gupta S/o Mail Ram R/o H. No. E-29, 2nd Floor, Budh Vihar Phase-I, Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case E-FIR No. 180/2021 U/S 406/379 IPC, dated 01/03/2021 P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person Manish Gupta can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person Manish Gupta has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation are hereby made that the said accused person Manish Gupta of E-FIR No. 180/2021 U/S 406/379 IPC, dated 01/03/2021 P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 22.07.2022.

By Order
Ms Tapasya Agarwal
Metropolitan Magistrate-02
Room No. 319, 3rd Floor,
Rohini Court, Delhi
DP/1897/ON/2022 (Court Matter)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
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| 4 | Director (Commercial) | Pashchimanchal Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. Meerut. | 1 |
| 5 | Director (Technical) | Pashchimanchal Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. Meerut | 1 |
| 6 | Director (Commercial) | KESCO Ltd., Kanpur | 1 |
| 7 | Director (Finance) | KESCO Ltd., Kanpur | 1 |
| 8 | Director (Distribution) | U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., Lucknow | 1 |
| 9 | Director (P&M&A) | U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., Lucknow | 1 |
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| 11 | Director (Finance) | U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., Lucknow | 1 |
| 12 | Director (Technical) | U.P. Rajya Viduyt Utpadan Nigam Ltd., Lucknow | 1 |
| 13 | Director (Finance) | U.P. Rajya Viduyt Utpadan Nigam Ltd., Lucknow | 1 |

Last date of receipt of application is 05 July, 2022
Details and on line application is available on www.upcl.org and www.upenergy.in
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY (ENERGY), GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
R.O. NO. 170
R.O DATE 18/08/2022

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male person was found dead at Nathu Colony Wale Flyover Down Underpass, Delhi dated 06.06.2022. In this regard a DD No. 55A dated 06.06.2022 has been lodged in P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unkonwn, S/o:Unkonwn, R/o:Unkonwn, Age: about 60 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Long, Built:Thin, Wearing-Yellow colour Kurta, White Pajama and Bare in foot. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph: 011-22583307, 8750870733
DP/1729/NE/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one person Namely Dheeraj S/o Munna Lal R/o H. No. A-1/224, 20 Foota Road Harsh Vihar, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped from his house since 03.06.2022. In this regard, a case DD No. 42-A, Dated 04.06.2022 has been registered at P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing person is as under.

Age: about 24 year, Height: 5' 5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Grey Colour T-Shirt, Black colour Pajama and Grey & White colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing person then please inform P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- S.H.O.
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Tel No. 011- 2234 2074
DP/1711/NE/2022

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PULSE POLIO CELL: 23813210
7th Floor, C-Wing, Vikas Bhawan-II, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0041/22-23

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER :: PWD BUILDING:: ASSAM::GUWAHATI-3
No.CE/ARC-I/08/2022/PT-I/07

PRESS NOTICE (RE TENDER)

In Cancellation of the earlier Press Notice, invited vide No. CE/ARC-I/08/2022/PT-1/01 DATED 25/04/2022, the Special Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Building), Health & Education, Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites Bids for Technical & Financial offer as per request for Proposal from qualified and experienced firms (criteria as per in RFP document) for providing 'Project Management Consultancy Services' for the following work:

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The details may be seen in e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in.

- The Work Order will be issued after receipt of Administrative Approval from concerned authority.
- The validity period of the Bid shall be 180 days from the date of submission.
- The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (website: <http://assamtenders.gov.in>)
- The Special Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Building), Health & Education, Assam reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without showing any reasons what so ever.

Spl. Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.), Health & Education, Assam
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Advertisement No. SKRAU/2022/01 Dated: 18.06.2022
Advertisement for the post of Vice-Chancellor (SKRAU, Bikaner)

Applications are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agriculture University, Bikaner. The applicants are advised to send their Curriculum Vitae by e-mail (assam@skrau22@gmail.com) and post in the prescribed format so as to reach the office of the Registrar, Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agriculture University, Bikaner-334006 and Officer on Special Duty (Higher Education), Governor's Secretariat, Raj Bhawan, Jaipur-302006 on or before 20th July, 2022 at 05.00 PM. Detailed advertisement and application format can be downloaded from the website www.raulbikaner.org or www.raibhawan.gov.in.
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FINANCE AGAINST Property/Business/Projects. Contact: +918610836362/+917708215904/+917200242522.

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Office of Chief Engineer (CPOH) ADI, E-tender Notice No. 10/2022-23, Date 13.06.2022. Name of work : Procurement of Screen, tapping tool cutter bar, cutting chain and other BCM spares for POH of Tract Machines at CPOH ADI. Tender No. : CECPHAD-2022-23-10. Approximate NIT Cost : ₹ 3,05,26,506.94, EMD Cost in ₹ : ₹ 8,10,530.00, Date of closing of tender : 11.07.2022 @ 11:00 Hrs. Date of opening of tender: 11.07.2022 @ 11:15 Hrs. Date of uploading of tender on IREPS : 09.08.2022 IREPS Address: www.ireps.gov.in
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Amendment not on AIADMK council agenda

Drafting panel did not take up creation of new posts

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

The AIADMK's resolution drafting committee, which met here on Saturday morning to finalise the agenda for the June 23 general council meeting, did not discuss any amendment to the party's by-laws for creating any post above those of coordinator and co-coordinator.

This was revealed by some members of the drafting committee who belonged to the camps led by coordinator O. Panneerselvam as well as co-coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

While Mr. Panneerselvam attended the two-hour meeting at the party headquarters, Mr. Palaniswami did not.

Asked about Mr. Palaniswami's absence, organisation secretary and steering committee member D. Jayakumar replied that neither Mr. Panneerselvam nor Mr. Palaniswami was part of the drafting committee, which had 12 members. So, there was no need for the co-coordinator to take part. "It was the individual decision of Mr. Panneerselvam to be present



O. Panneerselvam arrives at the party headquarters on Saturday. *S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

at the meeting." Meanwhile, Mr. Palaniswami, who reached Chennai on Friday evening, met his supporters at his residence. One of his aides said over 60 district secretaries (of a total of 75) and most of the headquarters functionaries called on him. "This need not be seen as a show of strength as they all met him as a matter of courtesy," the aide said.

A member of Mr. Panneerselvam's camp said it had the support of 15 district secretaries, including deputy coordinator and Thanjavur (south) district secretary R. Vaithilingam; Tiruvallur (south) secretary V. Alexan-

der; Tiruchi (urban) secretary Vellamandi M. Natarajan; Theni secretary S.P.M. Syed Khan; Virudhunagar (east) secretary R.K. Ravichandran; Tirunelveli secretary N. Ganesaraja and Kaniyankumari (east) secretary S.A. Ashokan.

Among the others are South Chennai (south east) secretary M.K. Ashok; Tiruvallur (north) secretary P. Balaraman; Thanjavur (north) secretary M.G.M. Subramaniam; Perambalur secretary R.T. Ramachandran; and Ariyalur secretary S. Rajendran.

Former School Education Minister and the party's veteran from Erode K.A. Sengottaiyan met Mr. Palaniswami and Mr. Panneerselvam.

Mr. Jayakumar, a former Minister, justified his action of briefing the media about what had transpired at the meeting of the district secretaries on Tuesday. "I have not broken any 'Chidambaram Ragasiyam' [the secret associated with the shrine at the Chidambaram temple]. I had conveyed what is obvious - the views of the party workers."

AAP eyes first election victory in Haryana

'Corruption-free regime', 'Kejriwal Model' planks for civic poll today

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Riding high on its new-found popularity in Haryana, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is aiming to register its first-ever electoral victory in the State in the municipal polls on Sunday.

The party, which is contesting 45 of the 46 civic bodies going to the polls, is in a direct contest with the ruling coalition of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP). The Congress has decided not to contest the elections. The results of the polls to 28 municipal committees and 18 municipal councils will be declared on June 22.

Following its sweeping victory in Punjab, AAP is trying to gain a foothold in Haryana. Since 2014, the party has failed to register a win in the State in the two Lok Sabha elections and the 2019 Assembly polls.

AAP's State leaders and its MLAs from Delhi have started campaigning in full swing on the twin planks of a "corruption-free regime" and the "Kejriwal Model".

"The Congress sowed the seeds of corruption, and the BJP-JJP government watered and fertilized it. Corruption is rampant in municipal bodies in the State. Tenders are floated and payments made, but no work is done. This election will lay the foundation for a change in the system," said AAP Rajya Sabha MP and Haryana in-charge Sushil Gupta at a rally in Gharonda.

'Huge response'

Former Sirsa MP Ashok Tanwar, who quit the Trinamool Congress and joined AAP in April this year, said the party was presenting itself as an alternative to the BJP-JJP alliance and the Congress.

Mr. Tanwar said the response to the party's rallies and roadshows in the State was "huge" and it stood a fair chance of emerging victorious in areas bordering Punjab such as Jind, Kaithal and Fatehabad.

He said the party was also putting up a good fight at Sohna, Narnaul, Meham and Palwal.

AAP's South Haryana spokesperson Sarika Verma said "door-to-door campaigning" has always been the party's forte and its candidates and workers are trying to reach out to each and every voter.

BJP using Central agencies to threaten MLAs: Nana Patole

Maharashtra will witness a miracle in Council polls, says NCP

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of using the Central probe agencies to threaten Congress MLAs to vote for the Opposition party's candidates in the Council polls on June 20.

"The BJP-led Central government is abusing [State] machinery to harass the Opposition across the country. These [Central] agencies are being misused to suppress the voice of the Opposition. Our MLAs are being called directly and asked to favour the BJP," Mr. Patole said. The Congress leader said more information on this matter would be brought to light "at an appropriate time".

Mr. Patole said the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance's failure to win an extra seat in the Rajya Sabha elections would not be repeated in the Council polls.

"The BJP is creating obstacles, but the numbers are on our side. We need 12 votes to win the extra seat, while the BJP needs 22 votes. The BJP is claiming victory on the basis of its money power and



Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole.

win is now around 26 as the strength of the 288-member Assembly has reduced to 285 following the demise of Sena MLA Ramesh Latke and the arrest of two NCP leaders: Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh.

'All MLAs will back MVA' "We are sure that not only our MLAs but also the Opposition MLAs will vote for our candidates by following their conscience," he said.

Both the Congress and NCP have denied reports of divisions within the MVA.

The BJP's five candidates for the elections are Pravin Darekar, Ram Shinde, Shrikant Bharatiya, Uma Khapre and Prasad Lad.

The three parties that form the ruling MVA have fielded two candidates each. The Shiv Sena has fielded Sachin Ahir and Amshya Padvi, the NCP has placed its bets on Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar and Eknath Khadse, and the Congress has nominated Chandrakant Handore and Bhai Jagtap.

There is likely to be a face-off between Mr. Lad of the BJP and Mr. Jagtap of the Congress for the 10th seat.

Want to cross-examine Rahul Mukerjea, Indrani tells court

Accused in Sheena Bora murder case asked to file application

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

A special court on Saturday asked Indrani Mukerjea, the prime accused in the Sheena Bora murder case, to file a proper application on her request to cross-examine the prosecution's witness and Sheena's fiancé, Rahul Mukerjea, in person.

The judge said under Section 32 of the Advocate Act, 1961, permission for cross-examination in person can be granted only after taking some provisions into consideration. The court explained the situation to Ms. Indrani Mukerjea and her lawyer Sana Khan and asked them to file a proper application. The court will hear their application on June 22.

Ms. Mukerjea had put forward the request after Mr. Rahul, the son of former media baron Peter Mukerjea



Indrani Mukerjea after appearing before the court in Mumbai on Friday. *PTI

who is also an accused in the murder case, gave his testimony in court.

Phone recordings played For the second consecutive day on Saturday, several recordings of telephonic conversations between Mr. Rahul, Mr. Peter and Ms. Mukerjea were played in the court of special CBI judge S.P. Naik-Nimbalkar.

Mr. Rahul had told the

court earlier that he began recording the phone calls of Ms. Mukerjea after he had found her replies to questions about Sheena's whereabouts suspicious.

In the multiple conversations played before the court on Saturday, Mr. Rahul is heard expressing his fear and concern about Sheena's disappearance. In the series of conversations, both Mr. Peter and Ms. Mukerjea can be heard trying to convince Mr. Rahul that nothing wrong had happened to Sheena and she will contact them within a week or two.

In one of the calls, Mr. Peter told Mr. Rahul that he had spoken to Sheena. He told Mr. Rahul that the call was received on Ms. Mukerjea's mobile phone. Mr. Rahul responded by saying that Ms. Mukerjea was in possession of Sheena's phone.

Savouring success



Ecstatic: Students flash the victory sign at Rajat Girls' College in Lucknow on Saturday after the Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad announced the results of the board exams of Classes X and XII. A total of 163 inmates lodged in various prisons in the State also cleared the exams, an official said. *SANDEEP SAXENA


Consulting my supporters, says Bishnoi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH


Adampur Congress MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi on Saturday said he is consulting his supporters to decide his next course of action, days after he cross-voted in the Rajya Sabha polls and appears to be warming up to the BJP.

"I am consulting my supporters on next step after which I will decide next course of action," said Mr. Bishnoi, who was expelled by the Congress recently from all party positions.

When asked if he is in touch with the BJP leaders, Mr. Bishnoi said his next step will be taken keeping in mind the interests of people of Haryana and his constituency. Mr. Bishnoi, younger son of former Haryana CM Bhajan Lal, was speaking in Delhi after Rajya Sabha MP Kartikeya Sharma had called on him at his residence there.



आयुर्विज्ञान में राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा बोर्ड
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)



दीक्षांत समारोह
Convocation

Chief Guest
Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare
Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India

Guest of Honour
Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar
Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India

Special Guest

Dr. M. R. Girinath
Apollo Hospitals Group

Shri. Rajesh Bhushan
Secretary
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India

सोमवार, 20 जून 2022 (9:30 AM)
डॉ. अम्बेडकर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय केंद्र, 15 जनपथ, नई दिल्ली
Monday, 20th June 2022 (9:30 AM)
Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, 15 Janpath, New Delhi

डॉ मनसुख मांडविया
माननीय स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्री
रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्री, भारत सरकार

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare
Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India

डॉ भारती प्रविण पवार
माननीय केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण राज्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार

Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar
Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare
Govt. of India

डॉ एम. आर. गिरिनाथ
अपोलो अस्पताल समूह

Dr. M. R. Girinath
Apollo Hospitals Group

श्री राजेश भूषण
सचिव
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Shri. Rajesh Bhushan
Secretary
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India

डॉ अभिजात शेट
अध्यक्ष
आयुर्विज्ञान में राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा बोर्ड

Dr. Abhijat Sheth
President
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences

Suspect in Secunderabad violence arrested

Subba Rao, who runs Sai Defence academy, is accused of inciting violence

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The police have reportedly taken Avula Subba Rao, who allegedly instigated the violence at the Secunderabad railway station on Friday, into custody.

Mr. Subba Rao, who established Sai Defence Academy at Narsaraopet in Andhra Pradesh, as well as in Hyderabad and other places, is accused of inciting violence at Secunderabad station over the implementation of Agnipath scheme, on Friday.

The trouble-mongers burnt some bogies and resorted to arson at the railway station. One person, Damodar Rakesh of Narsampet in Telangana, reportedly died in the firing.

Opposing the recruitment of Agniveers through the Agnipath scheme, protesters reportedly planned attacks

on major railway stations, Central government offices and army recruitment offices in Andhra Pradesh.

The accused, Subba Rao, an ex-serviceman, allegedly sent messages and provoked the Army aspirants and instigated the youth, thereby causing violence, the investigation officers suspect.

Meanwhile, security was tightened at Guntur, Vijayawada, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Nellore, Srikakulam, Rajahmundry and other railway and bus stations to prevent any untoward incidents.

Loss to Railways

Divisional Railway Manager Secunderabad, Abhay Kumar Gupta, on Saturday said the loss of property caused due to Friday's arson and rioting is to the tune of ₹12 crore.

"This is apart from com-



Security personnel; guarding the Vijayawada railway station on Saturday. *G.N. RAO

pensations – to be quantified and paid for food stall vendors, refunds for ticket bookings and losses due to delay in transporting goods," he said, adding that most amenities at the station for passengers were restored.

Trains were operated from the junction from 6.30 p.m. on Friday, soon after the police removed the prot-

esters from the premises and took some of them into custody. Train operations resumed smoothly as there was no damage to the tracks and the signalling system.

Authorities on Friday had initially pegged the losses at ₹3 crore, and later at ₹7 crore.

Although the senior official said he would not com-

Agnipath scheme sets off protests in Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Ministry of Defence's new military recruitment scheme, Agnipath, has triggered street protests in Kerala. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has demanded that the Centre rollback the proposal.

In Palakkad, the All India Youth Front (AIYF)

demonstrated against the scheme. In

Thiruvananthapuram, protesting aspirants marched to the Raj Bhavan, demanding the Centre ditch the scheme. The protesters from various northern Kerala districts took out a march to the Kozhikode railway station on Saturday morning.

ment on 'the police firing on Friday', he opined that the action was "a spontaneous reaction and the need of the hour".

"Probably, the local police who were assisting us took the decision to open fire," he said, not commenting further.

Mr. Gupta said normal traffic was restored at the sta-

tion, and there was also no delay in train schedules on Saturday, except for two trains whose rakes were damaged. A detailed evaluation of the losses and additional compensations was being worked out, and a report would be submitted to the Ministry, he added.

(With inputs from Hyderabad)

Odisha CM to embark on 2-nation tour tomorrow

This is his first foreign trip in a decade

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will embark on a two-nation tour, covering Italy and United Arab Emirates (UAE) from June 20, which is his first foreign trip after more than a decade.

Last time when Mr. Patnaik was on foreign soil in 2012, he had faced rebellion back home. He had to rush back to bring the situation under control.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, Mr. Patnaik would lead a delegation to Rome and Dubai.

"The World Food Program has extended an invitation to Mr. Patnaik to visit its Headquarters in Rome and share the transformative initiatives of Odisha in the field of food security and disaster management," the CMO said.

Odisha has, according to the government, transformed itself into a food-surplus State adding to the country's public distribution system. From the severe loss faced during the Super Cyclone of 1999, Odisha is now a model in disaster management acknowledged by the United Nations.

To meet Pope

"Odisha CM will meet WFP Executive Director David Beasley and senior leadership. He will have detailed discussions on Odisha's partnership with the WFP and future projects which will help the State in ensuring food security in a sustainable manner," said the CMO.

During his stay in Rome, Mr. Patnaik is scheduled to meet Pope Francis in The Holy See, Vatican. Besides, he will meet Odia diaspora from various parts of Europe. The State would seek



Naveen Patnaik.

engaging diaspora in promoting the art and culture of Odisha.

On the second leg of his visit, Mr. Patnaik will meet the investors from West Asia and adjoining regions in Dubai and extend invitation to the potential investors. A high level industrial delegation from the State would accompany Mr. Patnaik in the meet for possible partnerships with the foreign investors.

Chief Secretary Suresh Mohapatra, Secretary to CM (ST) V.K. Pandian, Principal Secretary Food and Civil Supplies V.V. Yadav, Principal Secretary Industries Hemant Sharma and Resident Commissioner in New Delhi Ravi Kant will be part of the delegation.

Mr. Patnaik recently celebrated completion of 25 years in public service. The first visit of the CM happened in May 2012. He was accompanied by his private secretary Mr. Pandian.

On May 29, 2012, while he was in the United Kingdom, many MLAs gathered at the house of late Pyari Mohan Mohapatra, then a powerful adviser to Mr. Patnaik. However, political observers believe that Mohapatra could not gather the required number to dislodge the government. The CM had told a news agency in London that in his absence, a party MP was stirring trouble against his State government.

IN BRIEF



Verdict on Dileep's bail cancellation on June 28

KOCHI

The Kerala special court trying the actor assault case wrapped up the hearing on the prosecution application for the cancellation of the bail of actor Dileep, the eighth accused in the case, on Saturday and adjourned for passing the verdict on June 28. The application was moved on the ground that Dileep tried to influence witnesses. The prosecution has demanded audio samples of accused Dileep, Anoop, Sarath, Suraj and Hyderali.

ED notice to Swapna over charges against CM

The accused in diplomatic gold case to appear for questioning on June 22

KERALA BUREAU
KOCHI

In a development pregnant with political implications, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a notice to diplomatic channel gold case accused Swapna Suresh to appear for questioning at the agency's office in Kochi on June 22.

The ED's notice to Swapna was widely perceived as the precursor to an investigation into the allegations raised by her against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family.

Ms. Suresh had set off a political storm by filing a sworn statement in court re-

lating to her public claim that Mr. Vijayan had allegedly exploited the heft of his office to import contraband gold and send tranches of foreign currency abroad via the UAE Consulate's diplomatic channel during the previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) administration.

Ms. Suresh accusations had cast Mr. Vijayan at the centre of an evolving high-level political scandal and shoved the State into another acrimonious season of aggressive street protests.

Scores of persons were injured on both sides when the Congress and the BJP workers clashed with the police



Swapna Suresh

across Kerala, demanding Mr. Vijayan's resignation.

Intense speculation swirled around whether Ms. Suresh's "disclosures" would lay the ground for a possible criminal investigation into Mr. Vijayan.

The Congress and the BJP have alleged that Ms. Suresh's "disclosures" con-

tained significant evidence of "criminality" against the previous LDF administration, including former Minister K.T. Jaleel, MLA.

However, the CPI(M) has accused an "RSS front organisation" of goading Ms. Suresh to taint Mr. Vijayan politically. It claimed that the outfit had succoured her after her release on bail from prison and deployed her as a political tool against the government.

The LDF administration has pushed back by opening a criminal inquiry against Ms. Suresh for allegedly conspiring to denigrate the government. Ms. Suresh's allegations also generated a seemingly unending cycle of riveting political drama and heated television debates.

Heavy rain in Bengaluru claims 2 lives

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Heavy rains that lashed the city on Friday night left two dead and another missing.

Mithun Kumar, 28, a resident of K.R. Puram, was washed away in the storm-water drain right next to his house on Friday. Despite the efforts by the State Disaster Response Force his body could not be recovered. In another incident, Muniyamma, 62, was killed and two others injured when the compound wall of an apartment collapsed and fell over two adjoining houses. The other two are said to be out of danger.

Telangana Minister holds talks with agitating students

Stir in Basar varsity enters fifth day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BASAR

Even as the ongoing stir by the students of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) at Basar in Nirmal district of Telangana entered the fifth day on Saturday, Forest Minister A. Indrakaran Reddy held talks with the agitating students on the university campus on Saturday evening to end the deadlock.

Though sources in the university claimed that the meeting ended on a positive note paving the way for likely resumption of the classes for the six-year integrated course from Monday, the representatives of the student governing council insisted that they would call off the agitation only after receiving concrete assurances in writing from the Chief Minister's Office.

At the meeting, some of the students reportedly pointed out that the earlier assurances given by the authorities to appoint a regular Vice-Chancellor and deploy women police on the campus still remained unfulfilled.

They reiterated their appeal to the State government to heed to their genuine demands, including provision of requisite amenities and laptops, appointment of adequate faculty members, renovation of the hostel building and upgradation of library, among others.

Undeterred by intermittent rain, the agitating students squatted on the premises of the campus holding umbrellas to press for their 12-point charter of demands as part of the ongoing sit-in protests from dawn to dusk on Saturday.

Cool dip



Unmindful of risks: Though swimming has been prohibited due to frequent drowning incidents, people throw caution to the wind and ride the waves on the R.K. Beach in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. *K.R. DEEPAK

ED searches houses of TDP leaders in A.P.

Sleuths confiscate some documents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR

About 20 Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials, supported by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, conducted searches and questioned Telugu Desam Party former MP J.C. Diwakar Reddy and current Tadipatri municipal chairman J.C. Prabhakar Reddy from the early hours of Friday till Saturday morning.

The officials reportedly confiscated some documents and left the houses of Mr. Prabhakar Reddy, Diwakar Reddy and a Class I contractor in the early hours of Saturday.

The ED officials refused to talk to mediapersons, but Mr. Diwakar Reddy came out of the house after they left, and told the press that they took away some documents.

When asked what the



ED officials conducting searches on the house of J.C. brothers in Anantapur.

search or questioning of the J.C. brothers was for, he said he himself did not know and that the officials had taken whichever documents they wanted.

Recently, some BJP leaders had visited their house and the mediapersons enquired if the searches were part of any political vendetta. To this, Mr. Diwakar Reddy said there was nothing political in this matter and refused to elaborate further.

Non-resident Keralites pour out their woes

Issues have increased manifold in the Gulf post pandemic, says activist

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The COVID-19 pandemic has piled on the misery for migrant workers abroad with many suffering job losses and rampant wage theft. Some families also withdrew children from schools owing to fee default.

The crisis has also paved the way for many migrants to pursue illegal way for employment, often exposing themselves to exploitation. A plethora of issues faced by non-resident Keralites (NoRKs) came to the fore at an open forum held on the sidelines of the Loka Kerala Sabha on Saturday.

P.M. Jabir, the Muscat-based migrant rights activist, said problems faced by migrants, particularly in the Middle East, had increased



Migrant rights activist P.M. Jabir speaking at an open forum in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. *AJAYAKUMAR

manifold in the post-pandemic world.

"Numerous workers have faced salary cuts as high as 50-60% and are witnessing their service conditions being flouted by exploitative employers. There has also been an increase in undocumented migrant workers with employers refusing to

renew their work visas," he said.

Former diplomat and Officer on Special Duty on external cooperation of the State government Venu Rajamony highlighted the threat of unskilled migrant workers getting duped, trafficked, and exploited in large numbers.

In the absence of a democratic system and free press in Gulf countries, the former Consul General of India in Dubai stressed the relevance of close coordination between diplomatic missions and Indian associations to share vital information and initiate steps to rescue those in difficulty.

Mr. Rajamony also felt only skilled workers might be able to migrate in the years to come, raising relevance of the need to upgrade skill training in their places of origin.

Kerala State Planning Board expert member and travel documentary filmmaker Santhosh George Kulangara proposed the creation of a 'job portal' that could link skilled NoRK returnees with job providers.

Odisha man reaps success in Kerala fields

Railway officer cultivates paddy, vegetables on 2.5 acres of land at Kanjiramattom

M.P. PRAVEEN
KOCHI

When his job with the Indian Railways brought him to Kerala almost two decades ago, Harihar Majhi, hailing from Kendujhar in Odisha, also brought along his passion for farming.

Flourishing backyard farming used to be a distinctive feature wherever he stayed, leaving people in the neighbourhood amazed at the fresh vegetables, which the affable man shared with them.

During his stint as the station master at Kanjiramattom, about 25 km southeast of Kochi city, nine years ago, Mr. Majhi as usual turned the property around his house into a veritable vegetable garden. Impressed by the quality of his vegetables and



Harihar Majhi working on his field at Kanjiramattom. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

his dedication in tending to them, a man in the neighbourhood volunteered to arrange land for farming on a larger scale.

And, Mr. Majhi began cultivating 2.5 acres of land. Since then, the land, which includes parcels both taken

on lease and allowed to use for free, has doubled producing largely organic paddy and vegetables, for which there is a regular clientele who get it delivered at their doorstep at less than the prevailing market price.

"I hail from a family of farmers and so farming has always been a part of my life since childhood. I want to do my bit for the good health of people who seem too preoccupied for it," said the 47-year-old man, who now serves as a chief enquiry and reservation supervisor with the Railways.

Shift to Kerala

When his devotion to farming kept him away from his family for years, they chose to shift to Kerala in 2015. Now, his wife and four chil-

dren are equally enthusiastic about tending to the field even as their home doubles up as a storehouse.

On an average, the paddy fields on 2.50 acres produce 20 quintals of rice a year during the two sowing seasons while the vegetable farming on the rest of the land return anywhere between three to five quintals during the peak nine months as Mr. Majhi keeps changing the crops according to seasons.

He tends to the field during the early morning hours before joining duty and the after-job hours are devoted to delivering the produce. While the majority of the produce goes to regular customers, the surplus finds its ways to shops across the city and suburbs.

INTERVIEW | OM BIRLA

'It's the government that decides to send Bills to Standing Committees'

Bills should be circulated well in advance of debate in the House, so that members have adequate time to prepare for it, says the Lok Sabha Speaker

NISTULA HEBBAR
SANDEEP PHUKAN

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who has completed three years in office, speaks on the new normal of functioning of Parliament in the shadow of a pandemic, parliamentary scrutiny and the recent controversy over the remarks against Prophet Muhammad by a now-sacked BJP spokesperson. Edited excerpts.

We are trying to emerge from two years of the pandemic, through which Parliament functioned. How was Parliament affected by the pandemic?

■ During the pandemic, the duration of sittings was reduced but if you look at the figures, the Lok Sabha clocked 167% productivity, this is a record high.

Our allotted time during the truncated sessions was between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. and members made full use of the time. If you look at attendance of members also, it was higher than in non-pandemic periods; around 337 MPs on an average were present in Parliament. So, the working of Parliament was not affected much. In terms

of what issues members raised, more speakers raised Zero Hour mentions and we started, in this 17th Lok Sabha, the practice of trying to get a response to matters mentioned then. In the demands for grants debate, four hours were allotted but the House debated it for 15 hours. In terms of democratic dialogue, it has been a rich experience.

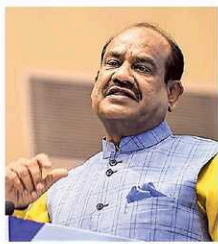
There are frequent complaints by Opposition that not enough Bills are being sent to parliamentary committees. Also, that Ministries circulate Bills just before the debate is taken up on them, not giving enough time to prepare.

■ Government, in the eighth

session of the 17th Lok Sabha, sent nearly 60% of the Bills to the Standing Committees. Governments bring Bills for the welfare of citizens and [with regard to] some Bills, government may feel that to delay may lead to a loss to the people. So they may want to debate in the House, maybe more than the allotted time but not be so much in favour of sending the Bill to the Standing Committee. It's the government that makes the decision whether Bills are sent to the committee or not, and takes the mandate of the House.

As for circulation of Bills minutes before being debated, I have raised the issue with the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, and said that Bills should be circulated well in advance of debate, so that members have an adequate time period to prepare for debate.

You have been proactive in encouraging those who have never spoken in the House to speak.



There is no rule, no procedure for asking people outside the boundaries of this country to be summoned at the will of the Speaker

■ My aim is that the largest number of new and women members speak in the House. There was for example a first-time woman member, who, because she didn't know either English or Hindi, only her local language, felt inhibited in raising issues in the House. I called the translator for her language and helped her formulate a speech, now she often

speaks in the House.

In fact, that is why I ask that the House run beyond its time, late into the night. In the first session that I chaired as Speaker, a record-breaking 1,066 members raised Zero Hour mentions, and we also have, for the 17th Lok Sabha, the all-time record of 182 people raising issues during Zero Hour.

Facebook whistle-blower Sophie Zhang has been saying repeatedly that she wants to depose before the Standing Committee on Information Technology, but that you are not allowing that to happen.

■ As Speaker of the Lok Sabha, in case a particular parliamentary committee wants to summon witnesses to depose before them, and if these people are employed with State governments or under their jurisdictions, then the Speaker can, at the request of the committee, ask that they present themselves. There is no rule, no

procedure for asking people outside the boundaries of this country to be summoned at the will of the Speaker.

I am being tagged every day on Twitter for this, but I must clarify that as Speaker there are no rules under which I can summon people from abroad. Country representatives of various companies have represented them before the committee.

Certain remarks about Prophet Muhammad triggered quite a controversy internationally. A member of the Parliament of the Maldives had moved a resolution against India, but it was eventually defeated. Several other West Asian countries condemned those remarks, while a report in the U.S. questioned religious freedom in India. As the custodian of the people's House of the world's largest democracy, how do you view these developments?

■ This issue doesn't strictly

concern the functioning of Parliament. Rather, it's about relations between nations. Everyone has the right to speak about issues in their own country.

But it is our expectation that the parliamentary proceedings of any country should not get reduced to making allegations and counter-allegations about another country.

You can surely discuss events, but Parliament should not be used pass resolutions concerning another country. Say when we discussed the Ukraine war, we restricted ourselves to the impact on India.

Similarly, when we pass a Bill here [Lok Sabha], another Parliament shouldn't be commenting on it until it directly impacts them.

A delegation of the Congress met you to complain about the Delhi Police misbehaving with their MPs during a protest against the Enforcement Directorate.

Lok Sabha member S. Jothimani also written to you about breach of her privilege. Would you act on their complaint?

■ Yes, a delegation had met and apprised me of the developments that took place in the past few days.

Subsequently, a representation was made in writing as well.

There are well-defined rules to deal with, and dispose of, such issues. This complaint too would be examined within those rules and action will be taken.

You had said that the winter session of this year will be held in the new Parliament building. So, are we on track?

■ The way construction work is progressing, right now we are six days behind schedule.

But the pace of construction is quite good and we hope to hold the winter session in the new building.

Agnipath protests: U.P. police arrest 340 people

Protests continued in Jaunpur district

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh police on Saturday said they had arrested 340 persons in connection with the protests that broke out in several parts of the State against the Agnipath scheme.

The police lodged 29 cases in 12 districts. Out of the 340 persons arrested, 145 were charged under preventive measures (Section 151 of the Cr.PC), while 195 were arrested under registered FIRs, they said.

Meanwhile, protests continued in some districts, especially in Jaunpur where several vehicles were damaged. A State roadways bus was vandalised and two motorcycles set ablaze in Badlapur area of Jaunpur, while another bus was set on fire in Sikrara area, said K. Sa-

tyanarayan, IG Varanasi. The officer said the protesting youth were made to disperse. The police would register separate FIRs for each incident, he said.

"We will arrest them," said the IG.

In Aligarh, where several vehicles and public property were targeted on Friday, police said they were taking action against those "instigating" the protests through microblogging sites and social media.

The police had also taken into custody managers of some coaching institutes for allegedly instigating the army aspirants, said DIG Aligarh Deepak Kumar.

In Mathura, the police arrested 43 persons, 35 in Aligarh, 36 in Varanasi, 41 in Jaunpur, 20 in Mirzapur and 15 in Gautam Buddha Nagar.

RLD holds silent protest against Agnipath scheme

Tikait says BKU will launch agitation from June 30

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

Responding to the violent protests in western Uttar Pradesh on Friday against the Agnipath scheme, the Rashtriya Lok Dal suspended its plan to protest at the district headquarters on Saturday. Instead, party president Chaudhary Jayant Singh and the party MLAs visited the Kisan Ghat and registered a silent protest against the short-term recruitment scheme in the armed forces.

Mr. Singh demanded the government roll back the scheme and appealed to the

protesters to use peaceful means to register their anguish.

Recently, Mr. Singh had written to the Ministry of Defence demanding the cut-off age for recruitment be extended by two years because of the pandemic. Mr. Singh said the Ministry had responded that it would be against the established procedure of recruitment and would not be fair with the current batch of aspirants.

"Now that the government has agreed to increase the cut-off age by two years in the Agnipath scheme, the Ministry should answer why it could not have been done in the regular recruitment process," he said, adding such flip-flops put the intention of the government under a cloud.

Party spokesperson San-

Govt. has ignored voice of protesters, says Sonia Gandhi

She terms scheme directionless, calls for peaceful protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Appealing for non-violent protests, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday said that the Agnipath recruitment scheme is directionless, and assured the protesting youth of support from the party.

"I am sad that the government has announced the scheme of new army recruitment ignoring your voice, which is completely directionless. Along with you, many ex-servicemen and defence experts have also raised questions on this plan," Ms. Gandhi said in a statement that was released by the Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh.

Ms. Gandhi, who is undergoing treatment for post-CO-



Sonia Gandhi

VID issues in a Delhi hospital, added, "The Congress stands firmly with the youth and promises to protect their interests by fighting to get this scheme withdrawn. Like a true patriot, we will raise your voice by following the path of truth, non-violence and peace."

Earlier in the day, former party chief Rahul Gandhi said that as the now-repealed farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have to become *maafiveer* and withdraw the new recruitment scheme.

'Will have to withdraw'
Accusing the Modi government of continuously insulting the *Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan* [Hail the soldier, hail the farmer] slogan, Mr. Gandhi, in a tweet, said, "I had said earlier also that the Prime Minister will have to withdraw the black farm laws. In the same manner, he will have to accept the demand of the youth of the country by becoming *maafiveer* and taking back the Agnipath scheme."

Rajasthan govt. calls for withdrawal of Agnipath scheme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Council of Ministers on Saturday passed a unanimous resolution calling for immediate withdrawal of the Agnipath scheme keeping in mind the larger public interest and the sentiment of the youth.

The Ministry also expressed concern over the nationwide protests and violence over the scheme.

At the meeting presided over by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot at his official residence here, the Council of Ministers said the Centre should have had a comprehensive discussion with all the stakeholders before introducing any such scheme.

The Ministers also appealed to the youth to raise their voice in a peaceful, non-violent, democratic manner and maintain restraint.

Official sources said here that the Ministers felt that the scheme would neither secure the future of the youth, nor would it enable the Army to face the challenges with full confidence.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER-CUM-REVERSE TENDERING
Adv.No.TTD-44021(34)/10/2021-Press SEC TTD Dt: 17-06-2022
e-Tenders are invited for Printing and Supply of 6 Sheet Calendars-2023 (50,000 Nos) (2nd Call) as per tender notice & details of e-tender. Please log on to the web site <http://www.appeprocurement.gov.in> (or) <http://tender.appeprocurement.gov.in>.
For further details, if any, please contact: 0877-2264355 (or) 0877-2264292.
Roc.No.PRA/13943/Adv.No.89/PRO/2022, Dated:18-06-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE), Sasthirabhadram, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram - 695004
Phone: 0471-2548316, website: www.kscste.kerala.gov.in
Expression of Interest Invited
The Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) invites Expression of Interest for the empanelment of Intellectual Property Firms for KSCSTE. For more details, visit www.kscste.kerala.gov.in. Last date for submission of Expression of Interest in the prescribed format is 15.07.2022.
RO/01507/D3/2022/I&PRD MEMBER SECRETARY

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. ZONE-II, JAIPUR
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Jaipur
Phone:- 0141-2226537 Ex.:299
e-mail: acezoneii@yahoo.com / acejaipur2.pwd-rj
File No. 527 Date 10/06/2022
NIB No.-05/2022-23
Bids for 2 No. CM Budget Announcement works for year 2022-23 are invited from interested bidders upto 6-00 PM on 06-07-2022. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in>. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2849.13 lacs.
UBN No. PWD2223WLOB02617 (Manwar All)
UBN No. PWD2223WLOB02618 Addl. Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/8260/2022 PWD Zone-II, Jaipur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBAMAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO- LAXMIPOLI, DIST- MAYURBHANJ
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 02 /22-23 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi
I. Name of Work: Construction of Nuagone Distributary from RD 4792 M to 9140M, Kaliphalia Minor, Pathara S/M, Joginuaagone S/M and Amjuda S/M including all structures, Cement Concrete lining and inspection road under Subamarekha Irrigation Project.
II. Estimated Cost: Rs. 4861.36 Lakh
III. Period of Completion: 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
IV. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: 20.06.2022 at 10.00 AM
V. Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal: 19.07.2022 up to 5.00 PM
VI. Name & Address of the O.I.T.: Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CEBM, Subamarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subamarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj. cebsbb2019@gmail.com
A-331: QIPR-32429/11/0005/2223

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY. e-Tender Notice
Tender No : SE/PHC/KKD/03/2022-23. IJM 2021-22: WSS to Chathamangalam and adjoining 7 Panchayaths - Construction of 14m dia intake well cum pump house, Supplying, Laying, Testing and Commissioning of Raw water pumping main, Gravity main from WTP to existing 18MLD sump, wastewater pipeline from WTP and allied structures. EMD: Rs. 500000. Tender fee: Rs. 15000 + 18% GST. Last Date for submitting Tender : 11-07-2022, 05:00:pm.
Phone : 0495-2371046 Superintending Engineer
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in PH Circle
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-380-2022-23 Kozhikode

INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS AND APPLICATIONS
Science & Technology Department, Govt. of Odisha
Andharua, Bhubaneswar-751029
Ref : No. IMA / 42-Admission / 538 / 2022, date : 18.06.2022
ADMISSION NOTICE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE OF APPLICATIONS : REGARDING
In continuation to the earlier notice vide number IMA/42-Admission/283/2022, dtd. 8/4/2022 and IMA/42-Admission/387/2022, dtd. 10/05/2022, it is to notify that the last date of receipt of filled in application forms for admission into PG and UG courses of IMA is further extended upto Monday, July 4, 2022.
The date of entrance test will be notified later.
For procedure of application, application fees, Centers of Entrance Test and the revised admission & course fee structure etc. please visit <https://www.iomaorissa.ac.in/admissions> Sd/-
DIRECTOR
QIPR-28010/11/0008/2223

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPowerMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (Divyangjan)
(Accredited by NAAC | ISO 9001:2015 Certified - HRD & Clinical Services)
(Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukudam, East Coast Road, Kovilam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112 Tamil Nadu - India.
Phone: 044 - 27472046, 27472113, Toll Free No: 18004250345, Mobile No: 9444314716
Kiran Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline: 18005990019
www.niepmnd.in E-mail: niepmnd@gmail.com, niepmndhrd@gmail.com
ADMISSION NOTICE
NIEPMND(D) invites applications for admission to the following courses for the academic year 2022-23.

| Course & Duration | Last Date of Submission of Application |
|--|---|
| Certificate Course in Care Giving (Basic-A) (3 Months) | |
| Certificate Course in Care Giving (Advance) (6 Months) | 31.07.2022 |
| Certificate Course in Care Giving (10 Months) ## | |
| D.Ed. Special Education in Multiple Disabilities (2 Years) | Admission through RCI, New Delhi refer www.rehabcouncilnic.in |
| Bachelors of Physiotherapy (BPT) (4 1/2 years) | Admission through CET 2022, please visit http://www.niohkol.nic.in or State Selection Committee, DME, Govt. of Tamil Nadu |
| Bachelors of Occupational therapy (BOT) (4 1/2 years) | Admission through CET - 2022, please visit http://www.niohkol.nic.in |
| Bachelors in Prosthetics and orthotics (BPO) (4 1/2 Years) | 18.07.2022 |
| Bachelors in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (BASLP) (4 Years) | 18.07.2022 |
| B.Ed. Special Education in Multiple Disabilities (2 Years) | 29.07.2022 |
| M.Ed. Special Education in Multiple Disabilities (2 Years) | 15.07.2022 |
| Post Graduate Diploma in Early Intervention PGDEI (1 Year) | 15.07.2022 |
| M.Phil - Clinical Psychology (2 Years) | 16.08.2022 |

Awaiting Extension of approval from RCI
* For details on application process, eligibility, norms, guidelines and curriculum refer to the prospectus in www.niepmnd.nic.in
* SC/ST/PwD Scholarships as per TN Govt./State Govt./National Scholarship Portal schemes are applicable.
Director, NIEPMND

APPOINTMENT

TAMIL NADU OPEN UNIVERSITY
No. 577, Anna Salai, Saldapet, Chennai - 600 015.
APPOINTMENT OF VICE - CHANCELLOR
SEARCH COMMITTEE NOTIFICATION
The Government of Tamil Nadu vide G.O. (D) No. 116, Higher Education (K1) Department dated 04th May 2022 have constituted a Search Committee to recommend a panel of three persons to the Hon'ble Governor-Chancellor for selection of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai.
The Search Committee invites applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai from distinguished academicians with high level of competence, integrity, morals, and institutional commitment and possessing the educational qualification and work experience as notified by the Government of Tamil Nadu in their G.O. Ms.No.187, Higher Education (K2) Department dated 14th July 2017 copy of which is available in the Tamil Open University website www.tnou.ac.in
The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a period of three years (provided that the person appointed as Vice-Chancellor shall retire from the office if, during the term of office, he / she attains the age of 70 Years)
Interested candidates possessing the qualifications and experience may download the prescribed application, from the website of Tamil Nadu Open University. The filled in application or nomination shall be sent (only in the prescribed format) by e-mail and Registered post or in person duly superscribing the Envelope "Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Open University" so as to reach the following address on or before 5.00 P.M. of 20th July 2022.
Dr. S. Swamynathan
Nodal Officer
Search Committee for the selection of Vice-Chancellor, TNOU
Professor, Department of Information Science and Technology,
College of Engineering Guindy, Anna University,
Chennai - 600 025. E-mail: tnoucvcs2022@gmail.com
Applications received by the Nodal Officer after the publication of this notification in the website / newspapers alone will be considered. Applications received after 5.00 P.M. of 20th July 2022 will not be entertained on any account. Applications should not be sent to the Search Committee members directly.
Convener - Search Committee
DIPR/588/Display/2022

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
S.V.Goswamirakshana Shala (NIT No.TD-30021(43)/2/SVGS/TP/2022, Dt:17-06-2022)
e-TENDER CUM-REVERSE TENDERING NOTICE
S.V.Goswamirakshana Shala, TTD, Tirupati is inviting "e-tender-cum-reverse tendering" (3rd Call) for procurement of Toned Milk for a period of one year. The details of the Tender documents can be downloaded by log in to <https://tender.appeprocurement.gov.in> and select on current tenders and click on more and then select "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Marketing at Department Field" and "Marketing Office" in the Circle / Division field and click on search button. NIT No: TD/30021(43)/2/SVGS/TP/2022.
TENDER DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD: *Start Date: 21-06-2022 from 05.00 p.m. *End Date: 27-06-2022 up to 05.01 p.m.
DATE OF OPENING OF TENDER: *Technical Bid: 28-06-2022 at 11.00 a.m. *Financial Bid: 29-06-2022 at 11.00 a.m. *Reverse Auctioning / Reverse Tendering Date & Time: 29-06-2022 from 12.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
For further details contact Phone.No.0877-2264570 / 98490 50646.
Roc.No.PRA/13943/Adv.No.90/PRO/2022, Dated:18-06-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

India reports 13,216 fresh COVID cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's COVID-19 tally increased to 4,32,83,793 on Saturday as 13,216 more people tested positive for the virus and the active case-load climbed to 68,108, according to Union Health Ministry data.

This is the first time in 113 days that India has recorded over 13,000 cases. The death toll increased to 5,24,840 with 23 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 a.m. said.

The active cases comprise 0.16% of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.63%, the Ministry said.

An increase of 5,045 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.73% and the weekly positivity rate at 2.47%, the ministry said. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,26,90,845. The case fatality rate stood at 1.21%, it said. The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country under the nationwide inoculation drive have exceeded 196 crore.

COVID worsened matters in Sundarbans: UN report

Study says double burden of disease and cyclone disrupted education and reinforced vulnerabilities faced by children and women

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

A study on the impact of COVID-19 funded by the UNDRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) across five locations, including the Indian Sundarbans, has pointed out that the pandemic and measures to contain it had not only triggered cascading effects throughout societies but also reinforced pre-existing vulnerabilities.

The report titled "Understanding and managing cascading and systemic risks: lessons from COVID-19" published recently presents cross-cutting findings from five case studies across the world.

Along with looking into a multi-hazard perspective in the Indian Sundarbans, the study looks at the fragile setting in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazaar; challenges on all fronts at the national scale in Indonesia; densely populated, urban setting in Guayaquil, Ecuador; and rural-urban and national-international interlinkages in the maritime region Togo.

In the Sundarbans, the people had to deal with the double burden of COVID-19 and Cyclone Amphan. The first months of the outbreak of COVID-19 from March to

May coincided with one of the severest tropical cyclones that made landfall on May 20, 2020, with sustained wind speeds of 170 kmph, gusts of up to 190 kmph and storm surges of up to five metres.

It caused \$13 billion of damage, thereby becoming the costliest cyclone ever recorded in the north Indian Ocean (State IAG, 2020).

"The impact of two hazards occurring simultaneously manifested in the economic distress across sectors, actors and scales as reported in the workshops, media and publications. A significant proportion of the population in this area is dependent on natural resources for livelihood (fishers, crab collectors, honey gatherers, beekeepers, agriculturalists). Due to COVID-19 containment measures, restrictions were placed on accessing these natural resources, which themselves were directly affected by the cyclone," the study points out.

The research pointed out that closing schools as a preventive measure for COVID-19 resulted in the disruption in education.

"While the existing poverty was one barrier for families to pay for tools to access



Adverse impact: The research pointed out that the main cascading impact in this region in the near and long term is due to economic distress caused by the lockdown. •SHIV SAHAY SINGH

online education, unstable Internet connectivity in the remote regions was another barrier. When these barriers were coupled with the additional economic distress due to the pandemic and the cyclone, the disruption in education became conspicuous (Save the Children, 2020)," the study pointed out.

Forced marriage
Incidence of forced marriage of underage girls increased during the lockdown and in the aftermath of the cyclone,

and with economic distress and disruption in education, many families engaged their children, especially young boys, as child labour, the publication added.

The impact of the pandemic was not only on children but also severely on women. Many women had to additionally work in fields on top of their other existing workloads; to do work that was otherwise done by hired workers.

"Similar cascading impact on women's hygiene and sa-

fety was reported by residents as restricted access to sanitation services, resulting from infrastructure damage and inundation, compelled some women to resort to open defecation, which was further compounded by movement restrictions imposed due to COVID-19," the study pointed out.

Researchers have pointed out that the twin blows of the COVID-19 pandemic and Amphan resulted in short-term loss of income which aggravated child marriage and hu-

man trafficking, which can have long-term impacts.

Cyclones common

Sumana Banerjee, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, who has contributed to the research pointed out that cyclones are common in the Indian Sundarbans but the co-occurrence of Cyclone Amphan within the pandemic restrictions reshaped the understanding of risk.

"Despite not being severely affected by COVID-19 between March and May 2020, the Indian Sundarbans faced a wide range of impacts across sectors due to its interconnectedness and its existing vulnerabilities, which when combined with the impacts of the cyclone led to compounding of impacts and cascading of those across sectors," Ms. Banerjee added.

Economic distress

The research pointed out that the main cascading impact in this region in the near and long term is due to economic distress caused by the lockdown. "The COVID-19-induced lockdown disproportionately affected poorer households of this region. One study revealed that 88% of poorer house-

holds' average weekly local income and 63% of average weekly remittance income were lost due to COVID-19 (Gupta and others, 2020). Not only did it increase poverty, it pushed certain people back into it. The reduction in income due to employment loss forced people to reduce meal portions and consume fewer food items, thereby affecting their food security (Gupta and others, 2020)," the report says.

Michael Hagenlocher, lead author of the report and senior scientist at UNU-EHS (United Nations University - Environment and Human Security), says the report reminds us of the importance of better understanding the interconnections in societies and the vulnerabilities within them. "Before the pandemic, there was not much awareness that hazards, such as floods, droughts or regional disease outbreaks can have knock-on effects on societies globally. Only when COVID-19 started to spread and affect our daily lives, the true extent of how interdependencies in our highly interconnected world are causing impacts to cascade within and across societies became fully visible," Mr. Hagenlocher added.

Hybrid work model catching on in India

Most organisations want to give their employees the preference to choose their work model

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

With the world seemingly getting back to normal after the severe disruptions caused by the pandemic, most businesses are now asking their employees to get back to office, while some are adopting a hybrid working model.

According to a recent survey by people supply chain company TeamLease, a little over 58% of responding organisations from industries ranging from technology to automobile, believe that 2022 is the year offices will become completely in-office. Only about 5% of respondents said that they intend to stay a virtual-only organisation for the foreseeable future.

"For most companies, the journey to move from being 100% in office to 100% virtual had been reasonably smooth. The fact that this lasted for a long time and many believed work forever could be in this model. However, most underestimated that coming to work is not just about doing work," Nitin Sethi, chief executive officer, human capital solutions, India & South Asia, Aon, a global professional services firm, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Sethi said humans



All in a day's work: Experts say some employees and roles will move more hybrid than others. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

needed social infrastructure, and given that a large part of time was spent at work, the office fulfilled that need. The best companies were ensuring they keep some advantages of working virtual and at the same time build and keep the advantage of having people at work (engagement, productivity, culture, teamwork and so on), he said.

"As companies make this transition, some employees, some roles, some teams will definitely move more hybrid than others and some may completely. At the same time, some employees, both current and prospective, may feel that they are better off choosing one model over the other... Talent catchment areas have increased and this changed will lead to better and more diverse (not just

gender) talent pool and we know that better diversity of talent delivers superior business results," he said.

The TeamLease survey found that though 43.46% of HR leaders conceded that their employees wanted to return to work, 76.78% of organisations wanted to give their employees the preference to choose their work model. Additionally, 36.61% of respondents claimed they had an office space on lease pre-pandemic, but moved to co-working spaces later.

Flexible space

"The flexible workspaces segment was already on a strong growth curve before the pandemic; COVID-19 further disrupted the office market and expedited this migration. Consequently, businesses are proactively

looking to change their work environment and make it more flexible and resilient," Harsh Lambah, country manager, India, and vice-president, sales, South Asia, IWG (International Work-space Group), said.

IWG, he said, has signed more than 1,000 enterprise deals in the first quarter of 2022 and has witnessed a month-on-month increase of around 35% in footfall across its centres in the last three months. "What we are seeing is a rise in demand within the smaller, regional markets, with the highest demand growth of all being within tertiary markets. Since the pandemic, suburban office spaces started winning out at the expense of flashy city centres. That's partly down to the growing adoption of the hub-and-spoke model," he said.

Mr. Lambah added that large corporates and enterprises continue looking for flexible options for their workforce and this trend is visible across the industry and getting stronger as companies are calling their employees back to the offices.

"As all organisations are evaluating what would be their version of future of work, we at Ericsson are exploring our future work-

place from a physical, virtual and cultural perspective to cater for greater flexibility and new ways of working. We believe the future of our work will be 'hybrid' on the back of technology which will be the game changer as well as the enabler," Priyanka Anand, vice-president and head, HR, Southeast Asia Oceania and India, Ericsson, said.

Ms. Anand said Ericsson was looking at work as an activity that is location agnostic, in short "work from anywhere". Through a hybrid work model, its line managers are empowered to approve when their teams can work-from-home and working remotely is voluntary as it believes that our offices play a key role in building a strong culture and belonging in Ericsson.

Likewise, Tech Mahindra said its employees continue to have the flexibility to work from anywhere and expects this trend of hybrid working to ramp up. "Having said that, we see that many associates at Tech Mahindra are recharging their routes back-to-office and are looking forward to meeting their teams in person," said Harshvendra Soin, global chief people officer & head, marketing, Tech Mahindra.

Amrit Sarovar mission could boost infrastructure projects

Soil obtained from deepening ponds to be put to use

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

In a move that could expedite the implementation of railway and highway projects across the country, the Centre has asked the Ministry of Railways and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to use the soil or silt excavated from ponds and tanks in all districts under the *Amrit Sarovar* mission for their infrastructure projects.

The water conservation mission launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 24 aims at developing and rejuvenating 75 waterbodies in each district in all States as part of the celebrations of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*. At least 50,000 waterbodies are expected to be rejuvenated during the nationwide programme that would culminate on August 15, 2023.

Since the project would involve excavation of several thousands of tonnes of earth in the form of soil or silt, the Ministry of Rural Development has told the Ministry of Railways and the NHAI to map its infrastructure projects with the *Amrit Sarovar* sites in all States and UTs.



Optimum use: Rural Development Ministry tells NHAI to map its project with Amrit Sarovar. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The General Managers of all Zonal Railways were told to nominate the Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) as the nodal officer who would identify the nearest sites of *Amrit Sarovar* to ongoing railway projects, study the suitability of the desilted soil and silt and submit a feasibility report at the earliest.

According to railway sources, many railway projects were held up due to the delay in getting the required quantity of borrow earth from the local authorities. Though the issue was flagged at the appropriate level, the timely availability of

earth remained a challenge.

Road projects

According to official sources, the *Amrit Sarovar* mission will cater to the requirements of projects being implemented by the NHAI.

In Tamil Nadu, the issue of allowing contractors to lift borrow earth became so intense that in February this year the NHAI threatened to cancel the road widening work of East Coast Road between Mamallapuram and Pudukchery.

However, the issue was resolved after the State government assured them of resolving the issue.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Garlic prices lose pungency, farmers irked in two States

With government yet to begin procurement, many are forced to destroy their yield unable to meet even the transport cost

A.M. JIGEESH
NEW DELHI

Exactly five years after a police firing claimed the lives of six garlic farmers in Mand-saur, Madhya Pradesh, during a protest demanding minimum support price for their produce, farmers in the districts on the boundary of the State and Rajasthan are up in arms against the Union and the State governments for price as low as ₹2 a kg.

They are from areas such as Kota, Ratlam, Mand-saur, Jhalawar, Baran, Neemuch and Ujjain, known as the "garlic belt" of the country, that contributes almost 50% of India's garlic production. The farmers demand that the Centre and the States immediately announce a market intervention scheme and start procuring garlic. They have decided to launch agitations under the banner of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha.

What has added to their worry is that purchase by food processing industries

has come down as their products such as garlic powder, paste and sauce have not moved much in the past two years due to low demand and consumption.

Low yield

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research has taken cognisance of the low yield in garlic. "The main reason for the yield is virus load. We have recommended that the seed production cycle should be changed and fresh seeds from hilly areas such as Ooty and Himachal Pradesh should be considered. Ooty has the best-quality seeds. If one variety is continuously grown, it affects the productivity. Many farmers have replaced the seeds. We are working to remove these viruses," said Major Singh, Director of ICAR Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research, Pune.

Maresh Khandelwal, general secretary of the Kota Grain and Seeds Merchant



Urgent hearing: Officials of farmers' organisation have taken up the matter with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. •FILE PHOTO

Association, said the traders suffered huge losses due to the situation. "We had urged the Union and the State governments to start procurement. The market intervention scheme is approved by the Centre, but the State government hasn't started procurement. More than one lakh tonnes of garlic was to be procured by these markets, but nothing has happened yet," Mr. Khandelwal said.

Food processing industries tried to procure almost the entire "lottery quality" (small garlic) from the Kota market. "The export has also come down," he said. According to the Rajasthan Agriculture Department, garlic is grown on about 1.15 lakh hectares in the Kota division of Rajasthan this year. Farmers say that on one hectare, the average minimum production is 50 quintals.

"Now the rate is ₹2 to ₹15 a kg depending on the quality of garlic. Almost 25% of the total production is of 'lottery quality' every year. This

year, it has gone up to 50% due to the early summer and heat wave," All India Kisan Sabha leader Dulichand Borda said. Himself a garlic farmer, Mr. Borda said farmers had suffered huge losses.

"We got ₹50 a kg for good quality garlic in the last season and ₹7 to ₹8 for lottery quality. The production was slightly better last year than this year. Sixty-five quintals was the average production last time and lottery quality was also less," he added.

The production cost is about ₹ 2.5 lakh per hectare. After the Mand-saur firings, the Centre and both the State governments had announced a market intervention scheme with a price of ₹ 3,250 for a quintal of garlic in 2018.

"Now after four years, the input cost has increased at least 50%. The Centre is learnt to have approved the scheme at a rate of ₹2,957 per quintal, but the procurement hasn't started yet as

the State government is yet to receive any proper order from the Centre," said Mahesh Vyas, president of Rashtriya Kisan Mazdur Mahasangh, the organisation that led the farmers' agitation in 2017 said.

Mr. Vyas and Mr. Borda have taken up the matter with the respective State governments and with Kota MP and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Samyukt Kisan Morcha leader Shivkumar Kakkaji said the main issue is that garlic does not have a minimum support price.

"The government should consider a support price mechanism for essential vegetables such as potatoes, onions and garlic. Onion farmers in the area are also forced to sell their produce at a rate of ₹2 to ₹5," Mr. Kakkaji said.

Mr. Vyas added that farmers are forced to destroy garlic as they are unable to meet even the transportation charges to the market.

Zelensky visits southern battlefront

Mykolaiv is a key target for Russia as it lies on the way to the strategic Black Sea port of Odessa

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited the war-torn southern frontline on Saturday for the first time since the Russian invasion as "fierce battles" raged again in the eastern Donbas region.

Making a rare trip outside Kyiv, where he is based for security reasons, Mr. Zelensky travelled to the hold-out Black Sea city of Mykolaiv and visited troops nearby and in the neighbouring Odessa region.

Russian forces have directed their firepower on the east and south of Ukraine in recent weeks since failing in their bid to take the capital Kyiv after the lightning February 24 invasion.

"It is important that you are alive. As long as you live there is a strong Ukrainian wall that protects our country," Mr. Zelensky told soldiers in the Odessa region.

"I want to thank you from the people of Ukraine, from



Final farewell: Soldiers holding flares as they attend the funeral of activist and soldier Roman Ratushnyi in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Saturday. • AP

our state for the great work you are doing, for your impeccable service."

Mykolaiv is a key target for Russia as it lies on the way to the strategic Black Sea port of Odessa. It is around 100 kilometres northwest of Kherซอน, which fell to Russia in the first weeks of the war.

Mr. Zelensky surveyed the badly-damaged regional administration building in Mykolaiv and met officials in what appeared to be a base-

ment where he handed out awards to soldiers, in a video released by his office.

The shockwaves from the war in Ukraine continue to reverberate around the world, with the Russian blockade of the port of Odessa blamed for a grain shortage that is fuelling a global food crisis.

Mr. Zelensky has appealed for western support and weapons to push out Russian forces, and got a boost on

Friday when the European Commission backed it for EU candidate status.

'Historic achievement'
He hailed it as a "historic achievement" in his nightly video address late Friday.

Full membership could take years but the bloc's 27 leaders could add Ukraine to the list of countries vying for membership as early as a summit next week.

The leaders of the bloc's

biggest members – France, Germany and Italy – backed the idea during a visit to Kyiv this week, even as fighting rages elsewhere in the country.

The worst of the bloodshed continues to be in the eastern industrial Donbas region, with battles raging in villages outside the city of Severodonetsk, which Russia has been trying to seize for weeks.

"Now the most fierce battles are near Severodonetsk. They (Russia) do not control the city entirely," the Governor of the eastern Luhansk region, Sergiy Gaiday, said on Telegram.

Mr. Gaiday said there was "more destruction" at the besieged Azot chemical plant in Severodonetsk, where he said 568 people were sheltering, including 38 children.

He also said Lysychansk – a Ukrainian-controlled city across a river from battered Severodonetsk – is being "heavily shelled".

Johnson confident of legality of Rwanda migrant plan

Human rights court injunction last-minute hiccup: British PM

REUTERS
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Saturday he was confident of the legality of his government's plan to send some asylum seekers to Rwanda after the first flight was blocked at the last minute by the European human rights court.

The court issued an injunction on Tuesday to stop the scheduled deportation of a handful of migrants on board, a decision Mr. Johnson described as a "weird last-minute hiccup".

"Every single court in this country said there was no obstacle that they could see, no court in this country ruled the policy unlawful which was very, very encouraging," Mr. Johnson told reporters. "We are very confident in the legality, the lawfulness of what we are doing and we are going to pursue the policy."



Asylum seekers: Migrants disembarking from a U.K. Border Force vessel, in this file photo. • AFP

The British government's plan to send some migrants to the East African country has been criticised by opponents, charities, and religious leaders who say it is inhumane.

The government has been forced to fight a series of legal challenges in London courts aiming to stop it going ahead.

Britain says the 120-million-pound deal struck with Rwanda will stem the flow of

dangerous cross-Channel trips and smash the business model of people-smuggling networks.

Earlier this week, Britain's Home Office published guidance on a 12-month pilot using electronic tagging to monitor individuals who arrive in the country illegally.

On Saturday, the Home Office said some of those who had been due to be on Tuesday's flight to Rwanda could be tagged.

Israel says warplanes hit Hamas sites in Gaza after rocket fire

Weapons manufacturing site targeted, Army says

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

Israeli warplanes hit Hamas military sites in the Gaza Strip on Saturday in retaliation for rocket fire from the Palestinian enclave run by the Islamist movement, the Israeli Army said.

"A short while ago, in response to the rocket attack, (Israeli military) aircraft struck a number of Hamas terror targets in the Gaza Strip," the Army said in a

statement. The strikes came after Hamas "launched a rocket... toward Israeli civilians in southern Israel", it said, adding the projectile was intercepted by Israel's air defences.

The Israeli "aircraft targeted a weapons manufacturing site located inside a Hamas military post and an additional three military posts belonging to Hamas", the statement said.

After the strikes, balls of

flame shot into the air, leaving dark smoke drifting over the territory.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said the air raids, in the southeast of Gaza City, "are an extension of the aggression against Palestinian territory in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank," after the killing of three Palestinians on Friday during an Army raid in Jenin. Twelve Palestinians were also wounded.

Iran fighter jet crashes, two crew injured

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

An F-14 fighter jet crashed on Saturday while on a mission in central Iran, causing injuries to its two crew members, media in the Islamic republic reported.

"The fighter jet suffered a technical fault... and the pilot and co-pilot landed with parachutes," said Rasoul Motamedi, spokesman for the military in Isfahan province where the crash occurred. The crew were taken to hospital for treatment, he added.

British journalist confirmed dead in Brazil

He and his guide had gone missing on a book research trip in the Amazon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ATALAIA DO NORTE

The Brazilian police on Friday officially identified the remains of British journalist Dom Phillips who was found buried in the Amazon after going missing on a book research trip.

The grim result comes after the disappearance on June 5 of Phillips and his guide, indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, ignited an international outcry, with the U.S. calling on Friday for "accountability".

Phillips was identified through "forensic dentistry



Vital clues: Officers carrying a coffin containing the remains of the British journalist and his guide, in Brasilia. • REUTERS

combined with forensic anthropology", the Federal Police said in a statement.

The police said they were

still working on "complete identification" of the unearthed remains, which may include those of Pereira,

who had received multiple death threats.

Phillips, 57, and Pereira, 41, went missing in a remote part of the rainforest rife with illegal mining, fishing and logging, as well as drug trafficking. Ten days later, a suspect named Amarildo da Costa de Oliveira took the police to a place where, he said, he had buried bodies near the city of Atalaia do Norte, where the pair had been headed by boat. Remains unearthed from the site arrived in Brasilia on Thursday evening for identification by forensics experts.

Sri Lanka Army to cultivate barren land

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

The Sri Lanka Army will take part in a farming drive aimed at cultivating over 1,500 acres of barren or abandoned state land to multiply food production and avert any shortage in the future, according to a media report.

The Army established its Green Agriculture Steering Committee on Thursday to supplement and promote the food security programme in Sri Lanka which is facing its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1948.

The troops will first prepare the ground by weeding, tilling and preparing beds for the cultivation of selected seed varieties in consultation with agricultural experts, *newsfirst.lk* reported on Friday. The project will be kicked off by early July.

'Pak. confident of exiting dirty money grey list'

We are one step away, says Minister

REUTERS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is "one step away" from exiting a dirty money "grey list" after the global watchdog said an on-site visit could lead to the South Asian nation's removal, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs said on Saturday.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) kept Pakistan on the list on Friday but said a visit to verify progress on countering financing of terrorism and money laundering could lead to its removal from countries under increased monitoring.

"Pakistan is one step away from exiting the grey list, God willing," the Minister, Hina Rabbani Khar, told a news conference in Islamabad.

Ms. Khar said Islamabad was preparing for the on-site visit before the FATF's next plenary in October, ad-



Hina Rabbani Khar

ding that the FATF will be visiting and inspecting all the measures and legislation Pakistan had implemented on money laundering and terrorism financing.

She said Pakistan was confident of getting off the list, which would help build confidence in its economic framework. "We have not only met the timeline. We have outperformed the timeline," the Minister said. "I'm very confident that if we remain on the same trajectory, we will get out of it, and will never return on this path again."

25 killed as floods ravage Bangladesh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYLHET

Monsoon storms in Bangladesh have killed at least 25 people and unleashed devastating floods that left more than four million others stranded, officials said on Saturday.

Relentless downpours over the past week have inundated vast stretches of the country's northeast with troops deployed to evacuate people from flooded areas. Schools have been turned into relief shelters to house entire villages inundated in a matter of hours by rivers that suddenly burst their banks.

Lightning strikes triggered by the storms have killed at least 21 people across the country since Friday, officials said. Four people were killed when landslips hit their hillside homes in Chittagong.

Tunisians oppose Constitution referendum

Thousands march in capital to protest against President Saied's 'personal project'

REUTERS
TUNIS

Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Tunis on Saturday in opposition to a referendum on a new Constitution called by President Kais Saied that would cement his hold on power.

The protest led by Abir Moussi, leader of the Free Constitutional Party, reflected growing opposition to Mr. Saied since he seized executive power last year, dissolving Parliament and ruling by decree in a move opponents called a coup.

Thousands marched from Bab Souika Square in the capital towards Kasbah Square, waving Tunisian flags.

"Tunisians are starving, public finances are collapsing, but Saied does not care.. He only focuses on a perso-



Stiff resistance: Demonstrators gathering during a protest in Tunis on Saturday. • REUTERS

nal project to impose his Constitution.. we will not accept that," Mr. Moussi told the crowd.

More powers

Mr. Saied is seeking to overhaul the Constitution to give

the presidency more powers, against the backdrop of a tanking economy and fears of a public finance crisis.

He intends to put the new Constitution to a referendum on July 25.

"Do not impose your refer-

endum on us. We do not recognise your referendum that will be fraudulent," a woman among the protesters said.

Mr. Saied has appointed a new electoral commission, casting doubts over the credibility of any vote.

The President has also appointed a temporary judicial council and sacked dozens of judges.

His supporters say Mr. Saied is standing up to elite forces whose bungling and corruption have condemned Tunisia to a decade of political paralysis and economic stagnation.

However Tunisia's main political parties have said they will boycott the referendum, and the powerful UGTT labour union has refused to take part in talks on the new Constitution.

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SNAPSHOTS



Black death
A strain of *Yersinia pestis*, the bacterium responsible for the Black Death pandemic in the 1300s (AD1346-1353), has been traced back to a fourteenth-century outbreak in what is now Kyrgyzstan. The area was located on the Silk Road trade route, which might have helped the Black Death pandemic to spread westwards.



Spreading desert
Deserts are spreading northwards in Central Asia as a result of global warming. A study has found that, since the 1980s, regions with a desert climate have expanded by as much as 100 kilometres in northern Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, in southern Kazakhstan and around the Junggar Basin in Northwest China.



Unforeseen effects
During the current extreme heatwave in Jacobabad, Pakistan, with temperatures peaking over 51°C, the burden is particularly high for women during pregnancy and for homemakers as well. For every 1°C in temperature rise, the number of stillbirths and premature deliveries increases by about 5%.



Robots in labs
Cloud labs enable scientists to perform wet-laboratory experiments remotely in an automated research environment. The work is basically done by machines aided by a few human technicians. The cost of the experiments is not cheap, but the fact that it is almost all done by robots makes it eminently reproducible.

What drives sustained growth of monkeypox cases

Sustained transmission in heterosexual population is unlikely in all scenarios studied

R. PRASAD

As of June 15, a total of 1,882 monkeypox cases have been lab-confirmed from more than 30 countries across the world. With 1,158 confirmed cases from 22 countries, Europe has reported the highest number of cases so far, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The U.S. has reported 83 cases across 19 States as of June 16.

While monkeypox has been endemic in about a dozen countries in Central and West Africa, the virus is not endemic in people. "Nearly all" monkeypox outbreaks in these countries have been due to the virus jumping across the species barrier from animals to humans.

Sustained human-to-human transmission in the endemic countries has been "rare", Dr. Christian Happi from the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACE-GID), Redeemer's University, Nigeria and others write in a report posted in virological.org.

Outbreaks in the endemic countries in Africa have witnessed only a "limited" proportion of cases spread among humans, with sustained transmission observed only up to seven generations. And the basic reproduction number (RO) for monkeypox in the endemic countries has been

less than one, even among populations that have not received smallpox vaccination. The basic reproduction number being less than one would mean that "outbreaks would fade out if without continuous introductions from animals", Dr. Akira Endo from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, tweeted.

In contrast, the current outbreak in the U.S., Europe, Middle East and Australia has shown a clear trend of sustained spread among people, particularly among men who have sex with men (MSM). Before this outbreak, there have been about 100 cases of monkeypox cases outside Africa, with the outbreak in the U.S in 2003 being the biggest with over 70 people infected by the virus. But all the 70 cases were due to exposure to imported animals with no human-to-human transmission reported back then. In the past, outside Africa, the virus had spread to just one healthcare worker and two household contacts, a far cry from the sustained human-to-human transmission now being reported.

Modelling exercise

To explain the vastly different pattern of spread to a large number of people within a month after the first case was reported in the U.K. on May 7, Dr. Endo and others used a mathematical model

The epidemiology of the current monkeypox outbreak

Nearly all monkeypox outbreaks in the endemic countries have been due to the virus jumping from animals to humans

- 1** Men who have sex with men (MSM) have always been at risk of a sustained outbreak. The reason why this had not happened earlier might be because the virus had not reached this community, given the very few imported cases in non-endemic countries
- 2** A small fraction of MSM individuals who have a large number of partners increase the risk of rapid spread of the virus to many people in the MSM community
- 3** Up to 10,000 additional cases may be observed if a substantial number of infections are introduced into the non-MSM sexual contact network
- 4** A very small number of sexually-associated transmissions in the MSM community is sufficient to cause a large outbreak as currently seen
- 5** Without sufficient interventions, there may be continued growth in cases among men who have sex with men
- 6** Monkeypox virus can infect anyone. The heterosexual population too will be affected if the spread of the virus is not contained
- 7** The basic reproduction number (RO) for monkeypox in the MSM network may be over 1, which makes containment of the outbreak a challenge
- 8** Tailored and non-stigmatising messaging/support for those at highest risk would be key to earliest containment

Vital difference: Sustained human-to-human transmission of monkeypox virus has been rare in the endemic countries

based on sexual partnership data in the U.K., to explain the epidemiology of the current outbreak. The results of the modelling exercise have been posted in medRxiv preprint server; preprints are yet to be peer-reviewed.

Increased importation of the virus, undetected spread in the community, virus evolution, and increased susceptibility to monkeypox virus infection due to smallpox vaccination coming to an end a few decades ago could

be possible reasons for the current outbreak outside Africa. The researchers point out that most of these factors are "not strongly supported by external (if indirect) evidence" nor able to explain human spread predominantly among men who have sex with men (MSM) and not widespread in the general population in the community.

The driver

The researchers found that a "small fraction of individuals

who have disproportionately large numbers of partners" must be responsible for the sustained human-to-human transmission of the virus among men who have sex with men.

This is the largest outbreak predominantly among men who have sex with men. In Nigeria, higher prevalence and lesions in the genital area have been recorded in a recent outbreak.

"Our model suggests that the MSM population has pos-

sibly always been at risk of a sustained outbreak. The reason we haven't seen an outbreak among MSM before might be that the virus had not reached this network given how few cases there were in total," Dr. Endo tweeted.

The researchers explain this in more detail in the preprint when they say that monkeypox virus always had a "substantial transmission potential in the MSM" community even in the past but the small number of imported cases outside Africa likely resulted in the virus not spreading to this network resulting in large-scale transmission.

The researchers also modelled outbreaks that are sexually associated in both MSM and non-MSM populations. They considered varying assumptions for the risk of transmission between sexual partners in both these groups.

In contrast to a small fraction of MSM individuals who have a large number of partners thus increasing the virus spread to many people in the MSM community, the researchers found sustained spread in the non-MSM population "unlikely" due to less probability of a few individuals having multiple sex partners. But "10-10,000 additional cases may be observed if a substantial number of infections are introduced into the non-

MSM sexual contact network," they write.

Seeding the outbreak

They note that a "very small number of sexually-associated transmissions" in the MSM community is sufficient to cause a large outbreak. In contrast, a large number of non-sexually-associated imported cases are needed for the virus to gain a foothold in the MSM community and then spread to large number of people through sexually-associated spread. And this may be the reason why the virus did not reach the MSM community in the past through imported non-sexual cases. They note that better surveillance in the endemic countries might be needed if the current outbreak outside Africa in the MSM community had come about from a few sexually-associated cases imported from the endemic countries.

"Without sufficient interventions, we may see continued growth in MSM. Monkeypox virus can infect anyone; the non-MSM population will also be affected if we fail to contain it. Tailored and non-stigmatising messaging/support for those at highest risk would be key to earliest containment," Dr. Endo tweeted. Targeted messaging is necessary for prevention and early detection of cases among MSM who have multiple partners, the authors write.

Quantum diamond microscope to image magnetic fields

Researchers tap fluorescence changes in special, diamond sensors to image time-varying fields

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Researchers from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) at Mumbai and Kharagpur have built a microscope that can image magnetic fields within microscopic two-dimensional samples that change over milliseconds. This has a huge potential for scientific applications, such as in measuring biological activity of neurons and dynamics of vortices in superconductors. The work, led by IIT Bombay professor Kasturi Saha, from the Department of Electrical Engineering, has been published in *Scientific Reports*. This is the first time that such a tool has been built to image magnetic fields that change within milliseconds.

Capturing change

Prof. Saha explains that the ideal frame rate to capture a changing magnetic field is

one that captures data at twice the frequency of the changing field. Signals in nature exhibit a range of frequencies – magnetism in geological rock samples and rare earth magnets can be constant over months; magnetic nanoparticle aggregation inside living cells takes place in minutes; action potentials in neurons are fast, taking milliseconds, whereas precession of atomic spins in complex molecules takes only microseconds. The instrument that this team has built works in the millisecond range.

The key aspect of this sensor is a "nitrogen vacancy (NV) defect centre" in a diamond crystal. Such NV centres act as pseudo atoms with electronic states that are sensitive to the fields and gradients around them (magnetic fields, temperature, electric field and strain).

"Notably, the fluores-



Huge potential: The set-up shows a green laser at 532 nanometre to excite the nitrogen vacancy centres.

cence emitted from these NV centres encodes the magnetic field information," says Prof. Saha. "During the measurement of ultra-small magnetic fields, the change in the fluorescence levels is extremely small and therefore, limits the imaging frame rate and degrades the signal-to-noise ratio of the measurement."

In order to overcome this limitation, the researchers employed a "lock-in detec-

tion scheme" which selects light fluctuations of a small frequency range, rejecting others, and thereby improving the sensitivity to small changes in fluorescence.

Improved frame rates

Earlier reported magnetic field imaging frame rates were close to 1-10 minutes per frame. This would increase to about half an hour per frame for challenging samples like biological cells.

The instrument built by this group exhibits an imaging frame rate of about 50-200 frames per second, which would translate into a frame acquisition time of about 2-5 milliseconds. "It enables imaging of millisecond scale magnetisation changes in micro-magnets, dynamic micro scale thermometry in cells and with further improvements, might enable probing action potentials in mammalian neurons," says Prof. Saha.

A special diamond crystal, one micrometre thick, embedded with a high density of such NV centres is created. This acts as a sensor when a thin two-dimensional sample is brought close to it – less than 10 micrometre. Using this technique, the researchers can image a 150 micrometre by 150 micrometre field of view, which is quite an achievement.

"The NV centre imaging

technique is a unique tool in the context of imaging microscale magnetic field variations in any sample," says Prof. Saha.

The team had started a collaboration with IIT Kharagpur in 2017 with the ambitious target of building a novel system to image the brain. They collaborated with Sharba Bandopadhyay, who brought in an expertise in neurobiology and bioengineering to complement the knowledge of quantum optics, quantum computing and quantum sensing that was Prof. Saha's forte.

"We have, along with PhD student Madhur Parashar, developed an algorithm to image neurons in 3D using NV quantum sensors," says Prof. Saha.

This work was published in *Communications Physics* in 2020. We have jointly filed a patent for the present work, she adds.

Omicron infection after vaccination

REUTERS

People infected with the earliest version of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, first identified in South Africa in November, may be vulnerable to reinfection with later versions of Omicron even if they have been vaccinated and boosted, new findings suggest.

Vaccinated patients with Omicron B.1.1.529 break-through infections developed antibodies that could neutralise that virus, but the Omicron sublineages circulating now have mutations that allow them to evade those antibodies.

Those newer sublineages "notably evade the neutralising antibodies elicited by SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination," the researchers found in test-tube experiments.

How marine heatwave fuelled super cyclone Amphan

Besides surface warming, ocean stratification and warming below the surface also played a role

SAURABH RATHORE

Rising greenhouse gas emission is the primary factor for anthropogenic (human-induced) climate change. The increase in carbon dioxide concentration can trap the radiation into the atmosphere and not let it go into space. This trapping of the extra energy increases the average surface air temperature and warms the climate that we know as global warming.

As the capacity of the atmosphere to absorb the heat is very less, more than 90% of the extra heat that has been trapped in the climate system has been absorbed by the oceans since 1970, according to IPCC AR5, and IPCC AR6 reports. Due to this, oceans are warming globally from the surface to deeper depths. The warming of the oceans has severe consequences such as increasing intensity and frequency of extreme events, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, and changing the weather pattern across the globe.

Faster warming
Previous studies have shown that due to global warming,

the tropical Indian Ocean, at the surface, is warming at a faster rate as compared to the rest of the global ocean. The high sea surface temperatures are more susceptible to generating extreme temperature conditions that persist over days to months and are termed as Marine Heatwaves (MHWs). This intense warming of the ocean due to MHW has severe socio-economic consequences such as fish mortality, and coral bleaching, and also has the potential to interact and modify other extreme events such as tropical cyclones.

The anthropogenic warming of the oceans and atmosphere facilitates the generation and intensification of extreme events such as MHWs and tropical cyclones. Both marine heat waves and tropical cyclones are the extreme events of the ocean-atmosphere coupled system. Our study, published in the *Frontiers in Climate*, is the first study conducted in the Indian Ocean that investigates the interaction between a marine heatwave and super cyclone Amphan in the Bay of Bengal in May 2020. The co-occurrence of multiple extreme events (e.g.



Unique kind: Amphan was the first super cyclone in the Bay of Bengal in the last 21 years. *AP

in our case the co-occurring marine heatwave and tropical cyclone) are termed compound extreme events.

Sea surface temperature

The Bay of Bengal exhibits high sea surface temperatures (about 28°C) throughout the year and is more prone to tropical cyclones. The Bay of Bengal is home to about 5-7% of the total number of tropical cyclones occurring globally each year and this makes the North Indian Ocean vulnerable to the highest number of fatalities globally. Amphan was the first super cyclone in the Bay of Bengal in the last 21 years and intensified from category

1 (cyclonic storm) to category 5 (super cyclone) in less than 24 hours. Amphan was also the costliest tropical cyclone on record in the North Indian Ocean, with reported economic losses of approximately \$14 billion in India, according to the World Meteorological Organisation and 129 casualties across India and Bangladesh. According to the latest IPCC report (AR6), Amphan was the largest source of displacement in 2020, with 2.4 million displacements in India alone, out of which around 8,00,000 was pre-emptive evacuation by the authorities. Our study investigates the reasons that made this

unusual and unprecedented rapid intensification of cyclone Amphan into a devastating super cyclonic storm.

The cause

We found the presence of a strong MHW beneath the track of the cyclone with an extremely high anomalous sea surface temperature of more than 2.5°C that coincided with the cyclone track and facilitated its rapid intensification in a short period. We have also compared the super cyclone Amphan to a previous extremely severe cyclone Fani in May 2019 with a near similar trajectory. We found that the total life span of Amphan over the ocean was five days as compared to Fani which was for seven days but Fani did not turn into a super cyclone as Amphan did.

The main difference between these two cyclones was the presence of MHW in the case of Amphan, which was not there in the case of Fani. We also infer that despite short duration and unfavourable atmospheric conditions relative to Fani, Amphan turned into a super cyclone, primarily fuelled by a strong MHW on its way. Apart from

the surface warming, the study also shows that ocean stratification and warming below the surface also play a crucial role during this phenomenon of compound extreme events.

Our study along with previous studies also discusses that such compound or individual extreme events are going to increase in the future due to global warming and the Indian Ocean will witness the increased intensity and frequency of such climate extremes. Hence, our study provides new perspectives on the interactions between different extreme events that could aid in improving the current understanding of compound extreme events that have severe socio-economic consequences in affected countries. We believe that our study will be very helpful for the political and scientific authorities to make better disaster management and mitigation planning for our vulnerable coastal communities from such extreme events.

(Saurabh Rathore is a researcher at LOCEAN-IPSL Sorbonne University, Paris, France)

Question Corner

Domestic chicken

When and where were chickens domesticated?

New findings transform our understanding of the circumstances and timing of the domestication of chickens and their spread across Asia into the West. Researchers have found that an association with rice farming likely started a process that has led to chickens becoming one of the world's most numerous animals. Previous efforts have claimed that chickens were domesticated up to 10,000 years ago in China, Southeast Asia, or India, and that chickens were present in Europe over 7,000 years ago. The new studies show that this is wrong, and that the driving force behind chicken domestication was the arrival of dry rice farming into southeast Asia where their wild ancestor, the red jungle fowl, lived. Dry rice farming acted as a magnet drawing wild jungle fowl down from the trees, and kickstarting a closer relationship between people and the jungle fowl that resulted in chickens, according to a University of Exeter press release.

This domestication process was underway by around 1,500 BC in the Southeast Asia peninsula. The research suggests that chickens were then transported first across Asia and then throughout the Mediterranean along routes used by early Greek, Etruscan and Phoenician maritime traders.

The international team of experts re-evaluated chicken remains found in more than 600 sites in 89 countries.

The oldest bones of a definite domestic chicken were found at Neolithic Ban Non Wat in central Thailand, and date to between 1,650 and 1,250 BC.

Readers may send their questions/answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



The 5G auction plan

Why are telcos unhappy with the Government's decision to set aside airwaves for private enterprises?

JOHN XAVIER

The story so far: On Wednesday, the Union Cabinet approved auction of 5G spectrum bands, and said it has reserved a portion of airwaves for captive private networks, a proposal opposed by telecom service providers. The auction of over 72 GHz of airwaves is set to be held by the end of July.

What set the ball rolling for 5G technology in India?

■ The world's second-largest telecom market is one of the few major countries without 5G service. The Union government's delay in auctioning off spectrum bands is a result of its rounds of consultations with various stakeholders to decide on bands that can be sold, block sizes, and the reserve price. The telecom service providers are ready to commercially roll out 5G to customers. In January, Reliance Jio said it completed next generation network coverage planning for nearly 1,000 cities in the country. A year ago, Airtel demonstrated 5G over a live commercial network in Hyderabad. Vodafone, before its merger with Idea, in 2017 said it had "upgraded entire radio network to all-IP technology, ready even for 5G".

What are captive private networks and why do they need spectrum bands?

■ Private wireless networks are cellular networks built specifically for individual enterprises. These networks are often deployed at a single unit, for example a factory. They can also be used in a wide-area setting, for instance to monitor a mine in real-time. Airports and ports can also have their own private 5G cellular network to process imaging data coming from surveillance cameras to manage the facility. Several enterprises around the world are working on setting up private 5G networks as they offer reliable, fast, and secure wireless communication.

According to an Economist Impact survey of 216 technology executives in Germany, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S., over half said they plan to deploy a private 5G network within six-24 months. That is on top of nearly 30% executives who have already deployed or are in the process of deploying private 5G networks in their organisations. The key reason driving this adoption is the need for greater data privacy and security. Unlike unlicensed Wi-Fi service available at several private places, licensed spectrum bands offer greater data privacy, security and faster connection speeds.

How does Industry 4.0 relate to 5G?

■ Cellular technology has come a long way in the last four decades. Each generation has added a layer of sophistication over another starting with voice. Over the years, three generations of cellular airwaves enabled users to text, use Internet and view live-streaming video all at the same time.

Unlike its predecessors, the latest wireless iteration opens a new paradigm in cellular connectivity. That's because the true benefits of 5G largely apply to industrial enterprises than individual users. Think about industrial AI-enabled robots on shop floors and warehouses, autonomous vehicles on the road, and mixed-reality headsets with advanced mobile applications that train workers. Each of these scenarios require high-speed computing using real-time data at low latency. This is at the core of the fourth industrial revolution where devices talk to each other to perform various tasks. Big tech firms like Google have been seeking direct allocation of spectrum to use in machine learning applications, connected devices and general AI advancement.

How does the government plan to set aside spectrum for private network operators?

■ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has said that private firms can set up a 5G network by either getting a slice of public network from a licensed telecom company, establishing an isolated on premises network from the telecom service provider's spectrum, or obtaining spectrum directly from the Department of Telecom or by sub-leasing it from telcos.

The notice inviting the offer also states that spectrum auction to private enterprises will follow after a demand study and based on TRAI's recommendation on pricing and modalities of block allocations. The telecom regulator expects its recommendations to result in increased sharing of network resources.

Is it a setback for telcos?

■ The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) is of the firm view that "there is no justification whatsoever for allocating spectrum to industry verticals for operating private captive networks." The association wrote to the Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw even before the Union Cabinet approved its 5G auction decision, requesting him to address the critical issue of private networks. It said that there will be no business case for 5G rollout in such a scenario. This stems from their concern that 5G technology has more industry use case than for individual consumers. So, telcos worry that providing industries 5G spectrum allocation to set up private networks will diminish their own revenue from the next generation of cellular services.

Why is Agnipath under widespread attack?

Will the Centre go ahead with the reformed recruitment plan for the three wings of the armed forces?

S. ANANDAN

The story so far: Large-scale violence by distressed youth broke out in many parts of India, notably in States such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Telangana which contribute a sizeable manpower to the armed forces, in the wake of the Centre announcing, on June 14, a new scheme of recruitment of jawans, personnel below officer ranks (PBORs), to the three wings.

What is the scheme?

■ Agnipath or Tour of Duty will be the only mode of recruitment of soldiers, sailors, and airmen from now on. It envisages enlisting youths aged between 17.5 years and 21 years – the upper limit has been extended to 23 years this year after protests – for a period of just four years, also counting their training time. At the expiry of their contract, only 25% of these soldiers, to be known as *Agniveers*, will be re-enlisted for regular military service.

While the salary package of *Agniveers* will be around ₹4.76 lakh in the first year which can go up to ₹6.92 lakh in the fourth year, these short-term soldiers will also be offered a contributory severance package besides non-contributory death and disability compensation. They will not be eligible for pension or gratuity. A day after the scheme was unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of the Service chiefs, the Union Ministry of Education said it would offer a three-year degree programme to these enlistees in order to make them employable once out of service. As protests rocked the country, the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Saturday, announced its decision to reserve 10% of vacancies in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and the Assam Rifles to *Agniveers*. The Defence Minister also approved a proposal to earmark 10% of vacancies in Coast Guard, defence civilian jobs and in the defence PSUs for *Agniveers* provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

What, according to its supporters, are the scheme's benefits?

■ Defenders of the scheme, which include the three Service chiefs, have maintained that this "transformational" initiative will make the forces lean and much younger, with the average age of the soldier



Widespread dissent: The Vikramshila Express train set on fire by a mob in protest against the Agnipath scheme in Lakhisarai, Bihar on June 17. •PTI

brought down to about 25 from the present 32 years. It will also ensure the availability of a larger share of budget outlay for capital expenditure for the acquisition of hi-tech equipment and platforms because the outlay for pension payout will drop considerably over time. Military training at a young age would make these men returning to the civilian world more disciplined and employable, advocates of the scheme argue.

They say that the military recruitment procedures in many countries such as the U.S., Russia, the U.K., Israel, France and Germany were extensively studied over the past two years before formulating the scheme for Indian conditions.

Why are there protests across States?

■ Apprehensions about Agnipath are vast and varied. Scores of veterans have flayed the scheme as an effort to scrimp and save on revenue expenditure at the expense of the forces' operational efficiency or fighting capabilities. Four years is too short a time for a conscript to acquire the skills essential for operating sophisticated systems in the technology-intensive Navy and Air Force.

For the Army, which has a regimental system, it is feared to impair the unit's cohesiveness as the soldier on a short-term contract could remain "risk-averse".

There are also apprehensions about this path leading to the militarisation of society. Some say that it's unfair to the potential recruit as well, as the absence of a continued employment guarantee at the expiry of four years when he's still in his 20s and without the skillsets or credentials required to make the cut in the civilian/corporate world, could be demoralising. Agnipath cuts at the root of social security and dignity that have lured rural Indian youth to the military fatigue, argue the scheme's detractors.

What is the way forward?

■ Unmindful of the ongoing protests and reservations expressed by a chunk of military veterans – ironically, also including some habitual votaries of the government – the Centre has stated unequivocally its resolve to go ahead with the reform. The Army and the Air Force have announced their recruitment plans and the Navy is expected to follow suit. Each year, about 45,000 soldiers will be enlisted in the three Services under this scheme. It remains to be seen if amendments such as the extension of their initial service period and mandatory re-enlistment of at least 50% of *Agniveers* recommended by some veterans would be considered to finetune the scheme. Right now, the protests are continuing unabated. A clearer picture will emerge by the time the recruitment process gets underway.

Are the unemployment numbers reliable?

What are some of the issues in the Periodic Labour Force Survey data being flagged by economists and experts?

A. M. JIGEESH

The story so far: On June 14, the National Statistical Office (NSO), which functions under the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released the annual report on the basis of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted during July 2020-June 2021. Though conducted amid the first lockdown, the survey said unemployment rate saw a decrease from 4.8% in 2019-20 to 4.2% in 2020-21, meaning that 4.2% of adults who looked out for jobs could not get any work in rural and urban areas of the country in 2020-21. In rural areas, the rate is 3.3% while in urban areas the unemployment rate was recorded at 6.7%. This report, which also gave details of internal migration, said 11.8 people out of 100 samples migrated to other States during the period of survey.

What is the methodology of the PLFS?

■ The fieldwork of PLFS was suspended twice during the survey in March, 2020 and in April, 2021 due to COVID-19. A rotational panel sampling design has been used in urban areas, which means each selected household in urban areas is visited four times. There was, however, no revisit in rural areas and the samples were drawn randomly in the form of two independent sub-samples. The sample size for the first visit during July 2020-June 2021 in rural and urban areas was 12,800 first-stage sampling units (FSUs) consisting of 7,024 villages and 5,776 urban frame survey blocks. Out of this, 12,562 FSUs (6,930 villages and 5,632 urban blocks) were surveyed for canvassing the PLFS schedule. The number of households surveyed, according to the NSO report, was 1,00,344 (55,389 in rural areas and 44,955 in urban areas) and number of persons surveyed was 4,10,818 (2,36,279 in rural areas and 1,74,539 in urban areas). The PLFS gives estimates of key employment and



unemployment indicators like the Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR)

Are there problem areas?

■ Experts have raised questions over the approach and methodology of the PLFS. Chairman of the International Institute of Migration and Development S. Irudaya Rajan said the PLFS or any such survey cannot produce decent data on migration. According to him, only the 2021 Census, which has been delayed, is the correct method to find out the migration status of people. "Migration is the only thing happening in the country. Everyone is moving. To say that there is no change from the previous years is unacceptable," Prof. Rajan says, adding that 60 crore people in the country could be migrants due to changing policy trends favouring urbanisation. Another issue which is being flagged is that the PLFS cannot compare a normal year with an abnormal, pandemic-hit year. Sridhar Kundu, Senior Research Analyst with the Indian School of Business,

argues that a second visit to the rural households could have provided a bigger and larger picture of unemployment that was not captured by the PLFS. Dr. Kundu adds that by comparing the lower rate of economic growth during 2020-21 to the PLFS report on unemployment presents a contradiction as according to the Central Statistics Office, India's GDP growth fell over 7.3% during 2020-21.

Why does the data matter?

■ Historically, data collated by the Indian government agencies were well accepted globally. Though, of late, several questions have been posed on the data released by the Centre and various State governments. The country needs reasonable good data for evidence-based policies to address issues such as unemployment and farmers' distress. Governments need data to understand economic and social behaviour of the people. For example, if the survey says unemployment has decreased, there are chances that the government systems become lethargic in addressing the situation. According to researchers, even empirically, the employment and the quality of employment have come down.

What happens next?

■ The data is used basically for planning governmental intervention in various sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, animal husbandry etc. For drafting any policy, data has to be used in a context. If the reality is not reflected in data, public may reject such data. In classical Keynesian terms, any rate of unemployment below 5% is not considered as unemployment. The report raised questions among experts and critics about its efficacy in formulating policies against unemployment and for creating quality employment.

What explains the BCCI bonanza on IPL?

Why has digital streaming rights garnered higher numbers in the auction? How has the league's value improved?

AMOL KARHADKAR

The story so far: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had floated a tender for awarding the media rights for IPL's broadcast from 2023 to 2027. The rights – categorised separately for the first time for television and digital platforms – were sold for a combined sum of ₹48,390 crore from the ₹17,110 crore that the previous cycle offered. While Disney Star paid ₹23,575 crore to acquire television rights for the Indian sub-continent, the Viacom 18 group shelled out ₹23,758 crore for digital rights. The rest of the world rights were split between Viacom 18 and Times Internet Ltd. for a combined sum of ₹1,057 crore.

Why have TV and digital rights been split?

■ Sensing that consumption of IPL on digital platforms will increase by huge numbers in future, the BCCI tried to keep ahead of the market trend to bet big on digital. The fact that the digital rights for the Indian subcontinent have fetched more revenues to the BCCI than the same through TV rights underlines that the decision to split the rights, along with that of conducting an e-auction, has turned out to be a masterstroke.

Will IPL then have more games in the next five years?

■ Yes. In fact, the BCCI's clarification to potential bidders

about increase in the number of games also resulted in its additional revenue.

For now, the BCCI has announced that the IPL will witness 410 games from 2023 to 2027. Just like the 2022 edition, the next two years (2023 and 2024) will have 74 games. In 2025 and 2026, the IPL will stage 84 games per season, with each team playing at least 16 games, instead of the existing 14. Come 2027, and the total number of games will further increase to 94, with every team set to feature in at least 18 games.

Do broadcasting rights mean more money for teams?

■ The IPL revenue model is based on 50% of the central revenue pool being divided equally among the franchisees. The revenue pool primarily includes the franchisee fees (for two teams), the media rights revenue and the central sponsorship revenue. The central revenue pool for the next five years is estimated at ₹60,000 crore, which tallies to ₹12,000 crore annually. It means half of it – approximately ₹6,000 crore – will be divided among the existing 10 franchisees. An assured average annual revenue of ₹600 crore for franchise owners will be more than double than that for the 2022 edition, estimated to be approximately ₹275 crore.

Individual players will also get richer but not proportionately. In 2022, the IPL had a cap of ₹90 crore for each franchise to assemble a squad comprising a maximum of 25 players. The cap is set to rise to ₹95 crore

in 2023 and ₹100 crore in 2024. The modus operandi of squad development in itself may change thereafter. It means that the players will definitely get richer but not as much as is anticipated.

Will IPL have more teams now?

■ With the BCCI set to get a longer window for the IPL from now on, besides relaxing the schedule a little bit, the scale at which the media rights have been sold has already led to murmurs within the BCCI of the need to increase the number of teams from 10 to 12 in 2027, if not in 2026.

What lies ahead?

■ The introduction of two separate broadcasters for IPL in India for television and digital platforms may result in increased burden on IPL fans. It will be interesting to see how the BCCI uses the additional revenue. The need of the hour is to strengthen the feeder-line for men's cricket, especially domestic cricketers, age-group cricketers, match officials and scores of State association foot-soldiers. Besides, the BCCI needs to ensure that there is a robust financial model for the women's game across levels.

The BCCI's announcement of increasing pension for those who retired before 2004 is certainly welcome. But experts say that's far from being enough.

WIKILEAKS

The enemy of the deep state

WikiLeaks' fortunes have been inextricably tied with the travails of its co-founder Julian Assange

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

The slow but sure process of extraditing Julian Assange, co-founder of the whistleblowing website WikiLeaks from the U.K. to the U.S. took a firm step on Friday when the British Home Secretary, Priti Patel, gave the go-ahead to the move. WikiLeaks promptly released a statement promising another legal battle to appeal the decision.

In Focus

■ WikiLeaks' journey began in 2006 when the website was first established and its domain name registered by Julian Assange

■ In 2010, the website released a video that showed U.S. military helicopters firing indiscriminately at a crowd in Iraq, killing civilians and two Reuters reporters

■ In 2016, the release of Hillary Clinton's aide John Podesta's emails drew flak from activists, who likened these leaks to an effort to intervene in the 2016 elections

Mr. Assange is wanted in the U.S. for criminal charges, including breaking the Espionage Act for WikiLeaks' actions of leaking thousands of secret U.S. files in 2010. He could face punishment ranging up to 175 years in prison for violations of the Espionage Act. On the same day, the Assange Defense Committee, a U.S.-based coalition of media rights and human rights groups, released a statement through its co-chairs, which include the renowned linguist and public intellectual Noam Chomsky and former U.S. military analyst and whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, that said the decision "was a sad day for western democracy". It added: "U.S. government argues that its venerated Constitution does not protect journalism the government dislikes and that publishing truthful information in public interest is a subversive, criminal act. This argument is a threat not only to journalism, but to democracy itself."

These were strong words in favour of a man who has been held in the U.K.'s Belmarsh prison ever since the Ecuador Embassy revoked his asylum and citizenship after he stayed for seven years

on its premises in London. Mr. Assange initially underwent imprisonment for bail violations during his stay in the Ecuador Embassy and got a reprieve from a U.K. district judge, Vanessa Baraitser, in January 2021, when she ruled that he could not be extradited to the U.S. because of concerns about his mental health and the possibility of suicide in a U.S. prison with strict incarceration conditions.

U.S. prosecutors later filed an appeal, and the British High Court, this time in December 2021, ruled in favour of the U.S. following the Joe Biden administration's assurances on the terms of Mr. Assange's possible incarceration — that it would not hold him at the highest security prison facility (ADX Florence in Colorado, which houses terrorists, drug traffickers, and high-profile criminals) and that if he were convicted, he could serve his sentence in his native Australia if he requested it. Mr. Assange moved the British Supreme Court against the verdict, but on March 14, the Court refused permission to appeal.

Mr. Assange's travails have mirrored those of the WikiLeaks organisation itself. In February 2022, on WikiLeaks' website, the submission system for files (by whistleblowers, 'hacktivists', etc.) and its email server went completely offline, months after the organisation's secure chat services had stopped working in October 2021. This was no surprise.

The organisation has been inevitably linked to its co-founder, who still remains a director. Ever since his incarceration, the release of whistleblower documents have



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

only been few and far between and much less in consequence compared to what the organisation managed to achieve between 2010 and 2019.

Origins and impact

WikiLeaks' journey began in 2006 when the website was first established and its domain name registered by Mr. Assange. While initially the website began as a disclosure portal on the lines of the Wikipedia model, with anonymous submissions being put up and edited by volunteers, it soon became a repository of anonymously sourced material. News and classified information could be uploaded on it using the anonymity software Tor, which protects the uploader's identity from being eavesdropped on any network and even by WikiLeaks itself.

Internal dissension and wrangling between Wiki-

Leaks employees had resulted in problems with the submission system, which resulted in its suspension in 2010, but WikiLeaks relaunched the site in 2015.

One of the earliest revelations by Wikileaks was on how the U.S. government had been deploying practices at the Guantanamo Bay facility holding terror suspects, that were in violation of the Geneva Convention protocols.

Some of the most consequential leaks during the period when the site's anonymised submission system still remained active included the millions of classified files from the U.S. Defence Department on the Iraq and the Afghan invasions, besides lakhs of State Department communiques — both were released by former U.S. soldier Chelsea (then Bradley) Manning. These leaks began with a 39-minute vi-

de released on April 5, 2010 that showed gun-sight footage of two U.S. AH-64 Apache helicopters in action during the Iraqi insurgency against the U.S. occupation in 2007. The video showed the helicopter crew firing indiscriminately and killing civilians and two Reuters war correspondents. For nearly three years, Reuters had sought access to this video via the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, but had failed.

WikiLeaks promptly released the war logs, which were published by a host of media organisations and exposed human rights abuses by occupation forces, besides the increased fatality counts in Iraq. The war logs' release was followed by the publication of several news stories, including by *The Hindu*, based on thousands of leaked diplomatic cables that were also released by Ms. Manning, leading to significant public exposure of the ways, lifestyles and attitudes of the elite in various countries.

The WikiLeaks model — using cryptographic tools to protect sources and allowing for anonymous "leaks" of sensitive information (that could also be in public interest) to be published — suddenly brought forth a new model of extensive investigative journalism into areas that were relatively shielded from the public eye, such as the functioning of the deep state in democratic societies and the operation of power agencies in autocracies.

While initially the cables were released to five newspapers that undertook the exercise of redacting sensitive information before reporting on them and published them over a year from late 2010 to 2011, the leak of the encryption key of the full cache of files (of what was then termed "Cablegate"), resulted in the release

of unredacted material, an action that was condemned by many media outlets.

The lack of an anonymised submission system between 2010 and 2015 did not deter it from publishing other files that were obtained from other hackers such as the Stratfor email leaks. Later, WikiLeaks also published then presidential candidate (and former Secretary of State) Hillary Clinton's aide John Podesta's emails before the 2016 presidential elections. This action invited severe critique of WikiLeaks from activists and media personnel, who likened these leaks to an effort to intervene in the 2016 elections with Mr. Assange having been quoted as saying he wanted to "harm" Hillary Clinton's chances of winning the presidency and accusing WikiLeaks of obtaining this information from Russian intelligence agency hackers,

something Wikileaks denied. Later, it emerged that someone from WikiLeaks had conversed with Clinton's presidential opponent, Donald Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr., seeking to promote the leaks and even asking for favours for Mr. Assange in Twitter DM conversations.

Probe in the U.S.

Wikileaks' releases, meanwhile, resulted in reprisals from the U.S. government. The Barack Obama administration began investigation of the Manning leaks, and Ms. Manning was convicted by court martial in July 2013 for violating the Espionage Act and underwent rigorous imprisonment before her sentence was commuted in January 2017 by the President. However, the administration concluded that it would not pursue criminal charges against Mr. Assange and Wikileaks.

The U.S. Justice Department under former President Donald Trump, however, charged Mr. Assange with collaborating in a conspiracy with Ms. Manning to crack a password on a Defense Department network to publish classified documents and communications on Wikileaks in a sealed indictment in April 2017. These charges were unsealed in 2019.

Later, the Trump administration further charged Mr. Assange with violating the Espionage Act of 1917 — he was indicted on 17 new charges related to the Act at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. In June 2020, the charges were further expanded for conspiracy with hacker groups. The Biden administration has made no attempt to reverse these charges.

How the legal case against Mr. Assange will play out will determine the future of investigative journalism of the kind that WikiLeaks represents and will also serve as a litmus test for free expression laws that allow for unhindered journalism in countries like the U.S. While the organisation is now a shell of what it was a decade ago, its ability to harness the act of whistleblowing to shine a light on the inner workings of those in power transformed investigative journalism, even as its decisions to intervene in the U.S. polity complicated its legacy.

BLACK SEA

Russia's gateway to global waters

Moscow is trying to squeeze Ukraine's access to the strategic waters in its south

STANLEY JOHNY

The Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca, signed on July 21, 1774 by the Russian and Ottoman Empires after the 1768-74 war between the two powers was one of the most consequential treaties for the global balance of power in the 18th century — it marked the beginning of the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the arrival of the Russians, under Catherine the Great, as a major power in the Black Sea region. As part of the treaty, Russia got access to the Black Sea through the Kerch and Azov seaports. More important, Russia gained official status as the protector of the Orthodox Christians of the Ottoman Empire, a clear signal of the waning influence of the High Porte, the Ottoman central administration, within imperial territories.

This clause also left the Crimean Khanate, which had declared independence from the Ottomans, dependent on the Russians. In 1783, nine years after the treaty was signed, Prince Grigory Potemkin, a Grand Admiral in the imperial Russian army and a favourite of Empress Catherine, annexed the Crimean Peninsula in the name of protecting its Christians amidst violent clashes between Christians and Crimean Tatars. The annexation gave Russia seamless access to the Black Sea's warm waters, helping its rise as a naval power.



One may find parallels between the 18th century annexation of Crimea by Empress Catherine and the 2014 annexation of the same region by President Vladimir Putin. If Catherine's annexation anchored Russia as a Black Sea power, Mr. Putin's move allowed Russia to retain Sevastopol, which hosts its Black Sea fleet, and turn Crimea into a platform for force projection.

Geo-economic reasons

After the invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, Russia further tightened its hold over the Black Sea. Russia has taken the entire Sea of Azov coast and more port cities in the south and south-east, including Mariupol, Berdyansk and Kherson.

The Black Sea is critical for Russia for geo-economic reasons. Russia's northern ports are in the Arctic Ocean, which restricts its outreach to the world. Its ga-

terway to the global waters is the Black Sea, which opens into the Mediterranean Sea through the Turkey-controlled Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits.

Currently, Russia's only naval base outside the former Soviet territories is based in Syria's Tartus in the Mediterranean Sea. While Russia sees the Mediterranean as NATO-dominated waters, it has sought to enhance its presence in the region in recent years. So, from a geopolitical point of view, it's imperative for Moscow to retain its hold over the Black Sea to remain an influential naval power. The Black Sea is also a vital economic artery for Russia to export its hydrocarbons and grains to Turkey and Asian markets.

During the Soviet period, Russia had dominated the Black Sea, which was then dubbed by many the 'Soviet Lake'. Ukraine and Georgia were Soviet republics. Bulgaria and Romania, two oth-

er Black Sea basin states, were part of the Soviet-led Eastern bloc. The only country that was out of the Soviet sphere in the Black Sea region during the Cold War was Turkey, a NATO member. Despite Turkey's control over Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits, the 1936 Montreux Convention ensures that Russia and other Black Sea countries get access to the straits so that they can seamlessly move both commercial and military vessels in and out of the waters. (The Convention bans non-Black Sea countries' aircraft carriers and submarines from entering the waters.)

But the balance of power in the Black Sea would shift in favour of NATO after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Bulgaria and Romania became NATO members in 2004. Ukraine and Georgia were offered membership in 2008. If they had also joined NATO, Russia would have faced an arc of NATO coast in its gateway to the global waters. But in 2008, Russia made a military intervention in Georgia, practically ending the country's NATO dream. And in 2014, by annexing Crimea, Russia did not only derail Ukraine's NATO plans, but also reasserted its hold over its southern waters. Now, with more territories under its control as the invasion grinds on, Russia is seeking to rewrite the balance of power in the Black Sea to its favour through force.

ABDUL REHMAN MAKKI

LeT's terror financier

China placed a hold on India's bid to name the LeT leader a global terrorist

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE

In January 2018, a special cell of the Delhi Police arrested Bilal Ahmed Kawa at the Delhi airport. Kawa was accused of being part of the December 22, 2000 attack on the Red Fort in Delhi. The pre-dawn attack, a month ahead of the Republic Day celebration, shook the security infrastructure in the country as it proved that the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) had acquired the ability to launch attacks right in the heart of India. Kawa played just a small part of that attack. According to Indian law enforcement agencies, the operation was firmed up by the top leadership of the LeT, which included Abdul Rehman Makki, the deputy Amir and head of political affairs of the terrorist outfit and its parent organisation, Jamat ud Dawa (JuD).

Makki, a long-time aide of LeT Amir Hafiz Saeed, has been of great operational significance for the organisation. Apart from being a member of the top family of the JuD/LeT (he is Saeed's brother-in-law), Makki has served as the member of the Shura and a member of the JuD's central and proselytising teams. His main skill lies in raising funds for the LeT's operations.

The LeT first appeared in the Kashmir Valley in the early 1990s. In the initial decade, its focus was limited to Jammu and Kashmir. The Red Fort attack, however,

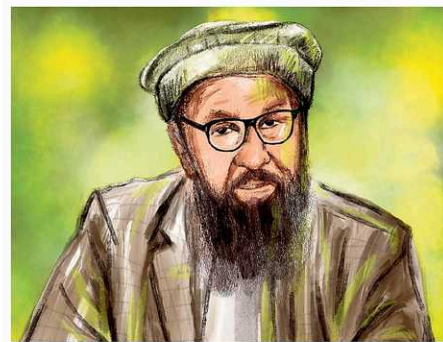


ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

changed the threat perception that the LeT posed. Ever since, India has blamed several attacks, both inside Kashmir and in the rest of the country, on Makki.

The list includes the 26/11 Mumbai attacks; the attack on the Rampur CRPF Camp on January 1, 2008; the Karan Nagar attack on February 12-13, 2018; the Khampora attack on May 30, 2018 in Baramulla; the Srinagar attack on June 14, 2018; and the Gurez attack on August 7, 2018.

India accuses Makki of being involved in raising funds and radicalising and recruiting young men to attack India, particularly Jammu & Kashmir. The long list of the anti-India attacks prompted India and the U.S. to declare him as a terrorist.

While the heat has been increased on Hafiz Saeed, who is a UN-proscribed terrorist, Makki is not on the global list of terrorists. India and the U.S. jointly pro-

posed, on June 1, to list Makki under the UN Security Council's Al-Qaeda and ISIL Sanctions Committee, also known as the UNSC 1267 Committee.

Sources disclosed that the proposal to list Makki under the UN Security Council sanctions regime was circulated to all members of the Council's 1267 Committee under a "no-objection procedure" till June 16. At the last moment, China placed a "technical hold" on the proposal that nixed the India-U.S. plan to list Makki as a global terrorist. Designating Makki as a global terrorist would have frozen all his assets that could be targeted more effectively by the law enforcement authorities of the most powerful countries in the UN.

Names galore

According to the U.S. Rewards for Justice programme, Makki is known by

multiple names — Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki; Hafaz Abdul Rahman Makki; Abdulrahman Makki; Hafiz Abdul Rehman and carries a price of \$2 million. The American programme says Makki has played a role in the past in raising funds for terror strikes by the LeT.

Makki has been in the crosshairs of the U.S. authorities for a long time. On November 4, 2010, the U.S. Department of Treasury listed him as a 'Specially Designated Global Terrorist' under Executive order 13224. The order curtailed Makki's ability to access American resources.

Though global action against Hafiz Saeed was achieved with comparative ease, the lack of consensus among the permanent members of the UNSC prevented Makki's inclusion in the 1267 list. India has blamed China and said that its lack of support in listing Makki shows its "double standards on combating terrorism".

In 2020, an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan indicted Makki for terror financing and sent him to jail. But another court suspended the sentence and asked him to pay ₹50,000 instead. Hafiz Saeed was listed a global terrorist under the 1267 list soon after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai. But Makki who is effectively the leader of the LeT — as Saeed serves a 32-year jail term — is yet to feel the weight of the international order.

5G deployment to start in Aug.-Sept.: Vaishnav

Telecom Minister expects roll-out to commence in 20-25 cities, towns by year end; sees India setting rate benchmarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Saturday said 5G deployment would commence in 20-25 cities and towns by the year end, and indicated that India, with its current data prices significantly lower than the global average, would continue to set rate benchmarks as new services were rolled out.

The 5G deployment would start from August-September, Mr. Vaishnav said.

The minister said India was developing 4G and 5G stacks, and was set to bolster its position as a trusted source for the world, in digital networks.

To address the issue of unsolicited calls, an "important" regulation was in the works, which would enable KYC-identity name of a caller to be displayed, when some-

one calls, the minister said, speaking at the "TV9 What India Thinks Today Global Summit".

On 5G services, he said: "I can say with confidence that 5G deployment will start in at least 20-25 cities and towns by year end."

Asked about the pricing for 5G services, Mr. Vaishnav observed that even today data rates in India were at about \$2, against the global average of \$25.

"We are already the lowest in the world, at least by a factor of 10X... we are cheaper than the world, that same trend will be in other areas too," he said. As India prepares to usher in 5G services, it has also developed 4G and 5G technology stacks.

'Technology lead in 6G'
Outlining India's resolve to match global strides in 4G



Initiating call: The Centre will auction ₹4.3 lakh crore of airwaves for offering 5G services. ■ C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

and 5G, and to take the technology lead in 6G, the Minister said the world had taken note of the country's progress, and shown serious interest in the indigenous technologies being developed.

"The telecom network supporting mobile phones has to be a trusted network. India's name is on the top of the list of trusted network providers. When India develops a technology, entire

world is interested in it," he asserted.

5G services are expected to usher in high speeds — about 10 times faster than 4G — and spawn new-age offerings and business models.

The government will auction about ₹4.3 lakh crore worth of airwaves capable of offering fifth-generation or 5G telecom services, including ultra-high-speed Internet, and has also given its nod for setting up of captive 5G networks by tech firms.

As much as 72 GHz of spectrum will be put on the block during the 5G auction, set to commence on July 26.

On the issue of unsolicited calls, Mr. Vaishnav said a new regulation in the offing would enable KYC name (as given in the mobile SIM application) to be displayed, when someone makes a call. The consultation process on

this was currently underway.

"Once industry stakeholder consultation is completed, this will be implemented all over the country," the Minister said.

To a question on the slow download speeds experienced by customers, the minister pointed out that India's average data consumption at 18 GB per month, exceeds the global average of 11 GB per month.

"India's data consumption is more than what is seen in highly-developed nations. More investments are needed in infrastructure. Massive investments in infrastructure are important in the backdrop of data rates, calls drops, call quality," he said.

The telecom sector reforms announced in September had brought stability to the industry, the Minister asserted.

Govt. tags IT assets of ICICI Bank 'critical' infra

HDFC Bank, NPCI also get similar tags

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government has declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and UPI managing entity NPCI as 'critical information infrastructure,' implying any harm to them can have an impact on national security and any unauthorised person accessing these resources may be jailed for up to 10 years, according to an official notification.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), in the notification dated June 16, declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank as critical infrastructure under Section 70 of the IT Act, 2008.

"The central government hereby declares the computer resources relating to the Core Banking Solution, Real Time Gross Settlement and



National Electronic Fund Transfer comprising Structured Financial Messaging Server, being critical information infrastructure of the ICICI Bank, and the computer resources of its associated dependencies to be protected systems for the purpose of the said Act," the government said.

MeitY also declared IT resources of HDFC bank and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) as critical infrastructure.

India's Russian coal buying spikes on rebates

May 27-June 15 purchases surge sixfold

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India's purchases of Russian coal have spiked in recent weeks despite global sanctions, as traders offer discounts of up to 30%, according to two trade sources and data reviewed by Reuters.

Russia, facing severe Western sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine, warned the European Union in April against sweeping sanctions on coal, saying they would backfire as the fuel would be redirected to other markets.

Yet as European importers shun trade with Moscow, Indian buyers are ordering huge quantities of Russian coal despite high freight costs.

India's purchases of coal



and related products jumped more than sixfold in the 20 days through Wednesday from the year-earlier period to \$331.17 million, according to unpublished Indian government data.

"The Russian traders have been liberal with payment routes and are accepting payments in Indian rupee and UAE dirham," one source said.

Bitcoin falls to 18-month low on risk exodus

REUTERS

Bitcoin fell below \$20,000 to its lowest level in 18 months, extending its slide as investors pull back from riskier assets amid rising interest rates.

The biggest cryptocurrency was down 7.1% to \$18,993 at 0906 GMT, having earlier touched \$18,732, its lowest since December 2020. It is down about 59% this year, while rival cryptocurrency ether is down 73%.

The digital currency sector has been pummeled this week after cryptocurrency lending firm Celsius froze withdrawals and transfers between accounts.

Jindal Lifestyle opens stainless steel parts unit

Firm eyes opportunities in rail wagons

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

Jindal Lifestyle, an integrated stainless steel solutions provider, has commissioned an additional plant in Chennai to cater mainly to Vande Bharat trains.

The firm has facilities in Chennai, Pathredi in Rajasthan and Rohad in Haryana with a total capacity of 1,500 tonnes a month, CEO Rajesh Mohata said.

The products manufactured include industrial stainless steel tanks, home-ware, kitchenware, bus shelters, components for MetroRail and Railways, etc.

The new plant in Chennai is operating at 40% capacity now and additional machinery would be installed to

The plant makes stainless steel components for train coaches

raise capacity utilisation to 80% from next month.

"The investment in the additional plant is only in machinery as the shed has been taken on rent," he said.

"The plant makes stainless steel components for coaches," Mr. Mohata said.

"We are also working on how to make stainless steel railway wagons. We see good opportunities in wagons," he added.

With huge opportunities in automobile and EV sectors, the company is looking at further expansion in Tamil Nadu, he said.

We are seeing a long, strong cycle of growth: DICV MD

Company has healthy export pipeline for 3-4 months: Arya

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles Pvt. Ltd., which makes and supplies the Bharat Benz range of heavy and medium commercial vehicles (CVs) in India, is seeing strong demand recovery for CVs as the effect of the pandemic wanes, MD and CEO Satyakam Arya said.

"Since 2020, the industry has again started to grow," Mr. Arya said in an interview. "It finished roughly with 2,00,000 units in 2021. This year, we are expecting the market to grow beyond 3,40,000 units."

"We are [standing] in the front of a major growth cy-



Satyakam Arya

cle, which is happening now," he said. "I believe, with the GDP growth India had seen last year, and now we are growing this year, we are in front of a long and strong cycle of growth for this industry," he added.

The subsidiary of Daimler

Truck AG, which has invested almost ₹10,000 crore in India, achieved operational break-even for its truck business in 2018. "And today, we are financially quite strong," he said.

'Scalable capacity'
DICV's plant in Chennai has annual capacity to make 36,000 trucks and the capacity can be scaled up to 72,000 with some minor investments, Mr. Arya said.

"2022 is shaping out quite well. We are growing, a bit better than what the market is growing. If you look at the exports, we have got a very healthy pipeline for the next three-four months," he said.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Indonesia Open: Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 10.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs Australia: 3rd ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m.
Netherlands vs England: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 2.30 p.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m., 5.30 p.m. & 8 p.m.
India vs South Africa: 5th T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 4, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
F1: Canadian GP: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 11.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Leclerc receives 10-place penalty
MONTREAL
Charles Leclerc received a 10-place grid penalty because Ferrari changed his engine ahead of the Canadian Grand Prix. AP

Anahat enters u-15 final in Asian junior squash
TAMBON NA CHOM THIAN (THAILAND)
Anahat Singh of India reached the girls' u-15 final of the 29th Asian junior junior squash championships here. She will take on Ena Kwong of Hong Kong on Sunday.

Esha claims sports pistol gold

Arjun wins free pistol; Manu, Saurabh prevail in junior sections

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

Esha Singh was in fine form as she beat a strong field to win the women's 25-metre sports pistol gold in the 20th Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship at the Madhya Pradesh Academy in Bhopal on Saturday.

After qualifying at the top with 585, two points better than the eventual junior champion Manu Bhaker, the 17-year-old Esha defeated Vibhuti Bhatia 30-23 for the gold.

Former World No. 1 and World Cup gold medallist, Chinki Yadav bagged the bronze ahead of Neeraj Kaur, multiple World Cup gold medallist Rahi Sarnobat, Abhidnya Patil, Manu and Anisa Sayyed.

Irrepressible
Manu Bhaker was irrepressible in the junior women medal round and beat Payal



Triumphant: Esha with her reward. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

32-23 for the gold. Junior World Champion Naamya Kapoor won the bronze ahead of Vibhuti

Bhatia, Tejaswani and Divanshi.

In the 50-metre free pistol, Arjun Das won the gold with a score of 562.

Omkar Singh and Ravinder Singh took the silver and bronze respectively, ahead of Arjun Singh Cheema and Saurabh Chaudhary.

Saurabh, with a score of 554, was not at his best, but managed to clinch the junior gold, comfortably ahead of Harsh Gupta and Naved Chaudhary.

The results:
25m sports pistol: Women: 1. Esha Singh 30 (14) 585; 2. Vibhuti Bhatia 23 (14) 574; 3. Chinki Yadav 17 (13) 577; 4. Neeraj Kaur 8 (11) 576.

Juniors: 1. Manu Bhaker 32 (12) 583; 2. Payal 23 (9) 565; 3. Naamya Kapoor 16 (10) 567; 4. Vibhuti Bhatia 7 (10) 574.

50m free pistol: Men: 1. Arjun Das 562; 2. Omkar Singh 559; 3. Ravinder Singh 556.

Juniors: 1. Saurabh Chaudhary 554; 2. Harsh Gupta 542; 3. Naved Chaudhary 540.

Indian juniors win 4 km silver

CYCLING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian team of Pooja Dhanole, Himanshi Singh, Reet Kapoor and Jasmek Kaur, with a time of 4:54.094s, claimed silver in the junior women's 4 km event in the Asian cycling championship at the Indira Gandhi Velodrome on Saturday.

The Indian team of Rejivye Devi, Chayanika Gogoi, Meenakshi and Monika Jat beat Uzbekistan with a time of 4:44.699s to win bronze in the 4 km women's team pursuit. Trishya Paul, Shushikala Agashe and Mayuri Lute claimed a bronze in women's sprint with a time of 50.438s.

Gold for Jyoti

Jyoti Gaderaya clocked 58.283 seconds in beating compatriot Geeta Rao for the gold in the para women's CI-C5 500m time trial.

King's Ransom primed for an encore

BENGALURU: King's Ransom, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the FILLIES Championship Stakes (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (June 19). There will be no false rails.

1. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00: 1. Bramastaram (1) S. Shareef 61.5, 2. Sky Princess (3) Ashhad A 60, 3. Chandra Kanta (2) B. Nayak 59, 4. Don's Den (8) G. Vivek 58, 5. Arca Angel (10) Rajesh K 57.5, 6. Ultimate Choice (1) Vishal B 57.5, 7. Akasi (6) Vivek 57, 8. Altair (4) Ajeet K 56.5, 9. Daring Sweetheart (5) S. Mubarak 56.5, 10. Activated (9) P. Surya 56 and 11. Star Citizen (7) A. Fazal 55.5.

1. DON'S DEN 2. SKY PRINCESS, 3. BRAMASTARAM

2. STAR CONTENDER PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 2-30: 1. Ashwa Magadheera (6) Suraj 60, 2. Nikolina (4) Akshay K 59, 3. Aferpi (5) Rajesh K 58.5, 4. Spectacular (2) Sandesh 58.5, 5. Augusto (9) L.A. Rozario 57, 6. Fictioneer (8) Vishal B 57, 7. Singhsaab (3) B. Nayak 56.5, 8. Kodava Streak (12) Mudassar 55.5, 9. Sunway Lagoon (10) T.S. Jodha 55.5, 10. Rorito (1) Toussif K 55, 11. Electric Blue (7) Richard Oliver 54 and 12. Sunshine Prince (11) Gaurav 53.3.

1. NIKOLINA, 2. ASHWA MAGADHEERA, 3. SPECTACULAR

3. RARE GEM PLATE (1,200m), 3 maidens 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Ardhan (8) Ranjeet S 56, 2. Electric Blue (14) S. Saqlain 56, 3. Gimme (13) N.S. Parmar 56, 4. Maybach (1) Mark 56, 5. Monteverdi (4) Hindu S 56, 6. Pinnacle

Point (12) K. Nazil 56, 7. Romero (7) L.A. Rozario 56, 8. The Sensation (11) Ashhad A 56, 9. Tycoonist (5) Suraj 56, 10. Kiefer (10) C.S. Jodha 54.5, 11. Kulsum (3) Likith 54.5, 12. Oasis Class (9) A. Prakash 54.5, 13. Prime Abbess (6) Md. Akram 54.5 and 14. Secret Lady (2) S. Shareef 54.5.

1. TYCOONIST, 2. GIMME, 3. KIEFER

4. STEWARDS CUP (1,200m), rated 60 & above, 3-30: 1. Psychic Warrior (4) J.H. Arul 60, 2. Hukum (2) Md. Aijaz 56.5, 3. Colonel Hartly (3) Rajesh K 55, 4. Obsidian (6) Dhanu S 54, 5. Cavallini (1) Akshay K 52 and 6. Luck Chance (5) Sandesh 51.5.

1. OBSIDIAN, 2. LUCKY CHANGE

5. FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600m), 3-y-o fillies, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Crown Consort (2) Suraj 56, 2. Dangerous (3) C.S. Jodha 56, 3. Eternal Princess (12) Yash 56, 4. Faith (9) Trevor 56, 5. King's Ransom (5) P.S. Chouhan 56, 6. Philosophy (7) Sandesh 56, 7. Place Vendome (11) P.P. Dhebe 56, 8. Queen Spirit (8) Zervan 56, 9. Shabelle (13) Akshay K 56, 10. Star Comet (4) A. Imran 56, 11. Stellar Gold (1) Bhawani S 56, 12. Mark 60, 13. Anjar 56 and 13. Triple Wish (6) N.S. Parmar 56.

1. KING'S RANSOM, 2. CROWN CONSORT, 3. SHABELLE

6. K.S. PRASAD MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4-35: 1. Ruling Goddess (2) Shreyas S 60, 2. Imperial Blue (10) Akshay K 59.5, 3. Peluche (9) T.S. Jodha 59.5, 4. Mystic Eye (8) P.P. Dhebe 56.5, 5. Peyo (12) Yash 56.5, 6. Regal Command (7)

Bhawani S 56, 7. Promise Kept (11) Trevor 55.5, 8. Douglas (3) Gaurav S 55, 9. The Inheritor (4) J.H. Arul 54.5, 10. Ayr (5) Kiran N 53.5, 11. Success (13) Hindu S 52.5, 12. Sonata (1) Likith 52 and 13. Bangor On Dee (6) G. Vivek 51.

1. IMPERIAL BLUE, 2. PEYO, 3. PROMISE KEPT

7. BERGAMO PLATE (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 5-10: 1. Green Channel (4) J.H. Arul 61.5, 2. Jack Ryan (7) Ashhad A 60.5, 3. Siege Perilous (8) Akshay K 58.5, 4. Four Wheel Drive (9) P.S. Chouhan 55.5, 5. Starry Wind (5) P.P. Dhebe 55.5, 6. Multistarrer (10) Sandesh 55, 7. Pink Jasmine (2) Trevor 54.5, 8. Southern Dynasty (6) C.S. Jodha 53, 9. Winmylove (1) Gaurav S 53 and 10. Capable (3) G. Vivek 52.5.

1. SIEGE PERILOUS, 2. MULTISTARRER, 3. PINK JASMINE

8. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-4: 1. Artesian (11) Nikhil N 62.5, 2. First Royalist (9) A. Prakash 62.5, 3. Matera (3) Richard Oliver 62.5, 4. Amazing Luck (10) B. Nayak 61.5, 5. High Opinion (5) P.P. Dhebe 61.5, 6. Mega Success (8) Vivek 61, 7. Cinco De Mayo (1) Mark 60, 8. Dreams Ahead (2) S. Mubarak 59.5, 9. Gold Gray (6) Siddharaju 59, 10. Handsome Rocky (4) Rajesh K 58 and 11. Lightning Charlie (7) P. Surya 57.5.

1. MATERA, 2. ARTESIAN, 3. GOLD GRAY

Day's best: IMPERIAL BLUE Double: NIKOLINA — SIEGE PERILOUS Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Suhana battles past Srijitha

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ALAPPUZHA

Top-seeded Suhana Saini (Haryana) advanced to the second round in the youth girls' under-19 section after warding off a spirited challenge from Srijitha Shaw (Bengal) 11-8, 11-7, 11-4 in the 83rd National junior and youth table tennis championships at the YMCA TT Arena here on Saturday.

After packing off Sampri Roy 11-8, 11-3, 11-4 in less than 20 minutes in the first round in the under-17 category, Suhana was not at her best



Suhana...hard-fought win. ■ FILE PHOTO

when she took on Srijitha in the first round in the under-19 category.

Suhana made quite a few errors and allowed her opponent to level the scores in all the three sets. However, the

Haryana girl found her nick to pull ahead to register a straight sets win. Srijitha managed to level the scores at eight in the first set but Suhana reeled off four straight points to win the first set. In the second set, the Bengal girl again caught up with Suhana at seven but failed to stop the top seed from winning.

Suhana struck form after an indifferent start in the third set and won seven consecutive points to win the match.

Important results (first round): Under-17: Suhana Saini (Har) bt Sampri Roy (Ben) 11-8, 11-3, 11-4; Jennifer Vargh-

ese (Mah) bt Kavya Yadav (Har) 11-7, 11-8, 11-2.

Pritha Vartikar (Mah) bt Ekantika Sathish (TNTTA) 11-5, 10-12, 11-3, 11-0; Risha Mirchandani (Mah) bt Preeti Rajkumara (TTTA) 11-9, 11-6, 8-11, 13-11; Riddhima Kapoor (Del) bt Arya Songadkar (Mah) 11-6, 4-11, 7-11, 11-6, 11-8; Kavyashree Baskara (TTTA) bt Smriti Krishna (Ker) 11-7, 11-4, 11-6.

Under-19: Suhana Saini (Har) bt Srijitha Shaw (Ben) 11-8, 11-7, 11-4; Tisha Kohli (Del) bt Thanuja (TTTA) 11-8, 11-8, 11-9; Shriya Anand (TTTA) bt Anushka Basak (Ben) 11-5, 11-6, 11-5.

Lakshita Narang (Del) bt Urvi Surlakar (Goa) 11-5, 11-4, 11-5; Risha Mirchandani (Mah) bt K. Dishna (UP) 11-5, 11-5, 11-3.

Michigan Melody wins feature event

BENGALURU: Azhar Ali-trained Michigan Melody (Arshad up) won the D. Kumar Siddanna Memorial Trophy, the main event of the races held here on Saturday (June 18). The winner is owned by Mr. Satish G Kundapur.

1. TREASURE GIRL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: UNYIELDING (Ajinkya) 1, Three Aces (Darshan) 2, Tiffany (Sandesh) 3 and Ansaldo (Akshay K) 4. 3/4, 2/4 and 3. Im. 16.34s. ₹174 (w), 35, 17 and 13 (p). SHP: 50, THP: 60. FP: 1.843. Q: 959. Trinella: 3. P. 1028 and 1.483, Exacta: 7,519 and 2,762. Favourite: Ansaldo. Owners: Mr. Darius R. Byramji, Mr. K. Mahaveer Chand & Mr. Ravindran T.C. Trainer: Darius.

2. ROYAL CHALLENGE PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: KLOCKNER (Salman K) 1, Limited Edition (G. Vivek) 2, Smile Around (Siddharaju) 3 and Elite Agent (Angad) 4. 1/4, 3/4 and 1/4 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 31, FP: 37. Q: 46. Trinella: 267 and 97. Exacta: 1,431 and 1,033. Favourite: Aldgate. Owner: Mr. Gautam Maini. Trainer: Prasanna

2,511. Favourite: Limited Edition. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr.

Resurgent India will hope for a perfect finish

South Africa needs to address its recent batting woes; injured Bavuma a doubtful starter for fifth and final T20I

SA IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU
The fate of the bilateral T20I series between India and South Africa rests on the fifth and final encounter at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday.

Honours are even at 2-2 after India recorded wins in the two previous outings. Fears that Bengaluru would be forced to host a dead rubber were wiped away by a strong comeback by the home team.

Rain threat

Persistent showers, however, could play spoilsport. The city is likely to witness heavy rain on Sunday night, which will test the SubAir drainage system at the stadium. Spectators can breathe easy knowing that the vacuum-powered suction system can get the ground ready for action 15 minutes after the rain stops.

The evergreen Dinesh Karthik will hope for an uninterrupted night out. Karthik, the only active international cricketer from the team which featured in India's first ever T20I (vs South Africa at Johannesburg, December



Game-changer: Karthik's blitz swung the contest India's way at Rajkot and helped it pull level 2-2. •VIJAY SONEJI

2006), rolled back the years with a rollicking 27-ball 55 in the previous game at Rajkot on Friday.

The match-winning knock earned him the 'Player of the Match' award, an honour he had won nearly 16 years ago in Johannesburg.

Fast bowler Avesh Khan will also enter this fixture on

a high, having picked up four wickets at Rajkot. Avesh, who had gone wicketless in the first three matches, repaid the faith shown by the team management.

"There have been no changes to the eleven in the four games here. I would like to give credit to (head coach) Rahul (Dravid) sir.

"He gives a good opportunity to everyone, because you can't drop or include a player, or say that he is a good player based on performances in one or two games. He has given all the players enough games to play, so you have a good opportunity to prove yourself," Avesh said in the post-match media inter-

raction. The 25-year-old speedster is ready for a different challenge at Bengaluru. "In the last two matches, our bowling attack has executed all our plans. We were able to get wickets consistently — both in the PowerPlay and in the middle overs.

"We will strive to do the same and perform as a group

on Sunday. You have no control over the pitch and conditions. Bengaluru will be different from Rajkot. The better you adapt to different conditions, the better your performance will be," Avesh said.

Failing to fire

South Africa must quickly address its recent batting woes, which have led to low scores of 131 and 87. Rassie van der Dussen, David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen, the architects of the visitors' victories in the opening two matches, have gone quiet.

Captain Temba Bavuma, who retired hurt on Friday, is a doubtful starter.

The teams (from):
India: Rishabh Pant (Capt.), Rituraj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Deepak Hooda, Dinesh Karthik, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Yuzvendra Chahal, Harshal Patel, Venkatesh Iyer, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, and Umran Malik.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Quinton de Kock, Rassie van der Dussen, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Dwaine Pretorius, Wayne Parnell, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje, Keshav Maharaj, Tabraiz Shamsi, Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen, Reeza Hendricks, and Tristan Stubbs.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

'I don't think anyone can fill Mithali's space'



Pep talk: NCA chief Laxman interacted with Team India ahead of its tour of Sri Lanka. •BCIWOMEN/TWITTER

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

When India takes on Sri Lanka in the first Women's ODI at Pallekele on July 1, the visiting side will be without a player who has been a regular in the eleven for over two decades.

Mithali Raj will be missed, said Harmanpreet Kaur, who has taken over as the ODI captain from the most prolific batter in the women's game, on Saturday. The series features three ODIs and as many T20Is, the first of which will be played at Dambulla on June 23.

"I don't think there is anyone who can fill Mithali's space, but we are trying hard to get some combinations," said Harmanpreet.

"We will miss her in the dressing room (too)."

She said the Lanka tour was a great opportunity for the team. "This is the first series we are going to play without the seniors," she said (India's most experienced bowler Jhulan Goswami is also missing from the squad).

Harmanpreet said things would be easier for her after being made the ODI captain. "I have been leading the T20 side for a long time," she said. "When two captains were there sometimes things were not too easy because sometimes...we would have different ideas." **The schedule:** T20Is: June 23, 25 and 27, all at Dambulla. ODIs: July 1, 4 and 7, all at Pallekele.

Madhya Pradesh earns another shot at title

Kartikeya bags five as the team reaches the final for the first time since 1998-99

RANJI TROPHY

AYAN ACHARYA
BENGALURU
Kumar Kartikeya picked up five second innings wickets as Madhya Pradesh beat Bengal by 174 runs to reach its first Ranji Trophy final since 1998-99.

The celebrations after the win were low-key with MP head coach Chandrakant Pandit stating: "The boys realise the job isn't done yet. They are happy, but the realities can wait." Also, Pandit and chief selector Chetan Sharma had a 15-minute chat with Kartikeya and Rajat Patidar after the match.

MP struck off the second ball of the morning after overnight rain delayed the start until 10.45 a.m.

Gaurav Yadav had Anustup Majumdar, who was not out overnight on 8, caught behind with an outswinger. Majumdar attempted an expansive drive and paid the price.



Regal march: Madhya Pradesh upstaged Bengal to book a berth in the summit clash. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

However, Bengal rallied for one session through its last recognised pair of Abhimanyu Easwaran (78, 157b, 7x4) and Shahbaz Ahmed. They batted well for a 38-run sixth-wicket stand as MP went flat for about one-and-a-half hours.

Abhimanyu's milestone
Both batters were different in their method against spin. Abhimanyu was initially the busier — watching, moving, and playing the ball as late as possible. Along the way, he

crossed 5,000 First Class runs. Shahbaz, meanwhile, played the odd sweep and when the ball landed outside off or leg stump, used his pads as a second line of defence.

But Abhimanyu's dogged resistance ended after lunch when Kartikeya knocked over his stumps with a delivery that kept low.

Thereafter, Bengal was resigned to its fate as it collapsed from 135 for six, losing heart and witting under the guile of Kartikeya, who

finished with figures of five for 67. Madhya Pradesh lorded it over Bengal because the latter's cricket was blighted by basic errors with the bat, ball and fielding, particularly catching.

The scores:
MP — 1st innings: 341.
Bengal — 1st innings: 273.

MP — 2nd innings: 281.
Bengal — 2nd innings: Abhishek Raman c Patidar b Kartikeya 0, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Kartikeya 78, Sudip Gharami lbw b Saransh 19, Abhishek Porel b Kartikeya 7, Manoj Tiwary c Gaurav b Kartikeya 7, Anustup Majumdar c Mantri b Gaurav 8, Shahbaz Ahmed (not out) 22, Sayan Mondal lbw b Saransh 1, Pradipta Pramanik c Aditya b Kartikeya 5, Akash Deep c sub b Gaurav 20, Mukesh Kumar b Gaurav 4; Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-1): 4; Total (in 65.2 overs): 175.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-49, 3-60, 4-80, 5-97, 6-135, 7-138, 8-145, 9-171.

MP bowling: Kartikeya 32-10-67-5, Anubhav 4-0-17-0, Saransh 24-1-69-2, Gaurav 5-2-0-19-3.

Mumbai storms into the final

'Underdog' UP can go home with heads held high

AMOL KARHADKAR

The writing was on the wall on the penultimate day. Then, overnight heavy rain made the last day's proceedings of the semifinal between Mumbai and Uttar Pradesh at Just Cricket Academy on Saturday a mere formality, if not a farce.

Eventually, only 16 overs were bowled, with UP part-timers rolling their arm over.

Declaration and end!
The moment Shams Mulani joined Sarfaraz Khan in the half-century club, Mumbai declared its second essay at 533 for four. With less than half an hour remaining for tea, the break was called and the teams shook hands.

Despite the disappointing outing over the last five days, Uttar Pradesh had plenty to cherish from a season where it started as underdog.

Mumbai will go into the final at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium from Wednesday



Purple patch: Sarfaraz continued his fine run and crossed the 800-run mark for the season. •FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

with literally no chink in its armour. With the part-timers bowling, Sarfaraz — in the form of his life — was served dillies aplenty. He crossed the 800-run mark for the season with two sizzling hits over mid-wicket.

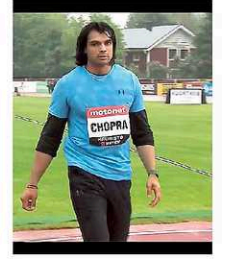
The scores:
Mumbai — 1st innings: 393.
UP — 1st innings: 180.

Mumbai — 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw c Mavi b Saurabh 64, Yashviji Jaiswal c sub b Prince

181, Armaan Jaffer c sub b Mavi 127, Suved Parkar c & b Prince 22, Sarfaraz Khan (not out) 59, Shams Mulani (not out) 51; Extras (b-12, lb-4, nb-4, w-9): 29; Total (for four wkts. decl. in 156 overs): 533.

Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-352, 3-404, 4-420.
UP bowling: Dayal 10-1-43-0, Rajpoot 19-4-58-0, Mavi 12-3-36-1, Prince 27-3-92-2, Saurabh 35-6-1-113-1, Karan 30-7-84-0, Rinku 12-0-49-0, Samarth 2-0-9-0, Kaushik 9-1-33-0.

Golden show by Neeraj



Neeraj. •TWITTER

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, battling rain and slippery conditions, won the javelin gold with his opening throw of 86.69m at the Kuortane Games in Kuortane, Finland, on Saturday. It was Neeraj's first gold this year.

The 24-year-old had just one legal throw as he fouled his second attempt, slipped while finishing his next and did not attempt the other three throws. Sandeep Chaudhary was eighth and last (60.35m).

IN BRIEF

Shakib and Nurul to Bangladesh's rescue

NORTH SOUND
Skipper Shakib Al Hasan (53 batting) and Nurul Hasan (49 batting) added 101 for the unbroken seventh wicket as Bangladesh reached 210 for six at tea on day three of the first Test against the West Indies on Saturday.

The scores: Bangladesh 103 & 210/6 in 76 overs (Mahmudul Hasan Joy 42, Shakib Al Hasan 53, Nurul Hasan 49 batting) vs West Indies 265 in 112.5 overs (Kraig Brathwaite 94, Jermaine Blackwood 63; Mehidy Hasan 4/59). AFP

Brunt retires from Tests

LONDON
England pacer Katherine Brunt on Saturday announced her retirement from Test cricket, calling time on a career that spanned 17 years. The 36-year-old will continue to play in the shorter formats of the game. ANI

Sathyan bows out

ZAGREB
G. Sathyan, who had shocked World No. 6 and the second seed Darko Jorgic of Slovenia in the first round, went down to Chuang Chi-Yuan of Taipei 7-11, 9-11, 5-11 in the men's quarterfinals of the World Table Tennis Contender here on Saturday.

Injured Osaka withdraws from Wimbledon

PARIS
Former World No. 1 Naomi Osaka pulled out of Wimbledon on Saturday with an Achilles injury. "My Achilles still isn't right so I'll see you next time," she tweeted. AFP

Morikawa and Dahmen share the top spot

Rahm, McIlroy among five one adrift



All a blur: But for a missed birdie putt on the 18th, Dahmen would have been in sole lead. •AP

US OPEN GOLF

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BROOKLINE

A weekend showdown of golf's top stars was set on Friday at the US Open as two-time Major winner Collin Morikawa seized a share of the lead while Jon Rahm and Rory McIlroy were one stroke adrift.

Seventh-ranked Morikawa fired a four-under 66 and American Joel Dahmen, who shot 68, joined him on five-under 135 after two rounds. Second-ranked defending champion Rahm, third-ranked McIlroy and Americans Hayden Buckley, Aaron Wise and Beau Hossler shared second on 136.

McIlroy, chasing his first Major title since 2014, comes off a victory in last week's PGA Canadian Open. Not since 1934 has a player

won the week before and then captured the US Open. Top-ranked Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, with an eagle and two birdies on the last six holes, was on 137.

Dahmen, 34, won his only PGA title last year in the Dominican Republic. But for a missed 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th, he would have been in sole lead.

Six-time Major winner Phil Mickelson missed the cut on 11-over 151.

The scores: 135: Joel Dahmen (USA, 67, 68), Collin Morikawa (USA, 69, 66); 136: Beau Hossler (USA, 69, 67), Aaron Wise (USA, 68, 68), Hayden Buckley (USA, 68, 68), Jon Rahm (Esp, 69, 67), Rory McIlroy (NIR, 67, 69); 137: Patrick Rodgers (USA, 69, 68), Matthew NeSmith (USA, 68, 69), Scottie Scheffler (USA, 70, 67), Nick Hardy (USA, 69, 68), Brian Harman (USA, 68, 69).

Gurjit shines as India stuns Argentina

Heartbreak for men as they lose to Netherlands in shootout

FIH PRO LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ROTTERDAM

Gurjit Kaur scored a brace as the Indian women's hockey team dished out a spirited performance to stun Olympic silver medallist Argentina 2-1 in the shootout after a 3-3 stalemate in regulation time. The reverse has virtually put India out of the title race.

The Indians are third with 30 points from 15 games with just one match remaining while Netherlands lead with 33 points from 13 games with three matches in hand. Olympic champion Belgium is second (31 points, 14 games) with two matches remaining.

Breathtaking hockey was on display between two world-class teams as India

and Netherlands battled it out.

There was also a battle of supremacy between two best goalkeepers of the world — P.R. Sreejesh and Pirmin Blaak — and the two came up with brilliant saves on numerous occasions in the first two quarters.

However, in the shootout, only Vivek Sagar Prasad could find the target while Netherlands scored four times.

The results: Women: India 3 (Lalremliani 4, Gurjit 37 & 61) drew with Argentina 3 (Agustina Gorzelany 22, 37, 45). India won 2-1 in shootout.

Men: India 2 (Dilpreet 22, Harmanpreet 60) drew with Netherlands 2 (de Wilder 10, Bijen 47). Netherlands won 4-1 in shootout.



Team effort: Indian women gave a spirited display to humble Argentina. •TWITTER/FIHPROLEAGUE

Sriram-Jeevan pair does it again



Having the last laugh: Sriram and Jeevan prevailed in a super tiebreak in the final. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPORTS BUREAU

In the Ilkley Challenger, Ramkumar Ramanathan and John-Patrick Smith of Australia reached the final. **Other results: Semifinals:** €134,920 Challenger, Ilkley, Britain: John-Patrick Smith (Aus) & Ramkumar Ramanathan (Aus) & Luke Johnson & Aidan McHugh (GBR) 6-3, 7-6(5). \$15,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Tsung-Hao Huang (Tpe) 6-4, 7-5.

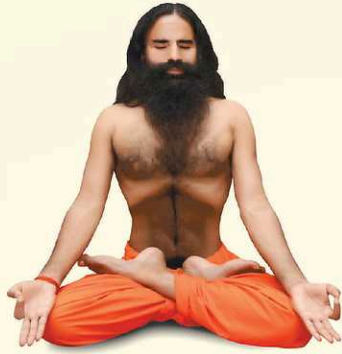
Prannoy loses to Peng

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JAKARTA

H.S. Prannoy lost in the semifinal yet again as he bowed out of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament after going down 16-21, 15-21 to China's Zhao Jun Peng on Saturday. World No. 1 Viktor Axel-

sen secured a place in the title clash after topping Malaysian rising star Lee Zii Jia 19-21, 21-11, 23-21 in a tight, fast-paced encounter.

Other results: Women (semifinals): Tai Tzu-ying bt Tai Tzu-ying 10-21, 26-24, 21-12; Wang Zhiyi bt He Bingjiao 21-15, 21-10.



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Let us take an oath on this great occasion of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" to liberate ourselves from all kinds of diseases as well as any sort of addiction, violence, any negative thoughts or emotions and any inhuman tendencies by practising yoga daily and committing ourselves to become "Swadeshi" in our thoughts and spirits towards the attainment of self-sufficient vision.

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Collective effort: Tribal women on their way to preparing an agricultural field at Umsowai village in Karbi Anglong district of Assam.

A bounty in the horizon

As the monsoon arrived two weeks ahead of schedule, Assam farmers are expecting a good harvest

TEXT AND IMAGES BY RITU RAJ KONWAR

Agriculture occupies an important place in the economy of Assam, and rural farmers make up its backbone. This year, good rain ahead of the monsoon helped farmers gain a head start in planting their crops. Even the monsoon, which normally arrives in the State in the first week of June, was early by a couple of weeks. Good rain during this period brightens the prospects of the Kharif crop.

During the season, tribal communities living in the hills and plains celebrate many agriculture-related rituals and fes-

tivals. Some are celebrated at the beginning of the season to invoke the blessings of the gods for a good harvest. The tribal life revolves around the rituals, beliefs and traditions associated with agriculture.

Agriculture is a far more complex activity than hunting and gathering. Tilling, sowing and harvesting are long, uncertain and tiring, requiring patience, confidence and far-sightedness.

The tribal community has a strong sense of collective endeavour, helping them through the planting season and benefiting them economically.



Green thumbs: Seasoned hands at Bormarjong.



Tribal way: Women workers at Umsowai fashion cups out of bamboo for drinking water.



Refreshing drink: Locally grown tea is being brewed by the side of a field.



Germinating a season: A man sows paddy seeds in his Jhum field at Bormarjong village in Karbi Anglong.



Packed spread: Rice wrapped in banana leaves are being distributed to the workers at Umsowai.



Fine powder: Tiwa tribesmen pounding rice as they take part in the Wanchuwa festival.



Smooth flow: Women clean a channel to take water to their agricultural field at Bormarjong.



Ready for transplant: Paddy seedlings ready in a Jhum field at Bormarjong.



Invoking the gods: Tiwa tribesmen perform their traditional dance as they take part in the Wanchuwa festival at Bormarjong. Tiwas pray for a bountiful harvest during this festival.