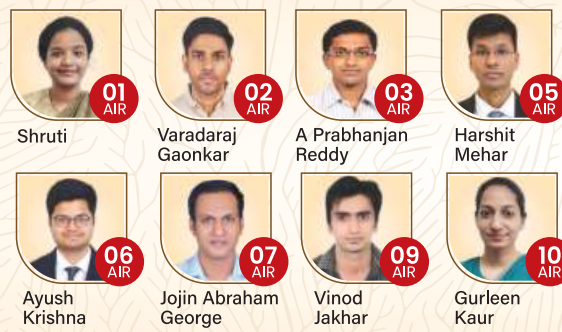




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IN BRIEF



Man killed for post backing Nupur Sharma

JAIPUR
Two persons beheaded a 40-year-old man at his tailoring shop in Rajasthan's Udaipur city on Tuesday. The victim had shared posts in support of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma. Sources in the MHA said an NIA team was being sent to Udaipur to take over the probe, treating it as a terror act.
NEWS ▶ PAGE 13

19 killed in Mumbai building collapse

MUMBAI
Nineteen people were declared brought dead at hospitals after a four-storey building collapsed in the Kurla area of Mumbai around Monday midnight, civic officials said on Tuesday.
NEWS ▶ PAGE 14

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 3

BJP seeks floor test in House, CM makes fresh plea to rebels

Uddhav requests MLAs in Guwahati to come for talks

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The Opposition BJP on Tuesday night requested Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari to order a floor test in the Assembly, hours after Shiv Sena president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray made another emotional appeal to rebel MLAs stationed in Guwahati to come for discussions.

Mr. Thackeray said he still cared for them and was ready to find a way out of the present situation by talking to them personally.

The BJP delegation led by Leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnis, along with senior leaders Ashish Shelar, Chandrakant Patil and Pravin Darekar, late on Tuesday night met the Governor and urged him to ask the Thackeray government to prove majority at the earliest.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mr. Fadnis said, "Around 39 Shiv Sena MLAs have stated that they no longer want to remain



I appeal to all of you to come and sit in front of me and clarify all confusion in the minds of Sena workers and people. There will surely be a way out and we will do it together... You will never get the honour that the Sena bestowed upon you. I still care for you as the Sena family head

UDDHAV THACKERAY, Maharashtra CM and Shiv Sena chief

with the Maha Vikas Aghadi [MVA] government. It means that the present government has lost its majority in the House. We requested the Governor to call an Assembly session at the earliest."

The meeting took place few hours after Mr. Fadnis returned from Delhi after holding talks with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda.

In his appeal to the rebel MLAs, Mr. Thackeray said: "I appeal to all of you to come and sit in front of me and

clarify all confusion in the minds of Sena workers and people. There will surely be a way out and we will do it together. Do not fall prey to anyone's false promises."

Around 39 MLAs have joined rebel leader and party's second-in-command Eknath Shinde. The group is demanding that Mr. Thackeray quit the MVA coalition comprising the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Shinde says he has support of 50 MLAs

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde on Tuesday claimed that he had the support of 50 MLAs and would soon return to Mumbai.

Speaking in Guwahati, Mr. Shinde, along with other Sena MLAs in his camp, including Uday Samant, emphatically said they were still in the Shiv Sena and that their actions were aimed at preserving the party and the 'Hindutva' ideals of late Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

He rejected Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray's claim that 15 to 20 MLAs in the rebel faction had alleged they had been "abducted" and that they had reached out to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's camp to bring them back to Mumbai.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Sports conclave



Dr. Malini Parthasarathy, Chairperson, THG Publishing Pvt. Ltd., presenting a memento to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Sportstar South Sports Conclave in Chennai on Tuesday in the presence of *The Hindu* CEO L.V. Navaneeth, former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand and Sportstar Editor Ayon Sengupta. • M. VEDHAN (REPORT ON PAGE 17)

G7 to cap Russia's income from oil sales

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ELMAU

Leaders of the world's wealthiest democracies struck a united stance to support Ukraine for "as long as it takes" as Russia's invasion grinds on, and said they would explore far-reaching steps to cap Kremlin income from oil sales that are financing the war.

The final statement on Tuesday from the Group of

Seven (G7) summit in Germany underlined their intent to impose "severe and immediate economic costs" on Russia. It left out key details on how the fossil fuel price caps would work in practice, setting up more discussion in the weeks ahead to "explore" measures to bar imports of Russian oil above a certain level.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to our un-

precedented coordination on sanctions for as long as necessary, acting in unison at every stage," the leaders of the U.S., Germany, France, Italy, the U.K., Canada and Japan said.

The leaders also agreed on a ban on imports of Russian gold and to step up aid to countries hit with food shortages by the blockade on Ukraine grain shipments through the Black Sea.

Zubair's police custody extended by four days

ABHINAV LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

A city court on Tuesday granted Delhi Police four more days of custody of Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair, a day after he was arrested for posting an "objectionable tweet" in 2018.

Chief metropolitan magis-

trate Snigdha Sarvaria of the Patiala House Court also allowed the police to take him to Bengaluru to recover his phone and laptop from his residence.

The order came after advocate Vrinda Grover opposed the remand application by the police, arguing for

over an hour on alleged violation of arrest procedures, the lack of ingredients required for the offences in the first information report, and how Mr. Zubair was being targeted for his work and because of his faith.

Moving an application seeking Mr. Zubair's custody

for five more days, the substitute Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the accused had "deliberately" hurt the religious sentiment of one community through the tweet in question.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
PROBE INTO FUNDING ▶ PAGE 3

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PM hails UAE's help during the pandemic

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed gratitude to President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan "for taking great care of 3.5 million Indian community in the UAE" during the pandemic. Mr. Modi met with the Gulf country's ruler during a stopover at Abu Dhabi while returning from Munich.

This was the first meeting between Mr. Modi and the UAE ruler since the Gulf country joined others in the region to condemn the derogatory comments made by now-sacked BJP functionaries on the Prophet.

50 migrants dead in Texas truck tragedy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN ANTONIO

The U.S. police on Tuesday were investigating the grim discovery of 50 bodies of migrants in and around a trailer truck abandoned in sweltering heat near the Texas city of San Antonio, with victims identified as from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

The White House, facing intense pressure over its immigration policies, called the tragedy "absolutely horrific and heartbreaking".

Justice Sharma sworn in as HC Chief Justice

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, previously serving as the Chief Justice of

Telangana High Court, took oath as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court on Tuesday. L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena administered the oath to Justice Sharma.

Centre must announce civic polls schedule: Rai

Senior AAP leader says sanitation system in Delhi has crumbled; BJP says situation on ground has improved

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two days after it won the Rajinder Nagar Assembly bypoll, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said that the Centre should announce the schedule for the civic polls.

The party's Delhi in-charge Gopal Rai on Tuesday said the sanitation system in Delhi has crumbled and that the Centre has gone into "sleep mode" after unifying the three erstwhile municipalities of Delhi to create the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

Mr. Rai said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had told Parliament that the creation of the MCD would revitalise Delhi.

"I want to ask him [Mr. Shah] as to why the Centre has not yet handed the MCD even a single rupee's worth of funding," he said.

Delayed polls

The senior AAP leader said that just before the municipal election was due, the Centre decided to merge the three erstwhile municipalities sensing a probable defeat in the election.

"We demand from the BJP, especially the Union Home Minister, to conduct a time-bound delimitation exercise and announce election schedule in the MCD at the earliest.



AAP's Delhi in-charge Gopal Rai
FILE PHOTO

The SEC usually carries out the delimitation but there is no provision that exclusively authorises it to conduct the exercise. The Centre may constitute a separate commission for this task

SEC OFFICIAL

You can take your time but the people of Delhi need a solution. They have nowhere to go," Mr. Rai said.

BJP reacts

Dismissing the allegation, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the situation on the ground has improved with civic officials keeping a regular watch on the grievances raised by residents.

"The MCD is holding daily public hearings at its headquarters and at the zonal D.C. offices for one hour each. The situation on the ground is better than it was before the merger," Mr. Kapoor added.

According to a senior official at the State Election Commission (SEC), no orders regarding the delimitation exercise have

been issued by the Centre. The Centre is yet to decide which body will carry out the exercise.

"The precedent has been that the SEC carries out the delimitation but there is no provision that exclusively authorises it to conduct the exercise. The Centre may constitute a separate commission for this task," said the SEC official.

Soon after winning the Rajinder Nagar bypoll by over 11,000 votes, AAP's Rajinder Nagar MLA - Durgesh Pathak - had also challenged the BJP to hold the municipal polls at the earliest.

"I challenge them to conduct MCD elections. Delhi wants to get rid of the BJP completely," Mr. Pathak said on Sunday.

Dy. CM making incorrect statements, L-G tells CM

Sisodia had criticised Saxena's nod for ACB probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urging him to advise his Ministers to refrain from making "unproductive and poorly evidenced assertions which are both misleading and obstructive in nature".

Mr. Saxena was rebutting a letter written to him by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia accusing him of "bulldozing the law" to favour the BJP, by allowing the Anti Corruption Branch (ACB) to probe the allegations of irregularities in awarding tenders for the construction of seven temporary hospitals in 2021 by the Delhi Public Works Department (PWD).

A complaint about the alleged irregularities was lodged by BJP's Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari.

The Deputy Chief Minister had written to the L-G on June 21 in this regard, terming the case "fake" and "disgraceful" while asking Mr. Saxena to

withdraw the permission given for the probe. Mr. Sisodia had alleged that the BJP leaders were trying to stall the construction of more government hospitals in Delhi by filing frivolous complaints.

'Legally incorrect'

In his letter to Mr. Kejriwal, the L-G wrote, "It is both sad and surprising to note that the Deputy Chief Minister has made factually and legally incorrect statements on the subject matter while unnecessarily politicising a desirable administrative action."

The L-G added in his letter that the permission to conduct an inquiry into the complaint of corruption against PWD officials was granted after careful examination and in strict accordance with the law.

He also reminded the Chief Minister of their agreement over "zero tolerance" for corruption while expecting the Chief Minister's cooperation to this end.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE, ASSAM
UZANBAZAR: GUWAHATI-1
No. DSW(ICDS)G/SNP/61/2022/28 Dated Guwahati, the 28th June, 2022

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE INVITING
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI No. DSW(ICDS)G/SNP/61/2022/1, dated 27th June, 2022

The Notice Inviting Expression of Interest floated by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Assam vide No. DSW(ICDS)G/SNP/61/2022/1, dated 27/06/2022 in the e-Tender Portal of Govt. of Assam <https://assamtenders.gov.in> for supply of Ready to eat (RTE) food items such as Dal Kichdi, Multigrain Suji Halwa as cereal based Micronutrient Fortified Energy Dense Food for Children of age group (6 months to 3 years), Children of age group (3-6 Years), Severely Malnourished Children of age group (6 months to 6 years) and Pregnant women and lactating mothers for various Anganwadi Centres and Mini Anganwadi Centres at General Areas of Assam for implementation of SNP during the year 2022-23 is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.

Director
Social Welfare, Assam,
Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1
Janasanyog/IC/5531/22

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
Tender Notice No. - PCE/BLW(ET)/Publish/2021-22/Corrigendum Dated-27.06.2022

E-TENDERS
By Chief Engineer, Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi on behalf of the President of India issue a Corrigendum No 1 dated 27.06.2022. S.N.: 1, Tender No.: BLW-WAT-ET-003-22-23, Name of Work: Maintenance of Horticulture Work of Colony, Workshop, ADM Building and Sport complexes except Golf ground for two years, Tender Cost (₹): 1,82,68,092.65, Earnest Money (₹): 2,41,400.00, Time of Completion: 24 months, Existing Closing Date of Tender: 29.06.2022 At 15:00 pm, Modified Date of opening of Tender: 21.07.2022 At 15:30 pm. S.N.: 2, Tender No.: BLW-WAT-ET-007-22-23, Name of Work: Cleaning/Sweeping of East Township and Central Township, Bungalow area, Community Hall, Baraighar East, Removal of garbage, Cleaning of all sewer line, storm water line chambers, preparation of organic compost by Vermiculture of kitchen waste of Bungalow area etc. for 2022-2024 for Two years under CHH ET & CT, Tender Cost (₹): 1,99,52,535.73, Earnest Money (₹): 2,49,800.00, Time of Completion: 24 months, Existing Closing Date of Tender: 29.06.2022 At 15:00 pm, Modified Date of opening of Tender: 21.07.2022 At 15:30 pm. Note: Special Notice- To see the detailed terms & conditions of tender and for submission of tender, please visit website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

PRO/BLW/C-06 Dy Chief Engineer
<https://blw.indianrailways.gov.in>

Monsoon misses date with city; to arrive by Friday

'The maximum humidity on Tuesday was 74%, making Delhiites feel the heat even more'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday that conditions are favourable for the advancement of the south-west monsoon over the Capital between June 30 and July 1. The monsoon missed its normal onset date of June 27 over Delhi.

Ahead of the monsoon's arrival, some parts of the city received traces of rainfall on

Tuesday with the sky remaining cloudy. The maximum temperature recorded was 41.5 degrees Celsius, four degrees above the season's normal. The minimum temperature was 30 degrees Celsius, which was three degrees above normal. The maximum humidity recorded was 74%, making Delhiites feel the heat even more, the IMD said.

Rain has been forecast for Wednesday, which is likely to

provide some relief towards the evening. The forecast reads, "Generally cloudy sky with light rain/thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds towards evening/night."

However, there is no relief from the heat with the maximum and minimum temperatures likely to remain between 42 and 30 degrees Celsius respectively. Once the monsoon hits, maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to fall by

5-6 degrees Celsius respectively.

Asked about the delay in the arrival of the monsoon in Delhi, IMD scientist R.K. Jenamani said a gap of around five days is considered normal. Last year, the IMD had forecast that the monsoon would arrive in Delhi nearly two weeks before its usual date, June 27. However, it reached the capital only on July 13, making it the most delayed in 19 years.

(With PTI inputs)

Review meeting on MCD held

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, chaired a review meeting with the special officer and commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Tuesday.

A senior MCD official said the progress made by the civic body over the past month, since it was created by merging the erstwhile corporations, was discussed at the meeting. "It is the first meeting that has been held to review the MCD's functioning," the official added.

Prior to the unification, the employees of the East and North corporations were unpaid for two and five months respectively. Even after the merger, the delay in salaries has continued. "So far, there has been no official communication on how these financial issues will be addressed," the official added.

UT OF Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division, HMT, Srinagar
N.I.T. No. -PHE/QC&PD/10 of 2022-23/E-TENDER /
Dated:24-06-2022.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders are invited in (02) Two Cover System for Rate Contract for Supply of liquid chlorine to be refilled in departmental chlorine tonners (in chlorine tonners of capacity 900 kgs) for Water Treatment Plants of Jal Shakti PHE Department Kashmir Srinagar from Original Manufacturers or their authorized distributor/ dealer as per specifications / details annexed at "A, B, C and D" to the NIT.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/ downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given in the abstracts:

BROAD BAND INFORMATION

General	
Client Name	Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE, Jal Shakti Deptt, Srinagar.
Circle	Superintending Engineer, PHE Mechanical, Jal Shakti Department, Circle South, Srinagar.
Division	Quality Control & Procurement Division PHE Jal Shakti Department, HMT Srinagar.
Bidding Type	Open
Amount Details	
Estimated Cost	Rs 35.00 Lakhs (Rupee Thirty-Five Lakhs only)
Bid Document Fee	Rs 1500.00In the shape of treasury Challan/e-transfer to J&K Bank A/c No:0005010100005110 IFSC: JAKAACHINAR
(Non Refundable) Bid document fee payable in the shape of treasury Challan/e-transfer under major Head MH-0215-Rev-Misc to:	Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	70,000/- Seventy Thousands only.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour of:	Chief Accounts Officer, Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Department, Srinagar.
Tender Dates	
Tender Notice No.	PHE/QC&PD/10/2022-23/e-Tender, Dated:25-06-2022
Bid Document Downloading Start Date.	25-06-2022 01:00 pm
Bid Document Downloading End Date.	08-07-2022 02:00 pm
Clarification Start Date	25-06-2022 01:00 pm
Clarification End Date	06-07-2022 01:00 pm
Pre-Bid meeting date	07-07-2022 01:00 pm
Pre-Bid meeting Venue	Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Deptt, Engineering Complex, Near Silk Factory, Raj Bagh Srinagar Kashmir -190001. e-mail: kmrphed@gmail.com
On Line Bid Submission Start Date	25-06-2022 02:00 pm
Bid Submission End Date	08-07-2022 03:00 pm
Date of opening of Cover 1st.	10-07-2022 03:00pm
Bid Validity Period	180 days from opening of the Price Bid.
Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar. (e-mail: kenmandp@gmail.com)
Bid opening Authority	Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Deptt., Srinagar. Engineering Complex, Near Silk Factory, Raj Bagh Srinagar Kashmir -190001.
Address	e-mail: kmrphed@gmail.com

Instructions to Bidders:
The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital signature on the official website www.jktenders.gov.in two covers viz. (Technical Bid) & (Financial Bid).

Cover-1 shall contain:

- Earnest Money Deposit of Rs.0.70 Lakhs (Rupees Seventy Thousands only) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Chief Accounts Officer Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Department Srinagar from nationalized banks only having an operational branch in Kashmir. The EMD shall be valid for a period of 45 days beyond the final bid validity period.
- Scanned Copy of E-challan/TRs cost of tender document amounting to Rs. 1500/-favouring to Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti Department Srinagar payable at Srinagar.
- Technical details along with complete commercial, terms and conditions, specifications and descriptions of material as per Annexure A, B, C enclosed, without which tenders shall not be accepted.
- Documents containing proof of being registered manufacturer of Liquid Chlorine from D.I.C./ MSME/ NSIC or any other from competent authority.
 - Authorization certificate from the original manufacturer in case the bidder is authorized dealer.
- GST Registration Certificate along with latest GST clearance certificate.
- The average annual financial turnover of "The bidder" during the last three years, ending on 31st March 2021, should not be less than Rs. 15.00 Lacs as per the annual report (audited balance sheet and profit & loss account) of the relevant period, duly authenticated by a Chartered Accountant/Cost Accountant in India.
- The bidder (manufacturer or authorized dealer) should have supplied liquid chlorine in gaseous form in 900Kgs capacity cylinders for at least one of the last 03 years, ending 31st March 2022.
- Bidder shall have to submit self-attested copies of an undertaking affirming that
 - The bidder is not black listed/ barred by any Govt. or Semi Govt. Department from participating in tendering process.
 - Affirming that the information submitted by the Bidder with the Bid/ supporting documents is true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.
 - Affirming that all the terms and conditions are acceptable to the bidder.

Note:-The documents listed above should be self-attested by the manufacturer/ authorized Distributor/ authorized Dealer and in case the bidder fails to upload the same, the bidder shall be suitably rejected without any notice while evaluating the technical bids. Any manufacturer/ authorized dealer who has remained defaulter with the department in the past, the tender of such firm shall not be entertained.

In case the bidder (manufacturer or authorized representative of principal manufacturer) who is a successful past supplier of "The Product" in at least one of the recent past three procurements, and do not meet any or more of requirements above, may be considered to be qualified in view of their proven credentials, for the maximum quantity supplied by him in such recent past. However, the condition shall be at the discretion of the Department.

Cover 2nd.
It shall contain Price bid (in e-form only) of the material offered as per BOQ with tender document Price Bid shall be received by the department online only to be uploaded by the bidder.

- Only uploaded documents shall be considered for evaluation of bids.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Conditional tenders such as 'subject to market fluctuation' etc. will not be accepted.

Executive Engineer,
QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti
HMT Srinagar
DIP/K-4981/22

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
OLD SECRETARIAT, DELHI-110054

Public Notice for Compilation of list of Books / Titles of Reputed Publishers for Procurement of Books for Government Schools

Directorate of Education proposes to compile a list of Books / Titles on General Readings (Fiction, non-fiction etc.) in different languages namely, English / Hindi / Sanskrit / Punjabi / Urdu for students of Government Schools for procurement by the School Libraries. All interested publishers applying under this scheme are required to submit the proposals on the above topics / languages along with the list of Books / Titles with one specimen copy of each Book / Title on 07-07-2022, 08-07-2022, 11-07-2022 and 12-07-2022 between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Sarvodaya (Co-Ed) Vidyalaya, Pratap Nagar, Delhi (School ID: 1208014).

A Book Fair will be organised subsequently to showcase the selected Books / Titles at the time of procurement by DoE schools. The detailed guidelines are available at www.edudel.nic.in under "Public Circulars-for publishers".

Mere submission of list and specimen copies of Books / Titles does not impose any binding on the part of the undersigned to buy the same. The submitted Books / Titles will be considered as non refundable and free of cost. The undersigned reserves the right to take the final decision regarding procurement of books.

DIP/SHABDARTH/0163/22-23 DIRECTOR (EDUCATION)

CENTRAL RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO.DY. CE (C) WR/03-2022 DATED 22-06-2022

Name of work : "Miscellaneous work for filling of Earthwork, cutting including bridge approaches, construction of Minor Br. Height Gauge, Road Work, Stone pitching, toe wall open drain, boundary stone etc. in connection with opening of Wardha to Kalamb Section (From Km 00 to Km 40.700) in Wardha-pusad-Nanded New B.G. Line project". **Approximate cost :** Rs.15,06,18,397.37/- **Completion Period :** - 6 Months (Including Monsoon) **EMD - Rs.** 9,03,100.00/- Date and time of closing of tender 14.07.2022 at 15:00 Hrs. Details on the railway's website www.ireps.gov.in

78 Dy. Chief Engineer (Constr.), Wardha
RailMadad Helpline 139

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
The Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, South East Central Railway, Nagpur invites E-Tenders on behalf of the President of India up to 12.00 Hrs. of 22.07.2022 for the work as mentioned below.

Tender Notice No.: Mech_Cont_Clean_Outcom/TR

Name of the Work: Cleaning of Coaches, Premises of C&W Depot and Offices at Itwari Coaching Depot of Nagpur Division.

Tender Value: ₹ 1,92,00,346.78 (Rs. One Crore Ninety Two Lakhs Three Hundred Forty Six and paise Seventy Eight only). **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,46,000/-. **Tenure of Contract:** 2 (Two) Years, **Cost of the Tender Form:** ₹ 5,000/-.

Tender Documents are available on the website www.ireps.gov.in from 23.06.2022.

Date & Time of Submission of Tender: Till 22.07.2022 up to 12:00 Hrs. online through the web portal www.ireps.gov.in only. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** On 22.07.2022 at 12:00 Hrs. online through web portal www.ireps.gov.in.

Manual Offers are not allowed against this Tender and any such manual offers received shall be rejected.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer,
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Minister raises renaming of Aurangabad again

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Minister Anil Parab on Tuesday demanded renaming of Aurangabad district as Sambhajinagar during the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

"The demand will be discussed in tomorrow's meeting," said Mr. Parab who is

the Transport Minister.

The demand to rename the district was first raised during the BJP tenure but it did not move forward. Now, with the BJP in opposition, it has been questioning the MVA government on the delay in the renaming.

The rebel group led by Eknath Shinde too has been demanding that Sena snaped ties

with the two parties and return to its original *Hindutva* ideology.

'Bid to pacify rebels'
Tuesday's demand by Mr. Parab is seen as an attempt by the Sena to pacify the revolting MLAs and sending a message that it has not deviated from its original ideology. The party has been using

'Sambhajinagar' in all its intra-party communication for years now.

The Ministers of the three coalition partners however maintained that the cabinet did not discuss any political issue. "We are working as we were working earlier. We are delivering our duties," said Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray.

Religious leaders ask locals to welcome Amarnath yatris

'Every yatri should carry a message of peace and harmony from this holy land'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Members of the civil society, including religious leaders, in Kashmir held a day-long conference to discuss the role of religious leaders in welcoming the pilgrims heading for the Amarnath cave shrine from June 30 in the Valley.

Special conference
The conference, titled 'Milchhar: The Future of the Future in Kashmir's Context' was held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on Monday in Srinagar.

It was a first-of-its-kind initiative in a decade where the civil society members came together to give a message of solidarity against the targeted killings and to discuss the role of the religious leaders to welcome Amarnath yatris, the organisers said.

"The conference was organised with an aim to study the role of Islamic religious



Pilgrims arriving at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Amarnath Yatra-2022 in Jammu on Tuesday. • PTI

leaders in creating harmony between different communities. Prominent religious leaders of the Valley highlighted the significance of civil society in the contemporary times and the ways for creating a harmonious society," they said.

Sheikh Muzaffar, a speaker, highlighted the role of the civil society in establishing a harmonised society. He said the civil society played a vital role for the development of society.

Malik Mohammed Jameel, an Islamic scholar, highlight-

ed the important role of the Islamic religious leaders in creating amity and how they can be ambassadors of goodwill and foster understanding.

Mirwaiz Abdul Latief Bukhari from central Kashmir called for more and more participation of religious leaders "to dispel mistrust amongst communities".

"The religious leaders in present times are not doing their best to be an instrument of change. In coming months, the religious leaders will be proactive in edu-

cating empathy, harmony, and understanding through sermons in their respective areas in J&K," Mr. Bukhari said.

Mufti Nasir Ahmad, from a seminary in the Valley, said there will be obstacles and difficulties in the way of any fruitful change or initiative. "All such obstacles can be overcome with conviction and aiming for greater good," he added.

Master Ghulam Nabi Gani and Raja Muneeb, in their addresses, asked Kashmiris to welcome Amarnath yatris. "It's our duty to cooperate for a peaceful Yatra and a chance to extend our hospitality, for which Kashmir is known for. Every yatri should carry a message of peace and harmony from this holy land," the speakers said.

The conference also discussed the importance of the Yatra and its contribution to the overall development of the entire Jammu and Kashmir.

HC quashes case against Murugan

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday quashed a criminal case booked against Murugan alias Sriharan, one of the life convicts in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, for being in possession of a mobile phone in the high security block of Vellore Central Prison on October 18, 2019.

Justice N. Sathish Kumar allowed a petition moved by the convict, through counsel P. Pugalenti, and quashed the case pending before a judicial magistrate's court in Vellore.

The petitioner contended that registration of the criminal case amounted to double jeopardy as he had already been punished under the prison rules.

He pointed out that the Superintendent of the Prison had invoked Rule 302 of the Tamil Nadu Prison Rules, 1983, and divested Murugan of his prison privileges for three months, including meeting his relatives.

Therefore, the criminal case registered by the local police would amount to double jeopardy, the petitioner contended.

Bihar Assembly adjourned over thin attendance after protest by Opposition



RJD legislators staging a protest during the ongoing monsoon session of the Assembly in Patna on Tuesday. • PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

The BJP in Bihar was left red-faced in the State Assembly on Tuesday when the House was adjourned on account of thin attendance, with no member of its ally, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), turning up for the post-lunch session.

This was construed, by a section of the media, to be a nudge and a wink from the Chief Minister's party to the RJD-led Opposition, which has been disrupting the House since Monday over the Agnipath scheme. However, JD(U) leaders strongly denied insinuations to this effect.

A "boycott" of the remaining part of the monsoon session was announced during the lunch hour by the Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav,

who rallied against the Speaker not allowing a discussion on the Agnipath scheme.

The House proceedings began at 11 a.m. with the members of the Opposition raising slogans against the new scheme. They also urged Mr. Kumar to "break silence" on the issue.

Half an hour later, the proceedings were adjourned till noon. When the House reassembled, the Opposition members' protest forced an adjournment till 2 p.m.

When the proceedings began again, RJD and Left MLAs as well as Akhtarul Iman, the State chief of AIMIM, were absent. The Congress also made itself scarce.

However, the absence of JD(U) members, and the failure of an adequate number of BJP MLAs was felt strongly.

Tripura CM to quit Rajya Sabha, take oath as MLA

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, who was elected to the State Assembly in the recent Assembly by election will soon travel to New Delhi to submit his resignation as MP to the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha and complete formalities, State unit Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Subrata Chakraborty said here on Tuesday.

Dr. Saha did not take oath as MLA on Tuesday, but two other newly-elected BJP legislators - Malina Debnath and Swapna Das - and Sudip Roy Barman (Congress), were administered the oath by the Speaker of the Assembly. According to the provisions, an elected member has to take oath within 14 days from the day of the declaration of the results.

"The Chief Minister will first resign from Rajya Sabha and then take oath as an MLA. It will happen within the stipulated 14 days," Mr. Chakraborty told *The Hindu*.

He said the related procedures and technicalities were not linked with the election of the President, which is slated for July 18. He added, however, that after Dr. Saha's resignation as MP, the value of the votes from Tripura would see a decline.

Dr. Saha was elected to the Rajya Sabha in April as the first-ever BJP nominee to be elevated to the Upper House of Parliament from Tripura. He became Chief Minister a day after his predecessor, Biplob Kumar Deb, resigned on May 14.

Dr. Saha won from the Town Bardowali constituency in the recent Assembly by-election.

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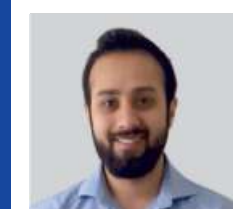
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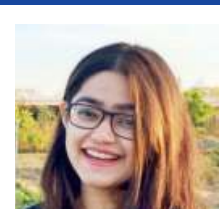
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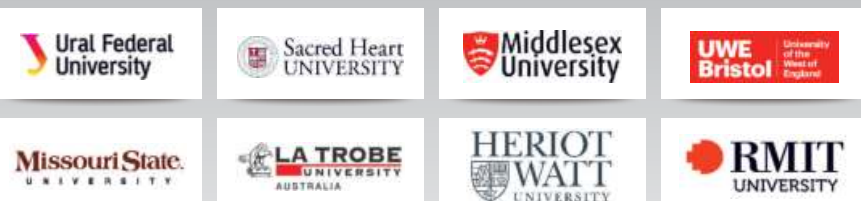
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IN BRIEF



Ujjal Bhuyan is Chief Justice of Telangana

HYDERABAD
Justice Ujjal Bhuyan has been sworn in Chief Justice of Telangana High Court on Tuesday. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan administered the oath of office to Chief Justice designate Justice Ujjal Bhuyan at Raj Bhavan at 10:05 a.m. Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu, Speakers of Assembly and Council Pocharam Srinivas Reddy and Gutha Sukhender Reddy, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, judges of the High Court and several public representatives along with top officials were present.

CPI(M) veteran Sivadasa Menon passes away

PALAKKAD
Veteran Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and former Minister T. Sivadasa Menon, 90, died at a private hospital in Kozhikode on Tuesday. He was under treatment for age-related illnesses. Mr. Menon had held positions on the party State committee and secretariat. He was Palakkad district secretary of the CPI(M) for a few years and held the Finance Minister's portfolio from 1996 to 2001. He is survived by two daughters.

Court rejects plea to cancel Dileep's bail

KOCHI
The prosecution plea to withdraw the bail granted to actor Dileep in the 2017 actor rape case was dismissed by the Special Court on Tuesday. The prosecution would file an appeal against the order, the prosecutors said. Arguing for cancelling bail, the prosecution had argued that Dileep had influenced witnesses in the case and tampered with the evidence which was refuted by the lawyers for the actor.

LDF govt. allows discussion on gold row

UDF questions CM on Swapna's allegations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government on Tuesday attempted to draw a line under the UAE diplomatic baggage gold smuggling scandal by "unexpectedly" conceding an Opposition demand to adjourn the Assembly to discuss the controversy.

Swapna Suresh, an accused in the economic offence, had cast Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at the centre of the furore by testifying against him and his family in a court of law.

Subsequently, the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had unleashed an aggressive street cam-



Activists staging a protest against the Kerala Chief Minister for his alleged involvement in a gold smuggling case. ■ FILE PHOTO

aign for Mr. Vijayan's resignation.

The government's latest gambit seemed in stark contrast to its earlier rejection of two Opposition motions to discuss the topic.

Mr. Vijayan responded to the submission: "Let the pu-

blic realise the truth."

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan objected to the government's "condescending" tone. "Public backlash had forced the humiliating climb down," he said.

The UDF framed its accusations as questions to paint

a vivid picture of how the previous LDF government had allegedly given free rein to gold smugglers.

They asked whether Mr. Vijayan had any intelligence warning. The Opposition relied on court statements and testimonies to drive home its narrative.

CBI inquiry sought

The UDF wanted to know why the government had moved to prosecute Swapna instead of countering her charges legally. It asked whether the government had employed dubious mediators and plainclothes officers to coerce Swapna into retracting the "damning testimony" against Mr. Vijayan.

They challenged Mr. Vijayan to face a CBI inquiry to clear his name. Harsh partisan exchanges, sometimes bordering on the personal,

marked the four-hour debate.

At one point, Mr. Vijayan censured the Opposition for "dragging" his family into the controversy. The Chief Minister slammed the "right wing media" for the "scurrilous attack" on his integrity.

The LDF's riposte was pre-meditated and pointed. It restated that a Congress-BJP axis had resurrected old lies to denigrate the government. Mr. Satheesan countered that the LDF raised the "RSS bogey" when cornered. "If Sangh Parivar harboured Swapna currently, the CPI (M) was her benefactor earlier," he said.

The CPI(M) legislators alleged the Centre had scuttled the probe at the outset by stating that the UAE consulate had no role in the crime. The House rejected the motion by voice vote.

Palaniswami moves SC against High Court order

It was passed in connection with the GC meet

KRISHNAN RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami has appealed in the Supreme Court against an order of a Division Bench of the Madras High Court passed in connection with the general council meeting of the party held in Chennai on June 23.

A single judge of the High Court had earlier refused to restrain the general council from passing resolutions aimed at amending its by-laws to pave the way for a unitary leadership instead of the dual leadership in vogue now. The High Court rejected a batch of applications for

an order against passing of any such resolution. It held that it was for the general council to decide upon its functioning and not for the court to dictate which resolution could be passed and which should not be passed.

"It is well settled that in matters related to internal issues of an association/political party, the courts normally do not interfere, leaving it open to the association/party and its members to pass resolutions and frame a particular bye-law, rule or regulation for better administration of the party. Any decision is well within the collective wisdom of the general council and this court cannot insist the members act in a particular manner," the judge had observed.

Key Maoist leader held, 60 members surrender in A.P.

He is accused in 124 cases, including murder of TDP MLA

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE
VISAKHAPATNAM

The Maoist movement suffered a major setback in the Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB) region in Alluri Sitharamaraju district with the arrest of a top Maoist leader and simultaneous surrender of 60 Maoists, which includes 33 party members and 27 militia members.

The man arrested has been identified as Vanthala Ramakrishna, alias Prabhakar, alias Ashok, who is the area committee secretary of the Pedabayalu-Korukonda area committee of the Maoist party. He was allegedly involved in about 124 cases and is among the



Police officials with Maoist leader Ashok in Alluri Sitharamaraju district.

prime accused in the murder of TDP MLA Kidari Sarveswara Rao. The others surrendered before the police here on Tuesday.

This is the biggest surrender of party members on a

single day in Andhra Pradesh in the recent times.

Big blow to movement

Ashok's arrest is being termed a big blow to the Maoist movement, as he was said to be one among the last top leaders operating in the region. The surrender of the 60 members, who belong to the Pedabayalu mandal, too is said to have dealt a decisive blow to the movement, as Pedabayalu has traditionally been a Maoist hotbed.

Some members said the main reason for their surrender was that they were disillusioned with the movement and wanted to lead a quality life in the mainstream.

'Agnipath a conspiracy against agitating farmers'

Govt. pushing youth into fire: Jayant



RLD chief Jayant Singh speaking against the Agnipath scheme in Shamli on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

Launching "youth panchayats" against the Agnipath scheme, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) president Chaudhary Jayant Singh on Tuesday said that the Modi government was indulging in new experiments without understanding "the temperament and traditions" of the country.

Addressing a rally in Shamli, he said, "With Agnipath, the government has literally pushed the youth into the fire. The only honest thing about the scheme is its nomenclature."

He said the expression of the aspirants' anger might be wrong but one could not find fault in their emotions. "That's why the RLD decided to be the first party to provide a platform for the youth to speak against the scheme," he said.

Drawing parallels between the agitation against the farm laws and against the Agnipath scheme, Mr. Singh said there was a conspiracy behind the scheme. "It seems the government wants to keep the people of the region, where almost every home has a photo of an Army man, out of the armed forces. It seems Modi ji wants to punish those who came out against the farm laws on the streets," Mr. Singh said.

A large number of Jat farmers from Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh participated in the agitation against the farm laws, which were eventually repealed.

He said those who had spent a lifetime in Army had told him that the scheme was designed to "destroy the regimental system of the Army".

"Two Param Vir Chakra awardees have come out in the open against the scheme. One of them has said that the Army is made to kill, not to get killed. How will you provide technical know-how to youth in six months? It's not like training Home Guards," Mr. Singh said.

He appealed to the youth to not fear police pressure and come out in large numbers to peacefully speak against the scheme. Mr. Singh reminded his audience at Bhainswal panchayat in Shamli, which provided the impetus to the farmer's agitation in western U.P., "Had you not come out in large numbers, the farm laws would have been in force today." Mr. Singh asked the State government to book him instead of the youth. "In my political career, the case column is empty. If it remains so, people will disqualify me as a politician," he remarked.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Raushan Kumar Yadav, S/o Sh. Pnch Lal Yadav @ Panchhuk Yadav, R/o:** H.No. 704, First Floor, Azad Market, Delhi. Also at: Village Alauli, Ward No. 12, near High School, P.S. Alauli, District Khagariya, Bihar has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 114/22 U/s 302/308/341/34 IPC Act** registered at P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Raushan Kumar Yadav** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Raushan Kumar Yadav** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Raushan Kumar Yadav** accused of **FIR No. 114/22 U/s 302/308/341/34 IPC Act** P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.08.2022**.
By Order
Sh. Anurag Dass,
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 296A, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/2414/N/2022

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No: +91-651-2225878, e-mail id-pdt.juidco@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
NIT No: **JUIDCO/NIT/Septage/Chas/Correspondence/2628/479**
Date: 27.06.2022
Tender ID: **2022_UDD_58574_1**
PR No.: **269787**
Project Title: "Septage Management Scheme of Chas Town".
The tender of NIT No: JUIDCO/NIT/Septage/ Chas/ Correspondence/2628/479 and Tender ID: 2022_UDD_58574_1 is **cancelled** due to all non-responsive bids. All bidders are therefore requested to wait for future correspondence regarding fresh tender.
Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
Development(22-23)D

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Limited
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002
Fax No. 0651-2400123 (E-mail: cet.jusnl@gmail.com)

e-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. - 99/PR/JUSNL/ 2022-23
E-tender in two parts i.e. Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part-II) is invited from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound firm for the following works :-

Name of work	Left over work of Design, Engineering, Supply of Materials/ Equipments, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of following works on turnkey basis :- (i) 02 nos. 220 kV Bays at 220/132/33 kV GSS, Chaibasa (ii) 220 kV D/C 3Ph Chaibasa - Gua Transmission Line
Estimated cost (Rs.)	Rs. 52,07,04,857.53 (including GST)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,04,14,100.00 in the form of DD/BG in favour of JUSNL, payable at Ranchi (in case of BG nationalized/ scheduled bank only)
Completion Period	01 (One) Year
e-Tender fee	Rs. 20,000.00 + 18% GST in the form of DD in favour of JUSNL, payable at Ranchi/ On line mode.
Start Date & Time of Download the Tender Documents	08.07.2022 at 11:00 AM
Start Date and time of upload of BID	08.07.2022 at 11:00 AM
End date and time of upload of BID	08.08.2022 upto 04:00 PM
Last date of submission of hard copy of bid, tender cost and EMD in the office of G.M., C&M (NWBSP)	Upto 08.08.2022 at 05:30 PM
BID Opening date for technical part	10.08.2022 at 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated
Procurement Officer and address for communication	General Manager, C&M (NWBSP), 2 nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002

1. e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website <https://jharkhand.tenders.gov.in>. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned (9431747672) during office hours.
2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

Sd/-
General Manager,
C&M (Non W.B. Project)

SEARCH OF MISSING
General public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo), Namely: **Jhanko @Neelam, W/o: Sh. Rahul, R/o: H.No. 10406, Gali Pathshala Wali, Manakpura, Karol Bagh, Delhi Aged: 22 years, has been missing from the Jurisdiction of P.S. DBG Road, Delhi since 21.06.2022. In this regard a GD No. 02A, Dated 22.06.2022, has been lodged at P.S. Jhanko@Neelam DBG Road, Delhi Her physical description is as under:**
Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5'4" feet, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black Colour Suit Salwar and Slipper in her feet.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing female, may inform to the following at **E-mail: ctc@cbi.gov.nic.in** or **website : http://cbi.nic.in** **Tele No. :11-24368638 or 24368641**
S.H.O
P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi
Ph: 011-23613252, 23537374
DP/1615/CD/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one male namely **Ran Singh S/o: Shri Pal, R/o Room No. 33, Pocket-13, BG Shirke Ki Company, Narela, Delhi, Age: 25 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Hair: Black, Built: Strong, wearing White colour Shirt, Blue colour Jeans and Black colour Shoes, has been missing from his house since 21.04.2022. In this regard a DD No. 120A, dated 22.04.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.**
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : ctc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
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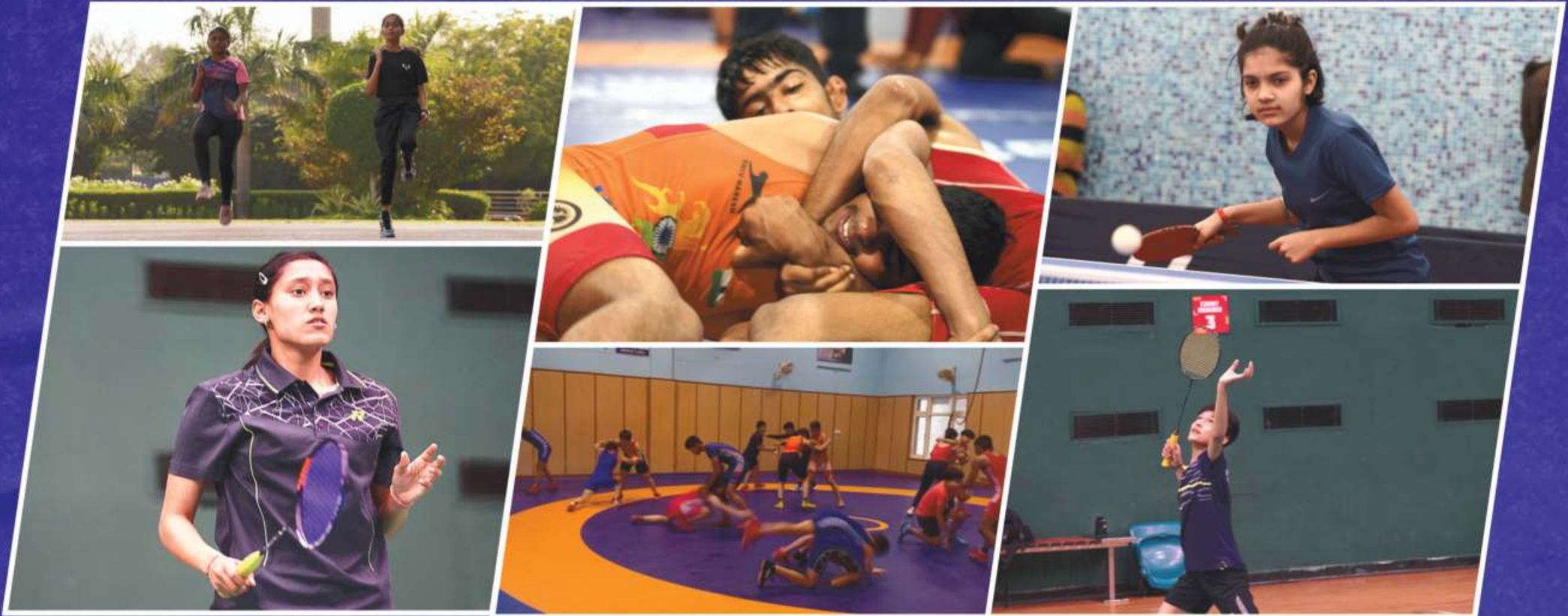
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The essence of time

Judicial intervention should strengthen anti-defection law, not undermine it

Time is of the essence when it comes to executing political manoeuvres to reduce a government to a minority. Dissident legislators need time to gather enough numbers to vote out the regime. Ruling parties need to close the window of opportunity soon, often using the threat of disqualification for defection. It is in this backdrop that judicial intervention in matters relating to disqualifying lawmakers for defection takes place – either buying the dissidents time or allowing disqualification proceedings to go on unhindered. By its order granting time until July 12 to dissident Shiv Sena legislators in the Maharashtra Assembly to reply to the Deputy Speaker's notice under the anti-defection law, the Supreme Court has effectively made it possible for them to actualise their objective without the threat of disqualification for now. It is doubtful whether the Court should have done this in the face of a specific bar on judicial intervention in disqualification proceedings at any stage prior to final adjudication under the Tenth Schedule. In 1992 (*Kilhotu Hollohan vs Zachillhu*), a Constitution Bench, while upholding the validity of the anti-defection law, held that the Speaker's decision was subject to judicial review, albeit on limited grounds. It also made it clear that this should take place after a final decision, and there can be no interim order, except if there is an interim disqualification or suspension.

The Deputy Speaker's grant of just two days for the MLAs to reply may have occasioned the intervention; but it is doubtful whether the Court should concern itself with the question now, when it can be decided after their possible disqualification. There are Court judgments that say compliance with natural justice is not based on the number of days given, but on whether sufficient opportunity was given before a decision. Based on a conclusion in *Nabam Rebia* (2016) that a Presiding Officer should not adjudicate any defection complaint while a motion for his own removal is pending, the dissidents sent a motion to get the Deputy Speaker removed. After he rejected it, the rejection has also been questioned in court, thus raising a jurisdiction question on the adjudicatory power of the Deputy Speaker, who, of necessity, has to decide disqualification questions in the absence of a Speaker. Motions to remove a Presiding Officer should not become a ploy to circumvent disqualification proceedings. If courts countenance manoeuvres to pre-empt a decision on whether legislators camping in another State and questioning the Chief Minister's majority have incurred disqualification by "voluntarily giving up membership" of their party, they undermine the anti-defection law and render nugatory rulings by Constitution Benches. When defection is seen as a serious menace by the Constitution, courts should not act in furtherance of it. The duty to protect those wrongly disqualified is important, but so is calling to account defectors whose motives are suspect.

Glimmer of hope

The U.S. still has complex questions to resolve on unrestricted gun ownership

Transcending partisan stalemate for the first time in several generations, the U.S. Congress has passed, and President Joe Biden signed into law, a gun regulation bill to place several important constraints on the proliferation of firearms across the country. The bipartisan gun reform law, titled the Bipartisan Safer Communities (BSC) Act, was passed earlier in the Senate, with a final vote of 65 to 33 including 15 Republicans who joined Democrats in support of the measure, and then at the House of Representatives, by a margin of by 234-193 votes, with 14 Republicans crossing the aisle to vote. While the bill goes a considerable distance in reining in the relatively unhindered sale of firearms across weapons buyer profiles, it falls far short of the critical regulations that Democrats have been pressing for. The law also comes into force shortly on the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court striking down a New York law limiting concealed carrying of guns. Nevertheless, the bipartisan character of the bill reflects the best hope for a gradual and marginal shift in the public discourse on gun ownership and its right guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The fact that such a bill passed both houses of Congress and reached Mr. Biden's desk also reflects the deep shock that the nation experienced in the recent acts of gun violence in a school in Texas, and at a New York store.

Therein lies the limited scope of the bipartisan gun reform law – it does nothing to address the question of limiting the availability of this weapon, nor does it yield any quarter to the long-standing demand by Democrats to institute universal background checks for those buying the firearms. Within its core ambit the law does mandate expanded background checks, including state and local juvenile and mental health records of gun purchasers aged 18 to 20 years; closing of the "boy-friend loophole" by denying gun ownership to convicted domestic violence offenders under certain conditions; 'red flag laws' that will grant federal funds to States with laws enabling removal of guns from persons deemed dangerous; and sets aside nearly \$13 billion for education and advocacy towards improving mental health in schools, crisis intervention, violence prevention programmes, mental health worker training and school safety. However, the law does not hint at reviving the assault weapons ban of 1994, which expired a decade later, since which time this category of weapon has become the most frequently used in lethal mass shootings. While the BSC Act is a welcome step in the right direction, the U.S. has a long road ahead and complex questions to resolve regarding its obsession with unrestricted gun ownership before mass shootings in public places stop occurring.

The Shiv Sena at the political crossroads

The party has undergone changes, demonstrating its resilience, but, today, it could be facing its most severe crisis



PARIMAL MAYA SUDHAKAR

Rebellions are not new to the Shiv Sena. However, the scale of defections of the Members of the Legislative Assembly is unprecedented in Maharashtra's political history and is perhaps only second to N. Chandrababu Naidu's revolt against N.T. Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh politics in the mid-1990s. The defecting MLAs are primarily giving three reasons in one voice for their extreme step.

Style of leadership

The first complaint of rebel Shiv Sena MLA Eknath Shinde's camp is the inaccessibility of Uddhav Thackeray as the Maharashtra Chief Minister. There is much truth in this allegation in part due to Mr. Uddhav's health issues in the times of COVID-19 and also because of his style of leadership. He believes more in a delegation of responsibilities and some sort of a collective leadership, which is in sharp contrast with Bal Thackeray, his father. In the ministry, as a result, Mr. Eknath Shinde, Aaditya Thackeray (both from the Shiv Sena), Ajit Pawar (Nationalist Congress Party, or the NCP) and Balasaheb Thorat of the Congress have been in control of daily affairs.

At the same time, Devendra Fadnis, as a leader of the opposition, has adopted a three-pronged strategy. He was always open to meeting all the MLAs, with warmth, extensively toured the State, and was constantly plotting against the Thackeray government. The media trials in the high-

profile Sushant Rajput and Aryan Khan cases, allegations of corruption against NCP Ministers Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik (both are under arrest now) and the prompting of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leader Raj Thackeray to take up the issue of loudspeakers in masjids were all used by Mr. Fadnis within and outside the Assembly to try and corner the Shiv Sena.

These issues, more than the unavailability of Uddhav Thackeray, have disturbed many Sena legislators. The fact of the matter is that the Shiv Sena is not a party of governance at the State level. Out of the 56 years of its existence, the Shiv Sena was in power all together for 10 years which includes its present stint. Unlike the Congress and the NCP, its Ministers and MLAs are not conversant with what it means to be on the treasury benches. It really will not matter to the Shiv Sena if it loses power. The real challenge for the party would be to retain the municipal corporations as and when elections there take place.

Electoral strength

The second apprehension of the rebel camp is regarding the NCP's aggression and the threat it poses to their own existence. Undoubtedly, out of the three alliance partners in the government, i.e. the Maha Vikas Aghadi, the NCP is making the most effective use of power to strengthen its presence and its organisation across the State. Whether it poses a large-scale threat to the Shiv Sena is questionable.

For example, in regions such as Mumbai and its suburbs as well as in Vidarbha, the NCP has barely an electorally strong presence. In Konkan, Marathwada and western Maharashtra, there are pockets where the NCP and the Shiv Sena



PTI

have an overlapping presence.

An analysis of election results of the Shiv Sena legislators throws up interesting facts. Out of the 56 seats won by the Shiv Sena in 2019, the Congress had its candidates in 26 seats while the NCP had its candidates in the fray in 28 seats. Out of the 26 seats that the Shiv Sena won against the Congress, the grand old party was a runner-up only in 14 seats. It came distant third, fourth and fifth in nine, two and one Assembly segments, respectively. Out of the 14 seats where the Congress was runner-up *vis-à-vis* the Shiv Sena, the Sena registered a very impressive victory in eight seats, a comfortable win in five seats and had a narrow margin in one seat. Out of the 28 seats that the Shiv Sena won against the NCP, the NCP was a runner-up in 20 seats. Out of these 20 seats, the Shiv Sena's victory margin was impressive in eight seats, comfortable in 10 seats and narrow in two seats. In the rest of the eight seats, the NCP came a distant third, fourth and fifth in five, two and one seats, respectively. This data shows that not many Shiv Sena MLAs face an existential threat from the NCP or the Congress provided they had won the election not on the strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The third and most important allegation of the Sena rebels is that Uddhav Thackeray is not true to

his father, Balasaheb Thackeray's Hindutva. The formation of a government with the Congress and the NCP (the Maha Vikas Aghadi) itself is perceived to be a sign of a weakening of the Shiv Sena's position on Hindutva. However, the Shiv Sena under Mr. Uddhav Thackeray has not taken this position suddenly in 2019.

In terms of ideology

In the aftermath of the 2014 Lok Sabha election, Mr. Thackeray probably realised the emergence of Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister as a major threat to the Shiv Sena's existence. Prior to the Prime Minister's emergence, the Shiv Sena was placed right to the BJP as far as Hindutva ideology has been concerned. Balasaheb Thackeray was adored by many activists of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the BJP for his uncompromising and fiery positions on Hindutva, while the combination of Atal Bihari Vajpayee-L.K. Advani was considered to be soft on many issues.

The Prime Minister's leadership has brought the BJP on a par with the Shiv Sena in terms of a radicalisation of religious identity politics. The choice before Uddhav Thackeray to preserve the Shiv Sena's own identity was either to project himself as being more Hindutvavadi 'than thou' or to cast the Shiv Sena as the party associated with the interests of Maharashtra.

He has chosen the second option without giving up the Hindutva identity. From 2014 until recently, none of the defecting Shiv Sena leaders has shown any (visible) signs of discomfiture with Uddhav Thackeray's politics. The Shiv Sena leadership has always been cautious about its alliance with the Congress and the NCP, and has been consciously maintaining the Shiv Sena's Hindutva

identity. Mr. Thackeray attempted to create optics of this at the swearing-in ceremony (for example, wearing a saffron kurta). The Shiv Sena has unambiguously supported the Modi government in Parliament on a reading down of Article 370 (before the Maharashtra Assembly election), on the Ram Mandir issue, on the Triple Talaq bill and on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Based on this record, Mr. Thackeray seems to be questioning the rebels on their allegation of a softening of the party's stand on Hindutva. The Shiv Sena leadership is questioning the rebels' position that one has to be an ally of the BJP to champion Hindutva. According to it, the BJP has no monopoly on Hindutva ideology. In the past few weeks, Mr. Thackeray has repeatedly stated that unlike the RSS's brand of Hindutva, the Shiv Sena's Hindutva stands for defending the interests of Hindus and India without being poisonous.

The Shiv Sena is also raising questions on the RSS's participation and the sincerity of the Government (at the Centre) in protecting the lives of the Kashmiri Pandits. This much, however, is not sufficient for Mr. Thackeray to distinguish the Shiv Sena's Hindutva from the RSS-BJP's Hindutva. Eventually, he might be required to bring in, partially, the concept of a Bahujanwadi Hindutva as espoused by his grandfather and reformist, Prabodhankar Thackeray. The Shiv Sena has undergone fundamental changes on a few occasions since its inception, demonstrating its resilience every time. Today it is facing its most severe crisis. Its fightback has also begun.

Parimal Maya Sudhakar is affiliated with the MIT School of Government, Pune. The views expressed are personal

Remembering the 'Plan Man' of India

Revisiting the country's statistical inheritance from P.C. Mahalanobis assumes importance in today's data-driven world



ATANU BISWAS

Today, June 29, is national 'Statistics Day', in recognition of the contributions made by Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, the 'Plan Man' of India; it is also his birthday. It was P.C. Mahalanobis, who established a strong statistical culture in India and nourished it diligently through his lifelong endeavours. Incidentally, June 28 also marked 50 years since his passing. Revisiting the life of India's statistical inheritance from P.C. Mahalanobis is of utmost importance as various kinds of concerns regarding data collection, its publication, and data quality have emerged in recent years.

Mahalanobis certainly believed data to be instrumental in efficient planning for national and human development. Planning in the newly independent nation in the 1950s was largely based on the data obtained from various surveys. His fairytale-type success story is due to the blending of his talent with his dedication that thrives into perfection. The socio-political situation and Jawaharlal Nehru's reliance on Mahalanobis certainly helped.

Ties with Tagore

At the centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's Visva Bharati University – which Mahalanobis was instrumental in shaping in its most difficult formative years – it might be very interesting to discuss the rela-

tionship between two of the greatest Bengali stalwarts, i.e., Tagore and Mahalanobis. Tagore treated Mahalanobis as a close confidant, despite an age gap of 32 years, and they shared a three decades long friendship. Mahalanobis explained to Rani, his future wife: "It will be wrong to say he [Tagore] is my Guru... 'I love him' is the right expression."

Chancing upon statistics

Young Mahalanobis came to know about statistics, the subject, 'by chance' when, in 1915, his voyage to India from England was delayed. However, it is possible that Tagore was instrumental in bringing Mahalanobis, a professor of physics at Calcutta's Presidency College, into formal statistical activities, when, in 1917, he introduced him to the scholar and educator, Brajendranath Seal, who asked Mahalanobis to analyse the examination records of Calcutta University. It was perhaps Mahalanobis's first statistical venture with real-life data.

Seventeen-year-old Mahalanobis first met Tagore at Santiniketan in 1910. Then, as Satyajit Ray wrote, "When Rabindranath came to London in 1912 with his translation of *Gitanjali*, Prasantachandra, Kedarnath [Chattopadhyay] and my father [the poet and writer Sukumar Roy] were present. He [Sukumar] mentions gathering in Rothenstein's house more than once in his letters."

The bonding between Tagore and Mahalanobis, however, was strengthened. In 1919, when Tagore had written a public letter to Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy of India, protesting the Jalianwala Bagh massacre and renouncing knighthood, he asked Mahalanobis to read it first. Mahalanobis accompanied Tagore on many of his international visits, mostly in the 1920s. He often documented the details of such trips with rigour. With a statistician's perfection, Mahalanobis wrote a series of essays titled 'Rabindra Parichay' ('Introduction to Rabindra') for the prestigious Bengali magazine, *Probashi*. He also wrote a book, *Rabindranath Tagore's Visit to Canada* in 1929. When Tagore met Einstein in 1930, Mahalanobis was also with him. In fact, Einstein asked Tagore about a young scientist named Bose. Tagore was surprised as Jagadish Chandra Bose, Tagore's friend, was certainly no longer a young man. Mahalanobis then informed Tagore about Satyendra Nath Bose, another doyen, who would be ever-membered for Boson, at least.

Mahalanobis introduced Tagore to cinema when, in 1917, he took Nitin Bose, the father of cinema technique, to Bolpur. At the request of Tagore, Nitin Bose photographed a dance recital of girls. The 17-minute film was processed in an improvised lab in Mahalanobis' laboratory at Presidency College. Mahalanobis, at the Presidency College during that period, was a mixture of physicist and statistician. More precisely, a physicist was turning into a statistician, slowly but steadily. His physics background certainly helped shape his statistical ideology and perfection, which, in effect, yielded trustworthiness in his surveys, methodologies, and analyses.

Mahalanobis established the Statistical Laboratory within the Baker Laboratory at Presidency College. Tagore also visited the Statistical Laboratory several times. In fact, it was Tagore who coined the Bengali word, 'Rashibijnan' for 'Statistics', and there is little doubt that this was only due to the bonding between Tagore and Mahalanobis. In 1933, Mahalanobis founded *Sankhya*, the *Indian Journal of Statistics*. In the first issue of the second volume of *Sankhya*, Tagore depicted Statistics as "the dance steps of numbers in the arena of time and space, which weave the *maya* of appearance, the incessant flow of changes that ever is and is not".

At Visva Bharati Mahalanobis, of course, helped Tagore immensely in his dream project – the founding of Visva Bharati. He not only served as a joint secretary of Visva Bharati for 10 years from the beginning but he was also a member of the governing body, executive council, academic council, and the agricultural board. Also, Mahalanobis' contribution to preparing Tagore's life calendar is astonishing. He even corrected some errors here and in also the bibliography prepared by the famous Bengali writer, Prabhat Kumar Mukhopad-



THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

bis to read it first. Mahalanobis accompanied Tagore on many of his international visits, mostly in the 1920s. He often documented the details of such trips with rigour. With a statistician's perfection, Mahalanobis wrote a series of essays titled 'Rabindra Parichay' ('Introduction to Rabindra') for the prestigious Bengali magazine, *Probashi*. He also wrote a book, *Rabindranath Tagore's Visit to Canada* in 1929. When Tagore met Einstein in 1930, Mahalanobis was also with him. In fact, Einstein asked Tagore about a young scientist named Bose. Tagore was surprised as Jagadish Chandra Bose, Tagore's friend, was certainly no longer a young man. Mahalanobis then informed Tagore about Satyendra Nath Bose, another doyen, who would be ever-membered for Boson, at least.

Mahalanobis introduced Tagore to cinema when, in 1917, he took Nitin Bose, the father of cinema technique, to Bolpur. At the request of Tagore, Nitin Bose photographed a dance recital of girls. The 17-minute film was processed in an improvised lab in Mahalanobis' laboratory at Presidency College. Mahalanobis, at the Presidency College during that period, was a mixture of physicist and statistician. More precisely, a physicist was turning into a statistician, slowly but steadily. His physics background certainly helped shape his statistical ideology and perfection, which, in effect, yielded trustworthiness in his surveys, methodologies, and analyses.

Mahalanobis established the Statistical Laboratory within the Baker Laboratory at Presidency College. Tagore also visited the Statistical Laboratory several times. In fact, it was Tagore who coined the Bengali word, 'Rashibijnan' for 'Statistics', and there is little doubt that this was only due to the bonding between Tagore and Mahalanobis. In 1933, Mahalanobis founded *Sankhya*, the *Indian Journal of Statistics*. In the first issue of the second volume of *Sankhya*, Tagore depicted Statistics as "the dance steps of numbers in the arena of time and space, which weave the *maya* of appearance, the incessant flow of changes that ever is and is not".

At Visva Bharati Mahalanobis, of course, helped Tagore immensely in his dream project – the founding of Visva Bharati. He not only served as a joint secretary of Visva Bharati for 10 years from the beginning but he was also a member of the governing body, executive council, academic council, and the agricultural board. Also, Mahalanobis' contribution to preparing Tagore's life calendar is astonishing. He even corrected some errors here and in also the bibliography prepared by the famous Bengali writer, Prabhat Kumar Mukhopad-

dy. When Tagore modified his writings, he wanted to destroy the earlier drafts. Mahalanobis, however, preserved them – a clear conflict between the attitudes of a poet and a statistician. Detailing and perfection were an inherent nature of Mahalanobis. These were also reflected in his surveys and data collection.

Tagore's dance drama, 'Basantata' (meaning 'Spring'), had a premiere at the Calcutta University institute auditorium on Mahalanobis' marriage day. Tagore attended the marriage ceremony after the show. He presented them with the manuscript of 'Basantata'. Such a special bonding with the poet, certainly, did supply Mahalanobis with a different kind of light – that would help him create a rich statistical legacy for the country, and a trustworthy system of data collection and analyses. The system worked nicely for a few decades even after his demise.

There is little denying that data, in general, is on an ever-expanding pathway and is growing exponentially. Statistics, the subject, is also changing amid a wave of data science. One needs to adopt, for sure. Attempts such as transforming the Planning Commission to NITI Aayog or merging the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) with the Central Statistical Office (CSO) to form the National Statistical Office (NSO) may not be enough though. One certainly misses a person of the stature of Mahalanobis at the helm of the system. Also, the Mahalanobis-type innovation, dedication, and diligence are dearly missed.

Atanu Biswas is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

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

States and finances

The article by the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), "States, freebies and the costs of fiscal profligacy" (Editorial page, June 28), is apt; there has been a critical analysis of what is going wrong. The central government should put a full stop to the practice of some State governments showing some borrowings as off-budget borrowings, which it appears is equal the debt admitted in the budget books of State governments. Another interesting point is about the powers the

President of India has to declare financial emergency in a State. This should be done in a few States. We all know from the experience of Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Laos that if fiscal discipline is not adhered to, the consequences will be disastrous. Our public debt (Centre and states combined) (including off-budget borrowings) as a percentage of GDP, is dangerously high. The amounts States borrow collectively every year is comparable in size to the Centre's borrowing. Punjab

is already in a debt trap. States seem to be borrowing recklessly.

N. KALYANARAMAN, Chennai

Rumblings in AIADMK

Everyone who is in the know of Tamil Nadu politics, is aware that with the passing of M.G. Ramachandran (MGR), a leader with abundant charisma, fissures began to emerge in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. J. Jayalalithaa, who stepped into the shoes of MGR, was able to prove her mettle as Chief Minister, but this was also a

phase that saw the emergence of Sasikala. The tussle now between OPS and EPS should be sorted out if the party is to remain relevant in State politics.

MANI NATARAJAN, Chennai

Despite a court intervention, it is unlikely that the marginalisation of O. Panneerselvam will end any time soon. Bitterness between the faction led by him and the one led by his rival, Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS), has grown to a point where there could be no room for

rapprochement. The EPS faction is dominant in the party and is unlikely to cede any space to OPS. Being an astute politician, EPS is bound to leave no stone unturned to politically annihilate his opponents.

SAMIUL HASSAN QUADRI, Bikaner, Rajasthan

Maharashtra turmoil

The political situation in Maharashtra – of an unstable government headed by the Shiv Sena – proves how a coalition of ideologically opposed partners is always fragile. The rebels' main complaint is their dissatisfaction with the

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress. Mr. Uddhav Thackeray some how managed to overcome the hard feelings many of his partymen had in choosing the Congress and the NCP as partners. Now the built-up pressure seems to be exploding in the form of rebels and their actions. The Maharashtra crisis is a lesson for all political leaders not to over-rule the sentiments of their party men for the sake of acquiring power.

V.S. GANESHAN, Bengaluru

Bring the shine back on government jobs

Instead of expanding contractual employment, we should seek to bolster public services



FEROZE VARUN GANDHI

In 2019, an Indian citizen died of suicide every hour due to joblessness, poverty or bankruptcy, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. About 25,000 Indians died of suicide between 2018 and 2020, said the Union government in the Rajya Sabha in February this year. Several unemployed people in India resort to protests — thousands burnt railway coaches in January 2022 over alleged flaws in the railways recruitment process and more recently, India saw protests over the Agnipath scheme.

A culture of hire and fire

For those employed in government, the situation is not much better. In May 2022, Haryana terminated the services of over 2,000 contractual health workers (nurses, sweepers, security guards, paramedical staff) who had been hired during the pandemic. In Delhi, hundreds of nurses, paramedical staff, lab technicians and other contractual workers have been terminated by Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and others. After banging utensils to thank them, we have fired them.

Additionally, over 8,300 panchayat and rural development contractual staff in Assam staged protests in February 2022. They said they had been in a contractual state for 12-14 years and had not been given bonuses, allowances, pension or pay revisions. In April 2022, some 200 contractual workers of Chhattisgarh's state electricity department were canned-charged and arrested. Being a public servant has rarely mattered less.

The problem is two-fold. First, vacancies in the government are not being filled at a sufficient pace. There were over 60 lakh vacancies in the government across all levels in July 2021. Of these, over 9.1 lakh were in the Central government, while about 2 lakh vacancies were in PSU banks. Additionally, there were over 5.3 lakh vacancies in the State police, while primary schools were estimated to have some 8.3 lakh vacancies.



Police personnel deployed at Hubballi railway station after security was beefed up following protests against the Agnipath scheme, in Hubballi. ■PTI

The government has sought to push for recruitment of 10 lakh people in a mission-mode over 1.5 years. However, this would fall short of the size of the problem. We need greater ambition on this front.

Second, where vacancies are being filled, they are notably skewed towards contractual jobs. In 2014, about 43% of government employees (about 12.3 million) had non-permanent or contractual jobs, with about 6.9 million working in key flagship welfare schemes (Anganwadi workers, for instance) with low wages (in some cases, lower than the minimum wage) and little, if any, social security cover, as per the Indian Staffing Industry Research 2014 report. By 2018, the share of government employees in this category had risen to 59%. For Central Public Sector Enterprises, the share of contractual (and non-permanent) employees increased from 19% to 37% (reaching 4,98,807 in March 2020), with permanent employees dropping in share by 25%. Consider select PSUs. ONGC had contractual employees form over 81% of its staff in March 2020. Some States have sought to take this further — in 2020, while the pandemic led to mass unemployment, the State government in Uttar Pradesh sought to amend recruitment for Group B and C employees (of which there were about 9 lakh in 2020 in U.P.), with a push for increasing contractual employment (for a five-year period), with such employees not offered allowances and typical benefits. Post the five-

year period, a pathway to regularisation was offered, only if the workers could pass a rigorous performance appraisal; if they did not pass, they would be dismissed. Any dependent of a deceased employee, if appointed to such posts, would also have to go through similar appraisals. In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled that a contractual employee for a government department was not a government servant. If most government employees have contractual terms, will a public ethos continue to exist?

Instead of expanding contractual employment, we should seek to bolster public services. For the past few decades, we have been under-investing in public goods — as witnessed by the COVID-19 crisis, our healthcare system simply does not have the capacity to provide adequate healthcare support to citizens under normal conditions, let alone a pandemic. Expanding public service provisioning will also lead to the creation of good quality jobs, along with skilled labour, offering us social stability. A push for enhancing public health would lead to the creation of societal assets; having more ICU beds in the first place would have ensured that the COVID-19 crisis could have been managed better. A push for a universal basic services programme with public healthcare would also help supplement insurance-based models like Ayushman Bharat. Such spending, however, will eventually lead to an increase in consumer demand and have strong multiplier effects, while generally improving the

productivity and quality of life in India's cities and villages.

Job opportunities

Consider renewable power generation. There is significant potential for job creation (for example, in rooftop solar power generation, manufacturing of solar panel modules and end-use servicing). Meanwhile, on the waste management front, there is significant scope for expanding wastewater treatment capacity, with the building and management of treatment plants for sewer waste and faecal sludge treatment plants leading to generation of jobs. Encouraging solid waste treatment practices (such as dry waste collection, micro-composting) could create about 300 jobs per year in a city municipal corporation. A push for adopting electric vehicles and encouraging green mobility would require significant manpower, leading to the generation of 'green jobs'. In addition, we must continue to encourage urban farming, with significant job potential in permaculture, gardening and nursery management. Perhaps another avenue of selective PSU reform could also be considered — a PSU with greater autonomy, with the government retaining control via a holding firm, can also be subject to the right incentives. Surely, Indian PSUs could aspire to be as large and efficient as the Chinese ones.

Government jobs have lost their shine. We need to attract talent to the government. Rather than downsizing or simply avoiding the cost of pensions and benefits, one should right-size government. Our public services require more doctors, teachers, engineers, and fewer data entry clerks. Reforms advocated by the Administrative Reforms Commission should be our initial step. This is the time to build capacity for an efficient civil service that can meet today's challenges — providing a corruption-free welfare system, running a modern economy and providing increasingly better public goods. Improved public service delivery, through better compensation, should be our ethos. 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' used to be a driving motto for the government of the day. Instead, treating them as dispensable seems to be the norm.

Feroze Varun Gandhi is a Member of Parliament, representing the Pilibhit constituency for the BJP

A problematic provision

Instead of disenfranchising only certain classes of prisoners, the law prohibits anyone in confinement from voting



ADITYA PRASANNA BHATTACHARYA

In States with bicameral legislatures, seats in the Legislative Council are filled following an indirect election in which members of the Legislative Assembly cast votes. On June 20, the members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly were scheduled to convene at the Vidhan Sabha to elect the members of the Vidhan Parishad. Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh, who are in prison in connection with money laundering offences, approached the courts with a prayer: despite their incarceration, they should be temporarily released to cast votes in the election, so that they may discharge their duty as sitting MLAs. Their prayer was rejected, first by a special judge under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, then by the Bombay High Court, and finally by the Supreme Court.

The yardstick for disenfranchisement

Interestingly, before dismissing the applications, the apex court observed that it is open to reconsidering the legal provision, Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which prevented the two MLAs from casting their votes. In the past, the Supreme Court has observed that the intent of this provision is to maintain the integrity of elections by excluding 'persons with criminal background' from participating in them. Ideally, this objective can be achieved through a provision which disenfranchises persons who have been convicted of certain kinds of grave offences.

However, Section 62(5) does not use conviction as the yardstick for disenfranchisement; it uses confinement. As a result, undertrial prisoners (who constitute over 75% of India's nearly 5 lakh prisoners) cannot vote. Neither can persons detained in civil prison for failing to repay a debt. But remarkably, a person who has been convicted for a criminal offence and has managed to secure bail can vote. If the objective is to keep criminals away from elections, this is an anomaly. Indeed, it appears that as a result of a poor choice of words, an otherwise well-intentioned law has snatched away the right to vote from an undertrial who is presumed to be innocent and from a civil offender, but has granted it to a criminal convict (out on bail) whose guilt has been determined.

This puts Section 62(5) in direct collision with Article 14 of the Constitution (equality before the law to all persons). Whenever a law treats two groups of persons unequally,

it must satisfy a set of basic tests under Article 14 to be valid: the distinction created by the law must be based on coherent differences between the two groups of persons, and these differences must have a rational link with the objective that the law seeks to achieve. Section 62(5) treats a group of people differently by stripping them of the right to vote. What sets this group apart from those allowed to vote is their confinement in prison. This has no rational link with the purported object of the law, i.e., keeping criminals away from the electoral process.

As alternatives, the provision could have disenfranchised persons convicted of certain heinous offences or those sentenced for a minimum duration. In the U.K., for instance, only convicts sentenced to prison for four years or more cannot vote. In Germany, only persons convicted of certain political offences are disenfranchised. Where the law formerly restricted all prisoners from voting (Canada, for instance), constitutional courts intervened and struck it down for being arbitrary and disproportionate.

Section 62(5) has survived many challenges before the courts. Each time, the courts have lauded the objective of weeding out criminal elements from the electoral process, but have stopped short of examining whether the provision, in the manner in which it is worded, can claim to achieve this aim. In a welcome move, while dismissing Mr. Malik and Mr. Deshmukh's bail applications, the Supreme Court observed that it is open to reconsidering the constitutionality of the provision. The reason for this shift is that the voters who were deprived in this instance were not seeking to act as ordinary citizens but as constitutional functionaries. Through the MLAs' votes, the residents of their constituencies indirectly exercise their franchise in the election to the Vidhan Parishad. By preventing the two MLAs from casting their votes, the court has inadvertently stripped all their constituents of their franchise.

Finding fault with Section 62(5) for only this reason would be missing the forest for the trees. As a result of its sweeping nature, the provision suffers from a deeper malaise. The question cannot be whether the voter is an ordinary citizen or an MLA, but whether the voter, given their conduct, deserves to participate in the electoral process or not. A constitutional inquiry into Section 62(5) with the former question as its only basis is set for failure. The apex court must re-examine the issue in the totality of its circumstances and Parliament must replace the provision with a tightly worded version disenfranchising only certain classes of prisoners.

Aditya Prasanna Bhattacharya is Research Fellow, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

STATE OF PLAY

Out of sync with Dravidianism

R.N. Ravi's statements and positions on various subjects are upsetting the political balance

D. SURESH KUMAR

In the nine months he has occupied the Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan, Governor R.N. Ravi, unlike most of his predecessors, has shown no hesitancy in propagating ideological and policy positions that go against the Dravidian school of political thought. While some who had handled gubernatorial assignments in the past had shown scholarship, many had confined themselves to attending functions and delivering speeches. They rarely pushed a counter-ideological narrative, even when the ruling parties in the State were opposed to the party running the Union government. However, Mr. Ravi, a former Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau, has disrupted this political balance by openly taking contrarian stands and speaking his mind on issues he holds dear.

Earlier this month, he said: "[Lord] Ayyappa seva is Rashtira seva (national service). There should be no doubt about it because this Rashtira, Bharat, was created by our rishis and sages who expounded and expanded the truth in our vedas, which became our Sanatana Dharma. It is this Sanatana Dharma which built this Bharat." Questioning the notion that unity in diversity is a constitutional construct, he said, "It is not. Constitution doesn't carry the soul of India. Constitution is for the governance of India. Bharat was born thousands... of years before Constitution was written... Sanatana Dharma has to prevail for the sake of the world, humanity".

His defence of Sanatana Dharma created ripples in the rationalist discourse-dominated Tamil Nadu, which has politically for decades opposed it on the grounds that it perpetuates the Varnashrama dharma (caste-related occupation). Leaders such as Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi's Thol Thirumavalavan have been charging the BJP of attempting to make Sanatana Dharma the Constitution of the country. DMK treasurer T.R. Baalu said statements such as these are unbefitting of a person

holding a constitutional position and who should propagate secular principles.

On Sunday, the Governor said: "Spine of Bharat is Sanatana Dharma". In an apparent counter to Mr. Baalu's statement, he said vested interests have created the impression that secularism, as defined in the Constitution, had nothing to do with Dharma. "This is a mischievous and distorted interpretation. The political interpretation has put institutions that are supposed to carry Dharma forward in a very hard place. Dharma is all encompassing and inclusive," he said.

On policy matters, Mr. Ravi continues to evangelically push for implementation of the National Education Policy 2020, which the State has rejected. Not only does he feel this is the right time to implement the policy, but he publicly told Higher Education Minister K. Ponmudy, "I would suggest [that you] kindly go through the NEP. You see the vast vistas it opens." Mr. Ravi has also made political remarks on subjects outside the purview of his office. Last month he dubbed the Popular Front of India "a very dangerous organisation whose aim is to destabilise the country".

While the ruling DMK has occasionally expressed its disapproval of the Governor's views through its party mouthpiece Murasoli, a section of academics too is opposed to his stand. In a recent letter, State Platform for Common School System (Tamil Nadu) general secretary P.B. Prince Gajendra Babu urged the Governor to uphold the Constitution and "respect the mandate of the people and desist from engaging himself in countering the policy position of the duly elected government".

Meanwhile, the State government is awaiting the Governor's assent for the 21 Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly that were sent to Raj Bhavan many months ago.

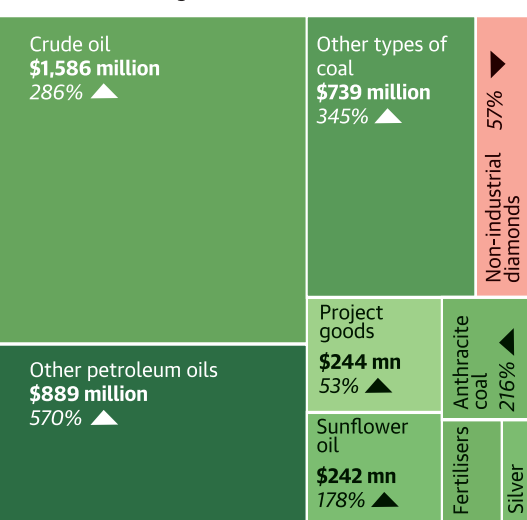
sureshkumar.d@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

India's imports from Russia soar amid sanctions

Amid international sanctions imposed against Russia after its invasion of Ukraine in February, India's imports from Russia have soared. India's crude oil imports from Russia surged by 286% while coal imports (certain types) surged by over 345% in the January-April 2022 period. About 7.5% of India's fuel needs (crude oil, coal, natural gas, etc.) in April 2022 was sourced from Russia compared to 2% or less in many of the previous years. Russia was India's sixth largest import partner in the April-May 2022 period. In several of the previous years, it had occupied the 20th position. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1. IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA | The graph depicts the items imported from Russia in 2022 (January to April). The bigger the square, the higher the import value in \$million in the January-April 2022 period. The deeper the green, the more the increase in % terms compared to the five-year average between FY17 and FY21. For instance, India imported \$1,526 million worth crude oil from Russia, 286% more than the FY17-FY21 average



3. SHARE OF TOTAL IMPORTS | Overall, 4% of India's imports came from Russia in April and May 2022 (FY23), a significant increase from around 1% in the years before. No other country's share has increased considerably in this period. China's share in India's imports came down

Country	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18
China	12%	15%	17%	14%	14%	16%
UAE	8	7	7	6	6	5
U.S.	7	7	7	8	7	6
S. Arabia	6	6	4	6	6	5
Iraq	6	5	4	5	4	4
Russia	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Indonesia	4	3	3	3	3	4
Australia	3	3	2	2	3	3
Singapore	3	3	3	3	3	2
S.Korea	3	3	3	3	3	4
Switzerland	3	4	5	4	4	4
Hong Kong	3	3	4	4	3	2
Germany	2	2	3	3	3	3

2. SHARE OF FUEL | The table lists the share of a country in India's total imports of mineral fuels/mineral oils (including crude oil, coal, coke, liquefied natural gas, etc.). India's dependency on Russia for its fuel needs increased from around 2% in previous years to 7.5% in April 2022 (FY23). India reduced its energy dependence on Nigeria and Kuwait in April 2022

Country	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18
Iraq	16.3	16.2	14.2	15.4	13.3	13.3
S. Arabia	14.7	14.2	13.0	15.1	14.6	13.5
UAE	13.4	10.4	11.9	10.5	8.1	6.9
Russia	7.5%	2.7	2.1	2.1	1.3	1.6
U.S.	7.1	8.6	8.7	5.4	4.3	3.0
Australia	6.7	6.8	6.1	5.0	5.8	7.1
Qatar	6.3	5.6	6.8	5.5	5.5	5.4
Indonesia	5.1	3.5	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.8
Nigeria	3.3	5.1	5.6	6.5	6.3	7.0
Kuwait	2.9	5.1	4.2	3.8	3.8	4.6
Oman	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.2	1.0	2.2
South Africa	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.7	2.4
Singapore	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.4
Mexico	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.1

4. RANKING IN TOTAL IMPORTS | The table lists the ranking of countries based on their share in India's total imports. Russia was ranked 20th or above in many previous years but jumped to the sixth position in the April-May 2022 (FY23) period

Country	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18
China	1	1	1	1	1	1
UAE	2	2	3	3	3	4
U.S.	3	3	2	2	2	2
S. Arabia	4	4	5	4	4	3
Iraq	5	5	7	5	5	6
Russia	6	20	21	20	24	15
Indonesia	7	9	11	9	10	7
Australia	8	11	14	15	12	9
Singapore	9	8	9	10	9	17
S.Korea	10	10	10	8	8	8
Switzerland	11	6	4	7	6	5
Hong Kong	12	7	6	6	7	12
Germany	16	12	8	11	11	10

SOURCE: COMMERCE MINISTRY

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 29, 1972

P.M. and Bhutto hope for new era

Simla, June 28: The opening session of the Indo-Pakistan summit this afternoon lasted less than an hour — only 50 heads of Government and their principal advisers to settle even the bare preliminaries for the main discussions during the next three days of the conference. The Indian and Pakistan delegates indicated in a joint press release late to-night that the officials of the two sides, who have been nominated to commence the discussion on the agenda, met to-day and will meet again to-morrow morning to resume the talks after they have reported back to their respective leaders on the progress of their talks to-day. This statement implied that Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Bhutto will get together only after the officials have completed their preliminary discussions and reached the stage where the two heads of government could usefully take up specific issues for further discussions. The officials who met at 7 p.m. adjourned at 9-45 p.m. to report to their leaders and obtain the necessary instructions before resuming the talk to-morrow at 10 a.m.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 29, 1922

Indian Affairs

London, June 27: In the Commons replying to Col. Wedgwood, Earl Winterton stated that the Indian Government hoped very shortly to communicate the total number of those imprisoned in India for political offences. He considered it most unlikely that the number would exceed four thousand and not 20 thousand as recently suggested. Mr. Davidson in a question drew the attention to the widespread misapprehension among European members and Indian members of the Indian Civil Service with reference to the Indian Civil Service family pension fund. In view of the numerous Indian Civil Servants now coming upon the fund whose conditions of family life are widely different from that of Europeans Mr. Davidson asked whether the Indian Government was prepared to rescind the former decision to extend this benefit to non-Europeans. He also wished to know whether the fund would forthwith be divided into separate European and Indian sections with a separate actuarial calculations. Earl Winterton said he had already considered the effect mentioned on the family pension scheme, but it was not possible to make a statement on the subject at present.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Credit card spending

1.13 In ₹ lakh crore, the amount spent by credit card holders in India in the month of May compared to the ₹1.05 lakh crore spent in April according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The month-on-month rise in spending through cards indicates a pick-up in economic activity. Data also showed that 7.68 crore credit card holders spent about ₹71,429 crore shopping online while the amount paid through swipes at Point of Sale (PoS) machines stood at ₹42,266 crore in May. **PTI**

Fact checking

54 The percentage of people who turn to social media when looking for factual information in India, according to a global study by the Oxford University Press (OUP). The research-led campaign 'The Matter of Fact' looked at the level of understanding of how truths are identified and sources validated. The findings show that 37% of the global population turn to social media when looking for factual information. Britons were less likely to look for facts using social media, with only 16% describing it as a preferred source. **PTI**

Criminal records of MPs

31 The percentage of sitting Rajya Sabha MPs who have declared criminal cases against themselves, according to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the National Election Watch. The report also stated that the average assets of the Upper House members are ₹79.54 crore. The report has analysed the criminal, financial and other background details of 226 out of the 233 sitting MPs. Of the 226 members, 71 have declared criminal cases against themselves and 37 have declared serious criminal cases. **PTI**

Civilian deaths

3.06 In lakh, the number of civilians killed in Syria in the last ten years since the conflict began – the highest official estimate to date of conflict-related civilian deaths in the country, according to the United Nations. Syria's conflict began with anti-government protests in March 2011, demanding democratic reforms. However, it quickly turned into a full-blown civil war. The protests were preceded by the Arab Spring uprising in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and Bahrain. **AP**

Peak in power demand

7,601 In megawatts (MW), the record high power demand in Delhi on Tuesday afternoon, due to the prevailing humid and warm weather in the city, as per data by the State Load Dispatch Centre. The previous high in Delhi was recorded at 7,409 MW on July 2, 2019. Delhi's peak power demand had never crossed the 7,000 MW mark during June until this year. According to estimates, around 50% of Delhi's power demand in summers is because of the cooling load from air-conditioners and fans. **PTI**

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

China's interventions in the Horn of Africa

Is Beijing moving away from its policy of non-intervention in Africa? How are different African states reacting to these developments?

THE GIST

APOORVA SUDHAKAR
AVISHKA ASHOK

The story so far: China has been investing across the African continent throughout the last decade. While the emphasis has been on investments and raw materials, it took a new turn on June 20, with the first "China-Horn of Africa Peace, Governance and Development Conference." Beijing's first special envoy to the region Xue Bing, appointed in February 2022, said that this is the first time China aims "to play a role in the area of security". The conference held in Ethiopia witnessed the participation of foreign Ministries from the following countries of the Horn: Kenya, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda.

What are the recent projects between China and countries from the Horn of Africa? China's focus on the Horn is a part of its focus on Africa. In January 2022, during his 17th trip to Africa, China's Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi focused on increasing the infrastructural investments in African countries. He refuted accusations of debt-trapping the countries and asserted China's three objectives in Africa: controlling the pandemic, implementing a Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) outcomes, and upholding common interests while fighting hegemonic politics.

China's interests in the Horn of Africa are related to four major areas: infrastructural projects, financial assistance, natural resources and maritime interests

The FOCAC promotes China's role in the infrastructural and societal development of the Horn. In the 2021 forum, the entire region of the Horn participated and four resolutions were adopted: the Dakar Action Plan, the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035, the Sino-African Declaration on Climate Change and the Declaration of the

Eighth Ministerial Conference of FOCAC.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, China donated over 3,00,000 vaccines to Ethiopia and Uganda, and 2,00,000 vaccines to Kenya and Somalia. Sudan and Eritrea have also benefited from China's vaccine diplomacy.

Beijing has also initiated the "2035 vision for China-Africa cooperation"; it aims to transform the health sector, alleviate poverty, promote trade and investments, and expand digital innovation. The vision also focuses on green development, capacity building, improving people-to-people exchanges and facilitating peace and security in the continent.

What are China's primary interests/investments in the Horn of Africa?

China's interests are related to four major areas: infrastructural projects, financial assistance, natural resources and maritime interests. Looking at Chinese investments in infrastructure, one of its landmark projects was fully funding the \$200 million African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa. It has also made significant investments in railways; it is building the Addis-Djibouti railway line connecting the land-locked country with Eritrean ports in the Red Sea. China has also invested in the Mombasa-Nairobi rail link in Kenya, and has already delivered on railway projects in Sudan. It also has a viable military hardware market in Ethiopia and has built over 80 infrastructural projects in Somalia, including hospitals, roads, schools and stadiums. In Djibouti, 14 infrastructural projects are funded by China.

With respect to financial assistance, Ethiopia, is one of the top five African recipients of Chinese investments, and also has a debt of almost \$14 billion. China accounts for 67% of Kenya's bilateral debt. In 2022, China promised to provide \$15.7 million assistance to Eritrea.

The third major Chinese interest in Africa is the presence of natural resources – oil and coal. Beijing has invested \$400 million in Mombasa's oil terminal. China is also

interested in minerals such as gold, iron-ore, precious stones, chemicals, oil and natural gas in Ethiopia. South Sudan, a source for petroleum products, has had continued Beijing investment in the industry since the latter's initial entry in 1995.

The fourth major area is related to maritime interests. China's first and only military base outside its mainland is in Djibouti. During his visit in early 2022, Wang hinted at China's willingness to develop Eritrea's coast which would connect to China's investments in land-locked Ethiopia. The U.S. has speculated that China wishes to build another military base in Kenya and Tanzania, thereby increasing its military presence in the region.

Has the Horn of Africa been welcoming of China's presence?

Africa has been keen on interacting with China. Despite the wariness surrounding China's projects in Africa, the governments have mostly been welcoming. When conflict broke out in Tigray in November 2020, Addis Ababa appreciated Beijing for respecting Ethiopia's sovereignty. In December 2021, Kenya defended Chinese projects in the country; President Uhuru Kenyatta maintained that China-Africa partnership was mutually beneficial. In November 2021, Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni suggested that China give access to its markets, in a fashion similar to the U.S. or Europe.

Similarly, in May 2022, the East African Community (EAC) Secretary General Peter Mathuki said the EAC would welcome Chinese investors to work in East Africa for the prosperity of the people.

Is China's new focus on peace in the Horn a shift from Beijing's principle of non-intervention?

Peace and stability is a mutual requirement for China and Africa. For Africa, Chinese investments could lead to stable environments which could help the countries achieve their peace and development objectives. For China, conflict in the region comes at a heavy cost. In



Ethiopia. when the conflict broke out, over 600 Chinese nationals, working on different projects, were evacuated, putting several investments at risk. From a trading perspective, the region plays a significant role in achieving the objectives of the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035.

China's move towards peace in Africa indicates a shift in its principle of non-intervention. It is China's message that its presence in the continent has a larger objective and is not likely to be limited to the Horn of Africa. This includes an aim to project itself as a global leader and boost its international status. Further, the recent developments imply that China is focussing on a multifaceted growth in the continent for the long run. For Africa, China's presence is an alternative to the European powers, many of whom are facing criticism from African governments. Further, African governments, which do not conform to Western standards of democracy, interact better with powers like China and Russia.

The authors are research associates at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

Greener pastures: China's first special envoy to the Horn of Africa, Xue Bing, speaks at a press conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on June 20. **AP**

EXPLAINER

The G7 plan to counter the Belt and Road initiative

How is the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment going to enhance development in low and middle income countries?

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: On June 26, U.S. President Joe Biden along with his G7 allies unveiled the ambitious Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), announcing the collective mobilisation of \$600 billion by 2027 to deliver "game-changing" and "transparent" infrastructure projects to developing and middle-income countries. The PGII is being seen as the G7's counter to China's multi-trillion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to build connectivity, infrastructure, and trade projects in Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

What is the PGII?

The West has been sceptical of the BRI, since it was launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping, as it was considered to be part of China's larger strategy to increase geopolitical influence in Asia and other developing countries. The U.S., along with G7 partners the U.K., Japan, France, Canada, Germany, Italy, and the European Union (EU), had in 2021 announced the launch of the Build Back Better World (B3W) with the aim of narrowing the \$40 trillion infrastructure gap in the developing world. PGII is therefore, a relaunch of Mr. Biden's B3W plan.

The factsheet put out by the White House described the PGII as a "values-driven, high-impact, and

transparent infrastructure partnership to meet the enormous infrastructure needs of low and middle-income countries and support the United States' and its allies' economic and national security interests". The G7 members aim to collectively mobilise \$600 billion by 2027 to invest in sustainable and quality infrastructure projects in developing countries, including India, and strengthen global supply chains. Mr. Biden announced the country's pledge to channel \$200 billion in grants, public financing, and private capital over the next five years for the PGII. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen declared Europe's pledge of mobilising 300 billion euros for the partnership over the same period.

What kind of projects will the PGII undertake?

All PGII projects will be driven by "four priority pillars that will define the second half of the 21st century". First, the G7 grouping aims to tackle the climate crisis and ensure global energy security through clean energy supply chains. Second, the projects will focus on bolstering digital information and communications technology (ICT) networks facilitating technologies such as 5G and 6G internet connectivity and cybersecurity. Third, the projects aim to advance gender equality and equity, and lastly, to build and upgrade global health



infrastructure.

Mr Biden announced the flagship projects for PGII that have either commenced or are set to begin. The U.S International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), along with the G7 nations and the EU are disbursing a \$3.3 million technical assistance grant to build a vaccine facility in Senegal, having a potential yearly capacity of manufacturing "millions of doses of COVID-19 and other vaccines". Ms. Leyen said that the European Commission's Global Gateway initiative is also undertaking projects supporting the PGII such as mRNA vaccine plants in Latin America and a fibre-optic cable linking Europe to Latin America among others.

In India, the U.S. DFC will invest up to \$30 million in Omnivore Agritech and Climate Sustainability Fund 3, an impact venture capital fund that invests in entrepreneurs building the future of agriculture, food systems, climate, and

rural economy in India.

How does it compare to China's BRI?

The Belt and Road project was started to revive connectivity, trade, and infrastructure along what was China's ancient Silk Road. China had announced a two-pronged approach of building a Silk Road Economic Belt on Land and a maritime 21st century Silk Road. The project initially aimed to strengthen connectivity with Southeast Asia but later expanded to South and Central Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America, with Mr. Xi saying it would "break the bottleneck in Asian connectivity".

The G7 meanwhile has specifically touted the PGII as a values-based plan to help underfunded low and middle-income countries meet their infrastructure needs. PGII has laid focus on climate action and clean energy, while China has built large coal-fired plants under BRI along with solar, hydro, and wind energy projects. While the G7 has pledged \$600 billion by 2027, Morgan and Stanly estimate that China's overall funding for BRI by that time could reach \$1.2 to 1.3 trillion dollars with the actual funding being higher. Under the PGII, large private capital will be also mobilised while China's BRI is majorly state-funded.

Besides, the BRI was also launched at a time when China's local construction firms were short of projects in developed Chinese provinces. Studies have shown

that 89% of the contractors participating in BRI projects are Chinese. According to Engineering News Record's 2019 data, seven out of the world's 10 biggest construction contractors based on foreign revenue were Chinese. Large number of Chinese workers are employed in BRI projects; for instance 1.82 lakh were working in Africa by late 2019.

While G7 leaders emphasised "transparency" as the cornerstone of PGII projects, the BRI has faced criticism for making countries sign confidential tenders for extending massive loans, leaving countries indebted to China. For instance, after the BRI's flagship \$62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Pakistan owes Beijing a large proportion of its foreign debt.

China builds BRI's projects by extending large, low-interest loans to countries that have to usually be paid over 10 years. There have been cases of debt-saddled countries failing to repay on time. Sri Lanka, for instance, had to cede its key Hambantota Port on a 99-year lease to China. Mr. Biden has said meanwhile, that PGII aims to build projects through grants and investments.

A PGII project has already been announced in India but India had opted out of China's BRI, being wary of Beijing's aim to increase its influence in the Indian Ocean Region by roping in Pakistan as a major BRI recipient.

THE GIST

On June 26, U.S. President Joe Biden along with his G7 allies unveiled the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), largely seen as a counter to China's multi-trillion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

All PGII projects will be driven by "four priority pillars that will define the second half of the 21st century". Tackling the climate crisis and ensuring global energy security, bolstering digital information and ICT networks, promoting gender equality and equity, and lastly, to build and upgrade the global health infrastructure.

A PGII project has been announced in India. On the other hand, India has stayed away from China's BRI, being wary of Beijing's aim to increase its influence in the Indian Ocean Region.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

GST reform needs a new grand bargain

The GST compensation issue strengthens the necessity for a new system between sovereign and sub-sovereign entities

THE GIST

AJIT RANADE
VIJAY KELKAR

The GST council is meeting in Chandigarh even as the tax regime completes five years in operation as of June 30. This article by Vijay Kelkar and Ajit Ranade on September 1, 2020, talks about how the Centre and the States need to completely re-formulate the GST regime.

Three years ago, the Centre and the States of the Union of India struck a grand bargain resulting in the launch of the unified Goods and Services Tax (GST) era. The States gave up their right to collect sales tax and sundry taxes, and the Centre gave up excise and services tax. The nationwide GST promised frictionless commerce across State borders, buoyant and leakproof tax compliance, and removal of inefficiencies like the cascade of "tax on tax". This historic grand bargain was the result of painstaking consensus building, which inter alia involved addressing the apprehension of States, of revenue loss due to the GST.

Abdication of responsibility

Their consent was secured by a promise of reimbursing any shortfall in tax revenues for a period of five years. This reimbursement was to be funded by a special cess called the GST compensation cess. The promised reimbursement was to fill the gap for an assured 14% year on year tax growth for five years, and it was generous to a fault. Neither the national aggregate nor any of the major States had this record for the previous five years.

But that was not the only fault with the design, which had also failed to learn from the successful design of harmonising Value Added Tax (VAT) rates across the nation, implemented just a decade ago. VAT was the precursor to GST and also needed a consensus. That design too had an inbuilt reimbursement formula. But that tapered over the years, making room for incentives for tax effort from the States, sort of "skin in the game".

As the economy battles a pandemic and recession, the tax collection has dropped significantly, while expenditure needs are sharply higher, especially at the frontline of the battle, at the State level. But it seems that the States have been told that they are on their own to meet the shortfall in revenues. Using an equivalent of the Force Majeure clause in commercial contracts, the Centre is abdicating its responsibility of making up for the shortfall in 14% growth in GST revenues to the states.

The onus is on the Centre

This is wrong on many counts. First, the States do not have recourse to multiple options that the Centre has, such as issue of a sovereign bond (in dollars or rupees) or a loan against public sector

unit shares from the Reserve Bank of India. Second, the Centre can anyway command much lower rates of borrowing from the markets as compared to the States. Third, in terms of aggregate public sector borrowing, it does not matter for the debt markets, nor the rating agencies, whether it is the States or the Centre that is increasing their indebtedness. Fourth, fighting this recession through increased fiscal stimulus is basically the job of macroeconomic stabilisation, which is the Centre's domain. Fifth, and most importantly, breaking this important promise, using the alibi of the COVID-19 pandemic causes a serious dent in the trust built up between the Centre and States.

Cooperative federalism is in the nature of a "repeated game" between the two entities, and every action must think of the future consequences, not just the immediate ones. Will it not weaken the foundation of trust?

Kautilya too would have advised the sovereign against renegeing on the promised bailout, as fulfilling the obligation helps build trust with sub-sovereigns.

The Australian example

The issue of GST compensation to the States is just the latest in the bumpy three-year journey of the new tax design. It is clear that the design needs a radical overhaul. Just tinkering with the compensation mechanism, or frequently changing rate slabs, or pushing more goods in the "sin tax" cess category, to earn revenue that is not shareable with the States, is not the way forward. What we instead need is a Grand Bargain 2.0 between the sovereign and the sub-sovereign entities. What would this be based upon? We have to go back to first principles. GST is a destination-based consumption tax, which must include all goods and services with very few exceptions, such as food and medicine. That widening of the tax base itself will allow us to go back to the original recommendation of a standard rate of 12%, to be fixed for at least a five-year period. A comparison with Australia which also coincidentally shares its GST anniversary with India, is apt. For the past two decades their GST rate has been constant at 10%. Of course India's single rate of 12% has to cover petrol, diesel, electricity, transport and real estate as well. Some extra elbow room for the States' revenue autonomy is obtained by allowing the States non VATable surcharges on a small list of "sin" goods such as liquor, tobacco, polluting goods such as sport utility vehicles, and industrial fuels such as diesel, aviation turbine fuel and coal. A low moderate single rate of 12% encourages better compliance, reduces the need to do arbitrary classification and discretion, reduces litigation and will lead to buoyancy in collection. Incidentally this redesign will scrupulously

avoid the bogey of a "revenue neutral rate" (RNR) which needlessly occupied the attention of lawmakers and officials. GST is a long-term structural reform, while RNR is a short term and basically an elusive concept. In the long term there are many changes in consumption patterns, production configurations and locations, which cannot be anticipated and hence a static concept of RNR cannot be reference. The commitment to a low and stable rate, à la Australia and many other federal democracies, is a must. Of course the compensation-cum-reimbursement incentive can remain, but more in the nature of what was done for VAT harmonisation.

Third tier of government

This new grand bargain must recognise the increasing importance of the third tier of government. Even after 28 years of the 73rd and 74th Amendments, the local governments do not have the promised transfer of funds, functions and functionaries. These local bodies face increased responsibility of providing government services especially in view of increased urbanisation and decentralisation. Of the 12% GST, 10% should be equally shared between the States and the Centre, and 2% must be earmarked exclusively for the urban and rural local bodies, which ensures some basic revenue autonomy to them. The actual distribution across panchayats, districts and cities would be given by respective State Finance Commissions. GST consumption tax paid by every citizen establishes a tighter link between the governed and the government. The quality of governance improves as also, the tax base is better aligned with responsibilities of various tiers of government.

Other changes

This fresh approach also calls for an overhaul of the interstate GST and the administration of the e-way bill. Research papers by Bhaskar and Kelkar (Reforming Integrated GST: Towards accelerating exports Policy Brief by Dr. V. Bhaskar and Dr. Vijay Kelkar and National Agenda for 2019 - A proposal for the GST reform by Dr. V. Bhaskar and Dr. Vijay Kelkar) describe the simplified mechanism, which essentially reduces the transaction costs drastically. The current system is too complex and burdensome. We also need to zero rate exports. GST is a crucial and long-term structural reform which can address the fiscal needs of the future, strike the right and desired balance to achieve co-operative federalism and also lead to enhanced economic growth. The current design and implementation has failed to deliver on that promise. A new grand bargain is needed.

Vijay Kelkar and Ajit Ranade are, respectively, Vice-President and Member, Pune International Centre



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Witness to violence

Mob participation, and the role of the government in quelling riots

SUDIPTA DATTA

In telling the story of the 1994 Rwandan massacres (*When Victims Become Killers*), Mahmood Mamdani stresses on the point that one of the most troubling aspects of the killings of millions of Tutsis by Hutus was the "popularity" of the genocide. He recalls a survivor telling him, "In Rwanda the government did not kill. It prepared the population, enraged it and enticed it. Your neighbours killed you."

Writing on hate

Perhaps no incident of communal violence in India has led to more controversy than the Gujarat riots of 2002 following the arson of a train in Godhra carrying Hindutva activists. In 2012, the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) gave a clean chit to then Chief Minister Narendra Modi; in 2017, the Gujarat High Court too upheld the SIT order; and last Friday, the Supreme Court dismissed the "larger conspiracy" angle, saying inaction or failure of "some officials" cannot be the basis to infer a pre-planned criminal conspiracy by the State government. Zakia Jafri, widow of the Congress leader Ehsan Jafri killed in the Gulberg Society riots in Ahmedabad, moved the Supreme Court raising allegations of a "larger conspiracy".

There have been several books on the riots and its aftermath. Journalist and writer Revati Laul spent a decade in Gujarat conducting research to find out about the perpetrators of the 2002 violence. In her 2018 book *The Anatomy of Hate*, she tells the story through three people, Pranav, an upper caste English-speaking "outlier in the mob in 2002", Dunga, a tribal who was part of the BJP and the VHP, and Suresh Langdo, who is serving a 31-year jail sentence for raping and killing Muslim women and men in 2002. In an interview to *The Hindu*, Laul had said: "Each of these people had very different backgrounds, different ways of entering the space of violence and decidedly different trajectories after. For me, writing about them was a way of telling the story from the inside out and also to leave people with the idea that violence is varied, diverse and ever-changing. And complex. Everything and its opposite is true at the same time."

If Laul and Ashish Khetan (*Under Cover: My Journey into the Darkness of Hindutva*) focused on the perpetrators, trying to understand what spurs a person to hate, in *The Fiction of Fact-Finding* (2014), Manoj Mitta draws parallels between Gujarat 2002 and the 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Delhi to argue that in both incidents there was a "subversion of the criminal justice system", under legal cover. Mitta writes in detail about the "mistakes committed in the course of fact-finding on the Gujarat carnage. Serious as they were, a lot of these mistakes covered up political and administrative complicity in the post-Godhra violence. The distortions in the findings were thanks to the insidious manner in which issues had been framed, facts selected, evidence recorded or inferences drawn."

The myth of facts

It had taken Mitta and H.S. Phoolka 23 years to release a book on the 1984 massacre (*When a Tree Shook Delhi*) "because there was an even greater delay in that case in the release of official fact-finding material." Mitta argues that communal politics enjoy "social sanction" and that the "sanction extends to the process of fact-finding, allowing it to be reduced, as in most cases, to an insidious variant of the dictum that history is written by victors." He writes that barring exceptions such as the Jaganmohan Reddy Commission's report on the Gujarat riots of 1969 and the B.N. Srikrishna Commission's report on the Bombay riots of 1992-93, "the fact-finding on communal violence in India has largely been fictitious."

R.B. Sreekumar, former DGP Gujarat, who turned whistle-blower, wrote about his experience in Gujarat and the subversion of the "rule of law" in his book, *Gujarat Behind the Curtain*. He was arrested a day after the Supreme Court verdict on June 24 for forgery, criminal conspiracy and other offences under the Indian Penal Code.

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

THE DAILY QUIZ

On June 29, 1613, the Globe Theatre was destroyed by fire during a performance of Henry VIII. Here is a general quiz on theatre from across the world

1 The three most acclaimed Greek playwrights, who often explored themes of tragedy, have contributed immensely to the field of world literature through works like *Antigone*, *The Oresteia trilogy*, and *The Trojan Women*, among others. Name the playwrights.

2 This play, a two-act tragedy, is set in 1940s New York and tells the story of a travelling salesman who is disappointed with his life. It won the 1949 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. What is the name of the play, and who wrote it?

3 *Hayavadana* is a play by Indian playwright Girish Karnad. In which language was it originally written? It is based on two different books. Name them.

4 *Doctor Faustus* is an Elizabethan tragedy by Christopher Marlowe. One of the characters in the play is one of the various figures in Roman folklore associated with the planet Venus. Subsequently, the name of the entity was absorbed into Christianity as a

name for the devil. Which is the character being referred to here?

5 These three Indian films have been adapted from William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *Othello*, and *Hamlet*. The director, who has directed all three films also has films like *The Blue Umbrella* and *Makdee* to his credit. Which are the three films?

6 This is known as the National Theatre of Ireland. It served as a nursery for many Irish playwrights, including William Butler Yeats, Lady Gregory and Seán O'Casey. Which is the theatre?

7 *West Side Story* is a play by Jerome Robbins. Inspired by William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, the story is set in the mid-1950s on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in New York City. In 2021, it was adapted into a film of the same name, directed by Steven Spielberg. What type of play is *West Side Story*?



8 This playwright was murdered while performing a street play in 1989. He was best known for his work with street theatre in India. Identify him and mention the play that was being performed when he was killed.

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

- Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:**
- The person who assassinated the Archduke and his wife. **Ans: Gavrilo Princep in Sarajevo**
 - The belligerent powers of WWI. **Ans: The Allied and Central Powers**
 - The weaponry first used by the British at the Battle of the Somme in September 1916. **Ans: Tanks**
 - The real name of Margaretha Geertruida MacLeod, a Dutch dancer shot by the French on charges of spying for Germany. **Ans: Mata Hari**
 - The reason why the U.S. joined WWI. **Ans: Germany's action of unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean**
 - The organisation that was created after WWI as a forum to resolve international disputes. **Ans: League of Nations**
 - The flower which has come to symbolise WWI. **Ans: The Poppy**
 - The location where the treaty that ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers was signed. **Ans: Palace of Versailles**
- Visual: The location of this main memorial to the Indian Army that fought on the Western Front. **Ans: Neuve Chapelle in France**

Early Birds: Upaakti Dahraan| Anand. K. Vijayan| Shubhajit Roy| Ashraf Basha

FROM PAGE ONE

BJP seeks floor test, CM makes fresh plea

The group is demanding that the Sena form the government with the BJP.

"You are stuck in Guwahati for the last few days. Many of you are in touch with us and you are still a shivsainik by heart," Mr. Thackeray said, adding that family members of many MLAs had conveyed their feelings to him.

"As a family head, I reiterate that still there's time. You will never get the honour that the Sena bestowed upon you. We can find a way out of it if you come face to face. I still care for you as the Sena family head," he said. Mr. Thackeray had made a similar appeal to the MLAs a day after they left Mumbai.

To counter Mr. Thackeray's statement that many of the MLAs were still in touch with the party, Mr. Shinde challenged him to name them. Throughout the day, the MLAs of the group released videos claiming that they were not in touch with any other leader and would follow Mr. Shinde.

The BJP, which still claims that it has nothing to do with the internal feud, has reportedly called all its MLAs and affiliated Independents to Mumbai on

Wednesday. Earlier, Mr. Fadnavis met with Mr. Shah and Mr. Nadda in New Delhi. According to sources in the BJP, Mr. Fadnavis, accompanied by lawyer and MP Mahesh Jethmalani and a couple of leaders first met with Mr. Shah and later called on Mr. Nadda. "Legal and political angles to the crisis in Maharashtra were discussed and the options before the party were gone over with a fine-tooth comb," said a senior leader who did not wish to be named.

The BJP has been claiming that it has the support of 169 MLAs and the majority in the Assembly after a large section of the Shiv Sena's Legislature Party led by Mr. Shinde revolted against the Uddhav government and left for Surat and later to Guwahati. The Supreme Court on Monday kept in abeyance the disqualification proceedings against 16 MLAs of the Shinde camp, pending before the Deputy Speaker.

"The BJP is very clear that no step will be taken unless and until all is clear with regard to the endgames of every scenario," said a senior leader.

(With inputs from Nistula Hebbar)

'Over 150 govt. orders issued by MVA govt.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Amid the political instability prevailing in Maharashtra, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Pravin Darekar has sought the intervention of Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari regarding the unusually large number of Government Resolutions (GR) and circulars issued by the Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

Mr. Darekar has alleged massive corruption in the manner in which over 150 GRs were issued by the ruling MVA alliance, particularly the NCP, amid the ongoing political crisis triggered by Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's intra-party rebellion, which has put a question mark on the government's existence. Mr. Koshiyari has accordingly asked the State's Chief Secretary to provide complete information on all GRs and circulars issued by the State government from June 22 to 24.

"The political situation in Maharashtra is extremely volatile. What did not happen in the last two-and-a-half years, they are trying to quickly push through at this stage," he said.

ED asks Raut to appear on July 1

The agency wants to question him over irregularities in Patra Chawl project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday again issued summons to Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut for July 1 after he failed to appear before the agency in a money laundering case of 2018.

The ED rejected Mr. Raut's exemption request and issued him the summons to record his statement. He said he will be in Alibag for meetings and will not be able to appear before the Central agency before July 7 in a case relating to the irregularities in the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl project at Goregaon.

The case dates back to March 2018 when an FIR was registered under provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Guruashish Construction Private Ltd. and Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) promoters Rakesh and Sarang Wadhwan on the basis of a complaint filed by an executive engineer of the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA).

They were charged under Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust by public ser-



In trouble: The ED has rejected the exemption request of Sanjay Raut and issued him summons. • PTI

vant, or banker or agent), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), and 120 B (punishment of criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

According to the ED, Guruashish Construction was entrusted with the development of the Patra Chawl project for rehabilitation of 672 tenants on 47 acres of land. During the relevant time, the Wadhwan brothers and Pravin Raut, a Maharashtra-based businessman, were the directors of Guruashish Construction.

Under the agreement, the developer was to provide flats to the tenants and also develop flats for the MHADA. Thereafter, the remaining area was to be sold by the developer. The Enforcement

Directorate contends the directors of Guruashish Construction misled the MHADA and managed to sell the floor space index to nine developers and collected approximately ₹901.79 crore without constructing the rehabilitation portion for 672 displaced tenants and the MHADA portion.

The company launched a project named "Meadows" and took the booking amount of around ₹138 crore from flat buyers. The total proceeds of the crime by the company through the illegal activities was approximately ₹1,039.79 crore. The money trail investigation conducted so far revealed that around ₹100 crore was transferred from HDIL to the account of Pravin Raut. This amount

was then diverted to various accounts of his close associates, family members, and his business entities.

It is also revealed that during 2010, a part of the proceeds of crime, amounting to ₹83 lakh, was received by Varsha Raut, wife of Sanjay Raut, directly or indirectly from Pravin Raut's wife. An amount of ₹55 lakh was utilised to purchase a flat at Dadar.

On April 5, the Enforcement Directorate attached immovable properties worth over ₹11 crore belonging to the Sena's MP. The assets include eight plots on the Kihim beach at Alibaug jointly held by Ms. Varsha, and Swapna, wife of Sujit Patkar, family friend of the Rauts. Also attached are a flat at Dadar that belongs to Ms. Varsha and some property at Palghar owned by Pravin Raut, currently in jail.

On June 27, the MP tweeted, "I just came to know that the ED has summoned me. Good! There are big political developments in Maharashtra. We, Balasaheb's Shivsainiks, are fighting a big battle. This is a conspiracy to stop me. Even if you behead me, I won't take the Guwahati route. Arrest me! Jai Hind!"

FIRs against Thackerays, Raut sought

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A PIL petition has been filed in the Bombay High Court on Tuesday seeking registration of an FIR against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Cabinet Minister Aaditya Thackeray and Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut. The plea sought a direction to restrain all the three from making any statements against the MLAs who are with rebel leader Eknath Shinde in Guwahati.

The plea filed by Pune resident Hemant Patil stated, "The Shiv Sena MLAs, who are rebelling, are camped in Assam because of the threats given by Thackeray senior and junior and Mr. Raut. Mr. Raut has issued a threat to all of the 40 MLAs stating that their bodies will come from Assam and will be sent directly to the morgue for postmortem. In this way, all of them are creating the situation of riot and violence in Maharashtra."

The plea urged the court to direct an FIR against all the three under sedition, despite it being temporarily suspended by the Supreme Court.

Shinde says he has support of 50 MLAs

"No MLA has been pressurised...everyone here is happy and has joined of his or her own volition. If they [Thackeray camp] claim that the MLAs present here are in contact with them, then they should reveal their names," Mr. Shinde added.

Mr. Samant, in a bid to refute accusations by the Mr. Uddhav's camp that the rebels were "traitors" to the party, stressed that the electorate should not be misled. He hit out at the Sena's ally in the ruling 'Maha Vikas Aghadi' government, the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), while accusing the latter of being responsible for the defeat of Sena candidate San-

jay Pawar in the Rajya Sabha elections held earlier this month. Sena MLA Suhas Kande said that if one had to take "Hindutva" forward, then Mr. Shinde's leadership was the only alternative, while another rebel MLA Shahaji Patil said that the Sena was being "decimated" by its current allies, the NCP and the Congress."

The Shinde camp, along with their spokesperson, Sindhudurg MLA Deepak Kesarkar, have especially singled out Sena MP Sanjay Raut for his harsh invective and for being the root cause of the Sena's "downfall". They have accused Mr. Raut of acting like the NCP's agent in keeping the BJP and the Shiv Sena apart.

Zubair's police custody extended by four days

They alleged that he had "edited a photograph to change the name of a hotel from Honeymoon Hotel to Hanuman Hotel".

Ms. Grover said the photograph in question was a still from the 1983 Hindi film *Kissi Se Na Kehna* and had not been tampered with in any way, proceeding to seek the court's permission to play the relevant clip, which the court declined.

The judge said in her order: "The submissions with respect to the photograph being a part of a movie are also of no assistance to the accused at this stage."

The court also dismissed the precedent cited by Mr. Zubair's counsel to contest the charge under Section 295A of the IPC, saying they "are also not of any assistance to the accused".

Ms. Grover had come around to arguing on the charge under Section 295A of the IPC, while she was arguing as to how the ingredients for the charge under Section 295 of the IPC were not made out. The police had initially registered the FIR under Sections 153A and 295 of the IPC. While challenging the latter charge, Ms. Grover pointed out that this section was for "injuring or defiling a place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class" and asked how the tweet in question satisfied any of these ingredients.

It was at this point that the prosecution said they had now dropped Section 295 of the FIR and had added Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, in-

tended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) instead.

In addition, the prosecution argued for continued custody of Mr. Zubair citing that he had allegedly "wiped his phone and brought a blank phone" to the interrogation.

"He has also threatened that the material from his laptop in Bengaluru would be deleted if something were to happen to him," the substitute APP said. The prosecution only repeated the allegations in the FIR multiple times, following which the substitute APP chose not to add his name in the order copy as is customary.

Mr. Zubair's counsel also argued that the charge under Section 153A of the IPC was not made out, citing precedent that said two communities must be involved for this section to be invoked. "Which two communities are here? Are the police saying that the tweet in question promoted enmity between Hanuman Bhakts and honeymooners?" she said. But dismissing the precedent cited for this argument as well, the court said that the citation involved Sections 153A and 505 of the IPC and the submissions in this regard "are of no assistance as present investigation is going on qua offences U/Sec.153A/295A IPC against accused".

On the arrest procedure, she said that Mr. Zubair was served notice under Section 41A of Cr.PC at the last minute.

Army shoots down two in Kupwara

Police arrest two from Rajouri for involvement in blasts in two towns this year

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The Army on Tuesday shot dead two persons suspected of facilitating arms supply to militants, near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of north Kashmir.

The Army said Majid Chechi and Samsudin Beigh had allegedly come to receive a cache of arms and narcotics to facilitate infiltration of terrorists in Rauta Nar.

A police spokesman said suspicious movement was observed close to the fence at the India Gate-Bichu pocket in the Keran sector at quarter past midnight. "On being challenged, fire was drawn on the patrol party of the Army from the fence side, which was retaliated. On search, two individuals were found dead near the fence and were in possession of four AK rifles, eight magazines and two packets of narcotics. Two more AK rifles, along with magazines and four grenades, were found on the other side of the fence," the police said.

The police said an investigation had started.

Three blasts

The Jammu and Kashmir police arrested two persons, exposing a network behind



Under operation: The police have recovered IEDs, remote controls and fuses from the duo. • NISSAR AHMAD

the growing incidents of militancy in the Pir Panjal Valley in Jammu division this year. Muhammad Shabir and Muhammad Sadiq from the Draaj locality of the Budhal area in Rajouri were involved in three blasts in Kotranka town and Shahpur in Rajouri in March and April. Earlier, the police had described these blasts as "mysterious".

"During the investigation, it has come to the fore that the three accused, Talib Shah, Shabir and Sadiq, were involved in these blasts. They were working on the directions of their Pakistan-based handlers and received weapons, ammunition, and explosives. Later, they used these improvised explosive devices to trigger

Panjal Valley, comprising the districts of Rajouri and Poonch, in the last three years."

"This group was also sheltering a few Kashmir-based active terrorists of the LeT in general area Kandi-Budhal and were making efforts to revive militancy in the Pir Panjal valley," the police said. The police have recovered five IEDs, five remote controls, and fuses from the arrested persons.

The Jammu division had zero instances of militant attacks, except for infiltrations, prior to August 5, 2019, when the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional position.

The Jammu division was rocked by several blasts this year, including the Udhampur market blast that left one person dead and 13 injured in March and the Katra blast on a bus carrying pilgrims in May, in which four pilgrims died. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had found traces of explosives at the Katra blast site.

Official sources said the incident could be the first major attack carried out by militants using a sticky or magnetic bomb in Jammu and Kashmir.



Rescue operation on in the Arabian Sea on Tuesday. • PTI

4 killed as chopper falls into sea off Mumbai

Helicopter crashed near Sagar Kiran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Four persons, three of them ONGC employees, were killed when a helicopter with nine persons on board crashed into the Arabian Sea, about 50 nautical miles from the Mumbai coast, on Tuesday.

The helicopter, which was part of the six Sikorsky S-76D helicopters that Pawan Hans recently leased from Milestone Aviation Group, was about five minutes from its destination — the ONGC's Sagar Kiran rig — when it went down, company officials said.

The helicopter crashed around 11.45 a.m., just 1

nautical mile from Sagar Kiran, but managed to stay afloat with the help of the attached floaters, helping rescuers pull out all the nine, including two pilots.

Four persons were unconscious and flown on a Navy chopper to a hospital in Mumbai, where they were declared dead. Three of the deceased are employees of the ONGC, which had hired the helicopter service from Pawan Hans. The fourth person belongs to a contractor.

Officials said the ONGC had already instituted an inquiry into the incident. The DGCA is also likely to order a separate inquiry.

'PSUs are vehicle of social empowerment'

Congress questions privatisation Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

If the Union government completely exits public sector banks after they are privatised, it will have "dangerous repercussions for the Indian economy", the Congress said on Tuesday. The principal Opposition party was reacting to reports that the Narendra Modi government could introduce a Bill in the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament to facilitate privatisation of public sector banks with an exit clause for the Central government.

There has, however, been no formal statement by the government in this regard.

"The Modi government's reckless privatisation and its plans to put India on sale now poses huge risks to the Indian economy and our people. The Modi government is now all set to completely exit public sector banks [that are] being privatised — an ill thought out strategy

with dangerous repercussions," Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete.

Ms. Shrinete said there was a reason why banks were nationalised in 1969 — public sector banks catered to the banking needs of those sections of society that are never a priority for any private institution.

"These [PSU banks] are not just financial institutions; these are vehicles of social empowerment," she said. Ms. Shrinete questioned the timing of the LIC IPO and said the BJP should now be re-designated as the 'Beche jao' (keep on selling) party.

She claimed that in the past two months, the government had been forced to put on hold its privatisation plans of four PSUs — Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Container Corporation of India, Central Electronics Limited, and Pawan Hans limited — because of poor valuation.

NHRC's advisory to Centre, States on truck drivers' rights

Provide accident cover of ₹15 lakh each for entire staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission on Tuesday said it had issued an advisory to the Centre, States and Union Territories to protect the rights of truck drivers. "The Commission has observed that despite making significant contribution to the economy of the nation, the rightful entitlements of the truck drivers do not get adequate attention, as the truck business remains fragmented and unorganised," the statement read.

The advisory, sent by the NHRC Secretary-General to the Secretaries of Ministries and departments and Chief Secretaries of States, covered four areas — protection from exploitation, provision of amenities, provision of socio-economic security and physical and mental well-being. Among the recommendations was an amendment to



For better life: The advisory sought restrooms and hotels at every 40 km on National and State highways. • PTI

the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, to make the purchase of personal accident cover of at least ₹15 lakh each for the driver, co-driver and helper of a commercial truck mandatory. It recommended that

drivers, co-drivers and helpers who are injured or incapacitated in road accidents should be given cashless medical treatment. The advisory said rest stops and lay-byes with parking areas, rest rooms, toilets, restaurants with reasonable rates,

mechanic shops and doctors' clinics should be constructed every 40 km on National Highways and at prominent locations along State highways.

"Launch a group insurance scheme providing for life as well as health cover for truck drivers on payment of a nominal subsidised subscription; Minimise physical interface between truck drivers and law enforcement agencies by providing online facilities..." it said.

Two cross-LoC traders held in Kashmir: NIA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The NIA on Tuesday said it had arrested two traders associated with the now-suspended cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade in Kashmir in a case related to terror funding.

A NIA spokesman said the two accused, Tanveer Ahmad Wani from Pulwama and Peer Arshad Iqbal alias Ashu from Baramulla, were arrested on Monday.

"The arrested suspects are cross-border LoC traders and were handling several cross-LoC trade firms registered in their names or in the names of their friends, family members and relatives. They used to provide funds to the members of various terrorist organisations, over-ground workers, stone-throwers," the spokesman said.

The cross-LoC trade was started in 2008 through two trade facilitation centres (TFCs) located in Baramulla and Chakan-da-Bagh in Poonch.

Two behead man for social media posts

Killers post video of murder inside a shop in Udaipur; victim had shared posts backing Nupur Sharma

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Two persons beheaded a 40-year-old man in broad daylight inside his tailoring shop in a market in Udaipur city of Rajasthan on Tuesday and posted the video of the murder on social media.

The victim, Kanhaiya Lal, had shared posts in support of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma, who had made offensive remarks against the Prophet in a television debate last month.

Tensions prevailed in Udaipur, where markets were ordered closed and mobile Internet services suspended to check the spread of rumours. Curfew was imposed in seven police station areas of the city late in the evening as a preventive measure.

The murderers filmed the incident and posted the video on social media. They later released another video, showing two daggers used for beheading, and took res-



Restoring calm: Police personnel deployed after the murder of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur on Tuesday. Investigation into the matter would be carried out under the case officer scheme. •PTI

responsibility for the crime and threatened Prime Minister Narendra Modi with "dire consequences". They were arrested from the neighbouring Rajsamand district late in the evening.

Lead-up to murder
Kanhaiya Lal, who was earlier booked in connection with his post and questioned

by the city police, had closed his shop in the Maldas Street area for a week and told the police that he feared for his life. He started coming to his shop only from Monday. Traders in the area kept his body outside the shop and demanded the immediate arrest of the killers.

Additional Director-General of Police (Law & Order)

Hawa Singh Ghumaria said a general alert had been issued across the State and additional police force rushed to Udaipur. He said preliminary investigation indicated that it was a "premeditated murder".

Udaipur Collector Tara Chand Meena reached the spot of the crime, and assured the protesters that fi-

ancial assistance would be given to the next of kin of the victim as per the State government's norms.

Two senior police officers were scheduled to arrive in the city late in the night to assess the situation.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot told presspersons in Jodhpur that the way the murder had been committed was "beyond imagination".

He promised strict action against the criminals involved, and appealed to the people to maintain peace and not share videos the accused had circulated.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi expressed his deep shock and said in a Twitter post that brutality in the name of religion could not be tolerated.

The Opposition BJP strongly criticised the Congress government. BJP State president Satish Poonia said the State government was following a "policy of appeasement".

Opposition parties throw their weight behind Zubair

They call out the government's 'hypocrisy' in arresting him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties reacted sharply to the arrest of Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair, calling out the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre for its hypocrisy since the arrest came on a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed the "2022 Resilient Democracies Statement" at the G7 summit, committing to "protect freedom of expression and opinion online and offline".

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said that Mr. Zubair had been arrested for exposing the BJP's hate, bigotry and lies. Mr. Gandhi tweeted: "Arresting one voice of truth will only give rise to a thousand more. The truth ALWAYS triumphs over tyranny." At a press conference on Tuesday, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said that while perpetrators of hate were receiving political patronage, those who reported such hate were being jailed.

Going a step further, All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi said that there was a threat to Mr. Zu-



Mohammed Zubair

bar's life since the Delhi Police was not following established procedures.

'Police's double stand'
Mr. Owaisi tweeted: "He's been arrested with no notice & in some unknown FIR. Total violation of due process. @DelhiPolice does nothing about anti-Muslim genocidal slogans but acts swiftly against 'crime' of reporting hate speech and countering misinformation."

Opposition leaders have also called for Mr. Zubair's immediate release.

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said that the arrest clearly showed the Modi government is "insecure and threatened by anyone who exposes its hate machine of

misinformation". Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D. Raja said that the arrest exposed the duplicity of the government that extends patronage to hate-mongers even if their comments caused global outrage. He added, "Young journalists like Mohammed Zubair, who are working to protect the scientific temper of the country, are behind bars. Condemnable!"

RJD slams Modi

The timing of the arrest, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Manoj K. Jha said, is ironic. "The great LEADER invokes #Emergency in the land of #ThirdReich & allows dissent in any form to be killed at home," he tweeted.

The Trinamool Congress issued an official statement condemning the arrest. In a strongly-worded tweet from the party's official handle, the TMC said, "It is much easier to cry foul when someone not from your own party is allegedly hurting religious sentiments. Arrest @NupurSharmaBJP, and show the Modi government that the same rules apply to all. The rule of law is not for you to tamper with @BJP4India!"

BJP slams protests against arrests

'Opposition parties backing Zubair, Setalvad point to a poisonous ecosystem'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday slammed Opposition parties for protesting against the arrest of activist Teesta Setalvad, and co-founder of the fact-checking portal Alt News, Mohammed Zubair, alleging that they were working as part of a "poisonous ecosystem" where one offender protects another if anyone is caught.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP's national headquarters in New Delhi, party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused Opposition parties of supporting and opposing judicial actions as per their convenience, and asked whether they had any faith in the judiciary or not.

He characterised the Gujarat Police's action against Ms. Setalvad following the



Unwavering support: CPI supporters protesting against the arrest of Teesta Setalvad, in Hyderabad on Tuesday. •AP

Supreme Court's strong denunciation of her and others for "keeping the pot boiling" and levelling false charges, including against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, over the 2002 riots in the State. "Teesta Setalvad was a small branch of fanning communal hate. Its headquarters was in the Congress and its president Sonia

Gandhi was the chief executive officer," he told a press conference.

'Chequered past'

To questions over Mr. Zubair's arrest and the Opposition leaders' protest against it, he said one cannot become a fact-checker only by proclaiming himself to be one. Mr. Zubair had a che-

quered past and had posted tweets that had hurt the religious feelings of a large section of Hindu society, Mr. Bhatia said.

Gauging objectivity

All major Opposition parties and media organisations condemned Mr. Zubair's arrest on Monday by the Delhi Police for allegedly hurting religious sentiments with one of his tweets. Criticising Mr. Zubair, Mr. Bhatia said that if somebody was fact-checking, then he could not be selective. If he posted content that suited some political party or a community, then he was not objective, Mr. Bhatia claimed.

"If protest against Zubair's arrest is linked with similar criticism of action against Setalvad, then it is clear that there is a poisonous ecosystem," he said.

Amnesty condemns scribe's arrest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amnesty International India on Tuesday said the arrest of Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of the fact-checking website ALT News, by the Delhi Police was a violation of the right to freedom of expression and an abuse of power by the authorities.

Amnesty India chair Aakar Patel said Mr. Zubair's arrest showed that the dangers facing human rights defenders had reached a crisis level. Harassment and arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders had become commonplace.

Journalist bodies call for Alt News co-founder's immediate release

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Condemning the arrest of Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of the fact-checking website Alt News, journalist bodies have demanded his immediate release.

The Editors Guild of India (EGI), in a statement, said his website Alt News had

done some exemplary work over the past few years in identifying fake news and countering disinformation campaigns. "In fact it was an exposure of toxic remarks of a ruling party spokesperson on a TV channel that allowed the party to make amends," it said.

The Press Club of India

(PCI) management said: "It is ironic that Mohammad Zubair's arrest came on a day when India joined G7 and four other countries to protect free speech 'online and offline'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the meet where the signatories also committed to 'protect freedom of thought,'" it said.

EC to continue hearing Soren case on July 14

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday held a hearing in the office-of-profit case against Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and decided to continue hearing the matter on July 14, according to the EC officials.

The commission heard the arguments of the BJP's lawyer and began hearing Mr. Soren's lawyer around 5 p.m., after which the hearing was adjourned.

The BJP and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das had alleged that Mr. Soren misused his office by allocating a stone quarrying lease on government land to himself while he was the Minister in charge of mines in 2021.

Motion against Agnipath in Punjab House

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday said that the State government will soon bring a resolution in the Assembly to oppose the Centre's Agnipath scheme for defence forces.

"Agnipath is a whimsical and irrational move of the NDA government which will destroy the basic fabric of the Indian Army," he said, while replying to the issue raised by the Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa during 'zero hour' in the Assembly during the ongoing session.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU
Neelakudi Campus, Thiruvavur - 610 005,
Dr. Ambedkar Centre Of Excellence (DACE)
Employment Notice No. DACE/01/2022
Central University of Tamil Nadu invites online applications for the contract faculty positions at Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence to coach the SC Students for civil services examinations conducted by the UPSC. The interested candidates may apply online on or before 07-07-2022. For more details visit www.cutn.ac.in/dace/
Registrar i/c.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU
Neelakudi Campus, Thiruvavur - 610 005,
Dr. Ambedkar Centre Of Excellence (DACE)
Admission Notification-2023
Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence constituted at Central University of Tamil Nadu is announcing the admission for (Prelims and Mains) Civil Services Examination coaching for the year 2023 for the Schedule Caste candidates. The interested candidates can apply online through the university portal www.cutn.ac.in/dace/. The Online application link is available on university portal. Last date for applying online is 07-07-2022.
Registrar i/c.

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान समूह, एचडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेलरु (जिला), आ.प्र./ श्रीहरिकोटा - 524124
संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE तिथि/Date: 27.06.2022
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से "आगतक परिसर संवर्धन के लिए विद्युत कार्य" (शारसीएससी/सी/सी/2287203/2022-23, अनुमानित लागत ₹216.92 लाख) निविदा दस्तावेज 13.07.2022 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं, और "एचडीएससी यूनिट के पास 11KV रिंग मेन यूनिट का एस आई टीसी" (सीटी-ई-22-011, अनुमानित लागत ₹13.81 लाख), "AKAM कार्यक्रम के भाग के रूप में आधिकारिक यंत्रों की रोशनी" (सीटी-ई-22-012, अनुमानित लागत ₹7.39 लाख), हेतु मर-दर ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 09.07.2022 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO देखें।
"On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Electrical works for Visitors Complex substation" (SHAR/CMD/E/C2287203/2022-23, Est. cost: ₹216.92 Lakhs), tender documents can be downloaded upto 13.07.2022, 14:30hrs and for "SITC of 11KV Ring main unit near SMPCC unit" (PT-E-22-011, Est. cost: ₹13.81 Lakhs), "Illumination of official buildings as part of AKAM program" (PT-E-22-012, Est. cost: ₹7.39 Lakhs), tender documents can be downloaded upto 09.07.2022, 14:30hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएसजी / एचडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, FAX No. 0471-2945647),
E-mail : edrugs@kmscl.kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/394/2022 Date : 28.06.2022
RE-TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of following categories of drugs / supplies for the year 2022-23.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/ED/I&II/RT/2022/007 dtd. 28.06.2022	Drugs	74
2.	KMSCL/ED/III-VIII/RT/2022/008 dtd. 28.06.2022	Consumables & Surgical items	32
3.	KMSCL/ED/SPL/RT/2022/009 dtd. 28.06.2022	Specialty Drugs	107

Schedule of dates

	Date	Time
Last date of online uploading of tenders	11.07.2022	Up to 05.00 pm.
Date of technical bid opening	15.07.2022	11.00 am. onwards

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNID)
(Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament No : 35/2012)
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
Sriperumbudur-602 105, Tamil Nadu
Applications are invited for the Post of Director
RGNID is a national training institute established in the year 1993 and given a status of Institute of National Importance by the Act of Parliament 35/2012 devoted to teaching, research, extension activities, policy development and co-ordination at National and International levels on matters of youth development and youth affairs. It is financed by the Government of India through the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It is located in a sprawling green campus of 42 acres, (on the National Highway NH4) an hour's drive from Chennai Airport.
RGNID is looking for a Director, preferably below 65 years of age at the time applying, who is the principal academic and executive head of the institution responsible for shaping the academic performance and proper administration of the Institute befitting its status of an "Institution of National Importance", a distinction conferred on it by the Act of Parliament. The candidate should have outstanding academic qualifications as essential and an eminent educationist / administrator / technologist, Proven experience in youth development or research on youth affairs will be considered a desirable qualification. The candidate, be a scholar of eminence with experience in educational administration as a Vice Chancellor, Director or Principal of an institute of higher education. The post carries UGC scale wherein the basic pay of Rs. 75,000/- (fixed) + Special Allowance of Rs.5,000/- per month (pre-revised) plus other allowances as applicable, other perks including accommodation, transport etc.
Application with supporting documents should be sent to "The Under Secretary (RGNID), Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Room No. 518, 5th Floor, C-Wing, Shastrī Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001 superscribing "Application for the post of Director, RGNID Sriperumbudur" together with two references (to whom reference may be made) so as to reach on or before 30.07.2022.
Shortlisted candidates will be called for consultations with the Search Committee constituted for the purpose. The committee may invite eligible candidates from outside the applicants as well. For more details about RGNID please visit www.rgnid.gov.in.
Sd/-
Assistant Registrar

Kempegowda INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BANGALURU
Name and Address of the entity seeking Expression of Interest (EOI):
BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
Bravo-1, Administration Block, Kempegowda International Airport, BANGALORE 560 300
www.bangaluruairport.com
NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S. No.	Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
1	SITC of BHS Software upgradation Works	SITC of BHS software upgradation Workfor Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Information: Available on BIAL website (<http://www.bangaluruairport.com/ourBusiness/tender.jspx>)
Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: 30th June 2022&17.00 Hours.
Note: Any Further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.
Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E-Mail:ganesan@bialairport.com and upload the relevant documents in the BIAL Tenders website (<https://www.bialtenders.com>) writing to Head - Procurement & Contracts

Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bikaner
F. (RAJUJVAS/Reg./R&P/ 2022/52 Dated: 23-6-2022
Recruitment Advertisement No. RAJUJVAS/02-2022
Online Applications are invited for recruitment of Assistant Professors, Assistant Librarian, Assistant Director Research and Assistant Director Extension in various constituent units of this University. For detailed information along with general terms and conditions, essential qualifications, online application form etc., please visit University website www.rajuvas.org. Facility for filling up of online application form shall start from 10:00 AM of 28-06-2022 and the last date and time for submission of online applications is up to 5:00 PM on 18-07-2022.
Registrar
Raj.Samwad/C/22/4088 RAJUJVAS, Bikaner

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
5, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAGER SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 005
TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
Roc.No.2355 / A & A / 2022 Dated: 28.06.2022
The Tender called for the supply of the Retrofitted petrol scooters and specially designed Retrofitted petrol scooters for the Spinal cord injured persons, for the financial year 2022-2023, which were issued on 6.5.2022 (Roc.No.2355/A & A / 2022 dated: 4.5.2022) and subsequently extended till 30.06.2022 has been cancelled due to administrative reasons.
Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled
DIPR/3081/Tender/2022
"செரகஸரை கட்டுத்து வத்திரம் அகல்தேதம், சாதகரை பரிந்து வத்திரம் பகல்தேதம்."

Kempegowda INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BANGALURU
Name and Address of the entity seeking Expression of Interest (EOI):
BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
Administration Block, Bravo-1, Kempegowda International Airport, BANGALORE 560 300
www.bangaluruairport.com
NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S. No.	Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
1	Biometric Enablement of Passenger Onboarding Journey at BIAL Terminal 2	The scope of work to be undertaken by the selected contractor in brief shall involve works such as development and implementation of biometric based digital processing system for passengers, known as 'Digi Yatra', at Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 (T2). System envisages a connected ecosystem enhancing the seamless travel experience for the passengers and simultaneously improving the security by enabling for existing Electronic Gates System eGates, Self-Bag Drop (SBD) system, Common Use Self-Service system (CUSS), Common Use Terminal Equipment (CUTE), including the integration with airport ICT systems which are in turn integrated with DigiYatra Central Ecosystem.

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Information: Available on BIAL website (<http://www.bangaluruairport.com/ourBusiness/tender.jspx>)
Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: 8th July 2022 &16.00 Hours IST.
Note: Any Further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.
Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E-Mail:sunil.s@bialairport.com and upload the relevant documents in the BIAL Tenders website (<https://www.bialtenders.com>) writing to Head - Procurement & Contracts.

19 killed in Mumbai building collapse

Civic body had been issuing notices from 2013, initially for repairs and then for demolition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Nineteen people were declared brought dead at hospitals after a four-storey building collapsed in the Kurla area of Mumbai around Monday midnight, civic officials said on Tuesday. Four have been admitted to hospitals and nine were discharged after treatment, officials said.

A wing of the building in the Naik Nagar Society collapsed, while another wing was evacuated as it too is dilapidated, officials of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said. Search-and-rescue operations are under way.

A woman who was trapped under the debris was rescued by a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Rescuers cheered when she was brought out alive.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the next of kin of the deceased. The medical expenses of the injured will be borne by the State government, the statement added.



Fatal fall: Rescue operations under way after a four-storey building collapsed at Naik Nagar in Mumbai late on Monday. ■ EMMANUAL YOGINI

The BMC had issued notices to the building repeatedly since 2013 under the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, initially for repairs and then for vacating and demolishing it, Additional Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide told the PTI.

According to senior BMC officials, residents of the

building, constructed in 1973, had undertaken to carry out repairs, but apparently no repairs were carried out.

"Even prosecution for non-compliance was initiated. Later, the residents got a structural audit redone and got the building categorised as repairable, but didn't carry out the repairs," Ms. Bhide, who visited the spot on Tuesday and reviewed the search-and-rescue operations, said. Despite the BMC's warnings and attempts to get the building vacated, people continued to live in it, she claimed. The residents had even given an undertaking that they would

continue to live there at their own risk and cost, Ms. Bhide said.

When a BMC fire brigade team first reached the spot, people informed the fire services personnel that 20 to 22 people were trapped under the debris. Around a dozen fire engines were deployed besides two rescue vans and other equipment, the official said.

Besides the fire brigade and two NDRF teams, BMC officials and police were also involved in the operation. NDRF teams rescued two pigeons alive from under the debris nearly 18 hours after the incident.

Maharashtra Environment and Tourism Minister Aadiya Thackeray also visited the spot.

Third incident

This is the third major building collapse this month. On June 23, a slab of a two-storey industrial structure collapsed in the Chembur area, killing a man and injuring 10 others. On June 9, a three-storey residential building collapsed in suburban Bandra, where a 55-year-old man was killed and 18 others suffered injuries.

Step up vigil to contain COVID surge, says Centre

States have been advised to monitor profile of patients

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday wrote to the States cautioning against symptomatic and unvaccinated individuals travelling and participating in upcoming festive gatherings and yatras. If adequate care is not taken, the country will see yet another COVID-19 surge after the current slump, it said.

Rather than random or anecdotal reporting, the government advised the States to monitor the epidemiological profile of admitted patients and report the clinical manifestation to the Health Ministry.

"This will help to identify at an early stage any out-of-the-ordinary or different clinical presentation of the patients," Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, asking the States to maintain a constant vigil in pockets showing surge during the past few weeks.

The States were also advised to scan for and report all influenza-like illness (ILI)

mRNA jab, Covovax for 7-11 age group get nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on Tuesday approved India's first indigenously developed mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 manufactured by Gennova Biopharmaceuticals for restricted

and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) cases from all district hospitals, major private hospitals and medical colleges across the districts, and keep a close watch on those geographies where these clusters are emerging.

Mr. Bhushan chaired a review meeting of the COVID situation in the country through a video conference, where 14 States that are reporting a large number of cases on a week-to-week basis, along with increased

emergency use for those aged 18 and above, official sources said here on Tuesday.

The DCGI has also approved Serum Institute's vaccine Covovax for restricted emergency use in children aged 7 to 11, subject to certain conditions.

case positivity, combined with low numbers of COVID tests and below average COVID vaccination, participated. At the meeting, the States were advised to focus on implementation of COVID-appropriate behaviour to control the spread of infection, especially in view of the upcoming festivals in many States.

The Health Ministry said the uptake in second and precaution doses in many States reporting the present surge was low.

Coast Guard squadron in Porbandar

The Porbandar-based squadron will have Advanced Light Helicopter-Mk-IIIs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Coast Guard on Tuesday commissioned the 835 Squadron (CG) of indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter-Mk-IIIs at the air enclave in Porbandar.

"So far, 13 ALH Mk-III helicopters have been inducted in a phased manner and four of these are positioned at Porbandar. Since the induction, the squadron has flown over 1,200 hours and conducted numerous operational missions, including the maiden night SAR mission off Diu coast," the Coast Guard said in a statement.

The ALH helicopters have been indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL). They feature state-of-the-art equipment, including ad-



The newly commissioned Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron at the ICG Air Enclave in Porbandar. ■ PTI

vanced radar and electro-optical sensors, the Shakti engine, a full glass cockpit, a high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, an automatic identification system and search and rescue (SAR) homer, the Coast Guard said.

"The features enable them to undertake maritime reconnaissance as well as carry out SAR at extended

ranges even while operating from ships during both day and night," the Coast Guard said.

The aircraft has the ability to switch roles from an offensive platform with heavy machine gun to that of a benign one carrying a medical intensive care unit to facilitate transfer of critically ill patients, it stated.

The 835 Sqn (CG) is com-

manded by Commandant Sunil Dutt.

Stealth frigate

In a separate development, the keel of the last of Project-17A stealth frigates for the Navy was laid at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL), Mumbai.

The keel for the seventh stealth frigate was ceremoniously laid by Rear Admiral G.K. Harish, Director-General, Naval Design (Surface Ship Group) at MDL. The ceremony was performed in the presence of senior officials of the Indian Navy and MDL. Keel Laying is a major milestone activity in the construction of ships, symbolising formal commencement of the erection process of warships on the building berth.

Delhi airport resumes trial of full-body security scanners

Airports have missed March 2022 deadline to deploy them

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport here has once again started trial of full-body scanners, after airports across the country missed the March 2022 deadline for deploying them.

Full-body scanners can detect non-metal objects, which are hard to detect with the conventional door-frame metal detector.

Delhi International Airport Ltd, which runs the airport, said on Tuesday that it had installed a full-body scanner at the security check area at terminal 2, and the trials would be conducted on a real-time basis – passengers would have to pass through it during security check before moving to the security hold area.

In April 2019, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) made it mandatory for 84 airports – 26 hypersensitive and 58 sensitive airports – to deploy body scanners within a year. This deadline was later extended to March 2022 in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak and because airports were reluctant to pay for a costly technology. The remaining airports in the country have time till December 2022 to implement the technology.



A file photo of the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

It is learnt that while airports have sought another extension, the BCAS has put its foot down. "We have already given airports two years. Our deadline was flouted on the ground that it was a costly technology, and then there was COVID-19. We have now told airports that they have to implement our directive," Joint Director General of BCAS Jaideep Prasad told *The Hindu*.

In 2016 and 2017, several rounds of trials were conducted at the Delhi airport for the BCAS, following which the aviation security regulator recommended millimetre-wave technologies instead of back-scatter and full transmission X-ray technologies. This was after consulting the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), which had expressed con-

cern about frequent exposure of passengers to X-ray radiation. This technology also addresses privacy concerns raised by passengers during trials, as it produces a silhouette or a mannequin-like image instead of a naked image.

There are several reasons airports have delayed buying body scanners. "The technical specifications required by the BCAS expect the scanners to detect any restricted article, but trials of German company Rohde and Schwarz, as well as L3 Harris Technologies (whose biometric security detection and automation portfolio has now been bought over by Leidos) have failed to meet these requirements," explained one airport official. The Delhi airport is using Leidos body scanners.

The person added that airports were also worried about the impact on passenger throughput, or passenger flow, and the unlikely impact of this costly technology (each scanner costs ₹4 crore-₹5 crore) in reducing deployment of manpower. "Passengers will be required to divest themselves of many items before passing through the body scanners, which will consume time," the official said.

Court to hear psychiatrists in Nirav case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

The High Court in London will hear evidence from two psychiatrists on their differing views over the level of suicide risk posed by fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi if he were to be extradited to India, a two-judge panel ruled on Tuesday at a continuation appeal hearing.

Lord Justice Jeremy Stuart-Smith and Justice Robert Jag said that three days, expected in October, will be set aside for a substantial hearing to address a change in the "evidential landscape" in the extradition case involving the 51-year-old diamond merchant.

He is wanted in India to face charges of fraud and money laundering amounting to an estimated \$2 billion in the Punjab National Bank loan scam case and had lodged an appeal last year against a lower court's extradition order on mental health grounds.

"If even a significant proportion of this evidence is admissible, the evidential landscape has changed substantially since the District Judge's decision," said Lord Justice Stuart-Smith.

The court noted a "difference of opinion" between two psychiatrists who gave their expert opinion.

Bail plea in Bhima Koregaon case rejected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Tuesday rejected the default bail plea of five accused in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case.

Special NIA judge Rajesh Kataria rejected the pleas of former Professor of Nagpur university Shoma Sen, advocate Surendra Gadling, acti-

vist Sudhir Dhawale, Rona Wilson and Mahesh Raut. All of them were arrested on June 6, 2018 from different locations.

The grounds for filing the bail petition was that the 90-day extension that was granted to the prosecuting agency for filing the chargesheet was illegal.

On January 1, 1818, a battle was fought between the Brit-

ish Army and the Peshwas and they were forcibly removed. To honour their gallantry, a monument was built called the 'Vijay Stambh'. On January 1, 1927, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar visited the site and started an annual tradition to celebrate the occasion. On December 31, 2017, a public meeting was organised called the 'Elgar Parishad' and the next

day a large number of Dalits and Bahujans gathered and were attacked by a mob which resulted in the death of a Maratha youth.

On January 2, 2018, Anita Sawale filed an FIR against Hindutva leaders Milind Ekbote and Sambhaji Bhide and subsequently 22 FIRs were registered in the case. Most of them are under investigation.

THE CROSSWORD + 13595

(set by WrldPlougher)

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

Across

8 Count's rank – Earl without a least bit of nobility (4)

9 For instance, mainly depicting one confused immature fool like Narcissus (10)

10 Made soft by strange desire to follow nurse (10)

11 Coloured in – an odd fashion tip (4)

12 Cable bearing message centrally placed in winding rows of letterboxes? (9)

Down

13 One sacrificing intelligence ultimately to celebrate ignorance? (5)

15 Liked to argue about Sartre's case (7)

17 Caught error, abruptly rejected desolate complainant's right (7)

20 Group of poor travellers returning in stealth (5)

22 Bristly plant natural around western tip of Chadian wasteland (9)

25 Final piece of music drama retracting epilogue (4)

26 Intrigues curious user, coming first (10)

27 Scaled reef, fighting fear (4,6)

28 View tweet (4)

1 Going upstairs as umpire makes mistake – short ball, no edges (8)

2 Sound (only OM) often echoing in ancient Turkish gated colony? (6)

3 Plant that's precious yet unwanted? (9)

4 Monk's hairstyle in fashion – really? (7)

5 Poor Andy regularly taking drug, out of work (5)

6 Disciplinarian ticks off student, hauled up again (8)

7 Third variable raises complications (3-3)

14 Mark irrelevant data entries initially in row of columns (9)

16 The explorer, perhaps overwhelmed by island, returning to darling (8)

18 Scolded harshly, felt concerned about temper (8)

19 Rave about Jeeves in the end, after tense Wooster finally gets to Aunt Dahlia's husband (7)

21 A jaunty-sounding piano? (6)

23 Banks starting to cope with recession cycles (6)

24 First name of this swimming pool game? (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

FAITH

Destiny prevails

Yudhishtira performs the Rajasuya yaga, but is worried because Narada had warned of threats to his kingdom. Yudhishtira then consults Vyasa, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. Vyasa says that Yudhishtira and his family will face dangers for thirteen years. Duryodhana's sin will result in the deaths of thousands of Kshatriyas. A mistake of Yudhishtira's would lead Duryodhana to do terrible things.

He says that Yudhishtira will have a dream, in which he will see Lord Siva proceeding towards the abode of Yama. When that dream occurs repeatedly, it is the indication that Yudhishtira's troubles are about to start. But Vyasa tells Yudhishtira that he should not worry, because worrying will change nothing.

Yudhishtira cannot digest the thought that he will cause many deaths. He tells his brothers that it is better if he dies. His brothers pacify him. He then says that for the next thirteen years, he will not utter even one harsh word to anyone. He will behave in such a way that no one will be unhappy with him. He will be impartial to all. And yet, despite all these resolutions of Yudhishtira, the Kurukshetra war does break out and results in the deaths of thousands of warriors.

Nothing can change Destiny. There is a Tukaram abhang, which describes how helpless we are. A twig falls into the water in a canal. Can the twig decide in which direction it wants to go? Even the water in the canal is helpless. It may be happy to be moving straight ahead, but at some point the canal may take a bend to the right, in which case the water has to flow towards the right.

Can a worker change a plan that a master architect has made? Likewise in life, we cannot change what is destined to happen.

Solution to puzzle 13594

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Sri Lanka halts fuel sales for two weeks

Bus services between provinces suspended, citizens urged to work from home, schools remain shut

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has suspended island-wide fuel sales, except for essential services, for nearly a fortnight, as the island faces a rapidly worsening economic crisis.

At a press conference on Monday night, Cabinet spokesperson and Transport Minister Bandula Gunawardana said private vehicles would be barred from buying fuel until July 10 after which the government has promised to ensure usual supply. Authorities halted bus services between provinces, and urged citizens to work from home in a bid to save fuel. Schools remain shut.

As fuel shortages intensified over the past couple of weeks, Sri Lanka's roads looked empty, with more vehicles seen parked in long queues outside petrol stations than on the streets. On



Fuel-starved: People waiting to buy LPG near the Galle International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. ■ AFP

Tuesday, the capital city was virtually shut down, even as the government hurriedly dispatched its Ministers to Russia and Qatar to seek urgent supplies.

Colombo turns to India
Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India Milin-

da Moragoda on Monday met Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi and discussed the possibility of "securing petrol and diesel supplies that are required by Sri Lanka at present on an urgent basis", the Sri Lankan mission in New Delhi said.

"Minister Puri responded

positively in this regard and assured the High Commissioner of all possible support to Sri Lanka at this critical juncture," it said in a statement. India has so far extended nearly \$4 billion assistance to Sri Lanka since January 2022, facilitating loan deferments, and by way of currency swaps and credit lines for essential imports. Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe recently told *The Hindu* in an interview that Colombo was hoping to receive another credit line worth \$500 million from India for fuel imports.

As Sri Lanka awaits emergency supplies from any willing bilateral partner, Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera on Tuesday said the Cabinet approved opening up the country's fuel import and retail sales market to companies from oil producing nations.

"They will be selected on the ability to Import Fuel and operate without Forex requirements from the CBSL [Central Bank of Sri Lanka] and Banks for the first few months of operations," he said in a tweet.

Economic meltdown
The acute fuel shortages have stalled production in the island nation, as farmers and fisherfolk have been severely affected without diesel and kerosene. The aggravating economic meltdown has already sparked fears of starvation and food insecurity.

Earlier this month, the UN put out an appeal for \$47 million, seeking "life-saving aid" to 1.7 million people. "Prices have jumped significantly since the end of 2021, forcing families to resort to skipping meals, eating less expensive foods, or limiting portion sizes," the UN had noted.

Russia offensive will end when Ukraine surrenders: Kremlin

Eight killed, 21 wounded in Russian strike on Lysychansk

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
REUTERS
MOSCOW/KREMENCHUK

The Kremlin said on Tuesday that Russia would halt its offensive as soon as Ukraine surrenders, urging Kyiv to order its troops to lay down their arms.

"The Ukrainian side can stop everything before the end of today," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"An order for the nationalist units to lay down their arms is necessary," he said, adding Kyiv had to fulfil a list of Moscow's demands.

On Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged world powers to do their utmost to help end Russia's intervention by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, firefighters and soldiers searched for survivors in the rubble of a shopping mall in central Ukraine on Tuesday after a Russian missile strike killed at least 16 people in an attack condemned by the United Nations and the West.

Family members of the missing lined up at a hotel across the street where rescue workers had set up a base after Monday's strike on the busy mall in Kremenchuk, southeast of Kyiv.

More than 1,000 people were inside when two Russian missiles slammed into the mall, President Zelensky said. At least 16 people were killed and 59 injured, Ukraine's emergency services said.

"This is not an accidental



Workers clearing the rubble at a mall in Kremenchuk on Tuesday, a day after it was hit by a Russian missile. ■ AFP

hit, this is a calculated Russian strike exactly onto this shopping centre," Mr. Zelensky said in an evening video address. He said the death count could rise.

More than 40 people had been reported missing, Ukraine's prosecutor general's office said.

A survivor receiving treatment at Kremenchuk's public hospital, Ludmyla Mykhailets, 43, said she was shopping with her husband when the blast threw her into the air.

"I flew head first and splinters hit my body. The whole place was collapsing," she said.

"It was hell," added her husband, Mykola, 45, blood seeping through a bandage wrapped around his head.

Russia has not commented on the strike but its deputy ambassador to the United Nations, Dmitry Polyanskiy, accused Ukraine of using the incident to gain sympathy ahead of a June 28-30 summit of the NATO alliance.

"One should wait for what

our Ministry of Defence will say, but there are too many striking discrepancies already," Polyanskiy wrote on Twitter.

The United Nations Security Council will meet Tuesday at Ukraine's request following the attack. UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said the missile strike was "deplorable".

"Russian President Putin and those responsible will be held to account," they wrote in a joint statement tweeted by the German government spokesperson.

Battle for Lysychansk

Elsewhere on the battlefield, Ukraine endured another difficult day following the loss of the of Sievierodonetsk after weeks of bombardment and street fighting.

Russian artillery pounded Lysychansk, Sievierodonetsk's twin city across the Siverskiy Donets River. A missile strike on Tuesday killed eight and wounded 21 others in Lysychansk.

'China's economy recovering but foundation not solid'

Beijing will strive to drive the economy back onto a normal track and bring down jobless rate, says Li

REUTERS
BEIJING

China's economy has recovered to some extent, but its foundation is not solid, state media on Tuesday quoted Premier Li Keqiang as saying.

China will strive to drive the economy back onto a normal track and bring down the jobless rate as soon as possible, Mr. Li was quoted as saying.

"Currently, the implemen-

tation of the policy package to stabilise the economy is accelerating and taking effect. The economy has recovered on the whole, but the foundation is not yet solid," Mr. Li was quoted as saying.

"The task of stabilising employment remains arduous."

China's economy showed signs of recovery in May after slumping the previous month as industrial production revived, but consump-

tion remained weak and underlined the challenge for policymakers amid the persistent drag from strict COVID-19 curbs.

China's nationwide survey-based jobless rate fell to 5.9% in May from 6.1% in April, still above the government's 2022 target of below 5.5%.

In particular, the surveyed jobless rate in 31 major cities picked up to 6.9%, the highest on record. Some econo-

mists expect employment to worsen before it gets better, with a record number of graduates entering the workforce in summer.

Mr. Li vowed to achieve reasonable economic growth in the second quarter, although some private-sector economists expect the economy to shrink in the April-June quarter from a year earlier, compared with the first quarter's 4.8% growth.



Li Keqiang

Turkey backs Sweden and Finland's NATO bid

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MADRID

Finland's President said on Tuesday that Turkey has agreed to lift its opposition to Sweden and Finland joining NATO, a breakthrough in an impasse clouding a leaders' summit in Madrid.

Sauli Niinistö said the three nations' leaders signed a joint agreement on

Tuesday. He said the memorandum "confirms that (Turkey) will at the Madrid Summit this week support the invitation of Finland and Sweden to NATO."

Ankara had earlier blocked the move, insisting the Nordic nations change their stance on Kurdish rebel groups that Turkey considers terrorists.

Scotland eyes independence vote in 2023

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
EDINBURGH

Scotland's government on Tuesday drew the battle lines for a legal and political tussle with London as it announced plans to hold a second independence referendum on October 19, 2023.

Addressing the Edinburgh Parliament, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon conceded that her devolved administration may lack the power to call

the vote without London's approval. To ensure legal clarity, it will seek an opinion from the U.K. Supreme Court before it asks voters: "Should Scotland be an independent country?"

Ms. Sturgeon said her government would press the case anew with "commitment, confidence and passion".

Six years ago, Scotland voted to stay in the U.K., and

current polls suggest Scots remain evenly divided on the question of independence.

U.K. government says the 2014 plebiscite settled the matter for a generation.

Mr. Johnson vowed to study Ms. Sturgeon's plan "very carefully, and we will respond properly". But he stressed that "I certainly think that we'll be able to have a stronger economy,

and a stronger country, together".

Ms. Sturgeon's Scottish National Party (SNP) says the U.K.'s exit from the EU has transformed the debate.

Most Scottish voters were opposed to Brexit, and the SNP-led government said that with a majority of MPs in the Edinburgh Parliament now in favour of independence, Scots should be consulted again.

49 inmates die in Colombia prison riot, fire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGOTA

At least 49 inmates were killed and dozens more injured early on Tuesday after a fire broke out during a prison riot in southwestern Colombia, the national prisons agency said.

The tragedy occurred when rioting inmates set a fire to try to prevent police entering their enclosure at the prison in the city of Tulua, said Tito Castellanos, director of the National Penitentiary and Prison Institute (INPEC).

There were 180 inmates in the prison section affected by fire.

Taliban grand council to assess progress

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Hundreds of religious leaders and "people of influence" from around Afghanistan have been summoned to the capital to attend a three-day grand council in support of the country's Taliban rule.

Officials are providing scant details of the men-only meeting starting on Wednesday, a week after an earthquake killed over 1,000 people and left tens of thousands homeless.

A Taliban source said thorny issues such as education of girls, which has divided opinion in the group, would be discussed.

Trump told officials to let armed supporters in: ex-aide

Cassidy Hutchinson testifies before House panel

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Cassidy Hutchinson, a key aide in Donald Trump's White House, told the House committee investigating the violent January 6, 2021, insurrection on Tuesday that Mr. Trump was informed that people rallying on the mall that morning had weapons but he told officials to "let my people in" and march to the Capitol.

Mr. Trump demanded to be taken to Capitol after 1/6 rally, tried to grab steering wheel from Secret Service agent, she said.

Ms. Hutchinson quoted Mr. Trump as directing his staff, in profane terms, to take away the magnetometers that he thought would slow down supporters who had gathered in Washington. In videotaped testimony played before the committee, she recalled the former President saying words to the effect of: "I don't care that they have weapons."

"They're not here to hurt me... Let my people in. They can march to the Capitol from here," Ms. Hutchinson testified.

Ms. Hutchinson, a top aide to Mr. Trump's chief of staff Mark Meadows, said that she was "scared, and nervous for what could happen" ahead of the riot after conversations with Mr. Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, Mr. Meadows and others.

Mr. Meadows told Ms. Hutchinson that "things might get real bad," she said. Mr. Giuliani told her it was going to be "a great day" and "we're going to the Capitol." She described Mr. Meadows as unconcerned as security officials told him that people at Mr. Trump's rally had weapons - including people wearing armour and carrying automatic weapons.

Ms. Hutchinson told the panel



Cassidy Hutchinson

that she was apprehensive ahead of time because she had heard plans for a rally and possible movements to the Capitol, where hundreds of Mr. Trump's supporters later violently pushed past police and broke through windows and doors, interrupting the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

"I had a deeper concern for what was happening with the planning aspects of it," Ms. Hutchinson told the panel.

The 25-year-old has already provided a trove of information to congressional investigators and has sat for four interviews behind closed doors. But the committee called the hearing this week to hear her public testimony.

Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the committee's chairman, said that in recent days, the panel had received information about what Mr. Trump and his aides were saying during critical hours of January 6 and that it was critical for the American people to hear that information immediately.

The committee's vice-chairwoman, Wyoming Representative Liz Cheney, said the hearing would shed light on Mr. Trump's conduct and action at the time.

भारतीय पैकेजिंग संस्थान
Indian Institute of Packaging

E-2, MIDC Area, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 093
Tel: 022-69192241 E-mail: ipadmin@iip-in.com Website: www.iip-in.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India invites sealed proposals / Expression of Interest (EOI) from various interested parties as Project Management Consultants to Construct World-Class Laboratory at IIP Mumbai.

The EOI proposals must be submitted in two bid systems (Technical and Commercial) separately along with company profile and clients' list. The detailed scope of work, terms & conditions, and Application form can be downloaded from IIP's website www.iip-in.com and also from Govt. portal (www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app). Last date for submission of EOI is 18th July 2022 up to 18.00 hrs. Sealed envelope marked to the captioned address, containing EOI and non-refundable fees of Rs.10,000/- by way of DD / Pay order in favor of 'Indian Institute of Packaging' payable at Mumbai may be submitted mentioning "EOI as Project Management Consultant to Construct World-Class Laboratory at IIP Mumbai".

Applicants meeting the qualification criteria may be invited for presentation/proposal before the selection committee of IIP. Bid Document will be subsequently issued to the shortlisted applicants only.

Assistant Director (General Administration)
Indian Institute of Packaging

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)

E-Tendering

Tender is invited by TCGL for Selection of Agency for Organizing Megh Malhar Parv- 2022 on Turn Key Basis at Saputara, Gujarat. Interested bidders/agencies may download the tender document from the website: www.nprocure.com from 29/06/2022 onwards. Tender document may also be referred on www.gujarattourism.com. Managing Director of TCGL reserve the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director,
TCGL

Telangana State Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation, Director of Health Campus, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad - 500 095, Telangana State

Tender Notice No.2/TSMSIDC/Medicines wing/2022-23, Dt. 27.06.2022

Tender is invited through e-procurement platform (online) for Procurement and supply of following under Rate contract: Medicines from Manufacturers, Importers and Loan Licensees.

Managing Director, TSMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason. For complete details, please visit Web site : <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 29.06.2022 onwards Sd/- Managing Director

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY, e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 1RE12/SE/PHCK/2022-2023, JJM -2022-23 - II nd Phase - Extension of pipelines and Providing FHTCs in Kanjirappally Panchayat. EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakhs only). Tender fee : Rs. 15,000+ (18% GST). Last Date for submitting Tender : 21-07-2022 03:00:pm

Phone : 04812 562745 Superintending Engineer
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in PH Circle
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in Kottayam

KWA-JB-GL-6-432-2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU / WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
VELLAR BASIN CIRCLE, CUDDALORE. Form of Contract / Lumpsum - Item Rate Contract
Tender Notice (Two Cover System) - Sl. No.1 to 3 (Single Cover System) - Sl. No.4 (Percentage System) - Sl. No.5

SHORT TERM - Tender Notice No. 02 / VBC, Cuddalore / 2022-23 / Dt.28.06.2022

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Vellar Basin Circle, Cuddalore-607001 invites tender in from eligible tenders for the work of: (1) Providing protection Wall in Coleroon North Rajan Channel Left Bank from LS 14985m to 16445m at Omampuliyur Village of Kattumannarkoil Taluk of Cuddalore District (Approximate value of Work: Rs.968.00 Lakhs including GST), (2) Construction of Flood Protection Wall in LS and RB of Middle Paravannar from LS 9.83Km to 7.50 Km in Shivvanagiri and Kurinjipadi Taluks of Cuddalore District (Approximate value of Work: Rs.1465.00 Lakhs including GST), (3) Rehabilitation of Willington Reservoir low level channel and its cross masonries in Tittakudi Taluk of Cuddalore District (Approximate value of Work: Rs.1160.00 Lakhs including GST), (4) Rehabilitation and Modernization of Kondangi Tank in Sandrapalayam Taluk of Cuddalore District (Approximate value of Work : Rs.128.00 Lakhs including GST) and (5) Rehabilitation and Improvements to the Pandalam Anicut in Pandalam Village in Sankarapuram Taluk of Kallakurichi District (Approximate value of Work: Rs.83.70 Lakhs including GST), and" at his office upto 3.00 P.M on 15.07.2022 in sealed covers. The tender will be opened at 3.30 P.M at his chamber on the same day.

Other informations such as details of Work, Value, EMD, Cost of tender schedule, Qualification Details etc., will be available in the Government website "www.tenders.tn.gov.in". Any Corrections or Modifications will be published on website only.

DIPR/3074/Tender/2022

TWAD BOARD-INVITATION FOR BIDS-TWO COVER-TENMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission Short term)
(Third call)

IFB No.	32/F. Retrofitting/Trichy/JJM/ISDO/CE-TN/J/2022/Dated/27.06.2022.
Fund	JJM Fund 2021-2022
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Integrated Office Complex, First Floor, No.243/2, Thanjavur-Trichy Main Road, Pillayarpaty, Thanjavur-613403
Sale of Bid	29.06.2022 to 11.07.2022 up to 17.45 hours (as per server time)
Available website	E-Tendering website www.tntenders.gov.in
EMD Payable at	Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Maintenance Division, Trichy
Pre Bid meeting	05.07.2022 at 11.00 hours at the office of the CE, TWAD Board, Thanjavur
Bid Submission	12.07.2022 up to 15.00 hours Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering portal www.tntenders.gov.in
Bid opening	13.07.2022 at 15.30 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee through E-Tendering Portal

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Value of work (Rs. in Core including GST)	Bid security (Rs. in lakh)
1	Retrofitting of CWSS to Thumbalam and 26 other habs. in Thattaiyengarpettai Union of Trichy District under JIM 2021-22 (Construction period : 9 months and Free Maintenance : 3 months)	Rs. 11.24	Rs. 8.50

DIPR/3087/TENDER/2022

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Superintending Engineer (H)
Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai - 15.

TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No: 03/2022-23/CMDP/DO/dated. 27.06.2022
(Online only)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage Tender under Two Cover System, through online only for Division - I work of 'Formation of Tambaram Eastern Bypass Road branching from Km 17/4 of Marmalag Bridge - Irumbuliyur Road from Rajakilpakkam (via) Agaramthen Road towards Perungalathur in Km 3/900 - 5/450 including the Construction of drain in the left out stretch at Km 5/450 - 7/000' will be received upto 02.08.2022, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai-15.

Detailed scope of work, approximate value, EMD, availability of tender document and all other details are available from 01.07.2022 onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in> If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc to the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H)
CMDP Circle,
Saidapet, Chennai-15.

DIPR/3061/Tender/2022

MARKET WATCH

	28-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,177	0.03
US Dollar	78.85	-0.61
Gold	50,770	-0.10
Brent oil	117.56	2.42

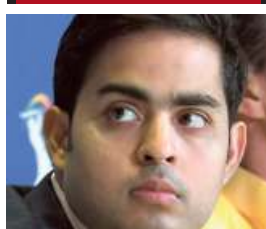
NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	678.05	-9.70
Apollo Hosp	3837.35	42.85
Asian Paints	2726.50	-9.45
Axis Bank	642.35	5.25
Bajaj Auto	3889.00	27.80
Bajaj Finserv	11364.45	-230.70
Bajaj Finance	5576.25	-64.95
Bharti Airtel	681.15	-2.80
BPCL	318.60	3.60
Britania Ind	3434.70	-24.40
Cipla	945.10	12.75
Coal India	186.40	4.35
Divis Lab	3613.45	-60.00
Dr Reddys Lab	4374.60	54.05
Eicher Motors	2863.80	15.50
Grasim Ind	1343.05	-6.25
HCL Tech	1001.95	9.60
HDFC	2180.85	-13.60
HDFC Bank	1345.90	-10.35
HDFC Life	565.95	7.95
Hero MotoCorp	2766.70	-11.20
Hindalco	343.55	12.60
Hind Unilever	2317.65	-3.00
ICICI Bank	710.30	-7.05
IndusInd Bank	816.60	-6.90
Infosys	1480.15	5.55
ITC	271.85	1.90
JSW Steel	578.40	6.75
Kotak Bank	1668.80	-22.75
L&T	1551.50	15.70
M&M	1112.00	29.30
Maruti Suzuki	8489.70	40.95
Nestle India Ltd.	17403.90	45.65
NTPC	138.60	0.10
ONGC	149.35	7.85
PowerGrid Corp	210.30	-1.25
Reliance Ind	2527.70	35.05
SBI Life	1078.05	-6.50
State Bank	464.25	3.05
Three Cement	19236.90	135.40
Sun Pharma	828.60	-7.05
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	736.85	7.45
Tata Motors	417.10	2.60
Tata Steel	878.90	11.05
TCS	3318.15	3.45
Tech Mahindra	1020.70	13.50
Titan	1968.05	-72.25
UltraTech Cement	5572.75	12.50
UPL	656.00	-1.10
Wipro	427.25	2.35

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	78.57	78.89
Euro	83.17	83.52
British Pound	96.21	96.60
Japanese Yen (100)	57.68	57.92
Chinese Yuan	11.74	11.79
Swiss Franc	82.26	82.63
Singapore Dollar	56.69	56.93
Canadian Dollar	61.26	61.51
Malaysian Ringgit	17.86	17.95
Australian Dollar	54.61	54.83

IN BRIEF



Akash Ambani named Reliance Jio chairman

MUMBAI
The board of directors of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. has approved the appointment of Akash M. Ambani, non-executive director, as chairman of the board. His father Mukesh D. Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd., had resigned as director effective June 27, the company said.

Sundaram Home Finance raises deposit rates

CHENNAI
Sundaram Home Finance (SHF) has revised upwards the interest rates on deposits with effect from July 1. This is the second such revision in a month, according to the company. Senior citizens and trusts would now get an interest of 7.50% per annum on four- and five-year deposits against 6.55% paid earlier, while individuals, other than senior citizens, would get 7% (6.05%), SHF said in a statement.

Indus Life forays into D2C wellness, beauty space

CHENNAI
Indus Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd., an exporter of pharmaceuticals and consumer products, has announced its foray into the direct-to-consumer (D2C) wellness and beauty space with the introduction of wellness brand 'The Co Being' for the Indian market. 'The Co Being' would have three sub-brands - Sigoori (general wellness), Minaya (intimate wellness) and Krinka (beauty), it said.

Tata Motors to increase CV prices from July 1

MUMBAI
Tata Motors has announced a price increase of 1.5-2.5% on its range of commercial vehicles (CVs) from July 1. "While the company takes extensive measures to absorb a significant portion of the increased input costs, at various levels of manufacturing, the steep rise in overall input costs makes it imperative to pass on a residual proportion via a minimised price hike," the company said.

Rate adjustments loom as GST Council meets first time in '22

States urge extension of compensation period, else moot rejig of revenue shares

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is learnt to have accepted an interim report on the rationalisation of tax rates submitted by a group of ministers (GoM) led by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S. Bommai on the first day of its two-day meeting on Tuesday.

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the proceedings of the Council, convened for the first time in 2022, and will announce the outcomes on Wednesday. Several key decisions are expected, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.



Hands tied: Given inflation concerns, a few exemptions may be dropped and just some rates tweaked. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

While the GoM was also tasked with considering the merger of the several different tax slabs, a larger overhaul has been put off in view of concerns about high inflation. For now, the panel has

mooted dropping exemptions on some items and tweaking rates for goods and services plagued by an inverted duty structure.

With the GST regime completing five years, marking

the sunset of the Centre's promise of assured revenue levels for States, some Opposition-ruled States urged an extension of the compensation period for another five years. Alternatively, they have mooted an increase in their share of GST revenue.

Chhattisgarh Commercial Tax Minister T.S. Singh Deo said this was particularly vital for manufacturing and mining States which were not large consumers.

"If the protective revenue provision is not continued, then the 50% formula for Central GST and State GST should be changed to SGST 80%-70% and CGST 20%-30%," he suggested.

Oil adds gains on doubts over producers' capacity

Saudi, UAE seen strained to lift output

REUTERS
MELBOURNE/SINGAPORE

Oil prices rallied for a third day on Tuesday as major producers Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates looked unlikely to be able to boost output significantly, while political unrest in Libya and Ecuador added to supply concerns.

Brent crude futures climbed \$1.9, or 1.7%, to \$116.99 a barrel by 0644 GMT, adding to a 1.7% rise in the previous session.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia have been seen as the only two countries in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with spare capacity available to make up for lost Russian supply and weak output from other members.



"Tight supply news bolstered the market," Commonwealth Bank commodities analyst Tobin Gorey said in a note. "Two major producers, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are said to be at, or very close to, near-term capacity limits," he added.

G7 leaders are discussing a potential price cap on Russian oil amid high inflation spurred by energy prices.

Rupee tanks on oil surge, FII outflows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The rupee plunged by 48 paise to close at record low of 78.85 against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by persistent foreign capital outflows and a surge in crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 78.53 against the greenback and finally settled at 78.85, down 48 paise from its previous close.

"We foresee the rupee-dollar exchange rate to remain weak in the near-term, where it can test 79.20 against the U.S. dollar," Sugandha Sachdeva, VP - commodity and currency research, Religare Broking said.

'Online skill gaming will not survive higher GST'

Tax revenue, not prize money: sector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Raising the goods and services tax (GST) on online skill games from the existing 18% to 28% could cause the 'demise' of the industry in the country, cautioned three online 'skill gaming' associations. The GST Council began a two-day meeting on Tuesday, with the panel said to be considering an increase in the tax rate on online games of skill.

In a joint statement on Tuesday, the E-Gaming Federation, All India Gaming Federation and Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) said they were also apprehensive about tax being levied on the total pool (prize money pooled plus the platform commission)



and not on the gross gaming revenue. Such a norm could lead to the 'demise' of the online skill gaming industry in the country, the associations observed.

Global studies have shown that taxing prize money instead of gaming revenue leads to "reduced tax collections for the exchequer and ends up giving a fillip to black-market operators", said Anwar Shirpurwala, CEO of FIFS.

'AI Express may add 4 Boeing 737s to help meet demand'

Dry lease said to be an option to lift capacity in near term

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Tata Group-owned international budget airline Air India Express may add four Boeing 737 planes to its fleet of 24 aircraft by this year-end to meet increased demand for international travel, airline sources privy to the information said.

Following the removal of various pandemic-related curbs, aviation had been picking up and demand had bounced back, they said, pointing out that dry leasing was an option to enhance capacity in the short-term.

Air India Express currently has 24 Boeing 737 planes. It lost one plane in the Kozhikodecrash in August 2020.



"Demand for international travel has bounced back after the removal of most pandemic-related restrictions on travel. Loads (passengers on aircraft) are good and all routes are doing well," a source told PTI.

"In the short-term, the airline might take four aircraft on dry lease to increase

capacity," the source said, adding that the new aircraft would be utilised to enhance frequency on certain routes.

A query sent to Air India Express did not elicit a response. Air India Express currently operates flights to 11 airports in India and 13 abroad with more than 100 daily flights.

According to another source, the airline had drawn up a business plan in 2018, in which it had envisioned becoming a 50-aircraft company by 2025. "But first, the government did not give us the go-ahead at that time saying that the airline was in its disinvestment plans and then COVID-19 happened," said the source.

'Buyer to deduct TDS on peer-to-peer VDA deals'

Provision will be applicable from July 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department on Tuesday said both buyer and seller will have to withhold taxes for transactions involving an exchange of one virtual asset for another.

Issuing a further set of clarifications, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) also said according to section 194S of the I-T Act, the buyer would have to deduct tax in a peer-to-peer transaction of virtual digital assets (VDA).

"Thus, in a peer-to-peer (ie buyer to the seller without going through an exchange) transaction, the buyer (ie person paying the consideration) is required to deduct tax under section

The buyer is required to deduct tax under section 194S of the Act," the CBDT said.

Virtual digital asset

With regard to liability to deduct tax at source under section 194S of the Act when the consideration is in kind or in exchange of VDA, the CBDT said in this situation, the person responsible for paying such consideration is required to ensure that the tax required to be deducted has been paid in respect of such consideration, before releasing the consideration.

The TDS provisions on VDA or cryptocurrencies will be effective from July 1.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

A Business Initiative

IREDA celebrates 8th International Day of Yoga

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), a PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), celebrated the 8th International Day of Yoga 2022 at its Registered Office at Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Under the supervision of a professional Yogacharya, employees of the company and their families performed yoga asanas. The Yoga Day event was live-streamed from New Delhi to across all offices of IREDA. Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (IREDA), addressed the audience and emphasised the importance of yoga in our daily lives. He also underlined the importance of incorporating yoga into daily routine in order to have a healthy and disciplined personal and professional life. Further, he emphasized that, the wellbeing of our employees is a foremost priority for us and practising Yoga and meditation on a regular basis by IREDANS reinforces our belief in Wellbeing and Welfare. Along with Business, The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, introduced the concept of International Yoga Day on September 27, 2014, during his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, he highlighted that IREDA is perhaps the only PSU, where daily meditation is a part of official activities for all employees.

Ministry of Heavy Industries organises 8th International Yoga Day celebrations at Puri

As part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, the 8th International Day of Yoga 2022 was celebrated enthusiastically with Mass Yoga Demonstration based on Common Yoga Protocol. The event was organised by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. During the event, Hon'ble Prime Minister's address to the nation was live-streamed, from Mysuru Palace, Karnataka, to a large number of participants. To commemorate the International Day of Yoga 2022, country-wide celebrations were organised at 75 iconic places under the theme of 'Yoga for Humanity'. Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Hon'ble Union Minister of Heavy Industries presided over the Yoga Day celebrations. Secretary (Heavy Industry) was also present on the occasion. CMD, BHEL and Directors on the board of BHEL also participated in the event, along with other senior officials of MHI & BHEL, local administration and a large number of people and school children. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Pandey recalled the address of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the UN General Assembly on September 27, 2014, wherein he had mentioned that 'Yoga is our ancient, traditional and invaluable gift. Yoga is the embodiment of the unity of mind and body, thought and action, restraint and achievement, and harmony between man and nature. It is a holistic approach to health and wellness. Yoga is not a mere exercise but a means of establishing identification with oneself and with the world and nature. It can also be helpful in fighting climate change by changing our lifestyle and creating awareness among us.'

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The vision of adarniya Pradhan Mantri Shri Narendra Modiji is to enable the coastal areas development, improve coastal infrastructure and protect & promote marine economy. All these steps are aimed at transformation of the blue economy and realisation of the rationale behind 'transformation through transportation'. To make an Atmanirbhar Bharat, it is imperative that utmost care is taken to optimally utilise the huge opportunity of the Indian marine economy. Our role - as a ministry of ports, shipping & waterways - is to empower and enable conduits through which this economic transformation can be achieved. Through this Chintan Baithak, the best minds of India have come together so that all of us can deliberate, discuss & decide various challenges & opportunities. This will go a long way in preparing the roadmap for smooth & swift implementation of our plan to develop & modernise our ports. We must look at the PPP model for this that will also ease up government resources for Greenfield port development. This will comprehensively develop the coastal regions of India for ease of living for people living in these areas and, at the same time, helps businesses avail best services through ease." The Union Minister also admired the Karnataka State government and expressed gratitude towards the Chief Minister of Karnataka for extending their cooperation in organizing this 'Chintan Baithak'. He further lauded the sincere efforts of Cochin Shipyard Ltd. in promoting the spirit of Hon'ble PM's initiative of Atmanirbhar Bharat through development of indigenous and green technology vessels.

ANOTHER JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY- NEW DEPARTMENT ON MUSEOLOGY ESTABLISHED
Banaras Hindu University has joined the club of select educational institutions in India to have an independent and full-fledged Department of Museology. So far, Museology was being run as a section under the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology in the Faculty of

Arts. The university has notified the creation of the Department of Museology following the approval of the Visitor, Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind and subsequent amendment in the BHU Statutes. With this the number of departments under the Faculty of Arts, also known as the mother faculty, has gone up to 22. The creation of a new department on Museology assumes significance in wake of increasing demand of professionals, academicians and experts in this area which is considered to be an inter-disciplinary professional program. India has over 1000 museums with several new museums coming up too. This underlines the need of more able professionals in the area of Museology. The new department in BHU is poised to play an important role in this regard. Banaras Hindu University currently offers postgraduate, doctoral and postdoctoral programs in the discipline of Museology. The university had initially started a Post Graduate Diploma Course in Museology in the year 1968 under Bharat Kala Bhawan. It was then upgraded to M.A. in the Museology program in 1979. The Museology section was made part of the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology in 2006. There are a total 15 seats in the Postgraduate program including two paid seats. Prof. Usha Rani Tiwari, Professor in Museology, Banaras Hindu University, who has been teaching for the past 20 years, said the discipline offers a number of professional opportunities such as Museum Director, Conservator, and Assistant Professor among many others. She said that the setting up of the new department of Museology will further add to the growth and glory of Banaras Hindu University.

Chintan Baithak of Shipping Ministry dwells on Innovative Ideas to propel India's Blue Economy

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) started a three-day Chintan Baithak to discuss and deliberate ideas & innovations that can propel India's blue economy. The Baithak was chaired by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (PSW) and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal. The Union Minister of State for PSW, Shripad Naik and the Union Minister of State for PSW, Shantanu Thakur; top officials of the ministry including Chairpersons of all major ports, senior officials of MoPSW attended the meeting to take part in the deliberations in this three-day brainstorming session.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The vision of adarniya Pradhan Mantri Shri Narendra Modiji is to enable the coastal areas development, improve coastal infrastructure and protect & promote marine economy. All these steps are aimed at transformation of the blue economy and realisation of the rationale behind 'transformation through transportation'. To make an Atmanirbhar Bharat, it is imperative that utmost care is taken to optimally utilise the huge opportunity of the Indian marine economy. Our role - as a ministry of ports, shipping & waterways - is to empower and enable conduits through which this economic transformation can be achieved. Through this Chintan Baithak, the best minds of India have come together so that all of us can deliberate, discuss & decide various challenges & opportunities. This will go a long way in preparing the roadmap for smooth & swift implementation of our plan to develop & modernise our ports. We must look at the PPP model for this that will also ease up government resources for Greenfield port development. This will comprehensively develop the coastal regions of India for ease of living for people living in these areas and, at the same time, helps businesses avail best services through ease." The Union Minister also admired the Karnataka State government and expressed gratitude towards the Chief Minister of Karnataka for extending their cooperation in organizing this 'Chintan Baithak'. He further lauded the sincere efforts of Cochin Shipyard Ltd. in promoting the spirit of Hon'ble PM's initiative of Atmanirbhar Bharat through development of indigenous and green technology vessels.

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

Under the dynamic leadership of Sh. Bhagwant Mann chief minister Punjab and able guidance of Shri Harbhajan Singh power minister, Punjab state transmission corporation limited has recently concluded few projects, initiated for new plans and achieved new milestones. CMD PSTCL Shri A. Venu Prasad informed that due to robust transmission network of PSTCL, Punjab becomes able to meet with the power demand of 15000 MW during the ongoing paddy season. While sharing the achievements of PSTCL in the recent months, Shri A. Venu Prasad said that in the recent past power system operating corporation limited has enhanced the ATC/TTC (available transfer capability/total transfer capability) limits from 7100/7700 MW to 8500/9000 MW of PSTCL. He said that with the hike in transmission capacity of PSTCL is strengthening power system of Punjab to provide regular 8 hours power to around 14 lacs tube well consumers during ongoing paddy season even without imposing any restrictions on industries. He said that Punjab state load dispatch centre (SLDC), is a unique separate accounting unit of PSTCL, which ensures integrated operation of the power system of Punjab with the northern region load dispatch centre of India.

CMD POWERGRID awarded as Best CEO (Power)

Shri K. Sreekanth, CMD, POWERGRID has been conferred Business Today-PwC India's Best CEO (Power) award. The award was presented by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles at an event held in Delhi. The awardees were chosen by a study done jointly by Business Today and PwC India, using a robust methodology that assesses the top 500 most valuable companies in the country by market capitalisation for growth in revenues, profits, EBITDA and total shareholder returns.

Successful organization of yoga camp in BLW with gaiety on International Yoga Day

Under the guidance of Anjali Goyal, General Manager of Banaras Locomotive Works, under the aegis of Personnel Department, on 21st June, on the occasion of International Day of Yoga, the successful organization of Yoga program was held with great enthusiasm at BLW. It is noteworthy that United Nations Organization (UNO) has declared 21st June as International Yoga Day, under which Yoga program is organized from 6:00 am to 7:40 am mainly in New Block Shop, Technical Training Centre and Inter College in BLW, in which General Manager Anjali Goyal, Principal Heads of Departments, all the officers and employees performed yoga at the workplace under supervision of Yoga Guru Narendra Verma while watching the live broadcast of Yoga along with speech and oath of the Honourable Prime Minister and the Railway Minister on the virtual platform. In the same, instructors, trainers and trainees in the Technical Training Center, students and teachers in BLW Inter College and Railway Protection Force personnel's including Principal Chief Security Commissioner Shri Ranveer Singh Chouhan practice yoga at RPF barracks. On this occasion, the family members of the employees took advantage of the opportunity and practiced yoga in their respective homes, along with this, various organizations of BLW like Bharat Scout Guide, Civil Defence Organization, including St. John's Ambulance Brigade actively participated and practiced yoga. In the Banaras Locomotive Works, there was an atmosphere full of enthusiasm all around. Today more than 2000 officers and employees practiced yoga with great enthusiasm at various places. In the end, the vote of thanks was given by Principal Chief Personnel Officer Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh and the program was successfully conducted by Shri. Amlesh Srivastava.



M. Murali

He also said the prices of mid-market housing are set to rise by 10-15% due to increase in demand and input costs and dip in supply. The current price of mid-market housing is ₹5,000 per sq. ft. SPL was also planning to increase prices by 8-10% in a phased manner from July.

SPL, which ranks among top 10 players, also hopes to touch ₹2,000 crore in topline against ₹1,600 crore registered last year.

Towards end '60s, he participated in the construction boom in West Asia

He held 18.4% in Tata holding company

Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry (93), the former chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji Group passed away 'peacefully' on Tuesday at his home in south Mumbai, his family said in a statement.

He is survived by wife Patsy, daughters Laila Rustom Jehangir, Aloo Noel Tata, sons Shapoor Mistry and Cyrus Mistry and their respective families. An Irish citizen, he mostly stayed in India and always remained low profile.

Called the 'Phantom of Bombay House' (the headquarters of Tata Group), Mistry held 18.4% stake in Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group making him 'the single largest shareholder.'

His younger son Cyrus

was chairman of the Tata Group for a few years till 2016.

Mr. Mistry was born on June 1, 1929, and had his schooling and college education in Bombay before joining his family business, Shapoorji Pallonji & Company Ltd., in the year 1947 at the age of 18.

He took over the reins of the company in 1975, when his father passed away.

Towards the end of the 1960s, Mistry ventured abroad and participated in the construction boom in West Asia, which was being fuelled by petrodollars.

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2016.

ICL completes Springway acquisition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The India Cements Ltd. on Monday completed the acquisition of Springway Mining Pvt. Ltd. (SMPL), making the firm ICL's wholly owned subsidiary.

"We wish to inform you that our company has completed acquisition of the entire paid-up equity and preference share capital of SMPL, and SMPL has become a wholly owned subsidiary of our company with effect from June 27," India Cements said in a filing. The entire equity and preference shares of SMPL were acquired at a total consideration of ₹182.89 crore. The acquisition was completed on Monday.

ICL had announced the acquisition of SMPL during October 2018.

Shriram Properties eyes zero debt in 2 years: MD

Current net debt stands at ₹350 crore

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Shriram Properties Ltd. (SPL) aims to be a zero-debt company in 18 to 24 months, following an uptick in demand for mid-market housing segment, said CMD M. Murali.

"Currently, we have a net debt of ₹350 crore," Mr. Murali said in an interview.

"About 21 projects are under construction. They will be completed and sold in 12-15 months, while we expect to clear the debts in 18-24 months," he added.

According to him, the company has 45 ongoing

Hosting Chess Olympiad a matter of pride for Tamil Nadu: Stalin

Former India footballer Arumainayagam and athlete Barath Sridhar honoured by the Chief Minister and Malini Parthasarathy at *Sportstar's* South Conclave

SPORTS CONCLAVE

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, speaking at *Sportstar's* South Sports Conclave on Tuesday, said that hosting the Chess Olympiad in Chennai (July 28 to August 10), the world's biggest chess event, was a proud moment for the State.

"Hosting the 44th Chess Olympiad is a matter of pride for the State of Tamil Nadu. More than 200 countries and 1000 players will participate for the first time in Chennai. Because of the war in Ukraine, FIDE decided to drop Russia, which was going to host it. A lot of countries worked hard to host the tournament. With AICF, we decided to bring it to India. Our



government was able to make quick decisions and did all the necessary work expeditiously and we got it [hosting rights].
"To host this event, the State government has set aside ₹92.13 crores. This conclave comes at the right time.

The *Hindu* Group has chosen the right time to host this," Stalin said during his keynote address.
Former India footballer Isaiah Arumainayagam and athlete Barath Sridhar won the HeroMotoCorp Unsung Champion and Emerging He-



Rewarding excellence: Isaiah Arumainayagam being honoured by M.K. Stalin and Dr. Malini Parthasarathy as Viswanathan Anand and L.V. Navaneeth look on. ■ M. VEDHAN

ro honours respectively at the *Sportstar* South Sports Conclave.

The duo was honoured by Stalin and Dr. Malini Parthasarathy, chairperson, THG Publishing Pvt. Ltd. Chess legend Viswanathan Anand and *The Hindu* CEO L.V. Na-

vaneeth were in attendance. "As *Sportstar* seeks to entertain and enthral our audiences with sharp and live narrating of major games and sports as they unfold, we also see it as our mission to raise consciousness in our country of the need to become a major sporting nation."
"We want to reach out to youth, to participate in the national endeavour to build skills in grass-root sports and to identify new talent that will be an asset to our country."
"Our Chief Minister has shown a lot of zeal and commitment to this important cause, and he has made clear that he will do his bit to make Tamil Nadu a State that will be a reservoir of sporting talent and raise the bar for sports here. Right from the

beginning of his tenure, Thiru Stalin has underlined the importance of honouring the role of sports as a team-building and morale-boosting aspect of our society," Dr. Parthasarathy said.
Meanwhile, the TN CM also expressed his love for cricket.
"I am a big fan of cricket and played while I was Mayor. I never miss out on watching a game. Dr. Kalaignar [M. Karunanidhi] would always watch cricket amidst his busy schedule," he said.
Sponsors
The conclave was held in association with Hero We Care, a Hero Motocorp CSR Initiative, KJ Somaiya Institute of Management, JK Tyre, FIT-JEE Global School, Indian Oil, Nippon Paint and Casagrand and Radio City.

McGrath hails Warne as the 'ultimate competitor'

Former India coach Arun recalls how Shami wanted to quit cricket but turned things around

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Australian fast bowling great Glenn McGrath described former teammate and late leg-spinner Shane Warne as the "ultimate competitor."
"It has been a pretty tough year. We got through two years of COVID-19, and then I lost three really close friends... Rod Marsh, Warnie and Symonds. It has been tough," McGrath said during a panel discussion on *Role of High-Performance Centres in Achieving Excellence in Sports* at *Sportstar's* South Sports Conclave here.

The session was moderated by *The Hindu's* Sports Editor K.C. Vijaya Kumar.
"Warnie was one of the most amazing guys I've ever met. He was a normal bloke like the rest of us, but lived an extraordinary life. Off the field, he got himself into a little bit of trouble. But on the field, he was the ultimate



On the ball: McGrath and Arun, seen with Vijaya Kumar who anchored the panel discussion, answered questions with aplomb on a variety of subjects. ■ M. VEDHAN

competitor. He loved the challenge that you got from bowling to the best batters."
McGrath recalled Sachin Tendulkar's controversial "shoulder before wicket" dismissal at the Adelaide Oval in December 1999.
"Trying to remember that one (chuckles)," McGrath

said. "I have had a few chats with Sachin about this one. It was an attempted bouncer that didn't bounce, and he went to duck under it. Sachin is not very tall. So, when he ducked it hit him on the shoulder. But from where I was looking, I could see that stumps and I thought that

was out. Sachin still thinks it was going over the stumps by a good foot."
Former India bowling coach Bharat Arun revealed how Mohammed Shami emerged as one of India's top fast bowlers.
After a stellar series in South Africa in 2018, Shami

failed a fitness test and was left out of the one-off Test against Afghanistan and the A-tour of England.
"I remember an incident when Shami was going through personal problems. We were about to go on the A-tour of England. Shami had failed a fitness test.
"He walked up to Ravi (Shastri) and me, saying he was very angry with life and wanted to give up the sport," Arun said.
"We sat him down and told him that anger was the best thing that can happen to a fast bowler. We told him that if he channelises his anger and uses it to get fitter, he could do wonders.
"We sent him to the NCA where he trained exceptionally hard. I remember him calling me in England and saying 'now I am as strong as a horse, and I am ready to take on the world'. The rest is history."

'At any price, I wanted M.S. Dhoni'

Srinivasan reveals how Super Kings signed the mega star

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings, a franchise owned by N. Srinivasan's India Cements, set the ball rolling by giving a \$1.5 million start to the inaugural IPL auction in Bengaluru in 2008. Speaking at *Sportstar's* South Sports Conclave, Srinivasan revealed how CSK signed Dhoni.
"At the IPL auction, I missed the first two picks. I had asked V.B. Chandrasekhar - former Test cricketer from Tamil Nadu - to hold the baton. At any price, I wanted M.S. Dhoni. The reason I felt very confident was because I felt the others did not know arithmetic.
"They had said that they will give 10% [15%] more to the icon player, because they all wanted an icon. Punjab wanted Yuvraj Singh, Delhi wanted Virender Sehwag, Bangalore Rahul Dravid, Mumbai Sachin Tendul-



Masterstroke: Dhoni landed in Chennai only because of the arithmetic, says N. Srinivasan. ■ M. VEDHAN

kar. They asked me, I said no. My father taught me some arithmetic. I figured that if 1.5 million out of five went to the icon players - then what are you left with to get the rest of the 22?"
Dhoni's bidding started from the base price of \$400,000 and by the time the bids crossed the \$900,000 mark, only Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings were in the fray.

"Suddenly, Mumbai was bidding up to 1.5 million for Dhoni. Then they realised that they have to give the icon player 10% [15%] more than what they give the most expensive player.
"They said 3.5 million, everything gone, and they collapsed. And that is how M.S. Dhoni came to Chennai. It was 100% arithmetic. No other reason why we got him [Dhoni]," he said.

Mithali bats for promotion of team sports in schools

Anju recounts the hurdles she had to overcome; Alisha, Anjali also part of discussion moderated by Sudha Shah

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Mithali Raj, former captain of India women's ODI and Test teams, said on Tuesday that schools need to promote team sports if they want to encourage more girls to take up cricket as a hobby.
"Over a period of time, the schools probably stopped encouraging girls or maybe they felt having a team sport is very difficult when it comes to girls and that is why I have been hearing the panellists talking about tennis

or badminton or individuals sports," Mithali, who joined virtually, said during a panel discussion titled 'Encouraging Girls To Play in Sports & Communities' at *Sportstar's* South Sports Conclave in Chennai.
"They feel it is better to invest in individual sport... and that is why a lot of girls move to individual sports. But to have a school team, you will need a specific number of players.
"So it comes down to schools to encourage to form

the team and encourage the girls so that if any girl represents India in the U-19 World Cup, the school will have the honour of having an international player.
Changing scenario
"That said, in the last few years, we have seen an increase in the ratio of girls taking up the sport. Not only in the school level, but a lot of them come up [taking it up as a profession]. It's no more a hobby. And with the central contracts and the Wo-

men's IPL scheduled next year, clearly, a lot of things are happening at a bigger level in women's cricket."
Anju Bobby George, the only Indian to have won a medal in the World Championships with a long jump bronze in the 2003 edition, spoke about the hurdles she had to overcome as a young female athlete.
"When my mother decided to send me to athletics, some of my relatives were pointing out things like I'll get dark, the shortness of my

clothes, and how all this might affect my family life and so on.
"But slowly, when my photo started coming on paper, they also started accepting," she said.
Recollecting an interesting anecdote, Anju added: "Back in my time, the European athletes used to wear two pieces, but I was not ready to wear that. That was a mind-block for me also.
"I was a Nike athlete and it used to send me two pieces and I decided to wear that in

the Grand Prix (which was outside India) and there I won a medal.
"The next day, a huge photo of mine was printed in the front page of newspapers. And my first thought was 'Oh my god! What do I do now?'"
Alisha Abdullah, Indian motorsports racing driver, and Dr. Anjali Chopra, MBA Sports Management, KJ Somaiya Institute of Management, were also part of the panel discussion moderated by former India cricketer Sudha Shah.



Women power: Sudha Shah, centre, moderated a session with Mithali, Alisha (both via video conferencing), Anjali and Anju in attendance. ■ B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Hooda's maiden ton highlights India's victory

Samson scores 77; Men in Blue narrowly survive Ireland's spirited chase

INDIA IN IRELAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBLIN

India beat Ireland by four runs in the second and final T20I to clinch the two-match series 2-0 here on Tuesday.
Opting to bat, India posted a huge 225 for seven with Deepak Hooda top scoring with 104, while Sanju Samson contributing 77.
The Indians then restricted Ireland to 221 for five to win the match. Captain Andy Balbirnie top scored for Ireland with 60 while opener Paul Stirling made 40. Harry Tector and George Dockrell

chipped in with 39 and 34 not out respectively.
For India, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Ravi Bishnoi and Umrah Malik took a wicket apiece.
India had won the first match by seven wickets.
India's tour of NZ
India will tour New Zealand for a white-ball series comprising three T20Is and as many ODIs after the World T20 in Australia, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Tuesday. The series will be held from Nov. 18-30 and New Zealand will visit India for a white-ball series in January 2023..



In full flow: Hooda smashed a 57-ball 104. ■ AFP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Sanju Samson b Adair 77 (42b, 9x4, 4x6); Ishan Kishan c Tucker b Adair 3 (5b); Deepak Hooda c McBrine b Little 104 (57b, 9x4, 6x6); Suryakumar Yadav c Tucker b Little 15 (5b, 2x4, 1x6); Hardik Pandya (not out) 13 (9b, 2x4); Dinesh Karthik c Tucker b Young 0 (7b); Axar Patel c Dockrell b Young 0 (1b); Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (b-4, w-6,

nb-2); 12; Total (for seven wks. in 20 overs): 225.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Kishan, 2.1 overs), 2-189 (Samson, 16.2), 3-206 (Suryakumar, 17.3), 4-212 (Hooda, 17.6), 5-217 (Karthik, 18.5), 6-217 (Axar, 18.6), 7-224 (Harshal, 19.5).
IRELAND BOWLING
Adair 4-0-42-3, Little 4-0-38-2, Young 4-0-35-2, Delany 4-0-43-0, Olphert 3-0-47-0, McBrine 1-0-16-0.

IRELAND
Paul Stirling b Bishnoi 40 (18b, 5x4, 3x6); Andy Balbirnie c Bishnoi b Harshal 60 (37b, 3x4, 7x6); Gareth Delany run out 0 (4b); Harry Tector c Hooda b Bhuvneshwar 39 (28b, 5x4); Lorcan Tucker c sub (Chahal) b Uman 5 (9b); George Dockrell (not out) 34 (16b, 3x4, 3x6); Mark Adair (not out) 23 (12b, 3x4, 1x6); Extras (b-1, lb-7, w-8, nb-4); 20; Total (for five wks. in 20 overs): 221.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-72 (Stirling, 5.4), 2-73 (Delany, 6.3), 3-117 (Balbirnie, 10.3), 4-142 (Tucker, 13.4), 5-189 (Tector, 17.1).
INDIA BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-46-1, Hardik 2-0-18-0, Harshal 4-0-54-1, Bishnoi 4-0-41-1, Uman 4-0-42-1, Axar 2-0-12-0.
Toss: India.
Man-of-the-Match: Hooda.
India won by four runs to clinch series 2-0.

Nadal survives scare; Swiatek extends winning run

Spaniard loses a set before beating Cerundolo; Berrettini tests positive, pulls out

WIMBLEDON

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Rafael Nadal overcame a scare in his Wimbledon opener on Tuesday, fighting back from dropping the third set and falling a break down in the fourth to eventually see off Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo.
Second seed Nadal, playing on grass for the first time since his 2019 Wimbledon

semifinal loss to Roger Federer, won 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 over 41st-ranked Cerundolo, who was making his All England Club debut.
But the 36-year-old Spaniard, who has already captured the Australian and French Opens this year to stand halfway to the first men's calendar Slam since 1969, did it the hard way.
After coasting through the first two sets on Centre Court, he surrendered an early break in the third set

and then had to claw his way back from 3-1 and 4-2 down in the fourth.
"Three years without being here on this amazing surface, it is amazing to be back," said Nadal. "We don't play very often on grass, especially in my case. In the last three years I didn't put a foot on the grass."
Title contender Matteo Berrettini was forced to pull out after testing positive for

Covid-19 even as top seed Iga Swiatek extended her winning streak to 36 matches.
Berrettini was widely regarded as one of the biggest threats to defending champion Novak Djokovic, having captured back-to-back grass-court titles in Stuttgart and Queen's.
Women's World No. 1 Swiatek entered the second round with a 6-0, 6-3 win over qualifier Jana Fett.



Smooth start: Swiatek dropped just three games in her match against Fett. ■ AFP

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round: Men: 1-Nadal (Esp) bt Cerundolo (Arg) 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; Johnson (USA) bt 18-Dimitrov (Bul) 4-6, 5-2, ret.d.; Kyrgios (Aus) bt Jubb (GBR) 3-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-7(3), 7-5.
Murray (GBR) bt Duckworth (Aus) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; Lajovic (Srb) bt 16-Carreno-Busta (Esp) 3-6, 6-4, ret.d.; 12-Schwartzman (Arg) bt Kozlov (USA) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.
Women: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Fett (Cro) 6-0, 6-3; Cornet (Fra) bt 27-Putinseva (Kaz) 6-3, 7-6(5); Tomljanovic (Aus) bt 18-Teichmann (Sui) 6-2, 6-3; 4-Badosa (Esp) bt Chirico (USA) 6-2, 6-1; 11-Gauff (USA) bt Ruse (Rom) 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.
5-Sakkari (Gre) bt Hives (Aus) 6-1, 6-4; 12-Ostapenko (Lat) bt

Dodin (Fra) 6-4, 6-4; Wang (Chn) bt 14-Bencic (Sui) 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.
Bouzkova (Cze) bt 7-Collins (USA) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4; 15-Kerber (Ger) bt Mladenovic (Fra) 6-0, 7-5; 25-Kvitova (Cze) bt Paolini (Ita) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; 16-Halep (Rou) bt Muchova (Cze) 6-3, 6-2.
Fallen seeds
■ Men: 7-Hurkacz, 16-Carreno-Busta, 18-Dimitrov
■ Women: 7-Collins, 14-Bencic, 18-Teichmann, 22-Trevisan, 23-Maia, 27-Putinseva, 31-Kanepi

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Australia: 1st Test, day 1, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 10 a.m.
The Championships 2022: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards

IN BRIEF

Yuki advances

MALAGA (SPAIN)
Qualifier Yuki Bhambhani bt Andrey Kuznetsov 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in the first round of the €45,730 Challenger tennis tournament in Malaga, Spain, on Tuesday.
Other results: \$15,000 ITF, South Bend, USA: Doubles: Final: Siddhant Banthia and James Kent Trotter (Jpn) bt Felix Corwin and Noah Schachter (USA) 6-2, 7-6(3).
\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: First round: Jennifer Luikham bt Astrid Cirotte (Fra) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2.

West Indies sweeps series

GROS-ISLET (ST. LUCIA)
West Indies completed a 10-wicket victory over Bangladesh on the fourth day of the second and final Test here on Monday.
The scores: Bangladesh 234 & 186 in 45 overs (Najmul Hossain 42, Nurul Hasan 60 n.o.; Kumar Roach 3/54, Alzarri Joseph 3/57, Jayden Seales 3/21) lost to West Indies 408 & 13/0 in 2.5 overs.
Player-of-the-Match: Kyle Mayers; West Indies won by 10 wickets and two-match series 2-0. AFP

Varinder passes away



Varinder.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Olympic and World Cup medalist Varinder Singh, who was an integral part of some of India's memorable victories in the 1970s, died in Jalandhar on Tuesday morning. He was 75.

Varinder Singh was part of the gold-winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur. He was also part of teams that won bronze at the 1972 Munich Olympics and silver at the 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam.

Also among his collection is silver from the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games. The Indian hockey stalwart also featured in the 1975 Montreal Olympics.

In 2007, Varinder was conferred the prestigious Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.

Anand calls for more women players

Chess found a way to beat COVID-19 with online games, says the five-time world champion

CONCLAVE

SPORTS BUREAU CHENNAI

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand on Tuesday hoped for more women's chess players to break through the ranks in the country.

Anand was in conversation with R.B. Ramesh at *Sportstar's* first-ever South Sports Conclave here. "It is very easy to feel very optimistic about India's youngsters on the boys' side but not on the girls' side," Anand said during a panel discussion titled "Chess and Chennai".

"Women like Dronavalli Harika, Koneru Humpy, Bhakti Kulkarni and Tanya Sachdeva are still doing well even though they have been around for a while.

"The new ones aren't really breaking through. I hope this Olympiad will spark so-



Masters of the game: Anand, in conversation with Ramesh, feels the new women players aren't really breaking through and hopes the Olympiad will provide the spark. ■ M. VEDHAN

mething off.

"Globally we need more women taking part in the game. It is a global problem. The India-specific thing is that Humpy and Harika are still very dominant. I wish them well, but it would be

good if they had more competition from youngsters."

Olympiad held online

In 2020, when COVID-19 brought sporting activities to a halt, chess found a way to beat the dreaded virus. On-

line games featuring players of all standards, from beginners to GMs, were being played across time zones. In late August 2020, India was crowned the joint winner, along with Russia, at the online Chess Olympiad. This

was the first time the prestigious event was held virtually.

Anand weighed in on the ease of playing chess online. "As long as you use it for learning purposes where you train specific skills it is very healthy. But when you get into an addiction, you want to play one more game because you want to swindle in one time.

"You are not trying to improve any more but just trying to score and that is unhealthy. It has to be done more consciously."

The 44th Chess Olympiad will be held in Chennai from July 28 to August 10. The Olympiad, which was moved out of Russia after it invaded Ukraine, was awarded to Chennai recently, making it the second major global event of the sport to be held in India after the 2013 World Championship between Anand and Magnus Carlsen.

Affordability restricting the sport: Narain



Needed stimulus: Jayasimha, Santosh, Narain and Armaan, seen with moderator Dipak Ragav, hope for relaxation in restrictions to help the sport grow. ■ B. VELANKANNI RAJ

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER CHENNAI

India's first-ever FI driver Narain Karthikeyan, in a panel discussion on motor-sports at *Sportstar's* South Sports Conclave, said affordability was the biggest factor hurting the sport's growth prospects.

"There was an uplift in interest when we had an Indian driver, the Force India F1 team and the Indian GP. After that it has been stagnant... I think affordability is the biggest factor restricting the sport," said Narain.

Giving an insight into the expensive nature of motor-sports, Narain said, "The basic import duty structure is nearly 60% of the cost by the time the kart comes to India."

Narain also wanted the federation to be more proactive in lobbying with the ministry and government.

Reflecting on the chal-

lenges as an administrator, Balakrishna Jayasimha, Executive - Sporting, FMSCI, felt some of the broad-based decisions from the government hurt the sport.

He cited the examples of import restrictions on tyres or the demand for ISI certification of crash helmets – already the best in the world in terms of safety and quality – as those that had a negative impact.

"We want the government to consult with stakeholders like us when they make decisions."

Armaan Ebrahim, a former F2 racer and co-founder of the X1 Racing League, said that creating the right platform from karting to single-seater racing is crucial to produce racers who can compete at the global level.

C.S. Santosh, the first Indian to compete at the Dakar Rally, said that age restriction to start on small bikes has to be lowered if Indians have to compete with the best in the world.

Morgan ends an illustrious career

CRICKET

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON

Eoin Morgan confirmed his retirement from international cricket and stepped down as England's white-ball captain after more than

seven years on Tuesday.

After England's dismal failure at the 2015 Cricket World Cup, Morgan spearheaded the team's white-ball transformation to a bold, attacking approach and unprecedented heights.

He led England's to its first global 50-over title at the 2019 World Cup, and the No. 1 ranking in One-Day Internationals and Twenty20s. It enjoyed series victories against every major team and 60% success on his watch.



Morgan's career in numbers

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100s/50s
Tests	16	24	700	130	30.43	54.77	2/3
ODIs	248	230	7701	148	39.29	91.16	14/47
T20Is	115	107	2458	91	28.58	136.17	0/14

India hopes to go one better

It's all about taking it one match at a time: captain Savita

WORLD CUP

UTHRA GANESAN NEW DELHI

The Indian women's hockey team finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics and its performance since then has been followed by increased expectations at the World Cup starting in three days' time.

Captain Savita Punia knows the burden too well but is confident of her teammates enough to dismiss any talk of pressure.

The team lost to eventual silver medalist Ireland in shootouts in 2018 and Savita hopes to go one better this time around.

Fine margins

"A World Cup or Olympics is a special event and every team is there to win. It's all about fine margins and Ireland did finish second in 2018 so it wasn't like we lost to a weak team.

"But there were definitely things we could have done better in the shootout back then and we have worked on those things since then," Savita told *The Hindu* during the team's pre-departure interaction from Bengaluru.

"What we have learnt as a



Savita. ■ FILE PHOTO

"The younger players are all so honest and dedicated. I am proud to be a part of this team

Deepika Thakur in defence will be a big hole, but Savita isn't willing to let it affect the youngsters on the field.

"Both these players have been integral to the team for many years, but to be honest, we did have pressure on us in the Pro League as well because we were participating in it for the first time and we wanted to let people know that the Indian team was as good as any and wasn't there only to make up the numbers.

Role for everyone

"Their presence would have obviously been a great help, but every player in this team has a role and not performing is not an option.

"The younger players are all so honest and dedicated, I am proud to be a part of this team," she insisted.

India will open its campaign in Pool B against England on July 3 with New Zealand and China the other teams.

Key absences
The absence of talismanic Rani Rampal upfront and

Prannoy moves up

MALAYSIA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KUALA LUMPUR

H.S. Prannoy and the doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty moved into the second round of the Malaysia Open Super 750 badminton tournament, here on Tuesday. But, B. Sai Praneeth, Sameer Verma and the Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy pair could not cross

the first hurdle.

The results: Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Daren Liew (Mas) 21-14, 17-21, 21-18; B. Sai Praneeth lost to Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Ina) 15-21, 21-19, 9-21; Sameer Verma lost to Jonatan Christie (Ina) 14-21, 21-13, 7-21.

Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Man Wei Chong & Kai Wun Tee (Mas) 21-18, 21-11.

Women: Doubles: Ashwini Ponnappa & N. Sikki Reddy lost to Nami Matsuyama & Chiharu Shida (Jpn) 15-21, 11-21.

Sowjanya gets past Ayumi Morita

TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

Former National champion Sowjanya Bavisetti got off to a strong start and past Ayumi Morita of Japan to reach the pre-quarterfinals of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis at the Tennis Project in Baliwas on Tuesday.

The results: Singles (first round): Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Ayumi Morita (Jpn) 6-1, 2-1 (retired); Viktoria Morvayova (Svk) bt Yubarani Banerjee 6-0, 6-3.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Kashish Bhatia

& Anjali Rathi 6-3, 6-2; Abhaya Vemuri & Apurva Vemuri bt Nandini Dixit & Himaanshika Singh 6-7(3), 7-6(5), [10-5]; Priska Madelyn Nugroho (Ina) & Anika Raina bt Humera Baharmus & Sahaja Yamalappalli 6-3, 6-2; Punnim Kovapitukted & Luksika Kumkhum (Tha) bt Anusha Kondaveeti & Prathiba Narayan 6-2, 6-2; Ikumi Yamazaki (Jpn) & Ishwari Matere bt Ritu Ohlyan & Ayushi Singh 6-0, 6-2; Ekaterina Yashina (Rus) & Zeel Desai bt Suhitha Maruri & Sanjana Sirmalla 6-3, 6-3; Vaidehi Chaudhari & Mihika Yadav bt Arhti Muniani & Shreya Tatavarthi 6-3, 1-6, [10-4]; Momoko Kobori & Misaki Matsuda (Jpn) bt Yubarani Banerjee & Akanksha Nitture 6-2, 7-6(4).

DELHI ROUND-UP

Telefunken lifts title

Deepak Khatri top-scored with 64 and Arsh Kabir made 57 as Telefunken Club defeated N.K. Khanna Club (NKKC) by four wickets to lift the DDCA Hot Weather title.

The scores: NKKC 193 in 39 overs (Ankit Pratap Singh 51, Yogesh Nagar 3/38) lost to Telefunken 195/6 in 33.2 overs (Deepak Khatri 64, Arsh Kabir 57, Shiva Singh 3/34).

32 overs (Pratham Singh 46, Abhinav Sharma 36, Sarthak Narang 3/30); LRAC 309/5 in 50 overs (Mohd. Kaif 129, Suraj Prasad 38, Mohd. Adnan 4/55) bt NSCC 125 in 31 overs (Atishay Jain 41, Anant Singh 5/15, Aman Bharti 3/30); Golden Eagle 128 in 38 overs (Subhash 35, Saransh Jain 35) bt Delhi Gymkhana 89 in 35 overs (Vivek Tiwari 3/19).

Easy for Ryan CA

Man-of-the-match Daksh Drall took three for six and Dhruv Chaudhary made 78 as Ryan Cricket Academy put it across Avtar Cricket Academy by nine wickets in the fourth Vijay Saini memorial tournament.

The scores: Avtar 146 in 30 overs (Daksh Drall 3/6, Gyan Daivik 3/27) lost to Ryan 151/1 in 18.5 overs (Dhruv Chaudhary 78, Chaitanya 48).

Rudraksh and Yuvraj shine

Rudraksh made an unbeaten 91 as Vidya Jain Academy (VJA) defeated Sports Academy by seven wickets in the Surinder Singh memorial tournament.

The scores: Sports Academy 207/8 in 40 overs (Aditya Chouhan 74, Ayush Prashar 3/40) lost to VJA 211/3 in 25 overs (Rudraksh 91 n.o., Yuvraj Singh 53).

All-round show by Kartikey

Kartikey Rana top-scored with 88 and took two wickets as Manthan Cricket Academy beat AB Rising Academy (ABRA) by 81 runs in the Ratan Lal Saini tournament.

The scores: Manthan CA 198 in 33 overs (Kartikey Rana 88, Jatin 3/36) bt ABRA 117 in 30 overs (Aayush Sharma 4/18).

Dabas ousted from camp

STAN RAYAN KOCHI

The AFI has removed quartermiler Ayush Dabas from the National coaching camp as he was found in possession of syringes and needles in his room at the quartermilers and relay

runners camp in Thiruvananthapuram early this month.

"We have a no-needle policy (to fight doping) and AFI is the first federation to adopt this policy. There were surprise checks and all rooms were checked by

Sports Authority of India and AFI-designated coaches," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

"The checking was done on June 8 and he was asked to leave the camp on June 9."

The captaincy question is asked more often in cricket than many others

Skippers are most effective when their place in the side is assured and have the support of both players and officials



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

One of the questions cricket hasn't been able to answer conclusively concerns the captaincy of a team. Does it require a set of special skills denied to the average player or can anyone with experience and common sense lead a side?

The Mike Brearley Syndrome haunts the game. Here was a great captain who probably might not have found a place in the England team on batting alone, yet led in 31 Tests, winning 18 of them and losing just four.

When England were struggling, he

returned as captain and authored one of the most remarkable comebacks in a series, against Australia in 1981, inspiring his predecessor Ian Botham to new heights.

Only Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting have far superior win percentages (Virat Kohli's is marginally better), but they had the consistently superior teams.

As good as the team

One of the cliches of the game, to stand alongside the one about glorious uncertainties and the effect of catches on matches, states that a captain is only as good as his team.

But a great captain can raise the performance of a middling team rather in the manner of a top driver overcoming the challenges of a mediocre car in Formula One.

The captaincy question asks itself afresh when you realise that in a little over a year, India have had seven cap-

tains across formats: Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Ajinkya Rahane, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, and the latest, Hardik Pandya, with Jasprit Bumrah waiting in the wings.

Injuries, birth of a child, Covid-19 protocols have led to this. Perhaps it is not such a bad thing to be able to call upon a range of captains – especially since overlapping tours are likely to become the norm if white ball cricket is granted a divorce from the red ball game in bilateral series.

When the Dhawan-led team were in Sri Lanka, Kohli-led India were in England for the series there. Of the two teams in the British isles just now, one was under Pandya in Ireland and the other in England. On the last tour of Australia, India showed they could easily field two or three international teams simultaneously.

While white ball captains can quickly emerge as contenders for the Indian

captaincy – Pandya's elevation was based on a single season of the IPL – Test captains need their time. Theoretically, of course, with 38 teams in the Ranji Trophy, there are that many potential India captains.

But not all of the 38 find a place in the team on batting or bowling skills. And although India have picked a player for his captaincy alone – the Nawab of Pataudi against the West Indies in 1974-75, after he was finished as a batsman – that is not the norm.

Support staff impact

The Brearleys and Pataudis are exceptions, and less likely to lead now since teams travel with a huge set of coaches and technical men who crunch numbers all day, and work out weaknesses of the opposition. The captain's role has diminished, but he will still rise or sink by the calls he makes on the field.

The support staff, unavailable to the

likes of Brearley and Pataudi, does make a difference as the appointment of Brendon McCullum has made to the England team.

Yet, it is still the captain who makes the final call on the field, and with a positive, aggressive captain like Ben Stokes and the talent to back up his attitude with either bat or ball,

England have shown how important the man leading is. Joe Root may be a great batsman, but England might not have won all the Tests against New Zealand in the recent series had he remained in charge.

This is an intriguing aspect of cricket, a game where most things are measurable. No one has worked out how to compute captaincy. Cricket ratings are popular, but captaincy ratings do not exist.

We look for intuition, tactical acumen, ability to get the best out of the players – none of which can be quantified. As often in cricket, the simple cal-

culations don't tell the full story.

Best do not always lead

The best captains do not always lead the national side. From M.L. Jaisimha and Erapalli Prasanna to Anshuman Gaekwad and Arun Lal,

India have had effective captains at the First Class level who never led the country either because the incumbent was well established or they themselves couldn't hold down a place in the national side.

When a fine tactician like Srinivas Venkatraghavan led, he was always under pressure not knowing if he had the support of his colleagues and having to look over his shoulder all the time.

Captains are most effective when their place in the side is assured, when they have the support of both players and officials. The best, however, come out on top even when conditions are against them.