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2
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ANKITA AGARWAL
ABHYAAS

CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2020
1
AIR
SHUBHAM KUMAR
(FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM)

3 AIR GAMINI SINGLA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	4 AIR AISHWARYA VERMA LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	5 AIR UTKARSH DWIVEDI FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM	6 AIR YAKSH CHAUDHARY ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	7 AIR SAMYAK S JAIN ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	8 AIR ISHITA RATHI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	9 AIR PREETAM KUMAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES
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= हिंदी माध्यम टॉपर =

12 AIR YASHARTH SHEKHAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	13 AIR PRIYAMVADA ASHOK MHADDALKAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	14 AIR ABHINAV J JAIN ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	16 AIR ANSHU PRIYA LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	18 AIR RAVI KUMAR SIHAG ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, हिंदी माध्यम	19 AIR DIKSHA JOSHI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	20 AIR ARPIT CHAUHAN ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	21 AIR DILIP K KAINIKKARA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	23 AIR ASHISH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	25 AIR SHRUTI RAJLAKSHMI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS
26 AIR UTSAV ANAND ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	27 AIR SAKSHAM GOEL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	29 AIR BHAVISHYA INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	30 AIR NAMAN GOYAL LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, MAINS ADVANCE COURSE	32 AIR NAVANDAR ANAY NITIN ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	33 AIR JASPINDER SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, MAINS 365, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	34 AIR SHASHVAT SANGWAN ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	35 AIR KARTIKEYA JAISWAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	37 AIR V SANJANA SIMHA INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	39 AIR VISHAL DHAKAD ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS
40 AIR KUSHAL JAIN ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	41 AIR SONALI DEV ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	44 AIR ANJALI SHROTRIYA LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	45 AIR SHRADHA SHUKLA ABHYAAS	47 AIR NAMAN KUMAR SINGLA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	49 AIR DIVYANSH SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	51 AIR AKSHAY PILLAY ABHYAAS, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	52 AIR ANKUR DAS ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	53 AIR ARPIT SANGAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	54 AIR ARPIT GUPTA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE
56 AIR KIRANMAYI KOPPISSETTI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	60 AIR SHRADHA GOME LAKSHYA, FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM, ABHYAAS, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	61 AIR MOHIT KASNIYA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, MAINS 365	63 AIR KARTHIK PANIGRAHI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	64 AIR KANIKA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PT 365, ABHYAAS, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	65 AIR PULKIT ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	66 AIR AKHIL V MENON ABHYAAS, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	67 AIR ANAND MALHOTRA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	68 AIR ANENDYA RAAJSSHRE ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	69 AIR GADDAM SUDHEER KUMAR REDDY ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE
70 AIR NARAYAN AMIT MALEMPATI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE, ABHYAAS	71 AIR SHREYA SHREE ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	72 AIR PARTH GUPTA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	73 AIR NAMRATA CHOUBEY ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	74 AIR AYUSH VENKAT VATS ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	75 AIR SURBHI SINGLA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	76 AIR CHARU ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	77 AIR ASHUTOSH KUMAR LUCKNOW FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM, ABHYAAS, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	78 AIR SURBHI GOYAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	79 AIR SAMPADA TRIVEDI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES
80 AIR NIKHIL MAHAJAN ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	81 AIR ISHU AGRAWAL LAKSHYA, FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM	83 AIR SHAILJA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	84 AIR SUJAWAL JAGGA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	89 AIR ANKIT KUMAR CHOUKSEY ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	91 AIR PRAGYA JAT ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	93 AIR DEEPESH KUMARI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	94 AIR INDRASHIS DATTA LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	96 AIR MINI SHUKLA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	97 AIR BHAISARE SHUBHAM ASHOK ALL INDIA TEST SERIES
98 AIR ANIKET DNYANESHWAR HIRDE ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE	99 AIR THARUN PATNAIK MADALA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	100 AIR KIRAN P B ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, MAINS ADVANCE COURSE	YOU CAN BE NEXT				Scan the QR CODE to download VISION IAS App. Join official telegram group for daily MCQs and other updates. /visionias.upsc /c/VisionIASdelhi /c/VisionIASdelhi		

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DELHI: 17 JULY, 5 PM | 7 JULY, 1 PM | 29 JUNE, 9 AM
22 JUNE, 1 PM | 15 JUNE, 9 AM | 8 JUNE, 9 AM

LUCKNOW: 25th June

CHANDIGARH: 21st June

JAIPUR: 22nd June

HYDERABAD: 13th June

AHMEDABAD: 18th June

PUNE: 20th June



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फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2023

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DELHI: 24 जून, 1 PM | 5 अप्रैल, 9 AM

LUCKNOW: 23 जून, 9 AM

JAIPUR: 22 जून, 4 PM

लाइव / ऑनलाइन एवं ऑफलाइन कक्षाएँ



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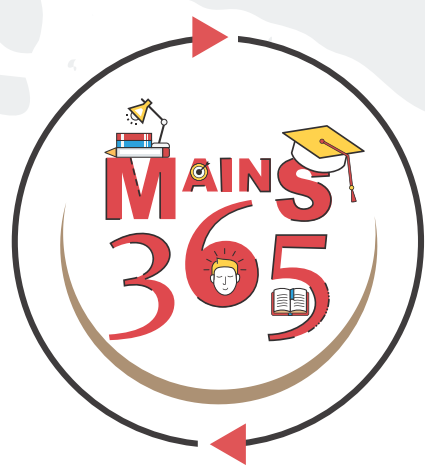


for **GS 2023: 12 June**

सामान्य अध्ययन 2023: 12 जून

for **CSAT 2023: 24 July**

हिन्दी माध्यम 2023: 31 जुलाई



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for **GS 2022: 12 June**

सामान्य अध्ययन 2022: 12 जून

for **GS 2023: 12 June**

सामान्य अध्ययन 2023: 12 जून

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22 JUNE, 1 PM | 15 JUNE, 9 AM | 8 JUNE, 9 AM

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IN BRIEF



Congress to contest validity of ED's case
 NEW DELHI
 The issue of whether the Enforcement Directorate can register a money laundering case even in the absence of a first information report is all set to be brought before the court in the National Herald case.

9310934121, 9310998566

Law not equal for all in country, says Shiv Sena
 MUMBAI
 Slamming the BJP over the "harassment" of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi using the ED, the Shiv Sena on Thursday said the principle that "all are equal before the law" is dead in India. The only tool left to be used to end the Opposition is a gas chamber, said an editorial in the party mouthpiece Saamana.

Anti-Agnipath stir turns violent

■ Trains set afire, MLAs' vehicle attacked in Bihar ■ 34 trains cancelled amid uproar in several States ■ Opposition, trade unions join the chorus

A.M. JIGEESH
 NEW DELHI
 Thousands of youth in various States took to the streets demanding a rollback of "contractualisation" of jobs in the Indian armed forces, under the newly announced Agnipath scheme.



Raging fury: A train set afire by protesters at the Chhapra railway station in Bihar on Thursday. ■PTI

Opposition parties, trade unions, farmers' associations, youth organisations and students' outfits of various political affiliations joined in chorus to support the protests against the scheme to recruit soldiers on a four-year contract basis. These organisations started consulting each other on Thursday for forming a national platform against Agnipath. Opposition parties urged the Centre to withdraw the scheme considering national interest.

The Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh-affiliated trade union, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, termed the protests politically motivated, but distanced itself from Agnipath. Youth protested against the scheme in States such as Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhnad and Rajasthan, where the bulk of the Army

Hiring upper age limit raised to 23 for this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 NEW DELHI
 Amid widespread protests, the Union government on Thursday increased the upper age limit to 23 from 21 for recruitment under the Agnipath scheme for the year 2022. "Cognisant of the fact that it has not been possible to undertake recruitment during the last two years, the government has decided that a one-time waiver shall be granted for the proposed recruitment cycle for 2022," a Defence Ministry spokesperson said.

recruitment takes place. In Delhi, too, youth organisations held protests in solidarity with their counterparts in other States. The Indian Railways said 34 trains had been cancelled and 72 trains were running late due to the protests and attacks against trains. Violent protests continued in Bihar for the second

Demolitions should not be retaliatory, SC tells U.P. govt.

Any action should be in accordance with law: Bench
KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
 NEW DELHI
 The Supreme Court on Thursday told the Uttar Pradesh government that demolitions could happen only in accordance with the provisions of law and could not be retaliatory. The court said this after hearing petitions which alleged that State authorities had taken the "appalling" step to wreck

tion by you should be in accordance with the law," Justice A.S. Bopanna, leading a Vacation Bench also comprising Justice Vikram Nath, addressed the Uttar Pradesh government. Issuing notice to the State and listing the case for hearing next week, the Bench said the question was whether the State had followed due process of law before demolishing the properties in places such as Prayagraj and Kanpur.



The house of an accused in the Prayagraj violence case being razed on June 12. ■AFP

"vengeance" on the homes of people allegedly linked to violence in the aftermath of the Prophet remarks' row. "Ultimately, the rule of law should prevail... any ac-

Continued on Page 12

Daily COVID cases cross 12,000 mark

Mumbai reports highest number of fresh infections at 2,366

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 NEW DELHI
 For the first time in 111 days, India reported over 12,000 new COVID-19 cases on a single day on Thursday, with Mumbai topping the table. The active caseload is 58,215, according to data from the Union Health Ministry. There were 11 deaths. A total of 12,213 cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, taking India's total

tally of COVID-19 cases since the onset of the pandemic to 4,32,57,730. The cumulative death toll has risen to 5,24,803 with 11 fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 a.m. The deaths include three from Kerala, two from Maharashtra, and one each from Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhnad and West Bengal. The country had reported

over 12,000 COVID-19 cases on a single day the last time on February 24, when it reported 13,166 new cases. The daily test positivity rate was recorded at 2.35%, while the weekly positivity rate was at 2.38%. Mumbai reported the highest number of new cases, 2,366, taking its active cases to 13,005.

Continued on Page 12
 Related Report Page 14

Pak. continues to disturb peace in India, says Rajnath

PEERZADA ASHIQ
 SRINAGAR
 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who arrived in the Kashmir Valley on Thursday on a two-day visit, said Pakistan was still pursuing a policy of "bleeding India with a thousand cuts". "Pakistan continuously tries to disturb peace in the country. It has the policy of bleed[ing] India with thousands of cuts. However, you [soldiers] are the fencing wire of the country because of which they [Pakistan] themselves get cut. The country has faith and trust in the Army. People know you are ready for any eventuality," said Mr. Singh, who travelled to frontier areas in north Kashmir's Baramulla. He also paid tributes to the soldiers who died during the face-off with Chinese soldiers in 2020. "Remembering the heroes of Galwan who fought valiantly for the honour of the country and laid down their lives on June 15-16, 2020. Their courage, bravery and supreme sacrifice will never be forgotten. I pay homage to these brave hearts," Mr. Singh tweeted.

Security forces lauded
 In Baramulla, he praised the role of the Army, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the J&K police in containing terrorism in the Union Territory. "The [erstwhile] State also witnessed terror activities in the past. Due to the relentless efforts of the personnel of the armed forces, BSF (Border Security Force), the CRPF and the J&K police, there has been a significant decline in the number of terror activities in the State recently. The credit for that goes to the Army, the CRPF and the J&K police," Mr. Singh said.

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DELHI (D5) Starts: 22 June 2022	PATNA (P2) Starts: 01 July 2022	HYDERABAD (H1) Starts: 01 July 2022
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CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRE + MAINS 2023 07 JULY
 Prepare Current Affairs Like No Other.
 With ForumIAS Current Affairs Classes, you will cover contemporary issues important for the exam, across GS Paper 2 and 3, that will take your content to the next level. But do not take our word or the word of hundreds of toppers who have improved their GS Score and ranks with us. Attend the first class free at 11 AM on June 18th, at New Delhi.

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 We helped 2000+ people crack Prelims in 2021. We hope to beat our own record in 2023 with 50+ tests designed to cover the entire general studies and CSAT syllabus. The test series will provide 360-degree coverage and revision through multiple iterations.

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ON **19th JUNE 2022**

TIME **11:00 AM ONWARDS**

VENUE: **HBTU, KANPUR**

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 17.06.2022

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job:

NIT No.	Brief Work Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/SS/18	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HANA HARDWARE	2.00 Crore	4.00 Lakh	07.07.2022, 15:00 Hrs	08.07.2022, 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/SS/19	PROCUREMENT OF MICROSOFT LICENSE	1.56 Crore	3.12 Lakh	07.07.2022, 15:00 Hrs	08.07.2022, 16:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/SS/20	PROCUREMENT OF VMWARE LICENSE	1.10 Crore	2.20 Lakh	07.07.2022, 15:00 Hrs	08.07.2022, 17:00 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1,180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD -> Tenders -> Open Tenders.

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING: ASSAM
CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI-3

No.CE/TB-VI/44/2022/12

PRESS NOTICE (Re-Tender)

In cancellation of earlier Press Notice issued vide this office letter No. CE/TB-VI/44/2022/02, Dated Guwahati the 28th April, 2022, the Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Building (Health & Education), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites fresh bids through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode-III of contract (Single stage two-part bidding system) from eligible contractors having experience in similar nature of works, for the following work.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement website i.e www.assamtenders.gov.in
The bidders must be enrolled with e-tendering web-portal www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Value	Completion Period	Bid Security	Cost of Bid
1	"Construction of Majuli University of Culture at Majuli, Assam"	Rs. 4069.41397 Lakh	24 (Twenty four) months	2% of Bid value for General category and 1% of Bid Value for reserved Category	Rs. 20,000.00

The Bid price may vary at the time of detail tendering, for which no claim will be admissible.

All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

The Work will be allotted only after receiving Government approval.

Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D.(Building),
Health & Education
Janasanyog /C/4839/22
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://letender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh-Tender Work:

S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	15/PGM/Sr.M(E&M)-II/2022-23/ET	Strengthening of street lights (Supply fixing of 7 mtr. Octagonal pole) at sector-25, Noida.	48.99
2	16/PGM/Sr.M(E&M)-II/2022-23/ET	Supply & Fixing of 12.5 Height High Mast light at different block parks of sector-6, 7 & 9, Noida.	47.22
3	13/PGM/Sr.M(E&M)-III/2022-23	Shifting of street light pole near Amity School under Metro line sector-44, Noida.	43.26
4	10/PGM/Sr.M(E&M)-IV/2022-23	External Electrification and Providing street light arrangement in sector-156, Noida (Balance Work)	30.40

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 30.06.2022 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 01.07.2022 at 11.00 AM.

B) Re -Tender Work:

S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
5	08/PGM/Sr.M(E&M)-III/2022-23	M/o Authority Building (Running Maintenance of Electrical works for Main Administrative Building sector-6), Noida.	33.75
6	03/PGM/Sr.M(E&M)-II/2022-23/ET	Internal Electrification of Newly Constructed Community Center in sector-63A, Noida.	44.88
7	02/PGM/Sr.M(E&M)-IV/2022-23	Repair & Maintenance of Incinerator (Pet Animal Machine) of SPCA sector-94, Noida.	32.15

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 23.06.2022 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 24.06.2022 at 11.00 AM.

Principal General Manager
Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Bilaspur, Division No.1, HPPWD Bilaspur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Limit	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	Construction of 240 metre span (Jeep able Standard bridge over Sultaj River at Bhagrin to connect village Bhatoli in G.P. Malaywar Distt. Mandi (H.P.).	6,24,24,000/-	5,00,000/-	5000/-	One year	Class-A
2.	Construction of Health Sub-Centre building with delivery room and residence at Pater. (SH- Construction of building portion including W.S.&S.I., septic tank and rain water harvesting tank).	25,00,000/-	45,000/-	1500/-	One year	Class-C&D
3.	Construction of additional accommodation block with toilet for Distt. Library Bilaspur (H.P.). (SHL- Construction of building portion W.S.&S.I. and site development).	45,00,000/-	92,500/-	2000/-	One year	Class-C&D
4.	A/R & M/O to Jojinder Nagar Sarkaghat Ghumarwin road Km. 9/10 to 95/0. (SH- Beautification and widening of Kuthera Chowk).	8,99,277/-	18,000/-	350/-	Six months	Class-C&D
5.	Balance work for the Development of plot at Jamthal Tehsil Sadar Distt. Bilaspur H.P. for NTPC Ltd Koldam Project Barmana (Jamthal) (SH- Formation cutting 5/7 metre at Km. 0/0 to 0/525 C.D./R/ wall cutting at plot etc.).	1,06,60,935/-	1,39,500/-	5000/-	One year	Class-B&C

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) on the site which is authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized as can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	29/06/2022 10:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	29/06/2022 10:30 HRS upto 11/07/2022 10:30 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	29/06/2022 10:30 HRS upto 11/07/2022 10:30 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	11/07/2022 upto 10:45 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening	11/07/2022 11:00 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:
5. Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".
6. Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit receipt of online payment on account of tender form cost and Earnest money and other Technical Documents in O/e Executive Engineer Bilaspur Division No.1, HPPWD Bilaspur H.P. as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 11/07/2022 at 11:00 HRS in the office Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No.1, HPPWD Bilaspur H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer is advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Executive Engineer
Bilaspur, HPPWD Division No.1,
Distt Bilaspur H.P.
on behalf of

HP / 1731/22-23
HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK
Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited. (KPDC)
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PROCUREMENT CIRCLE, KPDC, KASHMIR 190018
Web Site: www.pnmpddjkt.org, Tele/Fax: 0194-2493881, email: epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com

e-TENDER ABREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No's: SE/Proc/05/2022-23 dated 11/06/2022

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDC Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle, KPDC Kashmir invites online e-bids from Govt. registered original equipment manufacturers and authorized distributors for Purchase of EHV grade transformer oil against e-NIT No. SE/Proc/05/2022-23 as depicted below for the requirement of KPDC:

S.No	Material Description	FOR ECSD Srinagar	Reference to e-NIT
1	EHV grade transformer oil	252 KL (1200 Barrels)	SE/Proc/05/2022-23

The complete tender document is available at website <http://ktenders.gov.in> Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	11:06.2022; 17:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	02:07.2022; 14:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clearifications	12.06.2022; 10:00 Hrs to 17.06.2022; 14:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	18.06.2022; 15:00 Hrs to 02.07.2022; 14:00 Hrs
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time in respect of Tender Fee and EMD only	04.07.2022 in the office of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement Bemina Srinagar 190018.
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	04.07.2022; 14:00 Hrs
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.4000.00 (Rupees five Thousand Only) Cost of Bidding Document shall be pledged to Accounts officer with Chief Engineer (P&P), KPDC Srinagar. In case the cost of bidding document is furnished in the form of Demand Draft, the same shall be submitted in the office of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement KPDC Bemina Srinagar before techno-commercial bid-opening. Online payment can also be made into the account of Accounts officer with Chief Engineer Planning & Procurement Circle, KPDC, Srinagar Account No: 0110010200000833 IFSC Code: JAKA00MOVING, J&K Bank Ltd Civil Secretariat, Srinagar through NEFT / RTGS and upload the acknowledgement receipt with the BID.
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5,79,000.00

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Procurement (KPDC)
DIPK-NB-1656/22

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झारखण्ड, राँची
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा
(द्वितीय आमंत्रण PR-256681(DW&S)21-22))
Tender reference No-DWSD/SubClusterSVS/GIRIDIH-I/05/2022-23Dt. 16-06-2022

Sl No	Name of work	Sub Cluster/ Group No	Block	Estimate Cost (in Lac)	Earnest money (in lac)	Cost of Boq (in Rs.)
1	Construction of Solar Based Mini water Supply Scheme (SVS) IN	4A	Gandey	738.37	7.39	10000.00
2	Different Block, comprising of suitable steel structure & HDPE Water Tank / R.C.C./ Framed structure ESR, Distribution Line, Source and FHCT all complete job in the Different block of District Giridih under Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-1, Giridih for the year 2021-22 (on Turn key basis)	7A, 8B, 8C, 9C, 15C	Jamua	680.44, 804.01, 870.43, 788.39, 940.62	6.81, 8.05, 8.71, 7.89, 9.41	10000.00, 10000.00, 10000.00, 10000.00, 10000.00
3	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	09 माह				
4	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	18-06-2022 at 02:00pm				
5	प्री-बोड बैठक का स्थान एवं तिथि	अभियंता प्रमुख का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची। दिनांक 20-06-2022 at 12:30pm				
6	निविदा के लिए अंतिम तिथि/ समय	01-07-2022 at 03:00pm				
7	निविदा की हार्ड कॉपी जमा करने की तिथि/ समय/ स्थान	02-07-2022 upto 04:00 pm 1. कार्यालय अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची-1, गिरिडीह या 2. अडीक्षण अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, धनबाद या 3. क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, दुमका प्रखंड, दुमका।				
8	बिड खोलने की तिथि/ समय	04-07-2022 2:00pm				
9	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, गिरिडीह।				
10	प्रोक्वोरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	780778158				
11	ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन संख्या	0651.2480345				

➤ किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
➤ अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
➤ निविदा में प्राकृतिक राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। तत्पश्चात अग्रघन की राशि मान्य होगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग राँची-1, गिरिडीह।
PR 271702 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 22-23 (D)

WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORK
Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara-390004, invites E-tender as per the details given below: E-tender No.: Dy.CE/C/IBRC/ANND-GDA/06. Name of the work : Construction of Station building, Platforms, Platform wall, FOBs, Water tank with staging, approach road, RCC boundary wall, fencing, water supply arrangements, Toilet blocks, Water huts, Staff Quarters, S&T structures, Electrical structures, LC Duty Bunk etc. between Anand - Godhra Doubling Project. Approximate cost work : ₹ 87,84,29,333.71; Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹ 45,42,200/-; Pre Bid Conference : To be held on 22.06.2022; Availability of online Tender for bidding : From 30.06.2022 To 14.07.2022 up to 15:00 Hrs. Note : Regarding detailed notice containing, EMD, eligibility criteria, Similar Nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.reps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. 0183
Like us on www.facebook.com/WesternRly

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited
(भारत सरकार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का संयुक्त उपक्रम)
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Himachal Pradesh)
A MINI RATNA & SCHEDULE 'A' PSU
CIN No. L40101HP1988G01008409

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (NIEO)
SJVN Ltd. Invites Expression of Interest through e-tendering for "Pilot Project for Green Hydrogen Production Plant of 20nm³/hr capacity integrated with 25kw fuel cell power generation plant"
Last date for submission of online e-Applications is upto 06.07.2022 at 13:00 hrs.
For detailed NIT, please visit websites www.sjvn.nic.in, <https://sjvn.abcpocure.com> & www.eprocure.gov.in.
Executive Director (ECD),
Ph.No. 0177-2660201, 204, elect.contracts@sjvn.nic.in

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No. 1, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for Submission of Bid	Time Allowed
1.	Construction of alternate road under Shimla Division No.1 HPPWD Shimla (SH- Improvement & widening of old Kasumpti Junga road km. 0/00 to 1/540 and link road from old Kasumpti to junga road to Shoghi mehli Road from 0/00 to 0/156).	3824060	20-06-2022	68500/-	27-06-2022	30 days

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptender.gov.in
The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason. Executive Engineer, HP / 1728/22-23 Shimla Division No. 1, H.P.PWD Shimla-3 H.P.

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department
Phone No.01903-221031 Fax: 01903-221031
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Banjar Division, HPPWD, Banjar on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible Class of Contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for Submission of Bid
1.	A/R&M/O to Damothi Bharthidhar road Km.0/0 to 14/200. (SH- Patch work in Km. 6/0 to 10/0 and Banjar Khabal road Km. 0/0 to 2/0)	2046912	20.6.2022	40100	25.6.2022
2.	A/R&M/O to Jibhi Bahu Gadagushaini road Km.0/0 to 20/0. (SH- Patch work in Km. 0/0 to 8/0)	1925828	20.6.2022	38600	25.6.2022

The Bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in
Executive Engineer,
Banjar Division,
H.P.PWD., Banjar 175123
E mail- ee-kul1-hp@nic.in
On behalf of Governor of HP
HP / 1710/22-23



Dr. P. V. Lakshmaiah addressing a seminar organised by The Hindu's FIC and Dr. Lakshmaiah IAS Study Circle in Delhi on Thursday. •SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Code to crack civil services: 'plan a timetable, stick to it'

Guidance, self-confidence essential: Dr. Lakshmaiah

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Plan your timetable, stick to your schedule and get up early morning – these were the three mantras shared by noted academician and anthropologist P. V. Lakshmaiah during a seminar on 'How to crack civil services exam at a young age through degree with civics coaching' in the Capital on Thursday.

Addressing aspiring candidates at the event, organised by The Hindu's Future India Club in association with Dr. Lakshmaiah IAS Study Circle, he said civil services exam is not that dif-

icult to crack. "All one needs to do is plan with proper guidance and attempt with self-confidence to crack it," he said. Dr. Lakshmaiah said anthropology as an optional subject is helpful in all general studies papers and general essays.

Earlier, former Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Mohan Kanda and former Special Chief Secretary to the government of Andhra Pradesh Manmohan Singh addressed the aspirants virtually. This was the second event in a series of four such seminars. The next two are scheduled at Tirupati and Guntur.

Principals to set minimum benchmarks for govt. schools

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Principals of the Delhi government-run schools will have to set minimum benchmarks for infrastructure and cleanliness among other things, Education Minister Manish Sisodia said on Thursday.

The government will pro-

vide necessary facilities and funds and schools will be reviewed from time to time by officials of the Department of Education. Mr. Sisodia gave the directions during an interaction with 800 principals to set targets and strategies for the 2022-23 academic session, which start from July.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this Person Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 70 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Only black colour pant, was found unconscious condition in front of HRH Hospital on dated 02.06.2022 at 5:00 PM. He was admitted in HRH Hospital and during the treatment doctor declared him dead. The dead body has been preserved in mortuary at HRH Hospital for 72 hrs for identification.

In this regard a DD No. 80-A dated 02.06.2022 U/s 174 Cr.Pc., has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO
MND Sr. No. UIDB-22SM-22 P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi
DP/2403/N/2022(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23823161, 8750870126

झारखण्ड सरकार
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गिरिडीह।
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सूचना
(प्रथम अल्पकालिन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना)
ई-निविदा प्रसंग सं. -- RCD/GIRIDIH/1039 दिनांक -- 15.06.2022

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभ तिथि	समाप्त तिथि	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गिरिडीह।
1.	कार्य का नाम	18-06-2022	22-06-22	
2.	कार्य का नाम	18.06.2022	10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न	
3.	कार्य का नाम	04.07.2022	12:00 बजे दिन तक	
4.	कार्य का नाम	18.06.2022	10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न	
5.	कार्य का नाम	06532	227054	
6.	कार्य का नाम	0651	2401010	

नोट :- प्राकृतिक राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।
अतिरिक्त जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट पर देखें :- <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
PR 271697 Road(22-23)D

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Annexure "A"
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Chamba Division, HPPWD Chamba H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the items rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Class	Completion period
1.	A/R & M/O Chamba Jhumar via Luddu road Km. 0/0 to 8/955 (SH- Construction of Retaining Wall at RD 1/410 to 1/420, 1/650 to 1/690)	16,16,770/-	32,300/-	500/-	D&C	3 Months
2.	Providing Protection work on Chamba Jhumar road via Luddu (SH- Construction of B/wall at various Rds)	19,83,369/-	39,700/-	500/-	D&C	Three Months
3.	Improvement of Black spot on Bako Behod road Km. 0/0 to 2/0 (SH- Construction of Retaining wall at RD 0/570 to 5/80, 0/595 to 6/17 and providing Crash Barrier at RD 0/560 to 0/620)	24,04,971/-	48,100/-	500/-	D&C	Three Months

2.KEY DATES:
1. Starting Date for downloading 23-06-2022 at 10.00 AM
2. Deadline for submission of Bid 30-06-2022 at 5.00 PM
3. Date of Technical bid opening 01/07/2022 at 11.30 AM
The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons there-of. The Bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in
Executive Engineer,
Chamba Division,
HPPWD Chamba, Pin-176310
Tel.01899-222229; Email-ee-cha-hp@nic.in
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
HP / 1707/22-23

Timings
DELHI

FRIDAY, JUN. 17	RISE 05:24	SET 19:21
	RISE 22:33	SET 08:09
SATURDAY, JUN. 18	RISE 05:24	SET 19:22
	RISE 23:18	SET 09:20
SUNDAY, JUN. 19	RISE 05:24	SET 19:22
	RISE 23:55	SET 10:27

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	40	24
Safdarjang	40	24
Palam	40	28

Delhi Palam Today
36°C One or two spells of rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur at some places with cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C A hot and uneasy weather to prevail. Night will be comfortable. Chances of duststorm and thundershower with strong winds.

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THE HINDU
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Video

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bit.ly/3NWM5Zt
- Why should India's trade deficit matter to you (yes, You)?
bit.ly/3x54waz
- You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.

MCD to get ₹365 cr.; 'not enough' for salaries

Govt. allots funds for first quarter of 2022-23; all employees may not get even a month's pay, says official

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is set to receive ₹365.75 crore in funds from the Delhi government for its primary and physical education schemes for the first quarter of the financial year 2022-23, according to a document dated June 14.

A senior MCD official said the fund allocation – which includes ₹320 crore for salaries – will get exhausted in paying only a month's emoluments to the teachers serving in the civic body's schools.

Prior to the merger of the three erstwhile civic bodies, employees under the North and East corporations remained unpaid for two and five months respectively, while employees serving under the South corporation received timely payments.

With the merger bringing all employees under one civic body, the delay in payment of salaries may become a common phenomenon for



The MCD headquarters in the Capital. ■ FILE PHOTO

Earlier, when employees from a specific civic body would go on a strike, the impact was limited. But now it is a unified civic body and no longer do the salary delays apply to one corporation. If the employees go on strike now, it will be in large numbers

MCD OFFICIAL

all employees as the MCD struggles to crawl out of its financial crunch, which according to senior officials, has worsened.

Apart from the fund allocated for education purposes, the Delhi government has also sanctioned money to the MCD for health purposes, which includes salaries to doctors and domestic breeding checkers (DBC), as part of the first installment.

According to the documents, the erstwhile North

corporation will get ₹27.66 crore, while the South and East corporations will get ₹14.04 crore and ₹16.20 crore, respectively.

Internal revenues?

However, the senior MCD official said the amount earmarked for salaries of doctors – North (₹5.55 crore), South (₹2.23 crore) and East (₹6.4 crore) – serving at the civic body-run hospitals will be insufficient even for a month, unless the civic body

tries to fill the gap with its internal revenues.

"The amount allocated for salaries of DBC workers is sufficient for a month's pay, but this is being paid out of what the Delhi government is giving to the civic body. The larger problem of addressing the core issue, which is shortage of funds and clearing liabilities, remains unanswered," said the official.

Maruti Sinha, general secretary, Municipal Corporation Doctors' Association (MCDA), said the doctors under the North and East corporations have not been paid for two and five months respectively; most of them continue to wait and watch whether the merger will bring about a resolution to the recurring delay in payments and arrears.

In November last year, resident doctors at the Hindu Rao Hospital went on an indefinite strike over non-payment of salaries, while in February this year, doctors at

the Swami Dayanand Hospital launched a similar strike.

While the frequent strikes over non-payment of salaries had become a recurring theme prior to the merger, senior officials now worry that larger strikes might take place in the near future.

"Earlier, when employees from a specific civic body went on a strike, the impact was limited in one sense. But now it is a unified civic body and no longer do the salary delays apply to one corporation. If the employees go on a strike now, it will be in large numbers because everybody will face delay in payments," said the MCD official.

When asked whether the salaries of doctors will be paid from the latest fund allocation from the government, another MCD official said the civic body will have to look into whether there is any room to include their internal revenues to help pay the amount in total.

Two children dead, nine hurt in car crash at Lodhi Road flyover

Businessman driving luxury car held

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old Noida-based businessman has been arrested for allegedly ramming his luxury car into a hatchback, which flipped and landed on people sleeping under the Lodhi Road flyover. Two children were killed and nine persons injured in the incident, police officers said on Thursday.

The accused has been identified as Sahil Narang, a resident of Nirman Vihar, who runs a garment manufacturing business in Noida.

DCP (South East) Esha Pandey said they received a PCR call on June 10 at the Hazrat Nizamuddin police station about a few persons sustaining injuries in an accident near Lodhi Road flyover.

Victims were siblings

The police rushed to the spot and moved 11 injured persons, including the hatchback driver, to AIIMS Trauma Centre where two of the victims were declared brought dead, the DCP said, adding that the deceased were identified as Roshni, 6, and her brother Amir, 10.

In his statement to the police, the hatchback's driver, Yatin Kumar Sharma, said around 4.30 a.m., when he was on his way from Samrat Hotel in Chanakya Park to Surya Hotel in New Friends Colony through Lodhi Road, a black car crashed into his vehicle, due to which it flipped and landed on people sleeping on the footpath under the flyover. Mr. Sharma added that the luxury car was being driven rashly.



The luxury car that the accused was driving. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The accused driver fled the spot after the incident, the police said.

Tracing the accused
The Hazrat Nizamuddin police station registered a case under Section 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) and 302 A (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code. After the FIR was lodged, the police began scanning the CCTV footage from the accident spot.

Ms. Pandey said her team analysed footage of around 70 CCTV cameras installed on that particular road and spotted a black sedan taking a turn towards Mathura Road and going towards Ashram.

After analysing the vehicle's number plate, the team reached Sahil and arrested him from his residence, the police said, adding that the car has been seized.

During interrogation, Sahil confessed that he along with his uncle – the car's owner – were returning from the IGI airport when he tried "testing the speed of the car" and hit the vehicle ahead, the police said.

Boy dies in building collapse

Incident at Paharganj; structure was in unstable condition: DCP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A three-year-old boy died while his family members were injured after a portion of their house near Khanna Cinema in central Delhi's Paharganj collapsed on Thursday evening.

According to police, the ownership of the building remains "uncertain". "The victims have been living in a room in the building for a few months now," a senior police officer said.

DFs officials said that they received a call regarding the incident from near Vivek Hotel in Paharganj at 8.40 p.m. "We sent seven fire tenders to the spot. A portion of the building had collapsed and a



The collapsed building in Paharganj, Delhi. ■ PTI

few persons were trapped," DFC chief Atul Garg said.

Three rescued

Three persons, including a man, identified as Md. Zaheer, and his two daughters – one-year-old Zareena and eight-year-old Alifa – were

rescued. Zaheer's son Amjad, was also rescued but he was declared dead later.

DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said the building's structure and roof were in an unstable and dilapidated condition and that might have led to the collapse.

Civic body to widen tax net in unauthorised colonies

To target commercial establishments

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With an aim to improve property tax collections at a time of growing financial crunch, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is planning to collect property tax from commercial establishments based in unauthorised colonies.

A senior MCD official said that many big commercial establishments in unauthorised colonies do not pay property tax despite utilising services provided by the

civic body.

An MCD source said the civic body is planning to widen its tax net and review its property tax collection system in a way that it does not burden people living in unauthorised colonies.

Earlier this month, the MCD had placed a proposal to hike the transfer duty by 1% on properties priced above ₹25 lakh across the city in a bid to improve its financial condition. The proposal is yet to be approved by MCD's Special Officer.

Warm, sleepless nights in a concrete jungle

As urban heat islands grow in Capital, experts see escape in green infrastructure

RITUPARNA PALIT
NEW DELHI

As Delhiites await some respite from the intense heatwave, when the mercury surpassed 35 degrees Celsius even at night, discussions on the growing number of urban heat islands in the Capital have once again come to the fore.

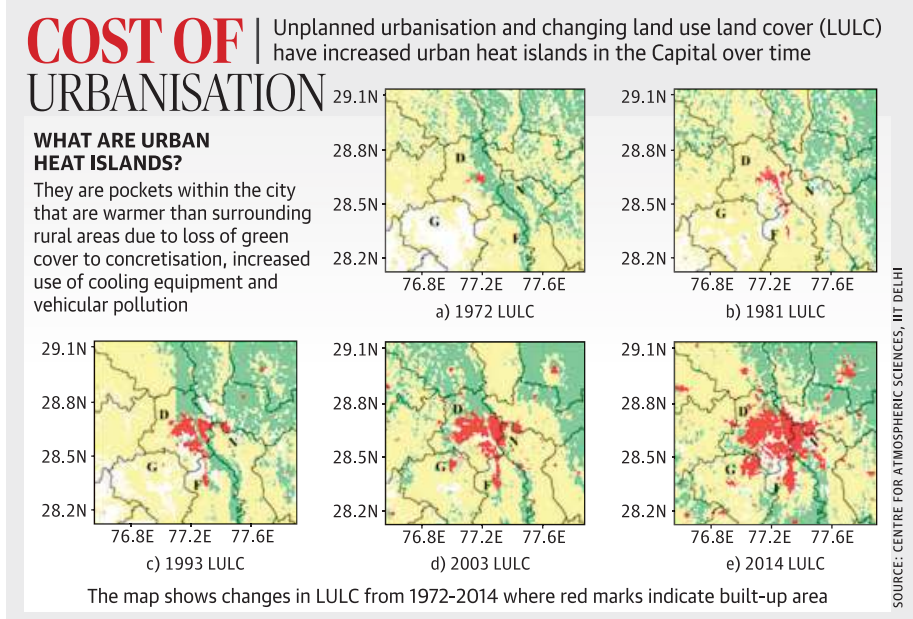
"The combination of high day and night-time temperatures is dangerous as it seriously impacts the blood circulation and other bodily functions of people, especially the elderly," said Dileep Mavalankar, Director, Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar.

"As the house becomes hot and is unable to cool down by midnight, it starts acting as a heat trap. In such a situation, the body gets heated and the heart starts pumping more blood to fight dehydration if adequate water intake is not maintained. If one's heart is already weak, it may fail and the person may die due to cardiac failure induced due to heatwaves," he added.

Heat-related deaths

Data on 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' released by the National Crime Records Bureau show that over the years, heatstrokes have become the second leading cause of death from a natural force in India, with 11,555 people being killed from 2011 to 2020 due to the condition.

In 2020, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad, which have heat-



wave action plans that track every heat-related death, reported heatstroke to be the reason for the maximum – 50% – deaths due to natural forces. Delhi reported no such death, according to the data. The Delhi government did not provide a comment on whether it tracks heat-related deaths.

Taking insights from India's first heat action plan that came up in Ahmedabad in 2013, the Centre is currently working with 23 heatwave-prone States and over 130 cities, including Delhi, to implement a similar action plan.

"There was a draft heat action plan, which was prepared three-four years ago, but it never went beyond

that," a Delhi government official said.

Growing heat islands

An image captured by NASA on May 5 showed how night-time temperatures in Delhi and adjoining villages were above 35 degrees Celsius, peaking at about 39 degrees Celsius, while the rural fields nearby had cooled to around 15 degrees Celsius.

"One way of looking at the cause of urban heat islands is global warming but the other is that these heat islands are linked to micro-climatic changes, which occur when we start disrupting our landscapes," said Abinash Mohanty, Programme Lead, Risks and Adaptation, Council on

Energy, Environment and Water.

"Over 60% of Delhi's landscapes are disrupted, signalling alteration or encroachment of tree cover, forest cover, wetlands and natural ecosystems," he added.

One way to counter the growing impact of urban heat islands is 'green infrastructure' that includes cool roofs or painting house roofs in a light colour to reflect heat and using sustainable cooling mechanisms. Promoting urban forestry and green transport can also help curb heat emissions, experts say. Industries, which also act as heat traps, need to minimize heat emission through thermal innovations, Mr. Mohanty said.

Minor raped by neighbour in Badarpur

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old man has been arrested for raping a minor in south-east Delhi's Badarpur, the Delhi police said on Thursday, adding that the accused was a neighbour and a drug addict.

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Tracking Odisha's missing schoolchildren

When over 43,000 students failed to turn up for the Class X exam last month, the government ordered an inquiry. **Satyasundar Barik** reports that in the State's tribal heartland, poor quality of education, shortage of teachers and lack of high schools have resulted in some students migrating for work and others opting for early marriage

Amid the rhythmic beating of drums on a hot afternoon in May, members of the Kolha tribe dance and enjoy a traditional drink to celebrate the spring festival of Manay Chuiti Parab at Ranipokhari, a tribal village in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. Making her way through the festive crowd is 16-year-old Koili Khuntia, who eyes young girls trying to dance in sync as she serves bowls full of handia: a local brew made of rice and intoxicants.

Even as Koili goes about her job, over five lakh children her age in the State are busy preparing for the High School Certificate (Class X) examination, which began on April 29. A student of the Government Upgraded High School in Ranipokhari, Koili had filled up the form to sit for the exam, but decided to skip it.

On May 7, the day the exams ended, Bishnupada Sethi, Secretary, School and Mass Education Department, said of the 5.71 lakh students who had filled up forms, 43,489 did not turn up. He then ordered an immediate inquiry.

Mr. Sethi said student absenteeism was more marked in the State's districts such as Mayurbhanj, Ganjam and Balangir. Last year, only 4,412 students had skipped the exam. He said the large-scale absence of students could be attributed to dipping interest in online classes and families migrating for work.

However, reports on the ground reveal that the pandemic-induced prolonged closure of schools, shortage of teachers, poor quality of education, lack of high schools and inadequate hostel facilities have resulted in some students taking up jobs and others opting for early marriage.

Koili says she does not regret her decision to skip the important exam. Like the majority of students in Odia-medium schools, Koili has no access to a smartphone to attend online classes. She says she did not receive a single phone call from the teachers assigned to counsel pupils during the pandemic. Nevertheless, two years later, her teachers asked her to fill up the form to appear for the Class X examination.

"My mother is drunk all the time. My father spares little time or money for me. My brother has to fend for himself even after clearing the Class X exam. What option was I left with? I knew how to brew handia. I started making a living by selling the drink here and there," she says.

Koili was one of the 1.04 lakh dropouts identified by the State government's Household Survey 2021, which was conducted to study the impact of the pandemic on students aged between six and 18. According to the School and Mass Education Department, all 1.04 lakh students were brought back to school. However, Koili is an example of how the State government's efforts to stem the dropout rate have gone awry.

Dearth of teachers

According to experts, shortage of teachers in government and aided schools is a major reason behind the deteriorating quality of education in tribal-dominated districts. The government, however, says it has maintained a healthy pupil to teacher ratio of 24, 20, 22 and 22 in primary, upper primary, elementary and secondary schools, respectively.

"Deployment of teachers is largely urban-centric. Teachers are reluctant to be posted in rural schools. Even if they take up such postings, they reside in urban areas and travel to rural schools. As a result, they often do not attend school," says Prithvi Chandra Acharya, a former associate professor at the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, who is now posted at the Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar.

A senior officer in the School and Mass Education Department says it is tough to bring reforms in the teachers' deployment policy as it could assume political colour. "The powerful teachers' associations will flex their muscle to ensure that the deployment policy remains irrational," he says.

Mr. Acharya points out that recent studies by the State government have highlighted the poor learning outcomes of students in rural schools. According to a baseline assessment conducted by the Odisha School Education Programme Authority in October



Making ends meet: Sixteen-year-old Koili Khuntia fills a bowl with handia, a local brew made of rice and intoxicants, at Ranipokhari village in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUTH

2021, students performed poorly in Mathematics and English when schools reopened after the COVID-19 hiatus.

A total of 42.40% of students in Class VI secured less than 20% marks and 12.73% of students scored 40%-50% marks in Mathematics. In English, 40.53% of students could not obtain more than 20% marks, while only 14.20% secured 40%-50% marks.

In Class VII, 43% of students scored less than 20% marks and 12.60% of students secured 40%-50% marks in Mathematics. In English, 44% of students secured less than 20% marks and 10.98% of them secured 40%-50% marks. In Classes I to IV, 25% of students scored less than 33% marks in Mathematics and 32% obtained less than 33% marks in English.

To compensate for the learning loss, the government decided to shorten the summer vacation and provide an additional month of teaching to students in government and aided schools.

"The National Achievement Survey 2021 shows a rural-urban divide in Odisha. Till Class V, the performance of rural students is on a par with their urban counterparts. In the higher classes, rural students start to lag behind. Till Class III, students from rural and urban areas score around 66% marks in English. In Class VIII, this figure becomes 50% for rural students and 63% for urban students," Mr. Acharya says.

Out of school, into marriage

Following the closure of schools due to the pandemic, many girls studying in government hostels for Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) students returned to their villages, making them vulnerable to marriage. While traversing the dusty roads of Ranipokhari, one can spot many teenage mothers doing household chores with babies in a sling.

While Koili took up vending the local brew to support herself, her classmate - 16-year-old Nandi Goipoi of Lambua Sahi hamlet - decided to get married. She wasn't the only one to make this choice. Four girls and a boy from Classes VI to VIII in their school have tied the knot this year. Sutuni Singh, 14, a Class VI student whose parents are migrant workers, got married in May.

At Rajatnagar village, six km from Ranipokhari, Mani Singh, 14, lives with her husband, Mangata Singh Pingua, 19. When Mani was six years old, she was enrolled in Pallishree Sanskrit Vidyalaya Secondary School, Oupada, a government-run boarding school in neighbouring Balasore district. During the second wave

of COVID-19, she was sent back home. With no classes to attend, Mani says, she loitered in the village and befriended Mangata. They soon got married.

Mani would have entered Class IX had she returned to school. She says four of her classmates also recently entered into wedlock. "My parents work as daily wagers in Bhubaneswar. When they return, they will take a call on whether I should resume studies. My husband has now moved to Tamil Nadu for work," Mani says.

According to Sikshasandhan, an NGO working in the field of education, 122 child marriages have taken place in the past two years in just three villages in Ranipokhari panchayat: Rajatnagar, Dilisore and Ranipokhari.

However, the school management has little idea about the number of students who have dropped out and entered into marriage since 2020.

Bidyadhar Das, the headmaster of the school in Ranipokhari, says, "As long as these girls are attending classes, we don't have to worry if they are married or not."

However, villagers say, most girls are overwhelmed with child care and household chores soon after marriage and quit studies.

Off to work, away from home

In Dumuhani, a village in Ranipokhari panchayat, 15-year-old Singara Singh, whose parents are farm labourers, is still enrolled in Class IX at a school in Kaptipada.

Last year, when COVID-19 cases started declining, Singara, along with his friends Sagar Tirira and Bir Singh, boarded a train and set out in search of work. The police detained them at Bhadrak railway station and sent them back. Singara says given the limited employment opportunities in his village, he decided to drop out of school during the pandemic and look for work. His two friends are also dropouts and now herd cows in their village, he says.

Mohanty Singh, 16, a Class X student in Ranipokhari, says five

of his friends quit school this year to take up work as labourers. Similarly, three students in Class IX also chose to take up jobs, he says. "There were 53 students in Class VIII in our school last year, but the batch is now left with only 20 students, and not a single one of them is a girl," Mohanty says.

According to Sikshasandhan, 232 students have dropped out of the school in Ranipokhari since 2020 and 118 of them have migrated for work. Villagers say when a minor migrant worker returns home nattily dressed and donning sunglasses, other children aspire to lead a similar lifestyle.

In Malkangiri district's Bonda Ghati, inhabited by the Bondas, a particularly vulnerable tribal group, some students migrated to States in south India in search of work last year. According to the villagers, there was little pressure from parents, mostly illiterate, to stay back and study. In many cases, young hands in school mean loss of earning opportunity for poor families. Migration becomes an easy decision for parents when their children join them, they say.

The villagers say parents received a helping hand in farming, cow herding and gardening when students were confined to their homes during the pandemic. When schools reopened, some parents were reluctant to send their children back, they say.

High school: a dream too far

Residents of Dumuhani say their village has been producing semi-literate for generations as they only have a primary school.

"The lucky ones who gain admission in boarding schools are able to continue their studies. The rest study only up to Class V," says Jharana Singh, a volunteer who maintains information on schoolchildren in the village.

Jambi Singh, 11, says she was determined to pursue her education after completing Class V at the village's primary school. She and her friend would cross a five-km road through a forest to reach

a high school in Rajatnagar.

However, Jambi had to abandon her dream when her friend secured admission in a boarding school. "It is not safe for a girl to walk five km through the forest alone every day," she says.

Her elder sister, Pangila, too had to give up her academic ambitions as she failed to secure admission in a residential school. Pangila now spends her time doing household chores, Jambi says.

"The nearest high schools are situated five km away. It is difficult for children to continue their studies after Class V," says Mr. Singh.

The nearby Noto panchayat also does not have a high school. After Class VII, students cycle or walk 10 km to continue their studies in high schools in Bhandar and Sarat villages. Year after year, students are discontinuing their studies, says Dumbi Singh, the sarpanch of the panchayat.

"About 90% of households are tribal families and mostly live below the poverty line. Despite repeated pleas, the government has not opened a high school, leading to a rise in dropouts," he says.

At the school in Ranipokhari, students are finding it difficult to secure admission to Class IX. Villagers say since the State government provides students with bicycles and stipends in the secondary level (Classes IX and X), school authorities require parents to produce caste certificates, income certificates, bank passbooks and Aadhaar cards.

"Without these documents, school authorities do not grant admission. Parents seeking quick issuance of certificates are being asked to pay all outstanding dues to revenue inspectors. Most parents are daily wagers and give up the pursuit of securing admission for their children," says Laxman Singh, a resident of Ranipokhari.

'Misfiring schemes'

Last October, the State government had started the School Sanjog Programme, an initiative to run mobile schools to bridge the learning gap among students of Classes I to V from particularly vulnerable tribal groups. However, Manoj Kumar Singh, a resident of Sarat, says not a single mobile school has visited their village.

On November 11, 2021, the government launched the 5T High School Transformation Programme, a project to build smart classrooms in 4,536 government-run schools in two phases. Teachers at the Government Upgraded High School in Ranipokhari say as part of the programme, ₹65 lakh was spent on beautifying the school. "But the contractor added only one more classroom and

turned two existing classrooms into a science laboratory and a library. It forced us to take lessons for students of Classes I to III on the school porch," a teacher said.

According to the residents of Ranipokhari, the physical transformation of the school has not had an effect on its day-to-day functioning. Though school hours have been fixed from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. to provide students relief from the harsh summer, villagers say teachers do not come to school on time. "Classes are barely held for an hour before the school bell rings. This is the state of affairs in most rural schools," says a resident of the village.

Festering problems

Anil Kumar Pradhan, a prominent education activist, says the implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2009, has gone for a toss in the State. "The education policy is planned by the State headquarters and it is uniform. However, our experience shows that problems are region-specific. The government must acknowledge this and provide flexibility to District Collectors to take steps to stem the dropout rate," he says.

Mr. Pradhan says the government must revoke its decision to shut schools on the pretext of low enrolment numbers. "Since schools are located in far-off places, students from the tribal areas of the State are unable to continue their studies," he says.

He also highlights that the hostel facilities provided to ST and SC students to pursue education are "grossly inadequate". According to the government, in 2020-21, around 6,700 State-run hostels provided accommodation to 4.50 lakh ST and SC students, of which 2.75 lakh were girls.

"Opening of hostels indiscriminately is not going to solve the problem. It has to be rational. While hostel accommodation should be for students of higher classes, the government must ensure that children from all backgrounds receive primary school education," the activist says.

Mr. Pradhan points out that the School Management Committees (SMCs) have little interest in taking up issues concerning students. "It is alleged that SMC members are treated as mere signatories. Unless the SMCs are made vibrant, the accountability of teachers cannot be fixed at the school level," he says.

Dismay over absenteeism

On May 9 this year, two days after the large-scale absence of students in the Class X examination came to light, Bishnupada Sethi, Secretary, School and Mass Edu-

cation Department, wrote to all district education officers (DEOs) in the State, asking them to initiate a probe into the matter. The DEOs were directed to conduct a school-wise analysis and submit a report within 10 days.

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash pointed out that this year the State government had even waived the exam fee for Class X students in view of the pandemic. "Students were severely affected owing to the pandemic. They may have skipped the exam due to lack of preparation," Mr. Dash said.

The State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights took suo motu cognisance of the matter and asked the Board of Secondary Education to furnish a report within a week. "We have asked our junior teachers to conduct house-to-house surveys. A child tracking mechanism has been made operational to trace children dropping out of school," said Anupam Saha, project director of the Odisha State Education Programme Authority.

Though the DEOs submitted their school-wise reports to the State authorities, their findings are yet to be made public.

Mr. Sethi also flagged a problem that was noticed when schools reopened after the loss of two academic sessions due to COVID-19. About 30% of students were found not attending primary, secondary and higher secondary classes in the State, he said.

"On analysing the daily attendance figures provided by the DEOs, it is seen that 70% of students are attending the classes. Attendance from Classes I to VIII in districts like Malkangiri, Boudh, Sambalpur and Nuapada is less than the State average," he said.

Mr. Sethi urged junior teachers to explain to parents the benefits of sending children to school and the steps taken by the government to provide free books, uniforms, bicycles, mid-day meals and scholarships to students.

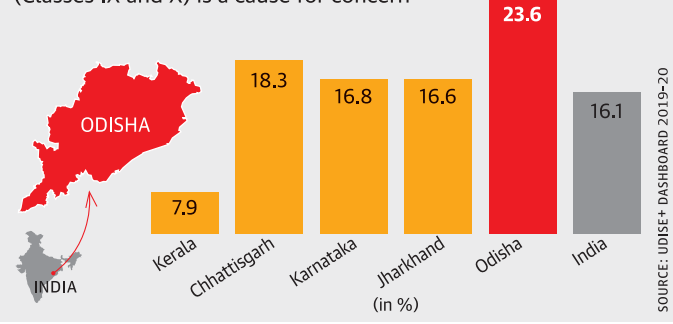
"If required, help from the school management committees, representatives of Panchayati Raj institutions and women self-help groups should be taken to bring students back to school," he said.

'Time to fix responsibility'

However, experts say while the government is focusing on short-term plans to raise the school enrolment rate, it should not take its eye off the big picture. There has been no shortage of guidelines issued to check the rising dropout rate, but the government must ensure that they are implemented in letter and spirit and responsibility is fixed at all levels, they say.

WORRYING TREND

According to the Odisha Economic Survey (2021-22), the State's high dropout rate at the secondary level (Classes IX and X) is a cause for concern



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Panneerselvam comes out openly against single leadership demand



'Party's top priority should be to re-establish Jayalalithaa's rule'
T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI
AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam on Thursday came out openly against the scheme of 'single leadership' to steer the party, which was mooted by certain functionaries on Tuesday, and emphasised that this was not the right time for the matter to be pursued.
Breaking his silence on the issue, Mr. Panneerselvam, who met media-persons late in the day at his Greenways Road residence in Chennai, along with deputy coordinator R. Vaithilingam, MLA Manoj Pandian and steering committee member J.C.D. Prabhakar, said the debate would only create confusion among the party workers, a scenario which he would like to avoid at any cost. Besides, at the general council meeting in September 2017, a resolution was adopted to the effect that former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa was the permanent general secretary and hence, the post stood abolished.
"Any move to revive the post would be seen as a mark of betrayal to Amma [Jayalalithaa]," he argued, adding the arrangement of 'dual leadership' was going on smoothly all these years. The top priority of the party should be to "re-establish Amma's rule".
Besides, the Election Commission had given its approval for the present system of electing the coordinator and the co-coordinator by the primary members of the party through a single vote. Based on the development, the organisational elections had taken place at all levels and a meeting of the general council had been called for June 23 to ratify the entire election process. "What is the need for the issue to crop up at this juncture?" Mr. Panneerselvam wondered, criticising the party's organisation secretary and former Minister, D. Jayakumar, for the media briefing he did after a meeting of the district secretaries and other senior functionaries at the party headquarters.
The controversy erupted after Mr. Jayakumar told the media that a majority of the district secretaries and other senior functionaries, who participated at the meeting, had spoken in favour of 'single leadership'.

Lessons learnt, MVA bids to get all candidates through in Council polls

MVA, BJP summon their legislators to Mumbai
SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE
Smarting from its setback in the Rajya Sabha polls, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the ruling coalition in Maharashtra comprising the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress, has asked all its MLAs to gather in Mumbai ahead of the crucial Legislative Council elections on June 20.
Speaking in Pune, Deputy Chief Minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar said all MLAs of the alliance have been instructed to reach Mumbai by June 18 ahead of the polls.
Eleven candidates are in the fray for 10 MLC seats, with the three MVA parties fielding two candidates each and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) five.
Each candidate requires 26 votes to win as the strength of the 288-member Assembly has now reduced to 285, following the demise of Sena MLA Ramesh Latke and the arrest of two NCP leaders - Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh.
The Bombay High Court will pronounce its verdict on Friday on two petitions filed by Mr. Malik and Mr. Deshmukh seeking permission to cast their votes in the Council elections.
Fear of cross-voting
Given the fear of cross-voting after the BJP wrested the sixth seat in the Rajya Sabha polls, the MVA is going all-out to keep its flock together. 'Hotel politics' has begun in full swing with the BJP, too, summoning its 106 MLAs to Mumbai on June 18.
Meanwhile, Congress leader and Minister Satej Patil refuted suggestions of 'poor coordination' between the allies. He said the alliance had learnt from its lessons after the RS polls and it would win all six seats. Mr. Patil alleged that there was internal resentment brewing within the Maharashtra BJP.

10 arrests so far in Moosewala case: police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH
The Punjab police said on Thursday that they had so far arrested 10 accused in connection with the murder of Punjabi singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, known as Sidhu Moosewala, including the main conspirator Lawrence Bishnoi, a gangster.
Police have also identified four shooters involved in the crime, said an official statement.
The Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) and Special Investigation Team (SIT) were working in close coordination with Central agencies and other State Police forces to identify and arrest the suspected shooters and others involved, it said.

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Smt. S.S. Thulasi Lakshmi
(Retd IIT Madras)
(29.10.1942 ~ 16.06.2022)
W/o Shri K. A. Lakshmanan
Attained Shivaloka Prapthi on 16th June 2022 at 1:00 am
Deeply mourned by: family and friends
Contacts: +91 9841289744, +91 9600032496, +91 9841289766
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
FIRST ANNIVERSARY
A.K.SESHADRI (84), Retired Assistant General Manager (Accounts), The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 16-06-2022. Address: "Sri Gayatri", Plot No:44, L H Nagar, II Layout, 3rd Main Road, Adambakkam, Chennai-600068. Ct: 9841729316

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March to Raj Bhavan turns violent in Kerala

Two police personnel sustain injuries, three Congress workers held

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A demonstration taken out by the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) to Raj Bhavan here on Thursday in protest against the Centre's purported political witch-hunt against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, MP turned violent after some activists attempted to scale barricades and storm the premises.

Two police personnel, including a woman, sustained injuries after protesters hurled stones at them. Three Congress activists were arrested in this connection.

All hell broke loose shortly after senior KPCC leaders addressed party workers and left the makeshift stage erected on a lorry near Raj Bhavan. As several activists tried

to topple the barricades, the police used water cannons on them twice. However, the agitators regrouped and hurled stones and sticks at the police. This prompted the police to fire eight grenades and four tear gas shells to force a retreat. Congress workers Leena, Supriya and Sudha were detained and shifted to the Armed Reserve camp after recording arrest.

Earlier, KPCC president K. Sudhakaran, who inaugurated the protest, lashed out at the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for its questioning of Mr. Gandhi in the *National Herald* case and the Delhi police for allegedly barging into the All India Congress Committee headquarters in New Delhi and assaulting party workers. He alleged that the action was yet another at-



Playing with fire: Police using stun grenades to disperse activists who staged a protest near Raj Bhavan. •S. MAHINSHA

tempt by the Centre to cow down its political rivals.

Accusing the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government of misusing Central agencies for political gains, Mr. Sudhakaran alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was hell-bent on pursuing unfair means to

achieve its aim of a Congress-free India. "Such efforts are bound to remain futile as the party has mobilised lakhs of activists across the country to thwart the conspiracy hatched by the BJP and the Sangh Parivar," he said.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan also alleged

Fierce fight in Telangana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The 'Chalo Raj Bhavan' call by the Congress on Thursday turned violent as the police resorted to lathi-charge to prevent the Congress workers from going towards Raj Bhavan. The angry cadre set a two-wheeler on fire and climbed atop the RTC buses raising slogans against the Modi government.

The police arrested all the

senior leaders including TPCC president, A. Revanth Reddy; CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka; MLAs T. Jayaprakash Reddy, Sreedhar Babu and senior leaders J. Geetha Reddy, and Renuka Chowdhary among others.

The Chalo Raj Bhavan was called to protest against the 'harassment' of Rahul Gandhi in the name of questioning by the Enforcement Directorate.

that the Central agencies had been functioning in accordance with the political stance of the BJP's national leadership. "While it has preferred to go slow with probes against the Left Democratic Front in the SNC-Lavalin and UAE diplomatic channel gold smuggling cases, the Con-

gress has always been at the receiving end of unfair action. The double standards shown by agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED, proved the nexus between the BJP and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)]," he claimed.

Suspension of 7 Bengal BJP MLAs revoked

They had created ruckus in Assembly

SHIH SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

West Bengal Legislative Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee on Thursday revoked the suspension of seven BJP MLAs, including that of Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari.

The MLAs were suspended for two separate incidents of alleged unruly behaviour in March. Two BJP MLAs, Agnimitra Paul and Sikha Chatterjee, moved separate motions for the withdrawal of suspension against the seven MLAs.

Ms. Paul moved a motion for withdrawal of the suspension against Mr. Adhikari and four other MLAs - Manoj Tigga, Narhari Mahato, Mihir Goswami and Shankar Ghosh, who were suspended on March 28, when the legis-



BJP leaders seek withdrawal of suspension in Kolkata on Thursday. •DEBASISH BHADURI

lators of the Opposition benches and Treasury benches came to blows. Ms. Chatterjee, meanwhile, moved another motion for withdrawal of suspension against MLAs Mihir Goswami and Sudip Mukhopadhyay, who were suspended on March 7 during the Governor's address to the House.

BJP, Cong. win two seats each in Karnataka council polls

Janata Dal (S) lost both the seats it held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

With the results of all the four graduates and teachers constituencies coming in by Thursday afternoon, the ruling BJP has managed to maintain its majority in the Legislative Council by a slender margin. Of the four seats, BJP and Congress won two seats each.

In a major setback, the Janata Dal(Secular) lost both the seats it held, one each to the Congress and the BJP. The Congress improved its tally by two.



Returning officer Amlan Aditya Biswas hands over certificate of election to Hanumant Nirani in Belagavi. •P.K. BADIGER

Though the BJP won two seats, it lost the North West Teachers' constituency to the Congress.

In the 75-member Upper House, the BJP has 39 members, while the Congress and the Janata Dal(S) have 26 and

eight seats respectively.

The South Graduates constituency was won by Congress candidate Madhu Made Gowda, while Hanumant Nirani of the BJP won the North West Graduates constituency.

IndiGo report false, says Kerala Opposition leader

'Political pressure on airline official'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan has written to the management of IndiGo complaining that the report submitted by the airport manager of the airlines to a local police station here on the protest staged by two Youth Congress activists against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on board an aircraft on Monday is "fake, frivolous and conspicuous".

In his letter to IndiGo associate vice-president Varun Dwivedi, Mr. Satheesan said the report was in stark contrast to the statements given by passengers on the air-



V.D. Satheesan

craft and LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan, who was accompanying the Chief Minister and was a witness to the incident.

He alleged that the manager would have come under political pressure.

Law not equal for all: Shiv Sena

Party says the ruling BJP is using ED to target Rahul Gandhi

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Slamming the BJP over the 'harassment' of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi using the Enforcement Directorate, the Shiv Sena on Thursday said the principle that "all are equal before law" is dead in India.

"The ED only targets leaders of Shiv Sena, Congress, Trinamool, Samajwadi Party, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and RJD. The ED officials barge into houses of leaders of these parties. But they never bothered BJP leaders ever. Dr. Subramanian Swamy who had raised the issue of National Herald is pointing fingers at financial transactions in IPL. But the law that is applied to Na-

tional Herald is not used for IPL. The principle that law is equal for all is dead in this country," said an editorial in party mouthpiece.

The only tool left to be used to finish off the Opposition in the country is a gas chamber as used by Hitler, said an editorial in the party mouthpiece.

Political vendetta

"Political vendetta is heading towards that and no rule of law is seen in the country," it said.

Termining the questions raised by Congress MP P. Chidambaram to ED as sharp, the editorial said that the ED has no satisfactory answers to it. "Chidambaram questioned which sche-

duled offence is committed by Rahul Gandhi under PMLA and whether any agency has filed an FIR. There are no satisfactory answers to these questions with the ED. They [ED] are being told from the top to target Rahul Gandhi and they are following the orders," it said.

The editorial named Anil Deshmukh, Nawab Malik, Anil Parab, Sanjay Raut, Lalit Prasad, Akhilesh Yadav, Abhishek Banerjee who are being 'targeted' by the ED on orders from the top.

It added that the BJP not only wants to erase the memory of Pandit Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi but wants to wipe out the family tree.

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For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 13-06-2022 from 17:00 hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

GHTP 27/22 RO no - 76155/12/927/2021/14985

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : Approx. 55 years, Height : About 6', Face : Oval, Complexion : Wheatish, Build : Medium, wearing black colour full sleeves T-shirt and black colour pant, was found dead on 12.06.2022 on footpath in front of Kothi No. 14, Malkaganj, Near Hansraj College Bounadry Wall, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 19-A dated 12.06.2022 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Maurice Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Maurice Nagar, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-27666332, 27667178

DP/2423/N/22

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Gajender Garg**, S/o Sh. Ramesh Chand, Director/Authorized Signatory of M/s Anita Sakshi Marketing Pvt. Ltd., New Anaj Mandi, Hodal, Faridabad 121106 (Haryana), has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 3786/17, CC No. 3724/17, CC No. 3789/17, CC No. 3782/17, CC No. 3788/17, CC No. 3823/17, CC No. 3820/17, CC No. 3822/17, CC No. 3821/17, CC No. 3783/17, CC No. 3819/17 U/s 138 NI Act** registered at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Gajender Garg** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Gajender Garg** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Gajender Garg**, of case **CC No. 3786/17, CC No. 3724/17, CC No. 3789/17, CC No. 3782/17, CC No. 3788/17, CC No. 3823/17, CC No. 3820/17, CC No. 3822/17, CC No. 3821/17, CC No. 3783/17, CC No. 3819/17 U/s 138 NI Act P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi**, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.07.2022**.

By order
Ms. Isha Singh, MM-03 Central District,
R. No. 202, 2nd Floor, Annex Building-II,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2387/N/2022

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namey: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 50-55 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Without cloths, who was found on CM Road toilet Fathehpuri, Delhi.** In this regard a case **DD No. 25A dt 14.06.2022** has been registered at **PS: Lahori Gate, Delhi**

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P. S: Lahori Gate, Delhi
DP/2410/2022(UIDB) Ph No. 011-23953776, 23958234

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Chief Engineer/TMC, Northern Railway, Headquarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites 03 No tenders through E-Procurement system for supply of the following items:

S. No.	E-Tender No	Description of Item	Qty	Due date Time
1	A30P90TMC2022	VARIOUS TYPE OF T&P FOR BTI	19 Items	11.07.2022 at 11:30 hours.
2	A31P90TMC2022	HYDRAULIC MOTOR AND CONFIRMING & HYDRAULIC ACCUMULATOR	02 Items	11.07.2022 at 11:30 hours.
3	A32P90TMC2022	TAMPING TOOLS FOR WST MACHINE	01 Item	11.07.2022 at 11:30 hours.

Note:- 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement tenders are available on website "www.ireps.gov.in". The firms, who desire to participate against E-Tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would be required to have a class-III digital certificate from certifying agencies authorized under IT Act 2000, by Govt. of India. Manual offers against E-Tenders will not be accepted.

No.: 219-S/1/TMC/20/2022-23 Dated: 15.06.2022 1454/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** was found dead at El. Pole KM No. 07/3-5 Upline near Patel Nagar Railway Station on 13.06.2022. In this regard a DD No. 33A, dated 13.06.2022 has been registered at **Police Station Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi**. Dead body has been preserved in DDU Hospital Mortuary for 72 Hrs for Identification.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 30-35 years, Height : 5'6" Feet, Face : Round, Built : Normal, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Gray Colour T-Shirt and Black Colour Jeans.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO
Website:<http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Delhi Cantt. Rly. Stn.,
E-mail: ciccbi@cbi.nic.in Ph. No. 011-25688505
Tel. No.: 011-23014046/23015218 Mob. No- 8750871309
Fax No.: 011-23011334 DP/192/RLY/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. Pc.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ram Kumar, R/o B-701, Metro Vihar-II, Holambi Kalan, Delhi-110042** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 5285/2021 u/s 138 NI Act, at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Ram Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ram Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ram Kumar** of case **CC No. 5285/2021 u/s 138 NI Act, at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.08.2022**.

By Order
Ms. Preeti Rajoria
MM (NI Act), Digital Court-03,
Central Room No.-182
1st Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2395/N/2022-(Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namey: Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: about 45 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion : Shallow, Face : Long, Built : Thin, Hair : Black, Wearing : Sky colour shirt and Grey colour pant** has been found dead at Nili Chhatari Jamuna Bazar, Kashmere gate, Delhi on 29.05.2022. In this regard a case vide DD No. 38-A dated 29.05.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Sunzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO :
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
North Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23967889, 23968730

DP/2407/N/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sh. Ramesh Goel, S/o Satyaprakash Goel, Director/Authorized Signatory of M/s Anita Sakshi Marketing Private Limited, House No. 160, Hodal, Faridabad, Haryana**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case. **CC No.3782/17, CC No.3784/17, CC No. 3789/17, CC No.3782/17, CC No.3788/17, CC No.3823/17, CC No.3788/17, CC No.3820/17, CC No.3822/17, CC No.3821/17, CC No.3783/17, CC No.3819/17, U/s 138 NI Act P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.07.2022**.

By Order
Ms. Isha Singh,
Metropolitan Magistrate -03,
Central District, Room No. 202,
2nd Floor, Annex Building-II,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/2390/N/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that accused **Brijpal S/o Manu, R/o H.No. 307, Kumar Basti, Village Ghodoli, Delhi-110096** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case vide **FIR No. 231/2019 u/s 379/411 IPC at P.S. IP Estate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Brijpal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Brijpal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Brijpal** of **FIR No. 231/2019 u/s 379/411 IPC at P.S. IP Estate, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **19.07.2022**.

By Order
Sh. Rishab Kapoor
Metropolitan Magistrate-03,
Central District, Room No. 150,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1556/CD/2022 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Rinku R/o H.No. 2075, Katra Pudina Mukoem Pura, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence CC No. 5145/2021 u/s 138 N.T. Act. P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rinku** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rinku** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rinku** accused of CC No. 5145/2021 u/s 138 N.T. Act. P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **26.08.2022**.

By Order: **Ms. Preeti Rajoria**
Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act),
Room No. 182, 1st Floor,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2398/N/22

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Ref: E- procurement Tender Notice 196-S/71/2021-22/Tender Notice/TSO-III/BALP dated 13.06.2022.

(RO No. 1433/2022 & Corrigendum No. 1)

Under noted tender which was to be opened on 14.07.2022 has been cancelled due to administrative reasons

Tender No.	TS225038	Due on 14.07.2022
Description of Item	Manufacturing & Supply of Blown Aluminium Power as per Northern Railway Thermit Portion Plant Lucknow's standard specification TPP/BALP/2021 (as amended up to date).	
Tender Value	Rs. 5,20,55,388.62	
Tender Document Cost	Rs. Nil	
Earnest Money	Rs. 10,41,110/-	
Completion Period	12 Months	
Time of Submission of Tender	Up 14.07.2022 at 14:30 IST	
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	On 14.07.2022 at 14:30 IST	
Validity of Offer	180 days	

Note :- The complete information of above E-Procurement tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in and www.northernrailway.gov.in. E-TENDER NOTICE No. 196-S/71/2019-20/TENDER NOTICE/TSO-III/BALP Dated: 15.06.2022 1468/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



Waiting for jobs

The Centre's decision to recruit personnel is a nod to the festering unemployment issue

For a nation that has had a significant demographic dividend – the working age population is much larger than the non-working age sections – finding productive employment for its youth was to be an imperative for India. Yet, in the last few years, unemployment has remained a major concern – the leaked Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in 2018 revealed that India's unemployment rate was the highest (6.07%) in four decades. The latest PLFS suggests that the numbers now are not so drastic, with the overall unemployment rate at 4.2% in 2020-21 compared to 4.8% in 2019-20 and the labour force participation rate (LFPR) increasing to 41.6%, up from 40.1% in 2019-20. In terms of the more widely used statistic internationally, the current weekly status of unemployment, the figure of 7.5% for all persons in 2020-21 is still worrying. But, the PLFS data will not bring much cheer to the Government despite a decrease in unemployment, according to official data. This is because the decrease, says the PLFS, has also coincided with the transfer of employment into lower productive and unpaid jobs away from salaried employment. Worryingly, industrial jobs have decreased with more employment in agricultural and farm-related jobs – a trend that accelerated following the lockdown and has not reversed since then. Unemployment rates among the educated (above secondary education – 9.1%) and the youth (age between 15-29 – 12.9%) have only declined marginally.

Wage rates have continued to remain lower for those employed in either salaried jobs or self-employed compared to the pre-pandemic period, with the increases being marginal in the year following lockdown-driven days of the pandemic. It is clear that the Government must tackle unemployment and, concomitantly, the quality of employment issue, on a war footing. In this regard, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement that the Government will be recruiting 10 lakh personnel within the next 18 months (vacancies in the Railways, the armed forces and GST departments among others) should be seen as a step in the right direction. The latest data showed that there were 8.86 lakh vacant jobs among all central government civilian posts as of March 2020. Mr. Modi's announcement was not about the creation of a large chunk of new jobs; the bulk of the promised employment is to fill up vacancies. But even this measure would be ameliorative in the real economy that continues to remain distressed, a consequence of the BJP-led government's mismanagement and the effects of the pandemic in the last few years. The country cannot afford to squander more years in its race to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend, and the push to provide jobs for those seeking to enter the labour force, even if belated, will help ease matters for the medium term.

Race for relevance

The Fed's rate hike can accelerate the exit of foreign portfolio investments

The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday implemented its steepest interest rate increase in more than 27 years as it fights to rein in runaway inflation. Barely six weeks after raising the policy rate by half a percentage point and underscoring the likelihood of "additional 50-basis-point increases" at the next couple of meetings, Chairman Jerome Powell stressed it had become "essential" to increase the rate instead by 75 basis points to bring inflation down. The overarching message, he asserted, was that the Fed recognised the 'hardship high inflation was causing' and had the resolve to restore price stability with singular focus. Acknowledging that inflation had 'surprised to the upside' since the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) had last met in May, he said the committee agreed that the larger increase was required to anchor inflation expectations. With U.S. Consumer Price Index based inflation quickening to a fresh four-decade high of 8.6% in May, spurred by housing, petrol and food prices, the Fed admitted that price pressures had spread to a broad range of goods and services. Even as it realises that it has very little control over supply side factors, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and COVID-related lockdowns in China, the U.S. central bank said it was determined to continue raising interest rates till it saw 'compelling evidence' that inflation was slowing towards its 2% goal. Mr. Powell emphasised that yet another 'unusually large' 75-basis-point or a 50-basis-point increase was 'most likely' in the meeting in July.

For Mr. Powell and fellow FOMC members, focusing unrelentingly on taming price gains through monetary action, including raising borrowing costs and gradually tightening liquidity, risks squeezing the economy into a recession. It is also a scenario mirrored earlier this month in forecasts by almost 70% of academic economists, polled by the *Financial Times* and the University of Chicago, who foresee the U.S. economy shrinking in 2023. The Fed recognises that the tighter financial conditions have tempered demand, even as it posits that real GDP growth has rebounded on strong consumption spending. Mr. Powell, who had in May underlined that the Fed would not hesitate to move policy to 'restrictive' levels if needed, on Wednesday flagged the reductions in the FOMC's median projections for growth. Central bankers now see the U.S. economy expanding by 1.7% both in 2022 and 2023, slower than the March forecasts of 2.8% and 2.2%, respectively. For India, the Fed's actions are likely to result in an acceleration in the recent exodus of foreign portfolio investments, spur more gains for the dollar against the rupee thus widening the trade deficit, and also fuel faster inflation as imported goods, including crude oil, become costlier.

Bulldozer injustice to 'teach a lesson'

In today's interpretation of the law in some States, the tempter's provocation is overlooked and the tempted found guilty



MADAN B. LOKUR

Shakespeare, speaking through Angelo in *Measure for Measure*, asks a pertinent question that resonates even today: "The tempter or the tempted, who sins most?" In the law on sedition, the Supreme Court of India made it clear that the one inciting violence is the guilty person. Ergo, the tempter sins most. In today's interpretation of the law, it does not matter whether there is incitement or not; a charge of sedition will be slapped anyway if the powers that be do not 'like' what somebody has said or tweeted.

Bulldozer justice

But the law gets more complicated when a fringe but influential national spokesperson incites violence by saying something offensive about the Prophet. The maya law seems to overlook the provocation of the tempter, but finds the tempted guilty. The guilty are then punished by a common judge, jury and executioner and also given double engine punishment: arrest, followed by arbitrary and retributive demolition of their residential accommodation, through what is now commonly referred to as bulldozer justice. I prefer to call it bulldozer justice.

There are adequate provisions in the Indian Penal Code for the police to act against any violator, but the law seems to be inapplicable if the tempter is an influential fringe or well connected. So, a call for *goli maro* is ignored; senseless lynching invites garlands for the

accused; a call for genocide is a bit of a nuisance. Is it then surprising that something offensive said about the Prophet invites only a light rap on the knuckles? If that is deemed to be punishment enough, then the exercise of a fundamental right to protest by thousands of people across the country is understandable. Persons accused of far lesser offences have had charges of sedition foisted on them. The less fortunate have been subject to anti-terror laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, while the unfortunate are imprisoned under the National Security Act (NSA) or the Public Safety Act.

When the state acts

Is there a constitutional right to resort to violence during a protest? Absolutely not. The Constitution of India permits only a peaceful assembly without arms. Stones or brickbats can be weaponised and are a no-no. Violence in protests cannot be justified under any circumstances, whatever the cause. A light rap on the knuckles to the tempter does not warrant the use of a knuckle duster by the tempted.

But, as they say, violence begets violence. And so, the state comes down on the violent protesters with a heavy hand and the apocryphal iron fist made popular a couple of years ago by a learned Supreme Court judge. The state then uses its machinery, literally, in the form of bulldozers to demolish the residential premises of those believed to be indulging in violent protests. The long arm of the law is employed to identify the protesters and a list is prepared of those who need to be 'taught a lesson'. Remember, a similar stratagem was used in 1984 following the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi.



Back then, we called it genocide, while today we call it 'teaching a lesson'.

Fundamental rights

Some of the violent protesters own a house or a shop or a stall but many do not. Activist Javed Mohammad of Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, was unlucky enough that his wife owned a house. So, as a chapter in the lesson to be taught, he was first jailed and then her house demolished through a constitutional violation. Ironically, two judgments of the Supreme Court from Uttar Pradesh consider shelter as a fundamental right. In *U.P. Avas Evam Vikas Parishad vs Friends Coop. Housing Society Ltd* (1996) it was held that "The right to shelter is a fundamental right, which springs from the right to residence assured in Article 19(1)(e) and the right to life under Article 21 (of the Constitution)". In *Chameli Singh vs State of Uttar Pradesh* (1996) it was held that "The right to shelter when used as an essential requisite to the right to live should be deemed to have been guaranteed as a fundamental right". Those lucky enough not to have relatives owning a house will probably get brutally thrashed like the hapless victims of a lathi charge in a police station in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, whose video has gone viral.

How does the state justify the constitutional transgression? It

says, as reported, that Mr. Javed's house was illegal and a notice to demolish it was served on him (or pasted on the wall) and he did not avail the opportunity of a hearing granted as per law. It is difficult to believe the state for a variety of reasons.

An illegality

First, the state collected taxes from Mr. Javed for the so-called illegal construction. Was the illegality of construction condoned? If not, was not the state complicit in perpetuating the illegality and also earning out of it? Has any action been taken by the state against its complicit officials?

Second, the well-settled principle requiring state action to be just, fair and reasonable mandates, in the absence of any terrible urgency, another opportunity to Mr. Javed to appear for the hearing. Maybe he was sick or out of town. Why was this routine 'another opportunity' denied to him?

Third, Mr. Javed's house was demolished on a Sunday which is a government holiday. Even in NSA cases, the Supreme Court excludes Sundays for dealing with a representation against preventive detention. It is good if the government works on holidays as well, but could not the benefit of a government holiday be passed on to Mr. Javed by an "efficient" government? Let us be realistic.

Fourth, the demolition order was pasted on the wall of Mr. Javed's house on Saturday night and the demolition took place on Sunday morning, giving no time to him or his wife to challenge the correctness of the demolition order in a court of law or file an appeal. Is this just, fair and reasonable?

Fifth, the Delhi High Court de-

clined a case in which the Uttar Pradesh police unlawfully whisked away two residents of Delhi and managed to have them sent to judicial custody for almost two months on no charges at all. The Additional Advocate General of U.P. admitted that the police officers concerned made false statements before the court, created false documents in the investigation and even before the Special Investigation Team constituted to investigate the issues flagged by the High Court (*Teenu vs Govt. of NCT of Delhi*) (2022). Clearly, the U.P. police have a rather unenviable track record. Facts and documents in Mr. Javed's case may equally be manufactured. Sorry, but the demolition saga smacks of vendetta, legal and factual mala fides.

Need for accountability

What is the solution? First, the state should adequately compensate Mr. Javed to enable him to rebuild his house. Second, it should give him an equal amount of compensation for the mental distress caused to him and his family. Third, the officers concerned at all levels must be held accountable and punished enough to 'teach them a lesson'. Accountability jurisprudence must take root in India and the culture of impunity banished. Fourth, disband the Uttar Pradesh State Human Rights Commission, a body that apparently sees no evil, hears no evil and does no good.

Conclusion: The tempter has achieved her purpose and the tempted can only feel sorry for themselves and say goodbye to the rule of law.

Justice Madan B. Lokur, a former judge of the Supreme Court of India, is presently a judge of the Supreme Court of Fiji

The floundering of Israel's uneasy coalition

Riven by crises, it believes that focusing on Iran as the enemy will somehow unite the polarised state



TALMIZ AHMAD

On June 13, just as the government of Naftali Bennett commemorated its one year in office, it was on the verge of collapse. A week earlier, a Bill to extend Israel's criminal law to West Bank settlers, which had been routinely passed earlier, failed to get approval, signifying the deep divide among the coalition partners that make up the government.

This coalition has brought together parties from the hard right, the centre, some left-wing groups, and, uniquely, an Arab party, Ra'am, that has an Islamist background. Prime Minister Bennett is from the right wing and was, till recently, the darling of extremist religious groups.

But Mr. Bennett's anxiety to upstage former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu led him to join this eight-member coalition that had a majority of one in the 120-member Knesset. Mr. Bennett will head the government for half its term, before making way for his partner, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, for the balance of the term.

Holding the coalition together is a daily challenge: on April 6, it lost its majority when Idit Silman, long affiliated with the religious right, defected to the opposition on the ground that the Jewish identity of the country was being jeopardised. The government then acquired minority status when an

Arab member quit the coalition, but promised to support it in the House to prevent a hard right government replacing it. She later withdrew her resignation, but insisted that the Bennett government "be genuine and attentive to the Arab community".

National divisions

The Palestinian-Jewish divide has created turmoil in the country since April when, during the holy month of Ramadan, the two communities made the Al-Aqsa Mosque the locale for violent confrontations. There were further assaults exchanged between the two sides through to early May. Hardly had these died down when anger flared up again with what the Palestinians believe was the targeted killing of the Al Jazeera journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, on May 11.

A Palestinian, Shireen had been reporting about events in her home region for nearly 30 years and had acquired an iconic status among Arabs across West Asia. The view across the region is that her killing has restored the Palestine issue to the global agenda.

Within two weeks, Israel was saddled with its next crisis – the annual flag march on May 29 to mark the capture of East Jerusalem in the 1967 war. Last year, the march, that is largely made up of Jewish youth from the extreme right who provocatively pass through the Muslim quarter of the city, had led to an 11-day conflict with Hamas in Gaza and communal violence in Israel itself. This year, Mr. Bennett, taunted by his traditional right-wing cohorts as being soft on Arabs and weak before threats, felt politically com-



REUTERS

promised to approve the march. Nearly 70,000 youth, led by Mr. Netanyahu, descended on Jerusalem, waving Israeli flags. Their popular slogans were "Death to Arabs", "Let us burn down your villages" and "The Jewish nation lives". Despite stringent security arrangements, several hundred of them broke into the Al-Aqsa Mosque – they planted Israeli flags, indulged in provocative dancing, and chanted Talmudic prayers.

Still, on June 12, following the defeat of the settlers' bill, the leaders of the coalition parties described their government as "one of the best governments" and pledged that "we will not despair and we will not break". But two days later, Mr. Bennett warned that the government had just "a week or two" to avoid collapse, after a member from his own party refused to back the coalition in the Knesset.

War and peace in West Asia

Iran remains in the sights of all Israeli governments, regardless of their political complexion. On May 22, Israel carried out the killing of an Iranian colonel from the Al Quds Force in Tehran. He was accused in the Israeli media of planning attacks on Israeli and Jewish targets, a charge that was deemed sufficient for Israel to be prosecutor, judge and executioner in a

long line of assassinations of Iranian scientists and military personnel.

Israel's Ministers are reported to be lobbying robustly in Washington against the revival of the nuclear agreement. Defence Minister Benny Gantz has even announced that Israel was planning to attack Iran's nuclear sites in a couple of years. A major exercise, involving hundreds of aircraft, took place on June 2, to signal preparations for the proposed assault.

Expanding diplomatic and economic ties with neighbouring Arab states, without conceding anything to Palestinian aspirations, is another area of political consensus in Israel. In early April, Israel hosted a meeting of Arab foreign Ministers of countries that have normalised ties with it, which was attended by the U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken.

Since then, there are regular reports that ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are flourishing – a major trade agreement was signed on May 31 which will cover 96% of bilateral trade, amounting to about \$1 billion, and could take trade to more than \$10 billion within five years. However, the signing ceremony was abruptly stopped to mediapersons as the UAE Foreign Ministry condemned Israeli violence at the Al-Aqsa Mosque by "extremist settlers under the protection of Israeli forces".

The outlook

As the country lurches from crisis to crisis, the government is seen to be paralysed, with the Prime Minister floundering to keep control. He is constantly haunted by the spectre of Mr. Netanyahu calling

on the coalition's right-wing members to abandon "the weak and flaccid government" that is harming the country's Jewish identity, and "return home".

But the coalition is holding together because no member is keen on another election; they fear defeats if they do not deliver on issues that immediately matter to the populace battered by the novel coronavirus pandemic – welfare measures for poor families, support for small business, upgradation of national infrastructure. Even the Arab party is anxious to keep the coalition going to prevent the return of Mr. Netanyahu and, over time, increasingly integrate Arabs with the Israeli mainstream.

Israel's principal focus is to normalise ties with Saudi Arabia amidst reports of clandestine interactions between political and security officials and the visit by a major Israeli business delegation to the kingdom. As the Americans attempt to rebuild ties with Saudi Arabia in the context of the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine, it is likely that the kingdom might see value in its ties with Israel to consolidate its position in Washington regardless of who resides in the White House.

U.S. President Joe Biden's visit to the kingdom and Israel next month will focus on promoting formal ties between the two countries as part of mobilising a tough regional coalition against Iran, even as Israel continues its violence and aggression in the region with impunity. This seems to be the only route its leaders have found to keep themselves in power.

Talmiz Ahmad is a former diplomat

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.

Job creation

The mission mode of the 10 lakh government jobs announced by the Prime Minister is in fact aligned to the upcoming Assembly elections, which will culminate in the general election in 2024. The job mission is nothing but a mission to achieve the target of winning a third national term in 2024. The fact of the matter is the central and State governments have not been filling up vacancies arising from retirement. For example, look at the banking sector. The country's lead nationalised bank has pruned staff in such a way that it has

affected services. A service such as seeking clarification or requesting an update of a pass book or even getting a new continuation passbook, results in the standard reply: 'Leave the passbook overnight' or 'Download the SBI app'. Similarly, vacancies of teachers in central schools upon superannuation of teachers are not filled up regularly. Instead, ad hoc teachers are recruited, who join duty in a half-hearted manner. The time has come for the ruling party to stop linking jobs with politics. It is also a mystery why administrative action which should be routine (filling vacancies) needs to wait for

the Prime Minister's announcement.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

It is fine to be announcing jobs in government entities. It is a step in the right direction, but there is no doubt that the path to be traversed is long and winding. Unemployment is rampant in the country, which has been made worse by the novel coronavirus pandemic, the lockdowns, and the economic slowdown. The loss of jobs in the informal and formal sectors is mind-boggling. A healthy and robust economy with potential for large-scale employment generation is

the remedy needed. The Government should leave no stone unturned in its endeavour to create such an environment.

Dr. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,
Nellimarla, Andhra Pradesh

Avoiding the news

The report, "People avoiding news: Reuters study" (June 15), is just a larger reflection of the declining trend in the reading habit, especially among youth. They seem to be distressingly prefer seeking comfort in the one-line messages on various social media platforms. I think most people who read newspapers these days are those who are above at least 40 years old. A hesitancy to

read and analyse the news has many repercussions, including a lack of general knowledge to start with.

A.R. RAMANARAYANAN,
Chennai

It was interesting to note why people tend to avoid the news unlike the time when they would clamour for a copy of the newspaper the first thing in the morning. How times have changed. News is meant to keep a person up to date with developments in the world. It is unfortunate that trust in the news is falling. Has the situation grown so dismal that reading the news makes one feel powerless? And that people would rather not read

the news because it ruins their mood? How strange!

PRANATI R. NARAIN,
Bengaluru

IPL auction

It is not for nothing that the IPL media rights auction has seen humongous amounts. Experts would have made precise calculations and the bidders would have taken into consideration the ever-growing viewership. For the common man, the successful bid amounts may have come as a shock but the bidders knew what they were precisely doing.

V. LAKSHMANAN,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

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Is COVID-19 becoming endemic?

PARLEY

There are indications, but endemicity seems to be a little further away

Is COVID-19 now approaching an endemic stage? While the common interpretation of endemicity is 'this is a disease we no longer have to be worried about', what does it actually mean in epidemiological terms and what are the concerns for public health for the future? Will the infection spread at more predictable rates and will it perhaps become more manageable? In a conversation moderated by Ramya Kannan, Tarun Bhatnagar and K. Kolandaisamy discuss the science behind these questions. Edited excerpts:

Is COVID-19 on the path to becoming endemic?

Tarun Bhatnagar: As per the classical definition, a disease is endemic when it spreads in a limited area and at a rate which is relatively constant across time. In contrast, during a pandemic, the disease spreads to all the regions of the world and is present in some form or the other in all parts of the world with a relatively high rate of spread. We know that SARS-CoV-2 is still being detected in all parts of the world. In that sense, it is still a pandemic. However, we are seeing that in most or many parts of the world, the rate of spread is coming down, either naturally or with the interventions that have been put in place. So, yes, we probably could be moving towards endemicity. But that seems to be a little further away than where we are now.

K. Kolandaisamy: There are indications that the virus is moving towards endemicity. For example, in Tamil Nadu, we are seeing 200-300 cases, most of them from clusters. This is one indication that the disease might be moving towards endemicity. But we need to be very careful because even after two years, we are not very clear about the origin of this virus. There are three coronaviruses which manifest as common cold in human beings. Then, there was SARS-CoV-1 (2002), later called SARS [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome], and MERS [Middle East Respiratory Syndrome] (2012), all respiratory viruses. While SARS is not being monitored, tests

are still being done for MERS. We are not very sure whether this virus will go the way of SARS, or take the path of MERS, or become like the three common cold viruses. This is a question only time can answer.

During the early part of the pandemic, COVID-19 was likened to the Spanish flu of about 100 years ago, but that flu did not turn endemic. Why do some diseases become endemic while others seem to vanish?

TB: In order to understand the transmission of infectious diseases, we need to think of what is known as the epidemiological triad – the interaction between the agent, which is the organism that causes the disease, the host, which is the human body where the agent resides and spreads, and the environment in which both the agent and the host live and how conducive it is for the transmission of the agent.

The Spanish flu virus was not as transmissible as SARS-CoV-2. In fact, its reproduction rate was between 1 and 2. For SARS-CoV-2, it has gone up to 3, even 4, in some places. Second, we need to think in terms of the host, in order for the virus to spread. During the Spanish flu, it is understood that a bit, probably around a third, of the world's population was affected and infected. It probably led to lower susceptibility, and herd immunity. Finally, the flu virus seemed to prefer a colder environment compared to SARS-CoV-2, which is probably agnostic to the environment, as we have seen.

KK: With the Spanish flu, the movement of soldiers, particularly in Europe, is said to have played a major role in the spread of the disease. Today, the movement of people has become quite phenomenal globally. This means that any disease can spread from anywhere to everywhere and human continuity will be there. Instead of disappearing like the Spanish flu, there is a greater possibility of SARS-CoV-2 moving to the endemic mode.

Can this move to endemicity within a short span of two years



be attributed to a triumph of human efforts?

KK: Yes, the one important turning point in this case was the development of vaccines. That played a major role. Also, communication technology helped in disseminating information and awareness very quickly. And, as we now know, although some of the control measures were very harsh, travel restrictions and the initial lockdown measures also helped a lot. It is to be noted that the fact that the pandemic spread very fast was a blessing in disguise: a large number of people were infected and this hastened the process of herd immunity.

TB: I would distribute the credit equally between the virus and us, human beings. In the initial period, the virus spread so much that in a way it was a boon, in terms of people getting natural immunity to that particular strain of the virus. The vaccine has definitely been a game changer. I think it is historic to have a vaccine within such a short period of time, and completely incomparable to any other medical intervention that the world has seen. Even in terms of management of the disease, we learned a lot very fast.

What would be the link between cases and deaths in a possible endemic scenario?

TB: If we look at different parts of the world, and India, we're not seeing as many deaths or even hospitalisations. The cases are considerably low, even if they are showing an upward climb. However, we are looking at another sub-lineage of Omicron, BA.4 and BA.5, initially

With variants emerging again, the role of genomic surveillance becomes very critical – to be able to identify which is the circulating variant, its characteristics in terms of transmissibility, and ability to cause severe disease.

TARUN BHATNAGAR

reported from South Africa and now common in several countries. More recent reports from South Africa show a high number of excess deaths related to these sub-variants. Even Portugal, where the vaccination rates are pretty high, is reporting a high number of cases as well as hospitalisations. So, we will have to see how the virus is driving this – how good the virus is in terms of immune escape from natural immunity as well as from vaccine-induced immunity, how long does immunity persist, and the vaccine distribution in the population. These would be the three critical factors that would determine the future in terms of our interaction with the virus.

KK: We need to continue to be very careful in certain areas. We need to take care of people with co-morbid conditions and ensure that their health parameters are under control. For immunocompromised people, public health protocols such as wearing a mask, washing hands, and avoiding crowds are crucial. Besides this, we need to reach out to people who have not yet taken both shots and the booster dose and urge them to take the vaccines while explaining the risks of not being vaccinated. And we will need to continue to monitor [disease spread] and un-

derstand surveillance of disease and morbidity in times to come.

What are the public health measures that governments will have to roll out in an endemic scenario versus a pandemic?

KK: Decades ago, our hospitals had separate wards for infectious diseases. Those were maintained by the local body. In those days, people with, say, smallpox, cholera, TB, chickenpox, acute diarrhoeal disease, etc. would be directed to these special wards or units in hospitals for treatment and, of course, would be segregated from others who were coming to the hospital too. However, over a period of time, with many public health successes – we have eliminated smallpox and there has been a huge decline in cholera cases and other infectious diseases such as chickenpox and measles – these units have been shut down, or are a shell of their former capacity. The system, therefore, had very little capacity to handle infectious diseases when COVID-19 began to spread. An exclusive facility to manage the cases with corresponding facilities for diagnostics and public health interventions is needed.

TB: We are definitely not expecting the virus to disappear. It will probably continue to circulate at various levels in the population. So, the first thing that we need to be thinking of is setting realistic levels of what are the expected deaths or hospitalisations, vis-a-vis the infrastructure that is available. Ultimately, it's about preventing deaths as much as possible. The second is to set targets for reducing transmission. With more transmission, there is a risk of new mutations and variants emerging. So, we need to be looking at clusters or places where we see a higher rate of transmission. We need to set up routine testing facilities which are not camp-based and which are accessible and available to people. With the emerging variants, again, the role of genomic surveillance becomes very critical – to be able to identify which is the circulating variant, its characteristics in terms of transmissibility, and ability to cause severe disease. Accordingly, public health interventions would have to be in place. Two things are really critical: to stop air-

borne transmission (by wearing masks, especially indoors and in crowded places) and ensure sufficient air ventilation in indoor spaces. I think that is an area in the realm of public health engineering, in terms of designing our indoor spaces and having good ventilation. That would be really important as we move forward in terms of preventing transmission of the virus.

Have there been some missed opportunities in the past couple of years, though much has indeed been done in this country especially in terms of adding to health infrastructure?

KK: We have missed the opportunity to effectively enforce segregation for infectious diseases in our hospitals. A number of pregnant women who got COVID-19 contracted the infection when they were in hospital for a check-up. They were not diseased, but caught the infection in hospital, where there is poor or little infection control or segregation practices. This is unacceptable.

Also, engineering buildings to ensure air flow and good ventilation, particularly in hospitals and public institutions, is very important. We also need to get people to get back to the discipline of following COVID-19 protocols. The National Medical Council can consider offering more specialisation courses in infectious diseases.

TB: In terms of using data for decision-making, a positive that I see is that the pandemic brought together people who were working in their own silos – clinicians, mathematicians, epidemiologists, laboratory professionals, public health practitioners on the ground, anthropologists... So, we have an opportunity to now go further and change the culture of research. These kinds of collaborations help you get a bigger bang for the buck.

We've also developed systems to collect data, to transmit it, to analyse it and use it for various purposes at different levels. But there are opportunities to make that system more robust, more transparent and enable more efficient use of data. This can definitely go a long way in being prepared for the future and then tackling similar kinds of public health emergencies.



Tarun Bhatnagar is an epidemiologist and senior scientist at the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Epidemiology in Chennai



K. Kolandaisamy is a former director of public health in Tamil Nadu



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NOTEBOOK

Rain alone doesn't make a monsoon

Following an old adage in journalism is perilous to the reporter covering weather and climate

JACOB KOSHY

There is a frequently cited adage in journalism: if one person says it's raining and another says it's dry, the job of the journalist is not to just regurgitate 'both sides' but look out of the window and determine which one is accurate. While this has struck me as simplistic and not really applicable to most stories worth telling, it is particularly perilous to the reporter covering the weather and climate beat.

Any journalist who has been assigned to report on science and the environment would, at some point, have reported on the annual summer monsoon. To the newbie, monsoon means the end of summer, messy roads, and the R.K. Laxman cartoon of the soaked-to-the-sandals meteorologist and the only one in the room without an umbrella. In due course, these perceptions become the monsoon reporter's mantras: "When will it rain? When will it stop raining? Why does our monsoon department always get it wrong?" A senior meteorologist once gave me a two-word, all-encompassing answer: "It depends."

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), arbiter of all things weather, forecasts in April and May how the monsoon, which lasts from June to September, is likely to progress. It also forecasts the advent of the monsoon in Kerala. The IMD does this a few days left or right of June 1. Some years ago, on May 28 or 29, when I was still new to the beat, I got off a call with a relative in Kerala who said it had been pouring and "monsoon" had set in with a vengeance. I checked on the IMD website and there was no declaration yet. I called up an official who said the monsoon hadn't arrived. "But sir, it's raining in Kerala," I said. "Rain alone doesn't make monsoon," came the Yoda-like answer. The thought that my school education had been a lie zipped through my brain, but the statement "it depends" put things in perspective. Kerala, from where the monsoon begins its journey, must tick many boxes unlike the rest of the India, for monsoon to be declared. At

least 60% of 14 stations, most of them in the State but some in Lakshadweep and Karnataka, must get 2.5 mm of rain on consecutive days. Then there are criteria such as 'depth of westerlies' and the 'Outgoing Longwave Radiation' that need to be met. The former indicates strong sustained winds and the latter is a long name for clouding. I learned my lesson and with it went the 'look out of the window' instruction.

A favourite word of IMD meteorologists, especially those who deal with the public, is 'normal'. Few terms are as loaded. In 2009, the IMD said the monsoon would be 96% of the historical average. Into this is inbuilt a 5% error margin. So, any number from 101% to 91% and IMD could still claim to be accurate and the monsoon 'normal'. That year saw a massive monsoon failure with India registering its biggest drought in 25 years. Rainfall was just 77% of the average. What was perturbing was that the signs of a disaster were present in June itself, with expectations that an El Nino, characterised by a warming of the Central Pacific, would dry up the monsoon. "How did you get it so wrong," I demanded to know. Privately, meteorologists conceded that they knew a 'deficit' was looming. The IMD had a form of self-censorship in place to not use the term 'drought' and instead say 'deficit.' "Political considerations," one of them told me.

Climate change, of late, has complicated the monsoon. In recent years, September, the month when the monsoon officially recedes, has started to witness multiple downpours and makes up for deficits in previous months. This rain usually spills over into October. "Isn't all of this technically monsoon," I once asked a meteorologist one October. "Well, yes. But our monsoon calendar is strictly June 1 to September 30. Anything before or after isn't monsoon rain," he replied. "But climate change has surely altered these patterns. Shouldn't you account for it in some way," I asked. Pat came the reply: "It depends."

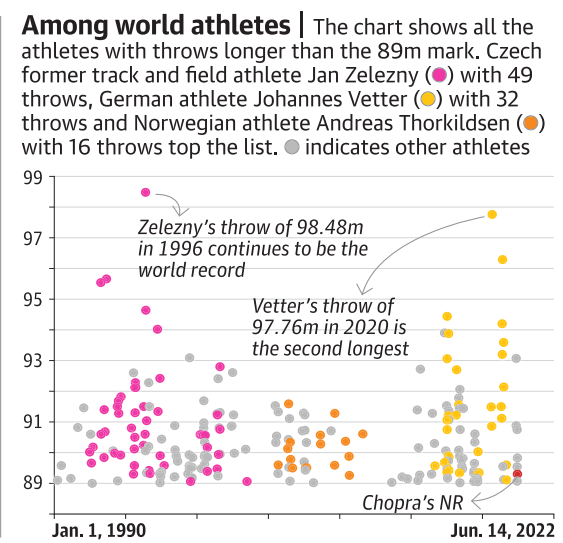
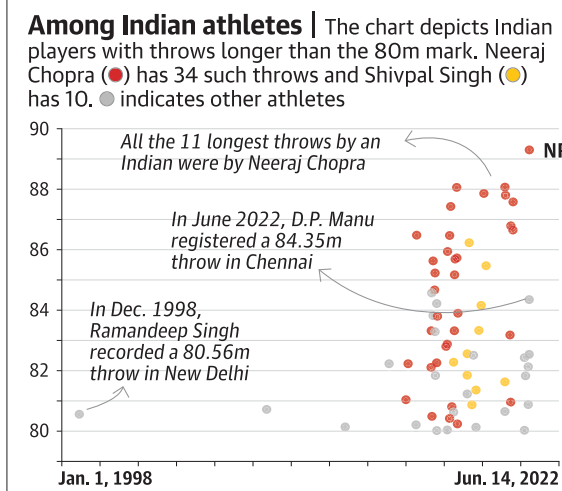
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DATA POINT

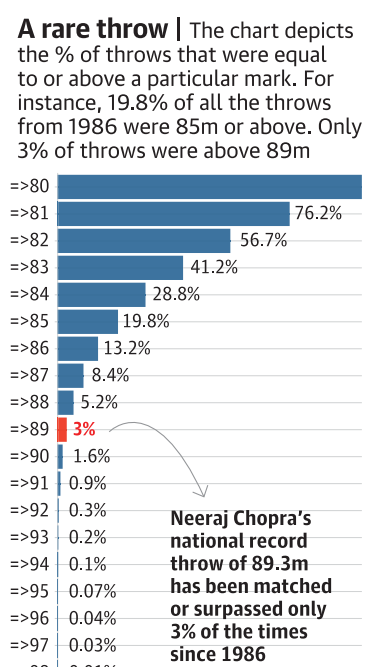
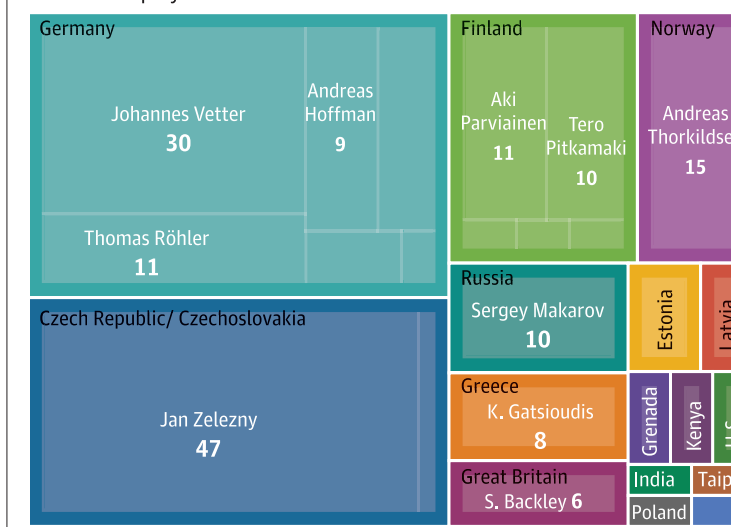


In rarefied air

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra created a new national record (NR) in javelin throw on Tuesday with a 89.3 metre effort at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland. This is the first time an Indian has crossed the 89m mark. In fact, the top 11 Indian throws are Chopra's. Since 1986*, the world over, there have been 187 better throws than Chopra's national record in recognised athletic events. Of these, 47 throws were by former Czech athlete Jan Zelezny and 30 by the German Johannes Vetter, who is still active. Neeraj Chopra's national record throw of 89.3m has been matched or surpassed only 3% of the times since 1986. By Rebecca Rose Varghese and Vignesh Radhakrishnan



Top countries | The chart depicts the country-athletes combination for all those who have thrown 89.3m or longer in history. Six Germans have reached the mark, the highest among all nations, followed by five Finnish players



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 17, 1972

ASPAC says it is not a military alliance

Tokyo, June 18: The seventh ministerial conference of the Asian and Pacific Council concluded its three day deliberations in Seoul to-day emphasising the peaceful and non-military nature of the nine-member organisation and seeking to dispel any doubts from the minds of the people that it was militarily motivated. At the same time, a joint communique stressed the open door policy of the organisation to permit membership in it to all countries of the region, regardless of ideologies. Reflecting the general desire of the majority of the member-countries – particularly in view of the fast changes that are coming about in the Asian and Pacific region – to erase suspicions that the ASPAC was some kind of a military alliance, the communique specifically stated that it was not a political or military arrangement directed against other nations. Nor was it an exclusive organisation. The communique declared that ASPAC was open to non-member countries within the region who were ready to make a constructive contribution to its objectives and purposes. It restated its purposes, namely, that the ASPAC was an organisation for regional co-operation pursuing peace and progress in the Asian and Pacific region. It would devote its efforts to promote co-operation in economic, technical, social, cultural, and other fields.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 17, 1922

Sastri's mission

Mr. Sastri's performances have been in no way creditable either to himself or the people whom he pretends to represent. He has indulged in a great deal of wild and irresponsible talk in the course of his speeches in the important centres of Australia. Explaining the object of his mission to the Australians, he pointed out that India did not object to the "White Australia" policy, and that she only wanted that resident Indians should be accorded better treatment. The obvious implication of this amazing statement is that Australia can impose any disabilities she desires on Indian immigration. Even in the modest demands he makes Mr. Sastri is not in a particular hurry and only in course of time when probably Australians will better realise the essential reasonableness of the cause he so nobly espouses, are the Indians to be accepted as equal citizens with full franchise rights! India desires the same rights in Australia as the Australian has in India.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Tax evasion

1.25 In billion euros, the amount McDonald's will pay in France to avoid a legal case over tax evasion between 2009 and 2020, under an agreement approved by a Paris court. This is the second-biggest tax settlement in French history, made up of a €508 million fine and €737 million in back taxes already agreed in May, years after McDonald's was accused of reporting artificially low profits to reduce its tax bill. France's biggest tax fine was in 2020, when aircraft builder Airbus had to cough up €2.1 billion. AFP

Journalists in jail

16 The number of Kurdish journalists jailed after being detained last week over charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. Turkey has jailed more reporters than most other countries over the last decade, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Several media groups had condemned last week's detentions as "ruthless". Turkey ranks a low 149 out of 180 countries on the Reporters Without Borders's (RSF) World Press Freedom Index, which describes it as a country in which "all possible means are used to undermine critics". REUTERS

Soaring jet fuel prices

16 The percentage by which jet fuel prices were hiked on Thursday. The hike, the steepest ever, propelled rates to an all-time high in line with the hardening international oil rates. The hike, which comes on the back of a marginal 1.3% (₹1,563.97 per kl) cut in rate earlier this month, takes jet fuel prices to record high across the country. Brent — the world's most popular crude oil benchmark — was on Thursday trading at \$119.16 per barrel, the highest in almost a decade. The increase in jet fuel prices will raise the operating cost for airlines. PTI

Interest rate hikes

25 The basis points by which the Bank of England raised interest rates to combat price increases that have pushed inflation to a 40-year high. The Bank of England's action took its key rate to 1.25% and marked five consecutive increases that began in December. While the U.K.'s central bank began raising interest rates earlier than its counterparts, it is now trailing the U.S. Federal Reserve in the fight against inflation. The Fed did go bolder on Wednesday, raising its benchmark rate by three-quarters of a percentage point. AP

Mounting case load

7,100 The number of COVID-19 cases reported in Delhi in the last 10 days. Amid a spike in daily cases, the positivity rate too, has climbed from 1.92% on June 7 to 7.01% on June 15. Delhi on Wednesday recorded 1,375 cases, the highest daily tally in a month, and zero deaths. Daily case count and other associated metrics, such as active cases, home isolation cases have also seen a parallel rise. Home isolation cases rose from 1,006 on June 7 to 2,108 on June 15, as per official data. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The reasons behind the crashing crypto market

Why do governments and central banks view cryptocurrencies negatively? Do these virtual currencies have intrinsic value?

THE GIST

■ Bitcoin has lost more than two-thirds of its value while Ethereum has lost almost 80% from its peak. As a result, the overall market capitalisation of cryptocurrencies has dropped under \$1 trillion for the first time since January 2021.

■ Most analysts believe that the fall in the price of cryptocurrencies is in line with the fall in prices of stocks as central banks such as the U.S. Federal Reserve tighten monetary policy to fight inflation.

■ Cryptocurrency enthusiasts argue that cryptocurrencies have always been subject to extreme price swings and that the current crash is a good time to buy these virtual currencies at a tremendous bargain. Sceptics, however, believe that the current crash could very well be the end of the road for cryptocurrencies.

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

The story so far: Bitcoin and many other cryptocurrencies have been crashing since they hit an all-time high late last year. Bitcoin has lost more than two-thirds of its value since it hit a peak of around \$69,000 in November last year and is currently trading at around the \$22,000 mark. Ethereum, another cryptocurrency popular among investors, has lost almost 80% from its peak. As a result, the overall market capitalisation of cryptocurrencies has dropped under \$1 trillion for the first time since January 2021. The crash, which shows no signs of reversal yet, seems to have led to a drop in investor enthusiasm with trading volumes in Indian cryptocurrency exchanges dropping by 90% from their peak.

Why are cryptocurrencies crashing?

It may not be possible to pinpoint the exact reasons why investors are fleeing cryptocurrencies at the moment. Most analysts believe that the fall in the price of cryptocurrencies is in line with the fall in prices of stocks and other assets as central banks such as the U.S. Federal Reserve tighten monetary policy to fight price rise. As central banks withdraw liquidity from the market, there's less money chasing assets, which in turn causes the prices of assets to drop. Others believe that the crash could also mark the popping of the bubble that has driven the prices of cryptocurrencies to stratospheric levels.

Sceptics have long argued that the price of cryptocurrencies seem driven more by speculative fervour fuelled by easy monetary policy than by any fundamental factors.

Sceptics have long argued that the price of cryptocurrencies seems driven more by speculative fervour fuelled by easy monetary policy than by any fundamental factors. For instance, the extreme volatility in the price of cryptocurrencies was seen by many as a feature that ruled out the use of cryptocurrencies as money. Such extreme volatility simply seemed to reflect investor behaviour that bordered on gambling. These sceptics also pointed to the fact that even though cryptocurrency prices were rising

aggressively, the use of cryptocurrencies for real-life transactions was low. So, in essence, there was very little reason to believe that the rally in cryptocurrencies was driven by their wider acceptability as an alternative to fiat currencies.

How do governments view cryptocurrencies?

Some sceptics have also argued that even though private cryptocurrencies can rise to the status of alternatives to fiat currencies over time, governments and central banks may not allow this to happen. Many countries have taken several steps to discourage the widespread use of cryptocurrencies. While countries such as China and Russia have opted to impose outright bans on cryptocurrencies, others such as India have tried to tax and regulate them heavily. In India, while the government has not imposed an outright ban on cryptocurrencies, the Reserve Bank of India has been quite vocal about the need to ban them completely. It is no surprise that central banks are wary of private cryptocurrencies since they challenge the monopoly that central banks currently enjoy over the money supply of an economy. If cryptocurrencies became widely acceptable, it would affect the control that central banks possess over the economy's money supply. It would also affect the ability of governments to fund their spending by creating fresh money as citizens could then opt to switch to alternative currencies.

Will cryptocurrencies rise again?

Cryptocurrency enthusiasts argue that cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin have always been subject to extreme price swings and that the current crash is a good time to buy these virtual currencies at a tremendous bargain. To be fair, many crypto-enthusiasts have been handsomely rewarded in the past when they bought cryptocurrencies during times of panic selling. They argue that cryptocurrencies, just like gold, protect investors against the risk of price inflation. It should be noted that, unlike fiat currencies issued by central banks, the supply of various cryptocurrencies is limited by design. By holding their wealth in cryptocurrencies that either maintain their value or even appreciate in value over time, investors can protect themselves against the



debasement of their wealth by central banks. Sceptics, however, believe that the current crash could very well be the end of the road for cryptocurrencies. Even if cryptocurrencies manage to recover from the current crash, they may still not manage to hold on to their gains, because cryptocurrencies possess no fundamental value as money. In fact, some have argued that the real value of cryptocurrencies is somewhere close to zero. They point out that even the most popular cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin are still not used very much in the daily purchase and sale of goods and services in the real economy. It should be noted that investors generally believe that the price of an asset gravitates towards its intrinsic or fundamental value in the long-run even though it may diverge from its fundamental value in the short-term.

Crypto-enthusiasts, however, argue that while cryptocurrencies may not be widely

accepted as a currency, they still represent an independent asset class like gold that can help investors protect their wealth from central banks. This argument is still prone to the criticism that cryptocurrencies do not possess any independent value of their own to be compared to gold and silver, and thus cannot offer any wealth protection over the long-run.

Precious metals such as gold and silver are far more acceptable than cryptocurrencies, which is what gives them their intrinsic value. In fact, precious metals served as currencies for centuries and have been widely used for industrial and other purposes.

No cryptocurrency has such a record. The fact that precious metals are limited in supply definitely helped boost their value. But limited supply alone cannot make cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin a valuable asset like gold and silver.

EXPLAINER

The move to link credit cards with UPI

What are the primary motivations behind this move? Will the proposed linking increase the scope of the Unified Payments Interface?

LALATENDU MISHRA

The story so far: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to allow linking of credit cards with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform. The move is part of the central bank's efforts to enhance the scope of UPI. While announcing the move, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das stated that RuPay credit cards issued by the RBI-promoted National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) will be enabled first, and will become available after system developments. The UPI, also managed by the NPCI, was first introduced in 2016.

What explains the effort to link credit cards with UPI?

The UPI has, over time, become a popular mode of payment in India with more than 26 crore unique users and five crore merchants on the platform. In May 2022, about 594 crore transactions amounting to ₹10.4 lakh crore were processed through the interface.

At present, the UPI facilitates transactions by linking savings/current accounts through users' debit cards. It is now proposed to allow linking of credit cards on the UPI platform. This is

intended to provide additional convenience to users and enhance the scope of digital payments.

When will the facility be made available?

This facility would be available after the required system development is complete. The RBI will issue necessary instructions to NPCI separately to facilitate the change. To begin with, the indigenous RuPay credit cards would be linked to the UPI platform. It is likely to be followed by other card networks such as Visa and MasterCard that would bring

in more users.

What is the benefit of this provision?

The arrangement is expected to provide an additional avenue for payment to customers and hence enhance convenience. The linking of credit cards to UPI has been proposed to further deepen the reach and usage of credit cards.

Why do authorities expect this move to spur the use of credit cards?

It is expected to bolster transactions and acceptance at more merchant sites.



People who generally prefer to pay by credit card so as to avail of a longer pay-back period or loans on credit-card outstanding, or who do not wish to touch their savings at the moment of purchase, can pay using credit cards via UPI.

Currently, many merchants do not have credit card point-of-sale (PoS) terminals especially in semi-urban and rural areas but a significant number do have the QR code-based UPI acceptance facility. Now, they too will be able to accept credit payments via UPI without needing a PoS device.

Linking of credit cards with UPI is likely to increase the use of such cards in small-ticket-size payments, as it would provide users with more options to pay from. The move will provide a significant boost to overall spending via credit cards — currently, spending through the use of credit cards is more than double the average spend via debit cards. More spending is generally a force multiplier for the economy.

Besides accelerating digital transactions this measure is also expected to affect the average ticket size of financial transactions. Currently the average ticket size per transaction is ₹1,600 while it is ₹4,000 in credit cards.

So, with the new development the UPI transaction ticket size is likely to go up to somewhere around ₹3,000 to ₹4,000, analysts claim. Many people use credit cards for rewards and benefits and UPI for its convenience & security. The new provision of linking credit cards to UPI brings both these advantages together. Kirana stores where credit cards are not accepted would likely find it convenient to accept credit card payments through UPI.

Will a merchant discount rate be applicable for these payments?

There is no word yet on the merchant discount rate (MDR) applicable on transactions using credit card numbers via UPI, other than for RuPay, which attracts no such charge. Today, since foreign card issuers such as Visa and MasterCard have a lion's share of the credit card network business, part of the fees goes to them. However, the Indian government has shown its intent to promote the indigenous RuPay card system. It remains to be seen if it indeed does turn out more economical for merchants to accept payments from users with credit cards from foreign issuers.

THE GIST

■ The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to allow linking of credit cards with the Unified Payments Interface platform.

■ The UPI has become a popular mode of payment in India with more than 26 crore unique users and five crore merchants on the platform.

■ Linking of credit cards with UPI is likely to increase the use of such cards in small-ticket-size payments, as it would provide users with more options to pay from. The move will provide a significant boost to overall spending via credit cards.



A still from *Kaala*



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The audacity of regional films

Regional cinema represents India in a much more holistic and meaningful manner than Bollywood

NEHAL AHMED

As hyper-nationalistic and often historically inaccurate films like Samrat Prithviraj do poorly at the box office, regional cinema featuring many films with a more grounded approach to society is flourishing. In this article dated October 14, 2021, Nehal Ahmed details how regional films represent the different facets of Indian society much better than Bollywood.

For long, Indian cinema has been synonymous with Bollywood. However, the pandemic-induced growth of over-the-top (OTT) platforms has opened up new vistas for audiences to watch and appreciate films from other parts of the country. Bollywood, which is largely influenced by the ebbs and flows of the box office, has often failed to capture the social complexities of Indian society. On the other hand, Malayalam, Assamese, Bengali, Marathi and Tamil cinema, frequently depict gender, religious, caste and class disparities.

Over the past few years, Bollywood has churned out many hyper nationalistic films, films that misrepresent minority communities, and films that assert a certain culture, thus furthering the majoritarian nation-building project.

Regional cinema on the other hand is constantly pushing boundaries with experimental takes on social and political issues.

Pushing boundaries

The cinematic treatment of Bollywood has been formulaic. Films either derive inspiration from the West or are compelled by the process of globalisation. Over the past few years, Bollywood has churned out many hyper nationalist films, films that misrepresent minority communities, and films that assert a certain culture, thus

furthering the majoritarian nation-building project.

On the other hand, regional cinema is constantly pushing boundaries with experimental takes on social and political issues. In recent years, Tamil cinema has revolutionised the art with larger social observations. Filmmakers like Mari Selvaraj, Pa. Ranjith and Vetrimaaran have produced films that explore the issues of the common man. They represent the voice of the subaltern without being apologetic unlike their counterparts in Bollywood.

The cinematic treatment of Bollywood has been formulaic. Films either derive inspiration from the West or are compelled by the process of globalisation

Mari Selvaraj and Pa. Ranjit are known for making films centred around Dalit lives. In the 1970s and '80s, there was a wave of parallel cinema in Bollywood which spoke of the victimisation of Dalits. However, in contemporary Tamil cinema, Dalits are not victims; they are assertive protagonists who actively fight back against upper caste assertion. Through his films *Kabali* and *Kaala* and most recently *Sarpatta Parambarai*, Pa. Ranjith has brought to us Dalit heroes, who are rare in Indian film history. Mari Selvaraj has established the normalisation of Dalit characters through *Pariyerum Perumal* and *Karnan*. These films further the politics of social justice in subtle ways instead of depicting communities as pitiable beneficiaries of certain policies and lacking in dignity.

Another regional industry which has resonated with the larger Indian audience is the Malayalam industry. Malayalam cinema is known to reflect on contemporary concerns and anxieties. Most Malayalam films have small budgets, but their impact is immense because of their fresh take on

common people-centric stories. Jeo Baby's *The Great Indian Kitchen*, for instance, can be considered as one of the biggest disruptors of normative gendered labour and relations. While questioning regressive gendered practices, the filmmaker employs a layered and minimalist approach to drive the message home.

On the other hand, Bollywood's approach tends to be loud and sensational, with a greater focus on costume, set design, light, colour, and location than the subject at hand. In Dileesh Pothan's *Maheshinte Prathikaaram*, even the slippers of the character played by Fahad Faasil has an important role to play.

Regional films are often replete with metaphors and symbols.

Politics of majoritarianism

Today, when hyper nationalism is at its peak, Bollywood often acts as a tool in the hands of the majoritarian nation-building project.

Many Hindi films use the archaic trope of cultural assertion and continue to vilify a particular community while downplaying structural inequalities in society. This trend can be witnessed in the surge in period dramas and biopics of politicians and sportspersons where characters are overglorified. On the other hand, certain filmmakers in Bengali and Marathi cinema, through their politically heightened content, are challenging polarisation and the threat to India's diversity. Aparna Sen in her 2019 film, *Ghawre Bairey Aaj*, highlights the jingoism prevalent in the political ecosystem. Another important movie is Nagraj Manjule's *Sairat* which treats caste as a political issue.

Regional cinema has woven narratives in a socially conscious manner and has the potential to substantially disrupt class and caste hegemony and majoritarianism. It represents India in a much more holistic and meaningful manner than Bollywood.

THE GIST

Bollywood, which is largely influenced by the ebbs and flows of the box office, has often failed to capture the social complexities of Indian society. On the other hand, Malayalam, Assamese, Bengali, Marathi and Tamil cinema, frequently depict gender, religious, caste and class disparities.

Over the past few years, Bollywood has churned out many hyper nationalistic films, films that misrepresent minority communities, and films that assert a certain culture, thus furthering the majoritarian nation-building project.

Regional cinema on the other hand is constantly pushing boundaries with experimental takes on social and political issues.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Iceland observes June 17 as the National Day to commemorate the foundation of the Republic of Iceland on that date in 1944. A quiz on the Nordic island country.

1 If the blue in the Icelandic flag represents the mountains and the white ice or snow, what does the red stand for?

2 In the context of global politics, what first is attributed to Vigdís Finnbogadóttir who served as the fourth president of Iceland from 1980 to 1996?

3 Located at a latitude of 64°08', Iceland's capital is the world's northernmost capital of a sovereign state and its name means 'smoky bay'. Name it.

4 Founded in 930 CE, the Althingi is considered the oldest of its kind in the world. What is the Althingi?

5 The Imagine Peace Tower in Kollafjörður Bay near the Icelandic capital is a tower of light projected from a white stone monument that has the words "Imagine Peace" carved into it in 24 languages. It was installed in 2007 by the widow of a legendary man of music. Name the musician and his wife.

6 Many Icelandic place names end in "-foss". What natural feature would one associate with these places?



At the height of the Cold War, this American came up trumps by beating a Russian in a World Championship match held at the Icelandic capital in 1972. Name him and event.

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

Questions (abridged) and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Delivered in 1963, by this well-known activist of the civil rights movement in America, this speech has a well-known refrain that symbolises the soul of the civil rights movement. **Ans: 'I have a dream', Martin Luther King Jr.** 2. This philosopher's most famous speech was delivered at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893. **Ans: Swami Vivekananda** 3. This inspirational slogan was mentioned by Apple co-founder Steve Jobs in 2005 in his Stanford commencement address. **Ans: 'Stay hungry, stay foolish'** 4. The Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 contains a line that is often cited as the definition of democracy. **Ans: "... government of the people, by the people, for the people"** 5. This baseball player earned many of the sport's top awards before passing away at 37 after a brief battle with ALS. **Ans: Lou Gehrig** 6. "ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country." was said by this U.S. President. **Ans: John F. Kennedy** Visual: Gary Oldman is seen portraying this British leader in the film *Darkest hour*. **Ans: Winston Churchill**

Early Birds: Upaakti Dahraan| Shubham V. Bhosale| Akshay Jade| Pinaki Dasgupta| Riya Singh

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir".

"Good morning. You are late today".

"Yes sir. I was searching my watch. It took time. At last I found it among my books".

"I am glad you found it. So you searched for your watch. You search for something when you have lost it. When a child doesn't return from school, the parents search for him. They look for the child. 'To search for' means 'to look for'. 'To search' means to 'examine thoroughly'.

The police searched the thief to find out if he had the stolen money on him.

"Sri Lanka is in the south of India". Is this sentence all right, sir?"

"No. Sri Lanka is not in the south of India. If it were, it would be part of India. You should say 'Sri Lanka is to the south of India'. You can also say 'Sri Lanka is south of India'. But 'Trivandrum is in the south of India'.

"What's the difference between an 'accident' and a 'mishap' sir?"

"An accident is a chance occurrence; it is something unexpected. An accident can be lucky or unlucky or neutral.

It was just an accident that I met him when he was in a marvellous mood.

John met with an accident; he escaped with minor injuries.

I wonder whether serious attention should be paid to accidents of birth and beauty.

Accidents can be major or minor. A mishap is a minor accident. If someone is run over by a car, it is a serious accident; but it is not a mishap.

He hurt his knee during the cricket match, in spite of this mishap, he continued to play.

"What is the difference between 'for hire' and 'to let', sir?"

"Boats, clothes, vehicles and such things are hired. When a house is available for rent a notice is put up that the house is 'to let'. Houses are let out or rented out but other things are given on hire. In America people also are "hired". If they are not good, they are fired!"

"What's the meaning of 'to blow the whistle', sir?"

"To blow the whistle on something" is to expose or to put an end to something you don't approve of.

He blew the whistle on their unwholesome business activities.

The minister blew the whistle on gambling. This expression is used only on informal occasions.

"How do you pronounce the first syllable of 'demon', sir?"

"It rhymes with fee, tea, bee and see. It is deemon. Let's stop here. Goodbye".

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye".

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

Congress to contest validity of ED's case

Party says the agency proceeded with the investigation against Sonia and Rahul without an FIR

DEVESH K. PANDEY
ABHINAV LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI



ECIR took cognisance of charges against YIL, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. ■PTI

The issue of whether the Enforcement Directorate (ED) can register a money laundering case even in the absence of a first information report (FIR) is all set to be brought before the court in the *National Herald* case. The Congress has contended that the agency is proceeding without an FIR for the scheduled offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Now, the point of contention of the defence before the competent court would be whether the agency was empowered under the PMLA to register the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) without an FIR, senior advocate Ramesh Gupta, who has represented the Congress leaders in the case, said.

The ED's initial position over seven years ago was that an FIR was mandatory to register an ECIR. However, sources said, it was overturned by a subsequent circular that allowed the agency to do without it in matters where a magistrate had taken cognisance of a scheduled offence, in line with what the complainant in the case, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, has argued.

According to documents reviewed by *The Hindu*, the agency in January 2015 concluded that "... for registering the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), the requirement of First Information Report (FIR), under Section 154 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and its forwarding to a Magistrate under Section 157 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), is essential".

The issue at hand was "registration of Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), in respect of Scheduled Offence case where the Magistrate has taken cognisance but First Information Report (FIR) has not been registered...". However, the initial position of the agency was overturned within months, later paving the way for an ECIR about nine months ago after a court took cognisance of charges against Young Indian Ltd. (YIL), Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Rahul

Cr. Swamy had filed an application to introduce this AO in his case during his cross-examination, saying it corroborated the allegations in his complaint. The court had agreed but held that this could happen only after his cross-examination. Challenging this decision, Dr. Swamy had approached the Delhi High Court with a request to stay the trial court proceedings until it was decided whether the AO could be introduced immediately. The stay was granted. Amid this, the ED approached the special court hearing Dr. Swamy's case on April 30, with an application seeking certified copies of Income Tax Department documents, which, sources said, included the tax proceedings and investigation undertaken for issuing the above-mentioned AO. The special court listed the matter for next hearing on May 30.

On May 30, the ED appeared in court only to submit that it had now acquired the papers and withdrew its application. Now, the ED is continuing with its investigation even as the trial court proceedings in Dr. Swamy's complaint have been stayed by the Delhi High Court, which is in the middle of deciding whether an Income-Tax Assessment Order (AO) from 2017 can be introduced as evidence.

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Congress MPs complain to Speaker against Delhi Police

ED may postpone questioning of Rahul Gandhi to Monday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Congress workers during a protest against the Enforcement Directorate's interrogation of Rahul Gandhi. ■PTI

Congress MPs called on the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman on Thursday to register protest against Delhi Police personnel who allegedly treated them like "terrorists" even as former party chief Rahul Gandhi wrote to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) seeking postponement of his Friday questioning to next week.

Reports said the agency is likely to put off the questioning to Monday, though no formal communication has been received.

While the State units of the Congress took out protest marches to the Raj Bhavans in every State, a delegation of senior leaders is likely to call on the President on Friday to highlight the Delhi Police's "high-handed" behaviour.

Earlier in the day, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge led a delegation to Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, while Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury led one to Speaker Om Birla.

They alleged that their privileges as MPs have been breached and demanded lawful action against the Delhi Police and handed over a pen drive containing videos of the alleged harassment by police personnel.

Names two officials Lok Sabha member S. Jothimani formally wrote to the Speaker, naming two officials for violating her privilege of being an MP by "brutally assaulting her and tearing her clothes" as excessive force was used.

Since June 13, Congress leaders and MPs have been staging demonstrations against the ED for questioning Mr. Gandhi in an alleged money laundering case linked to the *National Herald* case.

"The manner in which the police have treated us, looks as if we are all terrorists," Mr. Chowdhury told presspersons. "The Modi and Amit Shah government is turning this *Amrit kaal* into a poison *kaal*? Have there never been agitations and we are only trying to put across our side peacefully in a Gandhian way?" he asked.

'Mental torture' Mr. Kharge said they had told the Chairman that MPs were taken to police stations as the Delhi Police wanted "to harass and mentally torture the MPs and violate their privileges".

"We wanted the Chairman to take note of this and take action. We want this to be treated as a privilege notice and it is the right of the Chairman to defend us for violation of our rights and

ask them how MPs were detained. The Chairman said he will examine this and get details of the incidents," he said.

Leaders commented on reports in a section of the media that Mr. Gandhi had put the onus of all financial dealings regarding *National Herald* on late Motilal Vohra during his questioning. "The ED cannot leak its version of the investigation," Mr. Chidambaram said. "The fact that the ED has leaked selected parts of the investigation according to their understanding clearly establishes bias and prejudice," he added.

Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha served a "cease and desist" notice to Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, asking them to stop using the ED as a tool to "settle political scores and spread false narratives".

Mr. Gandhi wrote to the ED to postpone his questioning citing ill-health of his mother Sonia Gandhi, who is undergoing treatment for post-COVID issues.

Jairam Ramesh to head merged communication wing of Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Jairam Ramesh will head the Congress' merged communication wing, including social and digital media, the party announced on Thursday.

The merger of different media departments to create a unified new entity is the first major organisational change to be implemented after the *Chintan Shivir* held last month.

A statement issued by general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said that Mr. Ramesh, 68, will be the All India Congress Committee general secretary in charge of Communication, Publicity and Media including Social and Digital Media.

The former chairman of the media department, Ran-deep Surjewala, has been relieved of his responsibilities as the media department head but will continue as the

general secretary of party affairs in Karnataka, a State where elections are due in mid-2023.

Mr. Ramesh has been brought in as the head at a time when the party is facing an unprecedented political crisis.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi had admitted that if there was one area where the BJP outsmarted the Congress, it was the ability to communicate.

'Rahul's interrogation is a message to Opposition'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Subjecting former Congress president Rahul Gandhi to extended hours of questioning by the Enforcement Directorate is an intimidatory tactic, D. Raja, general secretary of the Communist Party of India, said on Thursday.

Mr. Raja said the ED's investigations should be seen as a message to the rest of the Opposition.

"Mr. Gandhi belongs to the country's oldest political party and the lead Opposition force. By leading him again and again for questioning and detaining him for extended hours, the government simply is sending out a message to every Opposition party in the country that if they oppose the government, they too have to brace themselves to face similar measures," Mr. Raja added.

Naresh Patel not to join politics; focus only on Patidar community

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Prominent Patidar community leader Naresh Patel on Thursday announced that he is not joining politics or any political party ahead of the Gujarat Assembly election. He ended the suspense over his joining any party as the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party in the State were trying to welcome him into their fold.

On Thursday, he told presspersons in Rajkot that he has postponed joining politics respecting the feelings of the community elders who advised him to focus on his community and social services.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No: 19/2022-23/KWA/PHC/TVLA, 20/2022-23/KWA/PHC/TVLA
(1) JIM - 5th SLS-SC - RWSS to Cherukole, Naranganam & Ranni (part) Grama Panchayaths - Supplying and Laying Distribution lines, RWPM, CWP and providing 8015 FHTCs in various wards including road restoration works. (2) JIM - 5th SLS-SC - WSS to Pandalam Thekkekkara & Thumpamon Panchayaths - Supplying & Laying CWSM 300mm DIK9 pipe from existing OHSR at Chirankal to OHSR at Keerukuzhi, 200mm DI K-9 CWSM from OHSR at Keerukuzhi to OHSR at Malapuram, 200mm DI K-9 CWSM from OHSR at Keerukuzhi to OHSR at Ayankkottam, Paranthi, Distribution network and providing 5775 FHTCs in Pandalam Thekkekkara & Thumpamon Panchayaths. EMD: Rs.50000/- Each. Tender fee: Rs.16800/- each. Last Date for submitting Tender: 05-07-2022, 02.00 pm. Phone: 0469-2600162. Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-370-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Pathanamthitta

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS - TWO COVER - ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission) - SHORT TERM- Third Call

IFB No.	01/ F. CWSS to 22 habitations/SDO II/ CW/2022/Dt : 14.06.2022
Fund	Jal Jeevan Mission 2021-22
Eligibility	Registered Class I Bidders (Civil)
Tender Intvee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai - 625 007
Sale of Bid	17.06.2022 to 01.07.2022 upto 17.45 hours
EMD Payable at	Executive Engineer, Urban Division, Tirunelveli
Available website	E-Tendering website www.tntenders.gov.in
Pre Bid meeting	24.06.2022 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Tender Intvee
Bid Submission	02.07.2022 before 15.00 hours at the office of the Tender Intvee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website www.tntenders.gov.in
Bid opening	04.07.2022 at 15.30 hours at the office of the Tender Intvee through E-Tendering website

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs.in Crore including GST)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
1	Providing CWSS to 22 habitations in Manur Union of Tirunelveli District including maintenance for a period of 12 months (Period of completion - 12 months)	13.50	10.15

DIPR/ 2849 /TENDER/2022 Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS | "சேமிக்க வேண்டும், சேமிக்க வேண்டும், சேமிக்க வேண்டும்"

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the work :- "Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Comprehensive Maintenance (for 5 years) of HVAC System, & UVGI in Airborne Respiratory Infection Isolation Ward, Emergency Department, and Operation Theatre in PPA Hospital, Paradip Port on Turn-Key Basis". Estimated cost:Rs.1,09,49,015.00 (Rupees one crore nine lakh forty-nine thousand fifteen) only. Last date & time of submission of bid : dt.23.06.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Chief Medical Officer, PPA PPA/PPR/164/22-23, Dtd.16.06.2022

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, Dasarahalli Zone, #2nd and 4th Cross Road, 2nd Main Road, 3rd Block HMT Layout, near BVSSB Water Tank Nagasandra (Po) Bengaluru - 560 073
No: BBMP/EE/DD/TN/20/2022-23 Dated: 15.06.2022

POSTPONEMENT OF TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sub: Regarding Postponement of Tender Notification
Ref: 1. E-procurement Tender Notification of this Office No: BBMP/EE/DD/TN/20/2021-22, Dated: 24.01.2022.
With reference to the above subject, the tender was invited, due to technical reasons for item No.27, the pre-bid meeting, last date for submission of tenders and opening of technical and financial bid dates are postponed as mentioned below.
Revised Time Schedule: (1) Pre-bid meeting at office of the Chief Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, on 22.06.2022 at 11:00 am. (2) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 28.06.2022 upto 4:00 pm. (3) Technical Bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BBMP on or after 29.06.2022 at 4:30 pm. (4) Financial Bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BBMP on 30.06.2022 at 4:30 pm or after.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask, 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त कोटा
क्रमांक: 745 दिनांक: 10.06.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से पांच साल की मरम्मत सहित के लिये, उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

मुख्यालय का नाम	कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त कोटा
निविदा का कार्य	राजकीय कन्या महाविद्यालय रामपुरा कोटा भवन का निर्माण कार्य (1 कार्य)
निविदा की कुल लागत	Rs. 340.00 लाख
कुल धरोहर राशि (रुपयों में)	अनुमानित लागत की दो प्रतिशत एवं सा.नि.वि. में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से 1/2 प्रतिशत
ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म	15.06.2022 से 04.07.2022 सयं 6.00 बजे तक मिल्ने की तारीख
ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म	15.06.2022 से 04.07.2022 सयं 6.00 बजे तक जमा कराने की तारीख
ऑनलाइन निविदा/ तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि	निविदा/तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि 05.07.2022 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे
निविदा वैधता अवधि	90 दिवस

UBN No :- PWD2223WSOB02499
निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाइट www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in तथा http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त कोटा
DIPR/C/8140/2022

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभागा-द्वितीय उदयपुर मुख्यालय बांसवाड़ा (राज.)
क्रमांक: डी-423 दिनांक: 09.06.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या: 03/2022-23
NIB CODE: PWD2223A0677
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भवन/ सड़क/ पुलिया निर्माण/ मरम्मत कार्य (मय पांच वर्ष की मरम्मत/ दोष निवारण अवधि) हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 2 कार्य, जिनकी अनुमानित लागत राशि रुपये 3217.00 लाख है, के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

निविदा फॉर्म डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख एवं समय	15.06.2022, प्रातः 11.00 बजे से 07.07.2022, सयं 06.00 बजे तक
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UBN No.: PWD2223WLOB02413 and PWD2223WLOB02414
निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण एवं निविदा दस्तावेज वेबसाइट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in" पर देखा जा सकता है। समपूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जायेगी।
(विजय कुमार वर्मा) अति. मुख्य अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभागा-द्वितीय उदयपुर मुख्यालय बांसवाड़ा
DIPR/C/8072/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform the common public that Delhi police has registered a case vide FIR No. 350/2010 DATED 09/12/2019 U/S-406/420/409/468/471/120-B/34 IPC & 3/4/5 The Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act 1978, P.S Crime Branch, Delhi against the firm/company namely ROSNEFT HEDGE FUND, RHFOLDCOIN, EURESOCOIN, JACKPOTMANIA and its promoters/directors namely Sandeep Kaushik, Sunil Singh Chauhan, Ashish Malik & Ors. The accused persons cheated the innocent victims on the pretext of providing 20% interest/ month on the investment. The investigation of the case is under progress. If anyone has invested with the above company and accused persons, he may join the investigation of the case along with all the relevant documents/details in the office of Economic Offences Wing at Mandir Marg, New Delhi, Ph. No. 011- 23745317. DP/9333/EOW/22

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Water Resource Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, WRDO, No.2 gauging Division, Bagalkote.
No:WRDO/GD-2/PB/TN/11 HO SITE/2023/ 252 Date:14.06.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
Item wise tender by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form for the work Upgradation of existing 11 manual river gauge stations to Hydrological Observation sites in Northern Karnataka coming under the jurisdiction of Yermaru Circle by "Supply, testing, commissioning, operations and maintenance of continuous discharge flow meters, water level recorders, telemetry data transmission and integrate with data center located at Bengaluru, Karnataka" is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor, Govt of Karnataka, Bangalore from the eligible bidder under the Head of Account, NHP. The bid is as per National Competitive Bidding. The amount of Security Deposit as per e-portal (by e-portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from 16-06-2022 to 19.07.2022 upto 15.00 hours in the website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Tender will be opened on 20-07-2022. Date of prebid Meeting is on 28-06-2022 in the O/O The Project Director, NHP,WRDO,Bengaluru through e-procurement
For more conditions and details visit website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 08354- 297367
Sd/-(Raju G Patange)
Executive Engineer, WRDO, No.2 Gauging Division, Baglkot.
DIPR/BSG/NO-140/MCA/2022-23

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LTD.
NIT No. 06, 07 & 08/2022-23
BIDs in prescribed format from Bidders registered in A or AA class in Central/State Govt. departments/undertakings and registered in appropriate class in RVPNL in this Zone/Circle/Division under the jurisdictions of XEN (CIVIL) Jaipur, Alwar and Bharatpur are hereby invited for the work described in NIT No. 06/2022-23, NIT No. 07/2022-23 having Sr. No. 01 and NIT No. 08/2022-23 having Sr. No. 01 to 15. All information regarding BID are available on <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://sppp.rajinic.in>.
UBN :- VPN2223WSOB00481, VPN2223WSOB00489 to VPN2223WSOB00501 (13)
VPN2223WSOB00504 to VPN2223WSOB00506 (3)
Raj.Samwad/C/22/3573 RRVPN/TR-5491/2022 S.E.(Civil), RVPN, Jaipur

Government of Kerala
IMPACT Kerala Ltd, Thiruvananthapuram
Ph: 0471-4019877
National Competitive Bidding (E-Tender) Notice
E-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the Construction of a Multi species Modern Slaughter House at Thiruvalla Municipality.
Date of Publishing Tender : 18/06/2022
Date of Pre-bid meeting : 29/06/2022
Date of Submission of Tender : 17/08/2022
Date of opening of Tender : 22/08/2022
Detailed information on the same can be obtained from the office of IMPACT Kerala Ltd and in the website: <https://impactkerala.lsgkerala.gov.in> and <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in>
(RO/01477/03/2022&PRD) Sd/-, Managing Director

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग संभागा -कोटा
क्रमांक: 910 दिनांक: 06.06.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या-06 /2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से माननीय मुख्यमंत्री बजट घोषणा अनुरोध कोटा, बूंदी एवं बारां जिले में उच्चस्तरीय पुल का निर्माण कार्य मय पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साइट <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।
UBN NO.
1. PWD2023WLOB02291
2. PWD2023WLOB02292
3. PWD2023WLOB02293
4. PWD2023WLOB02294
DIPR/C/7900/2022 (जी.सी. मीणा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. संभागा कोटा

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभागा प्रथम जोधपुर
क्रमांक:- 957 दिनांक:- 08.06.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या: 9 वर्ष 2022-2023
NIB No. PWD2223A0671
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से विभिन्न छुट्टी निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 02 कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रु.949.00 लाख है के लिए इटेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
ऑनलाइन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख : 10 जून 2022, 9.30 बजे से 30 जून 2022, सयं 06.00 बजे तक
निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाइट <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। समपूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट पर <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।
कार्यकार यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
1. PWD2223WSOB02377 2. PWD2223WSOB02378
(देवीलाल आर्य)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभागा प्रथम, जोधपुर
DIPR/C/8048/2022

No wild polio strain found, says official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Not wild poliovirus but vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) was detected in the environmental surveillance of sewage samples from Kolkata, a senior Health Ministry official said on Thursday. "The genetic sequencing is done at the ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Mumbai, and this was discussed with the World Health Organization (WHO). It can occur in any country where oral polio vaccine (OPV) is given," the official said.

The Ministry said that the last time such a VDPV was detected was in New Delhi in 2018.

State health officials detected the presence of VDPV from sewage in Kolkata earlier this week. A VDPV is a strain of the weakened poliovirus that was initially included in OPV and that has changed over time and behaves more like the wild or naturally occurring virus.

Officials from Kolkata added that sewage monitoring goes on throughout the country and this virus was found in a sample in Kolkata. "Most likely it has come from someone's gut who is immune deficient and has since multiplied. It is not a case of human-to-human polio transfer," said State health authorities.

According to the WHO, Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease that largely affects children under five years. The virus is transmitted person-to-person and spread mainly through the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis. Of the three strains of wild poliovirus, type 2 and 3 strains have been globally eradicated. As on 2020, wild poliovirus type 1 affects two countries - Pakistan and Afghanistan, according to the WHO.

NTAGI recommends reducing booster dose gap to 6 months

Panel says not enough data for decision to begin vaccination of those below 12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Standing Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) on Thursday recommended reducing the gap between the second and precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines from the current nine months to six, official sources said.

The committee said the Health Ministry would take the final call on the recommendation soon.

The government advisory panel, which met on Thursday, reviewed the findings of a study by the Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore on the feasibility of allowing as precaution dose a COVID vaccine different from the one used for primary vaccination.

The panel members found a lack of uniformity in results upon mixing of jobs



Preventive measures: A file photo of a beneficiary getting a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine in New Delhi. -R.V. MOORTHY

for booster shots, and stated that no recommendation for it can be made as of now. The CMC study was on Covishield and Covaxin.

The threat of monkeypox and the requirement of vaccination were also discussed in the meeting of the panel of the NTAGI, the sources said.

"However, the members were of the view that a strong surveillance is what is required as of now. No case

of monkeypox has been detected in the country till now," one of the sources said.

The panel also reviewed data on Covaxin and Corbevax vaccines for the six-12 age group.

"The members opined that data of COVID burden and mortality among children is not robust enough to take any decision to begin vaccination of those below 12 years," the source said.

Unemployment rate dips in first quarter of 2022: survey

Rate for urban areas decreased to 8.2% in the first quarter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) has reported that the unemployment rate for urban areas has decreased to 8.2% in January-March 2022 from 8.7% in the previous quarter (October-December 2021) and 9.3% in the same quarter in 2021. The survey report, released here on Thursday, defines unemployment rate as the percentage of unemployed persons among the labour force.

On Tuesday, the National Statistics Organisation (NSO) released the survey results for 2020-21, which saw a decrease of 0.6 percentage points in unemployment rate that reached 4.2%, compared to 4.8% in 2019-20.

The quarterly survey results for January-March of this year said the unemployment rate among girls and women aged 15 and above in urban areas declined to



Bleak future: A file photo of a group of people sitting in a street in Delhi waiting for work. -GETTY IMAGES

10.1% from 11.8% a year ago. It was 10.5% in the previous quarter. The opening up of workplaces after the lockdowns seems to have had an impact on the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate among men fell to 7.7% compared with 8% in the corresponding quarter of the previous year and 8.3% in the previous quarter.

The labour force participation rate in Current Weekly Status (CWS) in urban areas declined to 47.3% in the January-March quarter of 2022. It was 47.5% during

January-March 2021 and 47.3% during October-December 2021. Labour force is defined as the part of the population which supplies or offers to supply labour for pursuing economic activities for the production of goods and services and, therefore, includes both employed and unemployed persons.

The worker population ratio in CWS in urban areas was 43.4% in January-March 2022, which showed an increase from 43.1% in January-March 2021 and 43.2% in October-December 2021.

People throng petrol pumps after rumours of shortage

J&K administration denies fuel shortage in Srinagar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

An unprecedented rush was witnessed at petrol pumps across Srinagar on Thursday, following rumours of a shortage of fuel and a likely crisis in the coming days in the country.

Several petrol pumps were unable to cope with the rush. Long queues were observed in Srinagar since morning. "We had to inform the police about the unprecedented rush and seek security," said a petrol pump employee in the city.

The crowds forced the J&K administration to intervene and put the rumours to rest. "There is no shortage of fuel in Kashmir. There is no



Patient wait: People standing in a long queue at a petrol station in Srinagar on Thursday. -NISSAR AHMAD

need to panic. People can refill at Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.," Divisional Commissioner P.K. Pole said.

Hindustan Oil Corporation Ltd. would also have sufficient stock of petrol and diesel by Thursday evening. People must not pay heed to rumours, he added.

New LPG connections turn dearer

Security deposit for cylinder increased; customers need to set aside ₹850 more

N. RAVIKUMAR
HYDERABAD

New domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections now cost an additional ₹850 with Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum increasing the one-time security deposit that households need to pay towards the cylinder and pressure regulator effective June 16.

The deposit has been increased from ₹1,450 to ₹2,200 for a 14.2-kg single cylinder connection, while for the pressure regulator, the increase is from ₹150 to ₹250. For customers in northeastern States, the rate has been revised to ₹2,000 (₹1,150) for the cylinder and ₹200 (₹100) for the pressure regulator.

Households opting for



On the rise | With LPG prices already high, new consumers have been burdened with an increase in deposits for connections

SECURITY DEPOSIT RATES (₹/ UNIT)

	Old		New	
	N. E. States	Rest of India	N. E. States	Rest of India
14.2 kg cylinder	1,150	1,450	2,000	2,200
5 kg cylinder	800	800	1,150	1,150
Pressure regulator	100	150	200	250

double cylinder connections will have to pay an additional security deposit, of the same amount, towards the second cylinder. There is no change

in the security deposit (borne by the oil companies) for Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana customers. However, if those customers opt for

two cylinder, they need to pay the revised charges, according to an official communication on the new rates to LPG distributors.

The oil companies have also increased the security deposit for customers registering for 5-kg cylinder connection. Consequently, penal charges that households need to pay in the event of losing the equipment and the tariff applicable for damage have also been raised.

The increase in the security deposit, which was revised last in October 2012 and undertaken now in the wake of higher steel prices, is bound to raise hackles as it comes on the backdrop of a series of upward revision in the LPG price since December.

U.S. to fund 3 Indian research institutions

It announces \$122 million to address challenges posed by infectious diseases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

The United States has announced a funding of \$122 million to top three Indian medical research institutions to prevent avoidable epidemics, enable early detection of disease threats and effect rapid and effective response.

The total funding of \$122,475,000 will, over a period of five years, be distributed to the three top Indian health research institutions

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Virology and National Institute of Epidemiology.

'One health' approach
Announced by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Wednesday, the fund will accelerate the progress towards an India, which is safe and secure from infectious disease threats, through ICMR institutions' focus on emerging

and re-emerging pathogens, a media release said.

Prominent among these include detecting and controlling zoonotic disease outbreaks through a 'one health' approach; evaluating vaccine safety monitoring systems; capacitating the public health workforce in field epidemiology and outbreak response; and combating antimicrobial resistance.

The CDC said the ICMR is in a unique position to conduct this work as it was origi-

nally established as an apex body for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research in India, and has taken up most of the laboratory-based surveillance of infectious diseases in recent years.

Eligibility for funding beginning September 30, 2022 is limited to ICMR, and ICMR institutions, including the National Institute of Virology, Pune, and the National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai.

Gurkhas hurt after 'non-Indian' snub

All-India Women Conference rejects the community's programme for 'Azadi' event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Gurkha organisations have slammed the All-India Women Conference (AIWC) for rejecting the community's programme for an "Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav" event after labelling "Nepali" a "non-Indian" language.

AIWC executive member Chandra Prabha Pandey on June 9 sent out a note seeking contributions from its regional chapters for the proposed "Azadi" celebrations.

The requirement was patriotic songs and dances performed in regional languages.

But when artists from West Bengal's Kalimpong district sent in their contributions, Ms. Pandey allegedly told them that the AIWC could not showcase performances in "non-Indian languages".

The AIWC's Kalimpong secretary, Aruna Pradhan, tried to reason with Ms. Pandey but she insisted that the

national anthem in "Nepali, not a language from India" was unacceptable. Ms. Pandey indicated that the Gurkhas were migrants and thus not eligible for performing at an event for Indians.

"By claiming that Nepali is not an Indian language, and not allowing performances in Nepali language, the AIWC has shown deliberate racism against the Gurkha community of our nation," Darjeeling MP Raju Bista said.

"Perhaps, the AIWC mem-

bers are unaware that our Gurkha ancestors have played a vital role in ensuring India's Independence," he added.

In a meeting of its core committee held virtually on June 15, the Bharatiya Gurkha Yuva Parishad decided to take up the issue legally if Ms. Pandey did not apologise in the public domain within 24 hours of publication of its statement and in person in the next AIWC meeting.

TH CROSSWORD + 13585
(set by Dr. X)

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

17 Unreliable faction seizes power after America withdraws (7)

19 Choose artist for Greek mythological character (7)

21 Glimpse of result breaks self-confidence consequently (4)

22 Royal prince banished outside felt inconsequential (10)

25 Passed across topless beach outside plot (9)

26 Son ignored dirty drunk (5)

27 Be strongly criticized, like soldiers in enemy territory might? (4,5,4)

■ DOWN

2 Release intoxicated nuts with reprimand (7)

3 Appalling acts of promiscuous actor with primarily illicit liaisons (10)

4 Image of fish on a line (5)

5 Remarkable virtue of a blue-eyed boy (9)

6 Lives over an island in Romanian city (4)

7 Chuckles, shaking leg during musical performances (7)

8 New short skirts to wear, suggestive (11)

10 High after consuming drug, woman completely refused to answer (11)

13 Mad party with couple of females after Derby say (7,3)

15 Relative wasting time, transfixed by fruit machine (9)

18 Small wild animal cut Jack near old giant cactus (7)

20 Loafer in Turkey carrying firearm (7)

23 Make confused director enter shady deal (5)

24 Key given by associate, lost in corridor (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13584

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Butter and pot symbolism

The real purpose of Lord Narayana's leelas is not to amuse us, but to symbolically present to us matters of deep philosophical importance. There is a message for us even in His butter stealing, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Why did Krishna steal butter? It was to indicate that since we are reluctant to surrender to Him totally, He will have to grab our attention and ensure that we surrender to Him. The butter stealing was like a sort of practice for Him, to later steal our hearts. But Krishna did not merely eat stolen butter, but He also broke the pots that had contained butter. What was the need for this? Here too, there is a symbolism. Just as the pots were the containers for the butter, so are our bodies the dwelling places for the atma. By breaking the pots, Krishna showed that once He had captured our hearts, He would break our connection to the body forever. In other words, there would be no more births for us.

This snatching of our hearts by the Lord is seen in the way He wed Rukmini. Rukmini had five brothers, goes the story. Why not any other number? The reason was that we have five indriyas, and they keep us from getting close to the Lord. If Rukmini is taken as representative of the jivatma, then it is her five brothers who keep this jivatma from reaching Lord Krishna - the Paramatma. Although Rukmini wants to marry Krishna, her five brothers make other plans for her. They choose Sisupala as her husband and want to keep Krishna away from her. That is precisely what our indriyas do. They take us down every path, except the right one, and keep us from thinking of the Lord. Hence they prevent us from being liberated. A willing Rukmini is abducted by Lord Krishna, showing the capturing of our hearts by the Lord, to liberate us.

MARKET WATCH

	16-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	51,496	-1.99
US Dollar	78.10	0.15
Gold	50,602	0.59
Brent oil	119.51	-0.45

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	681.70	-22.05
Apollo Hosp	3663.65	-59.05
Asian Paints	2657.45	-37.70
Axis Bank	634.90	-15.60
Bajaj Auto	3658.20	-39.90
Bajaj Finserv	11471.90	-337.80
Bajaj Finance	5283.90	-201.05
Bharti Airtel	654.20	-27.90
BPCIL	311.65	-2.35
Britannia Ind	3390.40	5.00
Cipla	940.95	-27.85
Coal India	179.90	-10.15
Divis Lab	3564.90	-16.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4287.50	-48.00
Eicher Motors	2652.50	-67.60
Grasim Ind	1285.05	-46.65
HCL Tech	964.95	-24.95
HDFC	2056.50	-48.95
HDFC Bank	1281.30	-26.15
HDFC Life	570.55	-9.20
Hero MotoCorp	2519.05	-86.25
Hindalco	336.10	-21.40
Hind Unilever	2146.70	0.15
ICIPI Bank	678.50	-8.75
IndusInd Bank	809.60	-33.70
Infosys	1397.20	-25.00
ITC	260.70	-2.70
JSW Steel	545.85	-17.15
Kotak Bank	1675.80	-60.85
L&T	1527.40	-32.95
M&M	1005.25	-20.25
Maruti Suzuki	7833.60	-19.85
Nestle India Ltd.	16874.00	71.70
NTPC	142.95	-5.20
ONGC	143.55	-7.85
PowerGrid Corp	216.35	-5.90
Reliance Ind	2560.00	-36.30
SBI Life	1105.15	-20.60
State Bank	441.60	-9.75
Three Cement	18711.85	-602.35
Sun Pharma	814.60	-7.70
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	724.95	-12.80
Tata Motors	392.95	-21.15
Tata Steel	901.70	-57.85
TCS	3142.00	-64.30
Tech Mahindra	975.30	-44.75
Titan	2060.95	-44.10
UltraTech Cement	5305.25	-148.90
UPL	683.65	-28.50
Wipro	422.30	-17.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 16

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.87	78.19
Euro	81.09	81.42
British Pound	94.17	94.56
Japanese Yen (100)	58.63	58.89
Chinese Yuan	11.59	11.64
Swiss Franc	79.50	79.84
Singapore Dollar	56.02	56.27
Canadian Dollar	60.22	60.47
Malaysian Ringgit	17.68	17.76
Australian Dollar	54.26	54.49

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Sovereign gold bonds offer to open June 20

MUMBAI
The first tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) for 2022-23 will open for subscription for five days from June 20, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said. The RBI further said that the second tranche (2022-23 Series II) will be available for subscription during August 22-26. In 2021-22, SGBs were issued in 10 tranches for an aggregate amount of ₹12,991 crore (27 tonnes). PTI

Akasa Air takes delivery of its first plane

NEW DELHI
Akasa Air on Thursday took delivery of its first aircraft, a Boeing 737 MAX, in Seattle, U.S.A. The aircraft is expected to land in Delhi on June 21. This will pave the way for the airline conducting proving flights to obtain an air operator's permit from the DGCA, allowing it to commence commercial flights in the country. The airline is aiming to start flight operations next month.

Contactless payments grew sixfold in 3 years

BENGALURU
Contactless payments saw a sixfold growth in India in the last three years, as per a Visa and Worldline India whitepaper. The highest adoption of contactless payments, observed in sectors such as quick service restaurants, accelerated with the impact of the pandemic. While 25% of all transactions at supermarkets were contactless in January 2020, they rose to 31% by January 2022, the study showed.

RBI raises e-mandate limit to ₹15,000

MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank of India raised the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit from ₹5,000 to ₹15,000 per transaction for e-mandates on cards, prepaid payment instruments and UPI. It implies that AFA would not be needed for payment of a ₹15,000 transaction. Under the e-mandate, an individual can give standing instructions to the bank to debit a specific amount automatically on a recurring basis. PTI

India better placed to avoid risk of stagflation: RBI officials

Domestic economic activity is gaining strength, write authors of Bulletin article

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

India's economy is better placed than many other countries to avoid the risk of potential stagflation, Reserve Bank of India officials headed by Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra wrote in an article in the June edition of the RBI Bulletin.

"Global economic conditions continued to deteriorate as ratcheting up of commodity prices and financial market volatility have led to heightened uncertainty," the officials wrote in 'State of the Economy'. "Forecasts of global growth and inflation by various agencies paint a grim picture and it is increasingly



Less at risk: War against inflation in advanced economies complicates the growth-inflation outlook, say officials. AFP

becoming clear that in advanced economies, the war against inflation would entail significant monetary tightening, complicating the growth-inflation outlook," they added.

"Emerging market economies grapple with the global trade slowdown, capital outflows and imported inflation. Some abatement of the supply chain pressures and relaxation in lockdown mea-

asures by key industrial hubs have emerged as silver linings amidst the dark clouds looming over the global economy," they observed.

India's economy, however, was better placed to skirt a potential stagflation given that most constituents of GDP had surpassed pre-pandemic levels, domestic economic activity was gaining strength, and the CPI inflation print for May had recorded a decline after seven months of continuous rise.

"The recovery remained broadly on track. This demonstrates the resilience of the economy... and the innate strength of macro fundamentals," they wrote.

Sensex falls 2% after Fed raises rates; rupee recovers

'Equity markets sceptical about global growth'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices in India slid 2% on Thursday following the U.S. Federal Reserve's move to raise the policy rate by 75 basis points to deal with high inflation.

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 1,045.6 points, or 1.99%, to a 52-week low of 51,495.79. Stocks that declined the most include Tata Steel (6.04%), Tech Mahindra (4.37%), Bharti Airtel (4.11%), Wipro (4.04%) and IndusInd Bank (3.96%).

"Initially, the benchmark opened with an uptick, in reaction to the rate hike by the U.S. Fed, which came in line with the expectation," said Ajit Mishra, vice-presi-



dent, Research, Religare Broking. "However, it couldn't sustain for long and gradually drifted lower as the day progressed," he added. "Markets are sceptical about how global economies would attain growth amid the aggressive tightening." The NSE Nifty-50 index too plunged 331.55 points, or

2.11%, to 15,360.60.

Vinod Nair, head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said: "Market is catching up to the reality that tight monetary policy is the lone card on the table [against] lingering high inflation. As a result, the global economy is bound to slow down further impacting corporate earnings, as indicated by the [month-on-month] fall in U.S. retail sales."

The rupee recovered from its record low to close 12 paise higher at 78.10 against the American currency on Thursday, tracking the overnight weakness of the dollar and helped by a fall in crude oil prices. (With PTI inputs)

No choice but to raise airfares: SpiceJet CMD

'Centre, States must lower tax on ATF'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Airlines had 'no choice' but to raise fares given the rising prices of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), SpiceJet CMD Ajay Singh said after refiners yet again raised ATF prices.

"The sharp increase in jet fuel prices and the depreciation of the rupee have left domestic airlines with little choice but to immediately raise fares, and we believe that a minimum 10-15% increase in fares is required," Mr. Singh said in a statement on Thursday. He reiterated the industry's demand for a cut in central and State taxes on ATF as prices had risen 120% since June 2021.

Earlier, the price of ATF was raised by 16.3% to ₹1.41 lakh per kilo litre (kl) in the



Ajay Singh

national capital. The price has been on a tear since January, when it was ₹72,062.

In March, IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta had appealed for ATF to be brought under the GST regime as the firm was 'adversely impacted' by the consistent rise in price.

In February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the issue would be put before the GST Council.

Reserve Bank lifts curbs on Mastercard

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said it had lifted business restrictions imposed on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pte. Ltd following 'satisfactory compliance' with norms.

"In view of the satisfactory compliance demonstrated by Mastercard Asia / Pacific Pte. Ltd. with the Reserve Bank of India circular... on Storage of Payment System Data, the restrictions imposed on on-boarding of new domestic customers have been lifted with immediate effect," the RBI said.

RBI's curbs on the company related to customer additions (debit, credit or prepaid) onto its card network from July 22, 2021.

WTO said to extend e-commerce tariff freeze in provisional deal

Extension until next ministerial meeting, agreement shows

REUTERS GENEVA

WTO members reached a provisional deal on Thursday to extend a moratorium on applying duties to electronic transmissions until the next ministerial meeting, likely to be in 2023, two trade sources involved in the discussions told Reuters.

The prospect of ending the moratorium, which has exempted data flows from cross-border tariffs since 1998, had raised major concerns among businesses. Backed by players like the U.S., the U.K. and the European Union, they argued that letting it expire would undermine a global recovery already threatened by spi-



alling prices. "We agree to maintain the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions until MC13 which should ordinarily be held by 31 December 2023," the agreement showed, referring to the next ministerial conference. It said the moratorium would expire in March 2024, should the next conference be postponed.

Members' nod needed

The provisional deal was reached in a negotiating room of the WTO's Geneva headquarters among a group of major members and still needs to be backed by the body's 164 members.

India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and South Africa had threatened to block an extension earlier in the five-day ministerial conference, where deals are also being sought on fishing, vaccines and food security. It was not immediately clear what might have made them change their minds.

Retail sales grow 24% over 2019 level: RAI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Retail businesses across India grew 24% in May this year against the pre-pandemic level of the same month in 2019, according to industry body RAI.

As per the latest 'retail business survey' by the Retailers Association of India (RAI), sales in western India grew by 30% and eastern India by 29% compared to the pre-pandemic sales level in May 2019. Similarly, southern India posted a rise of 22% and northern India grew 16%.

RAI CEO Kumar Rajagopalan said, "It is encouraging to see a steady improvement in sales with 23% growth in April and 24% in May as compared to the pre-pandemic levels."

RBI extends Equitas SFB MD's tenure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a proposal of Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) to reappoint P.N. Vasudevan as MD and CEO for a period of one year from July 23.

In a regulatory filing, the bank said it had received RBI's approval for the reappointment.

On May 19, Mr. Vasudevan had informed of his desire to step down from the post as he wanted to work for his trust and urged the board to look for a successor. He also came forward to help the search committee in identifying a successor to take the bank to next phase of growth.

On Thursday, shares of the small finance bank dropped 0.26% to close at ₹38.50 on the BSE.

Govt. eyes monsoon coal buffer stock of 40 mt

Current reserves stand at 23 mt: Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Centre is gearing up to raise the stock of coal at power plants to 40 million tonne (mt) during the monsoon season, Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said.

Speaking to PTI, the Minister said right now, there are reserves of about 22.9 mt at the power plants. "On April 1, our reserve stock at power plants was at 24 mt. On April 30, it came down to 19 mt and on May 15, it came down to 15 mt.

"However, because of (coal) imports, it has gone up to about 22.9 mt again," the Minister said.

Asked if the government is planning to raise the buffer stock anticipating production and supply issues during the rainy season, he replied in affirmative.



"This happens every year during the rainy season. The domestic coal production falls. So, we are preparing for that. During the monsoon July-September, daily demand will come down to 2.1 mt because the temperature will drop.

"But, at the same time, domestic coal supply will also come down. That's why this import is happening. I believe the buffer should be at least in the range of 40 mt," the Minister said.

Continue to see strong demand: Hyundai's Garg

Mid-sized SUV Venue gets a facelift

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI

South Korean automaker Hyundai said it was 'confident' of maintaining its position as the second-biggest carmaker in India amid intensifying competition in the domestic passenger vehicle market.

"Continuous' strong demand for its products and the expected resilience of the Indian economy would fuel its prospects, said Tarun Garg, director-Sales, Marketing & Service at Hyundai Motor India.



Tarun Garg

Hyundai Motor India, with an order backlog of more than 1.2 lakh cars, would continue to 'excite the market with products' even as the market faced uncertainty due to geopolitical challenges, increasing fuel

'Small farms to be e-tractors' early adopters

MINI TEJASWI BENGALURU

The country's small farm sector - with holdings up to five acres - will be the early adopters of electric tractors and handheld farm equipment, according to Antony Cherukara, CEO, VST Tillers Tractors.

"The country has slowly started witnessing electrification in the small farm sector and the segment is expected to adopt a lot of electric machines in the near future," said Mr. Cherukara in an interview.

To cash in on the changing requirements of the farm sector, the farm equipment maker said it would introduce electric tractors, power tillers and brush cutters in the domestic and export markets in the next one or two years.

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Leaders pledge EU path for Ukraine

French President Macron also promises Kyiv six more powerful truck-mounted artillery guns

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

The leaders of four European Union nations visited Ukraine on Thursday, vowing to back Kyiv's bid to become an official candidate to join the bloc in a high-profile show of support for the country fending off a Russian invasion.

French President Emmanuel Macron also promised Ukraine six more powerful truck-mounted artillery guns, the latest in a new round of Western arms pledges for Ukraine as the war grinds on in the eastern Donbas region.

The leaders "are doing everything so that Ukraine alone can decide its fate", Mr. Macron said at a news conference.

In the face of Kyiv's fears that Western resolve to help it could wane, the visit by Mr. Macron, Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian



Show of support: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky with French President Emmanuel Macron in Kyiv on Thursday. • AFP

premier Mario Draghi carried heavy symbolic weight. The three Western European powers have faced criticism for continuing to engage with Russian President Vladimir Putin — and failing to provide Ukraine with the scale of weaponry that it has said is necessary to fend off the Russians. Romania's President Klaus Iohannis also made the journey.

After arriving in Kyiv to the sound of air raid sirens, the leaders headed to Irpin, a suburb of the capital that was the scene of intense fighting early in the war and where many civilians were killed. They decried the destruction there.

'Don't forget'

While visiting Irpin, Mr. Scholz observed that officials

U.S. announces \$1 bn more in arms for Ukraine

LYSYCHANSK

U.S. President Joe Biden announced \$1 billion worth of new arms for Ukraine on Wednesday. The newest U.S. arms package features 18 more 155mm howitzers and 36,000 rounds of ammunition for them; two land-based Harpoon anti-ship missile systems; and additional rockets for four HIMARS precision rocket artillery systems that Ukraine is soon to put in the field. • AFP

U.K. sanctions Russian Orthodox Church head

LONDON

Britain announced a new round of sanctions on Thursday against Russia, targeting the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, for his prominent support for the war in Ukraine as well as Russia's children's rights commissioner, Maria Lvova-Belova, who Britain said is responsible for the forced transfer and adoption of hundreds of Ukrainian children into Russia. • AP

must keep the horrible scenes destruction in mind in all their decisions.

"Innocent civilians have been hit, houses have been destroyed; a whole town has been destroyed in which there was no military infrastructure at all," Mr. Scholz said. "And that says a great deal about the brutality of the Russian war of aggression, which is simply out for

destruction and conquest. We must bear that in mind in everything that we decide."

'Will rebuild everything'

Mr. Draghi said during the tour of Irpin that Ukraine's backers will rebuild "everything" with European help. "They destroyed the nurseries, the playgrounds, and everything will be rebuilt," he said.

Indian-American picked for top Pentagon post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden has nominated security expert Radha Iyengar Plumb to the post of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the latest Indian-American to be named for a key position.

Currently serving as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Ms. Plumb was nominated for the top Pentagon position on Wednesday. Prior to her appointment as Chief of Staff, Ms. Plumb was the Director of Research and Insights for Trust and Safety at Google, leading their cross-functional teams on business analytics, data science



Radha Iyengar Plumb
• TWITTER

and technical research.

She has also previously served as the Global Head of Policy Analysis at Facebook, where she focused on high-risk/high-harm safety and critical international security issues.

Protest against Adani project in Colombo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

A demonstration was held in the Sri Lankan capital on Thursday against the proposed windmill project to be undertaken by the Adani group in the northeastern region of Mannar.

The protesters from the Gotagama (President Gotabaya go home), a protest site, gathered at the busy Bambalapitiya sector south of Colombo. They held placards questioning the lack of transparency in the awarding of the project to the Adani Group while shouting slogans against the Indian business conglomerate.

U.S.-led troops capture top IS operative in Syria

Bomb-maker seized from rebel territory

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIRUT

U.S. coalition forces said they captured a senior Islamic State group bomb-maker in a pre-dawn raid on Thursday that, witnesses said, saw troops in helicopters swoop down on an isolated house in rebel-held northwestern Syria.

A war monitor said two military helicopters touched down for only a few minutes, and several shots were fired, in a village in an area controlled by Turkish-backed rebel groups.

"The captured individual is an experienced bomb-maker and operational facil-

itator who became one of the top leaders of Daesh's Syrian branch," said the U.S.-led coalition battling the jihadist group in Syria and Iraq, using another name for IS.

The coalition did not name the target in the statement, but a coalition official told AFP the man captured was Hani Ahmed Al-Kurdi, who was the IS leader of Raqqa when it was the de facto capital of IS in Syria.

Such operations by U.S. forces are rare in parts of northwestern Syria that are under the control of Turkish-backed rebels and non-IS jihadist groups.

SPORT

Prannoy storms into the quarterfinals

Sameer and Ashwini-Sikki pair loses in second round

INDONESIA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

One of the heroes of India's epic Thomas Cup triumph, H.S. Prannoy stormed into the quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament with a straight-game win over Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus here on Thursday.

The 29-year-old from Kerala, who is looking to break his five-year title drought, dished out another impressive performance to outwit Ng Long 21-11, 21-18 in a second-round match that lasted 41 minutes.

Fourth win

It was Prannoy's fourth win over the 27-year-old, who is currently ranked 12th in the world.



Totally committed: Prannoy showed on Thursday he's willing to stretch every sinew to break a five-year title drought. • BADMINTONPHOTO/COURTESY OF BWF

Among other Indians, Sameer Verma ended his campaign with a 10-21, 13-21 loss to World No. 5 Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia.

This was Sameer's fifth

loss to Lee in seven meetings.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy also bowed out, losing 16-21, 13-21 to top seeds Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi

Fan of China.

The men's doubles pairing of M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, meanwhile, went down 19-21, 15-21 to China's Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi.

A small-town athlete who has made big strides

Manu, who hails from Hassan, wants to win gold at the Olympic Games

ATHLETICS

M. RUPA RASAGNA
CHENNAI

Inspired by Neeraj Chopra's golden performance at the Tokyo Olympics, D.P. Manu, from the Hassan district of Karnataka, threw the javelin to a distance of 84.35m at the 61st National Inter-State athletics championship here. Manu's personal best also booked him a ticket to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games next month.

Manu and Rohit Yadav were involved in a close race for the top spot, the latter producing four 80-plus throws, including a remarkable 82.54m. However, Manu's persistence paid off.

As a 17-year-old, Manu's interest was more towards volleyball before his Physical



The stint at Army Institute was a blessing for me as I learnt the nuances of the sport

Education teacher pushed him to take up javelin. Five years on, the Karnataka athlete has made rapid strides, and turned heads with his performances.

Rigorous training

Through rigorous training, his hand speed increased; so did his distance in a span of three years. "I was able to consistently increase the distance, from 45m to 55m and eventually to 65m," said Manu.

At the Khelo India Games in Pune, he finished on top of the podium with a throw of 67m. This caught the eye of coach Kashinath Naik,

who saw Manu's potential and convinced his seniors to train him at the Army Sports Institute in Pune. Naik would have been a proud man when Manu touched 84.35 in Chennai.

"The stint at Army Institute was a blessing for me as I learnt the nuances of the sport. It made a better athlete and also helped me financially," said Manu.

The unwavering support from his parents and coach has been a big influence in Manu's journey. He hardly takes breaks, constantly striving to perform better. "I allow myself only five or six holidays a year as I feel I need to be on top of my sport," revealed Manu.

"I also want to win an Olympic gold. My immediate goal is the Commonwealth Games," he said.



MANU. • B. VELANKANNI RAJ

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1, Voot Select, MTV, Vh1 & Jio TV, 6.30 a.m.

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Badminton: Indonesia Open, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 10.30 a.m.

India vs South Africa: 4th T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.

West Indies vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 2, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Pranavi, Ridhima in lead

BENGALURU
Pranavi Urs and Ridhima Dilawari shared the lead in the eighth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour on Thursday.

The scores (top four): 143: Pranavi Urs (74, 69), Ridhima Dilawari (69, 74); 146: Afshan Fatima (73, 73); 147: Seher Atwal (76, 71), Jahanvi Bakshi (73, 74), Trimam Saluja (72, 75).

Indian boys take on Pakistan in summit clash

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Indian boys defeated Sri Lanka 3-0 in the semifinals to set up a title clash with top

seed Pakistan in the ITF South Asia under-12 tennis championship in Kathmandu on Thursday.

The results: Boys (semifinals): India bt Sri Lanka 3-0 (Tavish Pahwa bt Minhas Muthanthanthri 6-1, 6-1; Fazal Ali

Meer bt Bomullage Somaratna 6-4, 6-1; Kushagra Arora & Tavish bt Gracen Mayooran & Bomullage 6-0, 6-0).

Pakistan bt Bangladesh 3-0 (Muhammad Rizwan bt Md. Rajib 6-2, 6-0; Abubakar Talha bt Kabbo Gayen 6-1, 6-0; Omar

Jawad & Abubakar bt Mushfiq Aron & Md. Rajib 6-1, 6-1).

Girls (league): India bt Bangladesh 3-0 (Anandita Upadhyay bt Humayrah Zara 6-0, 6-0; Prachi Malik bt Sara Jasim 6-0, 6-1; Aahan & Prachi bt Sara & Humayrah 6-0, 6-0).

Junior National table tennis from today

Jennifer Varghese would be the star attraction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ALAPPUZHA

Reigning champion Diya Chitale Parag (youth) and Swatika Ghosh (junior) will not be defending their titles when the 83rd junior and youth National table tennis championships gets underway at the YMCA TT Arena here on Friday.

In the absence of these

two, Jennifer Varghese, who recently won the under-15 title in the WTT Youth Contender event in Havirov will be the star attraction.

Jennifer, who will be competing in the under-17 category, could face a tough challenge from top-ranked Suhana Saini, Kavyasree Bhaskar, Lakshishita Narang and Riddhima Kapoor.

Suhana, the highest-ranked player in the u-19 category, will have to contend with the likes of Yashwini Ghorphade, Nithyasree Mani and Pritha Vartikar.

The top eight-ranked players in each category will get a direct entry into the main draw, while the rest are divided into groups and the winner of each group will

qualify for the main draw.

The Table Tennis Association of Kerala (TTAK), which is organising the tournament, has decided to award equal prize money to winners in the girls' category. The total prize money is ₹6.06 lakh. The tournament has attracted entries from 500 players and the girls' events will be held first.

Sania-Hradecka duo makes last four

Bopanna-Shapovalov pair enters semifinals at Queen's Club

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Sania Mirza and Lucie Hradecka sailed past British wild cards Harriet Dart and Sarah Beth Greay 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the \$251,750 Birmingham Classic on Thursday.

In the Queen's Club Championships, Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov had reached the doubles semifinals late on Wednesday evening.

The results: £2,275,275 Queen's Club Championships, London: Quarterfinals: Denis Shapovalov (Can) & Rohan Bopanna (Iran) bt Juan Sebastian Cabal & Robert Farah (Col) 6-3, 6-4.

\$251,750 Birmingham Classic, Birmingham: Quarterfi-

nals: Lucie Hradecka (Cze) & Sania Mirza bt Harriet Dart & Sarah Beth Grey (GBR) 6-3, 6-2.

£45,730 Challenger, Blois, France: Quarterfinals: Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) & Vladyslav Manafov (Ukr) 6-7 (3), 6-4, [10-5].

First round: Luis David Martinez (Ven) & Saketh Myneni (Ind) bt Andrea Collarini & Facundo Diaz Acosta (Arg) 6-1, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Chiang Rai, Thailand: First round: Sun Fajing (Chn) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-3, 2-6, 6-3; Lee Duck-hee (Kor) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-1, 7-5.

\$15,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Second round: Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Dominik Palan (Cze) 7-6(2), 6-4; Takuya Kumasaka (Jpn) bt Ishaque Eqbal 7-6, 3-0 (retd).

Doubles: Quarterfinals:

Rishi Reddy & Dhakshinewar Suresh bt Madhwin Kamath & Digvijay Pratap Singh 3-3 (retired).

\$15,000 ITF men, San Diego, USA: First round: Keegan Smith & Ivan Thamma (US) bt Benjamin Sigouin (Can) & Siddhant Banthia 3-6, 6-0, [10-5]; Mitchell Harper (Aus) & Joe Tyler (GBR) bt Michael Shabaz (US) & Sathi Reddy Chirala 6-2, 6-0.

Women: Alyssa Ahn & Emily Deming (USA) bt Ayanna Shah (USA) & Amani Shah 6-7(6), 6-2, [10-5].

\$25,000 ITF women, Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.: First round: Gergana Topalova (Bul) bt Sharmada Balu 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: First round: Yuliana Monroy (Col) & Ho Ching Wu (Hkg) bt Sharmada Balu & Saraya Shivani 3-6, 6-2, [10-6].

Confident India will look to force the series into the decider

Arshdeep or Umran may get a look-in; de Kock's fitness still in the balance, but South Africa will be determined to seal it

SA IN INDIA

S. DIPAK RAGAV
RAJKOT
After producing a clinical performance in the do-or-die game at Visakhapatnam, India will look to build on the momentum to try and level the series against South Africa in the fourth T20I at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium here on Friday.

The home team will take a lot of heart from the fact that its bowlers stepped up to the challenge in the previous match with leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal finding his mojo.

Attacking approach

Chahal's attacking approach with more focus on his leg-breaks fetched him three wickets in the middle overs and put the brakes on South Africa's chase before Harshal Patel cleaned up the lower-order.

On the batting front, openers Ishan Kishan and Ruturaj Gaikwad gave a perfect start with a 97-run stand in 10 overs.

But the Men in Blue will also be wary of the fact that they did not finish the innings strongly, scoring only 82 in the second half and almost losing the plot before Hardik Pandya dealt some hefty blows towards the end.

After a cameo in the first match, Rishabh Pant has failed to bring out the fireworks with poor shot selection letting him down.

The team will look to the



Coaching manual: David will be eager to help southpaw Pant turn his fortunes around. • VIJAY SONEJI

skipper to deliver the goods in the crunch match.

The pitch in Rajkot has been batting-friendly in the three T20Is played here. But, as in the previous match at Visakhapatnam, India wouldn't mind a pitch that is on the slower side where its skilful spinners can keep things quiet in the middle phase of the innings.

Even as both sides desperately fight to win the ongoing series, they will also be cognisant of the big picture — using the matches to pre-

pare for the ICC T20 World Cup later in the year in Australia.

The hosts have fielded an unchanged playing eleven in the first three matches but could be tempted to test either left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh or Umran Malik for Avesh Khan who has not picked up a wicket so far.

For South Africa, Quinton de Kock, who missed the last two games due to a wrist injury, practised on Thursday though it remains to be seen if he is match-fit yet.

Despite being outplayed in the third T20I, the visitors will feel confident going into this match as there are no obvious areas of concern.

While the Proteas would want to seal the series here, Pant's men, facing another must-win contest, have shown they have enough firepower to force the series into a decider.

The stage is set for an exciting encounter.

The teams (from):
India: Rishabh Pant (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan,

Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Deepak Hooda, Dinesh Karthik, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Yuzvendra Chahal, Harshal Patel, Venkatesh Iyer, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, and Umran Malik.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Quinton de Kock, Rassie van der Dussen, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Dwaine Pretorius, Wayne Parnell, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje, Keshav Maharaj, Tabraiz Shamsi, Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen, Reeza Hendricks, and Tristan Stubbs.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

'My job is to stay one step ahead of the batters'

Focus is skill development, says Harshal



Arshdeep and Umran... waiting for a call. • VIJAY SONEJI

S. DIPAK RAGAV
RAJKOT

Harshal Patel, who starred with a four-wicket haul in the third T20I match against South Africa, said he needs to constantly develop his skills to stay relevant.

The pacer, known for his cutters, slower ones and clever variations, outsmarted the dangerous David Miller with one such delivery at Visakhapatnam.

Speaking in Rajkot ahead of the fourth match, Harshal said, "For the last two years (in IPL), people have been trying to anticipate what I am bowling... with every bowler, the longer they play, the opposition will realise what his strengths and patterns are."

"As a bowler, my job is to stay one step ahead of the batters. I cannot bowl fast like Umran Malik, it's plain and simple. So I have to develop skills to render myself

effective. My focus is always to develop skills around my bowling, with whatever limitations and advantages I have," said Harshal.

The slow nature of the pitch in the previous game helped the Indian bowlers, and the pacer admitted that he preferred such wickets. "In the last match, the wicket was slower than usual and allowed us to bowl hard lengths. It was difficult to clear boundaries on both sides," Harshal said.

South African pacer Anrich Nortje said his team was aware of how important the fourth T20I was.

"I said at the last game as well that this was sort of like a final for us. We didn't perform well or anything close to what we are capable of. [This is] a second chance but we need to seal the series as soon as possible and not give them any sniff," he said.

QUICK SINGLES

Sri Lanka levels series

PALLEKELE
Fast bowler Chamika Karunaratne led an inspired Sri Lankan attack to pull off a thrilling 26-run win over Australia in the rain-hit second ODI here on Thursday. The five-match series is level 1-1. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 220/9 in 47.4 overs (Kusal Mendis 36, Dhananjaya de Silva 34, Dasun Shanaka 34, Pat Cummins 4/35) bt Australia 189 in 37.1 overs (David Warner 37, Glenn Maxwell 30, Chamika Karunaratne 3/47). **Revised target:** 216 in 43 overs. **AFP**

Conway tests positive for COVID

LONDON
New Zealand is struggling with a worsening COVID-19 outbreak ahead of next week's third Test against England after Devon Conway became the latest member of the touring party to test positive.

ICC retains Nitin Menon in Elite Panel

RAJKOT
India's Nitin Menon has retained his place in the ICC Elite Panel and is set to make his maiden appearance as a neutral umpire in Sri Lanka later this month. Menon, who got a one-year extension from the International Cricket Council, is the only Indian in the 11-member Elite Panel. **PTI**

Bangladesh out for 103

NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)
Bangladesh was dismissed for just 103 in its first innings on the opening day of the first Test against the West Indies here on Thursday. Skipper Shakib al Hasan top scored with 51 but he was one of just three to make double figures. **The scores:** Bangladesh 103 in 32.5 overs (Shakib al Hasan 51, Jayden Seales 3/33, Alzarri Joseph 3/33) vs West Indies.

Dominant Mumbai on the verge of final

Shaw's men dismiss UP for 180, take overall lead to 346 with nine wickets in hand

RANJI TROPHY

AMOL KARHADKAR
BENGALURU

Mumbai moved closer to its objective of ending its six-year drought of a Ranji Trophy title by dominating the third day's proceedings of its semifinal versus Uttar Pradesh at Just Cricket Academy on Thursday.

With a whopping lead of 346 and nine wickets still remaining in the second innings, besides giving its batters vital game-time, the Mumbai think-tank will be keeping a close eye on the proceedings in the second semifinal at Alur.

In control

UP started the day at 25 for two in quest of the Mumbai's 393. Barring the first hour, when opener Madhav Kaushik and captain Karan Sharma looked solid, Mumbai was in control all through the day. Kaushik's drives off Mohit Avasthi and Karan's hook off Tushar Deshpande for six were a treat to watch.

But once Karan poked at Avasthi and Sarfaraz Khan lunged to his right at second slip for a sharp catch, the Mumbai camp became increasingly vocal.

Then, off-spinner Tanush Kotian started the rout with Suvad Parkar at forward



Incisive bowling: Avasthi exults after trapping Saurabh in front for one of his three wickets. • K. PICHUMANI

short-leg taking an impressive catch on second attempt off a bat-pad chance offered by Kaushik. It triggered a collapse with four wickets falling for 11 runs in 17 balls.

While Kotian trapped Rinku Singh lbw, Avasthi followed it up with a double-strike over with Sarfaraz taking yet another sharp chance to dismiss Dhruv Jurel.

Shivam Mavi then used the long handle but Deshpande's raw pace cleaned up Yash Dayal as UP got bundled out for 180.

With a lead of 213 runs,

Mumbai opted to bat again in a bid to kill the contest. Prithvi Shaw and Yashasvi Jaiswal started in contrasting fashion. Shaw, dropped on 13 at gully by Rinku, was at his bludgeoning best, while Jaiswal dropped anchor and got into a blockathon.

When Shaw top-edged a sweep off Saurabh Kumar's left-arm spin into the deep, he had scored 64 off 71 balls, while Jaiswal had played out a whopping 52 dot balls.

When he opened his account with a whip off Ankit Rajpoot in the next over, he

raised his bat in jest to the Mumbai dressing room that applauded his application.

The left-hander then flourished along with Armaan Jaffer as the duo's unbroken association of 67 runs helped Mumbai end the day at 133 for one.

The scores:
Mumbai — 1st innings: 393.

Uttar Pradesh — 1st innings: Madhav Kaushik c Parkar b Kotian 38, Samarth Singh c Tamore b Kulkarni 0, Priyam Garg b Deshpande 3, Karan Sharma c Sarfaraz b Avasthi 27, Rinku Singh lbw b Kotian 16, Dhruv Jurel c Sarfaraz b Avasthi 2, Prince Yadav c Sarfaraz b Deshpande 20, Saurabh Kumar lbw b Avasthi 0, Shivam Mavi c Kulkarni b Kotian 48, Yash Dayal b Deshpande 4, Ankit Rajpoot (not out) 6; Extras (b-13, lb-1, nb-1, w-1): 16; Total (in 54.3 overs): 180.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-4, 3-64, 4-96, 5-101, 6-107, 7-107, 8-140, 9-152.

Mumbai bowling: Kulkarni 13-4-25-1, Deshpande 17-6-34-3, Mulani 7-1-33-0, Avasthi 11-1-39-3, Kotian 6.3-1-35-3.

Mumbai — 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw c Mavi b Saurabh 64, Yashasvi Jaiswal (batting) 35, Armaan Jaffer (batting) 32; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for one wkt. in 42 overs): 133.

Fall of wicket: 1-66.
Uttar Pradesh bowling: Dayal 5-1-18-0, Rajpoot 9-3-27-0, Mavi 7-2-22-0, Prince 6-3-21-0, Saurabh 9-3-32-1, Karan 6-2-11-0.

AYAN ACHARYA
BENGALURU

Madhya Pradesh gained the vital first-innings lead in the Ranji Trophy semifinal against Bengal, despite hundreds from Manoj Tiwary (102, 21lb, 12x4) and Shahbaz Ahmed (116, 209b, 12x4) on Day 3 in Alur on Thursday.

MP was 163 for two at stumps, ahead by 231, riding on Rajat Patidar's fifty (63, 109b, 10x4).

After bowling Bengal out for 273, the MP opens survived a few play-and-misses and a close run-out chance.

Bengal struck in the second over after the break when Mukesh angled a length ball into Yash Dubey, who was late on the flick and hit on the pads. Though it seemed to be sliding down leg, umpire Vineet Kulkarni thought otherwise and Mukesh had his 100th First Class wicket.

A few overs later, a caught-behind appeal off Shahbaz was turned down by Ravikant Reddy. Shahbaz beat Shubham Sharma in the air and off the pitch to trigger a vociferous appeal from the Bengal fielders. But replays confirmed that there was daylight between bat and ball.

Shahbaz had to endure more disappointment when Shubham was given a re-



In good nick: Shahbaz notched up his maiden First Class hundred. • K. MURALI KUMAR

prieve on nine after Abhishek Porel spilled a straightforward chance. But he re-deemed himself by effecting a quick stumping to dismiss Himanshu Mantri.

Patidar walked in and played a flurry of fluent drives. He had added 40 for the third wicket with Shubham when the latter retired hurt before tea. Captain Aditya Shrivastava and Patidar then exploited the spread-out field to milk runs.

Earlier, Tiwary could barely drag himself off the field after top-edging a sweep off off-spinner Saransh Jain (three for 63) to be

caught at first slip. He had just completed his 29th First Class hundred and dropped his bat and pulled out from his pocket a piece of paper that acknowledged the support of his wife Sushmita, son Vivaan and pet dog Maximus.

Shortly after, Shahbaz reached his 100 off 193 balls, the entire Bengal dressing room applauding his maiden First Class hundred.

Shahbaz mostly played straight. He drove every full ball but refrained from chasing the wide line, so it must've been disappointing when he went after a full and

wide ball, only to nick it to the 'keeper.

Once both fell, the rest followed suit. There could be more toil ahead for Bengal on day four.

The scores: MP — 1st innings: 341.

Bengal — 1st innings: Abhishek Raman b Kartikeya 0, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Mantri b Puneet 22, Sudip Gharami b Kartikeya 0, Anustup Majumdar c Patidar b Saransh 4, Manoj Tiwary c Patidar b Saransh 102, Abhishek Porel c Shubham b Puneet 9, Shahbaz Ahmed c Mantri b Puneet 116, Sayan Mondal c Patidar b Saransh 0, Pradipta Pramanik lbw b Kartikeya 3, Akash Deep c Patidar b Gaurav 5, Mukesh Kumar (not out) 0; Extras (b-4, lb-8): 12; Total (in 89.2 overs): 273.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-0, 3-11, 4-44, 5-54, 6-237, 7-237, 8-256, 9-268.

MP bowling: Kartikeya 34-10-61-3, Saransh 19-3-63-3, Puneet 14-1-48-3, Anubhav 7-2-26-0, Gaurav 12.2-2-49-1, Shubham 3-0-14-0.

MP — 2nd innings: Himanshu Mantri st Porel b Pramanik 21, Yash Dubey lbw b Mukesh 12, Shubham Sharma (retd. hurt) 22, Rajat Patidar (batting) 63, Aditya Shrivastava (batting) 34; Extras (lb-10, w-1): 11; Total (for two wkts. in 63 overs): 163.

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-50.

Bengal bowling: Mukesh 14-1-45-1, Akash 14-2-38-0, Mondal 2-0-11-0, Shahbaz 20-4-34-0, Pramanik 11-4-22-1, Tiwary 2-0-3-0.

Karnataka HC stays sending of CWG TT list

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Another chapter was added to the selection saga of the Indian table tennis team for the upcoming Commonwealth Games on Thursday when the High Court of Karnataka ordered a stay on sending the list of selected players till June 22, 2022.

The order was issued following a petition filed by Archana Kamath, initially named in the four-member women's team and then dropped.

With the exception of the Union of India, the Court directed the other seven of the eight respondents — Table Tennis Federation of India, Sports Authority of India, Sreeja Akula, Reeth

Rishya, Manika Batra, Diya Chitale and Swastika Ghosh — "to appear in person or through an advocate duly instructed or through some one authorised by law to act for you in the case, returnable by 22/06/2022 to show cause why rule Nisi should not be issued."

Meanwhile, the cases filed separately by Swastika Ghosh and Manush Shah are scheduled for hearing in the Delhi High Court on June 20.

Diya Chitale was the first to move the Court after being ignored by the selection committee formed by the COA.

Thereafter, ignored players Swastika and Manush moved the Delhi HC.

Neeraj headlines 37-member Commonwealth Games squad

Long jumper Jeswin, marathoner Srinu and high jumper Tejaswin miss out; Sable, Manu and Rohit make the grade



Encore beckons: Neeraj will strive to defend his CWG title at Birmingham. • REUTERS

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India has named a 37-member squad headlined by Neeraj Chopra for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games with quite a few entrants being subject to achieving the qualifying mark in Kazakhstan later this month.

Missing out was long jumper Jeswin Aldrin despite achieving the AFI standard at the Federation Cup in April and marathoner Srinu Bugatha who had done the same in January. High jumper Tejaswin Shankar, who cleared the 2.27m mark in the NCAA recently, was not considered.

The Indian contingent is expected to participate in the XXXI Qosanov Memorial

event in Kazakhstan on June 25-26 before the final list.

"There are a few athletes we have included whose performances we are not satisfied with and their entries will be subject to achieving the standard in Kazakhstan," AFI president Adil Sumariwalla said. These include shot-putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor and discus thrower Seema Punia.

The 19 men and 18 women include javelin throwers Rohit Yadav and Manu DP, Avinash Sable in 3000m steeplechase and triple jumpers Abdullah Aboobacker, Praveen Chitravel, Eldhose Paul besides long jumpers Sreesankar and Md. Anees Yahya.

Asked about the missing names, Sumariwalla was ca-

tegorical. "Jeswin has been constantly slipping in the last four meets. Tejaswin neither sought an exemption from participating in Inter-State meet nor permission to train and perform abroad despite us being in constant touch with him. Our rules are very clear," he explained.

Interestingly, Srabani Nanda, training in Jamaica for the last few years, has been included in the 4x100m relay although AFI rules also state that no non-camper would be considered for relay teams. "She had our permission to train abroad," said Sumariwalla.

The squad:
Men: Avinash Sable (3000m, 5000m), Amod Jacob, Moah Nir-mal Tom, Arokiya Rajiv, Md. Aj-

mal, Naganathan Pandi, Rajesh Remesh (4x400m relay), Niten-dar Rawat (marathon), Neeraj Chopra, Manu D.P., Rohit Yadav (javelin), M. Sreesankar, Md. Anees Yahya (long jump), Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chitravel, Eldhose Paul (triple jump), Sandeep Kumar, Amit (10km walk).

Women: Dhanalakshmi (100m, 4x100m relay), Jyothi Yarraji (100mH), Manpreet Kaur (shot put), Annu Rani (javelin), Aishwarya B. (long jump, triple jump), Anicy Sojan (long jump), Bhavna Jat, Priyanka Goswami (10km walk), Hima Das, Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, Jilna M.V., Simi N.S. (4x100m relay).

Conditional entries: Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (shot put), Navjeet Kaur and Seema Punia (discus), Sarita R. Singh and Manju Bala Devi (hammer throw), Shilpa Rani (javelin).

IN BRIEF

**Dani Alves not to renew Barcelona contract**

MADRID Brazil star Dani Alves announced on Wednesday he is leaving Barcelona for a second time after returning to the club last year. The 39-year-old, who rejoined Barcelona last November on a short-term deal until the end of the season, confirmed he would not be extending his contract. Alves has made 408 appearances for Barcelona, with 391 of those coming in his first spell from 2008-2016. AFP

**Duminy is Boland's new head coach**

JOHANNESBURG Former South Africa batter J.P. Duminy was appointed head coach of provincial side Boland on a two-year deal. Duminy had earlier served as a batting consultant to the Lions franchise and, briefly, for the National team at the T20 World Cup. ANI

**Australian GP to be run at Melbourne until 2035**

MELBOURNE The Australian Grand Prix will continue to be held in Melbourne until 2035 after race organisers announced a new 10-year agreement with Formula One on Thursday, beating off rival bids from Sydney and the Gold Coast. The race was first run in 1928 and has been held at the Albert Park Circuit in Melbourne since 1996. AFP

de Sciglio extends Juve contract until 2025

ROME Mattia de Sciglio has signed an extension to his Juventus contract which will keep him at the club until 2025, the Serie A side announced on Thursday. Italy's de Sciglio played 29 times for Juventus in all competitions last season after returning from a loan at Lyon. AFP

Vatsal, Jaya make finals

SPORTS BUREAU

Vatsal Manikantan made both the finals of under-18 and 16 boys' events in the AITA Super series junior tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex in Chandigarh on Thursday.

Vatsal beat Bhicky Sagolshem 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 to set up a title clash with Anmol Nagpure in the under-18 section.

In the under-16 event, he beat top seed Dhruv Sachdeva 6-3, 6-1 to set up a final with Kabir Chothani, who beat second seed Swastik Sharma 6-2, 6-7(4), 7-5.

The results: Boys: Under-18 (semifinals): Vatsal Manikantan bt Bhicky Sagolshem 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; Anmol Nagpure bt Om Yadav 6-1, 6-2. **Doubles (final):** Shankar Heinsan & Bhicky Sagolshem bt Vatsal Manikantan & Anmol Nagpure 6-1, 6-2.

Under-16 (semifinals): Vatsal Manikantan bt Dhruv Sachdeva 6-3, 6-1; Kabir Chothani bt Swastik Sharma 6-2, 6-7(4), 7-5. **Doubles (final):** Dhruv Sachdeva & Swastik Sharma bt Kabir Chothani & Jevin Kanani 2-6, 6-4, [10-7].

Girls: Under-18 (semifinals): Jaya Kapoor bt Suhani Gaur 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Riya Kaushik bt Harleen Kaur Dhanda 6-1, 6-4.

Under-16 (semifinals): Aarushi Raval bt Saijyani Banerjee 6-4, 1-6, 6-1; Jaya Kapoor bt Isheta Midha 6-4, 6-4.

Head coach Stimac lashes out at AIFF

Threatens to quit his job if certain conditions are not met by the governing body

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW DELHI

Igor Stimac warned that Indian football is a decade behind Asia's best and threatened to quit as national coach unless there are "drastic" changes.

The 54-year-old Croat, who played in the Premier League with West Ham and Derby, was appointed in 2019 by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

But the governing body is in disarray and being run by administrators after former chief Praful Patel stayed in office beyond his term without fresh elections, which courts ruled invalid.

The management pro-



Talking tough: Igor Stimac feels drastic changes are needed to develop Indian football as he says the country is far behind other nations. •PTI

blems were compounding a chronic lack of football development that has left India "eight to 10 years behind the top-eight Asian countries",

Stimac said.

"How are we going to get there? So let's wake up," the former defender told reporters on Wednesday. Stimac

took aim at the AIFF's stalled leadership transition a day after India celebrated its place at next year's Asian Cup with a 4-0 home demolition of

Hong Kong to top their qualifying group. "I am not getting into who is right and who is wrong," Stimac said of the power struggle at the top of Indian football.

Bad timing

"It is not my job. I am just talking about timing. At such an important time, such a thing is happening, is anyone normal?"

Stimac said he was coaching the team with a salary "lower than my asking price" and would only continue beyond his September contract expiry if certain conditions were met. Among them are an overhaul of the domestic I-League, including prioritising the development of local talent.

Qatar ready to deliver grand spectacle

Organising panel working on enhancing fan experience

WORLD CUP 2022

AASHIN PRASAD
DOHA

With a little over 150 days to go for the first-ever FIFA World Cup in Qatar, the local organising committee is confident of delivering a memorable tournament.

With the infrastructure for the global showpiece in place, the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy is working on enhancing fan experience, according to communications executive director Fatma Al Nuaimi.

Ever since Qatar was awarded the hosting rights in 2010, the country has been under the scanner on several issues.



Fatma Al Nuaimi. •GETTY IMAGES

"It has been quite a journey. When we won the rights, we were scrutinised by the media on issues from corruption and human rights to workers' welfare. For us, it's about addressing

those concerns and using the World Cup as a catalyst for change," she said.

On the social aspect of the tournament – workers' welfare and human rights – the development and transformation in the 10 years had been major, she said. New minimum wages had been introduced and employment regulations changed to the benefit of workers, Fatma said.

She also played down concerns that it would be an expensive World Cup for fans and pointed to the demand for tickets from around the globe.

"We have had plenty of interest in the first and second phases of ticket sales. People

want to be at the tournament.

"Top countries that have applied for tickets are Argentina, Mexico, USA, UK, UAE and Germany," she said.

Image boost

Fatma hopes the World Cup will help change Qatar's image.

"There is a negative concept of us in the media. The biggest takeaway for us from the World Cup would be them [fans] leaving with good memories and a better understanding of the region," she said.

(The writer is in Qatar at the invitation of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy)

Cahill all praise for coach Arnold

AASHIN PRASAD
AL RAYYAN

Tim Cahill praised Graham Arnold's "masterstroke" during the extra time of Australia's penalty shootout win over Peru in the FIFA World Cup inter-confederation play-off final on Monday. Arnold brought on Andrew Redmayne for the experienced Mat Ryan ahead of the shootout and the substitute vindicated the move with two big saves to seal the Aussies' berth in the World Cup.

Cahill, who featured in four World Cups, said, "In the final hurdle, it was a masterstroke from the coach to put in Redmayne and to create a historic moment for Australia and himself."

The 2022 World Cup in



Tim Cahill.

Qatar will see six teams from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) – the most in its history. Cahill, who has five World Cup goals, has backed the Asian teams to lead the way for future generations.

"The game has changed in levels. Australia is now ranked fifth or sixth in Asia, they are not dominating like in the past. Whereas countries like Japan and South

7, after all its rivals have begun their campaigns.

Liverpool and City renew their rivalry at Anfield in mid-October, after a mid-week Champions League tie, with the return fixture scheduled for the start of April.

Reds boss Jurgen Klopp is unlikely to be impressed with their fixture allocation in conjunction with their European commitments.

Their three away matches following Champions League group games are against Chelsea, Arsenal and Tottenham.

The traditional "Big Six" have been kept apart on the final weekend before the mid-season break for the World Cup in Qatar, the weekend of November 12/13.

Tejaswin Shankar not perturbed by Commonwealth Games snub

The high jumper clinches NCAA gold, but fails to make the Indian squad for the quadrennial event

ATHLETICS

JONATHAN SELVARAJ
NEW DELHI

Tejaswin Shankar, representing Kansas State University, won gold in the men's high jump in Eugene, Oregon, on Sunday, becoming only the second Indian ever, after tennis player Somdev Devvarman, to win two National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) titles in the United States. But, it's a victory that's come at a cost.

The 24-year-old from New Delhi successfully cleared 2.27m finishing ahead of two jumpers who have the third best jumps in the world this season.

In doing so, Tejaswin also became the only Indian to have matched the Athletic Federation of India's own qualification standards in the

high jump for the Commonwealth Games, also set at 2.27m.

However, after a selection committee meeting held in Chennai on Thursday morning, Tejaswin was not included in the list of 37 names picked by the Indian federation. But he seems to have made peace with the decision.

"It isn't that the CWG wasn't in the back of my head. It was in the front of my head. Last time (in 2018) I came sixth. This time I wanted to do better.

Not in my control

"When I saw that the (qualification) standard was set at 2.27m, my only real goal was to match it. And once that happened, I was satisfied because I'd done what I could. The rest is not in my hands so

why should I worry," he says.

Tejaswin has been through this drill before. Back in 2018, in his first year of college, he was told to come back to India and match the CWG qualification standard at the Federation Cup in Patiala. This despite the fact that not only he had matched the standard but also set a new National record of 2.28m at the Big 12 indoor competition in Ames, a month earlier.

Tejaswin, 20 then, had done so because he didn't want to ruffle any feathers and didn't feel he really had a choice. At that time, there were also a couple of months between the Federation Cup and the NCAA championships.

This time, the AFI had chosen the final qualification tournament to be the Interstate which almost coincided

with the NCAA's dates.

Tejaswin says he weighed his options and chose to stay and compete in the USA.

"When I came to the USA for the first time, it was because I wanted to become a better athlete. It wasn't so that I could compete for the rest of my life in the collegiate system. In the end, I have to represent India. The goal was to get better in 4-5 years.

"It's easy to talk about having long-term perspective but you have to do something in those 4-5 years as well. Unfortunately, by the end, it came to whether I will come for this competition or that. That was the sad part of the story," says Tejaswin, whose National record of 2.29m was also set in the USA.

Read the full interview in *Sportstar*: bit.ly/TJWCWG



Rare feat: Tejaswin became only the second Indian ever, after tennis player Somdev Devvarman, to win NCAA titles in the United States. •TWITTER/KSTATETFXC

'Mirabai needs to improve in snatch'

National coach Vijay Sharma says she has to put in a little more effort

WEIGHTLIFTING

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

As Mirabai Chanu on Thursday lifted 86kg in snatch in her first competition in the women's 49kg category after the Tokyo Games, chief National coach Vijay Sharma said the Olympics silver medalist needed to improve her snatch performance ahead of the Commonwealth Games.

Mirabai – who took silver in Tokyo with efforts of 87kg in snatch, 115kg in clean and jerk and 202kg in total – did 86kg in her first snatch attempt, but could not lift 89kg in her two subsequent attempts in the inaugural Khelo India National-ranking women's weightlifting championships at Nagrota Bagwan, Himachal Pradesh.

She did 105kg in her first and only clean and jerk attempt to claim the gold medal with an aggregate of 191kg.

Sharma said the main focus was on Mirabai's snatch performance. "Her rhythm for the competition is not



Get better: Mirabai has to fine-tune her snatch routine. •AFP

there. But technically she is alright as she began from 86kg.

Good test

"This event was a good test. The athlete got to know that one should not be overconfident. Also, there is a need to put in a little more effort."

After the Olympics, Mirabai competed in the Singapore international event in February in 55kg and gave identical performances.

"In Singapore, she started with 80kg. Here her first attempt was 86kg. She can start from 87kg and can go past 90kg," said Sharma.

Two major events

The Birmingham Commonwealth Games in late July and the World championships in Bogota, Colombia, in December are the next big events for Mirabai.

"The first target is to improve the performance in

The World championships will be the starting point for our preparations for the Paris Olympics

VIJAY SHARMA

snatch in the Commonwealth Games. She is lagging a bit. She will maintain her clean and jerk performance.

"The World championships, where the main fight will be among lifters from some top Asian countries, will be the starting point for our preparations for the Paris Olympics," said Sharma.

Advance departure

As part of its preparations for the Commonwealth Games, the Indian weightlifting contingent will leave for Birmingham a month in advance.

"We are going to Birmingham on June 24, a month prior to the event. We want to get acclimatised to the conditions and prepare well as the competition has become slightly tougher," said Sharma.

Meghana-Shahu combine takes honours

Nancy and Samarvir Singh win junior gold in mixed air rifle

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Meghana Sajjanar and Shahu Mane outgunned Nisha Kanwar and Divyansh Singh Panwar 16-6 for the air rifle mixed team gold in the 20th Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship on Thursday.

The Railway pair consistently hit an average of 10.4 or more on each shot in racing to victory after the two teams were on par at 4-4.

The Delhi duo of Paarth Makhija and Rajshree Sancheti bagged one of the two bronze medals by beating Arshdeep Singh and Ramita Jindal 16-14. Delhi shot 20.6, a decimal point better than Haryana to clinch the decisive two points after the teams were tied on 14-14.

Karnataka looked to be cruising to victory in the first bronze medal match when Darius Saurastri and Smriti Prabhu led 15-7, but Surya Pratap Singh and Zeena Khitta caught up for Himachal Pradesh. The Karnataka pair clinched the bronze



Crack shots: Meghana and Shahu.. •KAMESH SRINIVASAN

with a score of 20.3 as against 20.0.

Nancy and Samarvir Singh won the junior gold for Haryana, by beating the Uttar Pradesh duo of Anushree Rai and Vidit Jain 16-12.

The results: Mixed air rifle: 1. Railways (Meghana Sajjanar, Shahu Mane) 16 (629.4); 2. Rajasthan (Divyansh Panwar, Nisha Kanwar) 6 (630.0); 3. Delhi (Paarth Makhija, Rajshree Sancheti) 16 (626.3); 4. Haryana (Arshdeep Singh, Ramita Jindal) 14 (627.6); 3. Karnataka (Darius Saurastri, Smriti Prabhu) 17 (627.0); 4. Himachal Pradesh (Surya Pratap Singh, Zeena Khitta) 15 (627.2).

Juniors: 1. Haryana (Nancy, Samarvir Singh) 16 (627.4); 2. Ut-

tar Pradesh (Anushree Rai, Vidit Jain) 12 (628.5); 3. Gujarat (Muskaan Kacholia, Rushiraj Jajdeja) 17 (626.3); 4. Andhra Pradesh (Umamahesh Maddineni, Yashika Shiramoji) 13 (624.3); 3. West Bengal (Abhinav Shaw, Arnisha Chowdhury) 16 (625.6); 4. Punjab (Jasmeen Kaur, Parikshit Brar) 12 (624.8).

Youth: 1. Uttar Pradesh (Ajay Malik, Kruti Rai) 16 (625.3); 2. Andhra Pradesh (Umamahesh Maddineni, Rashi Mittal) 12 (623.3); 3. Rajasthan (Dakshveer Singh, Devanshi Katara) 16 (621.3); 4. Karnataka (Darius Saurastri, Yuktika Rajendra) 12 (623.3); 3. Maharashtra (Parth Mane, Shikha Nanda) 17 (621.5); 4. Punjab (Mridvika Bhardwaj, Ripudaman Pnaech) 13 (622.0).