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12th June, 2022 | 11:00 AM

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IN BRIEF



Four States asked to raise COVID vigilance

NEW DELHI
In view of the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the country, the Centre on Thursday asked Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi and Karnataka to employ the five-fold strategy of test, track, treat, vaccinate and follow COVID-appropriate behaviour.

NEWS PAGE 13

SOCIOLOGY
Orientation Lecture: 10 June (5PM)
Foundation Course: 15 June
Test Series (Online/Offline): 26 June
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www.sociologybyadityamongra.com
26/3, Near Madonna Hotel, ORN, Delhi

Presidential polls scheduled for July 18

Notification on June 15; counting of votes on July 21

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Thursday announced that the Presidential election would be held on July 18 and counting of votes, if required, would be held on July 21. President Ram Nath Kovind's term ends on July 24.

Announcing the schedule, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the notification would be issued on June 15 and the last date for nominations would be June 29. The date for scrutiny of candidature would be June 30 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature would be July 2.



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, right, during a news conference in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The electoral college for the poll will comprise 4,809 members – 233 Rajya Sabha and 543 Lok Sabha members and 4,033 MLAs of the Assemblies of the States and the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry. The total value of votes will be 10,86,431 (5,43,200 for MPs or 700 votes each and 5,43,231 for MLAs based on the 1971 Census population figures).

This Presidential election will be the first to be held

Test of unity for Opposition

With the date set for the Presidential polls, Congress President Sonia Gandhi has deputed Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge to reach out to the Opposition parties. Sources said that after informal talks with all parties, a joint meeting will be scheduled in Delhi. ■ PAGE 12

MLAs of the State of J&K had 72 votes each, taking the total value of their votes to 6,264 out of the total of 10,98,903 votes.

Mr. Kumar said each candidate would require 50 members of the electoral college to propose their name and another 50 to second it. The polling would be carried out in the Parliament House for MPs and at the respective State Assemblies for MLAs, with the Rajya Sabha Secretary General declared as the Returning Officer.

The electors would cast their ballots using the pen provided by the EC as has been the norm, he said. Protocols regarding COVID-19 safety would be followed, he added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Narsinghanand, Owaisi booked by Delhi Police

Mamata appeals for calm in Bengal



Protest path: AIMIM activists protesting in New Delhi on Thursday against the remarks made on the Prophet. ■ AFP

ARNABJIT SUR
SHIV SAHAY SINGH
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

A day after they booked suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma for "spreading hate", the Delhi Police confirmed that a total of 31 persons were named in First Information Reports (FIRs) for hurting religious sentiments and spreading misinformation online. They included All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi and Darna Devi temple priest Yati Narsinghanand.

Two FIRs have been lodged in the case so far. The first FIR was based on tweets and statements posted by expelled Delhi BJP media unit head Naveen Jindal against Prophet Muhammad and Islam.

The other FIR names Ms. Sharma and several others, including journalist Saba Naqvi, Maulana Mufti Nadeem from Rajasthan, the Peace Party chief spokesperson Shadab Chauhan and Hindu Mahasabha member Pooja Shakun Pandey.

Meanwhile, West Bengal

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday urged the people of the State to maintain calm after demonstrations were held and roads were blocked by protesters over the objectionable comments by Mr. Jindal and Ms. Sharma. The Chief Minister demanded the arrest of Ms. Sharma.

"Had it happened in Bengal, I would have arrested her [Ms. Sharma]," Ms. Banerjee said.

'Police lack courage'
Reacting sharply to the FIR against him, Mr. Owaisi, in a series of tweets, said the Delhi Police were "suffering from 'both sideism' or 'balance-waad' syndromes".

Mr. Owaisi said, "It appears that the Delhi Police lack the courage to pursue cases against Yati, Nupur Sharma & Naveen Jindal etc. This is why the delayed & weak response... Delhi Police were probably trying to think of a way of registering an FIR against these people without offending Hindutvadi fanboys/girls."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Malik, Deshmukh denied bail to vote in RS elections

NCP unhappy with court's decision; duo moves HC for relief

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

A special court on Thursday rejected the pleas of Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik and former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh seeking a day's bail to vote in the Rajya Sabha polls on Friday.

Mr. Malik and Mr. Deshmukh, who are currently in jail in connection with different money laundering cases being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), have moved the Bombay High Court for relief.

The duo had filed applica-

tions seeking temporary bail last week. The ED had opposed their pleas saying that prisoners do not have voting rights under the Representation of the People Act.

In the Rajya Sabha polls to six seats from Maharashtra, their two votes are crucial for the Maha Vikas Aghadi – comprising the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress – as the alliance seeks to ensure that the Sena's Sanjay Pawar wins the battle for the sixth seat against the BJP's Dhananjay Mahadik.

The NCP has expressed disappointment at the special court's decision to deny its two jailed MLAs their right to vote. "Both of them are accused in different cases and have not been proven guilty as of now. Our demand was that they should be given the right to vote and no offence has been proven. But the court did not accept our demand and they have been deprived of their right to vote," said NCP State president Jayant Patil.

SEE ALSO PAGE 12

Hyderabad rape: police get custody of 5 minors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad police on Thursday got five-day custody of five minor boys allegedly involved in the gang-rape of a 17-year-old girl at Jubilee Hills here on May 28 for questioning. The Juvenile Justice Board, while giving permission for custody, directed the police to question the minors in the juvenile home itself at Saidabad where they were lodged after arrest. The police in plainclothes will record their statements in the presence of lawyers.

Initially the custody was sought on Tuesday while the parents of the boys

moved bail petitions on Wednesday. A petition on test identification parade to let the victim identify the culprits was filed by the police on Thursday.

Through another petition on Friday, the police will seek the permission of the board to conduct potency test on the five minors and Saaduddin Malik to strengthen their case of rape in the chargesheet.

A senior officer said the police would appeal to the board to treat the minors as majors to facilitate strict enforcement of provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

'Monitoring situation at Pak. mission'

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India is "monitoring" the security situation for its High Commission in Islamabad in the wake of the controversy over comments on Prophet Muhammad, sources said, as groups in Pakistan called for protest in several cities to take place on Friday. According to the MEA, New Delhi has called upon the Pakistani government to ensure the safety of minorities, sending a formal protest about the attack on a Hindu temple in Karachi.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Rhino reintroduction a hit in Assam reserve

Manas National Park rhinos need translocation support, reveals latest census

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The one-horned rhinos of western Assam's Manas National Park, bordering Bhutan, are expected to have high life expectancy and significant growth in population, the 14th Assam rhino estimation census has revealed.

But on the flip side, the 500-sq.-km park does not have "a wider representation of calves and sub-adults" to sustain the population structure unless it is supplemented through conservation translocations.

Manas, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a tiger reserve, had about 100 resident rhinos prior to 1990, but a prolonged ethno-political conflict thereafter took a heavy toll with extremist groups known to have traded the horns of the herbivores for weapons.

A rhino reintroduction programme under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 was started in 2006. This entailed the translocation of rhinos from Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary besides orphans hand-reared at the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation at Kaziranga. The current rhino population in the park

was estimated at 40 after the census on April 1 and 2.

A detailed census report by Vaibhav C. Mathur, the field director of Manas, said the park's rhinos have a male-female sex ratio of 1:1, arrived at without considering 10 calves and five sub-adults. But such a population may suffer losses if not supplemented through translocations, the report warned. "A suitable strategy to bring in more rhinos from other rhino-bearing areas is required so as to have a wider representation of calves and sub-adults over time," the census report said.

Speed limit

Meanwhile, the Kaziranga National Park authorities have restricted the speed of vehicles on the highway adjoining the park to 40 km per hour. This is an annual step taken to prevent vehicles from hitting animals that move out of the park during floods.

Officials said six sensor-based cameras have been installed at nine designated animal corridors of the park to measure the speed of vehicles and impose fines on those who violate the order. The cameras are equipped with automatic number plate recognising system with radar for determining speed, a divisional forest officer said.

As per the orders of the National Green Tribunal, owners of vehicles that do not adhere to the speed limit will be penalised.

Mohanlal to face trial in ivory case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Actor Mohanlal will have to face trial in the wildlife crime case booked against him for the illegal possession of two pairs of ivory as

a trial court on Thursday dismissed the State government's plea to withdraw the prosecution proceedings against him.

The reasons behind the Judicial First Class Magis-

trate Court 3, Perumbavoor, rejecting the government's plea will be known only when the order is uploaded by the court online.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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AISHWARYA VERMA
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5 AIR

UTKARSH DWIVEDI
(FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM)

6 AIR

YAKSH CHAUDHARY
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, SOCIOLOGY TEST, ABHYAAS & PERSONALITY TEST)

7 AIR

SAMYAK S JAIN
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY TEST, ESSAY TEST)

— हिंदी माध्यम टॉपर —

8 AIR

ISHITA RATHI
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)

9 AIR

PREETAM KUMAR
(ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)

18 AIR

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Foundation Course GENERAL STUDIES PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2023

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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: 21st April | PUNE: 20th June

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2023

DELHI: 24 जून, 1 PM | 5 अगस्त, 9 AM | LUCKNOW: 23 जून, 9 AM | JAIPUR: 22 जून, 4 PM

DELHI • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066

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by Shubhra Ranjan & Team

SCHOLARSHIP TEST 1-5th Rank: 50%

6-20th Rank: 35%

21-40th Rank: 25%

41-70th Rank: 15%

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Workshop: 10th June @ 5:00 PM
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Workshop: 17th June @ 5:00 PM
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Delhi Timings

FRIDAY, JUN. 10
RISE 05:23 SET 19:19
RISE 14:53 SET 02:05

SATURDAY, JUN. 11
RISE 05:23 SET 19:19
RISE 15:57 SET 02:38

SUNDAY, JUN. 12
RISE 05:23 SET 19:20
RISE 17:05 SET 03:16

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	44	28
Safdarjang	44	28
Palam	44	31

Delhi Palam Today
43°C Heat wave conditions to prevail. Day will be very hot and uneasy with strong dust raising winds. Night will be warm.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
43°C A dry weather to prevail. Heat wave to continue. Day will be very hot and uneasy with dust raising winds. Night will be warm.

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HC dismisses NEET aspirants' statement as 'frivolous theatrics'

Duo had said they would surrender seats if not in top 10 list

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

Unimpressed with the statement made by two students that they will surrender their seats if they do not make it to the list of top 10 rank holders in the upcoming NEET (undergraduate) 2022 examination, the Delhi High Court has asked the duo to tone down their "frivolous theatrics".

Justice Sanjeev Narula made the remarks while rejecting the duo's plea against the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts NEET exams, to rule out any possibility of tampering with the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) answer sheets. Advocate Ravi Kumar, re-

presenting them argued that the two students were wrongly shown to have secured extremely low marks in the NEET-2020 exam, despite having performed on a par with the best candidates across the country in the mock examinations.

Mr. Kumar alleged that the NTA had forged and fabricated OMR sheets of the two candidates in the past, and hence in the forthcoming NEET-2022 exam, which is scheduled for July 17, directions should be issued to rule out any possibility of tampering.

The duo - Shreya Yadav and Disha Joshi - appeared in previous years' NEET examinations, but were unable

to get admission on the basis of their respective scores.

Stating that they have no faith in NTA, Ms. Yadav and Ms. Joshi sought directions to secure the image of their respective OMR answer sheets in the forthcoming NEET-2022 examination.

For this, they asked for a court's direction to NTA to transmit the image of the OMR answer sheet to the mobile number of their respective parents immediately after the completion of the examination.

Justice Narula, in the verdict delivered on June 2, observed that the foundation of the prayers sought by the duo was purely based on conjectures and surmises.

Nine residents injured in fire at Batla House

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Nine residents sustained burn injuries and more than 20 were rescued from a four-storey building where a fire broke out in south-east Delhi's Batla House on Thursday morning, fire officers said.

Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg said they received a call at 8.48 a.m. about the fire near Shah Masjid. A total of seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire started from the electric board on the ground floor and reached the third floor.

DCP (South East) Esha Pandey said a police team is inspecting the cause of the fire. "Legal action will be taken accordingly," she said.

Weeks after merger, MCD awaits a unified budget

Budget estimates of erstwhile civic bodies still in place: official

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Weeks after the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was constituted, the drafting of a unified budget for the civic body has remained snail-paced, according to a senior official familiar with the development.

The official said the budget estimates of the three erstwhile civic bodies - North, South and East - continue to remain in place despite the merger and because of many officials are still in the dark on the way forward.

As per the January 2022 budget estimates - for the financial year 2022-23 - of the three erstwhile corporations, the South civic body's estimated expenditure stood slightly above ₹4,800, while the estimate for the East and North corporations was above ₹4,700 crore and ₹7,500 crore respectively.

Pending salaries

"A unified budget is required for the civic body to operate because it is practically impossible to allocate funds based on three separate budgets. The civic body has no money to pay salaries. Whatever it has paid recently has been due to the funds received from the Delhi government," said the senior



The headquarters of the MCD in the Capital. FILE PHOTO

A unified budget is required for the civic body to operate because it is practically impossible to allocate funds based on three separate budgets

SENIOR MCD OFFICIAL

official, adding that the MCD's financial situation is growing worse as salaries for the months of April and May have not been paid.

Another senior civic official confirmed that the MCD is in the process of preparing a unified budget but added that there was no clarity on when it will be publicly released and put into effect.

"Until the new budget is

in place, we will have to use the previously passed budgets because there is no other choice. Currently, we are making minimal allocations for essential works, and these allocations will be adjusted in the unified budget," said the second official. Both officials said the delay in payment of salaries will continue till the core issue of clearing financial liabilities is not attended to.

"The Centre seems to have lost interest in the financial state of the MCD after its unification was completed. Through the merger, a poor civic body has been created. The unification might have been a solution for other reasons, but it's not helping the civic body financially," said the second official.

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- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:

Name of Work	Supplying RO treated water from RO plants No. 1 & 2 capacity 20KLPH each plant for a period of two years situated near coaching terminal washing line at Shakurbasti, as per scope of work and special terms and conditions.
Approx. Cost of work	Rs.10932480/- (Rupees One Crore Nine Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighty only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited	Rs.204700/- (Rupees Two Lakh Four Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
Cost of tender document	Rs.0/-
Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	01.07.2022 at 15:00 Hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

*The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
*For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
*No manual offers are acceptable.
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No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NT/20/2022-23/W-3
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LOOK OUT NOTICE

SP City South, Jammu vide communication No. SPSJ/Rdr/22/6705-06 dated 03.06.2022 intimated that on 28.05.2022 one unidentified Male dead body in decomposed condition recovered from Gadigarh. Accordingly, an Inquest proceeding U/S 174 Cr. PC vide DDR No. 03 dated 28.05.2022 was initiated at PP Gadigarh, jammu and dead body was shifted to mortuary room of GMCH, Jammu for identification.

For the identification of decomposed unidentified Male dead body is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification/ Public in general, having any clue related to the unidentified dead body, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D. : sspjammu@kpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP City South : 0191-2430002
5. SDPO City South : 0191-2433778
6. Landline of P/S Satwari : 01912-2430364

For Sr. Superintendent of Police, Jammu
DIP/J-2830/22

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Notice Inviting Tender

(E-Tender for Printing and supply of textbooks for Class XI and XII for the academic year 2022-23)

Tender No. 02/JCERT/TEXTBOOKS/2022-23

Jharkhand Council of Educational Research & Training (JCERT) invites e-bids in two bids system (Technical & Financial) from reputed and eligible printers for the printing and supply of textbooks developed by NCERT (copyright owned by JCERT) to Government school students of Class XI and XII under State government scheme for the academic year 2022-23:

Important dates/details are as under:

Sl. No.	Activity	Start Date	Time	End Date	Time
1	Online availability of bid document	10.06.2022	3.00 pm	30.06.2022	3.00 pm
2	Document download	10.06.2022	3.00 pm	30.06.2022	3.00 pm
3	Pre-Bid Meeting	17.06.2022	3.00 pm	-	-
4	Online Bid Submission	22.06.2022	11.00 am	30.06.2022	3.00 pm
5	Submission of Original DD, BG of Bid security, Credit worthiness certificate, Paper sample, Lab test report etc.	04.07.2022	11.00 am	04.07.2022	1.00 pm
6	Opening of Technical Bid	04.07.2022	3.00 pm	-	-
7	Opening of Financial Bid	To be announced after the technical evaluation			

Interested eligible bidders may view and download bid documents from the websites <http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in>. The cost of bid documents including 18% GST is Rs. 11,800.00 (Eleven thousand Eight hundred only).

Sd/-
(Kiran Kumari Pasi, IAS)
Director, JCERT

PR.NO.271082 Human Resource Development(22-23):D

DEPARTMENT OF EXCISE

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Excise & Taxation Bhawan, Sector 69, SAS Nagar, Phone No. 0172-2216703, e-mail: excomm.pb@punjab.gov.in

Notice inviting e-tender for retail liquor licenses

Tender Reference No.: X-I/2022/27 Date : 09.06.2022

Department of Excise, Government of Punjab, intends to invite e-Tender / e-Bids in 2 cover bids system from interested entities for grant of 177 retail liquor licenses in the State of Punjab. The detailed terms and conditions and the schedule for e-tendering for these groups in the excise zones of Patiala, Jalandhar and Ferozepur can be downloaded from the e-tendering portal of Punjab Government i.e. <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and from the website of Department i.e. : <https://excise.punjab.gov.in> from 09.06.2022 onwards.

Excise Commissioner
DPRPB NA/12/10111/2021/14851

E-Procurement cell

Office of the Executive Officer
Nagar Parishad Mihijam, Jharkhand, Urban Development & Housing Department

e-procurement Notice

VERY SHORT TENDER NOTICE

NIIT No. - 2/2022-23 (15th FC) Date:-07.06.2022

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORK	TENDER VALUE	PERIOD OF COMPLETION	EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT	BID DOCUMENT FEES
1	CONSTRUCTION OF VENDING ZONE AT MIHIJAM	Rs. 1,14,67,772.00	12 months	Rs.2,30,000.00	Rs. 10,000.00
2	CONSTRUCTION OF PCC ROAD FROM HOUSE OF RAMESH RAJAK TO HOUSE OF RAM NARESH VIA HOUSE OF SURAJ MODI AND SUMANTO MANDAL, WARD NO. 17	Rs. 45,03,136.00	4 months	Rs.91,000.00	Rs. 10,000.00
3	CONSTRUCTION OF PCC ROAD IN BADULIGARH GALI NO. 2, UNDER WARD NO. 2, MIHIJAM	Rs. 16,88,223.00	4 months	Rs.34,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00
4	CONSTRUCTION OF PCC ROAD FROM AMBAGAN DURGA MANDIR TO NAGAR PARISHAD MIHIJAM BORDER UNDER WARD NO. 02 & 03	Rs. 5491831.00	4 months	Rs.1100000.00	Rs.10000.00
5	RAIN WATER HARVESTING SYSTEM IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC PLACES UNDER MIHIJAM	Rs. 23,79,930.00	4 months	Rs.48,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00
6	DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN AREA AROUND 3000 METER UNDER MIHIJAM	Rs. 16,36,372.00	4 months	Rs.33,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00

1. Date of Publication of tender on website 13.06.2022 at 11:00 hours
2. Closing date and time for receipt of tender on website 19.06.2022 at 17:00 hours
3. Date and place of receiving hard copy tender fee/EMD/copy of all uploaded documents 20.06.2022 at 13:00 hours
4. Opening date and time of opening of technical bid 21.06.2022 at 11:00 hours
5. Name and address of office inviting tender Office of Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad Mihijam
6. Contact no of procurement officer +91 9431257594
7. Helpline number of e-procurement cell +91 7781947390

NOTE: AUTHORITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL TENDER WITHOUT SIGHTING ANY REASON THEREOF. FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE SEEN ON WEBSITE [HTTP://jarkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in)

Executive Officer
Nagar Parishad Mihijam
PR 271158 Urban Development and Housing(22-23):D

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

SR. DENI/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against following tenders closing date 05.07.2022 at 16:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and Earnest Money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No./ Date	56-DRM-MB-22-23 Date:- 08.06.2022	57-DRM-MB-22-23 Date:- 08.06.2022	58-DRM-MB-22-23 Date:- 08.06.2022	59-DRM-MB-22-23 Date:- 08.06.2022	60-DRM-MB-22-23 Date:- 08.06.2022
Name of work	Zone NO. HW-2 (DDN):- Dehradun to Raiwala (Excl. RVL) of service buildings and residential buildings for general road and wood work under ADEN/HW	Zone No. HW-3 (JP):- Oak Grove School Jharkhani of service buildings and residential buildings for general road and wood work under ADEN/HW	Zone No. HW-4 (YNRKSH):- Virbhadra to Yognagni Rishikesh (Excluding Virbhadra) of service buildings and residential buildings for general road and wood work under ADEN/HW	Zone No. RK-1 (RK):- Lakshar to Balyakheri (Excluding LRJ) of service buildings, residential building and staff quarters at Lakshar for general road and wood work under ADEN/RK	Zone No. RK-2 (LRJ):- Fazalpur to Lakshar (1500 to 1538) and Lakshar to Aithal (00 to 09) of service building, residential building for general road and wood work under ADEN/RK
Tender Closing Date/Time	05.07.2022 (16:00)	05.07.2022 (16:00)	05.07.2022 (16:00)	05.07.2022 (16:00)	05.07.2022 (16:00)
Advertised Value	₹1,20,85,787.11	₹1,20,89,648.25	₹57,49,878.75	₹98,99,888.40	₹38,49,785.09
Earnest Money (₹)	₹2,10,400.00	₹2,10,500.00	₹1,15,000.00	₹1,98,000.00	₹77,000.00
Bidding Start Date	21.06.2022	21.06.2022	21.06.2022	21.06.2022	21.06.2022
Validity of offer (Days)	45 Days	45 Days	45 Days	45 Days	45 Days
Period of Completion	30.06.2023	30.06.2023	30.06.2023	30.06.2023	30.06.2023

No. 74-W/2/3/WA/Publication Dated: 09.06.2022 1397/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative Officer/Const/Northern Railway, Kashmir Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work :-

1. Full Name of work	Construction of service building, S&T rooms, gate lodge at level crossing, Rail & high level passenger platforms, earthwork in cutting/filling in formation, construction of staff quarters, fencing, extension of minor bridges, Construction of Platform shelters, provision of station name board, road work, modification of existing building including dismantling of existing building structure & fencing with other allied works at Aigwan, Agwanpur, Mattabpur, Raisi, Miranpur Katra and linking of BG track and turnouts, provision of glued joint and SEJs, dismantling of existing track and turnouts, handling, lifting, loading, leading, unloading and spreading of ballast, handling of Pway material working in BNI/NI period and other allied works at Aigwan, Agwanpur, Mattabpur, Raisi, Miranpur Katra on LKO-SRE section and any other civil engineering works at any section in the jurisdiction of DY.CE/C/MB over Moradabad division.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 2,192.65 Lacs
3. Completion period of the work	15 (Fifteen) months
4. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 12,46,300/-
5. Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 13.06.2022 to 05.07.2022 upto 11:30 hrs.
6. Last date/Time of upload of tenders	05.07.2022 upto 11:30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 21.06.2022 to 05.07.2022
7. Date and time of opening of tender	05.07.2022 at 11:30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2)). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenders would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No. 74-W-4-1-452-WA-MB Dated :-09.06.2022 1400/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused M. W. Themor, S/o Sh. Vaomatal, R/o Present Add. - 132A, Village Munirka, Delhi, Permanent Add. - Tashar Chang Hang, Dist. Ukhrul, Manipur, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 850/2015 U/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act registered at P.S. Vasant Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused M. W. Themor cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused M. W. Themor has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused M. W. Themor, of case FIR No. 850/2015 U/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act P.S. Vasant Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 18.07.2022.

By order
Umesh Kumar,
Metropolitan Magistrate - 07,
Room No. 06,
Patiala House Court,
New Delhi

DP/1243/SW/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is here by informed that this person namely Abdul Suhan S/o Usman Khan R/o H.No. D-188, Janta Majdoor Colony, Welcome, Delhi Age : About 26 years, Height : 5'6", Face : Long, Complexion : Wheatish, Build : Thin, wearing black colour T-shirt and pant, has been missing since 06.05.2022 from his house. In this regard DD No. 101-A dated 17.05.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Welcome, Delhi.

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 24368639
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO - P.S. Welcome, Delhi
Tel. No. : 011-22826808,
0813024747

DP/1656/NE/22

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Arjun Prasad Yadav S/o Dasrath Singh R/o VPO Azampur, PS Desari, District Vaishali Bihar, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under case FIR No. 28/2022, u/s 363/366/323/344/506/120B/34 IPC & 6/17/21 POCSSO Act. has been registered at P.S. Mundka, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, Arjun Prasad Yadav cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Arjun Prasad Yadav has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, said, Arjun Prasad Yadav of FIR No.28/2022 u/s 363/366/323/344/506/120B/34 IPC & 6/17/21 POCSSO Act, P.S. Mundka, Delhi required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.07.2022

By Order,
Sh. Shailender Malik, ASJ-06 West,
Special Court under Pocco Act,
Room No.209, 2nd floor
Tis Hazari Court Delhi

DP/1908/OD/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 Shamim S/o Mohd Shakil R/o H.No. 856, Gali Tanras, Chandni Mahal Delhi & Permanent Address H.No. 550, Salehpur, Duhara Khalilabad Sant Kabir Nagar, UP. has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR No. 30/2017 U/s 287/338 IPC has been registered at P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Shamim cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Shamim has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Shamim of FIR No. 30/2017 U/s 287/338 IPC registered at P.S. Chandni Mahal Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 23.07.2022

By Order,
DP/1514/CD/2022
Ms. Vidhi Gupta Anand MM-08,
Room No.272, Tis Hazari Courts Delhi

L-G, CM deliberate on turning Najafgarh drain back into a river

Saxena asks officials to submit a report on engaging an agency to clear silt in two days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On Thursday, Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena directed officials to submit a feasibility report on engaging an expert agency to pulverise the silt settled in the Najafgarh drain within two days.

According to a statement released by Raj Niwas, the matter was discussed in a meeting headed by the L-G on Wednesday, which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also attended.

Both the L-G and the Chief Minister agreed that the drain needed long term solutions that addressed the issue of recurrent expenditure on its upkeep.



Manish Sisodia had announced ₹705 crore for redevelopment of Najafgarh drain in his recent budget speech. ■ PTI

The L-G had visited the Najafgarh drain last week and suggested that the drain be developed into an eco-tourism hub with a navigable waterway where activities like boat rides and water sports could be offered.

Mr. Kejriwal had said that this could be achieved by undertaking a comprehensive de-silting and dredging of the drain in a time-bound manner.

The L-G directed officials to use meshes of different

densities at graded distances on the drains that empty into the Najafgarh drain so as to intercept the flow of solid waste and heavy silt directly into the drain.

The redevelopment of the drain was also proposed by the Delhi Finance Minister Manish Sisodia in his recent budget speech.

"Najafgarh drain will be developed as a tourist destination by cleaning it and beautifying the roads on both sides. Delhi's Sahibi river will be brought back in its [original] form. A separate provision of ₹705 crore has been made for this in the budget," Mr. Sisodia had said in his 2022-23 budget speech.

Bhalswa landfill: a scar on residents' lives

Polluted water, air, poor living conditions causing skin ailments, mental trauma

SAMRIDHI TEWARI
NEW DELHI

"I struggle to sleep at night," said Sushila, 44, who feels restless because of her itchy and scaly skin. Showing her bruised pale yellow hands with scars, she said, "I am paying the price for living right opposite to Bhalswa landfill site."

Ms. Sushila, who is on medication for skin allergy, says her sleeping disorder has weakened her immune system too. Her scalp is dry and flaky, there are pus-filled blisters around her mouth and her forehead has dark flaky patches. She has been advised by doctors not to touch the wounds on her body but she invariably ends up scratching them, which delays the healing process.

Surrounded by contaminated water and air, the residents of north-west Delhi's Bhalswa village in Jahangirpuri continue to battle various physical and mental health issues. Most of the men in the area work in factories around Bhalswa, earning ₹7,000-8,000 a month, while the women are involved in domestic work. If job uncertainty and meagre income keep worrying them during the day, the irritation from skin rashes does not allow them peaceful sleep during the night.

Garbage mounds
The height of the garbage mounds at the Bhalswa dumping ground, which has been in existence since 1994, has reached 54 metres. Garbage dumped on the roads, open drains and poor housing and sanitation in the area act as breeding hotspots for mosquitoes and flies.

Using contaminated water is one of the reasons for the



Most patients have allergies in their hands, feet, mouth, scalp and forehead. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

spread of skin infections in the area. Diwan Singh, an environmentalist and water conservationist, said treated water supply is limited due to which people are forced to use groundwater. "The groundwater is contaminated because of the landfill and supplementary drain," he said, adding that some people in the area use purified water to drink, but to bathe, they use the groundwater, which is pale yellow in colour.

Cases of skin allergies
Dr. C.S. Bhogal at Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital said a large number of skin allergy cases are reported from the vicinity of the Bhalswa landfill due to pollution. "We receive 8-10 cases of skin allergies in our OPD daily from the region," he said, adding that "poor living standards add to the health problems of the residents".

According to Dr. Bhogal, the quality of water supplied to the residents may not harm their skin overnight but over a period of time, the skin starts peeling out from the infected area; this later ends up in allergies. "The patients often scratch these

wounds out of irritation, which then start bleeding, robbing them off their sleep," he added.

Even though patients are provided with oral and topical treatments, the top layer of their skin remains damaged for years. One of the residents, Rashida Khatoon, 19, has skin allergy on her feet and can wear only a certain kind of footwear. "I can't wear covered shoes as they make my feet itch and I am not able to walk. I wear open sandals as they are airy but they look bad because of my scaly feet," said Ms. Khatoon. "The doctor said I have a blood infection," said the 19-year-old who sleeps for five hours at night with much difficulty. "I try to sleep but mosquitoes keep biting my feet because of the open wounds," she said.

Not only grown-ups, but children in the area also suffer from skin ailments. Ms. Khatoon's neighbour, five-year-old Akram, has a similar skin allergy on his scalp. "Due to the allergy, Akram has started losing a considerable amount of hair. Even his fingertips and nails on his hands have started blackening," said Ms. Khatoon.

Sukhbiri Singh, 55, keeps washing her hands and face because of her itchy skin. Showing her stiff and pale yellow hands, she said, "The pollutants from the dirty water have numbed my hands in the last four years."

"Our open wounds keep attracting mosquitoes and flies throughout the night, forcing us to stay up to keep a vigil on our children and ourselves. I barely manage to sleep for four hours," said Ms. Singh, who feels lethargic during the day due to sleep deprivation.

Dr. Pavitra Arora, who runs a small clinic and has been treating the local residents for more than a decade now told *The Hindu* that people aged 30-35 years report most cases of skin allergies.

"I usually prescribe a Cetirizine tablet a day depending on the severity of the allergy," he said. Dr. Arora, who treats three such cases daily on an average, said most patients have allergies in their hands, feet, mouth, scalp and forehead.

'No improvement'
"I have consulted many doctors but I don't find any improvement; I don't feel much sensation in my hands," said Bala Manoj, 50, showing her fingertips from where the skin was peeling off.

Ms. Manoj has breathing problems and her eyes keep twitching because of her scaly eyelids. "I have been suffering from skin infections for 15 years now. I don't know when my skin will become normal again," she said, adding that her poor economic situation makes her worry about the amount of money she has to spend on the anti-allergy tablets and insect repellents.

Roar of fans back at stadium

Spectators throng T20 match venue after three-year hiatus

VICTORIA LAVELLE
SV VAISHNAVI
NEW DELHI

The roar of cricket fans was back at the Capital's Feroz Shah Kotla stadium, now renamed Arun Jaitley Stadium, on Thursday after almost three years. Fans sporting the Indian jersey made a beeline to the stadium to get a glimpse of the action as India took on South Africa in a T20 encounter.



Fans cheering during India's T20 match against South Africa at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

A festive spirit prevailed outside the stadium as the by-lanes leading up to the stadium were bustling with vendors selling jerseys and flags. Meera, one of the vendors said, "I came from

Mumbai to sell this merchandise. Crowds are back at the stadium after a long time and we hope to do good business."

Chanchal said she had come all the way from Bha-

ratpur, Rajasthan with her family of four to see the match. "So far I have watched watch matches only on TV; this is the first time I will be watching one at a stadium. I want India to win!" she said.

Wife, minor son held for killing man

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man was killed by his 39-year-old wife and 17-year-old son in west Delhi's Jwala Puri following an argument between the couple over the man's unemployment and poor living standards, the police said.

DCP (Outer) Sameer Sharma said the duo used a hammer and a pair of scissors to kill the victim, identified as Dinesh, on Wednesday. The mother was arrested and her juvenile son was apprehended on the same day.

Land 'crisis' for trees may hit development projects: DDA

Urban body seeks permission for compensatory afforestation in neighbouring States, experts say not helpful for Capital

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA), which is facing a shortage of land for carrying out compensatory afforestation, has termed it a "crisis" that will adversely affect upcoming development projects in the Capital.

Compensatory afforestation (CA), according to the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, has to be carried out for any diversion of forest land, or deemed forest land, for non-forest purposes. Agencies carrying out development works are required to compensate for the loss of "land by land" and loss of "trees by trees".

The DDA has raised the issue of land shortage twice since last year - in May 2021 and March this year - in letters sent to the Union Environment Ministry. In 2021, the DDA had provided 119.76 hectares of land to various service providing agencies for CA.



The DDA has raised the issue of land shortage with the Union Environment Ministry twice since last year. ■ FILE PHOTO

Infrastructure projects may seem necessary but there has to be a proper assessment of their need and cost... Projects should be stopped till the pending CA is completed

DIWAN SINGH
Environmentalist

neighbouring States for projects implemented by the Centre and PSUs.

mission for the purpose. "What they are seeking is an exclusive relaxation in terms of carrying out compensatory afforestation, which is not possible. If the [Central] government relaxes it, then it will be for everyone. I find it hard to believe that an agency which owns over 80% of the land in Delhi says that it has no land left for CA," said the senior official at the Environment Ministry.

The DDA's proposal to carry out CA in neighbouring States has not impressed environmental experts. Diwan Singh, an environmentalist, said the proposed move will not benefit the Capital.

"CA is done for damage control purposes, which is caused by cutting of trees for development projects. If we do it in a neighbouring State, then it will help the neighbouring State," said Mr. Singh. He added that the urban body running out of land for recreational purposes - including CA - is a clear sign that the Capital is running out of its planning capacity.

"Infrastructure projects may seem necessary but there has to be a proper assessment of their need and cost. It is more damaging to the city in the environmental aspect if they [DDA] don't have land for CA. Projects should be stopped till the pending CA is completed," said Mr. Singh.

'No acquisition in 30 yrs'
A senior DDA official told *The Hindu* that the urban body has of late not been able to attend to requests from service agencies, which are executing development projects, to provide land for compensatory afforestation. "We have already conveyed to the agencies that there is no land for CA. The DDA has not acquired any land since 1990," he said.

One of the projects that has been affected due to non-allotment of land is the Delhi-Saharanpur Highway being built by the National Highways Authority of India.

In the March 30 letter to the Ministry, DDA's Vice-Chairman Manish Gupta had requested the Ministry to relax the guidelines issued under the Forest Conservation Act (1980) and to allow CA on degraded forest land in

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH. JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT. "Notice Inviting Tender"

Sealed item rate offline tenders on form 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the under signed on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible registered Contractors in Jal Shakti Vibhag of appropriate class for 04 Nos works. Detail i.e. name of works terms and conditions are available on website. www.hpiph.org.

The tender forms can be had from this office against cash payments (Non Refundable) up to 18.06.2022 till 4:30 P.M.

Executive Engineer, JSV Division, Thural.

HP / 1638/22-23

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP. / AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP. / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	UHBVN	ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR ASSISTING AND SUPPORTING IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT TO UHBVN FOR SMART METERING IMPLEMENTATION WORKS UNDER RDSS.	CLOSING DATE 27.06.2022	NOT APPLICABLE. HOWEVER, BID SECURITY DECLARATION TO BE SUBMITTED.	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT NO:38/SE/Projects/AM/ RDSS/2022-23	9517702228 seprojects@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
SAMVAD - 13/2023/40/10233/1199/7

NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDER THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad-244001 for and behalf of the President of India, invites tender through E-Procurement system for the supply of the below item.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Earnest Money in Rs-	Estimated Value in Rs-	Due Date
01	97225273	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF HIGH AVAILABILITY DUAL REDUNDANT SINGLE SECTION DIGITAL AXLE COUNTER	6	97920/-	4895820/-	01.07.2022

Note: Above tender with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm who desires to participate against E-tender, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a Class III digital signature certificate from certifying agencies authorized under IT Act 2000, by Govt. of India. Manual offers against E-tender shall not be accepted.

Tender Notice No. 03/Sr. DMM/MB/2022 Dated:- 09.06.2022 1405/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पूर्व, राँची

ई० प्रोक्वोरमेंट अति-अत्यकालीन निविदा सूचना पूर्व में प्रकाशित PR - 256494

T. Reference No. :- Different Tolas SVS-CL - 18/2020-21(2nd Call) Date 01.06.2022

Sl.No.	Name of Work	CLUSTER NAME	BLOCK	Estimated Cost (LAKH.)	Bid Security (LAKH)	Cost of BOQ (Rs.)
1.	Construction of Solar Based Mini Water Supply Scheme (SVS) in Different Block comprising of suitable R.C.C./Framed structure ESR Distribution line, Source (as required) and FHCT all complete job in the Different Block of District Ranchi under Drinking Water & Sanitation, Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.	8A	TAMAR	7,98,92,000	7,99,000.00	10,000.00
2.	Time of Completion	9 Months + 1 months (Trial and run)				
3.	Date of Tender Uploading on Website	20.06.2022/04.00 PM.				
4.	Document Download / Sale Start Date	20.06.2022/04.00 PM.				
5.	Pre bid Meeting	22.06.2022/12.30 PM				
6.	Bid Submission Start Date	22.06.2022/04.00 PM.				
7.	Document Download / Sale End Date	28.06.2022/05.00 PM.				
8.	Bid Submission End Date	28.06.2022/05.00 PM.				
9.	Last date of Submission of Cost of BOQ and EMD (in Hard Copy)	29.06.2022/01.00 PM.				
10.	Date of Opening of Tender	02.07.2022/11.00 AM.				
11.	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.				
12.	Name & Address of Opening Officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.				
13.	Contact No. Of Procurement Office	0651-2480155				
14.	Helpline No. Of e-procurement cell	0651-2480345				

नोट:- 1. विशेष जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट - <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालक अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पूर्व, राँची

PR 271162 Drinking Water and Sanitation(22-23).D

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person Namely **Chander Pal S/o Harbam Lal R/o Flat No. 43, LIF Flats, Brij Bihar (CBSE), Ghaziabad, UP** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a **Case Reg No. 4282/17** registered at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Chander Pal** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Chander Pal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Chander Pal** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **23.08.2022**.

By Order
Sh. Devanshu Sajjan,
Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act-05), West
Room No. 04, Annexe-1, Delhi

DP/1903/OD/2022
(Court Notice)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that one an Unknown boy **Age: 11 years, Height: 3'2", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Normal, wearing Sky Blue T-Shirt and Black Jeans** was found in abandoned condition at PF No. 12-13, New Delhi Railway Station premises and further hand over to NGO. He is deaf & dumb. In this regard a **DD No. 46A, dated 19.05.2022** has been registered at **P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the family member of the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about them please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305

DP/174/Rly/2022

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of **male Age: Approx 30 years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'8"**, was wearing Grey colour T-Shirt, Black colour Pant and Bare feet, was found in unconscious condition in front of Whisky Theka, near CNG Petrol Pump, Nand Nagri, Delhi on 08.06.2022. He was admitted in GTB Hospital, during the treatment he was declared brought dead by the doctor. In this regard a **DD No. 20-A, dated 08.06.2022** has been lodged at **P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi**. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22585985, 8750870770

DP/1702/NE/22



INTERVIEW | CHAUDHARY JAYANT SINGH

'Need strong voices against climate of hate being spread'

The RLD chief says that during the BJP regime, terms of trade always remain against farmers and their produce

ANUJ KUMAR

In his first interview after being elected to the Rajya Sabha as a joint candidate of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and the Samajwadi Party, **Chaudhary Jayant Singh** says he will bring a private member Bill on Equal Opportunity Commission and stand tall against the climate of hate. Edited excerpts:

How do you see the Rajya Sabha membership?

■ It is a matter of greater honour and privilege. I will remain consistent to issues that I have been raising.

I firmly believe that there is an agrarian crisis that needs to be addressed. Also, we need stronger voices against the climate of hate that is being propagated. We need someone who should stand for the constitutional values and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution and protect them.

Will you raise the demand for an equal opportunity

commission and caste census?

■ The government's decisions should be based on analysis and data. On the one hand, the BJP wants to enumerate outsiders but on the other, it is denying a caste census. A lot of demands for quota go to higher judiciary and there the government is told that the decision making has no basis.

One of my first tasks in Parliament will be to raise the demand for an equal opportunity or social justice commission. The core argument is that in society, there cannot be discrimination. I

am working on a private member Bill to seek a constitutional, forward-looking body. The SC/ST, OBC commissions are working in a pigeon-holed manner and have been reduced to redressal platforms.

The proposed body could mandate that every company beyond a certain turnover would be required to provide data so that the consumer would also know that the product he is buying is hiring people from rural background or not. State governments are saying domicile should be the basis of quota. I don't agree with it but it shows there is resentment in the local communities of not being represented in the private sector.

What were the takeaways from farmers' agitation?

■ There were green shoots.



The government's decisions should be based on analysis and data. On one hand, the BJP wants to enumerate outsiders but on the other, it is denying a caste census

One is that solidarity across a wide region was achieved and farmers expressed themselves in a vibrant manner on social media. Till the farmers' agitation, the perception was that nobody could take on the BJP on social media. During the agitation, or-

dinary people and farmers became influencers and ultimately the government had to realise that the movement was correct in its core demands. We have to wait and watch for the long term impact on Indian polity.

With hindsight, how do you see the political ambition of farmer leaders and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha's stand on participation in electoral politics?

■ I respect the SKM's decision but I don't understand it. We feel that farmers are under-represented in Indian politics. Everything is not about contesting elections but if somebody in our ranks has a political ambition, it should not be considered negative.

Recently, you changed your Twitter surname to Bishnoi.

Is it a political move for the coming Rajasthan polls?

■ The birth anniversary of my mother, a Bishnoi, falls in June. Also, my cousin said because of a gangster (Lawrence Bishnoi), the entire community is being tarnished. This is the only community in the country that stands for ecological sustainability, environment and climate change. If they are feeling threatened, we should support. So, I have changed my Twitter handle for a month. More than politics, it is about providing moral leadership.

Is there a possibility to go with the BJP?

■ There is always some shared ground. We all have faith on the Constitution.

(Full interview on bit.ly/RLDSingh)

'Bishnoi gang delivered letter to Salim Khan'

Suspect revealed info during probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI/PUNE

Three members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang delivered a letter threatening Bollywood actor Salman Khan and his father, writer Salim Khan, the police claimed on Thursday.

'Mahakal' alias Siddhesh alias Saurabh Kamble (20), an alleged member of the Bishnoi gang, which is also suspected to be involved in the singer Sidhu Moosewala murder case, made this revelation during interrogation, they said.

Mumbai Police's crime branch questioned Kamble in Pune on Thursday. Besides, he was also grilled by the Delhi Police's Special Cell in connection with Moosewala's murder, while a Punjab police team has also landed in Pune to question him in the same case.

'Mahakal' was arrested by Pune police earlier this

week. He allegedly told investigators that three members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang came from Jalour in Rajasthan and one of them placed the letter on a bench in Bandra Bandstand area where Salim Khan, noted screenplay writer and Salman's father, was sitting after his morning walk on Sunday.

The letter threatened that Salman Khan and his father will soon meet Moosewala's fate.

A team of Mumbai Police's crime branch, led by Deputy Commissioner of Police Sangramsinh Nishandar, interrogated Kamble.

The Delhi police on Wednesday had said that gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, currently in their custody, was the mastermind behind the last month's murder of Moosewala, a popular Punjabi singer and Congress leader.

CJI to write autobiography after retiring

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana has hinted at plans to write his autobiography post-retirement, with a sizeable portion of it allocated to his admiration for and association with the former Chief Minister of the combined Telugu States, the late N.T. Rama Rao. He inaugurated the year-long birth centenary celebrations of NTR here.

Referring to those in the political and legal spectrums identifying him as 'NTR's man', Justice Ramana said he had always felt proud of such a reference.

Wedding bells



Tying the knot: Actor Nayanthara and film director Vignesh Shivan during their wedding in Chennai on Thursday. •PTI

Cong. appeal for 'conscience vote' triggers row in Karnataka

Siddaramaiah writes to JD(S) legislators seeking support

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

While the Congress and the Janata Dal(S) are involved in a bitter duel over fielding their candidate for election to the fourth Rajya Sabha seat from Karnataka, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Thursday wrote an open letter to JD(S) members, requesting them to cast "conscience vote" in favour of the Congress candidate, triggering an angry reaction from JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy.

"The victory of our second



Siddaramaiah

candidate, Mansoor Ali Khan, will be the victory of the secular ideology that the Congress and the JD(S) believe in. It is our responsibility to lend our voice to the conscience of the people. The victory of Mr.

Khan will be the victory of the secular ideology and not that of any one party," he said in the letter.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said the letter seeking JD(S) legislators' support was "shameless", and accused Mr. Siddaramaiah of helping the BJP win the third seat also. "How can he write a letter to our legislators after calling us the B team of the BJP? Did the JD(S) suddenly become secular to him now? The Rajya Sabha results will show who is the B team of the BJP. All our legislators are together."

CBI moves Interpol in Moosewala murder case

Push for Red Notice against Goldy Brar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said on Thursday that it had received the Punjab Police's proposal for issuing Interpol Red Notice against Canada-based Satinderjeet Singh, aka Goldy Brar, who claimed responsibility for the murder of singer and rapper Sidhu Moosewala a day after the incident on May 29.

The CBI said the proposal came from the Punjab Police's Bureau of Investigation at 12.25 p.m. on May 30 through e-mail. A copy of the letter dated May 19 was at-

tached. Also a hard copy of the same proposal was received by the agency's International Police Cooperation Unit (IPCU) the same day.

After determining that the proposal had all the required details, the proposal was forwarded to the Interpol Headquarters in France's Lyon on June 2, said the agency in a statement.

The proposal related to two cases registered by the Punjab police in 2020 and 2021. In both the cases, the police had got open warrants issued against Brar. They had also filed a chargesheet a few months ago, said an official.

Governor inaugurates temple at Amaravati

Srivari temple in Jammu will be ready in 6 months: TTD chairman

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan on Thursday inaugurated Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Venkatapalem village in Capital Amaravati by unveiling the plaque at the temple.

Endowments Minister Kottu Satyanarayana, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy and TTD priests welcomed him. Visakha Sarada Peetam seer Swaroopanandrenra Swamy was also present. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who was supposed to attend the function as one of the chief guests, did not turn up. The officials did not cite any rea-



Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan at the inauguration of Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Amaravati.

son for his absence.

On the occasion, Mr. Subba Reddy said that the TTD had launched the novel programme to build Srivari temples from Kashmir to Kanyakumari as part of its noble mission, protection and propagation of Sanatana Hindu Dharma. Recently Sri Venkateswara temples were inaugurated at Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam. The Amara-

vati temple was built at a cost of ₹31 crore in two years. Similarly Srivari temple in Jammu would be ready in six months' time, he said.

Temples in remote areas

Mr. Subba Reddy said that under the SRIVANI Trust programme, 500 Srivari temples had been built in remote areas of tribal, fishermen and weaker sections,

Tirumala temple to get two new golden thrones

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has resolved to make ready two gold 'simhasanam' (thrones) for use at the temple of Lord Venkateswara here at a cost of ₹3.61 crore.

and plans were getting ready for building 1,300 temples in the next two years.

Mr. Satyanarayana said devotees who could not afford to travel to Tirumala could seek blessings of Sri Venkateshwara at Amaravati Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple.

The Maha Samprokshanam fete for the newly constructed temple was held

The new thrones will be used in the 'Kalyanotsavam', a ritual observed every day in the temple. Both the existing ones are reaching a state of dilapidation. Pure gold is likely to be used for making them in addition to 380 kg of copper sheets and 28 kg of brass sheets.

with religious fervour in the auspicious Mithuna Lagnam between 7.50 a.m. and 8.10 a.m. Rituals like Punyahavachanam, Kumbh Aradhana, Nivedana, Maha Purnahuti, Vimana Gopuram Kalasa Avahanam, etc., were also performed. Prana Pratistha, Brahma Ghosha, Veda Sat-tumora were conducted. It followed Dwajaroohanam between 10.30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

BJP leaders inspect national executive meet venue

Party to hold two-day brainstorming sessions at Hyderabad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The BJP leaders led by national general secretary Tarun Chugh, organising secretary B.L. Santosh and others have been holding day-long brainstorming sessions in the last two days to plan for the proposed national executive meeting to be held in Hyderabad at HICC-Novotel on July 2 & 3.

Telangana party president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and many others trooped to the proposed venue.

Representatives of the convention hall and hotel took them around where the meeting place, exclusive lounges for the VVIPs like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and many others, dining area and other details



BJP leaders led by Tarun Chugh, B.L. Santosh and others visit the Novotel in Hyderabad on Thursday. •NAGARA GOPAL

were discussed. The party is said to have reserved more than 200 rooms in the hotel for the meeting in which the Chief Ministers of all the BJP-ruled States will also be present to discuss the strategy for the key State Assembly elections to Gujarat, Hima-

chal Pradesh, and the forthcoming President and Vice-President elections.

The choice of Hyderabad as the venue comes in the backdrop of party leadership wanting to make Telangana as its next big foray into the south after Karnataka.

70 elephants died in Karnataka in 2021

Of these, 15 have been attributed to unnatural causes which spotlight conflict

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

Karnataka, which harbours around 6,000 elephants in the wild as per the 2017 census, has lost 70 of them due to various reasons in 2021.

Of these, 15 were attributed to unnatural causes, including 10 due to electrocution. One elephant was killed in a train accident, another was shot, one elephant died due to injuries caused by snares while the cause of death was not ascertained in one case. The remaining were classified as death due to natural causes.

This is evident in the mortality details of elephants in the State that has been uploaded by the Forest Department.

While the deaths due to natural causes are not reckoned to be worrying given



Protecting jumbos: Karnataka harbours nearly 6,000 elephants as per the 2017 census. •M.A. SRIRAM

the elephant population range in the State, the deaths due to electrocution alone underlines the prevailing human-elephant conflict in the State. In Karnataka, elephants are mainly found in the southern parts and 36 of them have died in Chamara-janagar circle, while there

were 12 deaths in Mysuru, 10 in Kodagu, seven in Bengaluru, four in Hassan, and one in Chikkamagaluru circle, according to authorities.

Saswathi Mishra, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and in charge of Project Elephant, said the mortality fi-

gures were normal given the elephant population range and the deaths owing to natural causes were mainly due to old age, infection or injuries incurred during infighting.

"But as far as 15 unnatural deaths are concerned 10 are due to electrocution, and even here one cannot infer that the elephants were targeted because the illegally powered fences installed by the farmers were meant to prevent wild boars though elephants do die in the process. But very few were intended to kill elephants," said Ms. Saswathi Mishra.

On whether the installation of rail barricades had helped reduce conflict and elephant deaths due to electrocution or other causes, she said it was yet to be studied from that perspective.

G. KRISHNAKUMAR
KOCHI

Movies in Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada are keeping the cash registers ringing for cinemas in Kerala.

Popular actor Kamal Haasan's *Vikram* has grossed over ₹18 crore in the first week of its release across theatres in the State, according to estimates by the Film Exhibitors' United Organisation of Kerala (FEUOK). The film by Lokesh Kanagaraj continued the golden run at the box office, with occupancy above 90% in most of the cinemas even on weekdays.

Grand opening

"*Vikram* had a grand opening. The movie earned a gross collection of about ₹15 crore by the third day itself. Movies in languages that include Tamil, Kannada, and



Blockbuster hits: Poster of the Tamil movie *Vikram* at a movie theatre in Kochi on Thursday. •THULASI KAKKAT

Telugu are helping the cinemas in Kerala make a comeback after being hit badly by the pandemic," says K. Vijayakumar, president of FEUOK. "Going by the excel-

lent feedback, *Vikram* is expected to earn about ₹35 to ₹40 crore from Kerala alone," he adds. The blockbuster movie *KGF:Chapter 2* and S.S. Rajamouli's *RRR* too

are appreciating new and refreshing content," he says. Mr. Ahamed says there is a growing demand for action-thriller movies among hardcore movie buffs in the State.

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Messy battle

The tug of war between the L-G and the CM is a barrier to Delhi's development ambitions

The turf battle between the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) appointed by the Centre and the elected government of Delhi has a long and noisy history. The recently appointed L-G, Vinai Kumar Saxena, has, through his disruptive enthusiasm to meddle in the day-to-day governance in Delhi, set the cat among the pigeons. Unlike his predecessors, Najeeb Jung and Anil Bajal, who too were at loggerheads with the elected government of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Mr. Saxena is a politician close to the BJP top brass. AAP has accused the L-G of undermining "constitutional sanctity" by having called a meeting of Delhi Jal Board officials on May 30 and issuing directions bypassing the Council of Ministers and the Chief Minister. The constitutional design of governance in Delhi itself is a consuming dispute that is being litigated in the Supreme Court. The Constitution gives the Centre control over three subjects — land, public order, and police. However, over the years, the Narendra Modi government has expanded the L-G's powers, including through an amendment to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act that the AAP government challenged in court last year. Through these amendments, the Centre reorganised the powers and responsibilities of the Delhi Legislative Assembly and the L-G, in favour of the latter. In the new law, "government" referred to in any law made by the Legislative Assembly will imply Lieutenant Governor (L-G), curtailing the powers of the elected government.

AAP has emerged as a thorn in the side of the BJP that is the dominant pole of the country's politics, barely challenged in many regions. The tussle between the Delhi government and the L-G has to be understood from this perspective. The Centre has been persistent in its attempts to rein in AAP that has been trying to propagate its governance model in the Capital as a proponent of its national ambitions. While the BJP appears to be willing to go to any length to clip the wings of AAP, the latter's loud protests are less on questions of principle than its own political calculations. AAP had cheered the Centre's unilateral move that robbed Jammu and Kashmir of its statehood and special status in 2019. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's grievances against the L-G are not unfounded, but he himself contributes to the stand-off as his politics compels him to be in constant combat with the BJP. Despite pronouncements by the L-G and the CM to work in tandem, their relationship has nosedived to new lows. Their long-drawn tug of war is a needless barrier to the capital city's development ambitions. Until the Court brings clarity on all issues of division of powers between the L-G and the CM, both would be well advised to work with mutual respect and accommodation.

Ties reset

India and Iran need to rebuild their ties affected adversely by recent global events

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian's first visit to India this week has many implications for bilateral relations, but it is the multilateral context and timing that stand out. This is the first visit by a member of the 57-member Organisation for Islamic Cooperation, which took offence to comments made in India on the Prophet. The controversy has overshadowed India's other diplomatic engagements. As a result, his visit was an opportunity for New Delhi to project that it has successfully assuaged the Islamic world with the actions of the ruling BJP against its spokespersons. For New Delhi, which always seeks to run a balance in ties between the two rivals, the Iranian visit comes a week after that of Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz. It also coincides with the meeting of the Board of Governors of the IAEA in Vienna, which has passed strictures against Iran for its nuclear programme. For Mr. Abdollahian, the visit would be portrayed as a show of support from a powerful country. In addition, Iran and India discussed the situation in Afghanistan under the Taliban, just days after an Indian envoy made the first outreach to Kabul. To this end, India and Iran have discussed further operationalising the Chabahar port, where goods to Afghanistan were sent before the government in Kabul fell last year. Finally, against the backdrop of the Russian war in Ukraine, and western sanctions, Iran has also been keen to convince New Delhi to restore its crude oil purchases, which it cancelled in 2019, after threats of U.S. sanctions. While there was no public statement on the matter during the official part of the visit, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's statement was significant — he called for the U.S. and Europe to allow Iranian and Venezuelan oil back into the international market if they want India to lower Russian oil imports, accusing the West of "squeezing" all alternative sources for India.

On the bilateral front too, India and Iran have catching up to do, with many promises of the last summit in Delhi left unrealised. Instead of increasing Indian oil imports, investments in developing reserves, building up the Chabahar rail project and scaling up trade, India has drastically cut its Iranian engagement due to sanctions, while Iran has looked to China for more infrastructure investment. Bilateral trade dropped to just over \$2 billion (2020-21) from \$17 billion (2017-18). Ties also appeared to have been hit by New Delhi's surprise decision to join the Israel-India-UAE-U.S. group, portrayed as an "anti-Iran" coalition, and by perceptions of Iranian support to Yemeni Houthis behind the drone attack on a UAE oil facility where an Indian was among those killed. Mr. Abdollahian's visit, and a possible visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, may be the start of a reset of traditionally strong ties even if it is one that is buffeted by developments in other parts of the world.

Reflections on the futures of Karnataka's pasts

The State has rich resources to begin a conversation on co-operation and conflict, and syncretism and dogmatism



JANAKI NAIR

The battle for and about Karnataka's pasts (and present) has eclipsed all other pressing issues related to the crippling learning deficit of the two COVID-19 years, the devastating effects on the economy, the urgency of dealing with the gravest health crisis of the recent past, and the looming threat of climate change. The battle is being fought on two levels: assorted groups of majoritarian mobs, religious heads, writers, and politicians are 'reclaiming' historical sites and structures. The principle that is emerging is an adaptation of 'Show me the person, and I will show you the law'. It is "show me a Muslim structure and I will find you a 'Hindu' past".

Claims and demands

Just as the word 'encounter' became synonymous with unlawful killings of suspects by police, the word 'survey' has entered our lexicon carrying the pernicious threat of demolition. Not only has a claim now been made on Masjid-e-Ala in Srirangapatnam, constructed by Tipu in 1786-87, but Lingayat mathadishas of northern Karnataka have now petitioned Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Bommai to conduct a 'survey' of the Peer Pasha Bangla in Basavakalyan in Bidar district, claiming it is the seat of the original anubhava mantapa of the 12th century convened by Basaveshwara.

Likewise, a 'survey' has been demanded of the Assayed Abdullahi Madani mosque at Malali, Mangaluru, to establish its 'Hindu' origins. The Chief Minister has shown his willingness to concede these demands.

The second level of the battle has appeared in the form of the recently 'rewritten' textbooks, related to social sciences and Kannada. Here too, the principal goal is a control of the narrative of the Karnataka past, and an erasure of recent achievements (e.g. Karnataka's hard fought and won struggles for social justice in the last five decades). It need not surprise us that the demand for textbook rewriting was first triggered by the 'beleaguered' Brahmin (represented by the Karnataka State Brahmin Development Board). The Rohit Chakrathirtha committee has obliged by replacing certain texts and authors, and rewriting parts of the social science books to undo the 'hurt sentiment'. But unlike the Muslim structures which have been targeted for attack, for which there can now only be an appeal to the law, the textbook revisions have seen an unanticipated range of responses that the Bommai government will not be able to so tidily resolve.

Eroding inclusivity

There is an anguished cry from writers such as Devanur Mahadeva, who represents the most innovative and complex in Kannada writing, that they be dropped from the new textbooks. Six other writers have followed suit. They will not resort to book burning or tearing to make their point, but have made dignified pleas to be dropped from a text which now features K.B. Hegdegar's speech translated into Kannada as 'Nijavada Adarsha Purusha Yaaragabeku' (Who should be an ideal role model). What is their objection? Not just to the fact that a translation, of a rather preachy speech, has been chosen over other fine and thoughtful original pieces of Kannada literature. Their objection is also to the homogeneity of the newly included authors, which undoes the achievements of the more inclusive Kannada literary sphere over the last five decades.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Objections to the 'rewriting' of the history sections have also been rich and varied. For one, a leading mathadisha, Panditaradhya Swami of Sanehalli, well known for his own support of, and interest in, theatre and literature, has objected to the new portrayal of Basava as a 'reformer' of an existing Veerashaivism, rather than as the founder of the Lingayat religion that represented opposition to the Brahminical order and its practices. The long-standing battle on Lingayat-Veerashaiva origins had culminated in the demand for a separate religion in 2017, a movement that was successfully snuffed out by the Union government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa also began the parallel task of cohering Basava's Anubhava Mantapa (which is being redeveloped) to 'Sanatana Pragatipara', a progressive Hinduism. There was only a weak outcry among Karnataka writers and intellectuals at the time. Do Panditaradhya Swami's objections now represent possible fissures between orange and saffron in Karnataka?

Not quite. Perhaps as a balancing act, Education Minister B.C. Nagesh was seen respectfully presenting copies of the new textbooks to the head of the powerful Adi Chunchungiri (Vokkaliga) matha, Nirmalananda Swamiji, for his approval. This followed Vokkaliga outrage against Chakrathirtha's disrespectful take on the State

poet Kuvempu's nada geethe (now the State song). Kuvempu, a Jnanpith Award winning litterateur, has been 'owned' by the Vokkaligas, for some time now.

Questions and interpretation

What then is the future of Karnataka's heritage? At a time when information is freely and abundantly available, can the textbook be a purveyor of information alone? At a time when chaos and disruption are our lot, should students not be taught the rudiments of a historical temper instead? That history is neither about celebrating the glory of (mostly) heroes, or avenging real and imagined 'historical wounds' but an argument about the past, based on thoughtful and critical interpretation of facts? At the same time, do those who have been denied a past — tribals, women, Dalits — not deserve to interpret a historical method that has excluded them?

I use the word interpretation deliberately since all arguments for textbook change have emphasised 'true facts'. Thus, even those who vilify Tipu Sultan, Chakrathirtha included, have to admit that he made donations to, and is remembered for, his protection of the Sringeri matha from Maratha marauders. Our children deserve to know how to interpret such facts, alongside the most troubling legacies of his reign. First, all of the Indian past is not about religious clashes between 'Hinduism' and Islam. A lot else was happening: our students need to know why Tipu is acknowledged as a restless moderniser, why he was considered among the most valiant of 18th century rulers who fought the British, but also when and how he was turned into a 'tyrant'. What does the rich symbolism of Tipu's court — his obsessive use of the tiger stripe for instance — and indeed his adoption of Persian as the official language tell us about the quest for legitimacy? What does his collection of books tell us?

What do we make of the technological innovations of his time? They also need to know why he is remembered as responsible for conversions, and oppression, particularly of his enemies. Why did he support some non-Muslim religious people and institutions and not others? All this involves historical thinking, not imbibing of 'facts' that produce either pride or hatred.

Second, if we must talk about religious clashes in the past, let us be all inclusive, and talk about the bloody clashes between Saivas, Veerasaivas, and Jains, especially in the medieval period. For this, there is interesting material and literary evidence. Hero Stones (vira kallu) at Haveri, for example, and the reliefs and inscriptions on the Someshwara temple there, clearly depict the vanquishing of the Jains and destruction of Jain temples by the Veerasaivas. At other times, Jain temples were simply taken over and reused as Veerasaiva shrines. The countryside is replete with such examples.

Karnataka has valuable resources with which to begin this conversation among students, teaching them to think about both co-operation and conflict, syncretism and dogmatism, in the past, as much as in our present. And yes, religion is, as the well-known historian Ranajit Guha noted, among the richest archives in India. Should we squander these resources to uphold some impoverished idea of religious nationalism? Instead, we need to ask, like the educationist Krishna Kumar: is there a way of being Indian that is not nationalist, not producing pride, envy or hatred, but understanding and inclusivity, and tolerance for difference? I believe Karnataka's rich heritage offers this unique opportunity for both truth and reconciliation.

Janaki Nair was Professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University until retirement in 2020

An enduring agreement bridging India-Pakistan ties

Despite differences, the Indus Waters Treaty is one of most effective examples of water management in the world



MUKESH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) is an established water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan to use water in the Indus and its tributaries. In the words of former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower, the treaty has since its existence in 1960, served as "one bright spot ... in a very depressing world picture that we see so often", resolving the long-standing differences between India and Pakistan since Partition.

Following the 118th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) comprising the Indus Commissioners of India and Pakistan held on May 30-31, 2022 in New Delhi, it is important to reflect on the struggles and the high stakes that the two countries have experienced to ensure a long-lasting treaty on the one hand and the lessons that can be drawn to address multiple concerns pending in the region on the other.

Struggles and stakes

After years of arduous negotiations, the Indus Waters Treaty was signed in Karachi on September 19, 1960, by then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then Pakistani President Ayub Khan, negotiated by the World Bank. The treaty establishes a cooperative mechanism for exchanging information between the two countries

regarding the use of the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) allocated to Pakistan and the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) allocated to India. However, the treaty also underlines provisions allowing each country to use the rivers allocated to the other for certain purposes such as irrigation and hydroelectricity. The Permanent Indus Commission, which has a commissioner from each country, oversees the cooperative mechanism and ensures that the two countries meet annually (alternately in India and Pakistan) to discuss myriad issues emerging from the treaty. This year, the commission met twice, in March in Islamabad, Pakistan, and then in New Delhi, in May.

Some differences

India-Pakistan relations have most often been embroiled in the high politics of the region's history resulting in a political stalemate between the two countries. It is a rare feat that despite the many lows in India-Pakistan relations, talks under the treaty have been held on a regular basis.

Nonetheless, throughout its existence, there have been many occasions during which differences between the two countries were discernible. For instance, both countries held different positions when Pakistan raised objections regarding the technical design features of the Kishanganga (330 megawatts) and Ratle (850 megawatts) hydroelectric power plants located on the tributaries of the Jhelum and the Chenab, respectively, designated as "Western Rivers". However, under Articles III



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

and VII of the treaty, India is permitted to construct hydroelectric power facilities on these rivers (subject to constraints specified in Annexures to the Treaty).

Differences were also discernible when Pakistan approached the World Bank to facilitate the setting up of a court of arbitration to address the concerns related to these two projects referred to in Article IX Clause 5 of the treaty, and when India requested the appointment of a Neutral Expert referent to Clause 2.1 of Article IX on the settlement of differences and dispute of the treaty, respectively. Disagreements continued on the issue with many meetings brokered by the World Bank to resolve their disagreements. But it was without any success.

Eventually, on March 31, 2022, the World Bank, in view of the differences, decided to resume two separate processes by appointing a neutral expert and a chairman for the court of arbitration. However, the two parties have not been able to find an acceptable solution. The appointment of a neutral expert will find precedence to address the differences since under Article IX Clause 6 of the treaty provisions, Arbitration 'shall not apply to any difference while it is

being dealt with by a Neutral Expert'. Therefore, the two separate processes are more likely to generate technical and legal repercussions.

Similarly, Pakistan, invoking Article VII Clause 2 on future cooperation, raised objections on the construction and technical designs of the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydropower plants located on Marusudar river, a tributary of the Chenab, in Kishwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. The 117th and the 118th meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission held this year deliberated this issue. Here, India has assured Pakistan that all the concerned projects are treaty compliant.

Similarly, India has raised concerns on issues such as Pakistan's blockade of the Fazilka drain, which resulted in water contamination in the border areas, referent to Article II Clause 3 and Article IV Clause 4 and 6 of the treaty. During the 117th bilateral meeting in March, Pakistan assured India of all possible actions to ensure the free flow of the Fazilka drain into the Sutlej.

Notwithstanding the differences, both countries have so far endeavoured to amicably address all such issues with both sides assuring to implement the treaty in letter and spirit.

Lessons from the treaty

Although there are many outstanding issues, the treaty is important and many lessons can be drawn. The treaty is an illustration of a long-standing engagement between the conflicting nations that has stood the vagaries of time.

It has withstood tensions, including conflict, providing a framework for cooperation. The treaty, therefore, is considered one of the oldest and the most effective examples of water management cooperation in the region and the world. The 118th bilateral meeting corroborates its effectiveness.

With the exception of differences on a few pending issues, both countries have avoided any actions resulting in the aggravation of the conflict or acted in a manner causing conflict to resurface. The recent bilateral meeting points to mutual respect, communication and a sharing of information, despite differences.

Potential for cooperation

The treaty can serve as an edifice to address the challenges of climate change. Recognising common interests and mutual benefits, India and Pakistan can undertake joint research on the rivers to study the impact of climate change for 'future cooperation' (underlined in Article VII).

The Indus Waters Treaty also offers great potential for cooperation and development in the sub-continent which can go a long way in ensuring peace and stability. Given that both India and Pakistan have been committed to manage the rivers in a responsible manner, the Treaty can be a reference point to resolve other water-related issues in the region through regular dialogue and interaction.

Mukesh Kumar Srivastava is Senior Consultant, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

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.

Taming inflation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the repo rate from 4% to 4.9% in a span of just 34 days to contain inflation. It says the inflationary phase the country is passing through is a result of supply shocks, mostly related to food items. The basic question then is will making money a little dearer remedy the supply shocks experienced in daily life and in meeting daily necessities? There is very little connection between the two. Two, will not a higher lending rate lead to increased cost of

production and fuel inflation? Improving the supply side is what is required, which is probably not easy today because of the Russian war against Ukraine. At this juncture, the RBI seems to be continuing to take monetary measures, the impact of which it is not sure of, or which can even be counterproductive.

P. MANGALACHANDRAN, West Ponniam, Kannur, Kerala

Facing fire as a result of galloping inflation, the Government has no other option but to sacrifice

growth in the hope that inflation will cool down. The increase in repo rates was inevitable. It is almost certain that a further rise can be expected. However, how much this is going to help in tackling inflation remains to be seen. Food inflation is most worrying as it has put even the most basic items out of the reach for many.

ANTHONY HENRIQUES, Mumbai

The repo rate adjustment game seems to be back. Such steps would have another effect; making EMI of home loans and other personal

loans expensive is one example. It may help reduce inflation levels to some extent but the private consumption part of growth engines may get affected. The unabated rise of inflation in India and globally is largely the consequence of a disrupted supply chain. The Government should increase its public expenditure.

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

A silence

India has had to bow its head in shame following obtuse remarks made by certain

political spokespersons against a particular religion. But what is more shocking is that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have maintained a stony silence on the issue.

It is also a fact that certain news anchors on television hardly moderate debates, leading to fiery remarks, in turn adding to the problem. It is time right thinking people realise that there is a grave situation that prevails in the country due to the divide-and-rule policy practised by the ruling dispensation. One hopes that people will exercise caution

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



and vote with thought in the 2024 general election. THARGIUS S. FERNANDO, Chennai

Enforce mask rule

Social distancing and mask wearing have gone for a toss. However, with warnings of rising COVID-19 cases in some parts of India as a result of a spurt in travel, it is imperative that health protocols return. As a traveller, I find many precautions being ignored.

AAANYA SINGHAL, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Is the ban on wheat exports good policy?

PARLEY

It is ad hoc, hurts farmers' incomes, and may not impact inflation much

Over the last month, the government has banned the export of wheat and imposed quantitative restrictions on outbound sugar shipments. The wheat export ban came within days of a push to enhance India's wheat supplies to the rest of the world after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This is a time of persistently high inflation, spurred by rising food and fuel prices, and there are concerns about a lower yield this year due to intensive heat waves. The government has argued that farmers have not lost out due to the ban as most had already sold their produce this season. In a discussion moderated by Vikas Dhoot, S. Mahendra Dev and Himanshu consider the efficacy of these curbs. Edited excerpts:



S. Mahendra Dev is director and vice chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research

What do the export curbs mean for reining in inflation and addressing India's food security concerns?

Himanshu: I don't think the export ban is going to help much with inflation as the procurement season for the wheat crop is more or less over. I don't think it is going to keep the prices down or help the government to procure and prepare better for food security.

My objection to the ban has not been on the policy of export curbs per se – almost 30 countries have done the same, and countries should have a sovereign right to decide what is the right time to curb exports. My problem is with a kind of ad-hocism or muddled policy-making. And this is not the first time, which makes it more worrying. This has been going on for the last two decades – there is no planning on how to manage the trade policy for agriculture products or even other products. Look at it: on May 12, there was an official press release about sending delegations to nine countries to explore wheat export opportunities. And then on May 13, there was an export ban. That's not the right way of looking at it. Through April, officials went to the U.S., talked to President Joe Biden, and the Finance and Commerce Ministers were saying, 'If not for the WTO [World Trade Organization], we will be feeding the entire world'. And then suddenly within a



Himanshu is associate professor at the JNU's Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences



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month, the government says, 'No, no, we don't have enough for exports.' This gives a wrong signal to domestic farmers as well as traders. It is certainly not good for food security because whatever damage was supposed to happen has already happened. The government has not been able to procure whatever is required for managing its food security apparatus.

Did circumstances change significantly between April and May with the wheat crop estimates being downgraded? Or even between May 12 and May 13, when India went from being an aspiring wheat exporter to the world to banning exports completely?

S. Mahendra Dev: Even before the Ukraine-Russia war, global food prices were increasing because of excess liquidity across the world. But the war gave India an opportunity to export more wheat. The global export market is around 200 million tonnes, of which 55 million tonnes are generally from Ukraine and Russia. India exported 7 million tonnes in 2021-22, and everybody thought we had a lot of opportunity this year. Open market prices were higher at ₹2,400 a quintal compared to the MSP [Minimum Support Price] of around ₹2,100. So, farmers were getting higher prices after a long time. The export ban has two effects. It impacts farmers' incomes as well as the long-term credibility of the export policy. One reason given for the ban was the production estimates. In 2006 too, production was overestimated and India had to import as procurement was low. It's the same now: many people thought production was over-estimated at 111 million tonnes; now we may have 99-100 million tonnes. The second reason was procurement. Last year, 44 million tonnes were procured; now we are expecting around 19 million tonnes. The third reason was the retail inflation, which was inching close to 8% in April, with food products even higher.

The government may have acted for these reasons, but it has hurt farmers' incomes and the impact on inflation may not be very high be-



REUTERS

cause global food prices are still high. Instead of an export ban, it could have opted for a minimum export price and given a bonus of ₹250 to ₹300 to spur more procurement for food security goals. On sugar, of global exports of around 64 million tonnes, India was exporting 8 million tonnes last year. Now, there is no shortage of sugar production. We are expecting 35 million tonnes. Even with exports, we could have had a closing stock of around 6 million tonnes. So, there was no need – the government says it is because of global shortage and higher prices in India. It thinks that during the festival season, sugar prices should not go up and has restricted exports to 10 million tonnes.

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal has said local wheat prices have fallen by about ₹5 a kg, so the export ban is indeed working. The G7 nations and other countries have urged India to rethink the ban, though government-to-government procurements will be considered.

Himanshu: Global credibility is not as important as India has not been a regular wheat exporter except for the last two-three years when it had excess stocks. The more serious issue is the credibility of government policy for our biggest stakeholders – the millions of farmers who need a stable and consistent policy. This has not been provided. As far as domestic price measures are concerned, things get a little tricky – because for the last few years, farmers have been suffering through low prices domestically, due to the slowdown in the economy and the pandemic. Finally, when they had the

The export ban impacts farmers' incomes as well as the long-term credibility of the export policy.

S. MAHENDRA DEV

chance to get slightly better incomes from the produce, the government imposed the export ban. So, the domestic outcomes of the export ban are worrying, because we had options like a bonus for procurement that could have helped farmers and food security concerns. Some kind of disincentives could have been built in rather than an outright ban on exports, which basically doesn't help the farmers or even the consumers that much, whatever the government claims.

We have to see this in the context of the overall agricultural policy, not just for exports, but also incentives and market interventions. What we need is a more cohesive, consistent, stable and predictable agricultural policy, rather than an ad-hoc, unjustified manner of pressing the panic button.

In 2016-17, India had a good pulses crop. But procurement was bungled then and farmers, who were left high and dry, reduced sowing for pulses from the next year. Could we see a similar impact on sowing preferences this time?

Himanshu: This is an important question. Let's look at oil seeds, another commodity which has seen a massive increase in prices. We have been importing roughly 60% of our seeds and must produce more. But as prices have gone up, the government reduced the import duty on palm oil, and while that is going to reduce market prices for consumers, it would be at the cost

of the farmer who will not enjoy the benefits of higher price. So, in a sense, we are penalising the farmer who could have actually shifted production towards oil seeds, but can't compete with cheaper imports. So, we have a policy that penalises farmers at the cost of the consumers, who always get the preference, whether it is pulses or oil seeds.

The 2016 episode with pulses is a good example – when farmers were able to get higher prices, the government dumped imports from Mozambique and other countries, which led to the collapse of prices. Since then, farmers have been hesitant to go into pulses production. The risks of a muddled policy can damage prospects across the spectrum. We have gone from self-sufficiency in edible oils at the beginning of the 1990s to complete dependency on imports – and trade policy had a large role in that.

S. Mahendra Dev: Since Independence, we have been favouring the consumers at the expense of the farmers. That has to change. The situation assessment survey of 2018-19 shows that farmers' incomes are low, with only ₹127 a day from cultivation. We have to think of the farmers' families because they also have expenses, such as health, education and agriculture inputs. For consumers, social protection programmes can act as a support rather than a reduction in farm prices.

Sowing preferences may not change that much, because rice and wheat get a lot of incentives and take up about 80% of the water of the entire agriculture sector. But this ad-hocism – one year we export, next year we ban it – has been happening with most commodities, from wheat to onions. Diversification is important not just for food security, but also nutrition security as many of the poor are not able to buy pulses or eggs and meat.

The government had talked of doubling farm incomes by 2022. How do these steps fit in with that goal?

S. Mahendra Dev: In 2013, farmers were getting ₹6,400 and in 2018-19, that was around ₹7,700 in real terms. That's a 21% increase in six years, or 3.5% per annum. You need 10% growth per year to double farm incomes. Non-farm income is also needed because cultivation alone is

not enough.

Himanshu: I think everybody knew when the announcement was made that this is impossible – when it had not happened in the past, it was unlikely to happen when the economy was in the middle of a slowdown. Also, farmer incomes are dependent on not just output prices but also input costs, which have been rising. So, you can have a weird situation where input prices grow faster than output prices, and farmers actually make losses rather than higher incomes. Even over the last six months of rising prices, I don't think farmers gained much. A large part of the benefits went to traders and speculators, who hoarded stocks to sell at high prices later.

The whole premise of the three farm reform laws, now abandoned, was to give farmers the freedom to sell where and when they want...

Himanshu: I think the last three months have been a good example of the futility of the farm laws. The Government says the farmers have sold wheat at a higher price because the government was able to pick up less than 20 million tonnes, less than half the target. So, farmers obviously had avenues if they wanted to sell it to the private players. They managed to sell it without any change in the market infrastructure and without the farm laws. The problem is only when the prices are low as that is when you need the government to step in, and that is the point of MSP. This is a good example of how a bogey was created around the farm laws, that these were the only barriers to farmers not getting high prices. But now the government itself is saying farmers have got high prices, nullifying the entire premise on which the laws were formulated. The problem was not about the farmers, it's the nature of agricultural markets and the vulnerability of farmers.

S. Mahendra Dev: We have been talking about farm reforms since 2003. My stand has been this: leave it to the States. In India, a large country, you cannot have one system for the entire country, which has so many variations in soil, climate, etc. So, each State can see what can be done rather than the Centre imposing farm laws.

NOTEBOOK

The art of diplomacy

In the world of global diplomacy, embarrassments, gaffes, and 'diplomatic incidents' are par for the course

SUHASINI HAIDAR

"I saw it. I fixed it. That's the whole story". It took me a few minutes to understand what the Minister was saying to me. I was in Islamabad to cover the SAARC Home Minister's meeting in 2010, attended by the then Home Minister, P. Chidambaram, and I had received a summons from Indian Embassy officials who said the Minister wanted to speak to Indian journalists. Apparently "it" referred to the Indian tricolour that had been placed upside down, inadvertently or otherwise, on the table next to Mr. Chidambaram during the bilateral talks with the then Pakistani Interior Minister, Rehman Malik. The Minister had moved with some defensiveness once an official pointed out the error, and wanted to ensure that television channels back home would use the visuals of the Indian flag after it had been set right and not before. Although Malik swore it was an honest mistake, suspicions were high that the hosts had done this on purpose to upset the atmosphere, heightened by the memory that even as a guest in 2006, former Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf had flown into Jaipur with the tricolour flying upside down on his plane. At the SAARC Home Minister's meeting in 2016 too, there was an incident: protesters in Pakistan were allowed close to the convoy of then Home Minister Rajnath Singh, and India officially protested this with the Pakistan government.

As host, India too has had to deal with some tense moments over protests during visits. In 2002, Tibetan youth leader Tenzin Tsundue scaled 14 floors of a Mumbai hotel during Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji's visit, and unfurled a Tibetan flag. In 2005, Mr. Tsundue unfurled a 'Free Tibet' banner from atop a water tower in Bengaluru when Premier Wen Jiabao visited the IISc campus. And in 2016, protesters were allowed close to Hyderabad House in New Delhi where President Xi Jinping met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. All these incidents, the Chinese delegations suspected, were "deliberately

planned" rather than security breaches.

When it comes to flags, not all incidents are as serious. The Chief of Protocol of a neighbouring country once told me about a near-incident, when he asked his foreign ministry supplier to decorate the city's roundabouts with national flags in honour of the Czech Republic leader's arrival. To his horror, he found the main street of the capital decked in black-and-white chequered flags (like the ones found at F1 car races) instead, and had to move swiftly to have new flags in place. At an official banquet in Delhi a few years ago, I realised that the menus that had been placed in front of us had been mixed up with those for a previous visitor. The officials, once alerted, moved quickly to correct the mistake and through sign language and whispers, ensured that the Indian guests removed all the menus from the plates of the foreign guests sitting next to them.

In the complex and often arcane world of global diplomacy, gaffes, embarrassments and "diplomatic incidents" are par for the course. Some, like the Qatari decision to cancel a banquet in honour of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, ostensibly due to his counterpart the Deputy Emir's possible exposure to COVID-19, left officials wondering if there was a larger message being conveyed regarding the Qatar government's unhappiness over the controversial comments made in India about Prophet Mohammad. Some of those suspicions were confirmed when the Qatar Foreign Ministry also summoned the Ambassador to protest. Nevertheless, the Vice President continued through the trip as is normally the case in such matters, making the point that bilateral ties transcend such incidents, and trying to ensure, mostly unsuccessfully, that we in the media follow suit. However, in the age of social media, it is that much harder to stop a story from getting out, and to do the "damage control" once it is published.

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DATA POINT

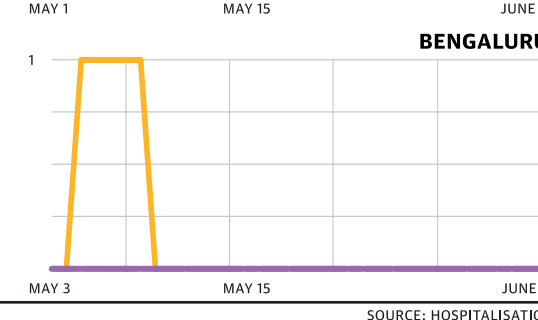
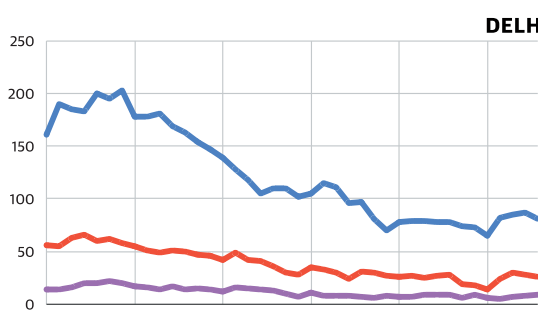
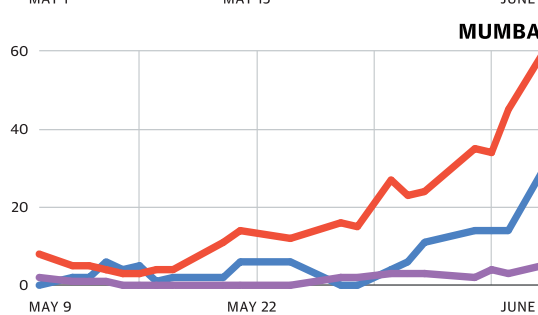
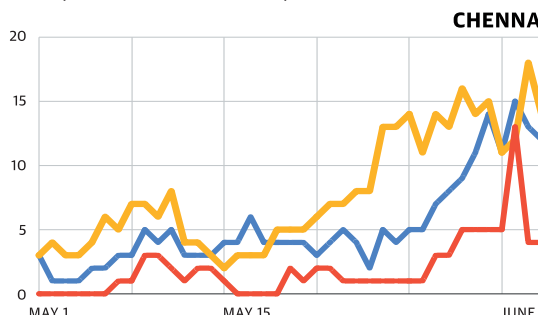
Hospitalisations rise in Mumbai & Chennai

The number of COVID-19 cases has once again started to increase in India. The seven-day average number of infections rose to 4,500 on June 8 from around 2,100 a fortnight ago. Much like the previous waves, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Bengaluru have recorded a large number of cases. Both Chennai and Mumbai have recorded a sharp spike in the number of hospitalisations. Data from GISAID show that Omicron's BA.2 sub-lineage may be responsible for the uptick in most cities. However, in Chennai, the latest increase coincides with a noticeable rise in the BA.5 sub-lineage. But given the small number of cases sequenced in every district, the data have to be taken with a pinch of salt.

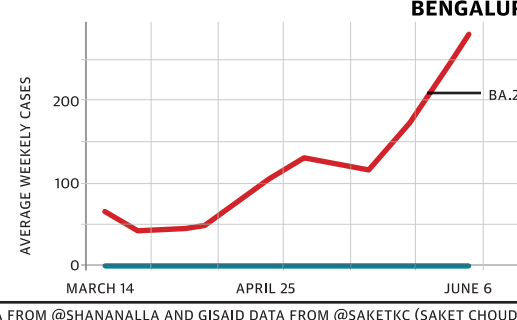
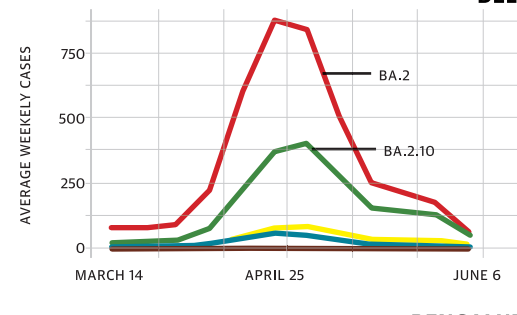
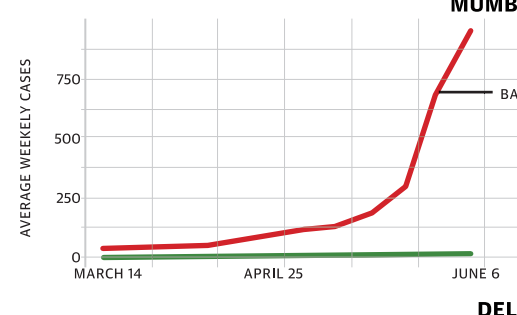
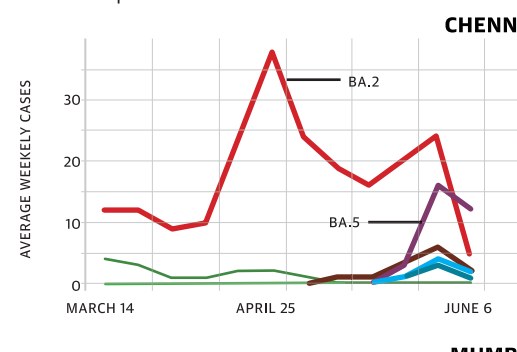
By Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Rebecca Rose Varghese

HOSPITAL BED OCCUPANCY | The charts show the types of hospital beds earmarked for COVID-19 and which were occupied in four cities. For instance, in Mumbai, the number of oxygen (O2) beds occupied increased from around 2 in mid-May to around 30 by June 8.

Occupied oxygen beds; Occupied general beds; Occupied ICU beds; Occupied ventilator beds



VARIANTS OF CONCERN | The charts show the estimated cases (weekly average) in India by variant. The estimation is based on weekly genomic surveillance data deposited to GISAID. Only Chennai recorded a surge in BA.5 cases while Mumbai and Bengaluru continued to record an uptick in the BA.2 sub-variant



SOURCE: HOSPITALISATION DATA FROM @SHANANALLA AND GISAID DATA FROM @SAKETKC (SAKET CHOUDHARY)

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1972

S. African white students defy ban

Johannesburg, June 9: More than 1,000 white university students defied a Government ban on public gathering yesterday by assembling on a pavement just outside their campus here. A barricade of motor vehicles, including a minibus carrying a banner "students representative council" was placed across the main entrance to the white University of the Witwatersrand. The only police in sight at the time were a small group of plainclothes officers on a traffic island in the road outside the entrance. These moves followed a general assembly of students, the university Senate and the council in a campus building. A resolution was passed affirming the right of university students and other citizens "to express peacefully by public assembly and procession their opinions on matters of public policy and their right thereby to seek public support for opinions thus expressed." It was estimated that about 6,000 students were present at the general assembly. The resolution also expressed "extreme distress and indignation at the violent measures taken by the Government" against peaceful assemblies. South African University staff and Senate members have also joined the nation-wide Student-Government confrontation which has raged over the past two weeks.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1922

Silver Market

London, June 9: Montague's weekly report says: For months past Chinese internal politics have really been the dominating factor in price of silver. Contest for supremacy there perhaps less affects silver than changing seasons do; but war operations unsettle public confidence. The hope is revived that General Wu-Pei-Fu's apparent success in the political arena will lead to the establishment of a stable government in which the tendency to hoard will diminish inasmuch as the Chinese are not hoarders by nature. It will also remove the hindrances of crops. The news has already induced Chinese exchange speculators to reverse their operations and sell silver here. Hence a fairly rapid descent of prices early in the week. The market now shows a somewhat uncertain tendency owing to the fact that conflicting orders from China are often received on the same day. Indian Bazaars are only nibbling and America is holding off supplies while Continent is poor seller.

Rajasthan reels under relentless heatwave

The early onset of the heatwave in the desert State this March — the hottest in 122 years since the India Meteorological Department started maintaining records — has threatened wildlife, taken a toll on the quality of crops, caused the water level in dams to plummet and affected rural employment, reports **Mohammed Iqbal**

Amid an unprecedented heatwave that has swept large swathes of Rajasthan since early March, Bishnoi farmers in the State's Sriganganagar and Hanumangarh districts have made an innovative provision to quench the thirst of deer, blackbucks and other wild ungulates. The farmers have dug up troughs and constructed concrete ponds, many of them in their own fields, to provide respite to a population of 10,000 deer and blackbucks.

The soaring mercury levels owing to the early onset of the heatwave in the desert State have threatened wildlife, taken a toll on the quality of crops, caused the water level in dams to plummet and affected rural employment.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), this March was the warmest in the country in 122 years since it began maintaining records. In mid-May, the temperature exceeded 45 degrees Celsius in all 33 districts of Rajasthan and the southwest monsoon is expected to be delayed owing to lesser intensity in its northward advancement, the IMD says. The monsoon is expected to enter the State after June 25. Till then, it is likely to reel under the heatwave.

According to a preliminary observation of this year's summer by the Central University of Rajasthan (CUoR), the heatwave's first spell lasted from March 11 to 20. In 2021, the heatwave began on March 28, with the maximum temperature at 40.27 degrees Celsius. In 2020, it started on April 5, with the maximum temperature at 36.39 degrees Celsius.

This year, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh experienced the heatwave for the highest number of days in the country, the study says. The absence of rain during this period aggravated the heatwave and even scanty rainfall could have brought the temperature down, it says.

"Our study of satellite data has revealed that conditions ideal for the heatwave will continue till the arrival of the monsoon. The impact of extreme temperature on environmental variables is serious this year," says Laxmi Kant Sharma, associate professor at CUoR's Department of Environmental Science. He says factors such as depletion of water for irrigation, evaporation of surface water and evapotranspiration from the green cover have exerted stress on sustainable water resources.

According to the IMD, an area is in the grip of a heatwave when there is a departure of 4.5 to 6.4 degrees Celsius from the normal temperature. When the maximum temperature is equal to or above 45 degrees Celsius, it is a heatwave, and if it is 47 degrees Celsius or above, it is a severe heatwave.

A heatwave, which can occur with or without high humidity, lasts more than two days and has the potential to cover a huge area, exposing a large number of people to hazardous heat, the IMD says.

Protecting wildlife

Farmers say their strategy of filling troughs and ponds with water in a 60 sq km area has helped save the lives of antelopes. Several antelopes drowned in the past while trying to drink water at the two major canals in the region — the Indira Gandhi Canal and the Bhakra Canal — which irrigate fields in arid areas. The concrete ponds for animals are situated in villages such as Hardayalpur and Lakhasar Rohi in Hanumangarh.

The initiative is led by Anil Bishnoi, a farmer and recipient of the State's Amrita Devi Environmental Award in 2009. He says farmers in the region were requested to fill up troughs using water from tube wells. They are also replenished with water from the canals or the village water supply scheme, he says.

Apart from farmers and wildlife enthusiasts, Border Security Force personnel posted in western Rajasthan have contributed towards saving the lives of animals and birds amid the blistering heatwave. They regularly direct water tankers bound for border outposts to fill up tanks and ponds in and around villages facing water scarcity.

Forest officials say in dry deciduous forests in the State, the leaves shed during the summer have become nutrient feed for herbivores such as spotted deer and antelopes. The animals come to waterholes a few times during the day to quench their thirst, while most birds are observed drinking water several times and some taking bath in puddles to beat the heat. Despite the intense heatwave, waterholes in wildlife reserves and national parks in the State have reported some depth of water. Officials say mortality rates among both carnivores and herbivores are not alarming during the peak of the heatwave as they find spots to hide themselves under groves, bamboo clumps and canopies of dense trees. These green niches containing moisture are numerous inside forests.

A tigress named Riddhi was recently observed vomiting near Jogi Mahal inside the Ranthambore National Park. Forest officials treated her and offered her a bait to regain strength. Harsh Vardhan, secretary, Tourism & Wildlife Society of India, says while the heat-



Feeling the heat: (Top) Farmers filling a concrete pond with water for wild animals to quench their thirst near a field at Lakhasar Rohi village in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district; and a flock of sheep wandering in search of water on a sweltering afternoon in May in Churu district. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT & V.V. KRISHNAN

wave has caused health problems in wild animals, flying squirrels and bats have the maximum mortality at peak summer. They are found in large numbers in south Rajasthan's forests and the regions around Jhadol, Kotda, Dungarpur, Banswara, Kota and Baran, he says.

"They hang upside down from branches of large canopy trees like banyan and tamarind and fly to the nearest water source to quench their thirst, where they die because of weakness. Honeybees meet a similar fate during summer," says Mr. Vardhan.

The forest authorities have made arrangements for water supply inside Ranthambore and Sariska national parks through tube wells powered by solar panels. The troughs situated nearby are filled up to invite the attention of all wild species. Each tube well supplies water to a minimum of three waterholes located at a distance of four to six km. While plastic pipes have been placed underground, iron pipes have been used where the surface is rocky.

Crop productivity hit

According to Prof. Sharma, the heatwave has also had an adverse effect on plant productivity in the State. The temperature extremes have affected pollination, one of the most sensitive stages in the life cycle of a plant. However, there was no effect on leaf area or vegetative biomass in comparison with normal temperatures, he says.

The temperature effects are intensified by a deficit in water and a reduction in the soil-water interaction or water holding capacity, says Prof. Sharma. Grain yield in the arid environment crop type has reduced by 80% to 90% from a normal temperature regime.

Farmers say the heat stress has affected the quality of wheat produced as a rabi crop, leaving an impact on its sale as well. The wheat grains harvested during the early onset of the heatwave have shrivelled. They have become thinner than their standard size and the impact is visible in 40% of the wheat produced. This has affected about 3.5 lakh farmers growing wheat in the State.

Dashrath Kumar, general secretary of the Hadoti Kisan Union, says the ban on wheat export had also led to reduction in wheat prices from ₹2,200-₹2,300 per

quintal to ₹2,050 per quintal. "We have urged both the Central and State governments to procure all types of wheat for a bonus amount of ₹500 per quintal. So many families are dependent on this crop. The clause on standard size of grain should also be removed," he says.

While the Food Corporation of India had procured a record 23.40 lakh metric tonnes of wheat in the State during the rabi marketing year 2021-22, the production is projected to decrease this year amid reports that a huge portion of the crop may become unfit for human consumption. Crops such as mustard, barley and chickpea have also been affected by the extremely high temperature in several districts.

Dams at risk of running dry

As a result of the heatwave, most dams in the State have low storage of water. They need good rainfall in their catchment areas this year to replenish their reservoirs to provide water for drinking and irrigation. Apart from the Kota barrage dam, which is almost 90% filled, all other dams have low levels of water, which will only last till mid-July unless there are heavy and widespread rains.

The Baisalpur dam in Tonk district — catering to the drinking water needs of Tonk, Jaipur and Ajmer — has 298.13 million cubic metres (Mcum) of water,

which is 27% of its total capacity. As many as 449 of the 727 dams in the State are dry. Against the total capacity of 12,626.32 Mcum, dams across the State at present have water storage of 36.62% or 4,623.31 Mcum, according to the figures released by the State Water Resources Department.

The majority of the dams were filled up during the monsoon last year and the gates of several of them, mainly in the Hadoti region, had to be opened to release water. This year, the situation is serious mainly in Jodhpur division, where 123 dams have reached only 1.60% of their total storage capacity. Evaporation during the early heatwave and usage of water for irrigation have led to depletion of the water level.

Hansraj Godara, sarpanch of Lilala village in Barmer district's Baytu tehsil, says the heatwave, accompanied by the closure of the Indira Gandhi Canal for two months for relining work, has created enormous difficulty for people in the region. "The canal is our lifeline as it quenches the thirst of western Rajasthan. Water supply from the canal restarted only recently after the relining work was finished," he says.

In Jodhpur, the canal blockade was extended because of damage to the Sirhind feeder in Punjab. The local Hathi Canal that carries water to Kaylana lake

and Takhtsagar lake, the natural reservoirs on the outskirts of the city, has also dried up. Residents of the city have been supplied with the limited water present in these reservoirs.

Jodhpur District Collector Himanshu Gupta has constituted an emergency response team for water supply management in the city and deployed the police force round the clock at filter plants in Kaylana, Chaupasni, Takhtsagar and Jhalamand to prevent theft and misuse of water. Water is being supplied in the city only once in three days. The administration has also decided to impose a fine on those wasting water.

Water scarcity has hit some parts of the State so badly that a special train carrying 40 lakh litres of water has been started for Pali district. The train has been making an average of three trips from Bhagat Ki Kothi suburban railway station in Jodhpur to Pali every day since mid-April. It has so far supplied 20 crore litres of water to the city. The North Western Railway has announced that the service will continue till the water crisis in the region is over.

The State government's Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has paid ₹3.24 lakh to the Railways for each trip. The water is emptied from the wagons into the tanks at Pali railway station and sent to the pumping stations of the PHED for supply to the city. The first water train for Pali, covering a distance of 70 km from Jodhpur, was started in 2005 when the main water source, Jawai dam, had dried up. The train was run thrice in the subsequent years.

On June 5, Pali Municipal Council chairperson Rekha Bhati and her husband completed a 300-km march on foot from Pali to Jaipur with the demand for laying a water pipeline between Rohat town and Pali. Ms. Bhati says a 28-km pipeline from Rohat would connect Pali to Jodhpur's Kuri pumping station. "It would permanently resolve water scarcity in the city and obviate the need to run the special train," she says.

Early migration of cattle herders

Hindu Singh Tamlor, sarpanch of Barmer's Tamlor village, says the early arrival of the heatwave has affected the livelihood and livestock of people in western Rajasthan's desert districts. "There is

no grass available for grazing of animals in the traditional landscapes of Oran and Gochar, with the temperature hovering around 48 degrees Celsius."

Mr. Tamlor says the heatwave has also resulted in the early migration of cattle herders from the desert area to the fertile Hadoti region in south-eastern Rajasthan and neighbouring Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Animal rearers, who raise sheep, goats, cows and camels, migrate to areas with green cover every year during the monsoon, but the early onset of the heatwave has forced them to leave to protect their livestock.

Throwing light on the impact of the heatwave on working class people and farmers, Prof. Sharma says the combined effect of the metabolic heat produced internally from heavy physical activity and the external heat from the surrounding environment contributes to high risk of heat stress. "Workers engaged in strenuous work outdoors are exposed to solar radiation, while those in indoor settings face the heat generated from work processes or equipment."

Prof. Sharma says recent research has warned that climate change will intensify the duration and magnitude of occupational heat stress. The impact of rising heat in the workplace is likely to affect the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Heat-related illnesses will have a greater occurrence among agricultural workers, according to studies.

Experts say the relentless heatwave has also affected engine efficiency and fuel consumption of vehicles. CNG-powered vehicles and electric vehicles face issues with high temperature as battery efficiency and life reduce due to overheating, they say.

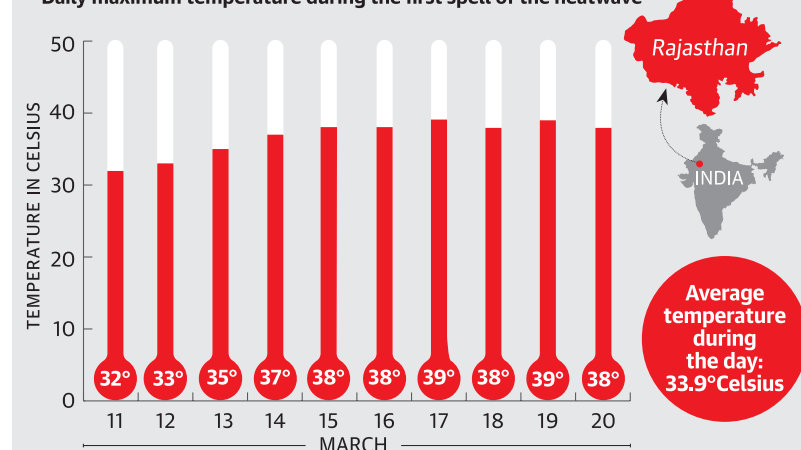
More heatwaves in the offing

Amid widespread and intensifying climate change, the trend of heatwaves starting early in the year is here to stay. In a recent landmark report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has projected more intense heatwaves of longer duration and occurring at a higher frequency in the Indian subcontinent. Rajasthan needs to be prepared to face such fierce heatwaves and take adequate steps to protect its human inhabitants as well as its flora and fauna.

Too hot to handle

According to the India Meteorological Department, this March was the hottest in 122 years not only in Rajasthan but also in the country

Daily maximum temperature during the first spell of the heatwave



Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Breaking the record

129 The number of years after which an Indian cricket team broke the record of hitting eight half-centuries in an innings. Nine batsmen hit half-centuries in the domestic Ranji Trophy. Bengal scored 773 for 7 in the first innings of their quarter-final against Jharkhand in Bangalore on Wednesday. The Indian team's innings beat a first-class record that had stood since 1893, when a touring Australian side scored eight half-centuries in an innings against a combined team from Oxford and Cambridge universities. AFP

Coal imports

2.416 In million tonnes, the amount of coal State-owned Coal India Limited (CIL) floated in its maiden international competitive bidding e-tender to ensure an adequate supply of fuel to power plants in India. The development assumes significance in the wake of the government making efforts to stock coal to avoid the reoccurrence of power outages. The government had directed CIL to be prepared to import 12 million tonnes of coal for power utilities for the next 13 months. PTI

Refugees in Europe

4.8 In million, the number of Ukrainians who have been registered as refugees across 44 European countries since Russia launched its invasion in the country less than four months ago, the United Nations said on Thursday. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees data shows more than 7.3 million border crossings out of Ukraine as of June 7, 2022. The UN's International Organisation for Migration estimates that more than eight million people have been displaced so far within the country. AFP

Shrinking economy

15 In %, the contraction expected in the Russian economy in 2022. It is expected to shrink another 3% by 2023, due to the sanctions on the country since its invasion of Ukraine, according to the Institute of International Finance, a global banking trade group. The trade group further explained that this wipes out 15 years of Russia's economic growth. Though the resilience of the Russian currency has partially shielded its economy from the full impact of sanctions, the finance institute argued that the sanctions are weakening Russia's economy. AP

Hunger in Brazil

33.1 In million, the number of people living in hunger in Brazil from 2020, a "historic setback" for a country that had made huge gains against poverty, a report by the Brazilian Network for Research on Food Security said on Wednesday. This represents 15.5% of households in the country of 213 million people, according to the study, which was based on data collected between November 2021 and April 2022. The researchers found that food insecurity affected more than half of rural households. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The Indian patent regime and its clash with the U.S. norms

The U.S. Trade Representative highlighted IP challenges in India in its annual Special 301 report released last month

SRUTHI DARBHAMULLA

THE GIST

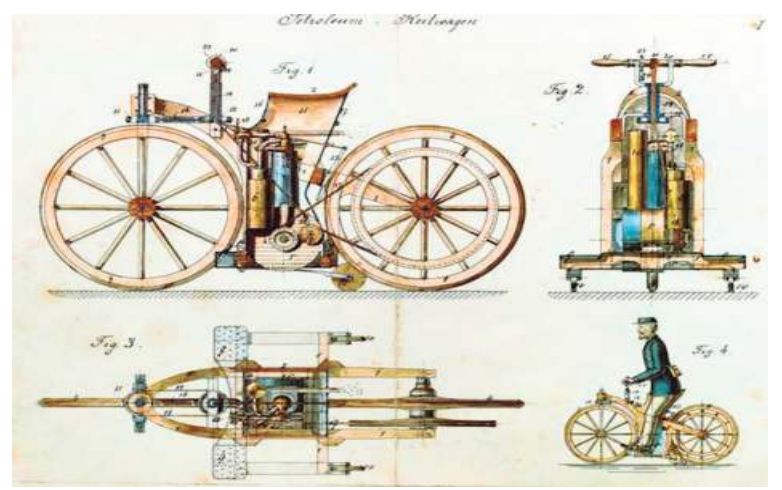
- India became a party to the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement following its membership to the World Trade Organisation on January 1, 1995.
- The U.S., in its yearly Special 301 report, highlighted a range of issues in the Indian section, ranging from copyright and piracy to trademark counterfeiting and trade secrets.
- It stated that India must not compromise on the patentability criteria under Section 3(d) since as a sovereign country it has the "flexibility to stipulate limitations on grants of patents in consistency with its prevailing socio-economic conditions."

The story so far: The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) said in a report released last month that India was one of the most challenging major economies as far as IP protection and enforcement is concerned. It has decided to retain India on its Priority Watch List along with six other countries — Argentina, Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela. Among the issues raised in the report are India's inconsistencies regarding patent protection, including concerns about what can be patented, waiting time for obtaining patents, burdensome reporting requirements, and doubts about data safety. India had undertaken an intellectual property review exercise last year, where a Parliamentary Standing Committee examined this subject.

The Indian patent regime
A patent is an exclusive set of rights granted for an invention, which may be a product or process that provides a new way of doing something or offers a new technical solution to a problem. Indian patents are governed by the Indian Patent Act of 1970. India has gradually aligned itself with international regimes pertaining to intellectual property rights. It became a party to the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement following its membership to the World Trade Organisation on January 1, 1995. India is also a signatory to several IPR related conventions, including the Berne Convention, which governs copyright, the Budapest Treaty, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), all of which govern various patent-related matters. An interesting point is that the original Indian Patents Act did not grant patent protection to pharmaceutical products to ensure that medicines were available at a low price. Patent protection of pharmaceuticals were re-introduced after the 2005 amendment to comply with TRIPS. Last month, the U.S. released its yearly

Special 301 report, its annual review highlighting the state of intellectual property rights protection in different countries which are its trading partners around the world. In its India section, the report highlighted a range of issues in domains ranging from copyright and piracy to trademark counterfeiting and trade secrets, saying that India "remained one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP." It said patent issues continued "to be of particular concern in India," highlighting the threat of patent revocations, lack of presumption of patent validity and narrow patentability criteria as issues which "impact companies across different sectors." The USTR had also released a similar report in 2021, addressing much of the same concerns. These, and general issues regarding IPR were extensively tackled by the Parliamentary Standing Committee which undertook a 'review of the intellectual property rights regime in India'. The Committee tabled its findings before the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in July last year. **Article 3(d) of the Indian Patent Act** This offered an insight into the landscape of Indian intellectual property law and where it is reasonably in sync with American patent laws and where it diverges. One of the main points of contention between India and the U.S. has been Article 3(d) of the Indian Patent Act. Section 3 deals with what does not qualify as an invention under the Act, and Section 3(d) in particular excludes "the mere discovery of a new form of a known substance which does not result in the enhancement of the known efficacy of that substance or the mere discovery of any new property or new use for a known substance or of the mere use of a known process, machine or apparatus unless such known process results in a new product or employs at least one new reactant" from being eligible for protection under patent law.

This was addressed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee as well, which pointed out that the section "acts as a safeguard against frivolous inventions in accordance with the flexibility provided in the TRIPS agreement." Section 3(d), as mentioned above, prevents the mere discovery of any new property or new use for a known substance from being patented as an invention unless it enhances the efficacy of the substance. This prevents, what is known as "evergreening" of patents. According to the Committee's report, Section 3(d) allows for "generic competition by patenting only novel and genuine inventions." **TRIPS and the Doha Declaration** The Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health was adopted on November 14, 2021, by the WTO member states. This declaration recognises the "gravity of public health problems affecting developing and least developed nations" and stresses the need for TRIPS to be part of the wider national and international action to address these problems. It recognises that "intellectual property protection is important for the development of new medicines," and acknowledges concerns about its effects on prices. Saying that the TRIPS agreement "does not and should not prevent members from taking measures to protect public health," the declaration points out that the agreement "can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO members' right to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all." Compulsory licences can be invoked by a state in public interest, allowing companies apart from the patent owner to produce a patented product without consent. It concluded that India must not compromise on the patentability criteria under Section 3(d) since as a sovereign country it has the "flexibility to stipulate limitations on grants of patents in



The figures in Reo patent.

consistency with its prevailing socio-economic conditions." It said that this ensures the growth of generic drug makers and the public's access to affordable medicines. It indicated that India should resolve its differences with the U.S. regarding the disqualification of incremental inventions through bilateral dialogue. **Positive steps** The report highlighted some positive steps taken by India in the recent past, such as the accession to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Performances and Phonograms Treaty and WIPO Copyright Treaty, collectively known as the WIPO Internet Treaties, in 2018 and the Nice Agreement in 2019. The Parliamentary Standing Committee too noted amendments pertaining to Form 27, under the Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2020. Some notable changes include allowing a single Form 27 to be filed for multiple related patents, filing of joint forms if there are more patentees and allowing authorised agents to submit forms. India and the U.S. will continue to engage on IP matters, the report says, especially through the Trade Policy Forum's Intellectual Property Working Group.

EXPLAINER

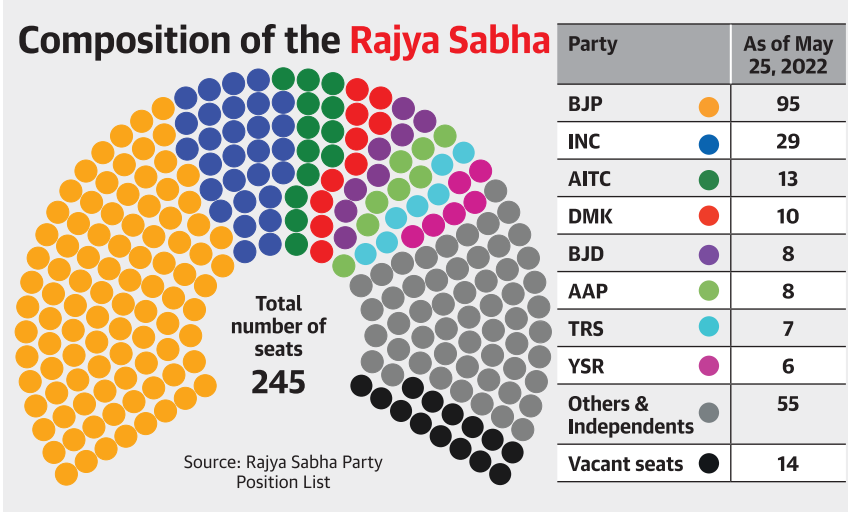
The battlefield for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections

The biennial Rajya Sabha polls are scheduled for June 10 and a close contest is expected in Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Karnataka

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: While 41 candidates have been elected unopposed out of the 57 Rajya Sabha seats up for election across 15 States, the contest for the 16 remaining seats will be witnessed on June 10 in Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, where parties have fielded more nominees than their legislative strength in the State Assemblies. The race for the biennial Rajya Sabha polls in those four States intensified as parties traded allegations of poaching or horse-trading.

How are Rajya Sabha members elected?
Only elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies can vote in a Rajya Sabha election. Polls are held to send a batch of new members to the Upper House every two years for a six-year term. A third of Rajya Sabha MPs from each State retire once in two years and polls are held to fill up the vacancies. The Rajya Sabha is a permanent House and is not subject to dissolution. Candidates of a particular party can be elected to the Upper House based on their party's strength in the State



Legislative Assembly. Voting is by single transferable vote which means elector can vote for any number of candidates in order of their preference. A candidate requires a specified number of first preference votes to win and each vote has a value of 100. The number of first preference votes required for a single MP varies in each State based on the size of the Legislative Assembly and the number of seats for which elections are taking place. Polling will be held from 9 am to 4 pm in the respective State Assemblies and votes would be counted from 5 pm on June 10. **What is the current composition of the Rajya Sabha?** The strength of the Rajya Sabha is 245,

out of which 95 seats are held by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as of May 25. The Congress (INC) holds the second-highest number of seats at 29, followed by the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) at 13, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) at 10, and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at eight each. Notably, while its current tally is 95, the BJP had reached a tally of 100 in the Rajya Sabha last month, after winning three seats in the North East. The tally came down to 95 in early May as the terms of five of its MPs ended. Out of the 57 seats in the current round, 11 are in Uttar Pradesh; six seats each from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu; five from Bihar; four each from Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka; three each from Madhya Pradesh and Odisha; two each from Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab, and Haryana; and one from Uttarakhand. The BJP held 24 of the 57 seats that became vacant; nine were Congress seats, and four held by the Samajwadi Party (SP). Of the BJP's 24 seats, it is likely to retain only 20 seats in the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls, potentially bringing its

current total of 95 members down to 91. **Prominent parties in States** The contest in Rajasthan is set to be tricky as both the Congress and the BJP have fielded candidates beyond their legislative strength in the Rajasthan Assembly. While the Congress is well placed to secure two wins as it has a majority of 108 seats in the 200-member Legislative Assembly, the BJP, with 71 seats in the Assembly, has the strength set to secure one Upper House berth. In Maharashtra, of the six seats being contested, the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP, and Congress is set to secure three of the six Upper House berths. The BJP, which is numerically the single largest party (with 106 seats) is set to comfortably get two seats but has decided to contest for a third seat. In Karnataka, the contest for the fourth seat is expected to be tricky. While three seats were left vacant due to the retirement of Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, BJP MP K.C. Ramamurthy and senior Congress member Jairam Ramesh, the fourth seat has been vacant since 2021, following the death of former Union Minister Oscar Fernandes.

THE GIST

- Rajya Sabha polls are held to send a batch of new members to the Upper House every two years for a six-year term. A third of Rajya Sabha MPs from each State retire once in two years.
- The strength of the Rajya Sabha is 245, out of which 95 seats are held by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as of May 25. The Congress (INC) holds the second-highest number of seats at 29.
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A still from *Stranger Things*.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Queer coding smudges the rainbow on screen

By only hinting at characters as queer and not overtly defining them in that manner, shows and films miss the opportunity to truly represent the LGBTQIA+ community

THE GIST

■ Queer-baiting is a marketing technique used by production houses in which creators hint at, but do not actually depict same-sex or other LGBTQIA+ representation.

■ Hollywood adopted the Hays Code which was a set of self-imposed guidelines by the industry and it prohibited profanity, nudity, violence, sexual persuasions and rape.

■ Filmmakers then had to shift to adapting a certain code language such as making queer characters perform certain expressions or adopt a certain body language.

TAMMA MOKSHA

Films have had little space for the queer community. The light, when it meets with the silver crystals of the reel, has often failed to manufacture a rainbow.

While the queer community is celebrating 53 years of Stonewall with pride on the streets, the studios in Hollywood continue to mask queerness in their frames. After the latest season of *Stranger Things*, the discussion surrounding “queer-baiting” has taken prominence online with the portrayal of Will Byers (essayed by Noah Schnapp). Queer-baiting is a marketing technique used by production houses in which creators hint at, but do not actually depict same-sex or other LGBTQIA+ communities. Subsequently, this discussion brought the topic of “queer-coding” in cinema under the spotlight, which is the subtextual queer portrayal of characters in media. This means that the characters’ identities are not explicitly revealed.

These phenomena find their roots in the roaring 20s. The Jazz Age saw Hollywood rocked by multiple scandals, such as the murder of William Desmond Taylor and the alleged rape of Virginia Rappe by popular movie star Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle which earned them scorn from religious and political organisations. Subsequently, legislators in over 37 states introduced censorship laws. Frightened at the thought of having to comply with over a hundred inconsistent laws, the people of Hollywood chose to censor themselves.

The Hays Code

It was during this time that Hollywood adopted the Motion Picture Production Code, popularly known as the Hays Code, which was named after William H. Hays, who was the president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (MPPDA). The Hays Code was a set of self-imposed guidelines by the industry in line with the social and cultural code of conservative America. The Code prohibited profanity, nudity, violence, sexual persuasions and rape. The rules governed the use of crime, costume, dance, religious and national sentiments, and morality. This resulted in films for the next three decades catering to the sensibilities of a white straight men.

Filmmakers who tried to circumvent and defy the code were soon pushed out of business. The

creators then had to shift to adapting a certain code language such as making queer characters perform certain expressions or adopt a certain body language.

Stereotypes around characters’ sexuality

John Huston’s 1941 crime drama *The Maltese Falcon*, based on a book written by Dashiell Hammett, is a proponent of the film noir and is one of the earliest examples of films depicting homosexual characters post the Hays Code. The character of Joel Cairo in Hammett’s novel is homosexual. However, to navigate the Hays Code, his character was downplayed and other characteristics were used to hint at his sexuality. In the film, Cairo’s calling cards and handkerchiefs are scented with gardenias. Cairo is very particular about his clothes and gets easily upset when blood from a scratch ruins his shirt. Cairo has attributes of a “sissy”, a stereotype that to this day is used by creators to hint at a male character’s sexuality.

These characters are often men who are artistic, sensitive, and emotional with a penchant for dressing and make-up.

The sphere of influence spread all the way to India; Indian cinema to this day incorporates the stereotype of sissy diligently: dean Yogendra Vashisht in *Student of the Year*, Sameer Gazi in *Dishoom* and Puppy Bhai in *Golmaal 3* all tread in the footsteps of Cairo. No plot points involve them and their character arcs stayed unrefined.

While Alfred Hitchcock’s *Psycho* (1960) is showered with praise for revolutionising the horror genre, its best-kept secret is the queer identity of Norman Bates. Anthony Perking, who was known to be gay but was not officially out, stated that he purposely played Norman Bates as gay or bisexual. While Hitchcock brings a queer character to life on-screen, we are served a stereotype that is dangerous to the community – that of a sadist.

The censors were said to be more lenient when homosexuality was represented as perverse, like in the case of *Psycho*. Queer characters only served as a cautionary tale or a comedic relief to the audience; they did not have plot points and character arcs dedicated to them.

Disney too played a part in queer-coding its villains from Scar in *Lion King* and Jafar in *Aladdin* to Captain Cook in *Peter Pan*.

The stereotype, dear to Indian production houses, saw Mogambo, one of the most infamous

villains in Bollywood, also being queer coded. *Kya yeh Mogambo ko khush kar dega?* (Will this make Mogambo happy?)

The Hays Code was replaced by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) system rating a year prior to the Stonewall riots. However, the struggle for queer representation did not end here.

With rainbow capitalism plaguing the market, especially during the pride month, production houses have not started teasing queer audiences with the possibilities of characters being queer in their shows and using clever marketing techniques post-production.

Recently, the latest season of *Stranger Things* faced a backlash from the queer community for the show’s portrayal of Will Byers. The possibility of Will being queer was hinted at since the first season, with Joyce Byers mentioning that homophobic slurs were being thrown at her son. While the hints about Will’s sexuality have increased manifold, the show’s refusal to address his sexuality has upset the queer community.

In interviews leading up to the release, the topic of Will’s sexuality was brought up with the cast only for them to neither confirm nor deny Will’s sexuality.

Queer representation at bay

The director of *The Beauty and the Beast* (2017) mentioned of an “exclusively gay moment” in the film, during the run-up to the premiere, only for the audience to realise that his statement was in reference to a very short sequence of LeFou (Josh Gad) dancing with another man, paired with euphemisms throughout the film about his feelings for Gaston (Luke Evans). Many TV shows such as *Supernatural* and *Sherlock Holmes* are also rife with queer baiting.

While a self-imposed code kept queer people out of cinema in the 20th century, a lack of respect for the community and queer characters, and a lackadaisical attitude towards inclusivity in writing rooms and production houses is keeping true representation at bay in the 21st century.

Queer stories are not a taboo anymore with shows and movies like *Moonlight* and *Schitt’s Creek* demonstrating that cinema centred around queer characters can not only win hearts, but go on to create history by winning Academy Awards and Emmys.

It is time the studios made way for the pride parade.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

“Good morning, sir.”
“Good morning.”
“What is the difference between ‘further’ and ‘farther’, sir?”

“Further is used when you want to convey the sense of ‘additional’.”

*I have no further news about him.
If I get further details, I will give you a ring.
I must stop here as I don’t have anything further to say on the subject.*

*There is a further problem in this.
A college of further education.
There won’t be any further taxation.
If you have any further questions, shoot.
As a verb it is used in the sense of ‘advance’, ‘promote’.*

*He is doing this to further his interests.
One wonders whether the big powers are really interested in furthering the cause of peace.*

‘Farther’ is used when you want to refer to distance. Thus, far and no farther. But nowadays, ‘further’ is also used in such contexts.

The house is further down the road.
The house is farther down the road.

Fowler says: “The fact is surely that hardly anyone uses the two words for different occasions; most people prefer one or the other for all purposes and the preference of the vast majority is for further. Perhaps the most that should be said is that farther is not common except where distance is in question, and that further has gained a virtual monopoly of the sense of moreover, both alone and in the compound furthermore.”

Do you want me to say anything further about further?”

“No sir. It’s clear. Which is correct sir, ‘either of them are good’ or ‘either of them is good?’”

“It is ‘either of them is good’. ‘Either’ is singular.

*Either of you is welcome to take the book.
Either is capable of doing the job.*

When you have ‘either – or’ the verb agrees with the nearest noun or pronoun.

*Either he or she is likely to come.
Either he or his friends are likely to come.
Either my friends or I am likely to come.*

*Either she or he has done it.
Either Mary or her friends have done it.
Either her friends or Mary has done it.*

‘Either’ is pronounced ‘Eyether’ in British English. In American English it is pronounced ‘eether’. ‘ee’ is pronounced the same way as the ‘ee’ in ‘feel’, ‘peel’ and ‘heel’.”

“Who is an ‘offish’ person, sir?”

“An offish person is one who keeps aloof. He doesn’t mix with others but keeps to himself, he keeps himself off from others. He is different from an uppish person who is assertive and gives himself airs. An uppish person is a conceited one. He thinks too much of himself.”

“What is the meaning of the sentence ‘He is a loose cannon’, sir?”

“A loose cannon’ is ‘someone or something that has become uncontrollable’.”

He is a loose cannon in the party. No one can discipline him.

This expression is of very recent origin. You won’t find it in any dictionary. It was used for the first time sometime in 1981. Well, let’s call it a day. Goodbye.”

“Thank you, sir. Goodbye.”

THE DAILY QUIZ

Portugal celebrates its National Day on June 10. A quiz on the Iberian country and all things Portuguese.

1 June 10 was chosen as the National Day as it commemorates the death on 10 June 1580 of its most famous poet who wrote the national epic poem ‘Os Lusíadas’. Name him.

5 Built on the bank of the Tagus, name the 16th century fortification, a UNESCO WHS, that is used as a metonym for the Portuguese capital.

2 The Portuguese rule in varied parts of India is said to have started in 1505, seven years after the arrival of a famous explorer, and continued till 1961. Name the explorer.

6 What ‘English’ custom is Catherine of Braganza, who became Queen of England in 1662, said to have introduced to the British upper classes?

3 Founded in 1732, the Livraria Bertrand in Lisbon is the oldest operating establishment of its kind in the world. What does Livraria Bertrand deal in?

7 If it is Francophone for France and Sinophone for China, what is it for Portugal?

4 This marine hydrozoan which is a neuston, an organism that lives on the ocean surface, has a sting that is powerful enough to kill fish and has been occasionally fatal to humans. Name this animal with the scientific name ‘Physalia physalis’.

8 Portugal lays claim to the oldest unbroken international alliance, a treaty originally ratified in 1386, with which nation?

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan



◀ Name this former PM of Portugal and what important global post does he currently hold. • AFP

Please send in your answers to the dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in
Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz: 1.

The NBA player who won seven championships with the Houston Rockets, Los Angeles Lakers and San Antonio Spurs in the 1990s and 2000s. **Ans: Robert Horry**
2. Only two NBA players have won the Olympics Gold Medal, the Euroleague and the NBA championship. One of them was Bill Bradley. Name the other player. **Ans: Manu Ginobili**
3. Bill Russell, the Boston Celtics center, won 11 NBA championships. What was special about the 1968 and 1969 championship wins for him. **Ans: He was both the coach and a**

player in those teams
4. John Salley held the record of having won NBA championships across three decades. Who is the only other person to match this record. **Ans: Tim Duncan**
5. Name the only player to have won the NBA finals MVP despite being on the losing team. **Ans: Jerry West**
Visual: This Golden State Warriors stalwart is the only active player for the team to have won the NBA finals MVP. **Ans: Andre Iguodala**
Early Birds: Abhimanyu Singh | Saurav Vashishth | Sarbinder Singh Brar

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

FROM PAGE ONE

Presidential polls scheduled for July 18

A list of the members of the electoral college would be uploaded on the EC's site and updated when the results of the ongoing elections to 55 Rajya Sabha seats and Assembly byelections are announced, he said. Political parties cannot issue a whip to their members, the CEC said. Mr. Kumar said electors in preventive detention would be allowed to vote and those in jail would

have to seek parole in order to cast their ballots.

In 2017, Mr. Kovind won with 7,02,044 votes over former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar who got 3,67,314 votes out of the total of 10,69,358.

While the total number of electors was 4,896 in 2017, each MP had 709 votes and MLAs had a total votes of 5,49,495 based on the 1971 Census.

Narsinghanand, Owaisi booked by Delhi Police

The police said that on the basis of the material available on social media and articles published in newspapers and on other fora, it was found that some persons were using "hate-worthy language intentionally", while "having complete knowledge that use of such type of language is not only discriminatory" but more than sufficient to create a situation of animosity among different groups.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations un-

it) K.P.S. Malhotra said the case was registered on Wednesday. He said the social media users were booked for "spreading hate, inciting groups and disturbing public tranquillity".

AIMIM supporters held a protest outside the Parliament Street police station opposing the FIR against Mr. Owaisi. A total of 33 protesters were detained and an FIR, under the IPC Section pertaining to disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public servant, was lodged against the agitators.

'Monitoring situation at Pakistan mission'

"We've noted a recent incident of vandalism of a Hindu temple in Karachi. We believe it's another act of systemic persecution of religious minorities," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi at the weekly media briefing on Thursday. "We've conveyed our protest to the Pakistan government, urging them to ensure safety, security & well-being of its minority communities."

In its response to the Indian statement, the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that a First Information Report has already been registered against the assailants and efforts are underway to identify and arrest them. "The Government of India would be well advised to introspect and ensure the protection of the fundamental rights, lives, and places of worship of minorities across India, particularly Muslims who are facing brutal attacks

from the proponents of 'Hindutva' holding on to the reins of power in the country," the Pakistan MFA said.

The MEA did not comment on reports that the government has asked for more protection for the mission. Officials said security arrangements are assessed from time to time, and revised if necessary.

On Thursday, dozens of protesters clashed with police in the high-security diplomatic or "green zone" of the Pakistani capital, indicating that more are expected to follow on Friday. Groups like the Ulema Council, Jamaat-e-Islami and the Tehreek-e-Labaik plan to protest outside the High Commission in Islamabad after Friday prayers, and also in the Pakistani cities of Hyderabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Muzaffarabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sargodha, Pakistan media reported.

Police get custody of minor boys in rape case

The idea was to leave no room to dilute the Sections for reasons of minority of age.

Also, the nature of crime was nothing short of crime committed by adults. Moreover, the minors would have turned majors when the case was pending trial.

It was argued that an amendment to the Juvenile Justice Act in 2015 had approved trying minors as ma-

jors during trial. A 17-year-old boy who was accused of committing unnatural sex on a 10-year-old boy at Chandrayangutta in the old city of Hyderabad was treated as a major in 2019.

Meanwhile, the police on Thursday took custody of Malik for four-day interrogation. They seized cellphones and clothes worn by the accused at the time of offence to build up evidence.

Mohanlal to face trial in ivory case

James Mathew and A. A. Poullose, two public-spirited persons, challenged the withdrawal plea.

Petitioners' contention Though the assistant public prosecutor (APP) contended that proceeding with the case would be a futile exercise and waste of the precious time of the court, Abraham P. Meachinkara, counsel for the petitioners, opposed the withdrawal of prosecution by arguing that it was against the provisions of law and legal precedents.

The certificate of ownership for the ivory issued to Mr. Mohanlal was void. The grant of the certificate cannot be treated as a ground

for permitting withdrawal of the case. No case was charged against the actor for the 13 ivory artefacts that were found along with two pairs of elephant tusks, he argued. The Forest Department had booked him after an income tax search at his residence revealed the illegal possession of the ivory.

Section 50 of the Wild Life Protection Act prescribes imprisonment for a term not less than three years and extendable up to seven years and a fine for offences related to animals specified in Schedule One of the Act or meat of any such animals or animal article, trophy or uncured trophy derived from such animals.

Swapna threatens to release voice clip

'It is proof of discussion with Shaj Kiran'

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA PALAKKAD

Swapna Suresh, one of the key accused in the sensational diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, said here on Thursday that she would release a voice clip of a discussion she had with Shaj Kiran, who she claimed was Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's interlocutor.

"My lawyer and a few others have got the voice clip. They will release it tomorrow [Friday]. I don't know how and where it is going to explode," she told the media on Thursday.

Undue pressure

Swapna had said Shaj Kiran had pressured her to withdraw her damning statements before a magistrate court against the Chief Minister. She said here on Thurs-

day that she would reveal further details after the voice clip is released.

Swapna said she moved the High Court for anticipatory bail because she feared persecution from the police. "I feared that the truth will not come out if I am arrested. I also feared police torture. That's why I moved the court for anticipatory bail," she said.

Earlier, Swapna had alleged threat to her life in the wake of the revelations she made against Mr. Vijayan, his wife, Kamala, his daughter, Veena, former Minister and MLA K.T. Jaleel, former Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan, bureaucrats Nalini Netto and M. Sivasankar before the Ernakulam Magistrate Court under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. However, she said she never intended to scuttle the investigation in the gold smuggling case.

Swapna said Mr. Kiran had warned her that Sarith



Swapna Suresh

would be arrested and it was he who told her that a Vigilance team had taken Sarith into custody on Wednesday. Describing Mr. Kiran as a good, trustworthy friend, Swapna said she had sought his help but he allegedly came as an interlocutor for Mr. Vijayan.

She said Mr. Kiran had mentally tortured her on

HC dismisses anticipatory bail pleas of Swapna, Sarith

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday dismissed the anticipatory bail petitions filed by Swapna Suresh and P.S. Sarith in the case registered by the Cantonment police based on a complaint by K.T. Jaleel, former Minister and MLA.

Dismissing the pleas, Justice Viju Abraham recorded the submissions of the prosecutor that the offences under Sections 153 (provocation with intent to cause riot) and 120B (conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code were both bailable offences and that there could not have been any apprehension of arrest.

Wednesday demanding that she withdraw her CrPC 164 statement before the magistrate court.

Mr. Shaj Kiran reportedly told her that a man named Nikesh Kumar would come and meet her and that she should hand over her phone to him.

"Nikesh is the voice of the Chief Minister. Shaji [Kiran]

told me that if I am ready for a compromise, they would withdraw the case and lift the travel ban against me," she said.

Swapna said many things, including money, were promised to her.

"But I did not yield to that pressure tactic," she said, adding that she would reveal further details on Friday.

Curfew in Jammu's Baderwah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAMMU

A curfew was imposed in the Chenab valley's Baderwah in the Jammu region on Thursday evening after Muslims assembled at a local Jamia Mosque to protest over the remarks made by former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma recently and a social media post of a local journalist.

Protests broke out in Baderwah town during the shutdown called by the Anjuman Islamia during the day.

Hundreds of local people, including women, assembled at the Jamia Masjid in Baderwah. They threatened of "dire consequences" if the government failed to act against the accused.

"Ms. Sharma and others should be booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and UAPA," demanded the protesters.

India delivers 12 speed patrol boats to Vietnam

It took place during the ongoing visit of Rajnath Singh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India on Thursday formally handed over the 12 high-speed guard boats constructed under the Union government's \$100-million defence Line of Credit (LoC) to Vietnam at a ceremony at the Hong Ha Shipyard during the visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to the Southeast Asian nation.

"I'm confident that this will be precursor to many more cooperative defence projects between India and Vietnam," Mr. Singh said at the ceremony.

Stating that this project was an example of "Make in India-Make for the World" mission, Mr. Singh said, "We would be greatly pleased if close friends like Vietnam become part of our defence industries transformation



Rajnath Singh with a Security Force official of Vietnam, during the handover ceremony at the Hong Ha Shipyard. •PTI

through enhanced defence industry cooperation."

The speed boats will be operated by the Vietnamese Border Guard Force. The deal was executed by Larsen & Toubro and of the 12 boats, five were built in India and the remaining in Vietnam

with assistance from L&T. Hanoi has procured the 12 boats under the LoC extended in September 2014. In 2016, India has extended another \$500-million defence LoC to Vietnam and discussions are under way to identify the equipment.

FIR against perfume brand

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Thursday registered an FIR against a perfume brand over its "misogynistic" advertisement based on a complaint filed by Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Malhi last week.

DCP (Special Cell) K.P.S. Malhotra said the FIR was registered against Layer'r Shot under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations Unit of Delhi Police. Mr. Malhotra said a notice has been issued to the company and an investigation is in progress. Objecting to the advertisement, Ms. Malhi had said it promoted "rape culture" and issued a notice to Delhi Police on June 4 seeking action.

Layer'r Shot did not respond to *The Hindu's* requests for comment on the matter.

U.S. attempting to add fuel to the fire: China

Chinese Foreign Ministry calls visiting U.S. General's comment on border activity a 'despicable act'

DINAKAR PERI SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

A day after a visiting U.S. General termed the Chinese activity level in Eastern Ladakh as "eye-opening" and infrastructure being created in their Western Theatre Command as "alarming", the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) reacted sharply on Thursday saying U.S. officials were trying to add "fuel to the fire" and "pointing fingers", and termed it a "despicable act".

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not respond directly to the comments by Commander of

U.S. Army Pacific General Charles A. Flynn, but reiterated that the Government of India "carefully monitors" developments along the border areas. Noting that the two sides have agreed to hold another round of Corps Commander talks, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said it is their "expectation" that in these talks, the Chinese side will work with the Indian side to reach a "mutually acceptable solution for remaining issues."

"This border issue is between China and India, the two sides have the will and capability to properly resolve the issue through talks

and some U.S. officials are trying to add fuel to the fire and pointing fingers," Chinese MoFA Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in response to a question at the daily briefing in Beijing. "This is a despicable act. We hope they will do more to contribute to regional peace and stability."

Mr. Zhao further stated that now the situation on the India-China border is stabilising "on the whole" and the frontline forces from both countries have "realised disengagement in most areas along the western section."

Expressing alarm at the Chinese activity, Gen. Charles A. Flynn, in an interac-

tion with journalists on Wednesday, questioned their "intentions" while also expressing concern at their "behaviour".

Govt. taking all measures The government is committed to, and takes all adequate and appropriate measures for, safeguarding territorial integrity and sovereignty as the developments in the recent years clearly demonstrate, Mr. Bagchi said responding to questions at the weekly press conference.

Stating that the two sides have agreed to hold another round of Senior Commanders meeting during the

Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) talks last week, Mr. Bagchi said, "It is our expectation that in these talks the Chinese side will work with the Indian side to reach a mutually acceptable solution for remaining issues given the fact that both sides also agree that the prolongation of the existing situation is not in the interest of either side."

On the situation in Ladakh, Mr. Bagchi said India has maintained continuous communication with the Chinese side through diplomatic and military channels.

CBI probe in 11-year-old murder case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

More than 11 years after Trinamool Congress leader Tapan Dutta was killed, the Calcutta High Court on Thursday directed the CBI to probe the murder. Tapan Dutta, then vice-president of the Trinamool Congress's Bally Jagacha block unit in Howrah district, was shot dead on May 6, 2011. He was spearheading a movement against filling a large water body when he was shot dead.

In the 56-page order, Justice Mantha said that the court's mind was not free from doubt that the murder in question might have been the result of rivalry and conspiracy.

CAA will not help us: Bangladesh leader

He says main aim of Hindu community is to have a Minority Affairs Ministry

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE DHAKA

A leading member of the Hindu community of Bangladesh has said that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) of India will not help them deal with the challenges ahead.

Interacting with a visiting team of Indian journalists on Wednesday, Monindra Kumar Nath, president, Mohanagar Sarbojonee Puja Committee, said that the community's real aim is to have a separate Minority Affairs Ministry and a special permanent commission for the minority religious communities.

"We do not welcome this special law from India. Such laws are not helpful. We do have certain problems like



A file photo of activists during a protest in Dhaka. •REUTERS

many others but we are from Bangladesh and we will remain here. No one wants to leave his or her motherland and take refuge in a neighbouring country. We will deal with whatever challenges we have by mobilising our

community in a coordinated manner within our country," said Mr. Nath, who is also the joint general secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council.

The Sheikh Hasina government faced a major challenge last year when a communal disturbance broke out at Brahmanbaria and Comilla in the eastern part of the country and spread to Chittagong.

The phase witnessed mob attacks on Durga Puja pandals. But Mr. Nath said that the number of Durga puja celebrations in the country had in fact nearly doubled during the last 12 years, from 15,000 to 30,000. The Mahanagar Sarbojonee Puja Committee is the central religious body of the Hindu

community in Bangladesh as it grants permission to community members to hold Durga Puja celebrations across the country.

Mr. Deb acknowledged that the government had been proactive in dealing with majoritarian tendencies, though some sporadic incidents of intimidation of the minority Hindu community is reported from time to time. He said that over the years, representation of the community has also increased in Bangladesh.

The government has a Ministry of Religious Affairs. Mr. Nath argued that the issue of a separate ministry will be part of the agenda of minority communities as the country gets into election mode for next year.

Rape accused duo set on fire, one dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA RANCHI

Two youths accused of raping a girl were beaten up and set on fire by villagers in Jharkhand's Gumla district, leaving one dead and the other seriously injured, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place in a village in the Sadar police station area on Wednesday night.

"The duo had allegedly raped the minor on Wednesday. When the girl's family members and other villagers came to know about the incident, they got hold of the accused from a neighbouring village. The mob then brought the youths to the survivor's village, thrashed them and set them on fire," the police said. One of the accused succumbed to his injuries in the hospital while the condition of the other is critical, they said.

IN BRIEF



J&K L-G orders probe into SI selection

SRINAGAR Amid growing allegations of irregularities in the first ever major officer-rank recruitment in J&K since 2019, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday ordered an inquiry headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Home. The J&K Home Department had three days ago put out the merit list of 1,200 sub-inspector aspirants who had applied last year. There were allegations from aspirants on several counts, including corruption and bias.

3 minors among 4 dead in Meghalaya landslips

GUWAHATI Four people, including three minors, died in two different incidents of landslips in the Garo Hills region of Meghalaya early Thursday morning. Siddharth K. Ambedkar, the Superintendent of Police of South West Garo Hills district, said a woman and her two children were killed in a landslip at Jewelgre village under the Gembegre block, while a two-and-a-half-year-old child died at Samati village under the Betasingh block. According to the local authorities, at least 10 villages under the Betasingh block have been affected.

DCP's nod needed to file POC SO cases in Mumbai

MUMBAI Flagging the issue of false cases being filed under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and child molestation, Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey has directed to file such cases only after the recommendation of an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and with the permission of a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP). According to the June 6 directive, it has been observed that cases under POC SO or of molestation are being filed over old rivalry, disputes over property and money or personal reasons.

ED attaches aircraft worth ₹30.91 crore

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached a Cessna aircraft worth ₹30.91 crore of Bhusan Airways Services Private Limited (BASPL) in connection with the money laundering case involving the Bhusan Power and Steel Limited (BPSL) and others. The BASPL is controlled and owned by Sanjay Singal, the former managing director of BPSL. Earlier, the agency had attached various assets valued at ₹4,423.36 crore in the same case. The ED probe is based on an FIR registered by the CBI against the BPSL, Mr. Singal and others, alleging charges including cheating and forgery.

'Many disgruntled BJP members will join me'

NCP leader files his nomination for Legislative Council polls

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Filing his nomination for the June 20 Maharashtra Legislative Council elections, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Eknath Khadse on Thursday said that he was in touch with disgruntled MLAs of his former party, the BJP, and they will soon come and join him.

"Those who helped the BJP grow in the State are outside while those who had nothing to do with it are now calling the shots inside. The group that was loyal to Mahajan [late Pramod Mahajan] and Munde [late Gopinath Munde] has now been completely sidelined. Many people are disgruntled over this and many have discussed this with me. A lot of them are ready to quit the party and join me," Mr. Khadse said.

The NCP State president and Minister Jayant Patil on



Eknath Khadse • FILE PHOTO

day the NCP gave me Council nomination for which I am thankful," he said.

Mr. Khadse hails from Jalgaon district in Maharashtra and is considered one of the tallest leaders of the Leva-Patil community, which falls under the OBC category. He was a key BJP leader when the party started spreading its roots in Maharashtra under the leadership of the late Gopinath Munde. His daughter-in-law Raksha Khadse is a BJP MP from the Raver Lok Sabha constituency.

Mr. Khadse said his objections are against the one who is presently running the BJP in the State. "Objections are against the one who is calling the shots and the one who is leading the party. I am of the firm view that ever since the arrival of Devendra Fadnis, the BJP's internal politics has completely changed," he said.

Thursday announced the nomination of Council chairman Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar and Mr. Khadse for the elections.

Mr. Khadse said that he worked for 40 years for the BJP but the party instead made corruption charges against him, conducted an inquiry to the extent that all his accounts were seized and he was asked to vacate his own house. "How could I have stayed in the BJP? I joined the NCP. The BJP had denied me a ticket for the 2019 Assembly polls, but to-

Congress MLAs return to Jaipur

Rajya Sabha polls to be held today, amid indications of a close fight for one seat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

MLAs of the Congress and Independent legislators returned here on Thursday from a resort near Udaipur where they had been sequestered since June 2 as a measure against cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha elections to be held on Friday. Polling is being held to four Rajya Sabha seats from Rajasthan.

An intense fight will be on for one seat contested by media baron Subhash Chandra as an Independent with the BJP's support.

The MLAs, who arrived by a special flight, were taken straight to a luxury hotel on the outskirts of Jaipur, where they will stay overnight. With the ruling party taking all precautions to prevent horse-trading, the legislators will be taken together to the Assembly for polling.

The Opposition BJP MLAs were also staying in a hotel near Jaipur, where a mock drill was conducted for polling. Though five MLAs reportedly made a mistake in



Congress MLAs heading to Udaipur on June 2 after it became known that the RS polls will go down to the wire. • PTI

the mock polling, the BJP leaders said they would be careful during the actual process. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot told presspersons at the airport that the election results would "teach a lesson" to the BJP against horse-trading in future.

1996 incident

"The Congress is certain to win three of the four seats, but the BJP has created very wrong traditions. They had even harassed [former CM] Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, who was forced to take the

MLAs to Chokhi Dhani resort," he said, recounting an incident that happened in 1996. Mr. Gehlot said the BJP's complaints to the Election Commission and the Enforcement Directorate had depicted its nervousness, as there was no basis for the charges of misuse of office and violation of the model code of conduct. "The complaint made to the ED defies logic. What do they want to prove," he asked.

A whip issued by the Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) to its two MLAs late on Wed-

nesday night, asking them to abstain from voting, created confusion, as the legislators, Rajkumar Roat and Ram Prasad, have already announced their support to the candidates fielded by the Congress.

The two MLAs indicated that they would vote for the Congress despite the whip.

'Demands not met'

BTP State president Velaram Ghogra, while issuing the whip, stated that though the party had supported the Congress government during the political crisis in 2020, the demands raised for the tribal areas had not been fulfilled.

A Vacation Bench of the Rajasthan High Court on Thursday dismissed an application for a stay on the declaration of results till the disposal of writ petitions pertaining to disqualification of six MLAs who were elected on Bahaujan Samaj Party ticket in the 2018 elections and had later merged with the Congress.

Use party forum to raise issues: Nadda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Thursday asked party leaders, including MPs and MLAs, not to raise demands relating to division of West Bengal in public.

Mr. Nadda said that such issues can be discussed in party forum. A number of BJP leaders including MP and MLAs have been raising the demand for creation of a State particularly for areas of north Bengal or the State's Jangalmahal region.

Hours before the party president addressed the BJP leaders in a closed door meeting, Kurseong MLA Bishnu Prasad Sharma on Thursday said that "his agenda remains creation of a separate State in north Bengal".

Division of West Bengal is an emotive issue and for decades, politics in the Darjeeling hills have been centered on the demand for creation of separate State of Gorkhland.

Cong. leaders to march to ED office on June 13

Rahul has been summoned that day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress Working Committee (CWC) members and MPs will march to the Enforcement Directorate office in Delhi on June 13, the day when former party chief Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to appear before it in an alleged money laundering case. Party workers will undertake a satyagraha in front of ED offices in their respective States.

Mr. Gandhi has been summoned for questioning in the National Herald case.

The strategy for the party's response was decided at a virtual meeting of All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretaries, leaders in charge of States and Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chiefs on Thursday.

The meeting was presided by general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal.

The AICC's Telangana in-charge Manickam Tagore tweeted, "I will join & march towards @dir_ed office in Delhi. No FIR. Bogus case to malign an honest leader. 9 a.m. 13th June. Join in Delhi or join Congress satyagraha in front of ED office in your State."

Earlier, he had claimed that the ED has got instructions to "insult" Mr. Gandhi.

Both Mr. Gandhi and his mother and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi had been summoned by the ED in a money laundering case in-



Rahul Gandhi

volving the National Herald, as the agency wants to record their statements under the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Ms. Gandhi could not appear on June 8 after testing positive for COVID-19 and has sought three or four weeks' time.

Financial irregularities

The case to investigate alleged financial irregularities under the PMLA was registered after nine months ago after a trial court took cognisance of an Income Tax Department probe carried out on the basis of a private criminal complaint filed by former BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Mr. Swamy had approached the court alleging that the assets of Associated Journals Limited (AJL) — that published the National Herald newspaper — were fraudulently acquired and transferred to Young Indian, in which Ms. Gandhi and her son owned 38% shares each.

Presidential polls to be a test of Opposition unity

Sonia deputed Kharge to reach out to parties

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The countdown for electing the next President of India has begun with the Election Commission's announcement of the poll schedule on Thursday. This is the only opportunity for the Opposition to put up a show of unity ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election and for the Congress to keep its position as the lead Opposition party. Congress president Sonia

Gandhi has deputed Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge to reach out to the other Opposition parties. Sources said that after informal talks among them, a joint meeting of with Opposition parties will be scheduled in Delhi.

"The Congress believes in building a consensus among all Opposition parties and we shall have a common candidate who will represent the secular ethos of the like-minded parties. This contest is about putting up an alternative to the communal and regressive agenda of the BJP," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said. CPI leader Binoy Viswam tweeted that he had received a call from Mr. Kharge. Mr. Viswam said the CPI would support a common candidate with secular credentials and a progressive outlook.

Second, the Trinamool Congress, which played an able deputy to the Congress in 2017, is far more assertive after its stupendous victory in the May 2021 Assembly election in West Bengal.

Third, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), threatened by the BJP's expansion in Telangana, is now in the Opposition bloc, but does not want to be seen following the Congress. The trinity

of the AAP, the Trinamool and the TRS thus make it difficult for the Congress to take the pole position in this battle. A senior Congress leader said, "At the end of the day, among the Opposition parties, we have the highest number of votes, so how can anyone say that they will build an Opposition bloc without us?"

Trinamool spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Sukhendu Sekhar Ray said, "So far, we haven't discussed the Presidential elections. These are decisions taken at the highest level and in a day or two, our party's stand vis-

av-vis the other Opposition parties will be clear."

The Shiv Sena, which in recent months has emerged the biggest cheerleader of the Congress, agreed that the Presidential election will decide the contours of the Opposition. Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, speaking to The Hindu, said that so far his party had been busy with the Rajya Sabha polls scheduled for Friday.

"There is no doubt that the Presidential election is crucial. It is the only test of Opposition unity ahead of the next 2024 general election," Mr. Raut said.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
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Date: June 8, 2022

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Raj.Samwad/C/3038/2022-23 P.I. (S-ABI) and Dean & FC, SKNCOA

NATIONAL HOMOEOPATHY RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN MENTAL HEALTH
(Under CCRH, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
Sachiothamapuram P.O., Kottayam (Kerala) - 686 532
Tel: 0481-2432238, 2436322. E-mail: nhrimh@gmail.com
Website: www.ccrhindia.nic.in, www.nhrimh.ac.in

Adv. No. 01/2022-23/NHRIMH Date : 10.06.2022

RECRUITMENT OF TEACHING STAFF

Applications are invited from eligible candidates to be engaged in the following disciplines purely on contract basis at the National Homoeopathy Research Institute in Mental Health (NHRIMH), Kottayam, Kerala.

Sl.No	Name of post	No. of post (s)	Remuneration
01	Professor (Practice of Medicine)	01	Rs.90,000/- PM (Consolidated)
02	Professor (Psychiatry)	02	Rs.90,000/- PM (Consolidated)
03	Associate Professor (Psychiatry)	01	Rs.70,000/- PM (Consolidated)
04	Consultant (Psychiatrist)	01	Rs.1,00,000/- PM (Consolidated)

The eligible candidates may apply by SPEED POST to the Assistant Director In-charge, National Homoeopathy Research Institute in Mental Health (NHRIMH), Sachiothamapuram, P.O., Kottayam - 686532 (Kerala) latest by **25.06.2022**. Further details including application form is available on the website (www.ccrhindia.nic.in and www.nhrimh.ac.in). Application received after the last date will not be considered.
Sd/-
Assistant Director In-Charge

KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583 Kollam, Kerala, India
Phone: +91-476-2651215 to 2651217. Fax: +91-476-2680101.
Email: contact@kmml.com, www.kmml.com

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com

No	Tender Id	Name of the Work
1	2022_KMML_493590_1	For fabrication and supply of Tickle Condenser (Methanol Chiller)
2	2022_KMML_493647_1	For the supply of support Roller Assembly for Roaster and Calciner-2 Nos

Chavara 09.06.2022 sd/-DGM(Mts) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

No	Tender Id	Name of the Work
3	2022_KMML_493715_1	Fabrication, Painting and Erection of structural housing associated with the 5TPH capacity Integrated Pressure Filtration & Spin Flash Dryer in U-400 at KMML TP Unit, Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala, India

Chavara 09.06.2022 sd/-HOU(TP/TSP) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Silicomantite

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No.: 03.05/2022-23/SE/PHC/CHN, 05/2022-23/SE/PHC/CHN.
1) JIM Phase II - Ernakulam District - Providing functional household tap connection in Kadungalloor Panchayath and allied works, 2) JIM 2021-22 - Phase II - Ernakulam District Providing FHCT in Alangad Panchayath of Ernakulam District.
EMD: ₹5,00,000 each. Tender fee: ₹15,000 + (18% GST) each.
Last date for submitting tender: 30-06-2022, 03:00 pm. Ph: 0484-2360645
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-333-2022-23
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kochi

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
(BRIDGE PROJECT DEPARTMENT)
E - TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Tender Cost
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF THROUGH FLYOVER BRIDGE FROM GALAXY CINEMA JUNCTION TO NARODA PATIYA JUNCTION IN AHMEDABAD CITY AREA.	Rs. 197,98,01,087.92
2.	CONSTRUCTION OF 4 LANE FLYOVER BRIDGE ON SATTADHAR CROSS ROAD ALONG JANTANAGAR TOWARDS SAL HOSPITAL MODEL ROAD IN NORTH WEST ZONE IN AHMEDABAD.	Rs. 68,85,54,140.14

ONLINE SUBMISSION UP TO : DATE : 06/07/2022 UP TO 17:00 HRS.
DETAILS & TENDERS AVAILABLE ON : www.nprocure.com
Municipal Commissioner (AMC)

HIMACHAL PRADESH HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETING AND PROCESSING CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government Undertaking)
Fruit Processing Plant Parwanoo - 173220, Distt- Solan (HP)
E-mail id: hpmcftp1980@gmail.com, Phone no. 01792-232351

e-Tender Notice for Purchase of Totapuri Mango Pulp, White Guava Pulp, Pineapple Pulp, Sulphited Litchi Pulp and Orange pulp

Online offers are invited for Purchase of Totapuri Mango Pulp, White Guava Pulp, Pineapple Pulp, Sulphited Litchi Pulp and Orange Pulp for HPMC FPP Parwanoo from the interested parties may be a firm/ company or Authorized distributor. The last date of online receipt of e-tender is 17th June, 2022 upto 11:00 am. The online bid will be opened on the same day in the presence of the parties or their representatives at 01:00pm. The bid document details are available online on the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to have digital signature (DSC) from one of the certifying authority. HPMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons.
Additional General Manager

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012.

ADMISSION NOTICE
BTech Program in Mathematics and Computing

The Indian Institute of Science is starting an interdisciplinary four-year BTech program in Mathematics and Computing. Students have the option of continuing for another year and obtaining a MTech degree subject to fulfilling CGPA, course credits and project requirements.

VISION	STANDOUT FEATURES
The aim of the program is to produce leaders who will be at the forefront of research, development, and innovation in futuristic disciplines and next generation technologies that require deep use of mathematics, computer science, and data science.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A focused and modern program backed by strong departments. A strong foundation in Mathematics and Computing core followed by a flexible and unmatched range of course offerings. Opportunities for specialization via various study tracks. Multidisciplinary and Industry projects. Located in the Tech hub of the country. Ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship and deep-tech consulting. Excellent placements in global IT majors, data analytics and fintech firms.

ELIGIBILITY Selection will be based on the JEE Advanced 2022 Ranks. <https://iisc.ac.in/admissions/undergraduate-btech/>

Application Procedure Applications must be submitted online via the IISc Admissions Portal <https://admissions-august.iisc.ac.in/index.html>. Portal opens on June 1, 2022.

Program Website <https://btech-ug.iisc.ac.in/MathandComputing/>

Important Deadlines Application portal will close on August 30, 2022. Applicants must login and update their applications within 48 hours of the declaration of JEE Advanced ranks.

Sd/-, REGISTRAR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TRIVANDRUM (WORKS BRANCH)
E-TENDER NOTICE No. V / W / TVC / 10 / 2022
Dated: 07.06.2022

Divisional Railway Manager / Works Branch / Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites online tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.reps.gov.in. The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Trivandrum Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.reps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

Sl. No.	Description
1	Senior Section Engineer/Pway/Mavelikara and Alleppey - Engaging of semi skilled labour by outsourcing for moonson night patrolling; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 22.47; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 45000; Period of Completion in Months: FOUR
2	Senior Section Engineer/Pway/Quilon Varkala, Trivandrum & Nagercoil - Engaging of semi skilled labour by outsourcing for moonson night patrolling; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 19.67; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 39300; Period of Completion in Months: SEVEN
3	Senior Divisional Engineer/North/TVC - Engaging of semi skilled labour by outsourcing for moonson night patrolling; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 26.73; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 53500; Period of Completion in Months: FOUR
4	Trivandrum Division - TBTR - Renewal of corroded channel sleepers with new H-beam steel sleepers - 1366 nos; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 409.75; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 354900; Period of Completion in Months: TWELVE
5	Shoranur - Ernakulam Section Proposed Subways at km. 76 / 700 - 800 in lieu of LC No 59 A; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 243.32; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 271700; Period of Completion in Months: SIX
6	Collection and training out of track ballast at Cochin Harbour Terminus depot; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 446.25; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 373100; Period of Completion in Months: TWELVE
7	Collection and training out of track ballast at Haripad depot; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 203.25; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 251600; Period of Completion in Months: TWELVE
8	Trivandrum Division - Increasing sleeper density (S) on loop lines in Divisional Engineer North Jurisdiction; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 5795; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 115900; Period of Completion in Months: TWELVE
9	Trivandrum Division - Increasing sleeper density (S) on loop lines in Divisional Engineer South Jurisdiction; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 90.36; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 180700; Period of Completion in Months: TWELVE
10	Manual Deep screening of track in Trichur PWay section; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 60.00; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 120000; Period of Completion in Months: SIX
11	Trivandrum Division - Manual Deep screening of track in yards, points and crossings in ADE/QLN sub division; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 79.54; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 159100; Period of Completion in Months: SIX
12	TVC Improvements to PF No. 1 and FOB; Approx. Value ₹ in lakh: 251.28; Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ 275700; Period of Completion in Months: TWELVE

Tender Closing date and time: SI.No: 1 to 3 : 21.06.2022 at 15.00 hrs. SI.No: 4 to 12 : 29.06.2022 at 15.00 hrs.

Details approximate value of tender, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, www.reps.gov.in. For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal www.reps.gov.in.

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Trivandrum-14
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

'Fate of Donbas rests on battleground city'

Zelensky says western artillery that Ukraine has sought would end the fight for Severodonetsk in days

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LYSYCHANSK

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Thursday said the fate of the whole Donbas region hinges on the "very fierce" battle with Russian troops for the flashpoint eastern city of Severodonetsk.

Moscow's forces are concentrating their firepower on the strategically important industrial hub as part of efforts to capture a swathe of eastern Ukraine.

As shelling and air strikes killed another 11 people around the country, Ukraine said on Thursday that the western long-range artillery it has been begging for would end the fight for Severodonetsk in days.

In his evening address to



Heading to safety: A house on fire following a military strike in a residential area in Kharkiv on Friday. ■ REUTERS

the nation on Wednesday, Mr. Zelensky said the battle for the city was "very fierce... very difficult. Probably one of the most difficult throughout this war."

"In many ways, the fate of our Donbas is being decided there."

Following days of raging street battles, Ukrainian officials conceded that Russian troops control a large part of Severodonetsk and that their own forces might have to pull back due to constant shelling.

The cities of Severodo-

British, Moroccan citizens sentenced to death

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BAKHUMT

Two British citizens and a Moroccan were sentenced to death on Thursday for fighting on Ukraine's side by the country's pro-Moscow rebels.

netsk and Lysychansk, which are separated by a river, were the last areas still under Ukrainian control in Luhansk. Lysychansk is still in Ukrainian hands but under fierce Russian bombardment. After being repelled from Kyiv following their Fe-

A court in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic found the three men guilty of working toward a violent overthrow of power, an offense punishable by death in the unrecognized eastern republic.

bruary 24 invasion, Russian President Vladimir Putin's troops have refocused their offensive on the Donbas region, comprising Luhansk and Donetsk.

Part of the Donbas had already been held by pro-Russian separatists since 2014.

Basil Rajapaksa resigns as MP

He had stepped down as Minister in April amid protests

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa on Thursday said he was resigning from Parliament, even as he sought to deflect blame for the country's economic crisis.

Mr. Basil stepped down from his ministerial post early in April amid public protests demanding that the Rajapaksa clan quit office, taking responsibility for the economic downturn. In May, former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa stepped down, but remains a legislator.

Although he was resign-



Basil Rajapaksa

ing as a legislator, Mr. Basil said he would continue to be politically active in the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP, or People's Front) that he built from scratch after former President Mahinda's poll defeat

in 2015. His family was "better at politics than governance," the resigning MP told reporters, adding: "India's RSS has been around for years, but they do not govern directly. The BJP has taken on that role."

In July 2021, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed Mr. Basil, the youngest of the Rajapaksa brothers, as Finance Minister.

"I think I did all that I could do. But I couldn't do everything the people wanted," said Mr. Basil who, along with Mr. Gotabaya and Mr. Mahinda, has been openly attacked by demonstrators.

Man shot dead during clashes in West Bank

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEL AVIV

Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian man during clashes in the West Bank on Thursday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as Israeli troops continued arrest raids there.

The man has been identified as Mohammed Abu Ayhour, 27, from Halhul in the southern West Bank.

Demilitarise Aegean islands: Erdogan

Turkish President accuses Greece of violating treaties

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday warned Greece to demilitarise islands in the Aegean Sea, saying he was "not joking" with the admonition.

Turkey says Greece has been building a military pre-

sence in violation of treaties that guarantee the unarmed status of the Aegean islands. It argues the islands were ceded to Greece on the condition they remained demilitarized.

"We invite Greece to stop arming the islands that have non-military status and to act in accordance with international agreements," Erdogan said on the final day of military exercises taking place near Izmir, on Turkey's Aegean coast. "I'm not

joking, I'm speaking seriously. This nation is determined."

History of disputes

Greece and Turkey are NATO allies, but the neighboring countries have a history of disputes over a range of issues, including mineral exploration in the eastern Mediterranean and rival claims in the Aegean Sea.

"We warn Greece to stay away from dreams and actions that it will regret, and

to come to its senses," the Turkish leader continued. "Turkey won't give up on its rights in the Aegean, in the same way that it will not stand back from using its rights stemming from international agreement."

Greece maintains Turkey has deliberately misinterpreted the treaties and says it has legal grounds to defend itself following hostile actions by Ankara, including a threat of war if Greece extended its territorial waters.

Court upholds blasphemy death sentence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

A Pakistani High Court has upheld the death sentence of two Christian brothers convicted for uploading blasphemous content on social media in 2011.

The Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench comprising Justice Raja Shahid Mehmood Abbasi and Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz on Wednesday dismissed the appeals of convicts - Qaiser Ayub and Aamoon Ayub - against their sentences.

A sessions court in 2018 sentenced the two Christian brothers to death on allegation that they had insulted Prophet Mohammad and posted the blasphemous post on a website.

Thailand becomes first Asian country to legalise Marijuana

Move aimed at boosting tourism and agriculture sectors

REUTERS
BANGKOK

Thailand legalised the growing of marijuana and its consumption in food and drinks on Thursday, the first Asian country to do so, with the aim of boosting its agriculture and tourism sectors but smoking pot is still against the law.

Shoppers queued up at outlets selling cannabis-infused drinks, sweets and other items as advocates of the plant welcomed the reform in a country that has long had a reputation for strict anti-drug laws.

Among those at the front of the queue at one Bangkok shop was Rittipong Dachkul, 24, waiting since Wednesday evening to buy his first ever



Customers queue up to buy cannabis in Bangkok on Friday. ■ REUTERS

legal marijuana. "I took a bus here after I got off work," Mr. Rittipong said.

"We're now able to find it easily, we don't have to worry about the source, but I have no idea about the quality," he said, referring to the strength of the products on offer.

Thailand, which has a tradition of using cannabis to relieve pain and fatigue, legalised medicinal marijuana in 2018.

Restriction in place

The government, banking on the plant as a cash crop, plans to give away a million plants to encourage farmers to take up its cultivation.

The possession and sale of cannabis extracts containing more than 0.2% of its psychoactive ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), is not allowed, which will mean smokers of the drug known as "pot," "weed" and a host of other names, will struggle to get "stoned".

Those who break the law can still face jail and fines.

U.S. Governor candidate held for Capitol riot

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DETROIT

Ryan Kelley, one of five Republican candidates for Michigan Governor, was arrested over misdemeanour charges on Thursday for his role in the 2021 post-election riot at the U.S. Capitol. Mr. Kelley, 40, was arrested in Michigan and awaits a court hearing in Grand Rapids, a FBI spokeswoman said.

In a court document, federal investigators filed photos of him in a baseball cap worn backward, trying to rally the pro-Donald Trump crowd.

He is accused of disruptive conduct, injuring public property and entering restricted space without permission, according to the criminal complaint.

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA,
PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571KZML

"e" Procurement Notice No. 05 /OCCL/2022-23 (on-line)

On-line percentage rate tender is invited for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Approx Value of work (Rs. in Crores)	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of Tender (on-line)
01	Execution / Removal of exposed rock from the river bed of Mahanadi near Samaleswari Ghat	OCCL-SMP/01/2022-23	Rs. 4.28 Crores	03 (Three) calendar months	From 13.06.2022, 12.30 PM to 27.06.2022 5.30 PM	From 13.06.2022, 12.30 PM to 27.06.2022 5.30 PM

Procurement Officer - Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 28.06.2022, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CAD-782 OPR-34120/11/0007/2223

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603.
FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMP SUM - ITEM RATE CONTRACT
TENDER Notice (Two cover System)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE NO. -14/PBC/T.V.Malal/2022-2023 / E 330 / JD.4 / DATED : 09.06.2022

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603, invites tender in Two cover system from eligible tenders for the work of "Construction of an Ancicut across Cheyyar River near Vambalur Village to Feed Tatchur and Vinnamangalam Tanks in Polur Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District." (Value of Work : Rs. 1295.18 Lakhs including G.S.T) at his office upto 03.00 p.m. on 22.06.2022 in sealed cover. The tender will be opened at 03.30 p.m. at his chamber on the same day.

Other information as details of Work, Value, EMD, Cost of Tender schedule, Qualification details etc., will be available in the Government website www.tenders.tn.gov.in. Any Corrections or Modifications will be published on web site only.

Superintending Engineer, WRD.,
DIPR/271/Tender/2022
Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 3.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE / CORRIGENDUM-A
No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT-E-PT-03(A)/22-23 Dt: 08.06.2022

"Painting works @ SDSC SHAR areas" (T/C-22-012, Est cost ₹32.53 Lakhs); "Miscellaneous civil works @ SMPC unit-2" (T/C-22-013, Est cost ₹11.29 Lakhs); "Construction of security cabin, Misc works @ SMPC unit-1" (T/C-22-014, Est cost ₹8.62 Lakhs); Sale period extended upto 24.06.2022. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
TENDER NOTICE No.
TBM-SG-CN-2022-23-03-OT
Dated: 08.06.2022

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works:

Name of the Work: Provision of Electronic Interlocking Signalling arrangements at Thirunallar and Karaikal stations of Tiruchirappalli Division in connection with gauge conversion between Paralam and Karaikal;

Cash value in : ₹ 796.12,642.79; Bid Security (EMD) : ₹ 5,48,100/-; Last Date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site: 30.06.2022 upto 11:00 hrs.; Cost of Tender Document: ₹ NIL; Period of Completion in month(s): Eight (8).

Tenderers can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in of Indian Railways. The supply / work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Construction / Tambaram, Chennai-600 045

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 03/2022-23 वृत्त चित्तौड़गढ़ अन्तर्गत सड़क निर्माण कार्य
क्रमांक : 428 दिनांक : 31.05.2022

पुष्कलव्य का नाम	कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त चित्तौड़गढ़
निविदा का कार्य	वृत्त चित्तौड़गढ़ अन्तर्गत सड़क निर्माण कार्य (कुल 3 पैकेज कार्य)
निविदा की कुल राशि	₹. 591.91 लाख
निविदा अर्पण करने की तिथि	दिनांक 07.06.2022 प्रातः 09.30 बजे से दिनांक 27.06.2022 को सायं 06.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने का समय	दिनांक 07.06.2022 प्रातः 09.30 बजे से दिनांक 27.06.2022 को सायं 06.00 बजे तक
प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क	₹. 500/-
निविदा शुल्क	₹. 500/-
निविदा खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक 29.06.2022 दोपहर 01.00 बजे

UBN No. : 1. PWD2223WSOB02177, 2. PWD2223WSOB02178, 3. PWD2223WSOB02179
(आर.पी. लखार) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त चित्तौड़गढ़
कीआरपीआर/सा/7640/2022

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त अलवर
सा.नि.वि. परिसर, अशोक टाकीज के पास, अलवर
फोन: 0144-2737030, फैक्स -0144-2701879

क्रमांक :- 1030 निविदा संशोधन सूचना संख्या दिनांक- 03/06/22

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 642 दिनांक 11.05.2022 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 03 / 2022-23 में पूर्व वर्णित निविदा पत्र- निम्नानुसार संशोधित कर बर्दाश्त जारी है:-

निविदा फार्म मिलने की तिथि	पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथियाँ	संशोधित तिथियाँ
निविदा फार्म मिलने की तिथि	12.05.2022 प्रातः 11.00 बजे से 03.06.2022 सायं: 6.00 बजे तक	12.05.2022 प्रातः 11.00 बजे से 09.06.2022 सायं: 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा जमा करने की तिथि	03.06.2022 सायं: 6.00 बजे तक	09.06.2022 सायं: 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा शुल्क एवं आर.आई.एस.एल. फीस जमा करने की तिथि (ऑनलाइन ई-ग्राम द्वारा एकल चालान के माध्यम से)	03.06.2022 सायं: 6.00 बजे तक	09.06.2022 सायं: 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तिथि	04.06.2022 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे	10.06.2022 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे

निविदा में सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट "www.dipronline.org" व विभाग की वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in" पर देखा जा सकता है।
(समीत कुमार)
DIPRC/7760/2022 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत्त अलवर

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ADB TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
No. 30, Siruvani Nagar, Bharathipark Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.

Invitation for Bids

Date : 07th June 2022

Loan No. and Title : 49107-010: IND: Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program-Tranche 3

Contract No. and Title : Tender Notice No : 11/2022-23
TNUJFP/CBE/06: (1) Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant of capacity 15.43 mld on DBO basis for UGSS to Added Areas namely Vadavalli and Veerakeralam Area Wards 16 to 19 (Zone V) of Coimbatore Corporation in Coimbatore District, and (2) Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant of capacity 19.49 mld on DBO basis for UGSS to Added Areas namely Kavundampalayam and Thudiyalur Area Wards 1 (Part), 2 to 9 & 43 (part) (Zone VII) of Coimbatore Corporation in Coimbatore District.

Deadline for Submission of Bids : 28th July 2022, 15:00 hours (IST)

- The Government of India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program-Tranche 3. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.
- The Chief Engineer, TWAD (Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage) Board, Coimbatore ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of "(1) Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant of capacity 15.43 mld on DBO basis for UGSS to Added Areas namely Vadavalli and Veerakeralam Area Wards 16 to 19 (Zone V) of Coimbatore Corporation in Coimbatore District, and (2) Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant of capacity 19.49 mld on DBO basis for UGSS to Added Areas namely Kavundampalayam and Thudiyalur Area Wards 1 (Part), 2 to 9 & 43 (part) (Zone VII) of Coimbatore Corporation in Coimbatore District (Period of Completion-24 months followed by 6 months Trial Run and including 10 years paid maintenance)".
- National Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
 - Minimum average annual turnover of INR 78.00 Crore, calculated as total certified received payments for contracts in processor completed, within the last three (3) years.
 - Has Financial resources, less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments defined, meet or exceed the total requirement for the Subject Contract of INR 5.30 Crore.
 - Participation in at least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within the last five years and that is similar to the proposed contract, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 46.00 Crore. The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology, or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements).
 - Meets other Personnel and Equipment requirements as stipulated in the Bidding Document.

Further details are indicated in the 'Section 3 - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria' of the Bidding Document.

To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact :

THE CHIEF ENGINEER,
TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
No. 30, Siruvani Nagar, Bharathipark Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.
Telephone No. : (0422) 2447734, 2448887
E.mail : cwregion21@gmail.com

- A pre-bid meeting shall take place on 05th July 2022 at 11.00 Hours (IST) at the address stated above.
- To purchase the bidding documents in English language, eligible Bidders should :
 - Visit the Office of the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Sewerage Division, Kuniyamuthur at 26, Corporation Shopping Complex, Avinashi road, Coimbatore, pay a non-refundable fee of INR 1180 towards the cost of bidding document in the form of Bank Demand Draft in favour of the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Sewerage Division, Kuniyamuthur, Coimbatore.
 - In case of written request, the document will be sent by post/courier. Bidders who wish to receive the bidding document by post/courier shall have to pay an additional amount of INR 5000 for delivery within India or US\$ 250 for delivery outside India. The method of payment will be through Bank Demand Draft in favour of the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Sewerage Division, Kuniyamuthur, Coimbatore. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
 - Eligible bidders may otherwise download the bidding document in English language at free of cost in the website (i) www.tenders.tn.gov.in and (ii) www.twadboard.gov.in.
 - Eligible bidders who download the bidding document from above website shall inform the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Sewerage Division, Kuniyamuthur, Coimbatore in writing (and provide the contact details) at the address given above, failing which the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board shall not be responsible if the bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any.
- Bids should be submitted :
 - To the address above.
 - On or before the deadline : 28th July 2022 at 15.00 Hours (IST).
 - Together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
 - Electronic submission is not allowed.
- Technical bids will be opened on 28th July 2022 at 15.30 Hours (IST) in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend, whereas the financial bids shall remain sealed and unopened and shall be placed locked. The financial bids of only technically responsible and qualified bidders shall be opened after technical bid evaluation, whereas, the financial bids of those bidders whose technical bids are not responsive and qualified shall be returned unopened after the contract is awarded.

DIPR/ 2731 /TENDER/2022 **SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS**
"சேர்த்தனை உடன்கு கழற்சியின் அடைதற்கேராம், சேர்த்தனை பரிந்து சரித்தியின் படைப்புகளாம்"
Chief Engineer,
TWAD Board, Coimbatore

MARKET WATCH

	09-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	55,320	-0.78
US Dollar	77.74	-0.07
Gold	50,907	0.17
Brent oil	123.34	1.05

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	735.50	-6.90
Amelia Hosp	3670.05	-33.85
Asian Paints	2686.90	-18.40
Axis Bank	661.30	2.70
Bajaj Auto	3878.65	84.50
Bajaj Finserv	12471.00	6.00
Bajaj Finance	5898.55	-55.75
Bharti Airtel	676.35	13.05
BPL	332.85	8.95
Britannia Ind	3347.25	-14.25
Cipla	971.95	9.00
Coal India	198.75	1.10
Divis Lab	3507.20	11.90
Dr Reddys Lab	4322.90	123.75
Eicher Motors	2716.00	66.85
Grasim Ind	1309.10	-19.65
HCL Tech	1028.65	-1.55
HDFC	2265.45	6.80
HDFC Bank	1377.70	10.30
HDFC Life	604.90	4.35
Hero MotoCorp	2598.10	12.15
Hindalco	399.75	-3.75
Hind Unilever	2197.70	0.65
ICICI Bank	732.75	3.25
IndusInd Bank	920.30	6.60
Infosys	1515.00	15.00
ITC	270.85	2.95
JSW Steel	572.20	-3.95
Kotak Bank	1865.20	19.70
L&T	1595.10	10.55
M&M	1045.10	0.10
Maruti Suzuki	7929.85	37.40
Nestle India Ltd.	16768.15	44.40
NTPC	155.15	-1.90
ONGC	165.55	2.15
PowerGrid Corp	224.85	0.30
Reliance Ind	2798.75	74.70
SBI Life	1163.70	27.65
State Bank	466.95	-4.35
Shree Cement	19198.00	-385.75
Sun Pharma	858.85	11.60
Tata Consumer	754.40	-2.75
Tata Motors	428.50	-7.15
Tata Steel	1044.85	-41.90
TCS	3427.10	22.95
Tech Mahindra	1138.60	14.40
Titan	2139.70	10.85
UltraTech Cement	5481.90	-49.95
UPL	747.30	12.15
Wipro	475.05	4.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.57	77.89
Euro	83.13	83.48
British Pound	97.22	97.63
Japanese Yen (100)	58.18	58.43
Chinese Yuan	11.63	11.68
Swiss Franc	79.34	79.71
Singapore Dollar	56.41	56.66
Canadian Dollar	61.76	62.04
Malaysian Ringgit	17.64	17.73
Australian Dollar	55.70	55.94

Source: Indian Bank

STFC secures \$250 mn 10-year loan from DFC

CHENNAI
Shriram Transport Finance Co. Ltd. (STFC) has secured a \$250 million fixed rate 10-year loan from the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

'Rated firms have buffers to bear 10-15% rupee depreciation'

Protections include natural hedges of revenue, costs linked to the dollar: Moody's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday said most rated firms in India have buffers to withstand a further 10-15% depreciation of the rupee.

The rupee weakened by 6 paise to close at 77.74 against the U.S. dollar on Thursday, weighed down by elevated crude oil prices and persistent foreign capital outflows.

In a statement, Moody's said the rupee has depreciated about 4.5% in 2022. Higher energy prices and interest rates in developed economies have led to capital outflows and rising commodity prices, pressuring the rupee.

'CAD likely hit a 3-year high of \$43.8 bn'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

India's current account deficit is likely to have hit a three-year high of 1.8% of GDP, or \$43.8 billion, in FY22 compared with a surplus of 0.9%, or \$23.9 billion, in FY21, India Ratings said in a report on Thursday.

According to an assessment by the agency, the current account deficit (CAD) had moderated to \$17.3 billion, or 1.96% of GDP, in the fourth quarter of FY22 as against \$8.2 billion, or 1.03%, a year earlier, and significantly lower than the \$23.02 billion, or 2.74%, seen in Q3, which was a 13-quarter high. Goods exports rose 42.4% in FY22 after contracting 7.5% in pandemic-hit FY21.



Global hit: Higher interest rates to tame prices in developed countries have led to capital outflows, hurting the rupee. ■ AP

The rupee's depreciation is credit negative for companies that generate revenue in rupees but rely heavily on dollar debt to fund operations, as well as for those with significant dollar-based costs, such as raw materials and capital spending. However, the negative credit implications for rated companies will be limited.

"Most rated companies have protections to limit the effect of currency fluctuations. These include natural hedges in the form of revenue and costs denominated in or linked to the dollar, some dollar revenue and financial hedges, or a combination of these factors, which help limit the adverse effects on cash flow and leverage, even under a more severe depreciation scenario," Moody's said.

Vistara eyes Mumbai as hub to expand base

Carrier to increase flights to West Asia

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Tata SIA Airlines Ltd., which operates as Vistara, plans to expand its network from Mumbai, having established operations with Delhi as its hub over the last 7 years.

The full-service airline currently operates more than 50 daily flights and five international flights from Mumbai. This number is expected to rise when more aircraft join the fleet.

"Mumbai is of high strategic importance for Vistara and is the second-biggest hub for us after Delhi," said Vinod Kannan, CEO, Vistara. "We have already increased daily departures from 38 to 50 from Mumbai since the pandemic. It has also helped us in developing



a dense feeder network enabling convenient international connections for our customers."

Global destinations served from Mumbai include Singapore, Male and Dubai, while service to Jeddah will start from August 2.

Vistara is also planning to enhance its international operations from Mumbai, mainly to countries in the Gulf where yields are better.

However, in the current environment, the benefit would be likely limited amid weak global demand and rising inflation, it added.

HDFC raises home loan rate by 50 bps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd. increased its Retail Prime Lending Rate (RPLR) on housing loans - on which its Adjustable Rate Home Loans (ARHL) are benchmarked - by 50 basis points (bps). This comes a day after the Reserve Bank of India increased the benchmark lending rate by 50 bps.

The new rate will come into effect from June 10, HDFC said in a statement.

Now home loan rates start from 7.55% at HDFC.

Before this, the lender had raised rates by 40 bps starting April 1, 2022. Despite the total increase of 90 bps, home loan rates are 45-60 bps below the pre-pandemic rates.

Rupee ends at 77.74/\$ after record low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 6 paise to close at 77.74 against the U.S. dollar on Thursday, weighed down by elevated crude oil prices and persistent foreign capital outflows.

Earlier, the rupee slid to an all-time intraday low of 77.81 against the dollar.

"Crude prices above \$125 will unsettle the broad markets and volatility will increase along with fund outflows from domestic markets," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities.

"Pressure on the rupee will increase if crude starts trading and settling above \$125. Rupee can be seen in a range of 77.55-77.95 till then," he noted.

ECB gears up to raise rates to fight inflation

It plans to lift rates by 25 bps on July 21

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
AMSTERDAM

The European Central Bank on Thursday ended its bond-buying stimulus and unveiled plans for a series of interest rate increases from July, the first in more than a decade, to combat soaring inflation.

ECB governors agreed as a first step to halt their multi-billion-euro bond-buying stimulus as of July 1.

The bank then plans "to raise the key ECB interest rates by 25 basis points" at its next meeting on July 21, the ECB said. It will raise rates again in September, with the size dependent on the economic outlook.

ECB president Christine Lagarde said the bank was embarking on "a journey"



that would include "a series of moves over the course of the next months".

The last time the ECB raised rates was in 2011.

With consumer prices soaring, "the ECB officially ends its long era of unconventional monetary policy," said ING bank economist Carsten Brzeski.

Inflation in the 19-nation euro area rose to a record 8.1% in May.

Volkswagen to test EV ID.4 in India this year

Planning three-stage process: Gupta

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

German automaker Volkswagen said it would begin testing its electric vehicle ID.4 in India this year as a precursor to driving into the country "limited volumes" of the fully electric SUV.

The firm is also seeking to more than double its sales in India in 2022, from about 26,000 units in 2021, Ashish Gupta, brand director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, told *The Hindu*.

He added that the electrification journey would happen in stages.

"Our plan is to bring some products from our global portfolio in limited volumes into India. Towards that, we are bringing in ID.4 into the country this year



Ashish Gupta

for testing purposes."

The firm would then bring limited volumes via the fully-built-unit route, move towards local assembly and then to full localisation in the second half of this decade, he added. The company unveiled mid-sized sedan 'Virtus' in India on Thursday starting at ₹11.21 lakh (ex-showroom).

Griffin, Akasa ally for aircraft sale, leaseback

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Aircraft leasing company Griffin Global Asset Management on Thursday announced an agreement with Akasa Air for purchase and leaseback of five Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

Akasa Air has placed a firm order of 72 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. Under a sale-leaseback arrangement, the aircraft owner sells the aircraft to the lessor, who then immediately leases the aircraft to the original owner. The tie-up allows airlines to maintain liquidity.

Akasa Air aims to take delivery of its first aircraft later this month and begin services next month after receiving an air operator permit from the DGCA.

LIVE TELECAST

KIVG 2022: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.50 a.m. & 3 p.m. onwards
FI Azerbaïjan GP: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, Practice, 4.30 p.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
UEFA Nations League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 9.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Bale was offered to play for Getafe

MADRID
The agent of Gareth Bale offered the Wales forward to play for Getafe next season, the Spanish club's president said. Angel Torres, however, did not elaborate on the offer or mention Bale's agent by name. AP

Pranavi in lead

BENGALURU
Pranavi Urs grabbed an eight-stroke lead at the end of the second round of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour 2022-Leg 7 at Prestige Golfshire here on Thursday. The 18-year-old Mysuru golfer, who has two wins this season, added a six-under 66 to her first round card of 67. **The scores (top five):** 133: Pranavi Urs (67, 66), 141: Jahanvi Bakshi (72, 69); 142: Asmitha Sathish (70, 72); 143: Vidhatri Urs (71, 72); 144: Siddhi Kapoor (72, 72).

Ponting back in Big Bash in off-field role

SYDNEY
Australian cricket great and current Delhi Capitals coach Ricky Ponting on Thursday signed a three-year deal as head of strategy for the Tasmanian Hurricanes in Australia's Big Bash League. The Hurricanes have never won the domestic T20 competition in their 11-year history. AFP

INMRC Rolon round this weekend

Event returns after three years: TVS, Honda, KTM and Yamaha will battle it out

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

After a three-year break, the MRF-MMSCI FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship (INMRC) returns to the Kari Motor Speedway here this weekend.

The five-round championship, which begins on Friday with free practice and a few qualifying sessions, promises to be a thriller as the country's top riders will be seen in action.

Several of these riders have had the international experience and, obviously, that's going to add to the thrill. Two-wheeler manufacturers such as TVS, Honda, KTM and Yamaha will battle it out for honours.

The entries have also crossed the 200-mark, which comes as no surprise given



Ready to roll: Expect an action-packed Rolon round at the Kari Motor Speedway. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the quality of the event.

The weekend card includes the National championship comprising four categories - Pro-Stock 301-400cc and 165cc, Novice (Stock 165cc) and Girls (Stock 165cc) - while Petronas TVS One-Make Championship (301-400cc Open, Rookie, Girls and Media) and Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup

(NSF 250R, CBR 150 and Hornet 2.0) are also part of the programme. A new addition is the Stock 301-400cc category which will be run as a support race. "It's great to be back here after a three-year break due to the pandemic. We are overwhelmed by the tremendous response for the Rolon round and that should dish

out high quality and exciting races," said Ajit Thomas, the MMSC Head.

Headline acts

The two Pro-Stock categories will headline the weekend as line-ups include stars such as Rajini Krishnan (301-400cc, RACR Kustar Power) and Jagann Kumar (165cc, Petronas TVS Racing).

Both had notched their tenth National titles last season. The Novice category (under-23) boasts of a massive grid of 32 riders selected from 35 entrants.

It will throw up a new champion who, though, will have to earn the title considering the highly competitive field comprising riders who are keen to annex their maiden National crown.

Twenty races will be held during the weekend so, expect plenty of action and more.

TVS Srichakra extends collaboration

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

TVS Srichakra Ltd., one of India's leading manufacturers of two and three-wheeler and off-highway tyres, will power the Petronas TVS One Make Championship as technical partner for the fourth year in a row.

The partnership entails a strategic collaboration between Eurogrip and Apache brands. All bikes in the event will race with custom designed TVS Eurogrip tyres. The first racing event of the year is scheduled on Friday at Coimbatore, followed by four rounds in Chennai.

The 2022 edition will see Protorg Extreme (Zero Degree Steel Belt Radial tyres) and Remora performing on the Apache RR 310 and Apache RTR 200 motorbikes.

Belgium roars back to rout Poland

Dutch stay ahead with win against Wales

NATIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BELGIUM

So much for Belgium not caring about the Nations League.

By coming from behind to rout Poland 6-1 on Wednesday, Belgium's players gave an emphatic riposte to those questioning the team's commitment to the competition at the end of a long season and, in particular, after a 4-1 loss to the Netherlands on Friday.

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez had been quick to dismiss accusations of his players lacking desire, and they backed up that support by recovering from going behind to Robert Lewandowski's 76th goal for Poland. Only two European players - Cristiano Ronaldo (117) and Ferenc Puskas (84) - have scored more in men's internationals.

Axel Witsel launched Belgium's comeback with the equaliser in the 42nd, Kevin De Bruyne added a second in the 59th, before a double from Leandro Trossard - in the 73rd and 80th - a long-range effort from Leander Dendoncker in the 83rd and

a first international goal by Lois Openda to wrap up the win in Brussels.

The Netherlands stayed in front in the group, though, by scoring in the fourth minute of stoppage time through Wout Weghorst's diving header to beat Wales 2-1.

Wales, which qualified for the World Cup last weekend for the first time in 64 years, had equalised two minutes earlier after falling behind to Teun Koopmeiners' 50th-minute strike from the edge of the area.

Ukraine coach Oleksandr Petrakov made 10 changes to his team - that lost to Wales in a World Cup qualification playoff - for a Group B game at Ireland, and going with fresh legs paid off in a 1-0 win in Dublin.

The results: League A: Group 4: Belgium 6 (Witsel 42, De Bruyne 59, Trossard 73, 80, Dendoncker 83, Openda 90+3) bt Poland 1 (Lewandowski 28); Wales 1 (Norrington-Davies 90+2) lost to the Netherlands 2 (Koopmeiners 50, Weghorst 90+4).

League B: Group 1: Republic of Ireland 0 lost to Ukraine 1 (Tsygankov 47); Scotland 2 (Ralston 28, McKenna 40) bt Armenia 0.



On target: Witsel fires in Belgium's first past the Polish defence. ■ AFP

SPORT

Van der Dussen, Miller star in South Africa's highest successful chase

Their 131-run unbroken partnership for the fourth wicket flattens India as the visitors go 1-0 up; Kishan's 48-ball 76 goes in vain for the hosts

SA IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

When South Africa stared at India's 211 for four, only 18 times in T20Is had teams chased down targets of 200 or more.

On Thursday, before the packed stands of Ferozeshah Kotla ground, David Miller and Rassie van der Dussen raised a match-winning stand of 131 and made it the 19th occasion by pulling off the sixth highest run-chase and South Africa's biggest.

South Africa's chase picked up momentum when the dangerous Miller and van der Dussen collected 33 runs in two overs — from Harshal Patel and Axar Patel — to make it 125 for three after 13 overs and never looked back.

Needing 64 off 30 deliveries, decisive blows followed when 22 runs came off successive overs from Harshal and Bhuvneshwar Kumar and soon, South Africa was over the line with seven wickets and five deliveries to spare.

If India slipped at the threshold of a world-record setting 13th straight victory, it was due to the bowlers' failure to rise to the challenge.

After Shreyas Iyer



The sizzlers: Van der Dussen and Miller pulverised the Indian attack to help South Africa post a comfortable win. • R.V. MOORTHY

dropped a regulation catch of van der Dussen when on 29, the batter smashed his next 46 runs off just 15 balls to remain unbeaten on 75. In contrast, after a 22-ball 50, Miller steadied himself for an unbeaten 64.

Earlier, India raced to 211,

thanks to Ishan Kishan's calculated assault, the measured strokeplay from Shreyas Iyer and the late flourish from Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya, who added 46 off 18 balls.

Kishan impressed as he grew in confidence to finish

with 76 off 48 deliveries. The left-hander, after hitting three sixes and 11 fours, holed out in the 13th over.

A delivery after a review saved him from a caught-behind decision, Kishan failed to clear long-off. This was similar to the way his opening

partner Rituraj Gaikwad fell. A delivery after a shot from Rituraj burst through the reverse cup of Pretorius and cleared the ropes, a mishit was easily taken by Bavuma at mid-wicket.

Shreyas produced a 27-ball 36 but the momentum was

expectedly provided by the flamboyant duo of Pant and Hardik. Pant, who lost his balance and tripped more than once during his flashy innings, kept the scoreboard ticking with two sixes and as many fours.

But it was Hardik who

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Ishan Kishan c Stubbs b Maharaj 76 (48b, 11x4, 3x6), Rituraj Gaikwad c Bavuma b Parnell 23 (15b, 3x6), Shreyas Iyer b Pretorius 36 (27b, 1x4, 3x6), Rishabh Pant c van der Dussen b Nortje 29 (16b, 2x4, 2x6), Hardik Pandya (not out) 31 (12b, 2x4, 2x6), Dinesh Karthik (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-12): 15; Total (for four wickets in 20 overs): 211.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-57 (Rituraj, 6.2 overs), 2-137 (Kishan, 12.6), 3-156 (Shreyas, 16.1), 4-202 (Pant, 19.1).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Maharaj 3-0-43-1, Rabada 4-0-35-0, Nortje 4-0-36-1, Parnell 4-0-32-1, Shamsi 2-0-27-0, Pretorius 3-0-35-1.

SOUTH AFRICA
Quinton de Kock c Kishan b Axar 22 (18b, 3x4), Temba Bavuma c Pant b Bhuvneshwar 10 (8b, 2x4), Dwaine Pretorius b Harshal 29 (13b, 1x4, 4x6), Rassie van der Dussen (not out) 75 (46b, 7x4, 5x6), David Miller (not out)

64 (31b, 4x4, 5x6); Extras (lb-7, w-4, nb-1): 12; Total (for three wickets in 19.1 overs): 212.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-22 (Bavuma, 2.2), 2-61 (Pretorius, 5.2), 3-81 (de Kock, 8.4).

INDIA BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-43-1, Avesh 4-0-35-0, Chahal 2.1-0-26-0, Hardik 1-0-18-0, Harshal 4-0-43-1, Axar 4-0-40-1.

Toss: South Africa; **MoM:** Miller. South Africa won by seven wickets with five balls to spare to take a 1-0 lead in five-match series.

Second T20I: June 12, Cuttack, 7 p.m.

Innings scan

INDIA		SOUTH AFRICA
45	Dots	40
16	Fours	17
14	Sixes	14
51/0	PP	61/2
10.55	RR	11.06

came good against a quality attack. If 51 runs came in the PowerPlay, another 51 followed off the next four. The next five produced 48 and the last five, 61. The total of 211 wasn't enough once Miller and van der Dussen got going.

ICC congratulates 'all-time great' Mithali

ANI
NEW DELHI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has congratulated India legend Mithali Raj for an outstanding 23-year international career during which she broke several records.

The 39-year-old middle-order batter, who announced her retirement from all international cricket on Wednesday, led India in this year's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand. She had retired from T20Is in September 2019.

ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said: "Mithali is one of the all-time greats of the game. Over the past 23 years, many young girls and boys will have been inspired to take up the sport after watching her. Mithali has played a huge role in raising the profile of women's cricket during a crucial period of



Mithali... a 'fantastic career'. • FILE PHOTO

its growth and I sincerely hope she will stay involved with the game in the coming years. On behalf of the ICC, I congratulate her for a fantastic career."

Narwal, Singhraj and Akash win silver

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tokyo Paralympic gold medalist Manish Narwal settled for a silver in the P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1 team event of the World Para Shooting World Cup in Chateauroux, France, on Thursday.

A day after winning the 10m mixed team gold, the 20-year-old Narwal, who took the P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1 gold with a Paralympic record in his debut Games, teamed up with Singhraj, also a Paralympic medalist, and Akash to finish with a total of 1581.

China (1628) took the gold and Turkey (1565) the bronze.

The top Indian shooters, however, faltered in the individual event with Akash being the only Indian to qualify for the P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1 finals.

He ended fifth with a score of 159.4.

China's Yang Chao took the gold with a total of 223.9, followed by compatriot Huang Xing (218.5) and Uzbekistan's Ibragimov Server (200.7).

Failing to make it
Singhraj and Narwal were ninth and 10th in the qualification round. Only the top eight qualified for the final round.

Tatum and Brown drive Celtics' convincing win

Host takes 2-1 lead over Warriors



Leading the charge: Brown top-scored for Celtics in their first home game of the Finals. • AP

NBA FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BOSTON

Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown combined for 53 points as Boston Celtics out-muscled Golden State Warriors 116-100 to take a 2-1 lead in the NBA Finals on Wednesday.

Boston, bullied by the Warriors in a game two blowout in San Francisco on Sunday, bounced back with a dominant physical performance to regain the initiative in a pulsating clash at the Celtics' TD Garden.

Brown led Boston scoring with 27 points, while Tatum had 26 points and Marcus Smart 24 as the Celtics moved to within two wins of a record 18th NBA crown.

Stephen Curry led Golden State with 31 points

NZ IN ENGLAND

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

England left-arm spinner Jack Leach has kept his place in an unchanged England XI for the second Test against New Zealand at Nottingham's Trent Bridge starting on Friday after being passed fit following concussion.

Leach missed the majority of England's five-wicket win in the series opener at Lord's after falling on his head while saving a boundary on the first morning at the 'Home of Cricket'.

England will aim to carry on from where they left off under their new leadership duo of captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, the former New Zealand skipper and will be keen to seal the series.

England is 1-0 up in this three-match series after a five-wicket victory over New



Back in business: Leach has been passed fit after suffering a concussion in the first Test. • GETTY IMAGES

Zealand at Lord's last week gave England just its second win in 18 matches at this level.

Now Stuart Broad wants to

Zealand at Lord's last week gave England just its second win in 18 matches at this level. Now Stuart Broad wants to

third day.

"I know that's when I'm at my best... I need to take that into Trent Bridge, because if I get that Nottingham roar, with the party mode the Forest fans are in, it could have a huge benefit."

The 35-year-old Nottinghamshire seamer is, however, well aware of the risks of such an approach: "If you whip the crowd up, then bowl a half-volley and go for four you look daft. But I quite like that pressure."

The teams:
England: Alex Lees, Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes (Capt.), Ben Foakes (wk), Matthew Potts, Jack Leach, Stuart Broad and James Anderson.

New Zealand (likely): Tom Latham, Will Young, Kane Williamson (Capt.), Devon Conway, Henry Nicholls, Daryl Mitchell, Tom Blundell (wk), Kyle Jamieson, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Trent Boult.

Ramita strikes improbable gold in air rifle

KIYG

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Ramita Jindal usurped the air rifle gold from Devanshi Katara in the Khelo India Youth Games at the Dr. Karni Singh Range here on Thursday.

It was a fitting climax to the shooting competition, as Ramita, the World Championship junior bronze medalist, came up with five incredible shots when Devanshi was on the door step of victory.

Ramita recovered from the brink of defeat at 8-4, with a tied shot, that made it 9-15.

With Devanshi needing one point for victory, Ramita shot 10.7, 10.8, 10.7 and 10.5 to sail to an improbable victory, with every better shot fetching her two points. Devanshi did not

shoot badly, only that her shots of 10.5, 10.4, 10.2 and 10.4 in that order, proved inferior in comparison.

The 18-year-old Ramita had done well to top the second stage and qualify for the gold match, 0.3 point better than Devanshi. The latter was 0.4 point behind Ramita in the first stage of qualification.

There was pressure on Ramita as it was Devanshi who released the shot first every time in the gold duel, but Ramita executed a remarkable series in which all her 16 shots were 10 or more. It was another gold for Haryana, while Devanshi fetched silver for Rajasthan. Harshita Garg won the bronze for Haryana.

The results: Youth women's air rifle: 1. Ramita Jindal 17 (260.0) 624.8; 2. Devanshi Katara 15 (259.7) 624.4; 3. Harshita Garg 258.8 (625.2).



Podium finish: Devanshi Katara, champion Ramita Jindal and Harshita Garg, the air rifle medallists on Thursday. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

National inter-State meet from today

ATHLETICS

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

There are quite a few slots to be filled and there is not much time left. So far, 27 Indian athletes from four disciplines have made the cut for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games (July 28 to August 8) while around 11 have made the grade for the Oregon World championships (July 15 to 24).

The five-day SNJ-61st National Inter-State athletics championships beginning here on Friday, will provide the other remaining athletes one last chance to book their tickets to the two events and the qualified ones to show they are a cut above the rest.

All the major Indian stars barring Neeraj Chopra, Seema Punia and Avinash Sable will be participating in the meet.

Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw Neeraj will be taking part in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland while meet record holder in women's discus Seema, men's 3000m steeplechase National record holder Sable, will be in the USA.

The 2018 Asian Games 400mH silver medalist A. Dharun is reportedly suffering from fever, but is keen to run.

There are quite a few battles that would provide excitement. The one between Murali Sreesankar and Jeswin Aldrin in the men's long



In control: Lakshya got past Gemke in straight games. • REUTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen progressed to the quarter-finals of the Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament with contrasting wins here on Thursday.

World No. 9 Lakshya registered a 21-18, 21-15 win over World No. 13 Rasmus Gemke of Denmark in 54 minutes in men's singles, while

Sindhu was made to toil hard for over an hour by Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia before winning 23-21, 20-22, 21-11 in the second round.

In mixed doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and B. Summeeth Reddy lost to the Chinese second seeds Chinese Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong 18-21, 13-21 in their pre-quarterfinal match.

IN BRIEF



Record-setting Azam trumps West Indies

MULTAN (PAKISTAN) Pakistan skipper Babar Azam became the first batter to knock three successive ODI hundreds twice as he anchored a five-wicket win over the West Indies in Multan on Wednesday. Azam cracked a brilliant 107-ball 103 to help Pakistan overhaul a tough 306-run target in 49.2 overs.

The scores: West Indies 305/8 in 50 overs lost to Pakistan 306/5 in 49.2 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 65, Babar Azam 103, Mohammad Rizwan 59, Khushdil Shah 41 n.o.).

Afghans complete ODI sweep of Zimbabwe

HARARE Afghanistan completed a 3-0 whitewash of Zimbabwe on Thursday in an ODI series, but made heavy weather of chasing a modest target. **Brief scores:** Zimbabwe 135 in 44.5 overs (Sikandar Raza 38, Rashid Khan 3/31) lost to Afghanistan 137/6 in 37.4 overs (Hashmatullah Shahidi 38, Mohammad Nabi 34 n.o.).

Blatter, Platini reiterate innocence in court

BELLINZONA Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini strongly reiterated their innocence when they were questioned on day two of their criminal trial on charges of defrauding FIFA at the start of Thursday's session at the Federal Criminal Court of Switzerland. AP

As All That Breathes soars at the international festival circuit, filmmaker Shaunak Sen discusses its mood, metaphors and underlying politics

ANUJ KUMAR

Shaunak Sen has landed in India but the win at the prestigious Cannes International Film Festival is yet to sink in. After winning the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year, his documentary, *All That Breathes*, has won the prestigious L'Oréal d'Or, the top prize for documentaries at Cannes.

The Delhi boy, who studied the craft at Jamia Millia Islamia and is presently doing his PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, says he feels honoured his film was screened alongside the masters whose works he admired and studied during his growing up years.

A creative non-fiction, the mood piece follows the lives of siblings Nadeem Shehzad and Mohammad Saud who rescue and treat black kites in the dilapidated basement of their house in Wazirabad, Delhi. Through them, the documentary looks at the environmental and social decay in the political capital of the country through man-animal relationships and their interdependence.

Keen to hold a screening in their neighbourhood in Wazirabad as soon as they catch a breath from all the international attention, Shaunak talks about the visual grammar of the film. Edited excerpts:

How did the film come about?

I was interested in the visceral, heavy, opaque, greyness of the air we experience in Delhi. I have a philosophical interest in the human-animal relationship, especially in birds. I was very interested in the figure of a grey, monotone heavy sky in which these birds float like tiny dots and the dreamy image of a bird falling off the sky.

When I started looking for people who have a deeper meaningful engagement with birds or the skies, I chanced upon the work of the brothers. The minute I met them in the remarkable basement, with industrial decay on one side and these regal-looking birds on the other, I immediately sensed it is an inherently cinematic place. The film became a kind of free-fall, afterwards. It was three years of the



piece, I decided to take out the best lines, compress them, and then those lines are spoken in the voice-over bits. Those are not directly interviewed recordings but things they have said and I stylistically plotted them.

Apart from the ecological concerns, the film also hints at the sociopolitical decay...

It is not a direct political film but purely an ecological film that deals with the relationship between man

Meaningful cinema Stills from *All That Breathes*; (inset) Shaunak Sen ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and bird and the internal emotional struggle between the brothers. The brothers themselves are not political in the conventional sense. I wanted to fully respect that.

When you are shooting for a long period, there would be some things that would start emerging from the background. You vaguely sense that there is some sense of turbulence in the city in a few scenes. I disagree with the characterisations that frame it as a very prominent thread. It needs to be sensed as the wallpaper of their lives.

Tell us about your love for the documentary form

Non-fiction is more hospitable and accommodating of personal interests and films that are made on a small scale. I got exposed to the documentary circuit and DocedgeKolkata [a forum for documentary filmmakers], and familiarised myself with different grammar and vocabularies. Once I made my first documentary, I decided to practise it more.

What's next?

I am a bit scared of the behemoth that is Bollywood. I have worked with the same set of people in Delhi who are like family. I watch a lot of fiction and my next is most likely to be a fiction film, though I am not clear yet what it would be about.



When they see us

rigorous long-winded shoot.

How did you arrive at the enchanting visual language and background narration?

We eschewed the usual style of using a telephoto lens to film a bird in the sky. With German cinematographer Benjamin Bernhard, we shot the simultaneous co-existence of the non-human life in the city. We developed a particular film gram-

mar where we shot long takes with slow languorous tilt downs and pans. The main thing was, we decided we won't cut.

The shots of rats in the beginning and turtles and the snail thereafter, essentially juxtapose some elements of the urban with the animal life in the city.

I had a diary full of things the brothers had told over two years. As it was obviously a kind of stylised

Majrooh, the evergreen lyricist

A group of writers pay tribute to the poet who wrote about love and challenges with equal conviction

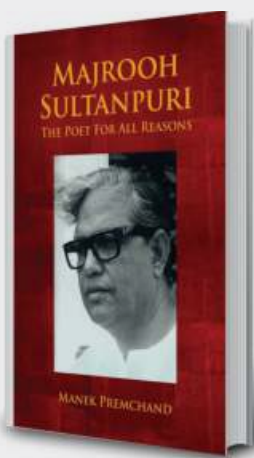
VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Majrooh Sultanpuri was a legend and the book's title describes him best: *Majrooh Sultanpuri. The Poet For All Seasons*. His longevity in the film industry is laudable.

The book, conceptualised by Manek Premchand and published by Blue Pencil, is a tribute to the famous songwriter by a group of writers. According to Deepa Buty, a critic and one of the contributors, "The secret of Majrooh Sultanpuri's success lies in the fact that he changed the style of lyrics according to the time. Imagine a poet and his career as a lyricist from 1946 to 2001; from KL Saigal to Shah Rukh Khan... He represented a poet's heart with 'Gham Diye Mustaqil', he started the conversational pattern of songs like 'Haal Kaisa Hai Janab Ka' and 'Aankhon Mein Kya Ji', to name a few."

Songwriters Shailendra, Kaifi Azmi, Sahir Ludhianvi and Shakeel Badayuni were some of his contemporaries who had an equally wide range. Majrooh was revered for his support of women. "He brought out the woes of a woman's condition in society with 'Hum Hain Mataa-e-koocha'. He also brought a fresh wave with lyrics like 'Aapke Kamre Mein Koi Rehta Hai' and he made the new generation sing songs like 'Yahan Ke Hum Sikander!'," says Deepa.

Majrooh was a master of penning songs which became the love story of a common man, and on the other, he told the tale of society. Majrooh also created magic on the screen with his romantic songs. His 'O Haseena Zulfon Wali' from *Teesri Manzil* is an



evergreen classic. 'Jaane Kahan Mera Jigar Gaya Ji' from *Mr & Mrs 55* shows Johnny Walker at his best.

Hunting and fishing were among his many hobbies. His son Andalib says that he had his favourites too but never wrote for Raj Kapoor. "Abba had a car; that was very rare for a music writer." He stood up for songwriters, demanding the same status as a composer.

He was the most sought after for films noted for their music. Examples: *Aar Paar*, *Nau Do Gyarah*, *Kaala Pani*, *Jhumroo*, *Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi*, *Dosti*, *Jewel Thief*, *Mere Jeevan Saathi*, *Pakeezah*, *Caravan*, *Dastak*, *Abhimaan*. He is also credited with one of the most motivating songs - 'Ruk Jana Nahee' from *Imtihaan*.

"They don't make lyricists like him anymore," says Deepa, adding "Not because there's no talent but there's no patience and attentiveness."



A slice of Delhi lost in time

Feroz Dehlavi discusses why he spent hours on painstaking research before writing *Hamare Zamane Ki Dilli*, which reminds readers of the rich literature and history of the city

ZIYA US SALAM

There is something undeniably wistful about Mohammed Feroz Dehlavi when he speaks. He may have penned *Hamare Zamane Ki Dilli* with a mix of nostalgia and longing, but today he is saddened at the decline of the city. He says he longs for the

days when he would go to Urdu Bazaar opposite Jama Masjid, and immerse himself in the world of letters in iconic book shops offering Urdu literature, including Saqib Book Depot, Nadwatul Muslemeen, Jamaat-e-Islami's outlet, Qutub Khana Hameedia, Central Book Depot, Anjuman Taraqqi Hindi's outlet and so many



others. "It pains me to go there today. There are only a few shops remaining now," he says, adding ruefully, "Today, there are chicken and mutton shops, biryani corners. I call it Murgh-o-Mahi Bazaar, not Urdu Bazaar."

He is pragmatic enough to understand that Urdu is "no longer the language of the economy" and "a language that fails to get you a job or earn a living finds few takers" He says, "There are shoe, music or paan shops in place of book shops. The iconic Qu-

tub Khana Rasheedia of 1930s no longer exists. Places where people used to read and discuss books, say at Sangam Kitab Ghar, Maktaba Burhan, Maktaba Shara or Azad Book Depot are all gone. Where does one discuss, debate or even read now? Like a generation has quietly slipped away."

Also, gone is the *Shama* magazine. He recalls old-timers buying the magazine for its *moamma*, and a pickle-seller in Chitli Qabar being smart enough to sell the puzzle only after making a photocopy for himself. Such was the popularity of the *moamma* that *Shama* went on to carve out its own niche as probably the first Urdu magazine on cinema. "The same fate has fallen neighbourhood libraries which used to lend books for two paise a day in Old Delhi. The *moamma* ended around 30 years ago. The libraries with books-on-hire facilities also shut shop around the same time."

Dehlavi's book covers a vast spectrum of the city's life

Past forgotten There is hardly a trace of Urdu Bazaar opposite Jama Masjid, mundane shops fill up the area now. (inset) Feroz Dehlavi ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

from 1857 to 1975. Even as he talks of social traditions and hangouts of Old Delhi, the land of endless soirees and *mehfils*, he remembers many historic moments in the city.

Feroz comes up with a nice slice of nostalgia. "When the 1911 Durbar took place and India's capital was being shifted from Calcutta to Delhi, the procession for Kingsway Camp started from the stairs of Jama Masjid. Tickets were sold here to be a part of the historic event. Abdul Rehman sahib has written about it in great detail."

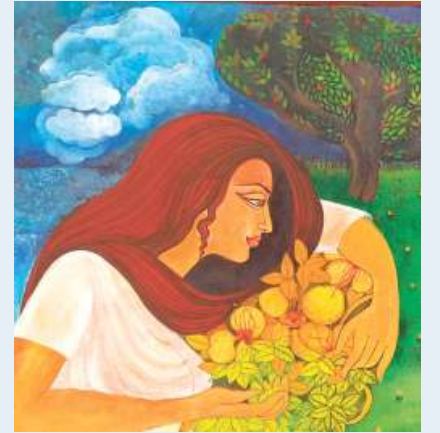
Replete with such anecdotes, the book is a result of painstaking research, hours spent in libraries, poring over books penned by those who loved Delhi. "I am a 12th-generation Dilliwallah. I am most attached to Dilli. Whatever I have heard from my elders, read or was told about the city, I decided to pen it down for the benefit of coming generations. Urdu is my language of speech and writing. So, I decided to do this book in Urdu," he says.

Stating that he did a lot of research for many years for the book, Feroz says he read many authors on the subject. He also went through books and documents at the Urdu Akademi, Urdu Ghar, the library at Zakir Husain college. (Incidentally, Feroz used to teach at Zakir Husain from 1983 to 2008. Interestingly, he was a student at the same college.) He concludes, "I finally concentrated on the period between 1857 and 1975. The idea was to preserve the social life of the city, the small traditions and culture for the next generation."



● **Baba Saheb: An Extraordinary Philatelic Journey**, is an exhibition of commemorative and definitive postage stamps, information brochures, first-day covers, postal calendars, inland letter cards, and other postal

material that celebrate BR Ambedkar's life from the first Dalit personality to be honoured with a commemorative postage stamp in 1966 to becoming a key philatelic icon in the country. Curated by Vikas Kumar, the exhibition is on at the Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre; 11 am to 7 pm; Till June 21



● **Mother Nature** is the theme of paintings mounted by 10 artists for a 10-day group show. Art works of Ashok Baldodia, Babu, Chandana Bhattacharya, Chandrawati Kumari, Jyoti Sateja, Maitreyee Nandi, Neelam Sachan, SS Kukkal, Sabia Khan and Vivek Singh are on display; At C-97, Sector-44, Noida; 10am to 6pm; Till June 16



● **Dastangoi Collective** has trained 50 members in the art of Urdu storytelling. Over the years the group has produced 15 modern dastans and performed 800

shows and is now celebrating its 17th anniversary with a three-day festival showcasing different performers and stories. The line-up includes *Dastan-e-Taqseem-e-Hind (Partition)* by Meera Rizvi and Wasi Zaidi; *Mantoijay* by Shadab Hussain and Meera Rizvi, *Dastan-e-Chouboli* by Shadab Hussain and Rajesh Kumar, *Dastan Hairat Jadu ki* by Nusrat Ansari and Ainee Farooqui, *Dastan-e-Gandhi* by Ainee Farooqui and Nusrat Ansari, *Dastan Mehtab Jadu ki* by Udit Yadav and Amina Syeda. The Dastangoi will be held from June 10 to 12; At The Theatre, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road; 7.45pm.

For events contact us on metroplusdelhi@thehindu.co.in

Kartikeya's sensational spell puts Madhya Pradesh in last four

Romps home by 10 wickets as the left-arm spinner returns his best First Class figures of 6/50 to douse Punjab's spirits

RANJI TROPHY

LALITH KALIDAS
BENGALURU

Madhya Pradesh (MP) cruised into its first Ranji Trophy semifinal since the 2016-17 season after it quashed Punjab by 10 wickets on the fourth day of their last-eight clash here at the Alur (3) ground on Thursday.

Left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya's sensational six-wicket haul (6/50) – his best First Class figures – doused Punjab's spirits despite overhauling a 58-run deficit from day three. Kartikeya, who bowled from the far end in the final session of the previous evening, began from the opposite end during a bright morning's play. He completed his five-wicket haul with the scalp of Sanvir Singh for a duck after Saransh Jain ended Siddharth Kaul's 52-ball 31

Bag of tricks

Kartikeya constricted the batters by unleashing his bag of tricks – a slew of flippers



Happy bunch: The MP players celebrate the dismissal of Siddharth Kaul after a third-umpire referral. ■ LALITH KALIDAS

and cross-seamers – while proactively swapping sides. He ended wicketkeeper-batter Anmol Malhotra's rear-guard effort by wafting a delivery on a fine spot in the good length outside the off-

stump. Malhotra fell for the trap and leaned forward to edge it straight to Rajat Patidar, who combined with Kartikeya in five of his seven wickets in the match, at first slip.

Punjab, however, denied MP an innings win by taking the lead through Mayank Markande (33 n.o.) who pushed his side past the opposition's 178-run buffer with some lusty blows.

Off-spinner Saransh Jain bore some damage to his figures but quickly wrapped up the innings by dismissing Varun Choudhary (2) and Baltej Singh (6) in succession.

Meanwhile, Punjab would rue its poor batting performance on a surface that was conducive for batters post day one. Poor application from a set of experienced bats in Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Mandeep Singh and Gurkeerat Singh Mann hurt Punjab dearly.

Punjab was bundled for 203 in 68.4 overs, leaving MP a 26-run target to effectively seal its semifinal spot.

A breeze

MP opens Yash Dubey and Himanshu Mantri proceeded to chase down the total in a breeze in 5.1 overs as coach Chandrakant Pandit ensured the side a last-four berth in his first Ranji season at the helm of the side. Pandit, known for his shrewd tactics, had earlier led Vidarbha to successive titles in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

None of its top-order batters crossed the half-century mark as they simply lacked the restraint and calmness of the opposition. In the end,

MP was a cut above in all departments as it deftly dismantled Punjab within 10 sessions.

The scores:

Punjab – 1st Innings: 219.

MP – 1st Innings: 397.

Punjab – 2nd Innings: Abhishek Sharma c Shrivastava b Kartikeya 17, Shubman Gill c Patidar b Kartikeya 19, Anmolpreet Singh c Dubey b Saransh 31, Mandeep Singh c Patidar b Kartikeya 17, Gurkeerat Mann c Patidar b Kartikeya 10, Anmol Malhotra c Patidar b Kartikeya 34, Siddharth Kaul st. Mantri b Saransh 31, Sanvir Singh hit wkt. Kartikeya 0, Mayank Markande (not out) 33, Vinay Choudhary c Patidar b Saransh 2, Baltej c Agarwal b Saransh 6; Extras (lb-2, nb-1) 3; Total (in 68.4 overs): 203.

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-39, 3-80, 4-96, 5-98, 6-148, 7-153, 8-166, 9-197.

MP bowling: Kartikeya 34-12-50-6, Datey 8-0-40-0, Gourav 2-0-10-0, Saransh 23.4-1-100-4, Anubhav 1-0-1-0.

MP – 2nd Innings: Himanshu Mantri (batting) 9, Yash Dubey (batting) 17; Total (for no loss in 5.1 overs): 26.

Punjab bowling: Abhishek 3-1-

QUARTERS, DAY 4

Bengal 773/7 decl. & 76/3 in 31 overs vs. Jharkhand 298 in 96 overs (Nazim Siddiqui 53, Virat Singh 113 n.o., Sayan Mondal 4/71, Shahbaz Ahmed 4/51).

Mumbai 647/8 decl. & 261/3 decl. in 58 overs (Prithvi Shaw 72, Yashasvi Jaiswal 103, Aditya Tare 57) bt Uttarakhand 114 & 69 in 27.5 overs.

Punjab 219 & 203 in 68.4 overs (Kumar Kartikeya 6/50, Saransh Jain 4/100) lost to Madhya Pradesh 397 & 26/0 in 5.1 overs.

All matches at Bengaluru.

Biggest victories by runs in First Class cricket

- 725 - Mumbai bt Uttarakhand, 2022
- 685 - New South Wales bt Queensland, 1929-30
- 552 - South Zone bt Central Zone, 2010-11
- 540 - Bengal bt Orissa, 1953-54

9-0, Vinay 1-0-8-0, Shubman 1-0-7-0, Anmol 0.1-0-2-0.

Thomas among three uncapped players in Windies Test squad

CRICKET

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ST. JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

Uncapped Devon Thomas, Gudakesh Motie and Anderson Phillip have been included in a 12-player West Indies squad for the first cricket Test against Bangladesh starting on June 16.

Wicketkeeper-batter Thomas has played 21 ODIs and four T20s for the West Indies. Left-arm spinner Motie has played one T20I and fast bowler Phillip is in the squad for the ODI series in Pakistan that began on Wednesday.

"Devon Thomas has been knocking on the door for quite some time," West Indies lead selector Desmond Haynes said.

Bangladesh's tour to the Caribbean will also include T20s in Dominica on July 2 and 3 and Guyana on July 7 and ODIs in Guyana on July 10, 13 and 16.

The West Indies squad: Kraigg Brathwaite (Capt.), Jermaine Blackwood, Nkrumah Bonner, John Campbell, Joshua Da Silva, Alzarri Joseph, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Anderson Phillip, Raymon Reifer, Jayden Seales and Devon Thomas.



Devon Thomas. ■ FILE PHOTO

ICC clears Hasnain's action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Pakistan's young pacer Mohammad Hasnain's bowling action has been cleared by the ICC, making him eligible to play at all levels of cricket.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Thursday that Hasnain's bowling action has been found to be legal as the amount of elbow extension in the reassessment was within the 15-degree level of tolerance permitted as per ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations.

"As such, he can now resume bowling in all forms of cricket, which includes domestic cricket worldwide," the board said.



Mohammad Hasnain... can resume bowling. ■ FILE PHOTO

Hasnain's bowling action was reported in February when he was playing in the Big Bash League in Australia,

and thereafter, he failed a bowling action review test conducted under ICC supervision.

Starc ruled out of third T20I against Lanka

ANI
COLOMBO

As Australia pacer Mitchell Starc has been ruled out of the third T20I against Sri Lanka due after he sustained an injury in his left index finger during the match here on Tuesday, Cricket Australia said on Thursday.

Richardson to replace

Jhye Richardson, who had previously replaced Starc in Australia's side for the second T20I and took three for 26 in the three-wicket win on Wednesday, has been named in Australia's

ODI squad as replacement.

Starc suffered a gash to his left index finger during the first T20I in Colombo and required six stitches. The left-arm pacer will remain with the squad and continue to train but he will need a minimum of seven days, and perhaps longer, for the injury to heal.

"(He) will continue to train with the squad in Sri Lanka and potentially return during the ODI Series. His recovery time is unspecified but anticipated to be a minimum of seven days," CA said in a statement.

IN BRIEF



Paul Casey withdraws from US Open

BROOKLINE (USA)
Paul Casey has withdrawn from the U.S. Open, the third straight Major he has missed this year because of a back injury. Casey last competed at the WGC-Match Play in March, playing two holes of his opening match when he conceded because of back spasms. AP



Moore suspended after testing positive for banned substance

LONDON
British tennis player Tara Moore has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for banned substances under the sport's anti-doping rules. The International Tennis Integrity Agency on Wednesday said the 29-year-old Moore tested positive for nandrolone metabolites and Boldenone during a WTA tournament in Colombia in April. AP

India ready for Belgium: Savita

Deep says the team has a lot of self-belief



Time to fly: The Indian women's team will hope to make the most of its Belgium sojourn.

■ TWITTER@THEHOCKEYINDIA

PRO LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BRUSSELS

Skipper Savita said India has what it takes to win on foreign soil as it faces host Belgium in a double-header of the FIH Women's Hockey Pro League during the weekend.

India is currently third with 22 points from eight games, just behind Argentina and the Netherlands. Belgium, on the other hand, is seventh with 12 points in eight matches.

"We are prepared for Belgium. We have a number of seasoned players in our

squad who know what it takes to win on foreign soil," Savita said in a release from Hockey India (HI).

India had stunned Olympic champion the Netherlands 2-1 in the first match of its double header but lost the second match 3-1 in a shoot-out in April.

Areas to improve

"We worked on our mistakes and are confident that we will not repeat them. We have talked about the areas where we need to improve and are confident we will succeed," she added.

Vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka said that the team has a

lot of self-belief and winning the next games will boost the confidence ahead of the World Cup.

"We have faith in ourselves, in our team, and most importantly, in each other. We are aware that we must maintain our performance as we prepare for the Women's World Cup," Deep said.

"We must maintain ball-possession, be active and apply pressure on the opposition. Our immediate goal is to win these games, as well as the next matches against Argentina and the USA in order to boost our morale ahead of the World Cup."

DELHI ROUND-UP

Big win for Golden Eagle

Punit's hundred and half-centuries by Raunak Wagela and Kush Wagela helped Golden Eagle beat Mishra Sports by 276 runs in the DDCA Under-16 League. In other games, a five-wicket haul by Sumit Sharma and 85 runs by Tanya Kaushik saw Anand Sports beat Alpine Club by seven wickets and Krishna's 45 not out helped Young Friends Club beat Delhi Colts by eight wickets.

The scores: Golden Eagle 347 in 48 overs (Punit 112, Kush Wagela 98, Raunak Wagela 62, Dev Parashar 3/53) bt

Mishra Sports 71 in 26 overs.

Alpine Club 189 in 38 overs (Mohd. Shahid 35, Sumit Sharma 5/21) lost to Anand Sports 192/3 in 38 overs (Tanya Kaushik 85).

Delhi Colts 94 in 30 overs lost to YFC 97/2 in 30 overs (Krishna 45 n.o.).

Rishik, Kaif score centuries
Centuries by Rishik Baisla and Mohd. Kaif helped Lala Ramcharan Aggarwal Club defeat SB Youth Club by 195 runs in the DDCA Under-19 League.

PGA Tour suspends LIV Golf rebels

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

The PGA Tour on Thursday suspended Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson and 15 others participating in the inaugural LIV Golf event that began on Thursday.

A two-page memo issued by PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan said the suspended players are no longer eligible to compete

in all PGA Tour events, the Presidents Cup and all tours sanctioned by the PGA Tour.

The decision by the PGA Tour triggered a quick and scathing response from LIV Golf. "Today's announcement by the PGA Tour is vindictive and it deepens the divide between the Tour and its members," LIV Golf said in a statement.

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