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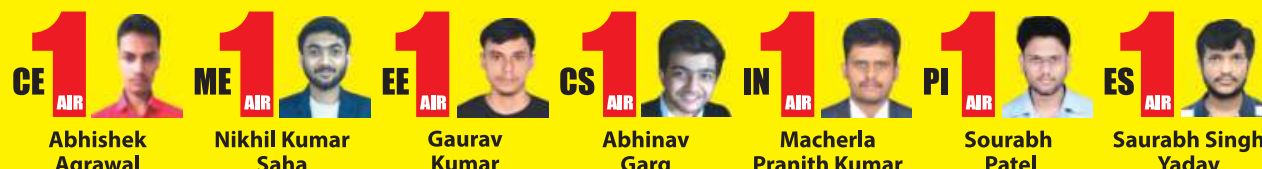


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Arrest or jail, Rahul Gandhi is not scared, says K.C. Venugopal
 page 11



Five High Courts in country to get new Chief Justices
 page 12



Sri Lankan troops open fire to contain fuel riots at a station
 page 13

India, South Africa share honours after rain mars fifth T20I
 page 15



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IN BRIEF



JNU professor attacked in road rage case

NEW DELHI
 A JNU professor was abducted, assaulted and threatened by unknown persons after getting into an argument with them in a road rage incident in west Delhi, Delhi Police said on Sunday.
CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Over 70% voter turnout in Haryana civic elections

GURUGRAM
 Over 70% voters exercised their franchise in elections to 888 wards of 46 municipal bodies across Haryana on Sunday. The Bawal municipal committee recorded the highest turnout at 84.6%.
STATES ▶ PAGE 3

Army teams lead flood rescue in Assam

GUWAHATI
 Defence spokesperson Lt. Col. Angom Bobin Singh said 14 composite Army columns rescued 4,500 stranded persons in Assam on Sunday. Floods and landslips killed nine people in the State.
NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

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EDUCATION PLUS ▶ PAGE 5

Services rule out rollback of Agnipath, reveal hiring plan

Aspirants should not have been part of protests

DINAKAR PERI
 NEW DELHI

Terming Agnipath the “only progressive step” to make the Army younger, a senior military officer on Sunday ruled out any rollback of the scheme, and said those applying for it should give an undertaking that they did not take part in protests that broke out after its announcement.

The three Services announced the recruitment schedule for the first batch of Agniveers with training set to commence by 2022-end.

“There is no space for indiscipline in the armed forces. No space for arson and vandalism. Every individual who aspires to join Agnipath has to give an undertaking and pledge that they have not taken part in any protest or arson... There will be police verification after that. No one can come into the armed forces without police verification,” Lieutenant-General Anil Puri, Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs, said at a tri-service press conference after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met the three Service chiefs for the second



Pressing ahead: Lt. General Anil Puri, Additional Secretary, Military Affairs Department, at a press meet in New Delhi. • PTI

consecutive day.

Lt. Gen. Puri said efforts to bring down the average age of the armed forces started three decades ago. The Kargil review committee had reiterated the need for a reduction in age, but it did not come about, he added.

With Agnipath, he said, the average age will come down from 32 to 26 in line with the age profile of major Armies worldwide.

Stressing that future wars will be technology driven and hence a younger profile is required, Mr. Puri said there had been no opportunity in the past 30 years to undertake this transformative reform.

Noting that recruitment was not held for two years due to the pandemic, he said “God and nature” gave this opportunity to build a young

Army. The forces had been waiting since 1984 to reduce the age profile, he said.

On Agniveers, he said their allowances would be the same as what regular soldiers drew. There would be no discrimination.

IAF schedule

Air Marshal S.K. Jha, Air Officer in-charge, Personnel, said the notification and registration process for enrolment of the first batch would go live online from June 24 through the online system of the Indian Air Force.

“From July 24, an online examination will start and by end December, we will enrol the first batch and December 30, the training will commence,” he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Call for Bharat bandh today

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla chaired a meeting of DGPs and Chief Secretaries on Sunday to take stock of the violence against the Agnipath scheme and the Bharat bandh call for Monday. It was not clear which organisation had announced the protest but the police in several areas imposed ban orders under Section 144 of the CrPC.

REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 11

Distinct rank for Agniveers

Agniveers recruited under the Agnipath scheme will form a distinct rank different from any other existing rank and also sport distinctive insignia on the uniform, according to the terms and conditions of the scheme. Personnel enrolled will be required to undergo periodic medical check-ups and physical and written tests.

REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 10

India gives emergency visas for 111 Afghan Hindus, Sikhs

Clearance comes after terror attack on Kabul gurdwara

VIJAITA SINGH
 NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry granted emergency visas to 111 Hindus and Sikhs from Afghanistan, hours after Saturday's terror attack at a gurdwara in Kabul. All had applied for visas in September 2021, but the applications were cleared only after the Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP), a terrorist group, attacked the gurdwara on Saturday killing two persons including a Sikh *granthi*, a member representing the community said.

Only 159 minorities remain in Afghanistan after the Taliban took control in August 2021, including three members who do not have any passport.

The community had been petitioning the government to clear the visas after the ISKP issued threats two weeks ago in retaliation for the controversial statement made against the Prophet by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

According to Puneet Singh Chandhoke, president of the India World Forum, who has been coordinating with the Indian government to evacuate Sikhs from Afghanistan, the applicants had applied for visas as early as September 12, 2021 but it was being blocked for security



Target of attack: Taliban fighters at the site of an explosion in front of a gurdwara in Kabul on Saturday. • AP

clearance. “Though the visas had been pending for months, it was cleared within hours of the attack at the gurdwara on Saturday. The person who died [Satwinder Singh] was also among those who intended to travel to India,” Mr. Chandhoke said.

Vikramjit Sahnay, Rajya Sabha member and international president World Punjabi Organisation, said discussions were on with the External Affairs Ministry for evacuating the members on a special flight and “we are hopeful of the solution very soon”. Mr. Sahnay said, “The Taliban government is doing their best to restore the situation, but the gurdwara has been damaged by more than 85%, so it is likely

that some Afghan Sikhs will stay back to get gurdwara repaired, and they will come later to India.”

He said in continuation of the “My family, my responsibility” programme, the Afghan Sikhs will be rehabilitated by providing them free accommodation, household expenses, medical insurance and skilling for children.

Mr. Chandhoke said Taliban authorities visited the gurdwara on Sunday and gave 1,50,000 Afghani rupees for repairs and 1,00,000 rupees for the kin of each of the deceased.

PLAN TO REOPEN EMBASSY MAY BE DELAYED ▶ PAGE 10
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10



Mirroring reality: The water tank close to the panchayat office in the show is now a key poll plank. • A.M. FARUQUI

Mahodiya, Phulera: real and reel blur in ballot battle

Themes of popular TV series *Panchayat* play out in the local body elections

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
 SEHORE

With the polling day for the panchayat elections less than a week away, campaigning in Mahodiya village of Madhya Pradesh's Sehore is in full swing. The village serves as the location for *Panchayat*, a popular web series on Amazon Prime that captures aspects of rural politics through the eyes of its city-bred protagonist, the panchayat secretary.

A visit to the village suggests that many electoral issues for the June 25 polls resonate with the broad theme of the show, where it assumes the fictional identity of Phulera in Uttar Pradesh. There are also parallels between specific plot points in the script and the situation on the ground.

The water tank close to the panchayat office, for instance, that the makers of the show cite as a pivotal factor in zeroing in on Mahodiya, is now a key poll plank. Villagers say that it was built close to a decade ago and they are yet to receive water from it.

Much like the web series, the culture of Pradhan-Pati—a system where the men of

the family run the show on behalf of the elected representative—thrives here.

Due to the Other Backward Class (OBC) reservation rule, the village will now elect an OBC woman as sarpanch. That rules out Lal Singh, husband of the outgoing Sarpanch Rajkumari Sisodia, or his wife, as they are from a general category caste. Mr. Singh has fielded Reena Bai, whose campaign pamphlet now carries her picture, along with those of her husband and Mr. Singh, his picture being bigger than the actual candidate.

Apart from water, the other major issue is upgrading the middle school of the village to a high school.

Residents claim that as shown in *Panchayat*, local self-governance issues are often settled via outdoor public debates. The day *The Hindu* visited the village, one such episode played out with a man called Brijesh engaging in a heated argument with the panchayat secretary, Harish Joshi.

While Abhishek Tripathi, the reel-life panchayat secretary, is gradually easing into his rural life, in real-life, Mr. Joshi has been there for over seven years and is quite content. His advice to himself and the TV character: “In Indian villages, how well you manage people keeping in mind the unique dynamics of each village, is what ultimately matters.”

India has really helped us during this crisis, says Ranil

Sri Lankan PM sounds upbeat in possibly his toughest task

MEERA SRINIVASAN
 COLOMBO

India has “really helped” Sri Lanka in its efforts to cope with the economic crash, the nation's Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, said, however, observing that aid coming in from different sources has put it “in the middle of geopolitics”.

Over a month after his unexpected appointment, Mr. Wickremesinghe spoke to *The Hindu* in his Colombo office on Saturday. The six-

time premier sounded upbeat in possibly the toughest assignment of his career. “It's hectic, this is a new experience. I am working eight days a week,” he laughed.

Outlining his plans for economic recovery, the 73-year-old Prime Minister said the government hopes to firm up the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund by June-end. “Then we have to wait for the debt restructuring plan. That will give us a clear indi-

cation of what we have to do. By July, I also hope to bring in the interim Budget,” Mr. Wickremesinghe said.

Speaking of a “donor conference”, the Prime Minister said: “We have got to ensure that India, China, Japan all are singing the same tune.”

Sri Lanka is “in the middle of geopolitics”, he said, referring to the assistance from China and Quad members India and Japan.

INTERVIEW ▶ PAGE 13

Telcos seek clear norms for private networks

COAI calls for level playing field

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
 NEW DELHI

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has urged the government to ensure that new captive private networks, which the Union Cabinet recently approved, are made to conform to the same licence fee and GST payment requirements as the existing telecom providers do and enforce necessary technical and regulatory safeguards to ensure that such networks remain “truly private

and isolated”.

Expressing disappointment with the government's decision and seeking a level playing field, the COAI, which counts the three private telcos Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea as its members, has written to Telecom Secretary K. Rajaraman questioning the justification for allocating spectrum to “industry verticals” for operating private captive networks.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Bird-hit sets SpiceJet plane engine ablaze

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

A Delhi flight of SpiceJet with 191 people on board returned to the Patna airport soon after take-off on Sunday morning as one of its engines caught fire after a bird-hit. The aircraft landed safely and no injuries were reported. Visuals on social media showed smoke billowing from near one of the wings which store fuel, below which the engines are located. An inspection revealed three damaged fan blades.

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JNU professor attacked in road rage case

Was abducted, robbed as goons 'didn't like JNU', he says on Facebook; teams deployed to nab accused

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Jawaharlal Nehru University professor was abducted, assaulted and threatened by unknown persons after getting into an argument with them in a road rage incident in west Delhi's Naraina, the Delhi police said on Sunday.

Sharad Baviskar, an assistant professor at the university, was on his way to the JNU campus when he had a traffic altercation with a few persons, following which the latter allegedly abducted him. Prof. Baviskar had suggested that the dispute be taken to a police station. The incident took place on the intervening night of June 17 and 18, officers said.

A complaint has been lodged at the Naraina police station. DCP (West) Ghan-

shyam Bansal said based on the complaint, a case under IPC sections pertaining to punishment for voluntarily causing hurt, wrongful confinement and robbery, among other sections, has been lodged. "Teams have been deployed to find clues and track alleged persons as early as possible," Mr. Bansal added.

JNUTA's statement

In an official statement, Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) said that Prof. Baviskar was "confined and taken to a residence in Delhi" where he was held captive for "more than three hours".

"As he tried to reason with his abductors to free him, he was subjected to verbal abuse, physical assault,



JNU professor Sharad Baviskar. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The JNUTA expects that the Delhi police will leave no stone unturned in its efforts to apprehend the culprits and in guaranteeing the safety of Prof. Baviskar and his family

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

threats and financial extortion," the statement added.

The JNUTA statement said: "Throughout this extremely traumatic ordeal, Prof. Baviskar displayed exemplary courage and dignity that is inspiring for the JNU community, which stands unitedly in support of Prof. Baviskar's complaint."

It went on to state, "The JNUTA expects that the Delhi police will leave no stone unturned in its efforts to apprehend the culprits at the earliest and in guaranteeing the safety and security of Prof. Baviskar and his family."

In a Facebook post, Prof. Baviskar wrote how he was allegedly abducted and

robbed of his wallet on his way to JNU as "the goons didn't like JNU".

He wrote: "I survived! Was kidnapped on my way back to JNU. Suffered a trauma! had to hand over my car, my purse... My credit car is stolen! My fault was that the goons didn't like JNU. They all claimed to be Modi supporters! They called me anti-national! Somehow managed to reach JNU after the ordeal! I have no faith in the system..."

Previous road rage case
Road rage cases are not new in the city. In a recent incident that occurred on June 6, a 22-year-old college student riding a bike was "deliberately hit" by an SUV after the former asked the SUV's driver to slow down.

'Govt. not bound to give financial aid once orphan leaves care home'

HC rejects plea of youth who sought relief for higher studies

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ruled that the government is not bound to monetarily support orphans after they exit the After Care Home (ACH) on attaining the age of 23.

Justice Yashwant Varma noted that the harsh reality of all such government programmes being subject to budgetary constraints has to be kept in mind while granting such reliefs to orphans who come out of care home.

The High Court's observation came while denying the plea of one Deepak, who grew up in various orphanages run by the Department of Women and Child Development since 2002, seeking the court's directions to the go-

vernment to extend financial assistance towards completion of his technical education.

Mr. Deepak and his two siblings have been part of the protective system set-up under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016.

The rules provide for the stay of a person in an ACH to a maximum of two years after completing the age of 21 years.

Mr. Deepak attained the age of 21 years while staying at the ACH on August 4, 2017. However, taking into consideration his zeal to pursue further studies, the depart-

ment extended his stay in the ACH till he attained the age of 23 years, i.e. till August 4, 2019.

Funds for studies
During this period, he had enrolled in a BA programme in November 2017. The expenses were borne by the department. Mr. Deepak, while pursuing that course, decided to also pursue a course in hotel management.

He said that the department had agreed to cover his entire professional course in a letter dated June 18, 2019. However, by the time he was admitted to the hotel management course in 2019, he had crossed the maximum permissible stay at the ACH.

L-G gives nod to probe irregularities in PWD tenders

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena has permitted the Anti Corruption Branch (ACB) to probe the allegations of irregularities in awarding tenders for the construction of seven temporary hospitals here in 2021 by the Delhi Public Works Department.

The ACB had sought permission to proceed with its investigation under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The Delhi BJP, in a press conference held in October 2021, had alleged corruption in the award of contracts for setting up the seven temporary hospitals in Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, Shalimar Bagh, Kirari, GTB Hospital Complex, Sul-tanpuri, Raghuraj Nagar and Sarita Vihar at a cost of ₹1,256 crore.

According to sources at Raj Niwas, disciplinary proceedings have also been initiated against the Delhi Development Authority engineers, after the L-G found that the flats constructed for the economically weaker sections at Kalkaji extension was not up to the standard and incomplete.

Leading the way



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspects the newly inaugurated Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor in Delhi on Sunday. The facility, comprising a 1.3-km-long tunnel and five underpasses and built over four years after missing five deadlines, will give motorists relief from traffic snarls in and around ITO. •PTI

Doctors told to pay ₹5 lakh for negligence

They had left a sponge in woman's abdomen after operation; NCDRC awards compensation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has ordered two doctors to collectively pay ₹5 lakh as compensation to a woman, who faced post-operative complications after a sponge was left inside her abdomen. The doctors had performed a caesarian delivery on the woman at a local hospital in Delhi.

"No amount of money can turn back the time and reverse the harm already done, but receiving compensation for unnecessary surgery or surgical errors can at least help the patient to overcome some of the challenges that lie ahead," the Commission said in its June 3 order.

The order came on a plea by Sweta Khandelwal who stated that on September 13, 2012, Dr.

No amount of money can turn back the time and reverse the harm already done

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES
REDRESSAL COMMISSION

A.K. Jain and Dr. Usha Jain performed a caesarian delivery on her at Rishabh Medical Centre, Delhi.

Ms. Khandelwal was discharged on September 18, 2012. Even after her stitches were removed, she did not feel well. Ms. Khandelwal visited the doctors again and was told that she suffered from indigestion.

Abdominal pain
On September 23, 2012, she developed unbearable abdominal pain. On the next day, she was admitted to St. Stephen's Hospital, Delhi, where she was oper-

ated upon. During the operation, the doctors found an infected sponge and 1.5 litre of pus in her abdomen.

After Ms. Khandelwal was discharged on October 11, 2012, she filed a complaint before the District Consumer Forum.

The doctors argued that Ms. Khandelwal had not told them about a caesarian operation she had undergone five years earlier.

They contended that it was possible that the sponge had remained there ever since.

The two doctors also claimed that during the caesarian operation performed by them, they did not touch the back of her uterus, i.e. the portion from where the sponge was removed.

The consumer forum had on April 30, 2014, awarded compensation of ₹10 lakh to Ms.

Khandelwal. The order of the consumer forum was quashed on March 1, 2016, after it was challenged by the two doctors before the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

Following this, Ms. Khandelwal moved the National Consumer Commission against the March 2016 verdict.

Here, the NCDRC expressed surprise at how Dr. Usha Jain, an experienced gynaecologist, while examining Ms. Khandelwal, had failed to see the operative scar of the previous caesarian operation.

It relied on the medical record of St. Stephen's Hospital that had attributed medical negligence to the two doctors.

The NCDRC observed that the ₹10 lakh relief awarded by the District Forum was "on the higher side" and reduced the total compensation to ₹5 lakh.

Man kills partner; surrenders

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing his live-in partner in Outer Delhi's Bhalswa, officers said on Sunday.

The accused, Vijay Ram, surrendered before the police on Saturday. He told the police that he had assaulted his partner, Santoshi Devi, during a scuffle and ended up killing her on Friday night. The police then rushed to Ram's house and found the woman's body in the bathroom.

The police said Ram and his partner had been living together for around four years and had a two-year-old daughter and eight other children from each of their first marriages.

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E-Tender Enquiry No: 23/MM-I/BMC-334(XII)/O&M/GHTP/2022 dated: 17-06-2022

Office of Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Mtc. Circle-I, G.H.T.P. Lehra-Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda (Punjab)-151111, Email- se-mmct1-lehra@pspcil.in, contact No. 96461-17606, Fax No.0164-2756255 invites E-Tender for Supply and application of Thermal insulating material on Boiler, Turbine side piping, valves, HP/LP Piping and Mechanical Auxiliaries of 2x210 and 2x250MW, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat. For detailed NIT & tender Specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 17-06-2022 from 05.00 PM onwards.

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

GHTP 29/22 RO no - 76155/12/28/2022/15047

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT (PHE) MECHANICAL RURAL
DIVISION BALGARDEN SRINAGAR
TELE: 0194-2473956, E-Mail: xenphemrd@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
GIST of e-NIT No. PHE/MDR/TS 28 OF 06/2022 Dated: -17-06-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Balgarden Srinagar, invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures/Consortiums between bidder/firm and Financor/all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government or GST Registration for Elect/Mech. Works for "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electro-Mechanical equipment and Construction of Pump House/Panel room/Operator room etc. of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Balgarden Srinagar". The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (Days)
1	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electro-Mechanical Component and Construction of Pump House/Panel room/Operator room etc	Work/scheme wise details given in FORM I of tender document	5000/- for all advertise	02% of the estimated cost	120 days	As per FORM I

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) (DAP)
The tender inviting authority Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division, Balgarden, Srinagar.
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM) Budgam.

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	17-06-2022 (5.00PM)
ii <td>Document Download/sale start Date</td> <td>17-06-2022 (5.00PM)</td>	Document Download/sale start Date	17-06-2022 (5.00PM)
iii <td>Date of Pre-bid meeting</td> <td>27-06-2022 (11.30AM)</td>	Date of Pre-bid meeting	27-06-2022 (11.30AM)
iv <td>Bid submission start date</td> <td>17-06-2022 (5.00PM)</td>	Bid submission start date	17-06-2022 (5.00PM)
v <td>Document Download/sale end Date</td> <td>07-07-2022 (5.00PM)</td>	Document Download/sale end Date	07-07-2022 (5.00PM)
vi <td>Bid submission end date</td> <td>07-07-2022 (5.00PM)</td>	Bid submission end date	07-07-2022 (5.00PM)
vii <td>Date and time of Bid opening</td> <td>09-07-2022 (02.00PM)</td>	Date and time of Bid opening	09-07-2022 (02.00PM)

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
2. The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Kashmir, Srinagar.
3. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
4. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Kashmir, Srinagar.
5. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
a. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti PHE Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/ FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bid.
b. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
6. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
7. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
9. Queries by email if any, should be made at xenphemrd@gmail.com.

FORM I
SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS OF DISTRICT BUDDGAM

S. No	Name of Water Supply Scheme	Description of work	Jal Shakti (PHE) Division	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Time of Completion (Days)
1	Wagar	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	53.92	90 Days
2	Pethmakhama Hanjibugh	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	87.39	
3	Dreygam	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	69.54	
4	Nengarpora Roshanabad	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	55.45	
5	Gowlar Gorpura	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	61.70	
6	Mazhama	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	133.97	
7	Gojra	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	61.20	
8	Arathchurpora	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	295.27	
9	Juhama New	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	47.90	
10	Mamath Nagradkah	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	56.76	
11	Rangreth Wavoosa	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	216.12	
12	Pohroo	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	110.53	
13	Kargari Mohalla (Pandit Colony)	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	285.57	
14	Sheikhpora New Well	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	18.53	
15	New Ganie Mohallah	SITC of Electro Mechanical Equipments & Civil Works	Budgam	27.84	

No: PHE/MDR/974-86
Date: 17-06-2022
DIPK-4254/22

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech.
Rural Division, Srinagar.

Missing from college life – the DU experience

With two years of disruption by COVID-19, the graduating class of 2022 leaves with few memories of the campus

S.V. VAISHNAVI
NEW DELHI

They came, they saw, they graduated. That's the story of Delhi University's batch of 2022 in short, and perhaps in the longer version as well. Between July 2019, when the undergraduate students joined the colleges, and May 2022, when they wrote their final-year papers, there weren't enough campus days for them to add the rich "DU experience" to their story.

A deadly virus disrupted the joys of teaching and learning during the last two years and among the worst sufferers of the COVID-19 pandemic were the students who got to attend physical classes for barely six months before the universities shut down again.

"We attended the freshers'

party and now the farewell. The in-between happening months of life in DU, making friends, organising and attending cultural fests, interacting with professors and classmates, everything went missing," rued Deepika, an English (Hons.) student at Hansraj College. The pre-COVID six months experience is all that she treasures now of her college life.

Unfulfilled dreams
Like her, there are many who dream of studying in DU, being a part of the bustling beauty of the campus and enjoying the kerfuffle over events. "But all of it remains unfulfilled now," Deepika added. "The new normal was difficult to adjust to; initially I was glad about the



The soon-to-be graduates say they barely experienced campus life • FILE PHOTO

mini-vacation, attending classes from the comfort of my bed and avoiding the Delhi heat," said Isha, a political science (Hons.) student at Sri Aurobindo College. "But when it prolonged to two dreadful years of mundaneness, it became a struggle to cope with," she said.

Sejal, a B.Com student from Jesus and Mary College,

was part of the college education programme (JMCEP) that entails teaching underprivileged children residing near the university. "Many children did not have smartphones to connect online. Some of their phones had WhatsApp facility and we used that to teach the children and keep in touch with their parents," she said.

Isha, head of a drama society, Moksh, said, the pandemic put a stop to their rehearsals and stage shows. "But we quickly adapted and trained ourselves and other new members to doing things online, such as recording monologues and solo acting in front of the camera, to sustain the essence of theatre," she said.

Post-pandemic reopening of colleges this year enabled

the batch of 2022 to create a buzz in the final semester. "Though there were many COVID-19 protocols to be followed, we were glad to be back to experience classroom teaching and campus life in DU," said Isha.

The KK concert
Isha recalled a concert by the singer KK (who recently passed away) at the Hindu College fest on March 25. "It was a houseful show and I was one among many who scaled the wall to enter the arena. Would I get another chance to make this kind of memory?" she said.

There is an underlying sense of incompleteness. "If I could, I would love to go back and pursue the degree all over again. And this time on campus," a student said.

Timings DELHI

MONDAY, JUN. 20	RISE 05:24	SET 19:22
TUESDAY, JUN. 21	RISE 05:25	SET 19:22
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 22	RISE 05:25	SET 19:23

Delhi Weather

Delhi City	max 31	min 24
Safdarjang	31	24
Palam	30	25

Delhi Palam Today
34°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Spell of rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be very warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be comfortable.

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Haryana municipal elections record over 70% voter turnout

Polling peaceful, says State Election Commissioner; counting on June 22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

More than 70% voters exercised their franchise in the elections to 888 wards of 46 municipal bodies – 28 committees and 18 councils – across Haryana on Sunday. The counting of votes will take place on June 22.

The Bawal municipal committee in Rewari recorded the highest voter turnout at 84.6%, while Bahadurgarh municipal council in Jhajjar district saw the lowest turnout at 59%. More than 18 lakh voters were eligible to vote in the elections.

Around 10,000 polling personnel including Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and other staff were deployed for the elections.

Dhanpat Singh, State Election Commissioner, told *The Hindu* that the elections



Women voters queue up outside a polling booth during the Haryana municipal polls at Sohna in Gurugram on Sunday. ■PTI

to the municipal bodies remained peaceful and there were no reports of disruptions due to the ongoing protests against the Agni-path scheme. Mr. Singh said the election timings were extended by an hour till 6 p.m. in view of the prevailing heat wave conditions, but the weather remained pleasant.

The election for the seats of presidents to the municipal bodies were also held di-

rectly for the first time with the voters casting their votes for the ward member as well as the president.

Earlier these seats were filled up from among the elected members of the municipal bodies.

With the Congress opting out of the election, the Aam Aadmi Party, contesting the municipal elections in the State for the first time, is in direct contest with the ru-

ling Bharatiya Janata Party-Jannayak Janta Party coalition in a majority of the municipal bodies. Not able to register a single electoral victory in the State despite having earlier contested the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in Haryana, AAP, riding on the wave of a recent victory in Assembly elections in neighbouring Punjab, hopes to open its account in the State in these polls.

Pact reached
Soon after announcement of the polls, the State unit of the BJP had unilaterally decided to contest the elections on its own leaving the JJP, the junior partner in the government, in the lurch. However, the two parties eventually joined hands to forge an alliance following intervention by BJP's central leadership.

Assam Chief Minister arrives in Tripura to campaign for bypolls

Inclement weather affects campaigning in the State

SYED SAJJAD ALI AGARTALA

Bad weather conditions has severely affected campaigning for the Tripura Assembly by-elections. Incessant rain and flood situation has resulted in cancellation of several rallies and events of political parties.

While some star campaigners cancelled their tours, leaders like Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Gaurav Gogoi, Locket Chatterjee, Sugata Roy and West Bengal Minister Manas Bhuiyan have arrived to campaign for their respective party candidates.

By-elections for Town Bardowali and Agartala in west Tripura, Surma in Dhulai and Jubarajagar in north Tripura districts will be held on June 23. Results will be declared on June 26.

The Assam Chief Minister, who is the Chairman of the



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma with BJP leaders in Agartala on Sunday. ■PTI

Northeast Democratic Alliance (NEDA), a platform of the BJP and the regional ruling parties, arrived at Agartala on Sunday.

State BJP leaders, including Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Sushanta Chowdhury, and a large gathering of party workers received him at the airport.

Former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb later met him at the State Guest House. "Himanta da

is here for by-election campaigning, which reminds me of our campaigning days of the 2018 Assembly elections. Looking forward to working together", Mr. Deb wrote in his social media page.

The Assam Chief Minister later joined a roadshow in support of his Tripura counterpart Manik Saha who is contesting from Town Bardowali constituency.

Mr. Sarma is likely to take part in another roadshow in support of Ashok Sinha, BJP candidate for 6-Agartala constituency. He is pitted against Congress stalwart and former Health Minister Sudip Roy Barman.

While BJP went on with its roadshow, Trinamool Congress cancelled its roadshow citing rains. Party leaders Sugata Roy, Manas Bhuiyan and actor-turned-politician Sayantika Banerjee were to take part in it.

Mann opposes any move to convert Panjab University into Central varsity

Chief Minister writes to Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday sought the intervention of Union Ministers Amit Shah and Dharmendra Pradhan to prevent "any change in

the nature and character of Panjab University" here.

The State government's move comes nearly a month after the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the Centre to explore possibilities of converting Panjab University into a Central university.

"The State government vehemently opposes any

such move of the Government of India to examine the feasibility of converting Panjab University into a Central university," wrote the Chief Minister in a letter to Union Home Minister Shah and Union Education Minister Pradhan, as per an official statement issued here on Sunday.

Mr. Mann informed both

the leaders that the State government will not like any change in the nature and character of the university as it has an emotional place in the hearts of the people of Punjab on account of historical, cultural and provincial reasons. The High Court last month directed the Centre to examine the possibility of conversion of Panjab Un-

iversity into a Central university.

"Let the decision taken by the Central government, at least in principle, be placed before the court on the next date of hearing," the High Court had said on a plea by a former Panjab University teacher, and fixed August 30 as the next date of hearing in the case.

Mr. Mann bemoaned that for the past some time, "forces with certain vested interests have been trying to push the matter for change of status of Panjab University into a Central university".

Recently, many student bodies had held a protest in Chandigarh against any move to give Central status to Panjab University.

Manipur remains cut off

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM IMPHAL

Manipur remains partially cut off from the mainland as the 222-km Imphal-Jiribam National Highway 37, the State's lifeline, remains impassable due to multiple landslips, following torrential rains for several days.

Though the second lifeline NH 2 (Imphal-Dimapur)

is also facing landslips and mudslides trucks, buses and private cars are managing to ply. These vehicles are stranded for several hours under the heavy rain lashing the hilly roads while the construction workers are trying to clear the roads. Reports say that several inter village roads connecting the mountain villages are breached.

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Mamata may skip meet on President poll
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is unlikely to participate in the Opposition meeting convened by NCP chief Sharad Pawar on June 21 on the upcoming Presidential poll due to prior engagements, a TMC functionary said on Sunday.
A senior TMC leader will be present at the proposed meeting, he said.
"Mamata Banerjee will not be able to attend the meeting as she has some prior engagements. She has also conveyed it to Sharad Pawar ji. But a leader from our party will be present there," a senior TMC functionary said.
During the first such meeting called by Ms. Banerjee in Delhi on June 15, it was decided that a common candidate who will "uphold the democratic ethos of the country" will be chosen as the Opposition nominee.
As many as 17 parties, including Congress, Shiv Sena, SP, NCP, DMK, RJD and the Left parties, attended the two-hour-long meeting.

Bal Thackeray is the 'Father of Hindutva', says Shiv Sena

On party's 56th Foundation Day, Uddhav lambast Centre's 'Agnipath' scheme

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE PUNE
Throwing down the 'Hindutva' gauntlet to the BJP, the Shiv Sena, on its 56th Foundation Day on Sunday, asserted that its late founder Bal Thackeray was the 'Father of Hindutva'.
Party president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray also censured the Centre's contentious 'Agnipath' scheme as a "mirage".
Addressing Sena leaders and party workers in Mumbai, Mr. Thackeray, in a pointed remark at the BJP, said it was futile taking Lord Ram's name if there were no employment opportunities for the youth.



In the driver's seat: Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray leaving after meeting Shiv Sena MLAs in Mumbai. • PTI

"Today is 'Father's Day' and for us, as for all those Hindus in spirit, Bal Thackeray was the 'Father of Hindutva'," he said.
Mr. Raut added that a month ago, the BJP had spoken of Maharashtra going the way of Sri Lanka.
"Instead, today, the youth and the unemployed are out on the streets protesting against the Centre's 'Agnipath' scheme. A State cannot be run only on deceit and treachery. We are not scared of the BJP's misuse of Central agencies. The controls of the Maharashtra's government are and will remain with the Sena and Uddhav Thackeray for a long time," he said.

ing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inaugurating temples and giving grants to religious establishments while the youth raged against lack of employment opportunities.
Saying that one ought to only make promises that one can fulfil, the Sena chief said his party never made hollow promises.
"Promises were made [by the BJP-ruled Centre] that they would give two crore jobs. But nothing has been given. And now, they suddenly come up with a scheme with grandiose names like 'Agnipath' and 'Agniveer'," he said.
"Govt. on contract" Saying it was "dangerous" that the soldiers would be hired on a contractual basis, he added if this was the way of the future, then henceforth even the governments could be formed on a con-

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Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Mathew Philip S/o. Late Sh. O.P. Philip is the Title Holder in possession of 'DDA Freshly MIG Flat No. 295/5 Ground Floor, Pocket-II, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, New Delhi-91', hereinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property' vide Conveyance Deed dated 18.04.1983 registered as Regn. No. 4555, Addl. Book No. 1, Vol. No. 584, pp. 108-109 on 15.09.03 in the Office of the Sub Registrar-VII, New Delhi. That Original Documents w.r.t. Schedule Property i.e. (i) Agreement Letter dated 17.02.83, (ii) NOC for Water & Electricity dated 18.04.1983 & (iii) Agreement to Sell dated 06.10.88 have been lost / misplaced, in lieu of which, an Affidavit was filed on 18.06.22 as filed with Delhi Police bearing LR. No. 508046/2022. That Sh. Lalit Kumar Suri was the original Allottee by DDA of the Schedule Property and sold it to Smt. A. Philip vide an Agreement to Sell and thereafter to Sh. Mathew Philip (Son of Smt. A. Philip) vide an Agreement to Sell to which Smt. A. Philip had no objection and on the basis of which Conveyance Deed was executed in favour of Sh. Mathew Philip. The Schedule Property is presently mortgaged with the State Bank of India. Thus this notice is issued to Public at Large having knowledge, custody or possession of lost / misplaced documents as mentioned herein above or otherwise having any claim, right, title, interest, possession in the Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Exchange, Gift, Trust etc. (except for with SBI as mentioned herein above), may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 12 days from the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null & void and such claims or objection shall be treated as waived or objected to and the said Smt. A. Philip shall proceed to file for the Schedule Property with SBI, as presently intended.
Y.L. Sachdeva, Advocate
Res. Cum Off. H.No.56, Lane No.11 Partap Nagar, Mayur Vihar Phase-I Delhi-110091
Mobile: 9868924223

PUBLIC NOTICE
BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that in terms of Judgment and Decree dated 21.01.2016 passed by Shri Sanjay Kojia, Civil Judge, Gurugram in suit for declaration with consequential relief of permanent injunction, the implementation of the Commercial Project over land bearing Rect. No.8, Killa Nos.121(4-0), 122(4-0), 131(5-8), 191(2-12), measuring 16 Kanals situated in revenue estate of Gharouli Khurd Tehsil and District Sector-37-C Gurugram has been undertaken by M/s Imperia Wishfield Pvt. Ltd. having its office at A-25, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110044. The aforesaid Commercial Project is ongoing. This public notice has been got issued by M/s Prime IT Solutions Pvt. Ltd. having its office at B-2/3, S.F. Kh No. 8/8 Chattarpur Extn. New Delhi-110074 to intimate public at large about the aforesaid fact and to further convey that the above mentioned Commercial Project shall be implemented/ completed by M/s Imperia Wishfield Pvt. Ltd.
This Public Notice is issued in compliance with letter dated 09.06.2022 bearing Memo No. LC-2571/JE(S)/2022/16293 Dated 09.06.2022 issued by the Directorate of Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh whereby in principle approval for change of Commercial Project is ongoing. This public notice has been got issued by M/s Prime IT Solutions Pvt. Ltd. having its office at B-2/3, S.F. Kh No. 8/8 Chattarpur Extn. New Delhi-110074 to intimate public at large about the aforesaid fact and to further convey that the above mentioned Commercial Project shall be implemented/ completed by M/s Imperia Wishfield Pvt. Ltd.
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More voices emerge for single leadership in AIADMK

Senior leaders continue efforts to broker a deal between OPS and EPS



As most of the leaders are in favour of unitary leadership, others will also accept it, says a former Minister. • FILE PHOTO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI/TIRUCHI
More second line leaders and functionaries in the AIADMK on Sunday came out publicly in favour of migrating to "unitary leadership", even as senior leaders continued their efforts to broker an acceptable deal between the party's top two leaders - coordinator O. Panneerselvam and co-coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami.
For the second day, former Ministers K.A. Sengottaiyan, M. Thambidurai and Sellur Raju shuttled between the houses of both the leaders and held parleys. But functionaries, who had chosen to express their views openly, came out strongly in favour of unitary leadership and Mr. Palaniswami.

'EPS won all cases'
"Since most of the leaders and office-bearers are in favour of unitary leadership, others will also accept it," said former Minister MLA O.S. Manian. He said Mr. Palaniswami was able to win all cases [relating to the party] after he became the Chief Minister. "Those who filed the cases received defeat as a prize and it will continue in the future also," he reiterated.
Even some functionaries from the Southern districts expressed their support for Mr. Palaniswami. Former AIADMK MLA I.S. Inbathurai said, "There is a space for unitary leadership and it was clearly established and taught by Puratchi Thalaivar (MGR) and followed by Amma (Jayalalithaa). The court will also question whether due process of law is followed. Only the general council has the supreme powers."
Former Thoothukudi Lok Sabha member J. Jayasingh Thiagaraj Natterjee and Youth wing secretary of the party and former Minister N.R. Sivapathy, also extended their support to Mr. Palaniswami. "Let Mr. Panneerselvam be prepared for unitary leadership and it will be good for him. Youth wing, students wing, llampenkall Pasarai and other outfits have expressed solidarity with Mr. Palaniswami," Mr. Sivapathy said.

Another former Minister, Kadambur C. Raju, said unitary leadership was the need of the hour. "I am supporting Mr. Palaniswami like majority of the leaders who have rallied behind him," he said. Former Deputy Speaker Pollachi Jayaraman too backed Mr. Palaniswami.
Calling upon Mr. Palaniswami to steer the AIADMK, the party's Tiruchi (south) district secretary P. Kumaran charged that Mr. Panneerselvam had failed to effectively project the "ill-deeds and anti-people policies" of the DMK. "No committed worker of the AIADMK will praise the DMK as the AIADMK was launched to take on the DMK. It did not go down well with the workers when Mr. Panneerselvam lavished praise on former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi in the Assembly. It is an example to show that he adopts a soft-peddling approach towards the DMK," Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu*. He said no AIADMK worker would also digest the meeting that Theni MP Ravindranath, son of Mr. Panneerselvam, had with M.K. Stalin. It sent a wrong signal to the AIADMK, which was supposed to wage a fierce battle to highlight the DMK's wrong policies.
On the other hand, Mr. Palaniswami was firm in his stand on opposing the DMK and utilised his opportunity well to expose the ruling party, he said.
According to him, it was high time Mr. Palaniswami led the party to play the role of a principal Opposition, more aggressively. The soft-peddling approach would not help AIADMK recapture power. The existing system of joint leadership had affected the party's growth. Due to differences of opinion, the leaders could not take quick decisions on various issues. Hence, Mr. Palaniswami should come forward to shoulder the responsibility, he said.
V. Pugazhendhi, who was expelled from the party, met Mr. Panneerselvam and expressed his support.

Police chief revises POCO FIR circular
MUMBAI
After facing criticism over a circular which mandated that no FIR for molestation or offences under the POCO Act should be registered without the zonal DCP's permission, Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey has issued a revised order directing the city police to register FIRs immediately in cases of molestation and offences under the Act where they do not suspect any foul play. The revised order said a senior police inspector should contact the ACP and the DCP to take directives to register an FIR in case of foul play.
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Hectic parleys ahead of Maharashtra MLC polls

Independents, smaller parties hold the key to the outcome of the elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PUNE
As both the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance parties and the Opposition BJP herded their MLAs into five-star hotels in Mumbai, a flurry of meetings, parleys and 'secret' deals throughout Sunday marked the countdown to the high-stakes Maharashtra Legislative Council elections on June 20.

Wary of the setback in the recently concluded Rajya Sabha elections when the MVA had lost the sixth seat to the BJP, hectic 'strategy-making' sessions were held by the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Shiv Sena and the Congress leaders.

Eleven candidates are in the fray for the 10 MLC seats, with the three MVA parties each fielding two candidates

while the BJP fielding five candidates. The victory quota is around 26 votes as the strength of the 288-member Legislature has now reduced to 285, following the demise of Sena MLA Ramesh Latke and the arrest of two NCP leaders Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh.

With the Independents and smaller parties again holding the key to the outcome as in the RS polls, the day saw both MVA and BJP leaders holding parleys with Independent MLAs to solicit their support.

Reaches out to BVA
Former State Minister and NCP leader Eknath Khadse, who is one of the NCP candidates, met Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA) leader Hitendra Thakur to seek the support of



Huddled together: Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar.

the three BVA legislators. "I have spoken with Mr. Thakur and asked his legislators to vote for me. I am sure he will take the right decision," said Mr. Khadse after his meeting.

In the Rajya Sabha polls, Mr. Thakur had swung his outfit's votes to favour the BJP. The Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has said it intended to give its two votes to the NCP, with AIMIM MLA from Dhule Shah Faruk

Anwar meeting NCP leader Ajit Pawar to express his party's support.

Senior Congressman Balasaheb Thorat, however, expressed confidence that the MVA would win all six seats, while claiming that all Independent MLAs would support the MVA this time. He stressed there were no coordination problems with his party's other allies — the NCP and the Sena.

Earlier, top Congress leaders met with their NCP coun-

terparts at the Trident Hotel where all NCP legislators have been housed till polling day on Monday.

CM confident
Speaking on the occasion of the Shiv Sena's 56th Foundation Day, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said he was confident of his party's victory in the MLC polls while emphatically remarking there were "no traitors within the Sena" and that "no vote was split during the Rajya Sabha polls" [when the Sena's Sanjay Pawar had lost to the BJP's Dhananjay Mahadik].

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnis met with all BJP legislators at the Taj Hotel, where the party MLAs have been kept.

Senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar claimed that several MVA legislators were unhappy with their own government and would vote for the BJP.

The Shiv Sena currently has 55 MLAs, while the NCP's voting strength is down to 51, given that Mr. Deshmukh and Mr. Malik are behind bars. The Congress has 44 legislators.

While the Opposition BJP has 106, the RS polls saw that it had the support of at least 17 Independent legislators and MLAs from the smaller parties.

It is the BJP's gambit of propping up a fifth candidate in the form of Prasad Lad, a blue-eyed boy of Mr. Fadnis, that has made the contest particularly interesting.

Given that the polls are to be held by secret ballot and assuming there is no cross-voting, then the Sena and the NCP can get both their candidates elected with the support of the odd-Independents. However, the Congress will have to struggle to get its second candidate elected.



Cautious move: Security has been stepped up at the Vijayawada railway station. ■ G.N RAO

More coaching centre owners under lens

They had a key role in instigating youth to vandalise Secunderabad station, says GRP

STAFF REPORTER HYDERABAD

Coaching institutes which train youngsters aspiring for Army jawan jobs had a key role in instigating the rioting at the Secunderabad railway station on Friday, the Government Railway Police (GRP) confirmed at a press conference here on Sunday evening. Asked if the gathering of the mob and the subsequent mayhem at the station was an Intelligence failure, Superintendent of Police B. Anuradha said it was a "surprise attack".

The aspirants who had cleared the physical test were waiting for the written test to be conducted. However, the written test was postponed four or five times for various reasons, including the COVID-19 pandemic. After the Centre announced the Agnipath scheme for recruitment on June 14 and the cancellation of the written exam, they were agitated.

Ms. Anuradha said the agitated aspirants approached

coaching institutes which cited anti-Agnipath protests at a railway station in Bihar, and said that if something similar was done here, it would draw the attention of the Central government.

Stating that the coaching centre owners misguided the aspirants which led to the provocation, she added that the gullible youth reached the Secunderabad station and vandalised it.

Asked about the role of ex-serviceman Avula Subba Rao, who runs a training academy in Andhra Pradesh and is suspected of instigating the violence, Ms. Anuradha said many other such coaching centre owners were being identified.

WhatsApp groups
She said the mob was mobilised through WhatsApp groups that were formed on June 16. Messages were circulated that only Central government property is to be attacked, mainly railway stations.

"The WhatsApp groups were named Railway Station Block, Hakimpet Army Soldiers, Chalo Secunderabad ARO 3, Indian Army, Army GD 2021 March rally, CEC Soldiers and Soldiers to die. They circulated messages on how to target railway stations, and executed the plan," she said.

PM arriving in Karnataka on 2-day visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BANGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Karnataka on Monday. During his two-day visit, he will take part in a series of events, including leading the International Yoga Day, according to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. "He will take part in an inauguration at the Indian Institute of Science.

He will also inaugurate the Ambedkar School of Economics," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told reporters on Sunday.

The Prime Minister will take part in the International Yoga Day event on the Mysuru Palace premises on Tuesday.

SC yet to hear appeals on hijab row

Court had assured students that it would intervene at an 'appropriate time'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Appeals filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Karnataka High Court's conclusion that wearing hijab is not an essential practice in Islam has been in limbo for several months.

The petitions, filed mostly by affected girl students, raised the question whether the State could interfere if a student wore a hijab to college without causing any harm to others and under the firm belief that it was a part of her religious observance and practice.

The students also asked if a woman's dignity and the right to access to education should suffer because her dress code could not be accommodated by the authori-



Students protesting in Mangaluru in March against the ban on hijab in educational institutions. ■ H.S. MANJUNATH

ties of an educational institution.

The Supreme Court in the S.R. Bommai case of 1994 had observed that "religious freedom is the hallmark of pluralism and inclusiveness". The Constituent Assembly debates note how

the establishment of a secular state was an act of faith and the onus was on the majority community to show that they could behave towards others in a generous, fair and just way.

The case was repeatedly mentioned in court during

March and April for urgent hearing. The court had assured their listing. However, the appeals remain to be heard. This, despite the fact that in February, the Supreme Court had assured the students of protection of their constitutional rights and intervention at an "appropriate time".

One of the pending petitions filed by Niha Naaz, said denying Muslim girls like her access to education, and thus, punishing them for wearing hijab to college, was a violation of their right to privacy. She said students like her had expected the High Court to quash a State government order of February 5 directing college development committees to prescribe uniforms.

Congress to take LDF leader to court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly V.D. Satheesan has said that he will sue Left Democratic Front (LDF) convener E.P. Jayarajan for defamation.

His reaction came against the backdrop of reports that Mr. Jayarajan had accused Mr. Satheesan of fabricating a video to tarnish the image of Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] candidate Jo Joseph in the run-up to the Thrikkakara byelection.

He said that Mr. Jayarajan had lost the moral right to hold the convener's post. His off-the-cuff remarks were a bane for the LDF and a boon for the United Democratic Front.

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Feedback for students should be constructive, positive, and timely to augment the interlinked, symbiotic relationship between learning and teaching.

■ VINAY SINGH

For students, feedback comprises an integral part of effective learning. Whether in college or school, the principles of using feedback to facilitate better learning remain the same. Not only does it help students understand subjects better, but also guides them on how they can improve learning skills.

Educationists believe that academic feedback is more strongly and reliably linked to achievements compared to other teaching modalities. Moreover, it can enhance a student's self-awareness, self-confidence, and eagerness to learn and be extremely useful in the choices of higher education and beyond.

Boosting learning outcomes

Significantly, effective feedback during the first year in university can facilitate their transition to higher education and beyond, simultaneously supporting student retention. However, students must accept and assimilate it to augment their learning and boost assessment outcomes. While educators should explain what has

Students and the science of FEEDBACK



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

been done correctly and incorrectly, the focus must be on what is being done right. By providing the latest information about students' grasp of theories, facts, or the achievement of a specific skill, feedback improves the ability of professors to teach as per the requirements of the situation.

Although feedback can be formal or informal, one must not forget that, consciously and unconsciously, professors provide immediate feedback in their classes. In most instances, this happens via gestures, facial

expressions, and comments. Whether formal or informal, faculty must ensure that feedback provided in class is always constructive and solution-oriented. Harsh or negative feedback will be counterintuitive and defeat the common cause of ensuring students perform well in academics and higher educational pursuits as well as professional careers.

Accordingly, professors should take note of how students react when given feedback before others in the classroom. Besides comprehending the immediate reac-

tion, this will help assess whether the student is reflecting on the message conveyed and then works as per the feedback.

Where informal feedback is concerned, it is instant and, often, more effective. For example, professors may amble across the class and, standing by a student's desk, comment about his/her work. In this manner, students could be commended for good work and offered immediate suggestions for further improvement.

Conversely, grading every

assignment can be counterproductive as students tend to compare themselves with classmates instead of focussing on their work and ways to improve it. Marks or grades must only be given during formal assessment.

Research has shown that students progress more when feedback is received via comments rather than grades. Not surprisingly, the degree of motivation and achievement remained higher in students who only received comments as feedback, unlike those given grades. Therefore, in the

case of slow learners particularly, it is best to offer feedback via positive comments only as their already-low self-esteem may fall further if negative/harsh words are used.

Feedback on feedback

Considering the key role of feedback, it is sometimes said that professors must be given more feedback on feedback. Various student surveys across the globe show that they feel feedback is inadequate and not timely. However, teachers assert students don't heed their advice.

So, where does this leave the feedback process, especially from the students' perspective? The best option is for professors to reconsider the process of providing feedback and customising their teaching modalities going by students' valid feedback.

Additionally, merely giving feedback isn't enough. To enhance its effectiveness, it should be treated as a dialogue between the faculty and students. In this way, there will be opportunities for tutors to bridge the gap between the current and expected performance. This can be achieved by redoing the assignment and ensuring improved work that meets the expected standards, clarifying that the faculty's feedback is effective.

Ultimately, teaching and learning can become a truly symbiotic relationship, benefiting both students and tutors while providing more productive outcomes for all stakeholders.

The author is Executive Director and CEO, Thomson Digital



Santamonica Study Abroad Private Limited and The Hindu Education Plus jointly present The Study Abroad webinar on 'Fly to find your dream college'.

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Other speakers are Divya S. Pillai, Project Manager, Canada; Sobitha Thomas, Project Manager, the U.K.;

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Last date for submission of online application: **18.07.2022 (Monday)**
Date & Time of Online Entrance Examination
11.08.2022 (Thursday) 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Date of Interview
11.08.2022 (Thursday) Afternoon & 12.08.2022 (Friday)
Time slot details will be intimated by email in due course.

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Designation failure

India must keep gathering evidence and build its case on cross-border terror in global fora

There is a sense of *déjà vu* about China's decision on June 16 to block the UN Security Council designation of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) deputy chief Abdul Rahman Makki as a terrorist, given that Beijing had repeatedly blocked the designation of the Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar until 2019, and other terror designations prior to that. Here too, the pile of evidence against Abdul Makki is considerable: that he is part of the command and control of the UNSC-designated terror group LeT, later renamed the Jamaat ud Dawa (JuD), which is also a UN-designated terror group, is in no doubt. He was not just a member of the governing body or "Shura"; he served as the head of its "foreign relations" department, and raised funding. He is also a member of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed's family (brother in law). The LeT/JuD has been prosecuted in India, the United States and even Pakistan for the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, and Makki was himself tried and sentenced by a Pakistani special court to nine years imprisonment on terror financing charges – a ruling overturned a year later. India wants him for his involvement in attacks over the past two decades, including the Red Fort attack in Delhi in 2000, and, more recently, in attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir. He is on India's UAPA list of designated terrorists and also the U.S.'s Specially Designated Global Terrorists with a \$2 million reward for information that would convict him. Given what India and the U.S., which forwarded the proposal to put him on the UNSC's 1267 list of terrorists linked to the al Qaeda and ISIL, have called "overwhelming" evidence, New Delhi has termed China's move to place a hold on the process (this could delay it for as much as six months) as "regrettable" and "extremely unfortunate".

While China's actions may be motivated by growing acrimony with the U.S. and India, it is necessary to analyse the situation beyond bilateral tensions. That Beijing's last-minute hold on Makki's listing came even as the Financial Action Task Force was meeting in Berlin to credit Pakistan's actions on terror financing, and begin the process to relieve it from the grey list, pending an on-site visit in the next few months, may not be a coincidence. While China defends its actions on Makki and previous designations that it blocked as "technical objections" based on "procedural" loopholes, it is clearly part of a pattern of protecting Pakistan internationally. It is also notable that as a result of China's objections or otherwise, none of the terror designations under UNSC 1267 thus far against LeT commander Zaki ur Rahman Lakhvi in 2008, Hafiz Saeed in 2009 and Masood Azhar in 2019 actually contains charges against them for any attacks carried out in India. Beyond criticism and continued pursuance of the listing, it is necessary for the Government to continue to gather evidence and systematically build its case on cross-border terrorism on the international stage that cannot be derailed by political or geopolitical considerations.

Monsoon jitters

Episodes of drought in India happen when the monsoon fails in July and August

The monsoon landed early in Kerala, three days ahead of the normal date of June 1. The journey upward of its western branch has since then been timely but lacking in vigour. The latest IMD figures suggest that the monsoon is running an 8% deficit. Central India, which has the largest swathe of land dependent on rainfed agriculture, has only got 52% of the rain that is due; the southern peninsula has a 22% deficit. Only India's east and north-eastern parts are battling the diametrically opposite problem of too much rain, with floods in Assam and Meghalaya submerging entire villages. The northwest of India, where the monsoon is yet to arrive, and reeling under a series of heatwaves, is battling a rainfall deficit of 33%. The monsoon rainfall is critical to *kharif* sowing and so a faltering June has raised concerns in several quarters. However, there is little to be worried about at this juncture. June rainfall, particularly in the first fortnight, is historically patchy and contributes less than 18% of the monsoon rainfall. Meteorologists maintain that there is no correlation of the timing and advent of the monsoon rainfall with its eventual performance. Because of the large variance inherent in June rainfall, the IMD has historically chosen not to issue forecasts for the month, unlike for July and August. The latter two are considered the key monsoon months and responsible for supplying nearly two-thirds of the monsoon rains. Episodes of drought in India and those that are linked to agricultural failures are when the monsoon fails in these two months.

In fact, the real worry that lingers over the horizon is rainfall in July and August. On May 31, as part of its updated forecast, the IMD gave an optimistic picture. The June to September rainfall over the country was likely to be 103% of the Long Period Average, and central India was likely to get "above normal" rainfall as was the southern peninsula. The monsoon core zone, which consists of most of the rainfed agriculture regions, too is expected to receive "above normal" rain. In previous years, there has been a pattern of 'normal' and 'above normal' rains being forecast only for them to dry up for large periods in July and August, followed by a sudden surge in September. This pattern may help deliver the numbers but is not always beneficial for *kharif* sowing. The expectations of a good monsoon are premised on the persistence of a La Niña, the converse of the El Niño and characterised by a cooling of the Central Pacific waters. However, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), another index of significance to the monsoon, is expected to be negative. Whether the La Niña can compensate for the dampening of the IOD remains to be seen.

The EPI may rankle but India can recast policies

The country ought to adopt a dashboard approach to indicators, modelled on the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi proposal



G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

For a government acutely sensitive to global rankings, the latest Environmental Performance Index (EPI) placing India last among all 180 assessed countries has naturally touched a raw nerve. The assessment, carried out by Yale and Columbia Universities with an emphasis on climate change mitigation, has become controversial for prioritising the flow of greenhouse gases from countries while reducing the emphasis on the stock of carbon dioxide from industrialised countries that is warming the globe.

Evidently, if countries were assigned a penalty for the stock of CO₂ in the atmosphere, rather than measure their mitigation actions over a decade, India would fare much better. Less controversially, the EPI dwells on performance on air quality, waste management and ecological conservation measures.

Government's response

Unsurprisingly, the EPI ranking and scores have been rejected by the Union Government as based on "unfounded assumptions", "surmises" and "unscientific methods." The national rank of 165 on Climate Policy and score of 21.7 in this category – which overall has a 38% weightage in the calculations along with 42% for Ecosystem Vitality and 20% for Environmental Health – has particular significance. India is under pressure to raise its ambition and commitment towards the more ambitious 1.5° Centigrade goal for temperature rise under the Paris Agreement, going beyond the less

rigorous target of well below 2°C.

Within the overall climate score, India does better in sub-metrics such as growth rates for black carbon, methane and fluorinated gases, and greenhouse gas emissions based on their intensity and per capita volumes. The Index rates the country low on projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for mid-century, a target for Net Zero emissions. The EPI report estimates that China, India, the United States, and Russia are expected to account for over 50% of global residual greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

This projection has met with strong protest from India, which has faulted the EPI for introducing a new metric on climate with increased weight in the calculation compared to the 2020 assessment. It stands accused of ignoring the important tenet of equity in global climate policy within the United Nations framework: that India has low per capita GHG emissions, reduced intensity of GHG emissions in its economy, made big strides achieving 40% renewable power generation, supported electric vehicles, launched a major carbon sink initiative, and done a lot for wetland conservation.

Claims and low PARI score

The country has protested that the new India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 was not factored in as part of the biodiversity metric. On the face of it, India scores abysmally low on some of the Ecosystem Vitality variables, such as Marine Protected Areas (0.3 of a possible 100) and Protected Areas Representativeness Index, or PARI (0.5), Terrestrial Biome Protection (TBM) – National (1.2) and TBM – Global (2.1). Wetland loss prevention is among the best scores for India, at 62. Given the many biomes that exist in the country, the low PARI score puts pressure on the Government to defend its



claim that the EPI scores for biodiversity health are faulty due to weaknesses in collecting species and habitat data.

The ISFR, on which the Union government relies, ran into trouble for making spectacular claims, because of perceived methodological weaknesses. It is faulted for relying on a relaxed definition of forest and claiming expansion of forests when satellite imagery of the same areas showed a decline. Ecologist and co-founder of the Nature Conservation Foundation M.D. Madhusudan pointed out that palm trees in private plantations in Tamil Nadu, tea estates in several States and even urban tree agglomerations were found added as forest. Researchers have been demanding that the actual maps used for the ISFR estimates be released publicly, not just the report making claims of expansion.

Biome protection, air quality

The EPI-assigned rating for India in protecting biomes has led to sharp differences too. The Index assigns a 'laggard' rank on tropical and subtropical dry broadleaf and coniferous forests, montane grasslands and shrublands and the worst performance on deserts and xeric shrublands. The Government's defence is that national and legal boundaries for protected areas may not match geographical boundaries of biomes, and international classifications may not be optimal to measure conservation.

Revisiting social justice under the Dravidian model

The Tamil Nadu government should release a white paper on reservations and pursue quota in the private sector



VENKATANARAYANAN S.

Dravidian politics in Tamil Nadu has played a significant role in democratising the public space for wider participation. As emphasised by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin recently, social justice has been the integral part of the Dravidian development model.

Social justice principles in Tamil Nadu were initially emphasised and propagated by Periyar, who fought for community-based representation while fighting the evils of the caste system. Even though the Dravidian social justice model was able to democratise the public sphere by opening the space in education and employment, there is a need to revisit many aspects of social justice to reach out and benefit more people.

First BC commission report

The report of the first Backward Classes (BC) Commission, headed by A.N. Sattanathan, appointed by then Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, in its report submitted in 1970 highlighted the unequal distribution of reservation benefits in favour of certain communities within backward castes. It further stated that around nine castes (that accounted for 11.3% of the total backward castes) held 48% of

gazetted posts and 37% of non-gazetted posts. In the education sector, it was 47% of medical seats, 44% of engineering seats and 34% of scholarships denying an opportunity for the remaining 88.7% of backward castes in Tamil Nadu. Even though the Sattanathan commission had recommended economic criteria and taking out certain castes out of reservation benefits, due to political and electoral reasons, the government increased the quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from 25% to 31% and for Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST) from 16% to 18%.

Data from second commission

In 1979, then Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, based on the Sattanathan Commission report, introduced the creamy layer concept (ceiling limit of ₹9,000 per annum to be eligible for reservation benefits), which was politically resisted and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) was forced to withdraw it after electoral defeat in 1980. The AIADMK government increased the Other Backward Classes quota from 31% to 50%, which made the Supreme Court of India direct the Tamil Nadu government to set up a second Backward Classes' Commission in the year 1982 to assess the ground reality. The commission, under J.A. Ambasankar, reiterated the unequal distribution of benefits among backward classes as stated by Sattanathan in the first Backward Classes Commission. The Amba-



sankar report stated that around 11 castes, which is around 34.8% of backward castes, held 50.7% of posts in the public service commission, 62.7% of seats in professional courses and 53.4% of government scholarships. The remaining 211 backward castes, which is around 65.2%, was poorly represented in government services and the educational system. The government added another 29 communities to backward classes without addressing the skewed representation.

Political moves

In 1989, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam government under M. Karunanidhi divided the 50% OBC reservation into 30% for backward classes and 20% for Most Backward Classes (MBCs) and de-notified communities (DNC) due to agitations led by Dr. S. Ramadoss of the Pattali Makkal Katchi, demanding more representation for the Vanniyar caste. Later, the AIADMK government under then Chief Minister Jayalalitha enacted the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes,

A second sensitive area in which India brings up the rear in the EPI is air quality. With a score of 7.8 and a rank of 179, the familiar dispute over data and reliability of several parameters has reopened. The Government faults the dataset on pollutant concentration data – covering mainly Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}), Oxides of Nitrogen, Sulphur Dioxide and Volatile Organic Compounds, because of "higher uncertainty in regions with less extensive monitoring networks and emissions inventories".

Although the scores and rank could be contested, there is little doubt that India's air is widely seen as among the foulest. Data for 2019, when economic activity was unfettered by COVID-19, attribute 1.67 million deaths during the year from air pollution.

This has been reiterated by recent literature with commentary in The Lancet Planetary Health pointing out that "India has developed instruments and regulatory powers to mitigate pollution sources but there is no centralised system to drive pollution control efforts and achieve substantial improvements. In 93% of India, the amount of pollution remains well above WHO [World Health Organization] guidelines."

There are some aspects of the EPI that the Union government has rejected, blaming the ranking agencies for not "engaging" with India on the climate change mitigation programme, and for not providing a handicap under the United Nations principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), which forms the basis of the Paris Agreement.

India's defence has always been that its current emissions profile may be high, but it has to raise living standards of hundreds of millions with cheap energy. It seeks a significant share of the remaining global carbon budget and climate

funds for mitigation actions.

Green goals

The national case would be stronger if policies on luxury urban emissions are aimed at helping poorer Indians. On transport (about 13% of emissions), prevailing high fuel and vehicular taxes could exclusively drive change and raise a green commons such as clean public transport, cycling and pedestrianisation. The national policy of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070 provides a longer timeline for a coal phaseout, but other areas can benefit from policies that prevent a carbon lock-in effect. Emissions from buildings, including embedded carbon in construction materials such as cement and steel, provide scope for reduction.

India has also not expanded disaggregated rooftop solar power across residential deployments and commercial structures. There cannot also be excessive reliance on carbon sinks in the short term, since tree cover of the right kind takes time to store carbon. Stronger protection for biomes (protected areas represent about 5% of the land) can generate wide-ranging benefits and biodiversity can recover.

What India needs to adopt is a rigorous dashboard approach to indicators, assigning high weight to the environment, modelled on the proposal made by Amartya Sen, Joseph Stiglitz and Jean-Paul Fitoussi in their exploration of development beyond GDP. This can generate good data, identify the real beneficiaries of policies, avoid serious environmental deficits and ensure inter-generational equity in the use of natural resources. It can also curb pollution. Distorted rankings from external assessments would matter little.

G. Ananthakrishnan is a Chennai-based journalist

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

Agnipath and defence

That several Union Ministries are coming forward with various schemes for the rehabilitation of retrenched Agniveers only raises more questions. Will not young men who know that they will be employed for just four years be more anxious about their future? Second, even if these promises are observed in full, the numbers of those so reemployed will be far less than those retrenched, leaving the bulk to fend for themselves. This has the potential to demoralise and demotivate even serving Agniveers. It may be fair to assume that the controversial Agnipath

scheme is the brainchild of the highest political office, aided by the bureaucracy and then thrust down the throats of the three services. Service chiefs being paraded on TV channels to defend what is essentially a political decision amounts to civilian authorities including Ministers disowning the scheme. Launching such a radical manpower scheme in a hurry, with long-term consequences shows flawed security-related decision making processes under the current regime.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

■ As an afterthought, Government ministries are

announcing a slew of "buy one get one free" kind of guarantees, waivers, and promises to shore up the Agnipath scheme, billed as a "transformative" recruitment process for soldiers. It is clear that the rollout of the scheme has happened without sufficient consultations. The Defence Minister's assurance that the quality of training imparted to the Agniveers will be the same as regular soldiers, except for its shorter duration, is as convincing as a "Learn English in 30 days" paperback.

S. SANJEEV RAO,
Puducherry

■ The knee-jerk reactions of the Centre underscore the

point that the plan was undercooked even after keeping it on the burner. It raises many a nagging question about the efficacy and intent of policy making in a most sensitive sphere such as the defence sector. Even hardcore votaries of the present dispensation find it truly hard to defend the indefensible. The support measures now offered are like using a garden hose to contain a mammoth wildfire of youth dismay, despair, and anger.

AYYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH,
Aranmula, Kerala

■ The words 'Agnipath' and 'Agniveer' may sound romantic, but in reality any young man would feel

extremely insecure and vulnerable. Another big concern is about rookie soldiers who may not have enough time to be trained well in the defence forces.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ It is very clear, and strange, that this Government believes in 'shock and awe' all the time, examples being demonetisation, the first COVID-19 lockdown, and now Agnipath. It is distressing that democratic norms are being cast aside. Camaraderie is very essential in the defence forces, but with just four years of service, Agniveer would be pitted against Agniveer as only 25% of soldiers would

be retained. In such a situation, one can imagine the tensions within defence units. Also, what are the standards/criteria that will be used to judge which soldier is fit to stay on?

V.V. RAJU,
Hyderabad

■ It is quite apparent from the massive destruction of public property that elements and the political Opposition are only hell bent on opposing the Government's scheme, without giving serious consideration to the pros and cons.

SESHAGIRI ROW KARRY,
Hyderabad

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Recognising the 'compulsory' woman worker

There is an urgent need for widespread surveys of poor rural women and how they spend their time



BRINDA KARAT



KIRAN BAKALE

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) reported that the labour participation rate of rural women was 9.92% in March 2022 compared to 67.24% for men. This is a cause for concern. According to CMIE, millions who left the labour market stopped looking for employment "possibly [because they were] too disappointed with their failure to get a job and under the belief that there were no jobs available". In countries like the U.S., Canada and Australia, such workers who are willing to work but give up searching for work for various reasons are called 'discouraged workers' and they are included in the unemployed category. This phenomenon, not captured in India by any official labour force surveys, is wrongly described as women "dropping out" or "leaving the labour market" giving the impression that this was a choice made by them, whereas, actually, women are pushed out of employment. The CMIE provides valuable inputs for urgently required government intervention in rural India.

Ground-level realities are worse than what the CMIE suggests and what the government denies. Women who belong to landless households or with meagre landholdings cannot afford the luxury of being "discouraged." These are the "compulsory" workers.

The depths of distress

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) sites are probably the best places to understand the compulsions of millions of women to work. One particular project in Kalaburagi district focuses on creating more than 200 percolation ponds, which are designed to address the declining levels of ground water and to help recharge wells. This project provides a few workdays to an estimated 300 workers from four villages. The soil is hard and dry and the project stretches over several kilometres. The women, who outnum-

ber the men, work in women-only pairs. They dig and lift the mud. In the searing heat, they have to dig a 10X10X1 tank in a day. An assistant to the officer-in-charge estimated that because the soil is hard and stony, this would mean digging and lifting about 3,000 kg of mud a day. Since most of these women are unable to complete this task, they do not get the piece rate of ₹309; they get only ₹280 to ₹285. There was no crèche at the site. There was no water, so women took turns to walk a kilometre to a water source to fill their two-litre bottles. They said their limbs ached. Many said they felt dizzy.

But despite the difficult conditions, every worker on the site complained about getting only about 40 days of work in a year. They wanted more as they regard MGNREGA work as their savior. The fact that they want to do more of this punishing work reveals the depths of the distress of poor rural households.

During the agricultural season, all the women worked on the lands of others, earning around the same as on the MGNREGA site. But the mechanisation of agricultural operations has drastically decreased workdays to less than three months a year. Many women therefore become part-time construction workers. They are hired by a network of "mistries" working for contractors. They migrate to construction sites for a few months, with their families or with other women from the village. Not one of them I had met had registered as a construction worker. They were therefore ineligible for any legal benefits accruing to them from the Construction Workers' Welfare Board. At

Chandamma, said, "We drink water after having the chilli chutney. Then we don't feel hungry." Others nodded in agreement. They said that the 10 kg of grain per head from the Central and State governments' free foodgrains programme was of great help and were afraid it would end. The deprivation of nourishment that women face due to high prices and low incomes is another dimension of the 'compulsory' woman worker's life.

Providing minimum wage

Almost every woman spoke of being trapped in debt. What the women earn from multiple tasks for which there are no fixed piece rates is in no way equal to the amount of labour they do. The dismantling of labour laws in urban areas has weakened labour departments. Implementation of minimum wage in rural India is conceivable only with strong movements of agricultural workers' unions. While there should be strict implementation of minimum wages with piece rates fixed for different types of women's labour, it is unfair that landless manual labourers in rural India are denied the pitiful government annual cash transfer of ₹6,000 given to land-owning farmers. While rural labourers should also be entitled to a similar cash transfer, the schedule of rates for women at MGNREGA projects based on impossibly high productivity rates must be lowered and the work sites made more worker-friendly.

With the deep penetration of capitalist processes in rural India, there is a crisis of livelihood options. Poor women adopt various strategies to deal with it. To make a correct analysis of this crisis requires a sensitive lens. The invisibility of women's work can be addressed through time use surveys. The village-level time use surveys done by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies, for instance, revealed the extent of women's work. In fact, widespread surveys of poor rural women and how they spend their time are an urgent necessity.

The 'compulsory' woman worker must be recognised and protected by laws and policies that address her issues, while India celebrates the 75th year of Independence.

Brinda Karat is a member of the CPI(M) Polit Bureau

Petty patents can boost R&D

A petty patents regime could encourage domestic enterprises to undertake minor adaptive innovations



NAGESH KUMAR & REJI K. JOSEPH

Innovative activity is the key driver of competitiveness and economic growth. In that context, India's rank of 46 in WIPO's Global Innovation Index (GI) 2021, up from 81 in 2015, is encouraging. This finding corroborates an earlier one by UNCTAD in its Digital Economy Report 2021 where India was seen as exceeding expectations. While these findings are encouraging, India, which aspires to emerge as one of the largest economies of the world, needs to move up further in the innovation rankings, for building self-reliance in technology, especially in the context of the incipient digital revolution. China occupies the 12th rank in GI, ahead of Japan at 13th. This shows that it is possible to move up the ladder with sustained effort.

Boosting R&D activities

India has much room for enhancing its innovative activity. Among the key indicators, gross R&D expenditure (GERD) as a percentage of GDP at 0.7% is low. It needs to rise to upwards of 2% of GDP, as in the leading innovative nations. Furthermore, only about 30% of the GERD is spent by business enterprises, despite the generous tax incentives offered by the government. This suggests that Indian enterprises have not got into an R&D culture, not to talk of innovative rivalry. The bulk of innovative activity is conducted by a handful of companies in the pharma and auto sectors.

What can be done to boost the R&D activities of Indian enterprises? Given the strategic importance of innovative activity, governments in developed countries spend billions of dollars on R&D subsidies given to national enterprises to shore up their competitiveness. Subsidies up to 50% of project costs have been made non-actionable under the World Trade Organization rules. In India, R&D activities have been encouraged mainly through weighted tax deductions. Partial funding for specific R&D projects undertaken by business enterprises may be desirable to develop products or processes, thus strengthening competitiveness.

Funding support for R&D activity of business enterprises may help to direct it to a desirable direction or field. For instance, it may be used to promote capability building for new products, process innovations for local or global markets, focus on enhancing ecological sustainability, promote industry's lin-

kage with public-funded research laboratories and universities, and so on.

A generous programme is needed to push R&D activities of enterprises through partial funding for viable R&D proposals of industry to strengthen India's competitive edge. Besides, products based on indigenously developed technology could be given production tax concessions (such as those extended to small-scale industry products) and income tax concessions (such as those enjoyed by export turnover) to encourage innovation.

The patent system

The number of patents registered by residents is another indicator of innovative activity. The patent filings by Indian enterprises and other institutions have increased from 8,841 in 2011 to 23,141 in 2020 (WIPO). However, patents granted have been only 776 and 4,988 respectively. Although the ratio of applications to grants has gone up over the years, many patent applications fail to satisfy the three-pronged test of novelty, inventive step and utility. In that context, another policy to promote local innovation could be to protect minor innovations through the so-called utility models or petty patents, as has been done by several East Asian countries. The patent system fails to encourage minor innovations since the criteria for inventive-ness tend to look at the novelty of the invention. The experience of several East Asian countries suggests that petty patents and industrial design patents could be effective means of encouraging domestic enterprises to undertake minor adaptive innovations and foster an innovation-based rivalry among them. India should consider adopting a petty patents regime that provides limited protection to minor incremental innovations made, especially those by MSMEs, often called jugaad. The utility models or petty patents typically provide a limited period of protection (5-10 years in contrast to 20 years in case of patents) and have less stringent requirements and procedures. Incentivising minor and incremental innovations through limited protection under utility models will help to foster the innovation rivalries among firms, particularly MSMEs, paving the way for more significant innovations by them in the future.

India's rising rank in the global innovation league suggests its potential, opportunity, and stakes in boosting the R&D culture among business enterprises to strengthen their competitiveness. R&D funding and petty patents could foster these.

Nagesh Kumar is Director and Reji Joseph is Associate Professor, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi. Views are personal

STATE OF PLAY

AIADMK's existential crisis

The party will find the going getting tougher than in the past over the leadership issue

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The AIADMK, which should be busy organising its golden jubilee, is facing an existential crisis as another split in the party looks imminent. This time, the bone of contention between rival factions is the issue of leadership.

When coordinator O. Panneerselvam and co-coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami, in a joint statement issued on June 2, announced that the executive committee and the general council would hold their deliberations on June 23, many thought that the event was being organised only to fulfill the legal requirement of having to ratify the results of the just-concluded organisational elections. Again, discussions among district secretaries and headquarters' functionaries, held at the party office on June 14, gave the impression initially that the proposed general council meeting was a mere formality. It was a low-key former Minister, Madhavaram V. Moorthy, who put the cat among the pigeons by mooted the idea of "single leadership" in the party. Most office bearers echoed his demand, taking Mr. Panneerselvam by surprise. In June 2019 too, after the party faced a rout in the Lok Sabha elections, its Madurai (sub-urban) district secretary and Tirupparankundram legislator, V.V. Rajan Chelappa, had made this demand.

The message of those who want change is obvious: a post should be created above those of coordinator and co-coordinator, and Mr. Palaniswami should occupy such a post. It was in September 2017, at the time of the merger of two groups, led by Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami, that the general council abolished the post of general secretary. It appears that at least 60 out of 75 district secretaries and a large number of the headquarters' functionaries are with this camp, which wants the general council to meet as scheduled.

The reason cited by this camp is that the "dual leadership" has "only hampered" the working of the party, which is seen conceding the Opposition space to the BJP, whose presi-

dent K. Annamalai has emerged as a virulent critic of the DMK. This camp also subtly argues that Mr. Panneerselvam has been "quite soft" towards the ruling party. Besides, the way in which the party announced its nominees for two Rajya Sabha seats last month precipitated the divide between the two camps. Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami dragged their feet to arrive at a consensus. When Mr. Panneerselvam opted for former Ramanathapuram district secretary R. Dharmar, who was with him at the time of the latter's "dharmayudham" in 2017, Mr. Palaniswami did not anticipate the selection. Those who want change feel that the Panneerselvam camp has been "enjoying fruits" disproportionate to its strength in the party. They have decided to use the general council to cut the other side to size.

However, the group representing Mr. Panneerselvam feels that the coordinator has all along been "extremely accommodative" since the merger of the two factions. These members of the party also question the need for any change, as it was only in December last that the two leaders were elected to their respective posts for a term of five years through a single vote and with the support of all primary members. Besides, only six months ago, the party chose to adopt the rule that the mode of election of candidates for the two posts was beyond change and correction. Knowing that they are not strong numerically, the members of this camp are even contemplating getting the general council postponed by approaching the judiciary.

Notwithstanding the outcome of this episode, it is clear that the AIADMK, which suffered erosion in its vote base after the death of Jayalithaa in December 2016, will find the going getting tougher than in the past.

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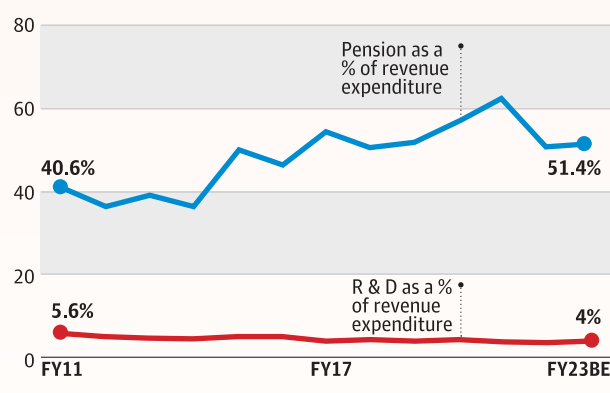
DATA POINT

Agnipath and pensions

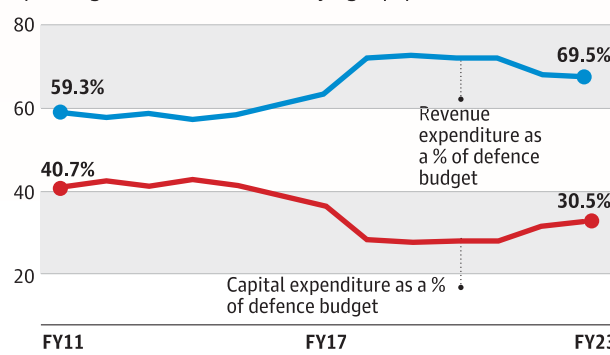
One key reason for the Agnipath scheme, which aims to recruit defence personnel in short-term contracts, could be to reduce increasing pension payments in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. More than half the defence budget is allocated for pensions every year while less than 5% is allocated for research and development (R&D). Over 70% of the defence budget is being used for revenue expenditure (operating expenses), while only about 30% is spent on capital expenditure, meant for modernisation of the forces. The budgeted expenditure for defence pensions in 2022-23 is higher than the Health and Education Ministries' revenue expenditures. Moreover, defence pensioners form half of all Union government retirees and double the number of ex-railway employees. The number of defence pensioners has increased by around 10 lakh in just the last seven years.

By Rebecca Rose Varghese, Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Jasmin Nihalani

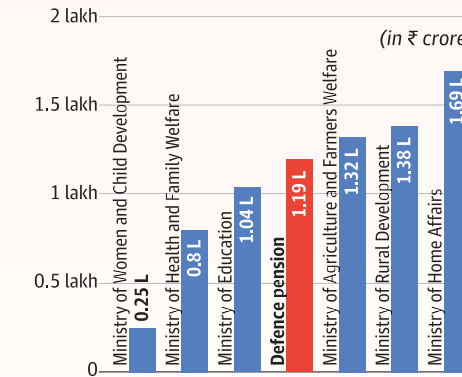
Share of defence budget | The chart shows the defence pension budget and the defence R&D budget as a % of the defence revenue expenditure. At present, less than 5% of the expenditure is allocated to R&D, while more than 50% of it is spent on pensions



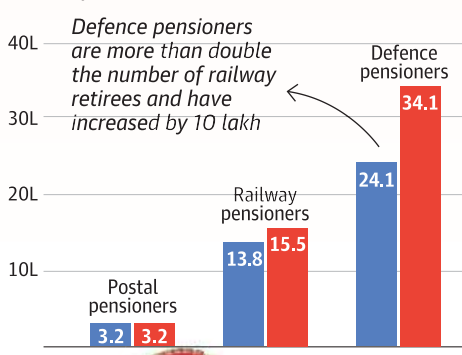
Smaller capital expenditure | The chart shows the revenue and capital expenditures as a % of the defence budget. Increasingly, a lower share is being allocated to capital spending, which is meant for buying equipment, vehicles etc.



Pension vs. ministries | The chart shows the budgeted revenue expenditures of various ministries as compared to the spending on defence pensions for FY23BE



Growing in number | The chart compares the number of Union government pensioners (in lakh) across select departments between January 2014 and March 2021



Source: India Budget, Seventh Pay Commission report, Lok Sabha



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1972

Election by lot draw by child upheld

Can a three-year old child be allowed to draw a lot under the law to decide the result of an election? This question was raised in a writ petition in the Madras High Court by a defeated candidate, who lost the election in the lot. Mr Justice T. Ramaprasada Rao, dismissing the petition, said that according to the law, the mandate only directed a presiding officer to draw a lot and there was no irregularity and much less any illegality in the method adopted by the Revenue Divisional Officer in having utilised the services of a child for this purpose. In the election to the Chairmanship at Alangulam Panchayat Union Council, Tirunelveli District, held on August 13, 1970, Mr. K.A. Namasivaya Mudaliar and Mr. H.N. Maruthappa Pandyan - contestants - secured 14 votes each. It became necessary for the RDO, Alangulam, who was in charge of the conduct of the election, to decide the issue by lot. He requisitioned the services of a three-year-old child to draw a lot. The lot went in favour of Mr. Maruthappa Pandyan, who was declared elected. The defeated candidate, Mr. Namasivaya Mudaliar, filed the present petition challenging the process adopted by the RDO. It was his contention that under the election law, it was the duty of the presiding officer himself to draw a lot and that he should not use any other agency for this purpose. If he used any other agency, neither the letter nor the spirit of the rule was satisfied, it was further argued.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1922

Committed to sessions

Yesterday at about twelve the Special Magistrate in the Chauri Chaura Case delivered judgment. 228 accused have been committed to Sessions, including Khodai who has been committed today by a separate order. All of them were run in under Sections 120-B, 147, 302, 436, 149, 332 I.P.C. and 26 of them were run in under section 126 of the Railway Act and 38 out of them were run in under Section 25 of the Indian Telegraph Act for cutting the railway wires. Besides the above there were charges for murder, arson and being members of unlawful assembly. Seven persons were discharged yesterday, five because there was insufficient evidence against them and two because they were too ill to be kept in jail. A number of persons were discharged from time to time. The sessions trial starts on the 21st from 10-30 a.m. in the local District Jail.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Fury of floods

62 The death toll from massive flooding and mudslides in Assam. Assam's disaster management agency said 32 of the State's 35 districts were underwater as the Brahmaputra river broke its banks, displacing more than three million people. Annual rains hit the region in June-September. The rains are crucial for crops planted during the season but often cause extensive damage. The flooding has also spilled over to neighbouring Bangladesh, where the government said the situation was likely to deteriorate in Sunamganj and Sylhet. **AP**

Free fall

13 The % by which Bitcoin tumbled on Saturday, crashing below the closely watched \$20,000 level to its weakest level in 18 months. It has lost about 60% of its value this year, while rival cryptocurrency Ethereum is down 74%. In 2021, Bitcoin peaked at more than \$68,000. The developments have coincided with an equities slide, as U.S. stocks suffered their biggest weekly percentage decline in two years on fears of rising interest rates and the growing likelihood of a recession. The deepening slide could force more investors to unload Bitcoin. **REUTERS**

Blazing wildfires

25 In thousand of hectares, the area destroyed by the most alarming blaze in the Sierra de Culebra mountain range in northern Spain. It started on Wednesday during a dry thunderstorm but firefighters said cooler overnight temperatures had helped them make gains in their battle against the flames. Smaller wildfires were also raging in the northwestern region of Catalonia and the northern Navarra region. Temperatures of more than 40°C have been recorded in many cities throughout the week but they dropped on Sunday in most of the country. **AFP**

Delays and expenses

428 The number of infrastructure projects each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more that have been hit by cost overruns of more than ₹4.98 lakh crore. According to a report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the expenditure incurred on these projects till April 2022 was ₹13,50,610.98 crore, which was 50.54% of their anticipated cost. Out of the 647 delayed infrastructure projects, 119 projects have been delayed for 61 months and above. **PTI**

Fishermen released

20 The number of Indian fishermen who were released by Pakistan in a goodwill gesture on Sunday. The fishermen had been languishing in jail for the last five years for allegedly fishing illegally in the country's waters. The fishermen were lodged at the Malir district jail in the Landhi area of Karachi. They were sent to the Wagah border where they will be handed over to the Indian authorities. Pakistan and India regularly arrest rival fishermen for violating the maritime boundary which is poorly marked at some points. **PTI**

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Indian interests at the WTO Ministerial Conference

What is the Geneva package? How did India present and push its interests especially with regard to the fisheries and agriculture sectors?

THE GIST

■ On June 17, member countries of the WTO wrapped up the Ministerial Conference's twelfth outing (MC12) securing agreements on relaxing patent regulations to achieve global vaccine equity; ensuring food security, according to subsidies to the fisheries sector and continuing moratoriums relevant to e-commerce, among others. Together they constitute the "Geneva Package."

■ Negotiators could not reach agreements on issues such as permissible public stockholding threshold for domestic food security, domestic support to agriculture, cotton, and market access.

■ Within the next six months, members are expected to decide on increasing the scope of the agreement to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics as well.

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

The story so far: On June 17, member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) wrapped up the Ministerial Conference's twelfth outing (MC12) securing agreements on relaxing patent regulations to achieve global vaccine equity; ensuring food security, according to subsidies to the fisheries sector and continuing moratoriums relevant to e-commerce, among others. Together they constitute what WTO's Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala referred to as the "Geneva Package." India saw some successes at the MC12 with respect to the above mentioned sectors.

What is the WTO's Ministerial Conference?

The MC is at the very top of WTO's organisational chart. It meets once every two years and can take decisions on all matters under any multilateral trade agreement. Unlike other organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund or World Bank, WTO does not delegate power to a board of directors or an organisational chief. All decisions at the WTO are made collectively and through consensus among member countries at varied councils and committees. This year's conference took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

What were the debates around agriculture at the MC?

The agreements on the subject are of particular significance to India. Referring to its status as a significant contributor to the World Food Programme (WFP), India had earlier stated that it had never imposed export restrictions for procurement under the programme. It put forth that a blanket exemption could constrain its work in ensuring food security back home. In such a situation, it would have to keep its WFP commitments irrespective of its domestic needs. Negotiators agreed that member countries would not impose export prohibitions or restrictions on foodstuffs purchased for humanitarian purposes of the WFP. The decision would however not prevent member countries from adopting measures for ensuring domestic food

security.

Negotiators could not reach agreements on issues such as permissible public stockholding threshold for domestic food security, domestic support to agriculture, cotton, and market access. The central premise of the agreements was to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of food to those in need, especially in humanitarian emergencies. It encouraged member countries with available surplus to release them on international markets in compliance with WTO regulations. Moreover, it instituted a work programme to come up with measures to help LDCs (least-developed countries) and NFIDCs (Not Food Importing Developing Countries) enhance their domestic food security and bolster agricultural production.

What about fisheries related agreements?

India successfully managed to carve out an agreement on eliminating subsidies to those engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The only exception for continuing subsidies for overfished stock is when they are deemed essential to rebuild them to a biologically sustainable level. Overfishing refers to exploiting fishes at a pace faster than they could replenish themselves – currently standing at 34% as per the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Declining fish stocks threaten to worsen poverty and endanger communities that rely on aquatic creatures for their livelihood and food security.

Further, the agreements hold that there would be no limitation on subsidies granted or maintained by developing or least-developed countries for fishing within their exclusive economic zones (EEZ).

Have the current moratoriums on electronic transmissions been extended?

Member countries agreed to extend the current moratorium on not imposing customs duties on electronic transmission (ET) until MC13 – scheduled to take place in December 2023. 105 countries which includes the U.S., the U.K., Australia, China

and Japan among others, had sought an extension of the moratorium, with India and South Africa being in opposition.

Broadly, ETs consist of online deliveries such as music, e-books, films, software and video games. They differ from other cross-border e-commerce since they are ordered online but not delivered physically.

Proponents had put forth that the moratorium would help maintain certainty and predictability for businesses and consumers particularly in the context of the pandemic. On the other hand, India and South Africa, citing data from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (which calculates the amount of printed matter, music and video downloads, software and video games), submitted that extending duty-free market access due to the moratorium resulted in a loss of \$10 billion per annum globally – 95% of which was borne by developing countries. Additionally, they had also sought more clarity on what constitutes electronic transmission.

Customs duties have been traditionally used to avert an undesired surge in imports, allowing nascent domestic industries to remain competitive. Developing countries would need to import sizeable equipment and services for upscaling their digital capabilities. Customs duties provide the necessary capital infusion for capacity building and in turn, attempt to address the digital divide – particularly high in low-income and developing countries, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is in this context that India and South Africa had sought to preserve policy space for the digital advancement of developing countries by letting them generate more revenues from customs and thereby facilitate more investment.

What were the discussions on patent relaxations?

Member countries agreed on authorising the use of the subject matter of a patent for producing COVID-19 vaccines by a member country, without the consent of the rights holder. Further, it asks member countries to waive requirements, including export restrictions, set forth by WTO regulations to supply domestic markets and member



countries with any number of vaccines. The agreement, however, comes too little, too late for economically poorer countries.

Several LDCs have suffered in their efforts to combat the now nearly three-year-old pandemic, owing to factors such as a stressed balance of payments situation, different levels of development, financial capabilities and varying degrees of import dependence on those products.

Within the next six months, members are expected to decide on increasing the scope of the agreement to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics as well.

Trade talks: Director General of the WTO, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala speaks at the opening ceremony of the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 12. **AFP**

EXPLAINER

Auctioning 5G spectrum bands

What are the use cases of the new cellular technology? How is the roll-out being planned?

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

The story so far: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its nod for the auction of spectrum that can be used to offer 5G services, at its meeting held on June 14. A total of 72,097.85 MHz (or 72 Ghz) of spectrum with a validity period of 20 years will be put on sale during the auction planned towards the end of July. The auction will be held for spectrum in various Low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), Mid (3300 MHz) and High (26 GHz) frequency bands. It is expected that the Mid and High band spectrum will be utilised by telecom service providers (TSPs) to roll-out 5G services wherein speeds would be 10 times higher than what is possible through the current 4G services. This follows the Budget 2022 announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that the government would auction telecom spectrum in 2022, which will enable private players to roll out 5G services before March 2023.

When will the spectrum be auctioned?

The auctions are scheduled to commence from July 26. The Department of Telecom has invited applications from prospective bidders to participate in the auctions. Based on the applications, the



government will pre-qualify applicants who meet the eligibility criteria.

When will the commercial roll-out happen?

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently said that the 5G deployment is likely to start from August-September this year, and service should commence in about 20-25 cities by the year-end.

Experts and analysts expect a gradual roll-out of 5G across the country in a phased manner over the next two to three years, with roll-outs beginning from the second half of the current year.

"Given the operator's public statements, nascent 5G device penetration and limited use cases, we expect a more gradual 5G roll out by

telcos over the next 2-3 years," according to a note by Credit Suisse. Likewise, Nomura in a research note has said that relief measures by the government, such as scrapping of spectrum usage charges (SUC) for future spectrum auctions and moratorium on deferred spectrum payments and Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues has considerably eased the pathway for 5G rollouts in India. "...we think 5G rollouts would commence in 2H22. However, given the nascent 5G ecosystem and evolving use cases, we think 5G rollouts would likely be granular starting with metros and larger cities," Nomura added.

What are the key issues?

The two issues that the industry has highlighted with regards to the upcoming auctions are high reserve prices for the spectrum and direct allotment of spectrum to enterprises for setting up captive private networks.

The government has accepted the recommendations given by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on reserve prices for spectrum auctions. While the TRAI had earlier recommended reducing prices of airwaves across various bands by 35-40% from its earlier proposed base price, the telecom operators had expressed disappointment given their demand for a 90% cut in the prices. "At these prices, a

block of 5MHz spectrum (paired) in the 700MHz band will cost ₹196bn (US\$2.5bn), 50MHz block in the 3.4GHz band will cost ₹159bn (US\$2bn) and 400MHz block in the 26GHz band will cost ₹28bn (US\$0.4bn)," according to Credit Suisse.

On allowing direct allocation of spectrum for captive non-public networks, the government has reasoned that the move will spur a new wave of innovations in Industry 4.0 applications such as machine to machine communications, Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) across automotive, healthcare, agriculture, energy, and other sectors. However, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which counts the three private telcos as its members, has said that the move severely degrades the business case of TSPs. "This will diminish the revenue so much that there will be no viable business case left for the TSPs and there will not remain any need for 5G networks roll-out by TSPs," it had said before the Cabinet decision.

What benefits are likely to come with 5G?

5G is the next generation cellular technology that will provide faster and more reliable communication with ultra low latency. As per the set standards, with 5G, the peak network speeds are

expected to be in the range of 2-20 Gbps as opposed to about 25 Mbps on current 4G networks. In India, however, 4G speeds average at around 6-7 Mbps, but are picking up gradually.

It is expected that with 5G technology, consumers will be able to download data heavy content such as 8K movies and games with better graphics in just a few seconds. The users will need to update to 5G-enabled devices to access the network, if they are not already using one. However, it is likely that the primary use of the technology will go beyond delivery of services on personal mobile devices. 5G is expected to form the backbone of emerging technologies such as IoT and machine to machine communications, thereby supporting a much larger range of applications and services, such as tele-surgery and real time data analytics. Ultra low latency offered by 5G makes the technology desirable for such use cases. Latency is the amount of time data takes to travel between its source and destination.

As per a report by a government panel on 5G, even after the entry of 5G into the Indian networks, the earlier generation mobile technologies – 2G, 3G and 4G, will continue to remain in use and may take 10 or more years to phase out. 5G is expected to create a cumulative economic impact of \$1 trillion in India by 2035, the report added.

THE GIST

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CACHE

Mixed reality has a blurred vision

VR headsets can potentially dethrone smartphones as the go to devices to connect and communicate

JOHN XAVIER

You must be in a different world if you have not heard of the metaverse yet. The word became popular after Facebook renamed itself as Meta last year, and said it would invest \$10 billion to build a digital land for people to interact and socialise. Facebook is not the only company charting a course to make a name for itself in the digital world. Google and Microsoft are all putting their teams to build a yet-to-be fully understood online space.

Tech titans are busy building hardware and developing software for digital avatars of real people to interact and socialise. Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) headsets are therefore, one of the important cogs in this online fantasy land. VR/AR devices are the keys to unlock passage into the digital land. These gadgets take people into the virtual world to meet and greet each other. And some early movers failed to usher in a VR era without these gadgets.

Cardboard lessons

In 2016, Google attempted to corner a share of the market with its Cardboard headset. The disposable spectacle shells allowed users to slide their smartphones into them for short VR experiences. Though the search giant shipped millions of devices to customers for free, it could not make the leap to a consumer headset. Part of the problem was the smartphone used to power these experiences. The phone's ability to provide immersive on-the-go experiences were limited as 3D apps drained battery and the units were not easy to set up. At this point, stand-alone VR headsets like Oculus Rift and HTC Vive were providing much better user experiences for a few hundred dollars.

According to market intelligence firm IDC, Facebook's Oculus Quest 2 is the most popular VR device with 78% share of the AR/VR market in 2021. Nearly 9.4 million VR headsets were sold last year, a number that could rise to 13.6 million by

the end of this year. The headsets Meta makes cater to individual consumers and are specifically designed for the metaverse that CEO Mark Zuckerberg has envisioned. Not all companies are interested in the retail consumer market where VR will be primarily used for gaming.

Microsoft's VR universe

At the other end of the mixed reality market is Microsoft. The Windows software maker unveiled its augmented reality headset back in 2015 with a \$3,000 price tag, an expensive piece of gadget. The Richmond-headquartered company targets enterprise customers to sell its VR gadgets. The industry-defining HoloLens headsets were described at that time of launch as "the most advanced holographic computer the world has ever seen." The device had a self-contained computer with a CPU, a GPU (graphics processing unit), and a hologram processor. It also enabled spatial sound so people could hear holograms from behind them. Complete with a dark visor, the headsets could sense movement and the user's immediate surrounding.

HoloLens was several notches above Google Glass, which was similar to Microsoft's device but suffered from a slow hardware and patchy application ecosystem

HoloLens was several notches above Google Glass, which was similar to Microsoft's device but suffered from a slow hardware and patchy application ecosystem.

Three years after the launch, Microsoft signed a \$480 million deal with the U.S. Army to sell customised HoloLens, called Integrated Visual Augmented System (IVAS). The headset augmented the view of a user by overlaying digital objects on top of the real world. In 2021, Microsoft bagged another large contract with the same government agency. This time around, it would

sell over 1,20,000 HoloLens headsets in a deal worth more than \$20 billion over a period of 10 years.

Leadership shakeup and talent wars

A year on, the software giant is bleeding talent in its augmented reality division. According to a report by *The Wall Street Journal*, nearly 100 people from the mixed reality department left the company within a year. Most of them moved to Meta Platforms to build its products for the metaverse.

If that wasn't enough, the brain behind the HoloLens at Microsoft and the creator of the Kinect camera, Alex Kipman, has resigned following allegations of sexual harassment and verbal abuse. Microsoft developed its industry-defining HoloLens under Kipman's leadership. The headset became the go to device for engineers to run their mixed reality projects. Several companies used the device to train their employees; in some cases, medical students used them to immerse themselves in clinical procedures. Now, as Kipman leaves the company, its entire mixed reality division is undergoing a reorganisation, according to an internal memo obtained by *GeekWire*.

The talent exodus and the organisational rejig has dealt a blow to Microsoft's vision of a mixed reality, making it reroute resources and people at a time when the market for AR/VR is heating up. Some have also pointed out Microsoft's plans to partner with Samsung to build its VR gadget as possible reason for a churn within the mixed reality division.

VR headsets can potentially dethrone smartphones as the go to devices to connect and communicate. But companies building VR hardware and software are catering to different class of users – some to other businesses, others to individual consumers. Firms are also facing a talent crunch as rivals poach people to build their own products.

The path to a VR future looks blurred for now.



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Haven't got a bean on me

When it comes to vocabulary, we sure do know our onions

S. UPENDRAN

"Hey, come on in! How have you been? How is the hunt for the new house coming along? Has your dad found anything?"

"Wow! So many questions! What's got into you?"

"I was interviewing a whole bunch of candidates yesterday, and I guess..."

"Interviews! That explains all the questions, I guess. Anyway, we still haven't found the kind of house we're looking for. My mother is very particular."

"Maybe you should consult Mayank. When it comes to real estate, he knows his onions."

"Knows his onions? We're not interested in onions, we're interested in houses!"

"I know! When you say that someone knows his onions about something, what you're suggesting is that he knows a lot about the subject matter."

"In other words, he's very knowledgeable about it."

"Exactly! It's an expression mostly used in informal contexts. When it comes to old Hindi and Tamil songs, Sheela certainly knows her onions."

"She certainly does. Her brother, Ram, knows nothing about movie songs. But he certainly knows his onions when it comes to computers."

"He certainly does. Now then, would you like me to call Mayank and ask him about..."

"Not right now! Hey, weren't you planning to buy a house last year? Why don't you and ..."

"Dropped the idea about six months ago. I don't have a bean on me right now."

"Don't have a bean? Does it mean you don't have money?"

"Very good! When you say that you don't have a bean, what you're suggesting is that you have little or no money. This rather old fashioned expression is mostly used in informal contexts in British English."

"So, what you're suggesting is that you don't have enough money to buy even beans."

"No, no! The bean in the expression doesn't refer to the vegetable that we eat. In this context, it refers to a coin. A century or two ago, the sovereign or the guinea was referred to as 'bean'."

"I see. I've always been careful with money. Growing up, we didn't have a bean."

"That's a good example. Ram was a millionaire. But after his divorce, he was left with no bean."

"That happens to a lot of people. Sorry, I'm in no position to lend you money. I haven't got a bean."

"That's what some of the candidates said in their interview."

"Really? Did you find any candidate who knew his onions when it came to management?"

"Not really! Though they didn't know their onions when it came to topics related to management, I had a lot of fun interviewing them. Quite a few were full of beans."

"Beans again! What is it with you and vegetables today? Is the expression 'full of beans' used with people who are really intelligent or have a lot of money?"

"Not necessarily. The informal expression is usually used to refer to someone who is very lively. Someone who is full of energy."

"I see. How about this example? On their birthday, the twins burst into their parents' bedroom full of beans."

"They probably wanted their presents. The expression also carries with it the sense 'to be in high spirits'. When the final exam got over, the students were full of beans."

"I need my morning coffee. Before that, I'm seldom full of beans."

"Same here."

Life is like an onion: you peel off layer after layer, and then you find there's nothing in it.

-James Hunecker

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE GIST

■ In 2016, Google attempted to corner a share of the market with its Cardboard headset. However, it could not make the leap to a consumer headset as the smartphone used to power these experiences was limited. 3D apps drained battery and the units were not easy to set up.

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■ According to a report by *The Wall Street Journal*, nearly 100 people from the mixed reality department left Microsoft within a year. The talent exodus has dealt a blow to Microsoft's vision of a mixed reality, making it reroute resources and people at a time when the market for AR/VR is heating up.

THE DAILY QUIZ

June 19 was celebrated as Father's Day. Here is a quiz on some famous fathers in fiction

1 Who is the father of Shakespeare's Cordelia, Goneril and Regan?

toothpaste tubes. He loses his job. Who is this father who appears in two novels by the same author?

2 "It was times like these when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any wars, was the bravest man who ever lived." Who is this father from a famous book?

5 Boromir and Faramir are two brothers who fight to protect Gondor. What was the title of their father, Denethor?

3 This father in a Jane Austen novel says: "Let me not have the grief of seeing you unable to respect your partner in life". We are never told his first name. Who is he?

6 In this book, Baba treats his son Amir and his servant's son Hassan the same way. Later in life, Amir learns something big that he did not know about his Baba. Which book is this, which the author has often described as a father-son story and which has the famous line: "For you, a thousand times over"?

4 This father screws the caps on to



◀ The man in this still from a famous film grows close to a little girl who reminds him of his own daughter back home. What is the name of the film, which is based a short story?

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

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the July 17 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The red in the Icelandic flag stands for this. **Ans: Fire/Lava because of its numerous volcanoes**

2. This was first attributed to Vigdís Finnbogadóttir who served as the President of Iceland from 1980 to 1996. **Ans: She is the world's first democratically elected woman President**

3. The name of Iceland's capital. **Ans: Reykjavik**

4. The Althingi is considered the oldest of this kind of institution in the world. **Ans: Parliament**

5. The Imagine Peace Tower in Kollafjörður Bay was installed in 2007 by the widow of this legendary man of music. **Ans: John Lennon. His wife Yoko Ono installed this tower after his death**

6. The feature one associates with places ending in '-foss'. **Ans: Waterfalls**
Visual: This American beat a Russian in this match in 1972. **Ans: Bobby Fischer, who beat Boris Spassky to win the World chess crown**

Early Birds: Srijan Patra| Upaakti Dahraan| Richa Jainer| Parveen Rewri| Vidhiksha Patel

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

FROM PAGE ONE

Services rule out rollback of Agnipath

The Navy's Chief of Personnel, Vice-Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, said the force had already started working on the process and the advertisement would reach the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by June 25 and the process would start within one month.

"By November 21 the first batch of Agniveers will report at our training centre INS Chilka. The Agniveers will be gender neutral," he said. Of the 3,000 Agniveers to be inducted by the Navy this year, there will be some women, Vice Adm. Tripathi said. "We are working out the numbers based on the number of ships they can be accommodated and the facilities in training establishments."

The Navy already has women officers serving on aircraft and onboard warships, he noted. The Navy is looking at recruiting up to 600 women Agniveers depending on the modalities they would be posted on warships as well, it has been learnt.

For the Army, the terms and conditions and eligibility criteria have already been put up on the Army website, said Lt. Gen. C.B. Ponnappa, Adjutant General of Army. "On July 1, we will have notification from all recruitment offices. The first rallies will start in first week on August to November. In two batches induction will be done into training centres," he explained.

India gives emergency visas for 111 Afghans

Last year, 163 members of the minority community came to India after they were granted "e-Emergency X-Miscellaneous visa." India had suspended all kinds of visa after the Taliban took over the governance in Afghanistan in August 2021. On August 17, the special emergency visa was announced for the stranded citizens but most visas were only granted to people from the Hindu and Sikh communities. More than 80 members of the communities who fled to Dubai and Russia after Taliban take over have also been waiting for

visas to be cleared. At least 11 persons who came to India last year but returned to Afghanistan citing personal reasons are also among the list of people awaiting evacuation from Afghanistan.

A delegation of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs when they met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 19 had raised the issue of the pending visas.

Mr. Chandhoke had written to Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra on May 27 requesting them to expedite the visas.

Telcos seek norms for captive private networks

"Nevertheless, since the Government has taken initial decision to enable the CNPN (captive non-public networks) through direct spectrum assignment from DoT... we propose the following steps to provide clarity and reduce" risks, the industry group said in its letter dated June 18.

The COAI has argued that there is a need to clearly define the scope of CNPN, which it stressed should be restricted to machine-to-machine communication inside the CNPN's premises only. The CNPN must also ensure that they do not cause any interference with public networks.

Citing national security, the industry group said that these networks should be made to comply with the prescribed subscriber verification norms to ensure adequate verification and traceability of every user. It further added that these networks would need to be even more secure than ordinary handsets as any security breach in a network, which is controlling machine/production, would be catastrophic for the economy of the country.

"Therefore, each and every network element for a CNPN (captive non-public networks) should comply with the requirements of trusted product/trusted source and any equipment should be installed only after obtaining the approval of the NSCS (National Security Council Secretariat)."

Also, the CNPN must be bound by the same security conditions as per the licensing terms applicable for telecom service providers. This would include having to store call/data records for 2 years, command logs for 3 years, keeping records of software updates, ensuring data localisation with remote access only from in-country and no remote access from outside of India, COAI (Cellular Operators Association of India) said.

"Given the geopolitical & cybersecurity risks and to mitigate national security concerns, CNPN should be permitted only after installing" authorised and secure equipment and providing connectivity to law-enforcement agencies and commence services under similar conditions as TSP, it said. "Some of the CNPN may be very large, handling a large number of users/employees and machines for which lawful interception becomes important," COAI added. Also, it stressed that the private captive networks must remain "truly private and isolated" as networks. Contending that it was likely that the enterprises obtaining the spectrum for CNPN would be tempted to connect multiple offices, COAI said it was essential not to allow such interconnection.

Additionally, use cases meant for the masses could not be allowed to be a part of CNPN as the use cases may include financial inclusion and the agriculture sector.

Army teams lead flood rescue in Assam

Flood and landslips claim more lives; death toll in three northeastern States crosses 100

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Disasters are often a test of character, as Captain Rupam Das showed on a day floods and landslips killed nine people, including three minors, in Assam.

The young officer had the option of attending to his marooned family at Pathsala in western Assam's Bajali district. But on Sunday, he chose to lead an Indian Army column in an operation to rescue scores of villagers in the flooded Sathikuchi village, about 30 km east in the adjoining Nalbari district.

Another Army team helped evacuate a cancer patient in her 40s, stuck at her flooded home in Kamrup district's Palepara village for three days, and sent her to an advanced healthcare centre in Guwahati. Three people in their 90s were also evacuated to safety from Kadamtola and Holapara village in Baksa district.

"Such inspiring acts ma-



In distress: People relocating to a safer place along with children after their village is inundated by flood waters in Nalbari district of lower Assam on Sunday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

nifest exceptional human values and strong military grooming," Defence spokesperson, Lt. Col. Angom Bobin Singh said, adding that 14 composite columns rescued 4,500 stranded people besides ensuring timely supply of essentials to the relief

camp. Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said six people drowned and three were buried alive in landslips across the State during the past 24 hours.

A few landslips were also reported from Arunachal

Pradesh on Sunday. One of them at Sood village near State capital Itanagar killed a 16-year-old boy on his way to a boxing selection trial.

"So far, 342.28 lakh people of 5,137 villages across 33 districts have been affected in the second wave of floods

and 1,86,424 people have taken shelter across 1,147 relief camps. Till now, 1,07,370.43 hectares of cropland have been damaged," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

The flood data provided by the ASDMA on Sunday was minus the inputs from Darrang, Karimganj and Tamulpur districts that were experiencing power and Internet connectivity issues.

Officials in Kaziranga National Park said about 15% of the rhino habitat has been submerged with 44 of the 223 anti-poaching camps inundated. While no animal has drowned, a leopard and four hog deer died after they were hit by vehicles on the highway skirting the southern boundary of the park.

Floods and landslips have killed 109 people across three northeastern States since April. While 71 died in Assam, 18 of them in landslips, 32 people died in Meghalaya and six in Arunachal Pradesh.

Four militants killed in Kashmir

Forces have stepped up anti-militancy operations ahead of Amarnath Yatra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Four militants were killed in twin operations in Kupwara and Kulgam in Kashmir on Saturday.

The police said two militants - identified as Haris Sharief from Srinagar, a 'C' category militant affiliated to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and Zakir Padder from Kulgam, a 'C' category militant affiliated to the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) - were killed in an operation in the D.H. Pora area of Kulgam in south Kashmir. "A combing operation is on in the area," the police said.

In north Kashmir, a group of hiding militants was trapped in the Lolab area of



Under the scanner: Army jawans stand guard near the encounter site in Kulgam. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Kupwara. The police said a joint operation along with the Army's 28 Rashtriya Rifles was launched on the disclosure of an arrested terrorist, Showket Ahmed Sheikh, from Lolab.

"During the search of hideouts, terrorists fired upon joint search parties and our team retaliated, in which one terrorist got killed. The arrested terrorist also got trapped," the police said.

The police said a total of two militants were killed in the ongoing operation.

"One slain terrorist has been identified as Pakistani and was linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Two or three more terrorists along with the arrested terrorist are trapped in the encounter," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

Security forces have stepped up anti-militancy operations in Kashmir ahead of the Amarnath Yatra.

"By targeting innocent civilians, including women and children, unarmed policemen and outside labourers, terrorists can't deter our efforts to bring peace in the Valley," the IG said.

Gurdwara attack may delay India's plans to reopen embassy

Team led by Director-level official being finalised to set up consular, visa and humanitarian functions in Kabul, sources said

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The attack on Gurdwara Kart-e-Parwan in Kabul, in which an Afghan Sikh and a security guard, were killed in a terror strike claimed by the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) as a response to the comments on Prophet Muhammad by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokespersons, has restarted the debate over whether India should continue with its plans to reopen its embassy in Kabul, according to a number of officials.

In particular, Indian intelligence sources believe the IS-K is linked to Pakistan and the attack could also be a "message" from the neighbouring country to both Kabul and New Delhi, given talks with the Taliban on India's re-entry to Afghanistan. The fate of the Indian Embassy was discussed when a

team of officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) led by Joint Secretary J.P. Singh visited Kabul on June 2, the first such visit since the Taliban takeover of last August. The team met with Taliban-appointed Ministers, including acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaqi and acting Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani.

Advanced plans

According to sources, the plans for the embassy had gained momentum in the past few weeks, and a team of diplomats led by a Director-level official was being finalised to travel to Kabul and set up base there for consular and visa functions and to coordinate humanitarian assistance to Afghans.

The MEA declined to comment on the issue, but the sources, who requested ano-



On watch: Taliban fighters stand guard along a road in Kabul, after gunmen stormed a Sikh temple. ■ AFP

nymity, confirmed that the team was due to travel this month to Afghanistan, pending security clearances. At present, a skeleton staff of local Afghans have been maintaining the embassy on Kabul's Shar-e-Naw. Consulates in Kandahar, Jalalabad and Herat, which were closed earlier, however, may take much longer to reopen.

Multiple appeals

Despite previous animosity, including attacks on the Indian Embassy led by the Haqqani group in the past, the Taliban regime has made a number of appeals for India to reopen the embassy, which was shut down in August 2021, and offered to guarantee security for the mission.

At least 13 countries, including Russia, China, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Turkey, the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Central Asian states, and the European Union, operate embassies in Kabul, while the U.S. has deputed Qatar to officiate on its behalf.

Clear warning

"India is a historic friend of Afghanistan and the return of its diplomatic mission will certainly be welcomed by the Afghan people," former President Hamid Karzai told *The Hindu*, when asked about the possibility.

However, former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Amar Sinha said that the attack on the gurdwara is a "clear warning" that Indian interests and minorities will be attacked, "despite assurances from Taliban leadership".

During the visit to Afghanistan, Mr. Singh and Indian officials had surveyed the distribution of Indian humanitarian assistance, including wheat and medicines, as well as the condition of infrastructure projects previously undertaken by Indian companies, which the Taliban is keen to have restarted.

According to experts, this may have sent alarm bells ringing in Pakistan's establishment. In addition, concerns in Rawalpindi may have been raised after a statement by Acting Defence Minister Mullah Yaqub, son of Taliban founder Mullah Omar, suggesting the Taliban could continue the practice of sending Afghanistan soldiers for training to India, and another chief suggesting Taliban ties with India were strengthening.

'Conman' Suresh to seek jail transfer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear on Monday the plea of 'conman' Suresh Chandrashekhar, who is lodged in Tihar jail on charges of money laundering and duping several people, and his wife seeking their transfer to a prison outside Delhi alleging threat to their lives.

The Centre is expected to apprise a vacation Bench of Justices C.T. Ravikumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia names of the prisons besides Tihar jail, where jailed Mr. Chandrashekhar and his spouse Leena Paulose could be shifted. Mr. Chandrashekhar, who is accused of bribing Tihar jail officials to the tune of ₹60 lakh to ₹75 lakh, is seeking transfer to a prison outside Delhi allegedly fearing threat from the prison officials who are under the scanner for favouring him inside the jail.

20 Indian fishermen released by Pakistan

They were arrested five years ago

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Pakistan, in a goodwill gesture on Sunday, released 20 Indian fishermen who have been languishing in a jail here for the past five years for allegedly fishing illegally in the country's waters.

The 20 fishermen were lodged at the Malir district jail in the Landhi area of Karachi. They were sent to Lahore on their way to the Wagah border where they will be handed over to the Indian authorities. Jail superintendent Muhammad Irshad said the fishermen were released on the order of the federal government.

"They were in jail for the

past five years. Today, they were handed over to the Edhi trust, a non-profit social welfare organisation, which will be responsible for taking them to Lahore under police escort," he said. Mr. Irshad said the fishermen were arrested by the Maritime Security Force in June 2018.

Faisal Edhi, who heads the welfare foundation, said all expenses and travelling of the Indian fishermen were being taken care of by them. Pakistan and India regularly arrest rival fishermen for violating the maritime boundary, which is poorly marked at some points.

'Centre selling PSU lands'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister for IT, Industries and Urban Development K.T. Rama Rao has alleged that the Modi-led BJP government at the Centre is selling off assets worth ₹40,000 crore belonging to the Central PSUs located in the State as part of its disinvestment and monetisation plans.

In a letter addressed to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday, Mr. Rao said the Centre was trying to sell 7,200 acres belonging to Hindustan Cables Ltd, Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Hindustan Machine Tools, Cement Corporation of India and Ordnance Factory in and around Hyderabad.

APPEAL

Mast Padmesh 7 years old, needs your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. He suffers from Severe Aplastic Anemia and has to undergo Allogeneic Bone Marrow Transplantation at U.S. Hospital, Chennai. He urgently needs Rs.15,00,000/- for his treatment and supportive care. Donations sent by Ch/D, D, favouring **W.S. Medical Trust** will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D, D, NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT (Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Corridor Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/282353247/338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfarefund@rediffmail.com Website: www.womenswelfarefund.org

WWS

Sri Lanka to resume Jaffna flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will resume flights from the northern Jaffna peninsula to India in July, Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva has said, adding the service will support the country's tourism industry and help ease the economic crisis. The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority plans to attract 8,00,000 tourists during the rest of the year. "The northern Jaffna peninsula's Palaly airport is to resume flights to India from next month," Mr. Siripala de Silva said on Saturday. However, he did not specify a date. "Resuming the flights would improve tourism and help the country in the current dollar crisis," he said after inspecting the Jaffna international airport. The present runway can accommodate 75-seater flights only and therefore needs to be extended, he said. He hoped for Indian assistance for runway improvement. The 2019 redevelopment was funded by Sri Lanka and India.

Five High Courts to get new Chief Justices

Telangana Chief Justice transferred to Delhi High Court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has cleared the appointments of new Chief Justices for five High Courts and transferred Telangana Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma to the Delhi High Court. The appointments have come within a month after the Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana made the recommendations to the government. The High Courts of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gauhati and Telangana are getting the new Chief Justices. Justice Vipin Sanghi, Delhi High Court judge, has been appointed Chief Justice of Uttarakhand. Justices Amjad A. Sayed has been appointed Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court and S.S. Shinde of the Bombay High Court. Recently, the daughter of a Himachal Pradesh High Court judge was arrested in connection with the murder



N.V. Ramana

of national-level shooter and advocate Sukhmanpreet Singh Sidhu. Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya, Gujarat High Court judge, has been appointed Gauhati Chief Justice. Telangana High Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan has been appointed Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court. Justice Bhuyan's parent High Court is Gauhati. Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, whose parent High Court is Madhya Pradesh, would have a tenure till November 2023. The Delhi High Court has not had a Chief Justice since Chief Justice D.N. Patel re-

tired. Justice Sanghi has been the Acting Chief Justice since March 13.

Judicial vacancies

As of June 1, the number of judicial vacancies in the 25 High Courts remain at 400, while the working strength is 708. The sanctioned strength is 1,108. CJI Ramana, in his address at the recent joint conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers, highlighted how the sanctioned judicial strength continued to be disproportionate to the burgeoning case load faced by the district courts, High Courts and Supreme Court. "When we last met in 2016, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers in the country was 20,811. Now, it is 24,112, which is an increase of 16% in six years. On the other hand, in the corresponding period, pendency in district courts has gone up from 2.65 crore to 4.11 crore which is an increase of 54.64%," Chief Justice Ramana said.

'VIP visitors' flock to PMs' Museum

Over 37,000 visited the facility since it was opened to the public on April 21

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Prime Ministers' Museum has welcomed over 37,000 visitors since being opened to the public on April 21, with everyone from Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, the Chief Justice of India, and business leaders visiting, according to the company operating the museum. Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 14 and thrown open to the public a week later, the museum is located at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library complex on Teen Murti Estate. From April 21 to June 17, the museum sold 37,245 tickets, according to Tagbin, the government's design, technology and project management consultant for the project. Most visitors chose to buy tickets offline (79%), though there is a discount of ₹10 for those who book online on the entry ticket of ₹110. VIP visitors Sources said Union Ministers and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs were encouraged to visit the new museum by



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi on April 14. •PTI

the Prime Minister, and several of them have visited so far. President Ram Nath Kovind visited along with his family. Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and Kiren Rijiju have paid a visit. Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled Uttarakhand (Pushkar Singh Dhami) and Haryana (M.L. Khattar), as well as Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal, were among the VIP visitors, a source said. Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana and other holders of Constitutional posts have visited. Author and chairperson of Infosys Foundation

Sudha Murthy and author Amish Tripathi were among the visitors. Speaking about the experience of the first three months, Tagbin founder and CEO Saurav Bhaik said the museum, which is about 90% digital, had maintained a "99.9% up time" with a control room constantly monitoring the functioning of the holograms and audiovisual exhibits. To keep the largely digital museum running, he said an operations and maintenance staff of 55 people were on the job, along with specially designed software. For visitors, the audio guide has been designed with an indoor GPS to go

along with the exhibits. Mr. Bhaik said that while GPS is used outdoors, an indoor navigation system using multiple sensors and WiFi was being used in a museum for the first time to his knowledge. He said the idea was inspired by "high security offices, like nuclear plants", where sensors are located inside the helmets of workers. Mr. Bhaik said the guide was currently available in Hindi and English, but 22 Indian languages and six international languages would be added in the coming months. Built at a cost of ₹306 crore over 18 months, the museum is located at the erstwhile residence of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru that was converted into a memorial to him after his death. While the original heritage building where Nehru lived continues to be largely dedicated to his life, with a few additional galleries of gifts given to PMs and other topics, a new building was constructed behind it to house the galleries on all Prime Ministers after him. A gallery on Mr. Modi is being planned, sources said.

States told to check crime against Dalits

'Deploy officers to expedite probe'

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

Expressing serious concern over crimes against the oppressed sections, particularly Dalits, the Union Home Ministry has, in an advisory to the States and Union Territories, called for identifying areas prone to atrocities against Dalits and deploying adequate manpower and infrastructure to protect the life and property of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Where no progress was seen in the investigation of cases registered under the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, for more than 60 days, special officers in the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police should be appointed to expedite the probe. There should be no delay in registration of the FIR in such cases. Emphasising the need for vigorous enforcement of the statutory provisions and laws relating to offences against SC/STs, the Ministry said the administration and the police should play a more proactive role in detection and investigation of crimes to ensure there was no under-reporting. While the government must ensure proper enforcement of law and conviction

in crimes committed against the SC/STs, enforcement agencies should be instructed in unambiguous terms that enforcement of the rights of the "weak and vulnerable sections" should not be downplayed. The advisory said under the 2018 amendment to the Act, a clause was introduced wherein investigating agencies need not conduct preliminary inquiry before registering an FIR or seek approval of any authority to arrest an accused involved in the case. The Ministry said police officers should be directed to apply the appropriate sections of law as per the statements of the victims under the Act and no dilution should be allowed which may help the perpetrators of crime against the SC/STs. Response mechanisms should be set up to promptly deal with incidents of crime against the vulnerable, oppressed and deprived sections of society. Asking the authorities to ensure proper follow-up of cases of atrocities against Dalits and act on reports received from various sources, the Ministry called for ensuring proper supervision at the appropriate level from the recording of the FIR till the disposal of case.

'India, Bangladesh should work on river management'

Ready to extend assistance in managing flood: Jaishankar

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh should work together for comprehensive management of rivers, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said here on Sunday. Delivering opening remarks at the seventh round of India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission, Mr. Jaishankar welcomed his counterpart A.K. Abdul Momen and extended India's assistance in management of the annual flood in Bangladesh. He said the Indian side wished to work with Bangladesh on Artificial Intelligence, startups, fintech and cybersecurity. "We would also like to convey our support and solidarity at the unprecedented flooding that we have had in northern Bangladesh. We have also had in the northeast. We are now sharing flood management data for an extended period. I would like to take the opportunity to convey that if in any concrete way, we can be of assistance to you in the management of flood and relief efforts, we would be very glad to be supportive," said Mr. Jaishankar. The Minister took up the riparian dimension of bilateral relations with Bangla-



Bilateral ties: Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar meeting his Bangladeshi counterpart A.K. Abdul Momen on Sunday. •PTI

desh, which is the largest trade partner of India in south Asia, and said the two sides shared 54 rivers that required Delhi and Dhaka to work together and share "environmental responsibility" in areas such as the Sundarbans. India and Bangladesh have resolved border problems through the Land Boundary Agreement of 2015, but have been in dialogue over the sharing of multiple rivers that define the borders and impact lives and livelihoods on both sides. Bangladesh, however, has been particularly keen on receiving a fair share of the waters of the Teesta that flows through the northern part of West Bengal. A joint statement issued after the meeting said the two teams remain focused on the "importance of safe,

speedy, and sustainable return of forcibly displaced persons from Rakhine State to Myanmar, currently being sheltered by Bangladesh". Bangladesh has been hosting more than a million displaced persons from Rakhine, the Rohingya. 2022 marks the fifth year of the exile of this community. The visit of Mr. Momen came weeks after an international controversy broke out with two BJP leaders making derogatory comments on the Prophet. Bangladesh, however, has avoided issuing a direct condemnation of the remarks unlike several other countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Officials in Dhaka had earlier told *The Hindu* that Bangladesh did not want to "trigger" an issue by raising the controversy at the bilateral level.

Airfare hike inevitable: Vistara chief

JAGRITI CHANDRA
DOHA

An increase in airfares is 'inevitable' and Vistara will also raise them if other airlines do so, its CEO, Vinod Kannan, said on Sunday. "The ATF prices have been increasing and our fares have also been increasing. As part of the overall market, we do look at market fares. We do not operate in a vacuum and if other airlines increase fares and if the function of supply and demand is there, fares will increase," Mr. Kannan said at IATA's annual general meeting in Doha. He said that the increase in ATF means that fuel costs now account up to 40-50% of total costs for Indian airlines. Recently, SpiceJet's chairman and managing director Ajay Singh said that a minimum increase of 10-15% in airfares was 'required' as ATF prices have increased by 120% since June last year. While the airfares till June were backed by a strong travel demand, Mr. Kannan said that it remained to be seen whether an increase in ticket prices now will dent passenger sentiment during the traditionally lean travel season between July and September. (The writer is in Doha on the invitation of IATA)

'Child has a right to access both parents'

SC was hearing petition of a father

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court stepped into the shoes of children who find themselves in the middle of custody battles between estranged parents, saying a child is happiest when he or she can have both parents. The top court was hearing an appeal from Rajasthan where the Family Court had rejected the father's plea for interim custody of his minor son in July 2021. The State High Court had dismissed his appeal. In an order in which the COVID-19 pandemic features prominently, a Bench led by Justice Indira Banerjee said the lower courts' orders could not be faulted. But the SC then went on to

carve several occasions, such as the son's birthdays, weekends, and summer vacations, during which the father could meet and spend time with him. "The child would perhaps be happiest if he could have both his parents. Unfortunately, the parents are unable to resolve their differences and stay together. Be that as it may, the child has a right to access both parents, and get the love and affection of both parents. The child cannot be denied the company of his father," the top court explained. The issue of custody and access to the child could also resume before the Family Court as "the COVID-19 situation in the country has improved", the court said.

Arunachal Christians oppose order on church

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Members of the Arunachal Christian Forum (ACF) on Saturday took out rallies across the State to protest against a high-level committee's report that allegedly went against a controversial church in Tawang.

The ACF said the report was biased against the Christians and a recommendation for relocating the church was not feasible. The three-member panel on the Tawang church issue is headed by State Environment and Forest Minister Mama Natung.

THE CROSSWORD + 13587
(set by Dr. X)

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8				9					10
11							12		
14				15	16				
17	18			19				20	
21			22		23				
25			24				26		
27									

ACROSS

- Swelling around anus with red rash essentially (4,3,6)
- Twit after operation of the eye (5)
- Zero jobs for failures (9)
- Feverish tot with dengue clutching one's mum (6-4)
- Money in wad turned soggy (4)
- English expert stifles till one quits in final stage of chess match (7)
- Remained embarrassed after one passed wind (7)
- Relative on a bit of rum, getting hazy (7)
- One getting bowled over by author around lunchtime in exotic inn (7)
- Track around fine lawn (4)
- Decoy having sex with English rogue for information (10)
- Steals boxes, bringing back container with king's ornaments (9)
- Edged ball close to slips, caught by dive to the left (5)
- Imperious century, batting second with resolution (13)
- Not properly adjusted, loose nut on universal joint rotates (7)
- Stimulated by snorting cocaine, revolting individual at university went berserk (10)
- Fool stealing gold in French commune (5)
- Superhero dashes backwards, saving skin (6-3)
- Problem about husband's sentimentality (4)
- Fat around body part, revolting in skintight garment (7)
- Where to click precisely (2,3,6)
- Smashing mean monitor (11)
- Supported fantastic Indian team (10)
- Eastern academy assembling precise listening devices (9)
- Liqueur given by scoundrel starting to attract associate in firm (7)
- Carries clip outside, connects to an electrical outlet (5,2)
- Losing head, anxious about university result (5)
- Teen idol entertaining American city (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13586

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

According to Destiny

There is nothing more destructive than envy. The undesirable events in the Mahabharata arose because of the envy of Duryodhana. Although Sakuni is seen as the mastermind of Duryodhana's evil plans, in the initial stages, Sakuni advises Duryodhana to be content with what he has. In fact, before the game of dice begins, we find quite a few people stressing the need to keep to dharma, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. Vidura advises Dritarashtra and Gandhari advises Dritarashtra. Dritarashtra is fully aware that his son's intentions are dishonourable. He also has the advice of his wife and Vidura. Yet, he goes along with his son's plans. If in Duryodhana's case, it is envy which motivates him, in Dritarashtra's case, his affection for his son keeps him from doing the right thing. Even so, why does Yudhishtira agree to play the game? Yudhishtira offers the explanation that Dritarashtra had ordered him to play, and how could anyone disobey the king? We might think dharma had failed in this whole gambling episode. But it is not so. The whole chain of events that followed the game were destined to happen, and who can alter Destiny? We can and must do our duties, without questioning why the results have not been as we expected. It was Vidura's and Gandhari's duty to advise the king, which they did. But the results were not what they would have liked. Rama shows us that life and its sorrows can be summed up in just two words – "anticipation; non-acceptance." Dasaratha looks forward to coronating Rama, but dies heartbroken when Rama is exiled. Kaikeyi wants Bharata to be king, but he refuses. Only the Lord stands apart from all this, remaining calm when He is told that His coronation is to take place and then when He is told to leave the country.

INTERVIEW | RANIL WICKREMESINGHE

'Assistance to Sri Lanka has put us in the middle of geopolitics'

As Colombo readies a game plan for making economic recovery, we have got to ensure that India, China, Japan are singing the same tune, says Prime Minister

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, appointed to the post for the sixth time in extraordinary circumstances last month, is tasked with setting the country's economy on track amid a crushing economic downturn. While the international community welcomed his appointment, protesting Sri Lankan citizens accuse him of "making a deal" with the Rajapaksas, and protecting the first family. Mr. Wickremesinghe speaks on his plans for economic recovery, foreign assistance, and political prospects. Excerpts:

It has been over a month since you took charge as PM. What are your key interventions so far?

I would say the key intervention is in the economy. By next month, we will certainly be able to deal with the issue of fuel. We have been able to use the Indian credit line. We have also been finding some money, Sri Lanka on its own, and we got the fuel in. We want to have uninterrupted supply and we feel by next month, we should be able to handle it.

We have started the discussion with the IMF [International Monetary Fund]. We are also having Lazard and Clifford Chance [financial and legal advisers] in

here. We are trying to finish the IMF staff-level agreement by the end of this month. Then we have to wait for the debt restructuring plan. That will give us a clear indication of what we have to do. By July, I also hope to bring in the interim budget. Then we go on to the next one, the donor conference. There, we have got to ensure that India, China, Japan all are singing the same tune.

Apart from Indian assistance [\$3.5 billion], you have sought help from China and Japan. You have especially urged the Quad grouping to take the lead in setting up an aid consortium for Sri Lanka. How are they all responding?

Well, there are two main members of the Quad who are involved, that is, India and Japan. India has taken the lead so far in providing assistance. I must say that Indian assistance has helped us get through these difficult times.

We have just started communicating with Japan, and speaking about this, because the relations are strained for some time. In addition to this, we have China also coming in. Now we have two Quad members, and one Belt and Road [Initiative] member. And we have one Paris Club member, that is Japan, and two non-Paris Club members, India and China. So we are in the middle of geopolitics [laughs].

Are you expecting any further assistance from India apart from the \$3.5 billion committed?

We are hoping to get an additional \$500 million assistance for fuel.

China has commended



There has to be austerity, but we want it to be on a short term so that by 2024, we can start moving

India's assistance to Sri Lanka, and expressed willingness to work with India and the international community to help Sri Lanka. Is China willing to support Sri Lanka's debt restructure initiative backed by the IMF?

I think they will certainly do that. We will speak with them. And I hope at some time the three countries, Japan, China and India, will speak with each other. China has acknowledged India's

contribution. I think it is a good start, but there will be so many other issues to be debated.

Some are raising concern over an IMF programme, saying that the conditions that come with it could be tough. Do you think Sri Lanka will be forced to go down the austerity path for some time?

Well, if you look at it now, I think we agreed with the IMF that the vulnerable groups have to be supported. If you look at some of what are called tough conditions, even if the IMF is not there, we would have had to do it. The advantage of going with the IMF is that you get money through the Extended Fund Facility. If you do it on your own, you get nothing. If you go with the IMF, you get something or maybe everything.

On austerity, yes there has to be austerity, but we want it to be on a short term so that by 2024, we can start moving. 2023 is going to be a difficult year, because while we

may make an improvement, the global GDP growth is now down to 2.9%. We still don't know if it will go further down because of the Ukraine war, and the inflation in the West and issues in China.

The Adani Group's entry into the energy sector has become controversial, with many in Sri Lanka asking how they got in, in the absence of an international bidding process. Wouldn't this deter other potential investors and affect the country's image?

Adani Group has brought in \$500 million, which we need at the moment. It is a good sign that investors are coming in. Sri Lanka's potential for renewable energy, wind power, is big.

I don't think all the big companies coming in here will be able to fully exploit it. So, we have no problem about Adani coming in.

If the Indian government was really interested, I would have been told about this by Prime Minister Modi or his office. I haven't got any re-

quest to expedite it.

Look, if anyone else in India wants to invest another \$500 million [project], I am not objecting [laughs]. If a third party wants it, we will give it to them. In this position, are we to throw \$500 million away?

Your government faces a severe crisis of credibility, citizens' protests are going on against the President, you, this government. How will the government restore confidence among citizens, that too when it must adopt tough measures to cope with the crisis?

Firstly, the 21st Amendment was discussed by all the parties, the government and outside, and it will be put before Cabinet next Monday. Then, on Tuesday, we will have to also look at the Supreme Court determination on the Leader of the Opposition and the SJB's [Samagi Jana Balawegaya, the main opposition party] draft amendment to see how it interacts with the SC determination.

What about political credibility in the eyes of citizens?

So that will be the first step of building political credibility.

Secondly, I have put some proposals about the committee systems in Parliament. It is a sort of a step-by-step operation, but I think these two will be big.

You were brought in at such a crucial time to set the economy in order. Do you have the political backing of the President and the ruling party?

In my case, on the 9th of May, some of the backbench MPs wanted me to be Prime Minister [after Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned]. The situation was serious, and I thought someone had to do the job. So as I came in, I had the support of some of the backbenchers. Then later on the support built up, the President and the party gave me the support.

(For full interview, visit <https://bit.ly/3bcyqh7>)

Ukraine war could last years: NATO chief

West must offer long-term support to Kyiv: Stoltenberg

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KYIV

NATO's chief warned that the war in Ukraine could last "for years" as President Volodymyr Zelensky vowed on Sunday that his forces would not give up the south of the country to Russia after his first visit to the frontline there.

Ukraine said it had also re-



Intense attack: Firefighters working to douse a blaze which broke out after Russian shelling in Mykolaiv. *AP

pulsed fresh attacks by Russian forces on the eastern front, where there have been weeks of fierce battles as

Moscow tries to seize the industrial Donbas region.

While Ukraine remained defiant, NATO Secretary-

General Jens Stoltenberg warned Western countries must be ready to offer long-term support to Kyiv during a grinding war. "We must be prepared for this to last for years," Mr. Stoltenberg told German daily *Bild*.

"We must not weaken in our support of Ukraine, even if the costs are high - not only in terms of military support but also because of rising energy and food prices."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson issued a similar warning, urging sustained support for Kyiv or risk "the

greatest victory for aggression" since Second World War. "Time is now the vital factor," Mr. Johnson wrote in an article for the *Sunday Times*, calling for the West to ensure Ukraine has the "strategic endurance to survive and eventually prevail".

Mr. Zelensky, after making a trip to the Black Sea-city of Mykolaiv and the Odessa region on Saturday, said, "We will not give away the south to anyone, we will return everything that's ours and the sea will be Ukrainian and safe."

Sri Lankan troops open fire to contain fuel riots

Four civilians, three soldiers injured in clashes, say police

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's military opened fire to contain rioting at a fuel station, officials said on Sunday as unprecedented queues for petrol and diesel were seen across the bankrupt country.

Troops fired in Visuvamadu, 365 kilometres north of Colombo, on Saturday night

as their guard point was pelted with stones, Army spokesman Nilantha Premaratne said. "A group of 20 to 30 people threw stones and damaged an Army truck," Mr. Premaratne said.

The police said four civilians and three soldiers were wounded when the Army opened fire for the first time to quell unrest linked to the

worsening economic crisis.

As the pump ran out of petrol, motorists began to protest and the situation escalated into a clash with the troops, the police said.

Sri Lanka is suffering its worst economic crisis since independence, with the country unable to find dollars to import essentials, including food and fuel.

IS claims terror attack on gurdwara in Kabul

'An act of support for the Prophet'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KABUL

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the deadly terror attack on a gurdwara in Afghanistan's capital Kabul that killed two persons, including one Sikh community member, calling it "an act of support" for the Prophet.

Several blasts tore through Gurdwara Karte Parwan in Kabul's Bagh-e Bala neighbourhood on Saturday while Afghan security personnel thwarted a bigger tragedy by stopping an explosive-laden vehicle from reaching the place of worship of the minority community.

In a statement posted on its Amaq propaganda site late on Saturday, the Islamic State - Khorasan Province (ISKP), an affiliate of the Is-



A Taliban fighter standing guard outside a gurdwara in Kabul. *AFP

lamic State militant group, said the attack targeted Hindus and Sikhs and the "apostates" who protected them in "an act of support for the Messenger of Allah".

The terror attack came days after the ISKP in a video message warned of an attack against Hindus to avenge the remarks against Prophet Muhammad by two former BJP functionaries.

Palestinian shot dead by Israeli forces in W. Bank

He vandalised a security fence: Army

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE RAMALLAH

A Palestinian worker was shot dead by Israeli forces on Sunday while crossing a security barrier in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the man killed as Nabil Ghanem, 53, from the West Bank city of Nablus.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said Ghanem was among the tens of thousands of West Bank Palestinians who regularly seek work in Israel.

An Israeli Army spokesperson said forces had shot at "a suspect who vandalised the security fence".

Wages on Israeli farms and construction sites are far higher than what most Palestinian employers can

pay in the West Bank, a territory occupied by Israeli since 1967.

Jobs inside Israel are highly coveted by many Palestinians. Some have permits to work in Israel while others seek to cross without authorisation.

Ghanem's killing comes amid a spike in Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Nineteen people, mostly Israeli civilians - including 18 inside Israel and a Jewish settler - have been killed in attacks by Palestinians and Israeli Arabs since late March.

Israeli security forces have responded with raids inside Israel and in the West Bank, particularly in and around Jenin. Three Israeli Arab attackers and an Israeli police commando have been killed.

IN BRIEF



Apple workers vote to unionise at U.S. store

SAN FRANCISCO

A majority of employees at a U.S. Apple store have voted to form the tech giant's first union, in the wake of similar unionisation drives at Starbucks and Amazon locations. Of the 110 employees at the Towson, Maryland shop, 65 voted in favour and 33 against. The vote comes after a group of employees called AppleCORE (Coalition of Organized Retail Employees) campaigned for unionisation, demanding a say in deciding on wages, hours and safety measures. "We did it Towson! We won our union vote!... Now we celebrate... Tomorrow we keep organising," AppleCORE tweeted. *AFP

Macron alliance projected to lose parliamentary majority

It will make it harder for him to push through tax cut, reforms

ASSOCIATED PRESS PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron's alliance got the most seats in the final round of the parliamentary election on Sunday, but it lost its parliamentary majority, projections show.

The projections, which are based on partial results, show that Mr. Macron's candidates would win between 200 and 250 seats - much less than the 289 required to have a straight majority at the National Assembly, France's most powerful house of Parliament.

Political manoeuvring The situation, which is unusual in France, is expected to make Mr. Macron's politi-



French President Emmanuel Macron leaves after casting his vote on Sunday. *AFP

cal manoeuvring difficult if the projections are borne out.

A new coalition - made up of the hard left, the Socialists and the Greens - is projected to become the main Opposition force with

about 150 to 200 seats.

The far-right National Rally is projected to register a huge surge with potentially more than 80 seats, up from eight before.

Polls are being held nationwide to select the 577 members of the National Assembly.

The strong performance of the leftist coalition, led by hard-left leader Jean-Luc Melancon's coalition, is expected to make it harder for Mr. Macron to implement the agenda he was re-elected on in May, including tax cuts and raising France's retirement age from 62 to 65.

Mr. Macron's government will still have the ability to rule, but only by bargaining with legislators.



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K. NITYA KALYANI

Q. I retired from a Central Government PSU last year after 34 years of service. My Public Provident Fund account will mature in 2024 with about ₹13 lakh in the credit. On receiving retirement benefits such as Gratuity, I also invested in Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, RBI bonds and a life insurance policy. Having observed I still have sufficient savings left, I recently invested in a long-term savings plan combined with life insurance. My annual premium on this is ₹1.25 lakh. Now, I am wondering if I made a mistake in taking such a long-term policy considering I am 60 now. Please suggest withdrawal options.

T. V. V. SUBRAHMANYAM

A. The policy you mention offers life coverage through 20 years with premium being payable only for 12 years and annual money-back payments from the 12th to the 19th year. The money back is structured to be at a rate of 9.5% of your annual premium. So, what you will get is life coverage until age 80, a pre-determined cashflow from age 72 to 80 and a survival benefit equal to the sum assured. Life insurance is best bought for risk cover only. Buying one combined with investment, savings or any of the other terms used just clouds the issue.

Is there a specific reason why you opted for life insurance at retirement age? Let us break down the benefits of this policy and see if this is the most efficient fit for your needs.

The first phase is, in effect, a 12-year interest-free recurring deposit equal to your annual premium. At the end of 12 years, it behaves like a fixed deposit that gives you 9.5% for the 8 years following. At the end of year 20, you get the survival or maturity benefit which is like the return of principal of your fixed deposit. The pluses are that all the payouts of this policy are tax-free. Plus, there is life coverage for 20 years.

If you need the life coverage, please research your insurer's website for a term policy of similar sum assured with return of premium and limited premium paying term options. The premium undoubtedly will be much less. The difference between the two premiums fetches you the FD-like return.

Remember you don't get any interest for 12 years, so adjust the equivalent of recurring deposit interest. If this return makes sense, retain the policy.

If you are otherwise well invested and don't have anyone you want to support with a life insurance claim amount, you can come out of this policy. If you want the life coverage, buy a term policy and invest the differential premium elsewhere.

For ending the policy, there are three options with different levels of financial loss from your side. If you have paid a certain number of annual premiums, you can surrender the policy and get back a percentage of the premiums you have paid.

The other option is if you have paid a certain number of annual premiums you will get the option to make the policy 'paid up'. You don't have to pay further premium and the life coverage continues for the same term but highly reduced sum assured. Surrender and paid-up conditions differ from policy to policy and company to company, so please do your research. If you qualify for neither of the options above, stop paying premiums and the policy will lapse. You will write off the premium you have paid.

Q. My wife is 21. She has been suffering from acute pancreatitis from birth, which is an anatomical disorder. I am unable to purchase health insurance from private health insurance companies as they are declining my proposal citing underwriting guidelines. Can't a person with some health issues from birth purchase insurance?

Is purchase of health insurance totally based on the insurer's decision? Kindly guide me. If I purchase health insurance for myself and pay premium for three years, should I apply for tax deduction under 80D for total premium for 3 years or only the premium for current year as I had paid for 3 years at once?

SRINATH INUGANTI

A. Many medical conditions, acute or chronic, congenital or otherwise, represent an almost certain risk of high treatment costs.

Insurance companies' business is to insure a contingency, not a certainty. That is, they can insure something that may happen, but not something that is almost certain to happen because it will lead to a loss. This is why they have pre-existing diseases exclusions and waiting times before some conditions and procedures/ treatments are covered and it all depends on medical history, morbidity patterns, treatment protocols available and outcomes.

The decision whether to accept a risk or not, called underwriting, is at the entire discretion of the insurance company and it is their business decision.

Specialised health insurance companies may have a more nuanced approach to underwriting such cases due to their experience, expertise and data. Please talk to them and they may even fashion a cover for you if you are lucky.

Regarding 80D benefits for health insurance premium, the income tax department has clarified that premium paid for multi-year insurance policies cannot be all claimed in one year. You can claim it only proportionally over the period of the cover. This is a point worth double checking with your insurance company or agent as well as your CA.

(The adviser is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Gear up for more headwinds

Investors must be well-prepared to grab bargain opportunities in the coming future

ANAND SRINIVASAN
SASHWATH SWAMINATHAN

Over the past two years, the world has seen phenomenal monetary and fiscal intervention to forestall the economic effects of a COVID-19 recession. After continuous easy monetary and fiscal policy, central banks and governments worldwide are tightening their belts.

The U.S. has promised several rate hikes over the next few quarters, setting the trend for the rest of the countries. The U.S. dollar acts as the reserve currency, which means that a hike in the U.S. interest rate will lead to the depreciation of most other currencies while the dollar swells in strength.

The swelling dollar is especially detrimental to India on two accounts: 1) The price of imports, namely oil and food imports, will become much

more expensive, and 2) Money will flow out of our capital markets chasing the dollar. This scenario is reminiscent of the famous speculator George Soros's Reagan's imperial circle, wherein the U.S. Budget deficit increased while interest rates rose. This meant that the U.S. economy recovered while making its currency stronger.

Consumption, as well as growth, was funded by foreign goods and capital. However, the circle was vicious for other countries.

High inflation, low growth India will face high inflation and low growth due to a multitude of factors. The inflation from import prices will surely hurt the economy, and accounts of both industries and ordinary consumers.

A higher interest rate regime would mean that the government's fiscal deficit increases

further due to a higher borrowing rate on G-Secs. The government will have to cut down on fuel taxes to account for the rise in oil prices, further decreasing revenue. As Warren Buffet had stated, interest rates act as gravity for stock prices.

The stock market should ideally correct accordingly to a rate hike by the RBI. Moreover, current G-sec holders might also face a haircut due to rising rates depending on their yield and coupon rate.

Principle of shrinkflation Additionally, the FMCG industry (and others) will find it difficult due to narrowing margins from high inflation and the inability to raise prices. However, they deal with rising costs and stagnant prices by utilising the principle known as shrinkflation. One reduces the quantity of the goods sold while keeping the price constant (you might have noticed your biscuit packets getting lighter).

Although
FMCG

Investors should sit tight and wait for further developments in the next few months, avoiding any bouts of investment while passively indexing.

companies could try to sustain their profit margins, it is hard to imagine a world where they can support growth in sales and earnings.

The two big export industries which India boasts of are IT and Pharma. On the one hand, a depreciating rupee is a positive factor for these companies as they make their money in dollars. Therefore, at least in the short run, they gain from changes in the exchange rate.

Signalling recession However, rising rates in the U.S. would signal a recession leading to a reduction in consumption. Lower business activity levels would transition into problems for the IT industry especially. Moreover, domestic business activity is also set to face hurdles due to rising rates and tightening fiscal expenditure. These factors have a double-whammy effect in hurting the IT industry, which had weathered the COVID-19 storm relatively well. Additionally, export duties and bans play a significant role in harming metal exports. The metal industry, which had done well, now faces growing pressures from trade restrictions imposed on it. Therefore, it will be challenging to benefit from the depreciating exchange rate.

The increase in exports due to depreciation acts as

a stabilising factor for the currency, without which the depreciation could be more potent. Furthermore, higher interest rates also affect the cement industry, which thrives in a low-interest rate regime. Cement companies will face muted demand due to higher rates and higher costs due to rising fuel prices.

The automobile industry is another sector that benefits from a low-interest rate regime. Higher import costs combined with a high interest rate act as headwinds in the automobile industry.

These factors, however, are excellent indicators for the investor as they signal lower prices ahead.

Investors should currently sit tight and wait for further developments in the next few months, avoiding any bouts of investment while passively indexing.

In times like these, it is essential to remember a quote by Baron Rothschild (a formidable 18th-century banker), "buy when there is blood in the streets".

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant and Sashwath Swaminathan is a research associate at Aionion investment services)

THINK INVESTOR: NITTY-GRITTY

Which do you fear: trading or losing?

Learning technical analysis empowers you with the ability to earn money

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

Long-term investment and diversification are two concepts that are so ingrained in most individuals that thinking otherwise is considered sinful.

Small wonder that many individuals consider learning technical analysis a waste of time; for technical analysis is considered taking concentrated bets for the short term. In this article, we look at other reasons to explain why individuals could be averse to learning technical analysis. We also show why technical analysis could be a useful skill to acquire.

Effort vs. reward

'Investors' are supposed to take a lot of effort. Also, 'investors' are patient and disciplined. That means they wait for a long time before selling an investment. 'Traders' take short-term bets; some even call it speculation. Therefore, individuals prefer to be 'investors' rather than 'traders.'



Getting into the groove: Investors can take steps to understand how to trade applying chart patterns. ■ GETTY IMAGES/STOCK

But, it is not that individuals do not want to trade. It is just that they do not want to lose! Understandably so, because of loss aversion. This refers to our attitude towards gains and losses. For instance, a loss of ₹10,000 can cause us more pain than a gain of ₹10,000 can

give us happiness. It is, therefore, not difficult to understand the lack of interest and belief in technical analysis; for 'traders' typically know their outcome in the short term whereas 'investors' know their outcome over the long term.

So, 'investors' suffer pain

from losses, if any, only in the distant future. There is also the illusion of control. Many believe they have more control over their investments over the long term.

In the short term, markets are volatile; the chart pattern that gave you handsome returns in one month could prove disastrous the next month. Short-term is indeed volatile, but long term is a series of such short-term movements. So, if your long-term investment carries unrealised short-term losses of 30%, it must gain 43% over your remaining holding period to recover the losses.

Investors vs. traders

A popular understanding is that investors focus on long term returns while traders aim for short term gains. Also, investors apply fundamental analysis while traders use technical analysis. This is not necessarily true. You can use technical analysis for any time frame, but you cannot use fundamental

analysis for the short term.

It is, therefore, more appropriate to define investors and traders from a source-of-returns perspective. We define investors as ones who make investments for income returns. For instance, buying shares for dividend income.

Traders, on the other hand, look for capital appreciation. From this perspective, we can conclude that most of us are traders. Why? For one, it is not tax efficient to invest for dividend income. For another, with stock prices at high levels, dividend yield is low.

Now, if you are comfortable calling yourself a trader, then you should consider learning technical analysis. There is a benefit in doing so. The Indian automobile industry, for instance, is quite different from its U.S. counterpart. That means your skill at picking Tata Motors based on fundamentals cannot be applied for investing in Ford Motors. On the other hand, chart patterns are the

same across listed asset classes and geographies. So, technical analysis can help you buy Tata Motors and Tesla, trade a currency pair or a commodity anywhere in the world.

Conclusion

Learning technical analysis empowers you with the ability to earn money, capturing short term market movements. This skill is portable; you can trade in new markets if your job takes you to another country.

Unlike an engineer or a doctor, you do not need specialised qualifications to be a trader. So, you can continue to call technical analysis a waste of your time and ignore it.

Or, you can accept that it is, perhaps, fear that is holding you back and take steps to understand how to trade applying chart patterns. The choice is yours.

(The author offers training programme for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
AU Small Finance Bank	6.75	5.25	6.75	6.75
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.30	6.00	6.00	6.00
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.85	6.00	6.75	6.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.25	5.50	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.25	6.50	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.35	7.00	7.25	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.49	6.50	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.20	6.70	6.50	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.25	6.90	6.75	6.75
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Axis Bank	5.75	5.45	5.70	5.75
Bandhan Bank	6.25	5.75	6.25	5.60
CSB Bank	6.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.00	5.30	6.00	6.00
DCB Bank	6.60	6.00	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	5.75	5.35	5.50	5.70
ICIICI Bank	5.75	5.30	5.50	5.70
IDFC First Bank	6.25	6.00	6.00	6.25
IndusInd Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.50
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.55	5.20	5.50	5.55
Karnataka Bank	5.50	5.25	5.40	5.40
Karur Vysya Bank	5.80	5.40	5.65	5.80

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Kotak Mahindra Bank	5.90	5.50	5.90	5.90
Nainital Bank	5.40	5.20	5.35	5.40
RBL Bank	6.65	6.25	6.30	6.30
SBM Bank India	6.60	6.00	5.85	5.85
South Indian Bank	5.80	5.30	5.50	5.80
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.25	5.60	5.60
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Bank of Baroda	5.50	5.00	5.50	5.35
Bank of India	5.20	5.00	5.20	5.20
Bank of Maharashtra	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Canara Bank	5.75	5.30	5.70	5.75
Indian Bank	5.35	5.10	5.35	5.35
Indian Overseas Bank	5.60	5.40	5.60	5.60
Punjab National Bank	5.60	5.20	5.30	5.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.55	5.25	5.55	5.55
State Bank of India	5.50	5.30	5.45	5.50
Union Bank of India	5.80	5.35	5.50	5.75
FOREIGN BANKS				
Citibank	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.00	5.25	6.25	7.00
HSBC Bank	5.50	3.10	4.00	4.00

Home loan interest rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
State Bank of India	7.55-8.55	7.55-8.45	7.55-8.45
Bank of Baroda	7.45-8.95	7.45-8.95	7.45-9.20
Bank of Maharashtra	7.30-9.20	7.30-9.35	7.30-9.45
Union Bank of India	7.40-9.15	7.40-9.35	7.40-9.35
Punjab National Bank	7.45-8.85	7.40-8.55	7.40-8.50
Bank of India	6.90-8.75	6.90-8.75	6.90-8.75
Canara Bank	7.05-11.85	7.05-11.85	7.05-11.85
UCO Bank	7.40-7.60	7.40-7.60	7.40-7.60
Bank of Maharashtra	7.30-9.20	7.30-9.35	7.30-9.45
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.40-8.50	7.40-8.50	7.40-8.50
Indian Overseas Bank	7.05-7.40	7.15-7.40	7.30-7.40
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	>=7.50	>=7.50	>=7.50
ICIICI Bank	7.60-8.20	7.60-8.35	7.60-8.45
Axis Bank	7.60-12.50	7.60-12.50	7.60-8.05
HSBC Bank	6.85-7.75	6.85-7.75	6.85-7.75
South Indian Bank	7.75-10.50	7.75-10.50	7.75-10.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35
Karnataka Bank	7.74-8.99	7.74-8.99	7.74-9.09
Federal Bank	8.55-8.60	8.60-8.65	8.65-8.70

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
Dhanlaxmi Bank	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.95	7.95	7.95
Bandhan Bank	7.30-13.50	7.30-12.65	7.30-12.65
RBL Bank	10.30-12.00	8.70-9.10	8.70-9.00
CSB Bank	8.30	8.30	8.63
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
LIC Housing Finance	6.90-8.00	6.90-8.20	6.90-8.40
HDFC Ltd.	7.55-8.75	7.55-9.00	7.55-9.10
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.20 onwards	7.20 onwards	7.20 onwards
Tata Capital	>=7.75	>=7.75	>=7.75
PNB Housing Finance	6.99-16.75	6.99-16.75	7.15-10.15
GIC Housing Finance	>=7.74	>=7.74	>=7.74
Repco Home Finance	>=7.45	>=7.45	>=7.45
Indiabulls Housing	>=7.60	>=7.60	>=7.60
Aditya Birla Capital	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50
ICIICI Home Finance	>=9.20	>=9.20	>=9.20
Godrej Housing Finance	6.94-9.99	6.94-9.99	6.94-9.99
Home First Finance	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00

Rates as on June 17
Source: Paisabazaar.com

Rain plays spoilsport in decider; India, South Africa share series

Only 3.3 overs of action witnessed in the final match due to persistent downpour; first rain-abandoned T20I in eight outings at the Chinnaswamy Stadium



Honours even: It was a 2-2 result after rain had the final say in the fifth T20I despite the best efforts of the groundstaff, leaving the vociferous fans disappointed. • K. MURALI KUMAR



SCOREBOARD	
INDIA	1-20 (Kishan, 1.6 overs), 2-27 (Rituraj, 3.2).
SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING	Maharaj 1-0-16-0, Ngidi 1.3-0-5-6-2, Rabada 1-0-5-0.
Toss:	South Africa.
No Result. Five-match series drawn 2-2. Player-of-the-series:	Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

India-South Africa T20I series in numbers						
Batting	M	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Ishan Kishan	5	5	206	76	150.36	2
Heinrich Klaasen	4	3	118	81	151.28	1
Hardik Pandya	5	4	117	46	153.94	0
Rassie van der Dussen	5	4	97	75*	125.97	1
Bowling	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W
Harshal Patel	5	4	7	4/25	7.23	1
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	5	4	6	4/13	6.07	1
Yuzvendra Chahal	5	4	6	3/20	8.18	0
Dwaine Pretorius	5	4	5	2/29	9.66	0

SA IN INDIA
ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU
The bilateral T20I series between India and South Africa ended in a 2-2 stalemate after the fifth and final encounter here on Sunday was abandoned due to rain. The threat of a damp squib finale to the series was

on the cards, given that the city had witnessed heavy night showers for the past couple of weeks. Only 3.3 overs were bowled, before a second round of persistent rain forced the umpires to shut shop at 9.35 p.m. There were ominous signs even before a ball was bowled. Just as the players entered

the field for the scheduled start of play, they were greeted with a sharp downpour. The Indian batters, Rituraj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan, barely reached the pitch before they had to run back for cover. The SubAir drainage system at the venue got the outfield dry and ready in quick time, but a second in-

terruption would prove to be the last. In the 16 minutes of action witnessed by a large, naturally disappointed crowd at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, there were a few highlights. Kishan whacked a couple of sixes off Keshav Maharaj, who stood in as skipper for the indisposed Temba Bavuma. Pacer Lungi

Ngidi deceived Kishan and Rituraj with brilliant slower balls. This was the first rain-abandoned T20I in the eight outings held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. The series will be remembered for the exploits of Dinesh Karthik, who made an inspired comeback to international cricket. His match-

winning 55 in the fourth outing at Rajkot helped make a strong case for his inclusion in the squad for the ICC T20 World Cup later this year. Rishabh Pant, who led the side in the absence of the rested Rohit Sharma and the injured K.L. Rahul, had a disappointing run in his first full series as captain. He underperformed with the bat,

finishing with a series average of 14.50. That the playing XI remained unchanged in all five outings showed that head coach Rahul Dravid is not one to chop and change. This policy, which allows players a great deal of freedom and stability, paid dividends in the case of fast bowler Avesh Khan.

Avesh failed to grab a wicket in the first three outings, but came to the party at Rajkot with a four-for. If Avesh was thrilled to gain the full confidence of the team management, his counterpart Umran Malik – mighty impressive in the IPL with his raw pace – would be disappointed to not get a look-in.

West Indies takes 1-0 lead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NORTH SOUND
John Campbell smashed the winning six as West Indies needed just seven overs to beat Bangladesh by seven wickets on the fourth day of the first Test on Sunday. Campbell was unbeaten on 58 and vice-captain Jermaine Blackwood was not out on 26 as the hosts reached the target of 84, finishing with 88 for three. On day three, pacer Kemar Roach took five for 53 as Bangladesh was shot out for 245 in its second innings. **The scores:** Bangladesh 103 & 245 in 90.5 overs (Mahmudul Hasan 42, Shakib Al Hasan 63, Nurul Hasan 64; Kemar Roach 5/53, Alzarri Joseph 3/55) lost to West Indies 265 & 88/3 in 22 overs (John Campbell 58 n.o.).

'Karthik, Hardik our enforcers at the death'

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU
India head coach Rahul Dravid stated that comeback man Dinesh Karthik is "banging the doors down" after his splendid match-winning knock in the fourth T20I against South Africa at Rajkot. He added that Karthik's performance opens options in terms of his long-term international prospects. "Karthik was picked for a specific skill – something he has done exceptionally well in the last two-three years. It's nice that his selection has been vindicated. It came together brilliantly at Rajkot, where we needed that big performance in the last five overs to make a par score. Karthik and Hardik (Pandya) batted wonderfully for us. "Both Karthik and Hardik are our enforcers at the death. They can capitalise in the last five-six overs as well

as anyone in the world. It's good to see Karthik do well. I was telling the guys that they have to bang the doors open, not just knock. An innings like that (at Rajkot) certainly means that Karthik is banging hard," Dravid said at a press conference on Sunday. On Rishabh Pant's poor form in this bilateral series, Dravid said, "It is hard to judge performances in two-three games when we're asking our batters to play an attacking brand of cricket in the middle overs. Pant had a good IPL. His average may not have looked good, but his strike rate was very good. We were trying to get these numbers in international cricket as well. "Pant remains an integral part of our batting line-up, with the power that he has. He's certainly a big part of our plans going ahead in the next few months," Dravid said.



Perfect response: Karthik was picked for a specific skill and vindicated the decision, says Dravid. • VIJAY SONEJI

Women in Blue land in Lanka

INDIA IN SL
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO
The Harmanpreet Kaur-led Indian women's cricket team arrived here on Sunday for its limited-over tour of Sri Lanka, with the first T20I beginning at Dambulla on June 23. Without senior players like Mithali Raj, who has announced her retirement, and veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami, a young Indian team will play three T20Is and as many ODIs at Dambulla and Pallekele respectively. The Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) welcomed the visiting team, coached by Ramesh Powar, on its arrival and also posted pictures and visuals on its social media handles. Prior to its departure, the Indian team underwent a



In charge: Harmanpreet will be keen to guide India to an impressive performance in Sri Lanka. • TWITTER/BCIWOMEN

camp at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and also interacted with NCA head V.V.S. Laxman. According to Harmanpreet, the tour was a great opportunity to build the team. "We are working hard on

our team, we have great combinations. And for us, it is a good tour to start, because first-time we are going to play without our seniors and a great opportunity for all of us to build a team," Harmanpreet had said on Saturday.

Nissanka and Mendis do it for Sri Lanka

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO
Sri Lanka, powered by Pathum Nissanka (137, 147b, 11x4, 2x6) and Kusal Mendis (87 ret'd, hurt, 85b, 8x4), stormed to a six-wicket win over Australia with nine balls to spare in the third ODI here on Sunday. Sri Lanka leads 2-1 in the five-match series. Earlier, Travis Head scored an unbeaten 70 as Australia reached 291 for six. **The scores:** Australia 291/6 in 50 overs (Aaron Finch 62, Alex Carey 49, Travis Head 70 n.o., Glenn Maxwell 33, Jeffrey Vandersay 3/49) lost to Sri Lanka 292/4 in 48.3 overs (Pathum Nissanka 137, Kusal Mendis 87 ret'd, hurt).

PM Modi flags off torch relay

Will be taken to 75 cities in a span of 40 days

CHESS OLYMPIAD
RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI
In a fitting tribute to the cerebral sport that India gave to the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first-ever Chess Olympiad Torch Relay to trigger off the countdown to the sport's biggest event scheduled at Mahabalipuram, near Chennai, from July 28. In a symbolic gesture following a gala ceremony at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here, the Prime Minister faced country's top-ranked woman player Koneru Humpy over a chessboard and made a ceremonial move. Later, the World Chess Federation (FIDE) President Arkady Dvorkovich handed over the torch to Modi, who in turn passed it to five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand. The country's first Grandmaster received the torch

and jogged a few yards for the cheering spectators on his way out of the arena. Addressing the gathering, Modi relayed, "Today the first torch relay for Chess Olympiad is starting from India. We are proud that a sport, starting from its birthplace and leaving its mark all over the world, has become a passion for many countries." **Matter of pride** Earlier, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur took pride in stating that the FIDE had agreed to have the commencement of the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay from India for every subsequent edition of this mega event. Due to paucity of time, the torch relay will pass through 75 Indian cities before culminating at Mahabalipuram on July 27. World champion and top ranked Magnus Carlsen will lead the creamy layer of the players from around 189 countries.

Three players test positive

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI
R. Pragganandhaa, Soumya Swaminathan and Vantika Agarwal tested positive for COVID on Sunday, hours before the launch of the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay. Many members of the Indian Olympiad teams had reached the Capital on Saturday. Soon after their arrival from Chennai, the players and officials were tested and the reports were released on Sunday afternoon. The three players stayed in their hotel rooms while the rest headed to the Indira Gandhi Stadium.



Making the first move: Prime Minister Modi after handing over the flame to Anand in New Delhi on Sunday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Indian women lose to Argentina

Netherlands men pip India, emerge champions

FIH PRO LEAGUE
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ROTTERDAM
The Indian women's hockey team squandered a one-goal lead to lose 2-3 to Olympic silver medallist Argentina in the second match of the double-leg FIH Pro League tie here on Sunday. Argentina won the crown with 42 points from 16 games, 10 clear of second placed Netherlands, which still has two games remaining. India continued to occupy the third spot with 24 points from 12 games. Both teams fought tooth and nail in the first quarter but failed to break the deadlock. India broke the stalemate in the 23rd minute, scoring through a counter-attack with Salima Tete showing her speed by cutting through the Argentine defence before taking a shot that deflected in off goalkeeper Belen Succi's stick. **In attack mode** After the change of ends, Argentina came out attacking and controlled the game for a major part of the third quarter. India struggled to match Argentina's pace and play was mostly centred inside the Indian half. In the 37th minute, Savita came to her side's rescue by denying Jankunas from close range. But Argentina was not to be denied a minute later when Delfine Thome did enough to loop the ball over



Full of verve: The Indian women produced a spirited show before going down to Argentina. • TWITTER/FIHPROLEAGUE

a stretched Savita after she was set up by Sofia Toccalino's brilliant run from the right flank. Argentina then scored twice in three minutes from two penalty corners to take a 3-1 lead. In the 46th minute, Deep Grace Ekka scored from a penalty corner with a fierce slap shot to reduce the margin to 2-3. India will next play USA on June 21 and 22.

chance of clinching the title, but it was not to be. Netherlands won the men's title with 36 points from 14 games and has two games still to play. Olympic champion Belgium finished second with 35 points from 16 games, while India was third with 30 points from 16 matches. India started on a strong note, taking the lead inside 30 seconds with a brilliant field goal by Abhishek.

Fraser-Pryce runs away with it



Fraser-Pryce. • AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS
Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce hammered home her status as World championship favourite on Saturday by equalling her world-best time this year to win the 100m at the Paris Diamond League meeting. The Jamaican triumphed in 10.67s, equalling the 2022 best time she set in Nairobi in May. Britain's Daryll Neita was second in 10.99s with Marie-Josée Ta Lou of Ivory Coast third in 11.01s. **The winners: Women: 100m:** Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jam) 10.67s; **High jump:** Yaroslava Mahuchikh (Ukr) 2.01m; **3000m steeplechase:** Winfred Mutile Yavi (Bah) 8:56.55s; **100m hurdles:** Tobi Amusan (Ngr) 12.41s. **Men: 200m:** Luxolo Adams (RSA) 19.82s; **110m hurdles:** Devon Allen (USA) 13.16s.

IN BRIEF



Quartararo wins German MotoGP

SACHSSENRING
Reigning World champion Fabio Quartararo extended his lead in the overall standings with a commanding performance to win the German MotoGP on Sunday. The Yamaha rider dominated in scorching temperatures at the Sachsenring with fellow Frenchman Johann Zarco finishing second and Australia's Jack Miller third. **AFP**

Lalbiakima loses WBC Asian title fight

DUBAI
Indian boxer N.T. Lalbiakima lost to Filipino Jayson Vayson in a 10-round WBC Asian Boxing Council's continental light flyweight title fight here on Saturday. Vayson, ranked 47th in the world, handed Lalbiakima his first loss in his five-fight Pro career. Vayson extended his undefeated record to 10. **PTI**

Barua elected SBDS president

KOLKATA
Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua was unanimously elected president of Sara Bangla Daba Sangstha (SBDS), the apex body for chess in West Bengal, in the elections held here on Saturday. Shyamol Dutta was elected secretary and Asit Baran Choudhury treasurer for a four-year term. GM Saptarshi Roychowdhury is one of six vice-presidents.

Ramkumar loses doubles final

ILKLEY (GREAT BRITAIN)
Ramkumar Ramanathan and John-Patrick Smith of Australia lost 7-5, 6-4 in the doubles final to British wild cards Julian Cash and Henry Patten in the €134,920 Challenger here. The champion team won 125 ATP points and €7,870. The runners-up pocketed 75 points and €4,570. **Other results:** \$15,000 ITF men, **Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Singles (final):** Nam Hoang Ly (Vie) bt Digvijay Pratap Singh 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

India finishes fifth

DOHA
India defeated Korea 90-80 to finish fifth in the FIBA U-16 Asian Championship here on Sunday. In the Classification Game for the fifth-sixth spot against Korea, Lokendra Singh led India's charge with 29 points and was ably assisted by the trio of Jaideep Rathore (20), Harsh Dagar (19) and Kushal Singh (18). **The result:** India 90 (Lokendra Singh 29, Jaideep Rathore 20, Harsh Dagar 19, Kushal Singh 18) bt Korea 80 (Mingyo Ku 17).

Anahat wins Asian u-15 title



Anahat. •FILE PHOTO

SQUASH

SPORTS BUREAU

Anahat Singh of India bagged the girls' under-15 title in the Asian junior individual squash championships at Tambon Na Chom Thian (Thailand) on Sunday, with a 11-7, 12-10, 11-5 win over Ena Kwong of Hong Kong in the final.

Anahat did not drop a game in the tournament and it was her maiden Asian title and eighth (International) overall.

The Indian contingent will return home with six medals, including a gold and five bronze.

The bronze medalists:
Anika Dubey (girls' u-13), Shiven Agarwal (boys' u-13), Lokesh Subramani (boys' u-13), Tiana Parasurampuriya (girls' u-17), Sharan Punjabi (boys' u-17).

Zalatoris, Fitzpatrick take over at the top

Rahm one shot behind as conditions turn challenging

US OPEN GOLF

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BROOKLINE

England's Matt Fitzpatrick and American Will Zalatoris, each chasing a first Major title, shared the lead after Saturday's third round of the US Open as brisk wind and brutal rough tormented golf's top stars.

Fitzpatrick birdied three of the last five holes but a closing bogey left him level with Zalatoris, last month's PGA Championship runner-up, on four-under 206, one ahead of defending champion Jon Rahm after three rounds.

Zalatoris, also last year's Masters runner-up, fired a three-under 67 while Fitzpatrick, the 2013 US Amateur winner here, fired a 68.

Tough day
The Country Club bared its teeth in formidable conditions to humble World No. 2



Taming the course: Fitzpatrick put himself in line to win the Open where he was an amateur champion. •AFP

Rahm, four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy, top-ranked Masters champion Scottie Scheffler and two-time Major winner Collin Morikawa among others.

"It was one of the toughest days on a golf course I've had in a long time," McIlroy said after a 73.

Fitzpatrick can match Jack

Nicklaus as the only players to win the US Amateur and Open, Nicklaus doing it at Pebble Beach.

Scheffler shared fourth on 208 after a rollercoaster 71 alongside fellow American Keegan Bradley and Canada's Adam Hadwin.

Third-ranked McIlroy endured nightmare putting to

share seventh on 209 with Americans Sam Burns and Joel Dahmen.

Reigning British Open champion Morikawa went bogey-double bogey on the sixth and seventh and again on the 12th and 13th on the way to a 77 to share 17th on 212, six shots back.

The scores: 206: Will Zalatoris

(USA, 69, 70, 67), Matthe, Fitzpatrick (Eng, 68, 70, 68).

207: Jon Rahm (Esp, 69, 67, 71).

208: Adam Hadwin (Can, 66, 72, 70), Keegan Bradley (USA, 70, 69, 69), Scottie Scheffler (USA, 70, 67, 71).

209: Joel Dahmen (USA, 67, 68, 74), Sam Burns (USA, 71, 67, 71), Rory McIlroy (NIR, 67, 69, 73).

Narwal-Manu shoot mixed air pistol gold

SPORTS BUREAU

Shiva Narwal and Manu Bhaker combined strongly as Haryana beat the ONGC pair of Amanpreet Singh Shweta Singh 16-8 to clinch the mixed air pistol gold at the 20th Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship at the Madhya Pradesh Academy in Bhopal on Sunday.

The two bronze medals were won by Railways and Telangana.

In the junior section, Haryana extended its domination through Naveen and Kanishka Dagar who defeated Punjab's Amanpreet Singh and Arshdeep Kaur 17-11 for the gold. Telangana and Rajasthan bagged the two bronze medals.

At the Dr. Karni Singh Range in Tughlakabad, former National champion Meena Kumari won the women's 50-metre rifle prone gold, pipping Mahit Sandhu by 0.3 points in a strong field.

Mahit, however, bagged the junior gold.

The results: Mixed air pistol: 1.



On the podium: The mixed air pistol medalists at the Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Haryana (Shiva Narwal, Manu Bhaker) 16 (580); 2. ONGC (Amanpreet Singh, Shweta Singh) 8 (576); 3. Railways (Sumeed Kumar, Ruchita Vinerkar) 16 (570); 4. Rajasthan (Omprakash Mitharwal, Kaushambika Chhillar) 14 (571); 5. Telangana (Esha Singh, Kaushik Gopu) 17 (569); 6. Tamil Nadu (S. Ezhilarasi, Meshaa Ponnudurai) 5 (571).

Juniors: 1. Haryana (Naveen, Kanishka Dagar) 17 (574); 2. Punjab (Amanpreet Singh, Arshdeep Kaur) 11 (571); 3. Rajasthan (Sandeep Bishnoi, Anjali Shekhawat) 16 (570); 4. Madhya Pradesh (Hariom, Anika Prasad) 12 (563); 5. Telangana (Kaushik Gopu, Esha Singh) 16 (566); 6. Tamil Nadu (Meshaa

Ponnudurai, Ezhilarasi) 4 (569). **Youth:** 1. Madhya Pradesh (Nancy Solanki, Yugpratap Singh) 17 (566); 2. Rajasthan (Amit Sharma, Bhoomi Choudhary) 15 (568); 3. Gujarat (Prince Makwana, Arpita Tiwari) 16 (552); 4. Punjab (Jashanpreet Singh, Harnavdeep Kaur) 10 (562); 5. Tamil Nadu (Meshaa Ponnudurai, S Ezhilarasi) 17 (568); 6. Karnataka (Jonathan Antony, Trishna Dhamnekar) 5 (560).

50m rifle prone: Women: 1. Meena Kumari 620.2; 2. Mahit Sandhu 619.9; 3. Yashika Shinde 619.1.

Junior women: 1. Mahit Sandhu 619.9; 2. Surabhi Bhargava 616.1; 3. Nupur Kumrawat 612.0.

Pooja bags bronze

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pooja Danole won the bronze in the women's individual pursuit, breaking her own National record with a time of 2m 31.277s in the Asian cycling championship at the Indira Gandhi Velodrome on Sunday. Her previous record was 2:37.410.

Mizuki Ikeda of Japan won the gold, beating Yuneong Cheon of Korea.

In the junior men's section, Niraj Kumar was beaten to the gold medal by Kazakhstan rider Maxim Traskin.

In the para cycling event, Jyoti Gaderaya won the gold defeating compatriot Geeta Rao. Jyoti finished in a time of 5:24.990.

India was fifth in the table with three silver and nine bronze medals.

In the para events, India was level with Thailand at the top among four countries, with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

Sanjeet — adapting to overcome adversity

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

A second surgery may have deprived him of his main weapon — the left jab — but the setback has pushed Asian champion Sanjeet to work on sharpening his right punch ahead of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Sanjeet, who had a left biceps broken in 2019, was heartbroken when the injury recurred during the 92kg quarterfinal that he lost 4-1 to eventual silver medalist Aziz Mouhiidine of Italy at the World championships in Belgrade last year.

Breaking down
"I picked up the injury a minute into the bout. I knew it was the same tear. My left jab is my strength, but I could not execute it. The biceps had turned completely. I fought with just one hand even though I was in tremendous pain," Sanjeet told *The Hindu*.

"I don't usually break down, but that day I cried a



Undaunted: Sanjeet is confident of striking gold at the upcoming Commonwealth Games. •FILE PHOTO

lot. I was expecting a medal. My experience of the last surgery had not been good as I missed out on the Olympics qualifier," he said.

The 24-year-old worked hard to recover in quick time. "I had my surgery on November 8 and I rejoined the National camp in March. When I was not able to use my hands, I did weight training and conditioning, worked on my legs and fitness at the Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS).

"There was fear in the back of my mind, but I had self-belief too (of doing well

swimming championships here on Saturday.

In the 400m freestyle relays, the Olympic champions continued their domination as the US men and Australian women both won with a second to spare.

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Jinan clinches a double



Riding high: Jinan, right, of Petronas TVS Racing clawed his way back into contention for the championship. •M. PERIASAMY

NATL. SUPERCROSS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

C.D. Jinan of Petronas TVS Racing clinched a grand double in the prestigious SX1 Foreign Open class in the third round of the MRF MoGrip FMSCI National Supercross championship at the CODISSIA grounds here on Sunday.

Sarthak Chavan of Pune did likewise scoring a super double in the SX2 class. In the junior SX2, it was Akshat Hupale, also from Pune, who won both the races.

The Joker Lane, reintroduced after several years, made it all the more tight for the riders but the best planned it right.

Nithyashree, Taneesha take honours

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ALAPPUZHA

Nithyashree Mani (TTTA) and Taneesha Kotecha (Maharashtra) won the under-19 and under-17 girls' titles respectively in the 83rd National junior and youth table tennis championships at the YMCA Arena here on Sunday.

In the under-19 final, third-ranked Nithyashree dropped the first set 8-11 to Risha Mirchandani (Maharashtra).

But Nithyashree improved her defensive game in the second set to force errors from her rival to draw level.

The turnaround came in the third, which Nithyashree won 14-12 after trailing most



Worthy winners: Taneesha and Nithyashree with their trophies. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of the set. The Tamil Nadu girl then unleashed her scorching forehands in the fourth and fifth sets as Risha faded away to lose the match 8-11, 11-7, 14-12, 11-3, 11-8.

Taneesha never allowed her opponent to settle down, playing aggressively from the start. Subhankrita struggled to keep the rallies

going and made several errors to lose the match rather tamerly 11-6, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4.

The results:
Under-17: Final: Taneesha Kotecha (Mah) bt Subhankrita Datta (NCOE) 11-6, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4.

Under-19: Final: Nithyashree Mani (TTTA) bt Risha Mirchandani (Mah) 8-11, 11-7, 14-12, 11-3, 11-8.

Farhat eases home

ITF TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU

Top seed Farhat Aleen Qamar cruised past Arthi Muniyan 6-0, 6-2 in the first qualifying round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at the Tennis Project in Baliawas, Gurugram, on Sunday.

Mansi Vadyala edged out Mirudhula Palanivel 5-7, 6-1, [12-10] in another contest.

The results:
Qualifying singles (first round): Farhat Aleen Qamar bt Arthi Muniyan 6-0, 6-2; Sahira Singh bt Ritu Rai 6-3, 6-2; Vineetha Mummadi bt Suhitha Maruri 6-2, 6-2; Sudipta Kumar bt Tanushri Pandey 3-6, 7-5, [10-8]; Elena Priddankina (Rus) bt Abhilasha Bista (Nep) 6-1, 6-1; Anusha Kondaveeti bt Gauri Mangaonkar 6-4, 6-1.

niuk (Ukr) 6-2, 6-2; Avishka Gupta bt Hitakanya Singh Narwal 6-3, 6-4; Shreya Tatavarthy bt Kavya Khirwar 6-1, 2-0 (retired); Chandana Potugari bt Shefali Arora 6-2, 6-4.

Kundali Majjane bt Ritu Ohlyan 6-4, 6-3; Bela Tamhanar bt Siri Patil 6-2, 7-5; Nidhi Chilumala bt Yashika Venu 6-0, 6-1; Apurva Vemuri bt Abhaya Vemuri 6-4, 6-4; Riya Uboveja bt Mushrath Anjum Shaik 6-4, 6-0.

Anjali Rathi bt Kriti Tomar 6-1, 6-1; Jagmeet Kaur Grewal bt Bala Gayathri 6-1, 6-1; Nandini Dixit bt Ayushi Singh 6-3, 4-6, [10-5].

Mansi Vadyala bt Mirudhula Palanivel 5-7, 6-1, [12-10]; Paa-vani Paathak bt Ishwari Matere 7-6(2), 6-2; Shria Atturu (US) bt Kashish Bhatia 6-4, 6-0; Himadri Kashyap bt Ananya Yadav 6-2, 5-7, [10-6]; Himaanshika Singh bt Sanya Yadav 6-0, 6-1; Ikumi Yamazaki (Jpn) bt Tamanna Takoria 6-2, 6-3.

Philosophy corners glory in Fillies Championship Stakes

BENGALURU: S. Padmanabhan-trained Philosophy (Sandesh up) won the Fillies Championship Stakes, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 19). The winner is owned by Mr. & Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar. Mr. M. Rishad and Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Jockey Sandesh won three races on the day.

Sandesh, who rode confidently, kept her filly second or third last till 600m, started manoeuvring his mount in the home stretch. Philosophy responded tremendously to the reminders and galloped with giant strides to overtake the leader Crown Consort, passing the last 150m and won comfortably.

THE RESULTS:
1. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: ALTAIR (Ajeet K I), Don's Den (G. Vivek) 2. Braamstram (S. Shareef) 3 and Sky Princess (Ashhad A) 4. 3/4, 3-1/4 and 1-1/2. Im 16.27s. 841 (w), 15, 14 and 133 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 68, FP: 197, Q: 89, Trinella: 928 and 700, Exacta: 1,859 and 643. Favourite: Sky Princess. Owners: Mr. Divya Chawcharia, Mr. Sharat Kumar & Mr. K. Santhosh Kumar.



Taking the honours: Turf Authorities of India and BTC chairman K. Uday Eswaran, left, with trainer S. Ganapathy, centre, Mr. & Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, the owners of Philosophy, the winner of the Fillies Championship Stakes, and jockey A. Sandesh, second from left, in Bengaluru on Sunday. •K. MURALI KUMAR

3 and Colonel Harty (Rajesh K) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and 2. Im 14.55s. ₹35 (w), 15 and 24 (p), SHP: 45, THP:

29, FP: 230, Q: 140, Trinella: 370 and 92, Exacta: 2,506 and 1,253. Favourite: Obsidian. Owner: Mr.

H. Thambuswamy. Trainer: S. Dominic. 5. FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES

(1,600m), 3-y-o fillies, (Terms): PHILOSOPHY (Speaking Of Which - Manifold) Sandesh I, Dangerous (Speaking Of Which - Transformation) C.S. Jodha 2, King's Ransom (Multidimensional - China Creek) P.S. Chouhan 3 and Crown Consort (Sanus Per Aquam - Crown Empress) Suraj 4. 2, 1-1/4 and 1/2. Im 39.80s. ₹55 (w), 19, 37 and 13 (p), SHP: 81, THP: 75, FP: 1,017, Q: 456, Trinella: 1,300 and 434, Exacta: 3,344 and 1,433. Favourite: King's Ransom. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad and Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: MULTISTARRER (Sandesh) I, Capable (G. Vivek) 2, Pink Jasmine (Trevor) 3 and Winnymilove (Gaurav S) 4. 2, 3/4 and 1. Im 39.83s. ₹60 (w), 19, 20 and 17 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 53, FP: 1,143, Q: 767, Trinella: 6,988 and 1,711, Exacta: 19,082 and 16,356. Favourite: Siege Perilous. Owners: Mr. Homi F. Mehta, Mr. Jehangir Homi Mehta, Mr. Nozer Panthaky & Mrs. Laine Milan Luthria & Mr. Milan Luthria and Mrs. Homi F. Mehta. Trainer: Intiaz Sait. 8. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: GOLD GRAY (Siddaraju) I, Handsome Rocky (Rajesh K) 2, Matera (Richard Oliver) 3 and Amazing Luck (B. Nayak) 4. Not run: Cinco De Mayo. 6, 1/2 and 1-3/4. Im 15.70s. ₹40 (w), 15, 22 and 12 (p), SHP: 74, THP: 56, FP: 1,013, Q: 686, Trinella: 1,984 and 644. Exacta: 71,238. Favourite: Matera. Owners: Mr. B.K. Muralidhar & Mr. Dinesh Kumar K. Trainer: Sharat Kumar. Jackpot: ₹2,16,982 (one tkt.); Runner-up: 2,735 (34 tkts.); Treble (i): 13,356 (one tkt.); (ii): 2,159 (10 tkts).