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IN BRIEF

Shah: prominence given to Mughals at cost of others

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah on Friday said prominence has been given to Mughals in the country's history at the cost of other empires.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 12

Former CAG pushes for more accountability

NEW DELHI

Retired CAG Rajiv Mehrishi on Friday said the supreme audit institution of the country did not even meet the standards of CAs of private companies when it came to assurances.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 12

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RS election: BJP holds sway in Karnataka, Cong. in Rajasthan

Vote counting in Haryana and Maharashtra stalled due to complaints

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Polling for 16 Rajya Sabha seats in four States – Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana and Rajasthan – was held on Friday and till late evening results for only two States were declared.

In Rajasthan, despite the BJP's efforts to queer the pitch by fielding an independent candidate backed by the party, the Congress won three seats and the BJP one. In Karnataka, amid cross-voting from two Janata Dal (Secular) legislators, the BJP won three of the four seats and the Congress managed to keep a single seat.

The counting in Haryana and Maharashtra did not begin till 9 p.m. because of complaints and counter-complaints from the opposing camps.

Though these results hold wider political implications in each State, it will have little impact on the Rajya Sabha arithmetic where the BJP will continue to be far ahead of the Congress with 95 members.

Newly elected Rajya Sabha members being greeted by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai (right) at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

In Karnataka, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh won. The other two BJP members to win are Kannada actor Jaggesh and former MLC Lahar Singh Siroya.

Cross-voting by JD(S)

JD(S) MLA Srinivas Gowda openly defied the party's diktat. He told reporters that he voted for the Congress because he loved the party and indicated that he would be changing sides soon.

Another JD(S) MLA S.R. Srinivas was said to have voted for the BJP.

The results could be the beginning of the end of the JD(S)-Congress alliance in the State. Both sides have been trading charges. While the JD(S) accuses the Congress of horse-trading, the Congress accused the JD(S) of helping the BJP whisk away a third seat, even though the two allies together had the necessary numbers. These results will adversely impact the JD(S)-Congress relationship ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections in Karnataka.

In Rajasthan, the winning candidate needed 41 votes. The Congress polled more votes than its strength.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGE 11

Protest rages on

Up in flames: Carts set on fire during a protest in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on Friday over controversial remarks made by two suspended BJP functionaries on Prophet Muhammed. ▪ PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

SC rejects plea for special counselling for NEET-PG

Another round at this stage will create confusion: Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea to direct the government and the Medical Counselling Committee to conduct a "special" stray round of counselling to fill up 1,456 vacant seats from NEET-PG 2021.

A Vacation Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and Aniruddha Bose said another round of counselling at this point of time would affect medical education and create confusion, which, in turn, would affect public health.

The Bench noted that the seats had remained vacant despite eight to nine rounds of counselling. They were hardly any takers for these seats mainly for non-clinical courses. The counselling for NEET PG 2021 has now finally been closed. The 2021 academic year has already been delayed by 1.5 years.

Now, the counselling process for NEET-PG 2022 is about to commence. Another round of 'special stray' counselling for the 1,456 seats may coincide with the upcoming PG 2022 counselling and create confusion. Hence, the court said, the government and authorities had taken a conscious decision to stop the counselling process for PG 2021.

> The Medical Counselling Committee and the Union of India have to adhere to the time schedule for admissions and the current schedule of NEET PG 2021, which is already behind schedule... not to have another stray round is in the interest of medical education
> SUPREME COURT

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

War takes toll on Surat diamond trade

Many workers left jobless as supply of raw material from Russia stops

A.M. JIGEESH
SURAT/RAJKOT

Mitosh Patel, 38, is a school dropout. He earns about ₹18,000 a month by spending three hours a day cutting and polishing diamonds in a small room beside his house in Rajkot district of Gujarat. But he has not earned anything for the past 100 days due to the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia.

"I have not got the raw diamond of *patli* (small) size which I cut and polish, since the war began. Agents from big factories in Surat used to bring the raw material to my house. Some of my relatives and friends who are experts in cutting diamonds earn more than ₹1 lakh a month. They also haven't got any work in the past 100 days," Mr. Patel says.

Losing sheen: A worker at a diamond unit in Surat. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Mr. Patel is among the roughly five lakh people in rural Gujarat, who are engaged in cutting and polishing of diamonds for nearly two generations. The non-availability of raw material, mostly from Russia, has left them jobless.

"We have seen the 2008 recession which led to a huge decrease in demand. The industry was closed for about 35 days and lakhs of people lost jobs. Now, the situation is different. We import 100% of our raw materials from Russia, Australia and African countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe and Congo. Seventy-five per cent of the consumption of end products is by the U.S. directly or indirectly. Due to the problems between Russia and Ukraine, the U.S. has put a ban on Russian companies. Nearly 27% to 30% of raw materials are from Russia. In *patli* size, almost 70% is imported from Russia," says Dinesh Navadia, Regional Chairman of Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

The entire work of small diamond cutting and polishing is done in rural Gujarat. Workers do farm work in the morning and polish and cut the raw diamond in the evening. "Diamond gets its real value after our work," Mr. Patel says, seeking help from the government.

The solitaire stones, which are slightly costly and big, are handled by the processing units in Surat city.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Policeman kills woman, self in Kolkata

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

A Kolkata policeman shot dead a woman and injured two persons before turning his service weapon on himself at the city's busy Park Circus area, near the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, on Friday.

(For help, dial Sanjivini Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002)

PM Modi launches projects worth ₹3,050 crore in Gujarat

'We don't work to win elections. We work for people'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Welfare of people is the topmost priority of the government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Gujarat on Friday. Mr. Modi either inaugurated or laid the foundation stone for a slew of development projects worth ₹3,050 crore in the poll-bound State.

Mr. Modi said in the past eight years, his government had worked relentlessly for the welfare of people of the country and therefore people had elected him.

"We don't work to win elections. We work for people who elect us. For us, being in power means to serve people," he said.

On his fourth trip since March to his home State, where the Assembly election is due to be held in December, Mr. Modi is visiting tribal areas of south Gujarat to inaugurate water supply projects, a power transmission line and a sewage treatment plant.

New facility: The Prime Minister during the inauguration of a multispeciality hospital at Navsari district in Gujarat. ▪ PTI

Tribal outreach

This is Mr. Modi's second tribal outreach in the State. Earlier, he held a tribal convention and rally at Dahod in central Gujarat. On Friday, Mr. Modi laid the foundation stone for a medical college and hospital, and water supply projects in Tapi, Dang and Surat districts.

"He will also perform the bhumi pujan of a medical college in Navsari district to be built at the cost of about ₹542 crore, which will help provide affordable and quality medical care to the people of the region," a government release said.

In Ahmedabad, the Prime Minister inaugurated the headquarters of the National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre, which has been set up to promote private investment and innovation in the space sector.

Mr. Modi said the government would soon bring a new policy to encourage ease of doing business in the space sector.

Six shooters identified in Moosewala murder case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Six shooters allegedly involved in the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala have been identified, Delhi Police's Special Cell said on Friday.

Special Commissioner of Police H.S. Dhaliwal said the police had issued the pictures of eight suspects, out of which six shooters were identified. He said the involvement of four of them in the murder has been established. It was an organised and brazen killing, Mr. Dhaliwal said.

"The role of Vikram Brar, against whom a lookout circular has been issued, has surfaced. It has been revealed that he had provided the shooters for the killing," he said.

He said Siddhesh Hiraman Kamble alias Mahakal, a close associate of the main shooter who was arrested from Pune, revealed that he had introduced the shooters to the main perpetrator of the crime.

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Measures in place for fair, inclusive bypoll in Rajinder Nagar: Delhi CEO

He cracks whip on poll code violators; 8 FIRs lodged, 300 litres of liquor seized

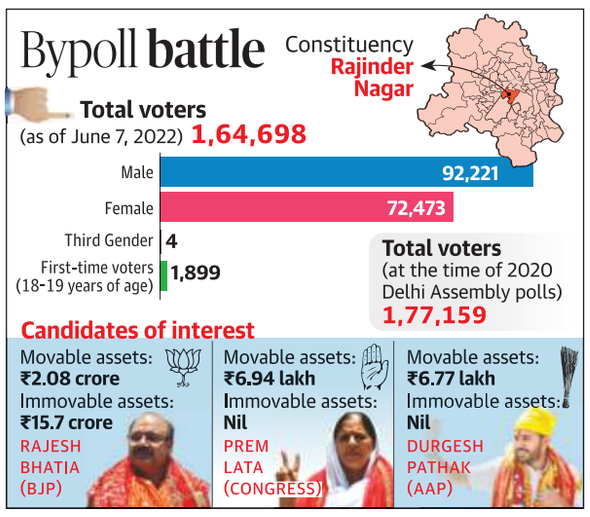
STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ranbir Singh on Friday announced a number of measures that were being put in place to ensure that the upcoming Assembly bypoll to the Rajinder Nagar constituency is inclusive, accessible and fair.

These measures include a pick-and-drop facility for persons with disability and senior citizens, a creche for mothers who come to vote with their children, sign language volunteers for those with hearing disabilities and Electronic Voting Machines with Braille markings.

Speaking to the media on Friday, Mr. Singh said several measures from creating voter awareness to ensuring necessary facilities at polling booths had been undertaken to encourage voter participation.

AAP's Raghav Chadha had won the seat in the 2020 Assembly polls, defeating his closest rival – BJP's R.P. Singh – by a margin of over 20,000 votes.



The bypoll to the constituency was necessitated after Mr. Chadha was nominated to the Rajya Sabha from Punjab by his party. He was subsequently elected unopposed.

Candidates in fray

A total of 32 candidates filed their nominations for the bypoll. Of these, 14 applications have been accepted, including three from recognised political parties – AAP's Durgesh Pathak, BJP's Rajesh Bhatia and Congress's Prem Lata.

The BJP has named 40 star campaigners for the bypoll, lining up several prominent leaders including Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Smriti Irani. AAP and Congress are yet to announce any star campaigners for the seat.

Responding to questions on the action taken against poll violations, the Delhi CEO said a total of 15,015 banners, posters and hoardings have been removed from the constituency for violating the model code of conduct (MCC). The MCC came into force on May 25 when the schedule for the bypoll was announced.

FIRs registered

"Violations have been reported under the Defacement Act. Eight FIRs have been registered, six against AAP and two against the BJP," said Mr. Singh. He added that nearly 300 litres of liquor worth ₹94,906 had been seized since the MCC came into effect.

Mr. Singh said that 12,461 fewer voters were registered this time, compared with the voter count in 2020 Assembly polls "due to factors of death and migration".

A total of 190 polling stations, including 13 auxiliary polling stations, across 21 locations are being set up for the bypoll scheduled for June 23. The counting of votes will be taken up on June 26.

L-G, CM discuss water scarcity, skill training

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal discussed various issues, including water scarcity and imparting skill training to workers in the unorganised sector, during their weekly meeting here on Friday.

They also discussed preparations for a special cleanliness and sanitation drive that they will jointly launch and monitor. This will be the first joint project to be launched by the two Delhi administrators since Mr. Saxena assumed office on May 26.

Friday's meeting comes in the wake of a spree of ground inspections and field visits by the L-G and the Chief Minister over the last fortnight. The AAP government has, on multiple occasions, accused Mr. Saxena of interfering in its administrative domain. Despite this, both Mr. Saxena and Mr. Kejriwal have sought to present a joint front on issues concerning the city's governance. Earlier this month, Mr. Kejriwal had said he will meet the L-G every Friday for "better coordination".

Appeal to Haryana

The L-G and the CM, Raj Niwas said, discussed the recurring issue of water scarcity in the city and stressed on a sustainable way forward that entailed making the city self-sufficient in meeting its water requirements. Mr. Kejriwal also appealed to the Haryana government to release additional water in the Yamuna river on "humanitarian grounds" to address the water shortage.

Mr. Saxena, according to Raj Niwas, brought up the issue of distribution of enabling toolkits to 75,000 unskilled and semi-skilled workers in the unorganised sectors. The L-G and the CM agreed to immediately start work on identification of individual and group beneficiaries for the programme.

Kejriwal seeks to work with Denmark on clean water, air

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday announced that it will work closely with Denmark to provide 24-hour tap water, clean air and world class roads to the residents, following a meeting between Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Denmark's Ambassador Freddy Swain.

Mr. Kejriwal asked Mr. Swain for a presentation on Denmark's efforts in recharging groundwater and reducing air pollution.

"We want Delhi's roads to be world-class. We are redeveloping 500 km of roads in Delhi as per European standards. We can collaborate with Denmark on the road beautification project if need be," Mr. Kejriwal said.

According to the government, the Danish Ambassador praised its efforts in reducing Delhi's air pollution. He was especially impressed with the electric vehicle policy. Mr. Swain mentioned that he had the pleasure of driving an e-auto, which he found enjoyable, the government said.

Tree transplantation

In a related development, Mr. Kejriwal inspected transplanted trees at Mayur Vihar's Gharoli Dairy Park.

"We are planting new trees all over Delhi alongside transplanting big trees; 190 of 220 trees are thriving lush and green here. Previously only 10 new trees were required to be planted on cutting of one tree; now it is mandatory to transplant 80% old trees and plant 10 new ones," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"The Delhi government is serious about the environment. The tree cover of the city has increased from 19.97% to 23%. Despite continuous development, the tree cover area in Delhi has not decreased," he added.

Timings
DELHI

SATURDAY, JUN. 11		
RISE	05:23	SET 19:19
RISE	15:57	SET 02:38
SUNDAY, JUN. 12		
RISE	05:23	SET 19:20
RISE	17:05	SET 03:16
MONDAY, JUN. 13		
RISE	05:24	SET 19:20
RISE	18:17	SET 03:59

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	43	30
Safdarjang	43	30
Palam	44	32

Delhi Palam Today
42°C Uneasy hot weather likely, night also to remain warm. thunder clouds development may occur at few places with gusty winds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
42°C A dry weather to prevail. Heat wave to continue. Day will be very hot and uneasy with dust raising winds. Night will be warm.

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The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.19,96,649/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Nine only)** as on **04-01-2022** together with further interest to be charged from **05-01-2022** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mrs. Shahida Suhail, W/o. Late Sohail Iqbal (In personal capacity as well as the only legal Heir of Late. Mohd Umaer) at S-12, DLF 2nd Dilshad Extention, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P. - 201005.**

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Reserve Price: Rs.22,00,000/-
(Rupees Twenty Two Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
01-07-2022	City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi - Laxmi Nagar Branch, F-120, Main Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092. Telephone No.011-22501110, Cell No.9312620592

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi - Laxmi Nagar Branch, F-120, Main Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.011-22501110, Cell No.9312620592. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 09-06-2022 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

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Sisodia pulls up officials over poor upkeep of Chandni Chowk

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday undertook a surprise inspection of the redeveloped 1.4-km road stretch from Red Fort to Fatehpuri Masjid at Chandni Chowk and reprimanded officials for not ensuring adequate cleanliness.

The Minister directed the PWD to monitor the entire stretch and submit a report. During the inspection, he found vehicles plying on the pavement and new overhead wires despite an underground wiring system on the stretch.

Mr. Sisodia also shared the progress of the government's plans to redevelop Gandhinagar in east Delhi as a "grand garment hub" under the Rozgar Budget. "The redevelopment will not only give Gandhinagar a new identity but also increase business for merchants and provide a new shopping experience," he said.

Overhead wires spotted at Chandni Chowk. ▪ V.V. KRISHNAN

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This is to inform the General Public that I, **Ms. Neetu Singhal** (UID No. XXXX-XXXX-5369) C/O Harindra Nath Srivastava R/O C-304, Great Value Sharanam, Sector 107, Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 is the lawful & absolute owner of the Residential Plot No. 48, Block 6D, (300 Sq.Mtr.), Sector 18, YEIDA, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar, UP allotted vide **Allotment No. YEA017206.**
The **REVOCATION** of Agreement to Sell dated 08th October, 2021 in respect of a/m property executed between me (Seller) and Mr. Hritik Kumar Singhal (Buyer) was duly conveyed by me to Buyer through Revocation Legal Notices dated 14th & 30th May, 2022.
The final revocation of the above Agreement to Sell has been **COMPLETED** on **29th May, 2022** by successfully returning an advance of **Rs. 5,00,000/-** (transaction/ Ref No. 214916612670) in favour of Buyer. It is further stated that the said property is free from any sort of encumbrance.

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SC.No.- 106/2022
N.D.O.H. 17.10.2022
Teemo Devi Vs. The State & Ors.
Smt. Teemo Devi W/o Late Sh. Bala Ram, R/o H.No. 90, Gali No.7, B-Block, Pradeep Vihar, Nathupura, Burari, Delhi- 84 .....Petitioner
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925
To,
All Concerned
Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs xxx. As per record to be standing in the name of **Late Sh. Bala Ram** deceased.
Whereas the 17.10.2022 at 10'o clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to this concerned.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 08.06.2022
(Mirdul Gupta)
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Addl. Rent Controller
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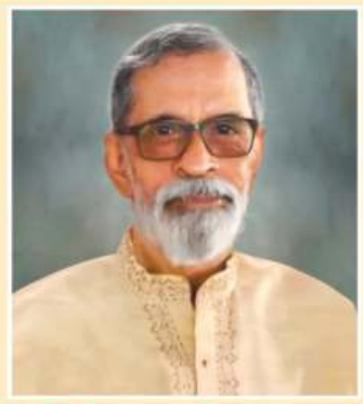

Dr. M.S. Sundararajan, (82) M.S., F.R.C.S.
Sairam. Attained the Lotus feet of Bhagwan on 09.06.2022
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Chief Consultant, Apollo Hospital, Chennai.
Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Tamilnadu
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PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN
REVOCATION OF AGREEMENT TO SELL
This is to inform the General Public that **Ms. Monika Srivastava** W/o Mr. Bipin Srivastava R/O C-304, Great Value Sharanam, Sector 107, Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201301 is the lawful & absolute owner of the **Residential Plot No. 462,** Block-7C, (300 Sq.Mtr.), Sector 18, YEIDA, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar, UP allotted vide **Allotment No. YEA010405.**
The Agreement to Sell dated 08th October, 2021 was executed in respect of a/m property between **Ms. Monika Srivastava (Seller)** [through GPA in favour of Real Sister, **Ms. Neetu Singhal** (UID: XXXX-XXXX-5369)] and **Mr. Pawan Kumar Singhal (Buyer)** (UID: XXXX-XXXX-8322)
The **REVOCATION** of this a/m Agreement to Sell was duly conveyed by Ms. Neetu Singhal to Buyer through Revocation Legal Notices dated 17th & 30th May, 2022.
The final revocation of the a/m Agreement to Sell has been **COMPLETED** on **29th May, 2022** by successfully returning an advance of **Rs. 5,00,000/-** (transaction/ Ref No. KKBKR12022052900856658) in favour of Buyer. It is further stated that the said property is free from any sort of encumbrance.

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

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Jhandutta Distt Bilaspur H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, for the eligible class of from the eligible class of contractor registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Allowed	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Deadline for Submission of Bid
1.	M/T on link road from Badgaon to Ree Randoh Km 0/0 to 4/00 (SH:- P/L 20mm thick premix carpet at Km 1/185 to 1/570, 1/685 to 1/780,1/825 to 1/960 &2/060 to 2/460)(Under OTMNP)	759202/-	15200/-	One Month	23/6/2022	29/06 /2022 upto 10:00 AM.
2.	AMP for Rural road Additional KMs in the PMGSY incentive of 2019-20 on Geherwin to Behna Jattan road Km 0/0 to2/0 (under Additional Km in the PMGSY incentive of 2019-2020 (SH:- Providing and laying 30mm thick B.C to Geherwin Behna Jattan road Km 0/0 to 2/0	1787422/-	35800/-	One Month	23/6/2022	29/06 /2022 upto 10:00 AM.

The bidder are advised to note other detail of tenders from the department website **www.hptenders.gov.in**

Executive Engineer
Jhandutta Divn ,
HP-PWD,Jhandutta
On behalf ofGovernor of Himachal Pradesh

HP / 1595/22-23 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

No.: 196-S/71/2021-22/TENDER NOTICE-TSO-II/PRC **Date: 09.06.2022**

E-Tender for and on behalf of the President of India, CE/TSP, Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001 invites the following tenders through E-Procurement System:

Tender No. TS225023	Due on 07.07.2022
Description of Item	**Manufacture and Supply of:** Prestressed Monoblock Concrete Sleeper sets (Pretensioned type) of M-60 concrete grade for BG Alt up to date (for general layout) and part drawing thereof to suit 60Kg. Rails as amended up to date as per specification T-39-2021 (6th Revision March 2021) as amended up to date duly loaded into Wagons/Road vehicles. (i) Wider Guage PRC Sleeper on Curve as per RDSO Drg. No. T-8622 (Latest Alteration up to date) (ii) Wider Guage PRC Sleeper on Curve as per RDSO Drg. No. T-8623 (Latest Alteration up to date) (iii) Wider Guage PRC Sleeper on Curve as per RDSO Drg. No. T-8624 (Latest Alteration up to date)
Tender Value	Rs. 74,44,325/-
Tender Document Cost	Rs. Nil
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,48,890/-
Completion Period	12 Months
Time of Submission of Tender	Upto 07.07.2022 at 14.30 IST
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	On 07.07.2022 at 14.30 IST
Validity of Offer	180 days

Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement tender is available on website **www.ireps.gov.in** and **www.northernrailway.gov..in** **1419/2022**

Serving Customers with a Smile

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found KM Pole No. 1525/12/14, Near Modi Mill, was ambulance admitted in AIIMS Trama Centre Delhi. During the treatment declared brought dead by doctor dated 03.06.2022. In this regard a **DD No. 41A dated 06.03.2022** has been lodged in **P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi.** The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unkonwn, **S/o:**Unkonwn, **R/o-**Unkonwn, **Age:** about 40-45 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Sallow.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi
Ph. : 011-24356743, 24358593, 8750871311

DP/177/RLY/2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

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

1.	**Full Name of work**	Construction of service building, S&T rooms, gate lodge at level crossing, Rail & high level passenger platforms, earthwork in cutting/filling in formation, construction of staff quarters, fencing, extension of minor bridges, Construction of Platform shelters, provision of station name board, road work, modification of existing building including dismantling of existing building structure & fencing with other allied works in Masit, Todarpur and Balamau and linking of BG track and turnouts, provision of glude joint and SEJs, dismantling of existing track and turnouts, handling, lifting, loading, leading, unloading and spreading of ballast, handling of Pway material working in BNI/NI period and other allied works at Balamau on LKO-SRE section and any other civil engineering works at any section in the jurisdiction of DY.CE/C/MB over Moradabad division
2.	**Approx. Cost of work**	**Rs. 2390.53 Lacs**
3.	**Completion period of the work**	**18 (Eighteen) months**
4.	**Earnest Money to be deposited**	**Rs. 13,45,300/-**
5.	**Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website**	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** from **16.06.2022 to 08.07.2022 upto 11:30 hrs.**
6.	**Last date/Time of upload of tenders**	**08.07.2022** upto **11:30** hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. **24.06.2022 to 08.07.2022**
7.	**Date and time of opening of tender (Technical bid)**	**08.07.2022 at 11:30 hours** (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenders would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No. 74-W-4-1-453-WA-MB Dated :- 10.06.2022 **1422/2022**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER CTU & DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH

No. 5394/Acctt(H)/CTU/2022 Dated, Chandigarh, the 10/06/22

E-Auction Notice

Chandigarh Transport Undertaking is going to hold E-Auction on dated 23.06.2022 for condemned buses through M/s MSTC Ltd. (A Govt. of India Enterprise),Telephone Exchange Building 2nd Floor,Sector-5, Panchkula (Haryana). The list/quantity of condemned buses lying at the location of CTU Workshop, Depot no. III Sector-25, Chandigarh, are available on M/s MSTC Ltd. website as well as on office website i.e. chdctu.gov.in and the link provided for e-Auction website & can also be checked/seen physically before the start of auction on any working day by contacting Nodal Officer (Sh. Krishan Gopal Accountant (H), Mob: 9417172406). All the interested/prospective bidders are requested to participate in the e-Auction through the website www.mstcindia.co.in and www.mstcecommerce.com after getting registered with M/s MSTC Ltd.

General Term & Conditions: The payment & e-Auction terms shall be applicable as per the procedure laid down by M/s MSTC Ltd. which is available at their website. The bidders are also informed that the condemned buses/staff cars/tanker/truck & automatic bus washing machine will be allowed to be lifted only AS IS AND WHERE IS BASIS after completing all Office formalities.

Divisional Manager CTU &
Director Transport,
Union Territory,
Chandigarh

Office of the Executive Engineer
(Jal Shakti Department)
PHE Division Baramulla

Email: kmrphebla@gmail.com (FAX) 01952234575 (Tel) 01952234244

CORRIGENDUM
EXTENSION NOTICE

Ref:- 1 This office ENIT No. 23 of 05/2022 dated 21.05.2022 issued vide No. PHE/Bla/CC/1541-51.

2 Date Extension corrigendum issued vide No. PHE/Bla/CC/1952-62 dated 30.05.2022.

In order to ensure greater participation in respect of the works having no response advertised vide this office above referred ENIT, the online Bid Submission End Date is hereby extended up to 16-06-2022 4:00 P.M and Tender Opening Date shall be 17-06-2022 02:00 P.M.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti, (PHE) Department
Division Baramulla.

No: PHE/Bla/CC/2503-13
Date:- 08.06.2022

DIP/K-3599/22

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
CORRIGENDUM.

The tenders invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, Kumarsain Division, HPPWD, Kumarsain vide letter No.PW-KMS-AB-NIT/2022-23-2275-76 dated 30.05.2022 is hereby postponed/modified to the extent as under due to technical reasons:-

Sr. No.	Description	Earlier Key dates.	New Key dates.
1.	Date of online Publication	08.06.2022 1700 Hrs	18.06.2022 1700 Hrs.
2.	Documents Download Start & End date.	08.06.2022 1730 Hrs up to 15.06.2022 1800 Hrs.	18.06.2022 1730 Hrs up to 24.06.2016 1800 Hrs
3.	Bid Submission Start and End date.	08.06.2022 1730 Hrs up to 15.06.2022 1800 Hrs..	18.06.2022 1730 Hrs up to 24.06.2016 1800 Hrs
4.	Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of tender documents	16.06.2016 up to 1030 Hrs.	25.06.2016 up to 1030 Hrs.
5.	Date of Technical Bid Opening, Evaluation of technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	16.06.2016 up to 1100 Hrs.	25.06.2016 up to 1100 Hrs.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. **Executive Engineer,**

HP / 1650/22-23 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK **Kumarsain Division, HPPWD, Kumarsain.**

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, NEW DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION,
DIN DAYAL NAGAR, BOOTY ROAD, RANCHI-834008

Pho. No. 0651-2360428, E-Mail ID- eenhranchi-jhr@nic.in

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid/ Package no.- **NH/RANCHI/EPC/2022-23/06** Dated- 09.06.2022

RFP for **IRQP of road work from Km 16.00 to Km 61.00 (excluding Km 27.925 to Km 29.065 & Km 39.00 to Km 40.500) of NH-75E in the state of Jharkhand under EPC mode (Job No :- NH-75E-JHR-2021-22-302)** on EPC mode **under NH Division Ranchi.** The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through **Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi** is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavour, it has been decided to undertake **IRQP of road work from Km 16.00 to Km 61.00 (excluding Km 27.925 to Km 29.065 & Km 39.00 to Km 40.500) of NH-75E in the state of Jharkhand under EPC mode (Job No :- NH-75E-JHR-2021-22-302)** through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract.

[The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways/ State Public Works Department/ represented by its DG(RD)&SS/CE (NH) PWD State] now invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project:

State	NH No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Completion period	Maintenance period
Jharkhand	NH-75(Ext)	IRQP of road work from Km 16.00 to Km 61.00 (excluding Km 27.925 to Km 29.065 & Km 39.00 to Km 40.500) of NH-75E in the state of Jharkhand under EPC mode (Job No :- NH-75E-JHR-2021-22-302)	34,06,56,518/- (including GST & LC)	Rs. 10,000/-	09 (Nine Months)	03 (Three years) after Completion

The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of the CPPP The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app from **17.06.2022 to 06.07.2022** (upto 11:00 Hrs IST). Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at https:// eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app on or before **06.07.2022** (upto 11:00 Hrs). Bids received online shall be opened on **07.07.2022** (at15:30 hours IST).

Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, document fee, Power of Attorney shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before **07.07.2022** (at 11:00 hours IST), Please note that the Ministry/ Executing Agency reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Executive Engineer
National Highway Division, Ranchi
Phone: 9113777109 e-mail : eenhranchi-jhr@nic.in

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With RS polls, Cong. signals distance with JD(S)

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is said to have turned down high command's suggestion of alliance

NAGESH PRABHU
BENGALURU

The principal Opposition Congress, which appealed to Janata Dal (Secular) legislators to cast their "conscience" vote in favour of the party's second candidate, Mansoor Ali Khan, suffered an embarrassment by enabling the victory of the ruling BJP's Lahar Singh Siroya in the the Rajya Sabha elections on Friday.

The Congress, however, seems to have utilised the Rajya Sabha polls as a means to maintain a clear distance from the JD(S) ahead of the next year's Legislative Assembly elections. Leaders of the Congress and the JD(S), who were involved in backdoor talks initially, appeared unable to strike an alliance largely owing to a clash of ego between former Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah (Congress) and H.D. Kumaraswamy (JD-S). In the run-up to the elections, both the leaders had indulged in verbal confrontation.

However, in a bid to form an alliance, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha M. Mallikarjun Kharge, apparently, rushed to Delhi by skipping the first day of the party's 'Chintana Shibira' in Bengaluru to convince the Congress high command about the necessity of forming an alliance to defeat the BJP in the contest for the fourth seat.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Warm greetings: Congress candidate Jairam Ramesh with Mansoor Ali Khan in Bengaluru on Friday. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who is also the Congress Legislature Party leader, knowing well the shortage of required numbers for the victory, reportedly opposed the high command's suggestion on alliance, and ensured his sway in fielding the second candidate. The party nominated the former Union Minister Jairam Rameh as its first candidate. Mansoor Ali Khan, son of the former Union Minister K. Rahman Khan, was fielded with an aim to boost the party's pro-Muslim image and demonstrate its resolve to protect the community against the BJP's "communal agenda".

Finally, the Congress' expectation of cross-voting by a good number of disgruntled BJP and JD(S) MLAs did not work, as only one JD(S) MLA, Srinivas Gowda, indulged in cross-voting in the party's favour. Independent MLA Sharath Bache Gowda also voted for the party.

But the defeat of Mr. Khan may not go down well with the Muslim community. About a decade ago, in the Legislative Council elections, Iqbal Ansari Saradagi of Kalaburagi (Congress) and loyalist of Mr. Kharge had lost to Byrathi Suresh, Independent, owing to cross-voting. Muslim leaders had then submitted a petition to the then KPCC chief G. Parameshwara seeking an explanation for the defeat.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who has always been calling JD(S) the "B team" of the BJP, has turned down ties with the party in an attempt to consolidate the Congress' votes largely in the Old Mysore belt. By ensuring that one MLA belonging to the Vokkaliga community stays away from the JD(S), the Congress seems to have not lost entirely. Many in the party believe that it has conveyed the message that all is not well in the JD(S) leadership and the regional party was also responsible for the victory of Mr. Siroya.

Centralised admission in West Bengal takes burden off colleges

New system will benefit rural students

BISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

This admission season is going to be less burdensome for colleges across West Bengal with the State switching over to a centralised process to be conducted online by the Higher Education Department.

The results of State Board's Class 12 exams were announced on Friday, and they will be followed shortly by those of CBSE and ICSE – that time of the year when colleges come under a lot of pressure, not just because of the high number of applicants seeking admission to various undergraduate courses but also because of unions exerting their influence.

Busy time

"In the preceding years, it was a busy time for colleges. A vendor had to be fixed to manage the college portal, or the contract of an existing vendor renewed. Changes/updates to the admission portal had to be made. There would be frequent meetings of the admission committee to discuss and fix the timeline of the admission procedure. This drawing of the timeline was a complicated process as sufficient gaps had to be maintained between every round of admission. Online payment gateways had to be finalised, sending of bulk SMS had to be organised. This meant a lot of expenditure for colleges," said a history teacher of a college affiliated to the University of Calcutta.

"This year, all we have had to do so far was appoint a nodal officer and an admission convenor and send their details to the Higher Education Department. Also, in a given proforma, we have sent all details related to the college – its history, location, courses and subjects offered, subject combinations available, intake capacity in each subject, and the fees payable. We are now waiting for communication from the government," the teacher said.

This idea of a centralised admission process was first mooted by Education Minister Bratya Basu in 2011 when he was given the same portfolio, but it couldn't take off at the time amid opposition by those who felt they wouldn't have a say in the admission process. As a result, colleges went in for individual portals and individual online admissions. Then, last week, after 11 years, Mr. Basu met the Vice-Chancellors of various universities in the State and decided to centralise the process.

Autonomous institutions, such as Jadavpur University and Presidency University, have either been kept out of the new system or have been asked to choose whether they want to be a part of it. Most of the autonomous universities have their own admission tests. A centralised admission system is expected to not only bring about greater transparency and prevent college-centric agitations but also benefit rural students, who will now have a wider choice of colleges through a single portal. "All this will also mean less work for college admission committees. The new system may also see a lesser number of seats remaining vacant," said a teacher from a Kolkata-based college.

Loudspeakers: HC seeks clarification on licence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the State government to clarify under which provision of the law permanent licences/permissions were given to religious institutions and places of worships for using loudspeakers in perpetuity.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi issued the directions after it was complained to the court that the government has been issuing permanent licences to religious institutions even though there is no such provision in the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

The bench was hearing PIL petitions complaining about different types of noise pollutions, including use of loudspeakers by religious institutions, particularly mosques, in violation of the rules.

While advocate Sridhar Prabhu, representing petitioners in a PIL petition, contended that law does not provide for grant of permanent licence for use of loudspeakers, P. Usman, representing some of the mosques, defended that the grant of such licences is under Rule 5 of the 2005 Rules.

Following the claims and the counter-claims on the issue, the bench directed the government to clarify the position while also directing it to submit a status report on the action taken to check noise pollution caused by other reasons, as was directed in November last year.

Swapna comes out with fresh claims

Allegations by gold smuggling accused set off protests by Cong., BJP in Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A new set of scandalous "disclosures" hit the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala on Friday. Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the UAE diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, released a fitfully unclear audio tape of a conversation with a purported police emissary.

Swapna claimed that the person, a former journalist-turned-real-estate agent, had posed as a politically influential troubleshooter.

Swapna claimed that he had allegedly used inducement and subtle threats to persuade her to retract the reportedly "damning statement" she had given in a court of law against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Strong protest: Congress workers pushing the barricades in an attempt to enter collectorate in Thrissur on Friday. ▪ K.K. NAJEEB

Swapna had publicly accused Mr. Vijayan of using the heft of his office to exploit the embassy's diplomatic channel to smuggle out foreign currency and import "contraband metal" without Customs inspection during the previous LDF administration. At the time, Swapna was a consulate employee handling Kerala government affairs.

The "police agent" allegedly told Swapna that the government would not take kindly to any attempt to erode Mr. Vijayan's reputation. The intermediary supposedly counselled Swapna to avoid jail and legal trouble by accepting the State's inducements and recant her "libellous" assertions.

Swapna also alleged, somewhat sensationally, that the person claimed that Mr. Vijayan and CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan had channelled their "ill-gotten" wealth to the U.S. via a religious group where the latter was employed briefly as a public relations officer. Mr. Balakrishnan denied the accusation.

Meanwhile, the "revelations" sparked aggressive anti-government protests. Congress workers skirmished with the police and braved water cannons to lay siege to district collectorates. They called for Mr. Vijayan's resignation. BJP workers too followed suit.

Governor yet to get report on gang rape

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan appealed to the State government to respect the Governor's office and respond to the issues flagged by the Raj Bhavan.

Addressing media after the 'Mahila Darbar'– a women's grievance redress programme– conducted in Raj Bhavan on Friday, Dr. Soundararajan expressed concern that the Governor's office is not getting its due respect from the State government.

Dr. Soundararajan said she was yet to receive the report she had sought from the authorities concerned with regard to the gang-rape of a minor girl at Jubilee Hills. "I gave them two days. Probably their clock is so slow. Again, I'm going to remind them, but it's very unfortunate."

Selfie time

All smiles: Artistes from Sikkim clicking pictures during the inaugural of the National Tribal Dance Festival that was organised in connection with the 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' in Visakhapatnam on Friday. ▪ K.R. DEEPAK

My focus has always been on fast delivery of justice, says CJI

'Judicial vacancies have impacted fast disposal of cases'

G.P. SHUKLA
TIRUMALA

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana has said his focus has always been on ensuring a fast delivery of justice to the common man in the country.

In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu* on Friday, Justice Ramana said lack of proper infrastructure and judicial vacancies had adversely impacted the mechanism involved in the fast disposal of cases.

"Out of 1,100 judges in various high courts in the country, if there are about 400 to 500 posts vacant all the time, how can one expect fast delivery of justice?" he questioned.

"Sensing the gravity of the situation, I have recommended filling of 195 judicial vacancies, and thanks to the government, which has not only reacted proactively but also immediately cleared 180 posts," Justice Ramana said.

N. V. Ramana

The CJI said he was again contemplating putting forth a proposal for filling more than 120 vacancies, and was optimistic of a positive outcome.

"I have received a communique this morning stating that the government has given its nod for the appointment of six Chief Justices to various high courts," Justice Ramana said.

Speaking about his recent meeting with the Prime Minister, Justice Ramana said, "When I met Narendra Modi, his reaction on the need to have a robust system of legal aid services and further strengthening the judiciary was very affirmative."

"I had taken over the reigns of the apex court at a time when the country was bitterly engrossed in a fight with the COVID-19 pandemic that unfortunately left me with a lesser number of working days. Had it not been so, I would have further contributed my best for the infrastructure development of the judiciary," he said.

No plans to shut down any unit, says FM

Contours of public sector assets management changed: Nirmala Sitharaman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The contours of public sector assets management in the country have changed with the government recently articulating a directional change on public assets, Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Friday.

The Minister was inaugurating a conference, "Creating wealth through markets", as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' being organised in 75 cities across the country.

Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurating a conference at IISc in Bengaluru. ▪ SUDHAKARA JAIN

The nature of public sector asset management had changed since the Budget 2021 had introduced a directional change that the private sector would be allowed in all sectors except for four core/strategic areas, she added. "This has created a lot of interest in the private sector and as a result we have been seeing the emergence of start-ups in the areas of defence and atomic energy. This has encouraged private investors," the Minister observed.

Initially, most investments used to be land-centric, centrally-driven and long-term involving setting up huge dams or electricity generation plants. It was tough to draw investments in these areas from the private sector those days. But today, things had changed and the country had private investors who were capable of investing and running businesses successfully, as per Ms. Sitharaman.

However, she clarified that the government had no plans to shut down any unit. "Not to shut down a unit, but to run it professionally and profitably. We want to improve the functioning of our units so that they will contribute to the growth of the economy. I want to disinvest the steel sector, to bring down the cost of production, increase output and to bring in more capital." According to her, DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management) is working towards classifying AAA rated public sector enterprises and put them as exchange traded stocks, through the bond market route.

Mangaluru police dog named after movie

Kannada film Charlie 777 captures relationship between the owner and the canine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

Inspired by the newly released Kannada film *Charlie 777* on the relationship between a man and an animal, the Mangaluru city police have named the new member of their dog squad as Charlie.

The name was proposed after some city police personnel, including handlers of the four dogs in the squad, saw the movie during the premier show on Thursday.

"The film has nicely captured the relationship between the owner and the pet dog, which is also seen between the dog and its handler," said Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar, who was among the personnel who saw the movie.

Charlie's day out: The Mangaluru city police with the new member of their dog squad. ▪ H.S. MANJUNATH

"After watching the film, the personnel suggested Charlie as the name for the fifth member of the squad, which I agreed," he said.

The three-month-old female Labrador Retriever was given the name at a simple naming ceremony at the kennel of the dog squad on the premises of the office of Police Commissioner on Friday. Deputy Commissioner of Police Channaveerappa Hadapad and Assistant Commissioner of Police Murugeppa Upase participated in it.

Charlie was recently brought from a kennel in Bantwal. It joins four others – Geeta, Rani, Ruby and Bubly – of the city police dog squad.

Charlie will shortly be sent, along with handler Harish and assistant handler Vikram, to Bengaluru City Armed Reserve for a six-month training.

Mr. Hadapad and Mr. Upase said the city police was spending ₹300 per day towards food for each of the five dogs. Health of these dogs are regularly monitored.

Online gaming: T.N. to promulgate ordinance

Panel led by retired HC judge K. Chandru constituted; it will submit its report to the State government in two weeks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Friday constituted a committee, headed by K. Chandru, a retired judge of the Madras High Court, to examine issues related to online gaming and submit a report within two weeks. Based on it, the government would take steps to promulgate an ordinance against online gaming.

The decision to set up the committee was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin at the Secretariat on June 9, according to an official release issued on Friday. According to the terms of reference, the committee will suggest ways to identify the games that are addictive, leading to a huge financial loss and disastrous consequences, like suicide, and study whether these games really involved skill or mere tricks.

Empirical data

It would collate the empirical data on the ill-effects of online gaming such as suicides and financial loss, besides examining a ban on advertisements relating to online gaming. It would examine the feasibility of curtailing online payments for playing these games.

The committee would study the algorithm of online games to determine whether it could be tweaked to the benefit of the gaming companies and make recommendations on the proposed legislation to "rid the menace of such games", one of the terms of reference in the government order issued by the Home Department said. It would also make suggestions on any other aspect that would help to achieve the purpose.

The committee would include the Secretary to the Government (Legal Affairs) B. Karthikeyan; Additional Director-General of Police Vinit Dev Wankhede; psychiatrist and founder of NGO Sneha Lakshmi Vijayakumar; and Professor S. Sankararaman of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

'Falling into debt trap'

The meeting was held against the backdrop of some persons getting addicted to virtual games, losing money and falling into a debt trap. Some of the victims took their own lives.

An official release issued by the government said the committee would examine the adverse effect of online rummy, like financial loss and suicides, besides examining the impact of advertisements promoting online rummy on society and ways to regulate them. It would submit its report to the government in two weeks.

"Based on the report, an ordinance would be promulgated, considering the need to find a solution to this issue at once. It would be a model for other States," the release said.

'Users on the rise'

The government noted that the number of internet users was on the rise every other day; so were those playing online rummy. Though legislation banning online gaming was enacted by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in February last year, the Madras High Court struck it down in August last.

The appeal preferred by the Tamil Nadu government in the Supreme Court in November last year has not been taken up for hearing yet. The legislation enacted by other States, including Karnataka and Kerala, was also struck down by the respective High Courts.

(*Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050.*)

After House miss, house loss for Union Minister

Denied RS renomination by JD(U), R.C.P. Singh now has to vacate his bungalow

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

R.C.P. Singh. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Union Minister R.C.P. Singh's troubles do not seem to have ended with his failure to get renominated to the Rajya Sabha by his party, the Janata Dal (United). He now has to vacate his spacious bungalow in Patna, where he has been living for the last 12 years.

Once a close confidant of JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Mr. Singh's fortunes in the party dwindled ever since he joined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet in July 2021.

Mr. Singh was living in 7, Strand Road, close to Mr. Kumar's official residence, 1, Anne Marg, though it was officially allotted to another JD (U) leader and the Chief Minister's close aide Sanjay Gandhi. The bungalow has now been allotted to the State's Chief Secretary Amir Subhani. Mr. Gandhi has been allotted another bungalow as the party's chief whip with Cabinet rank.

The Chief Minister is at present staying at the 7, Circular Road bungalow as renovation work is going on at 1, Anne Marg.

Late last month, after several flip-flops, Mr. Singh was dropped from JD(U) list for renomination to the Rajya Sabha. The party announced the name of its Jharkhand State unit president Khiru Mahto instead. Ever since, Mr. Singh and Mr. Kumar have avoided running into each other at social events and official functions in Patna.

Soon after being snubbed for the Rajya Sabha nomination however, Mr. Singh had insisted that there were no differences between him and his party leader. "This has been a 25-year-long relationship... My party leader must have thought something better than an RS seat for me," he had said.

Woman raped by man she met on dating site

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old woman was raped by a man last month in a five-star hotel in Dwarka, the Delhi police said on Friday, adding that efforts were on to trace the accused.

According to the police, the complainant said that she and the accused, identified as Mohak Gupta, met through a dating application on May 27, following which both went to a hotel in Dwarka on May 30, where she was raped by the man.

Police said that at the hotel Mr. Gupta allegedly served her a spiked drink, and she felt uncomfortable after consuming it. He is alleged to have raped her after this.

Cong. list for M.P. civic polls raises eyebrows

Kin of sitting MLA included, undermining the party's Chintan Shivir proposals

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
BHOPAL

Three sitting MLAs, a spouse each of a sitting MLA and a former MLA, and many holding organisational posts or related to those who do, figure in the list of mayoral candidates announced by the Congress for the upcoming civic body elections in Madhya Pradesh.

Earlier on Thursday evening, the party announced its list for 15 of the 16 municipal corporations that will go to polls next month. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is ruling all the 16 corporations at present, is yet to announce its list.

Among the 15 candidates, Sanjay Shukla from Indore, Siddharth Kushwaha from Satna and Mahesh Parmar from Ujjain are sitting MLAs. Shobha Sikarwar from Gwalior is the wife of MLA Satish Sikarwar while Nidhi Jain (wife of former MLA Sunil Jain) has been fielded from Sagar. These selections have caused eyebrows to be raised with allegations of nepotism and favouritism coming from both within the Congress as well as the BJP.

At least 13 of the 15 candidates are said to have the backing of M.P. Pradesh Congress Committee chief Kamal Nath, following hectic parleys over the last fortnight. Former Chief Minister and senior party leader Digvijaya Singh, however, taking to Twitter has denied reports of any differences.

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 50 Yrs. About, **Height:** 5'3", **Sex:** Male, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Khaki Colour Pant and Grey Colour Check Shirt, **Place of Recovery:** Found dead on footpath near Dashnam Sanyas Ashram Mangol Puri Industrial Area Phase I, Delhi.

In this regard **FIR/DD No. 78-A, Dated: 04.06.2022** has been lodged at **Police Station, Raj Park, Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S. Raj Park, Delhi
DP/1921/OD/2022 **Ph.: 011-27910070, 27910071**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons (1) **Karan S/o** Manohari Lal **R/o** Village-Bedgoan, Puri Garwal, Uttarakhand and (2) **Pooja W/o** Karan **R/o** Village-Bedgoan, Puri Garwal, Uttarakhand have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 253/2021, U/s 363/366/376 IPC & 6 POCSO Act** has been registered at **P.S. Saket, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) **Karan** and (2) **Pooja** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) **Karan** and (2) **Pooja** have absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said (1) **Karan** and (2) **Pooja** accused of **FIR No. 253/2021, U/s 363/366/376 IPC & 6 POCSO Act, P.S. Saket, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **29.07.2022**.

By Order
Shri Amit Bansal
Additional Sessions Judge-01 (South)
DP/233/SD/2022-(Court Matter) **Special Court (POCSO), Saket Courts, New Delhi**

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank
General & Estates, Department
Zonal Office, Delhi
Plot No. 132-134 Sector-44
Gurgaon Haryana-122002

e-Request for Proposal (e-RFP)
for
Empanelment of Vendor(s) for Comprehensive AMC of Note Counting Machines Installed at various Business Units / EBUs / CATM's / Currency Chests etc. falling under Zonal Office Delhi

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal **https://jkbank.abcprocure.com** w.e.f. **June 11, 2022, 10.00 Hrs.** RFP Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website **www.jkbank.com**. Last date for submission of Bids is **July 02, 2022, 17.00 Hrs.**

e-RFP Ref. No. JKB/G&ED/ZO-Delhi/CAMC-NCMs/2022-334
Dated: 09-06-2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 20/ 2022-2023 **Date : 10.06.2022**

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	07221857	NON ASBESTOS BASED ORGANIC BRAKE PADS	12672 SET	08.07.22
02	06221002A	PIG IRON	428601 KGS	08.07.22
03	09222589	PRIMARY BRAKE BEAM	426 NOS	11.07.22
04	09222141	ROTARY BOTTOM	11117 NOS	12.07.22
05	07220128	GUIDE BUSH, FOR AXLE BOX GUIDE	86412 NOS	14.07.22
06	09222048	BOGIE CENTRE PIVOT	2672 NOS	15.07.22
07	09222327	RUBBER SPRING FOR DRAW GEAR	2297 SET	24.08.22

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

1416/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 196-S/71/2019-20/TENDER NOTICE/TSO-III/SIC
Dated: 10.06.2022

E-Tender for and on behalf of the President of India, Pr. CE, Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001 invites the following tenders through E-Procurement System:

Tender No. TS225081	Due on 07.07.2022
Description of Item	Manufacturing & Supply of Silicon Carbide as per Northern Railway Thermit Portion Plant Lucknow's standard specification TPP/SIC/2021 (as amended up to date)
Tender Value	Rs. 12,43,594.40
Tender Document Cost	Rs. Nil
Earnest Money	Rs. 24,880/-
Completion period	12 Months
Time of submission of Tender	Up 07.07.2022 at 14:30 IST
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	On 07.07.2022 at 14:30 IST
Validity of Offer	180 days

Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement tender is available on website **www.ireps.gov.in** and **www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in."**

1420/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

S.no	Job no/Work Name	Amount
1.	21/D(H)/DD(H)-III/20-21, M/o Parks Sector-80,82,83,87,106,90,137(SH:Plantation) with 03 month maintenance.	Cost Rs.76.42 Lacs
2.	47/D(H)/DD(H)-III/20-21, M/o Park, Green Belt & RSP with 02 year maintenance in Sector-92, Central verge Exp H.Ways to metro Line Drain.	Cost Rs.93.65 Lacs
3.	48/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2021-22, M/o Park & Green Belt with 02 year maintenance in Sector-93.	Cost Rs.93.47 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 20/06/2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 21/06/2022 at 11.00 AM.

Office
Sector-39
Director (Hort.)
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e Web:- www.hppwd.gov.in E mail:- hp-kin@nic.in,
Phone No:- 01786-226027 Fax:- 01786-226027.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. ***The Executive Engineer Kalpa Division, HP.PWD. Kalpa, District Kinnaur (HP)*** on behalf of Governor of H.P. re- invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of Contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Starting date for down--loading Bid	Earnest Money	Eligible Class of Contractor	Deadline for submission of Bid.	Date of opening of Technical bid.
1.	Construction of 8 Nos Type-IV quarters at District Hospital at Reckong Peo in District Kinnaur HP) (SH:- Building portion thereof, WS and SI works, Septic Tank and Rain Water Harvesting System etc.)	2,23,12,073/-	27-06-2022 10.30 Hrs	4,50,000/-	A" & "B" Class	06-07-2022 Upto 17.30 Hours	07-07-2022 at 11.30 Hrs.
2.	Construction of Ty-II & Ty-III qtrs. for the Staff of Deputy Commissioner at Reckong Peo in District Kinnaur HP (SH:- C/O 8 Nos. Ty-II Qtrs., Building portion, WS & SI, rain water harvesting system and site development)	1,93,30,005/-	27-06-2022 10.30 Hrs	3,86,600/-	"B" & "C" Class	06-07-2022 Upto 17.30 Hours	07-07-2022 at 11.30 Hrs.
3.	C/O Mahila Kalyan Parishad Building at Reckong Peo in District Kinnaur HP (SH:- Building portion, Ground floor, W.S. & S.I., Site development and Septic Tank)	90,33,615/-	27-06-2022 10.30 Hrs	1,81,000/-	"B" & "C" Class	06-07-2022 Upto 17.30 Hours	07-07-2022 at 11.30 Hrs.
4.	Balance work for construction of Sarai Bhawan at Sunnam in District Kinnaur HP (SH:- Building portion, WS & SI and site development)	67,85,540/-	27-06-2022 10.30 Hrs	1,36,000/-	"B" & "C" Class	06-07-2022 Upto 17.30 Hours	07-07-2022 at 11.30 Hrs.
5.	Balance work for construction of Sarai Bhawan at Giabong in District Kinnaur HP (SH:- Building portion, WS & SI and site development)	1,08,63,509/-	27-06-2022 10.30 Hrs	2,18,000/-	"B" & "C" Class	06-07-2022 Upto 17.30 Hours	07-07-2022 at 11.30 Hrs.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website **www.hptenders.gov.in**.

HP / 1648/22-23

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Executive Engineer,
Kalpa Division,
HP.PWD. Kalpa.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar, conducted their Investiture Ceremony. The event was graced by Dr. Ashok Pandey, Director, Ahlcon group of schools. He complimented the students for their hard-work and sincerity and wished them good luck for their future endeavours. School Principal, Mr. Sanjay Yadav, administered the oath to the proud council and house appointees. In his address to the Council, he expressed his pride in witnessing the crescendo of their journey. He encouraged them to bear the baton with honesty and utmost pride. Other dignitaries were also present.

LITERATURE CONCLAVE

DAV Public School, Faridabad, organised 'LITERARIO -The DAV Literature Conclave' at Mahatma Hansraj Auditorium. A panel discussion on literature as a career was conducted to apprise students with literature as an illustrious career option. The panel included eminent personalities from relevant field to make this is a fruitful session for the students. Poets, authors, journalists, academicians, content developers, anchors, and others, guided students with their personal experiences and asked them to be original and innovative. The event was a grand success.

WHEN STUDENTS DO THEIR SCHOOL PROUD

Ms. Pooja, a class 8 student of S.D. Public School, Pitampura, participated in the 82nd Delhi State Annual Athletics Championship, 2022 held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Athletes from many schools across Delhi, participated in the mega event. Pooja bagged the first position in shot put and the third position in throw ball in the under 14 years category. She was rewarded with gold and bronze medals for both the events respectively. School Principal, Ms. Anita Sharma, appreciated her for her remarkable achievement.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Kapil Nagar :
Handphone:+91 9810089457/Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in

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THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No. TRD-BSP-145-22-23 Dated 03.06.2022
Name of Work: Provision of 10 KVA AT supply in Auto Signaling Goomties for provision of auto signaling from Jairamnagar-Jharsuguda section.
Tender Value: ₹ 78,89,634/-,
EMD: ₹ 1,57,800/-
Submission of Tender: Up to **15:00** Hrs on **04.07.2022**
For further details / purchase of the Tender Document, Eligibility Criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact the Office of the **Sr. DEE/TRD/SECR/Bilaspur** or refer /download the Tender Document which is available on our website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. Divisional Elect. Engineer (TRD)
CPR/10/67 **S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur**
South East Central Railway @secrail

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Tissa, on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the online Lump Sum Contract bids on turnkey basis from the eligible bidders of Indian Entity through online bidding system on or before 23-06-2022 **at 12.00 PM** on the site https://hptenders.gov.in

Sr. No.	Description	Estimated Cost	Bid security	Time	Cost of Bid
1.	Providing WSS to drought affected habitations in GP BonderiJunas,Guila&Mangli under Churah Constituency in Tehsil Churah Distt. Chamba H.P.. including trial & testing run period of 03 months after physical completion of all components of the scheme.	Rupees 7,81,44,139/-	Rupees 7,81,441/-	24 months including all seasons but excluding trial run of 3 months.	Rupees 2,500/-
2.	PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY SCHEME TO DROUGHT AFFECTED HABITATIONS IN GP SANWAL, SHALELABARI, DEHGRAM, JHAJJAKOTHI, THANEIKOTHI, KUTHED BUDHODA & HARTWAS UNDER CHURAH CONSTITUENCY IN TEHSIL CHURAH DISTT. CHAMBA H.P..	Rupees 23,29,32,389/-	Rupees 23,29,324-	24 months including all seasons but excluding trial run of 3 months.	Rupees 2,500/-

KEY DATES SHALL BE AS UNDER:-		
A	Date of Online publication	08-06-2022 at 09:00 Hrs IST (GMT+ 5:30 Hrs)
B	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 08-06-2022 at 09:00 Hrs IST (GMT+ 5:30 Hrs) To 23-06-2022 at 12.00 Hrs IST (GMT+ 5:30 Hrs)
C	Date of submission of e-bid	From 08-06-2022 at 09.00 Hrs IST (GMT+ 5:30 Hrs) To23-06-2022 at 12.00 Hrs IST (GMT+ 5:30 Hrs)
D	Physical Submission of Original Bid Security (in case of offline deposit of Bid security)	Upto 11.30 Hrs IST (GMT+5:30 Hrs) on -23-06-2022
E	Date of opening of bids:	
	1) Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria & Technical bid	On23-06-2022 at 12.30 Hrs IST (GMT+530 Hrs)
	2) Cover-2 Financial Bid	Shall be intimated separately
F	Site Visit	Between 11.00 Hrs IST (GMT+5:30 Hrs)dated 08-06-2022-to 1700 Hrs IST (GMT+5:30 Hrs) dated 22-06-2022 along with the Assistant Engineer/ Concerned Junior Engineer Jal Shakti Sub Division Tissa
G	Pre-Bid Meeting for Serial No. 2 only	On 17-06-2022 at 11:00 Hrs IST (GMT+5:30 Hrs) through video conferencing with Engineer-in-Chief Jal Shakti Vibhag, Jal Shakti Bhawan Tutikandi Shimla for which link shall be shared separately.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the website **www.hptenders.gov.in.** Executive Engineer
HP / 1645/22-23 Jal Shakti Division Tissa, Distt Chamba

Known unknowns

The BJP's nominee will be the next President, but the election is crucial for the Opposition

With President Ram Nath Kovind's term set to end on July 24, the process to elect his successor has been kicked off with the Election Commission's announcement of the schedule on Thursday. The electoral college for the presidential elections has 4,809 members, which includes 233 Rajya Sabha and 543 Lok Sabha members, and 4,033 MLAs of State Assemblies. Each member has a certain vote value based on the strength of the population they represent. The voting is on July 18. The total value of the votes that will be up for grabs is: 10,86,431. The BJP-led NDA's tally is 5,25,706, around 20,000 votes short of the majority mark, but there is no doubt that its nominee will occupy Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Biju Janata Dal with 31,686 votes and the YSR Congress with 43,450 votes have conveyed to the Government their wholehearted support. The Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, on May 30, and YSR Congress chief and Andhra Pradesh CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on June 2, met the PM, reportedly committing their votes to the BJP's choice for the highest office.

Even though the outcome is foretold, the contest will have many layers of political meaning and symbolism, and therefore will be keenly watched by the country and the world. The new President will take over at a time when the country is faced with a crippling religious polarisation and other challenges. This is the second presidential election where J&K's legislators will not participate, but the first after it became a UT in 2019. In the nomination of Mr. Kovind, a Dalit from the heartland, the BJP sent a political message five years ago. It will certainly have another one this year, that is being anticipated eagerly to read into what the BJP's strategy will be, going into the 2024 general election. The presidential poll will also be a test for the Opposition in terms of its unity, leadership and talking points. The Congress has the highest number of votes among the non-BJP parties but its acceptance among other parties is at the lowest in a long time. The TRS chief and Telangana CM, K. Chandrashekar Rao, and the TMC leader and West Bengal CM, Mamata Banerjee, want to lead the Opposition coalition and hence appear unwilling to concede the leadership to the Congress, though they have not made any public statement on the question. AAP leader and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal who is relentless in his attacks on the BJP, is equally opposed to the Congress. Considering these divergent views and conflicting ambitions, it will be a tall order for the Opposition to devise a united front and coherent strategy. All told, the presidential election will be a demonstration of how political forces are aligned in the country.

Restoration

Sri Lanka will be well served by a return to parliamentary democracy

The resignation of Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa as Member of Parliament on Thursday did not come as a surprise, given the adverse public mood he and the rest of his family, including his brothers President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, have been facing. But what was surprising was that he took a month to quit after unprecedented violence in Sri Lanka. The violence was an outcome of the attack unleashed by supporters of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) on peaceful anti-government protesters, who have been running the campaign "Go home Gota [Gotabaya Rajapaksa]" over the country's worst economic crisis. It needs no reiteration that Basil Rajapaksa, regarded as the livewire of the SLPP, was perceived in certain quarters as one of those responsible for the attack on the protesters. His political departure comes at a time when efforts are on to get Cabinet clearance for the proposed 21st Constitutional Amendment, which is aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive President, apart from barring those holding dual citizenship from entering the legislature. Basil Rajapaksa, who holds American citizenship too, would have been affected and realisation may have dawned on him.

The development should provide a breather to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has been batting for significant changes in the Constitution. Needless to say, he would like the complete restoration of the 19th Amendment, which was adopted by Parliament in April 2015 when he was the PM; Maithripala Sirisena was the President. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who assured his country days after the violence that he would take steps to amend the Constitution to bring back the 19th Amendment, should honour his word. He should not be influenced by voices within the SLPP that the economic agenda should take precedence over the political agenda of constitutional amendments. The two agendas have become so intertwined that the government's performance in the context of the political agenda would create a conducive climate for the international community to consider investing in Sri Lanka in a big way. The President, who has said that he would like to complete his remaining term of two and a half years, should keep this in mind and facilitate the task of Mr. Wickremesinghe in reconstructing the beleaguered economy. One should not forget that the 19th Amendment, while in force, was no bar for then President Maithripala Sirisena to effect a constitutional coup. This is why the demand for the abolition of the office of executive President assumes significance. There may still be a long way to go for abolition but, in the event of the proposed 21st Amendment being passed, the experience gained should be used by all stakeholders constructively to pursue the goal of bringing back the parliamentary form of government, which was in existence in Sri Lanka for 30 years since Independence in 1948.

India is not the fastest growing big economy

A closer look at recent data on GDP shows that the numbers are flawed and recovery is incomplete

ARUN KUMAR

The Provisional Estimates of Annual National Income in 2021-22 just released show that GDP grew 8.7% in real terms and 19.5% in nominal terms (including inflation). It makes India the fastest growing major economy in the world. Further, the real economy is 1.51% larger than it was in 2019-20, just before the novel coronavirus pandemic hit the world. In nominal terms it is higher by 17.9%. These numbers imply that the rate of inflation was 10.8% in 2021-22 and 16.4% between the two years, 2019-20 and 2021-22.

Quarterly growth rates

This picture implies almost no growth and high inflation since the pre-pandemic year. So, the tag of the fastest growing economy means little. If an economy drops sharply and then rises equally fast to reach its earlier level, that cannot be taken as an indication of a rapidly growing economy.

The quarter to quarter growth currently may give some indication of the present rate of growth. In 2020-21, the quarterly rate of growth increased through the year. In 2021-22, the rate of growth has been slowing down. Of course in 2020-21, the COVID-19 lockdown had a severe impact in Q1 (-23.8%); after that the rate of growth picked up. In 2021-22, the rate of growth in Q1 had to sharply rise (20.3%). Ignoring the outliers in Q1, growth rates in 2021-22 have sequentially petered out in subsequent quarters: 8.4%, 5.4% and 4.1%. True, the last quarter (January-March 2022) data was impacted by the Omicron-related lockdowns in January and February. It was further impacted in March by the supply disruptions following the war in Ukraine and the severe COVID-19 lockdown in China. Going forward, while the lockdown in China is over, the war-related impact is likely to persist since there is no end in sight. Thus, price rise and impact on production are likely to persist. The rapid rise in prices will impact demand from the vast majority of citizens who are losing out. That will reduce growth further.

Data as the problem

More worryingly, the issue is about correctness of data. The annual estimates given now are provisional since complete data are not available for 2021-22. They may be better than the second advance estimates released three months ago as more data become available. There is a greater problem with quarterly estimates since very limited data are available for estimating it. So, the data for the fourth quarter of 2021-22 released now is even more problematic

The first issue is that during 2020-21, due to the pandemic, full data could not be collected for Q1. Further, for agriculture, quarterly data assumes that the targets are achieved. But in Q1, a lot of fruits, vegetables, flowers, milk and poultry products could not come to the market, and rotted and wasted. This is more than 50% of the agriculture output. Thus, the growth rate of agriculture was certainly less than the official figure of 3%.

Agriculture is a part of the unorganised sector. Very little data are available for it but for agriculture – neither for the quarter nor for the year. It is simply assumed that the limited data available for the organised sector can be used to act as a proxy. In other words the non-agriculture unorganised sector is represented by the organised sector. The data for the full organised sector are also not available so 'high frequency' data (listed in the press note) are used. For instance, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection data are used. But, it is well known that GST is collected almost entirely from the organised sector. In brief: very little data are available for quarterly estimates; and even less is available for the unorganised sector. Since the same method is used to estimate the annual growth rate the errors get repeated.

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Errors in total, components

If better data became available after the shock of the lockdown, and it got used, there should be substantial revision in the previous year's quarterly data. But if one compares the Q1 2020-21 data in the latest release with the data released in May 2021, the change is 0.3%. Does this imply that the high frequency data used is very well able to predict quarterly GDP? This is unlikely to be the case when a shock is administered to the economy which changes the parameters of the economy. The data remaining largely unchanged implies that the same error is being carried forward.

The quarterly data is added up to yield the annual total. If a better method was used to estimate the annual data, it should not equal the sum of the quarterly data which as argued above is estimated on the basis of a limited data set. The implication is that the errors in the quarterly data are repeated in the annual data.

The method using the organised sector to proxy the unorganised non-agriculture sector may have been acceptable before demonetisation (2016) but is not correct since then. The reason is that the unorganised non-agriculture sector suffered far more than the organised sector and more so during the waves of the pandemic. Large parts of the unorganised non-agriculture sector have experienced a shift in demand to the organised sector since they produce similar things. This introduces large errors in GDP estimates since official agencies do not estimate this shift. All that is known is that the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has faced closures and failures.

If GDP data are incorrect, data on its components – private consumption and investment – must also be incorrect. Most often, ratios are applied to the GDP to estimate them. But, if the GDP is in error, then the ratios will yield erroneous results. The other main components – government and external trade – may be assumed to be reasonably accurate even though this data is revised over several years.

Further, the ratios themselves would have been impacted by the shock of the lockdown and the decline of the unorganised sectors. Additionally, private consumption data is suspect since according to the data given by the Reserve Bank of India which largely captures the organised sector, consumer confidence throughout 2021-22 was way below (not marginally lower) its pre-pandemic level of 104 achieved in January 2020. So, consumption could not have come close to its pre-pandemic level.

In brief, neither the total nor the ratios are correct. Clearly, consumption and investment figures are over-estimates and very likely because the decline in the unorganised sectors has not been captured.

Possible correction

In the best possible scenario, let us assume that the organised sector (55% of GDP) and agriculture (14% of GDP) are growing at the official rate of growth of 8.2% and 3%, respectively. Then, they would contribute 4.93% to GDP growth. The non-agriculture unorganised component is declining for two reasons: first, the closure of units and the second the shift in demand to the organised sector. Even if 5% of the units have closed down this year and 5% of the demand has shifted to the organised sector, the unorganised sector would have declined by about 10%; the contribution of this component to GDP growth would be -3.1%.

Based on the above assumptions, the GDP for 2021-22 would have grown by only 1.8%, and not 8.7%, and it would be less than the pre-pandemic GDP of 2019-20 by 4.92%. Clearly, recovery is incomplete and India is not the fastest growing big economy of the world.

Arun Kumar is a retired Professor of Economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is also the author of 'Indian Economy's Greatest Crisis: Impact of the Coronavirus and the Road Ahead', 2020

The gulf of sensitivity that India will have to cross

The Government's strategy to quell West Asia's outrage must include the need to foster an understanding of other faiths

VIVEK KATJU

The strong and widespread targeting of India in the Islamic world over the past few days arose from a specific theological consideration. It was not directly related to the politics or policies of India's ruling dispensation though its opponents within India would wish to give it that colour. The veracity of this assessment is borne out by the general apathy of the Islamic ummah towards India's Muslim population. From time to time, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has criticised the Indian state's alleged discrimination of its Muslim minorities. However, the organisation's views have never formed the basis of its member-states' bilateral ties with India. And, Islamic states have not been swayed by Pakistan's consistent portrayal of the Narendra Modi government as fascist and anti-Muslim.

Indeed, India's relations with some significant Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have strengthened since Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in May 2014. It is possible that the current resentment, even outrage, on account of the present controversy may lead to a greater scrutiny in the ummah of the Modi government's policies towards the country's Muslims. India's social situation may come under a deeper focus but the governments of Islamic countries would not want their India policies to be determined by theological considerations; they have an array of interests at stake in their India ties.

There is a distinction

That the Islamic governments protested against the comments made regarding the Prophet by the former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Spokesperson, Nupur Sharma, and the former media head of the party's Delhi unit, Naveen Kumar Jindal, was not surprising. What was so though was that neither the Government nor the ruling party seemed to have realised the great offence they constituted to all Muslims worldwide and the anger the comments would generate. At least the astute External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, who has been a distinguished diplomat in his earlier avatar, should have known that despite enormous differences within themselves, Muslims venerate the Prophet; they all find any perception of disrespect towards him to be intolerable. Thus, there is a distinction between criticising some social practices of Muslims and what is perceived to be an attack on the personality of the Prophet.

Ms. Sharma's remarks during a talk show on a prominent TV channel were made on May 26. The next day a clip of these remarks was added to a tweet. That drew wide attention in India and Ms. Sharma complained of having received threats to her person and also her family members. At the same time a Muslim organisation lodged a legal complaint against Ms. Sharma. It was inevitable that in these times of instant communications and social media, Ms. Sharma's comments would find an audience in Islamic countries; and, that anti-India elements would also seek to publicise them. Yet, it appears that the Indian establishment perhaps thought if attention was given to this matter at all, that Ms. Sharma's remarks would be placed in the context of the shrill charges and countercharges made daily on Indian TV, and would therefore not be taken seriously.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

End misperceptions

Is this because the Indian system, including the ruling dispensation, has an inadequate appreciation of the sensitivities of different faiths? Is it because the Indian intellectual tradition as it has evolved after Independence does not pay sufficient attention to faith, perhaps, considering it backward? And, now while there is an assertion of religiosity, there is also a lack of curiosity about other faiths. This seems to cut across all segments of society and has led to a lack of knowledge of other religions, leading to misperceptions. This is illustrated in simple things such as innocently sending 'happy' messages on occasions of mourning of adherents of another faith or in works of art. But there is a darker side to society too which is witnessed in the reinforcement of prejudice about other faiths and the use of words and expressions which cause offence. This can also be witnessed in extolling the virtues of one's own faith and putting another in an unfavourable light. Clearly, all this points to the need to foster an understanding in society at large of other faiths and their sensitivities. This is especially needed in our multi-faith society at a time when religiosity is rising sharply across the world.

During a VIP visit

It was unfortunate that the situation arising out of Ms. Sharma's remarks occurred at a time when the Vice-President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, was on a three-nation tour of Gabon, Senegal and Qatar. Mr Naidu left India on May 30 and after visiting the two African countries, was to reach Doha on June 4. Clearly, the Indian foreign policy establishment led by the External Affairs Minister missed the sentiment brewing in the Islamic world because of Ms. Sharma's comments. If the External Affairs Minister had assessed what was happening, he would have surely taken action to prevent any embarrassment to the Vice-President on foreign soil. It can hardly be disputed that the President of India, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister, should never be put even in an uncomfortable position when they are abroad. Did this lapse occur because of a lack of appreciation of how Islamic sentiment is roused because of a perception of an insult to the Prophet?

According to a report in this newspaper, the "damage control" process began when the Vice-President was flying from Senegal to Doha and the Qataris conveyed that the ceremonial banquet of Mr. Naidu's host, the Deputy Amir of Qatar, would have to be called off because he was suspected to have been exposed to COVID-19. In such circumstances a very senior person hosts the customary banquet but it is not cancelled. It also appears now that the Indian side was taken aback when the Indian Ambassador in Doha was called in on June 5 and Qatar while appreciating the action taken against Ms. Sharma and Mr. Jindal by the BJP demanded that India issues a public apology for Ms. Sharma's remarks against the Prophet. There is no question of making one for the remarks of a party functionary.

This can only be called a very offensive action against India by Qatar. It could only have caused the greatest embarrassment to Mr. Naidu. It is to his credit that he proceeded with the visit. After the Qataris went public with their action, other Islamic countries lodged protests too. India did well to reject the statements of the OIC and Pakistan for they reeked of political considerations.

The last word

There is a mutuality of interests between the Arab states and India, and hence when the temperature cools, the flow of relations will go on. But India must take the obvious lessons from this entire episode, beginning with greater sensitivity to all faiths both for social harmony and promotions of India's external interests.

Vivek Katju is a former diplomat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Presidential polls

Although the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance has a fair chance to get its nominee elected as the President of India, this does not make the July 18 contest insipid (Page 1, "Presidential polls scheduled for July 18", June 10). Who the BJP leadership picks as its nominee will be a study of the party's political strategy. Back then, President Ram Nath Kovind's candidature was a Dalit outreach. There are social groups and regions that need the BJP's attention, which may be a possible factor now. It will also be interesting to see whether some NDA allies need cosseting. The Opposition game plan will be even more interesting. A weakened Congress's word may not be the most important one in picking a combined Opposition candidate, a reality the Gandhis may have to accept. There are Opposition leaders wanting to outshine the Congress. This may turn out to be a dress rehearsal for Opposition plans for the 2024 general election.

N. SADHASIVA REDDY,
Bengaluru

■ This is an opportunity for the Opposition parties to display unity before 2024 by putting up a joint candidate. They can demonstrate their resolve to fight the BJP. The election is bound to acquire an ideological colour as any electoral battle is inevitably intertwined with the ideological battle. Whoever is elected to the most exalted constitutional office should be more concerned with upholding the Constitution than anything else. The incoming President may have to play a crucial role to play in case 2024 throws up a hung Parliament.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Juveniles and justice

There is a need to revisit the concept of juvenile justice. The concept of 'mental maturity' has undergone a sea change. Today, the average teenager has multitudinous knowledge inputs about the dark globe than teenagers of an earlier era who had limited exposure to the world. The Internet, social media, cinema and television, and also news reports are reshaping his mind. Society has also changed from its presumed innocence of earlier decades.

The recent case in Hyderabad of a minor girl allegedly gang-raped by minor boys should be an eye-opener. If a minor can repeat the offence, he is no more a minor mentally. Rape, in any case is heinous, and the term 'minor' should not apply.

R. THOMAS PAUL,
Bengaluru

Star of women's cricket

Whenever Indian women's cricket is spoken of, the name Mithali Raj will always stand out. She will be noted for building her career overcoming all pressures that are generally associated with sportspersons, especially women, in India. This "lady Tendulkar" will be hard to replace. However, Mithali can offer much more to Indian women's cricket by way of coaching.

GANAPATHI BHAT,
Akola, Maharashtra

■ Mithali Raj will be remembered for the fact that she is the star of women's cricket. Her journey is a source of inspiration to many an Indian girl. One hopes that she continues to play a role by shaping the future of younger talent.

CHIRUVELLA SARATHBABU,
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

■ Women's cricket has been transformed in a remarkable way; Mithali Raj has made a significant contribution in popularising the game in India. Her retirement will create a vacuum.

P. VICTOR SELVARAJ,
Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

Kashmiri Pandits living on the edge

A spate of targeted killings of Hindus in Kashmir threatens to reverse years of efforts to rehabilitate Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. **Peerzada Ashiq** reports on the fear in the community, which is once again faced with the dilemma of whether to stay or leave in the face of violence

It is easy to spot from a distance the curtains drawn on the windows. Many two-bedroom flats have their doors locked from the outside. The buzz of residents that should surround the 14 three-storey towers is missing at the protected Sheikhpora transit Pandit colony in Budgam, bordering the posh colonies of Srinagar. The families of around 300 Kashmiri Pandits, who returned to the Valley and took up government jobs after being forced to migrate two decades ago, live in these flats.

The anxiety of the residents is palpable. The additional security personnel, stationed at strategically located watch towers, have become more vigilant. Glittering spools of concertina wires have been placed on top of the walls of the towers. The only Muslims who regularly enter the premises are well-known milkmen and vegetable vendors. No unknown person from outside is allowed inside any more. Around 30 Muslim students, tutored privately by Pandit teachers, have stopped visiting the colony.

Life at the Sheikhpora colony was not dull and grim until May 12 this year. On that day, Rahul Bhat, a 35-year-old Pandit who lived in one of the vertical towers, was shot dead in his office chair by well-trained militants in Chadoora's tehsil office in Budgam, about 12 km from the colony. This was followed by back-to-back targeted killings of a Hindu schoolteacher from Jammu's Samba district, a Hindu bank manager from Rajasthan, and a Hindu wine shop employee from Jammu's Rajouri district. Shock over the first killing quickly turned into unease. Today, Kashmiri Pandits, who are living on the edge, recall the violence of the 1990s when they were driven out of the region and fervently hope that the efforts that have been made towards ensuring peace and security since then do not end up futile.

Three-storey towers at the protected Sheikhpora transit Pandit colony in Budgam. This is where 300 Kashmiri Pandits, who returned to the Valley after being forced to migrate two decades ago, live. (Below): Protests in Budgam district against the recent targeted killings of minorities. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

'We are again caged'

Almost a month has passed since Bhat's killing. Rinku, a Class 9 student at the Kashmir Valley School, which is less than 5 km away from the Sheikhpora colony, has stopped going to school. He has already missed his term examination. Schools in Kashmir are planning online classes for students of migrant Hindu families. Rinku's parents – Ajay Pandita, 45, and Sharda Bhat, 44, both government teachers posted in Srinagar – have also decided to stay home in their two-room flat. The silence in the flat is broken by Pandita's 82-year-old mother, who insists that she should be shifted to the upper storey of her three-storey house where she lived before migration in 1990, at Dhar Bagh on the outskirts of Srinagar's Harwan area.

"My mother has had dementia for many years," says Pandita. "The only thing she remembers is her pre-migration house in Harwan. Little does she know that we are again caged (like in the 1990s)." He was 13 years old in July 1990 when his family was faced with a similar dilemma: whether to stay or leave in the face of violence. "I faintly remember Pandit killings," says Pandita. "We decided to leave behind our house as well as 30 kanals of land. They have all been sold." Pandita is still in touch with Muslim men from Dhar Bagh, many of whom were part of his cricket team.

Pandita quit his job in Jammu and joined the education department in Srinagar in 2017 to be with his wife. Sharda was among the first educated Pandits to get a job under former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's package for the return and rehabilitation of Kashmir migrants in 2010.

It is on account of Pandita's mother and his son that the family has decided not to migrate this time round. Around 50% of the 300 families living in the Sheikhpora colony have left to safer locations in Hindu-majority Jammu, after weeks of protests demanding a transfer outside the Valley until "the situation improves".

"My son has grown up here, he likes Kashmir," says Pandita. "He has Muslim friends. He has never felt out of place in his classroom. He does not like the Jammu weather; it's too hot. I don't want his education to suffer. We are not leaving." His two-year-old daughter goes to a local preparatory school.

Pandita, like others in the colony, is staring at an unanswered question: "Why are we being targeted? Who has cast an evil eye on our healthy routine?"

'The times have changed'

The last decade was peaceful at the Sheikhpora colony. Sanjay Bhat, now in his 60s, says he would walk in the Eidgah ground adjacent to the colony. Muslim boys played cricket and football while scores of Pandits ran around with no sense of fear, he recalls. "Pandits mingled with locals outside the camp. I would buy vegetables from shops outside the colony. I would go out to meet my Muslim friends and they would come to see me. All that has changed." Attending weddings and final rites in the case of deaths of members of the other community strengthened bonds, love, respect and compassion, he says.

Pandita, posted at a government school in the Safa Kadal area of the volatile old city in Srinagar, says the community was harmed neither in 2010, when the killings of protesting civilians sparked a cycle of violence, nor in 2016, when Hizbul Mujahideen 'commander' Burhan Wani's killing led to street protests for at least five months. He recalls how stone-throwing youth helped him get to safety in 2016: "I was caught in a clash between young stone-throwing men and security forces near Sheikhpora's main road. The young men helped me to take the safe route home."

Pandita's daily routine changed on October 7, 2021, when militants shot dead the principal, Satinder Kour, and a schoolteacher, Deepak Chand, within the premises of the Government Boys Higher Secondary school in Eidgah, Srinagar. This is in the same zone where Pandita and his wife were posted. "I was in class when I heard about the attack. Sharda was in a state of shock. My staff accompanied me to my wife's school. We were asked to leave for home by noon," Pandita recalls. Sharda had to remove her bindi and cover her head to leave the downtown areas.

"Our colleagues miss us. Sharda still gets calls from the staff. Students, who always showed us respect, insist that we return to the classroom. The times have changed though," Pandita says.

The killings reported in October 2021 and May this year have not only scared Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley, but also frightened other Pandits who were planning to return without government hand-holding. "My sister and brother-in-law were so encouraged by the situation earlier that we began looking for land to build a house," Pandita says.

Sixty-five kilometres from the Sheikhpora colony, the Vessu transit camp on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway in south Kashmir's Kulgam is home to more than 450 Pandit families. It also wears a deserted look. Much like in other transit camps, an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police has been put in charge of security. Over 50% of the families have left for Jammu in the past one month and those who remain prefer to stay indoors. Sanjay Kaul and his wife, both teachers, work in the Qazigund area but have decided against rejoining school till their issues, especially concerning security, are addressed.

"Around 250 students from the Vessu transit camp study in different schools. My child is in Class 10. It's a crucial year. He never felt unsafe earlier. There were times before these killings when I used to freely visit my ancestral property in the village," Kaul says.

Scores of Kashmiri Pandits who owned orchards, including apple, in south Kashmir were able to look after the fruit till the harvest time in autumn. "I would help my Muslim neighbours pluck fruit from the orchards and they would help me. All that may come to an end if the killings continue," says a worried T. Raina, a Pandit employee with ancestral land in south Kashmir.

Kaul, who was appointed in 2010 under the Prime Minister's package, says the recent killings have made it clear that no place is safe in the Valley for the employees. "Of late, our sense of security is waning. I am not even safe in my colony, in spite of the security cover. An employee was killed in broad daylight in his office chair. We are killed because of our name and faith," Kaul says. All the 1,200 Pandit employees who were living in rented accommodation in several districts have fled the Valley, he says. "They are the most scared lot," he adds.

A series of killings

The new militant movement against minorities started on December 31, 2020, when a Hindu goldsmith, Satpal Nischal, was shot dead in his shop in the upmarket Hari Singh High Street in Srinagar, just weeks after the Centre's new domicile law was implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. Later, from October 2021, a series of targeted killings of members of minorities, including Kashmiri Pandits, began. The first was on October 5, when Makhan Lal Bindroo of the famous Bindroo Medicate was killed in his shop in Srinagar. Eleven civilians became victims of targeted killings that month, including five non-local labourers and three members of minority communities. Four Kashmiri Pandits have been killed since October 2021 till date in the Valley by militants.

The string of killings followed the implementation of new land and job policies after the Centre's decision to end Jammu and Kashmir's special status and divide the State into two Union Territories. These new policies were widely opposed by the mainstream regional parties, including the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC, and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). A website was also launched in September last year to address the grievances of Kashmiri Pandits related to land alienation, distress sale, encroachments and trespassing of Pandit properties in Kashmir.

The new security situation has also posed a threat to the 808 Kashmiri Pandit families who never migrated from the Valley. "If even one non-migrant Pandit is killed, they too will have no option," says Sanjay Tickoo, president of the Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS), a caretaker body of the 808 families. Tickoo says many factors have together created a worrisome situation for the Pandits in Kashmir. "One of them was the government's decision to end the role of civil society in Kashmir. In 2010 and 2016, civil society stopped many bids at sparking communal tension. Today, members fear that they will be slapped with the Public Safety Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for their activism," he says.

Tickoo advocates an end to the muscular policy that New Delhi has pursued in Kashmir since 2019. "Danda (stick) will not work. The political process needs to be put in place in Kashmir now. We need to involve civil society and mosques to carry out a door-to-door campaign on the real teachings of Islam, co-existence and humanism," says Tickoo, who had to go underground due to death threats last year.

Events outside Jammu and Kashmir are also causing anger, he says. Tickoo claims that the recent remarks by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Nupur Sharma about Prophet Mohammad, the Azan issue, the Masjid-Mandir disputes, and "bulldozer politics" all add to the volatility of Kashmir. "The wrong portrayal in The Kashmir Files of all Muslims in Kashmir as 'jihadi' and militants was the last nail in the coffin," he says.

No intelligence agency in Kashmir can predict the next targeted killing, Tickoo warns. "Only The Resistance Front (TRF) knows who the next target will be." The TRF, which the police believe is an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, has warned of attacks against Pandits and non-local workers for "becoming a part of New Delhi's design to change the demography of Muslim-majority J&K". Officials say the pattern of killings makes it clear that militants are targeting not just Pandits but Hindus from Jammu too, especially those serving in Kashmir against posts reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC). Two SC teachers – Rajni Bala and Deepak Chand – and two shopkeepers from Jammu, including the son of the owner of the famous Krishna Daba in Srinagar, were among those killed in Kashmir in the last one year. Satish Kumar Singh, a driver living in south Kashmir's Kulgam, was also killed on April 14 this year.

"It is sad that there is a lot of focus on Kashmiri Pandits, but not on the Hindus from Jammu who have also suffered at the hands of militants. More than anyone, we need a transfer policy. We are alien to the local culture. We will work here for a certain period, but eventually we should be transferred to our home districts," says Rajiv Kumar, an SC employee posted in Kulgam.

According to the KPSS, 12 attacks were carried out on religious minorities from June 2020 till May 31, 2022. Nineteen targeted attacks also left 13 Muslims dead this year. Around 33 targeted attacks recorded last year left at least 20 local Muslims dead too, according to official figures.

What is at stake in Kashmir?

The resurgence of militancy is posing an unprecedented threat to the process of return of Kashmir Pandits since the Prime Minister's package was implemented in 2010. The package aimed at recruiting 6,000 educated Pandits and housing them in transit colonies in Kashmir first, before they decided to shift to localities with the local population. The ₹1,876-crore package, conceived by then Prime Minister Singh in 2008, also offered an initial financial assistance of ₹7.5 lakh per family, which was later increased to ₹20-25 lakh. The migrant Kashmiri Pandit families from rural pockets were assured of a waiver of interest on loans and a cash assistance of ₹1-1.5 lakh for re-cultivation of agriculture and horticulture land.

"There was a deeply strategic dimension to the package too. It is also for the majority community, which must see the importance of diversity. History has shown that when a society becomes homogenised, it creates fault lines within itself. Heterogeneity is a psychological enabler for young minds to get intellectualised early," says Kapil Kak, a Kashmir Pandit who retired as an Air Vice Marshal and worked on a track-two dialogue with Prime Minister Singh on the return of Pandits. The package bore the desired results on the ground without much politics around it, with the NC and the PDP lending their support when in power in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the latest official figures, 5,928 youths have been appointed under the package in various departments in different districts of the Valley between 2010 and 2022. Over 5,412 have already been posted. The number of Pandit employees is nearly 15% of the total Pandit families who migrated in the 1990s. As per Jammu and Kashmir government figures, 60,000 families migrated in the wake of unprecedented militant violence in Kashmir in the 1990s, which included 40,142 Hindu, 2,684 Muslim and 1,730 Sikh families.

The transit colonies came up without any opposition in the Valley. In south Kashmir, a transit colony was set up in Pulwama's Haal, Anantnag's Mattan and Kulgam's Vessu areas. In north Kashmir, Pandit colonies were set up in Kupwara's Natnusa and Baramulla's Veervan. In central Kashmir, Budgam's Sheikhpora and Ganderbal's Tulmulla have transit colonies.

"A total of 1,200 transit accommodations are also coming up at Ganderbal, Shopian, Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara, and additional land for another 2,744 units [flats] has been identified at seven locations," a senior official says, on the condition of anonymity. Among the new identified localities are Anantnag's Marhama, Ganderbal's Wandhama, Baramulla's Fatehpora, Shopian's Keegam, Bandipora's Sumbal and Kupwara's Kulangam.

The demand of protesting Pandit employees to be transferred to Jammu would, in effect, defeat the purpose of the package. None of the 5,412 employees has resumed duties even after three weeks of the killings.

"When these appointments were made, there was a clause that they will only serve in the districts where they were appointed. However, all those supernumerary have now been re-designated as divisional cadre posts. The employees cannot be posted in any district within the Valley now onwards," Jammu and Kashmir Relief Commissioner A.K. Pandita says. "Pandits should treat the killings as accidents. The government will not accept the demand to transfer them to Jammu. The security situation has improved, as we saw the Kheer Bhawani Mela being celebrated smoothly in Ganderbal's Tulmula area. The government will not allow such incidents to become a factor for the failure of the initiative." Pandita hopes that 50% of the employees who left for Jammu will return soon. "Fifty per cent of the employees are already present in the Valley but not attending to duty. Their demands regarding promotions and postings have been considered and addressed too," he adds.

Officials say Pandit employees who are couples have been transferred to a single district. Around 170 teachers have been already posted in 'safer zones' in Srinagar. The government has also increased the area domination of all the areas where around 4,000 Hindus, who did not migrate in the 1990s, live.

Back in the Sheikpora colony, Ajay Pandita is willing to join duty only after he feels secure. "It has to come from the majority community first. The government has to work towards creating a conducive atmosphere in Kashmir for the minorities," he says.

The names of some Pandits have been changed on request

FROM PAGE ONE

RS election: BJP holds sway in Karnataka

The three Congress candidates – Randeep Surjewala got 43 votes, Mukul Wasnik got 42 votes and Pramod Tiwari, the third party nominee, whose election looked precarious, also pulled through with 41 votes. The independent candidate and media personality Subhash Chandra, who was backed by the BJP, lost the elections. Other than the independents, as per reports, BJP MLA Shobha Rani Kushwaha also cross-voted in favour of the Congress.

The Rajya Sabha election results also have a larger political implication for the Congress, especially for Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, at a time when his former deputy Sachin Pilot is in serious contention to replace him ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections.

The election from the word go was framed as a difficult contest with the Congress going the extra mile to sequester its MLAs. With the emphatic victory, the credit will be heaped at Mr. Gehlot's door. BJP candidate Ghanshyam Tiwari also won the election with 43 votes.

In Maharashtra, polling was held for six Rajya Sabha seats but more than 12 hours after the voting began, the counting could not be started. The BJP approached the Central Election Commission alleging that three MLAs of the Maha Vikas Aghadi did not follow the due procedure. The MVA, meanwhile, has filed a similar complaint against the BJP. Seven candidates are in fray for six seats in the State. The Shiv Sena fielded additional candidate Sanjay Pawar and is short of 16 votes to get him elected.

A delegation of BJP leaders met the Election Commission in Delhi. Speaking to reporters, Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said, "We have submitted complaints about both Maharashtra and Haryana. We have urged the Election Commission to declare the election null and void since several rules were broken in both the States."

In Haryana too the counting did not start till late evening. The BJP has complained that two Congress MLAs displayed their votes to unauthorised personnel. The Congress has countered this claim. Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken, who is in fray, tweeted, "Fearing the loss of face in Rajya Sabha election results, the BJP has resorted to cheap politics stalling counting of votes in Haryana."

A three-member delegation of Congress leaders led by Supreme Court lawyer and Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha met the Election Commission. He was joined virtually by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, P. Chidambaram, Mr. Surjewala, Bhupender Singh Hooda and Rajeev Shukla.

"There is no reason to hold back counting in Haryana. The BJP's allegation has already been dismissed by the RO," Mr. Tankha told reporters in Delhi.

SC rejects plea for special counselling for NEET-PG

"The Medical Counselling Committee and the Union of India have to adhere to the time schedule for completing the admission process and the current schedule of NEET PG 2021 which is already behind time schedule... not to have another stray round is in the interest of medical education. There cannot be any compromise on the quality of medical education as it affects public health," the order said.

The court noted that out of 40,000 seats up for counselling, only 1,456 had remained vacant, most of which were non-clinical seats. The Supreme Court on Thursday had indicated that 'stray' rounds of counselling to fill up the vacant seats cannot go on forever.

Additional Solicitor General Balbir Singh, for the Health Ministry, had submitted that out of a total 1,456 vacant seats in NEET-PG 2021, over 1,100 were allocated to private colleges while the government had 300 vacant seats.

Mr. Singh said seats were mostly for non-clinical courses. "These courses are mostly for those who prefer an academic life. They would not be medical doctors but would be qualified to teach subjects like anatomy, etc. Very difficult to get jobs. So students do not opt for these courses though there are seats available," the law officer said.

Mr. Singh had also noted that 76.7% of the vacant seats belong to private institutions and students did not find it feasible to enroll for expensive non-clinical courses in these college.

Ukraine war hits Surat's diamond industry hard

Nearly 12 lakh people work in this sector apart from about five lakh in rural Gujarat. Nearly 70% of these workers are from Gujarat followed by workers from Rajasthan, U.P., Bihar and Kerala.

The workforce was mostly from the Patel community earlier. The funding for their work was done by traders belonging to the Jain community. Now, both communities have a stronghold over the trade of diamonds.

The new generation is looking for office jobs and other vocations. But Bhavnagar, Amreli, Junagarh, Rajkot and Surat districts have a huge number of workers. "We have urged the Centre to intervene. U.S. has banned even Indian products. As U.S. is the main market, we have to abide by their decisions," Mr. Navadia, who is also the national treasurer of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, says.

A small processing unit owner who wished not to be named, says he had to close down his unit due to the non-availability of raw material. "I had 70 workers under me. None of them have jobs now," he adds.

One interesting factor is that compared with other sectors, demand has increased for diamonds due to the changing trend of investment among youngsters in the United States.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, we were fearing loss of at least 25%. But our exports boomed during the lockdown. The investment pattern of youngsters in U.S. seems to have changed. They are buying diamond ornaments using their investment. The demand has increased. It is a historically golden period for diamond sector," Mr. Navadia says.

According to the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, total exports of gems and jewels was about $37 billion in 2021-22 compared with $27 billion in the previous year.

"We have unprecedented demand. The Prime Minister himself is taking initiative and he has promised that there will be a proper policy on value addition in this sector so that 100% benefit comes to India. The trade war between China and the West is benefiting us. The work has increased. 400 new factories are now making jewellery," Mr. Navadia says.

Protests in many States over remarks on Prophet

Violent clashes in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh; curfew and suspension of Internet services in Jammu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Keeping peace: Security personnel intercepting people protesting against the controversial remarks by the suspended BJP spokesperson, in Ranchi, on Friday. ▪ PTI

Massive protests broke out in several States on Friday over the recent controversial remarks on Prophet Muhammed by suspended Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Nupur Sharma and the now-expelled Delhi media unit chief Naveen Kumar Jindal.

While Delhi witnessed peaceful protests demanding Ms. Sharma's arrest outside the Jama Masjid after Friday prayers, the police in Jharkhand fired in the air and resorted to baton charge to control protesters who threw stones that injured a few police personnel.

Authorities in Jammu imposed curfew in a few areas and parts of Kashmir observed a shutdown as street protests erupted over the alleged controversial remarks by Ms. Sharma and a local journalist on social media.

In Uttar Pradesh, peaceful protests were held in Kanpur, Bijnor, Moradabad, Rampur and Lucknow, but violence broke out in Saharanpur and Prayagraj. Police have arrested as many as 136 people from six districts of the State.

In Saharanpur, protesters demanded the death sentence for Ms. Sharma and in Prayagraj motorcycles and carts were set on fire. One policeman was injured in Prayagraj and the police had to fire tear gas and resort to lathi charge to disperse the demonstrators.

In West Bengal, hundreds of protesters blocked roads in Howrah district. Agitators clashed with police personnel during an attempt to lift the blockade on National Highway-6, the police said. Protesters also blocked railway tracks in the Howrah-Kharagpur section.

Agitations were also held in some areas of Ahmedabad and Vadodara in Gujarat. In Telangana's Old City of Hyderabad, peaceful crowds gathered outside Mecca Masjid after Friday prayers. The police resorted to baton charge in Mehidipatnam to prevent protestors from taking out a huge rally from Masjid E Azizia at Humayun Nagar.

In Maharashtra, protests were held in Thane, Aurangabad, Solapur, Nandurbar, Parbhani, Beed, Latur, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Pune districts. At least 3,000 protesters, including around 1,000 women, took out a march in Navi Mumbai's Panvel demanding the arrest of Ms. Sharma and Mr. Jindal.

In Karnataka's Belagavi, miscreants hanged an effigy of Ms. Sharma from an electric wire near a mosque on Fort Road, the police said. Meanwhile, a complaint was filed at a court in Muzaffarpur in Bihar against Ms. Sharma, Mr. Jindal and religious leader Swami Yati Narsinghanand by a social activist against their alleged inflammatory statements.

Tension in Jammu

A curfew that was imposed following street protests on Thursday continued for the second day in Chenab Valley's Bhaderwah in Jammu on Friday.

Hundreds of local people had held demonstrations in Bhaderwah demanding action against a local journalist for his alleged objectionable remarks. The protests caused tension between communities, forcing authorities to impose the curfew "as a precautionary measure". Internet services also remained suspended in Bhaderwah.

Street protests and a spontaneous shutdown in the Kashmir Valley affected normal life. Protests were held after Friday prayers in parts of the Valley, including Srinagar. Officials said security was beefed up in the volatile localities in Srinagar. However, no violence was reported during the protests and most of the demonstrators dispersed peacefully.

Heavy security was deployed in Delhi after about 300 people gathered outside Jama Masjid carrying placards and shouting slogans against Ms. Sharma and Mr. Jindal.

(With inputs from Kanpur, Kolkata and agencies)

In tense Kanpur, many friendships stay strong

June 3 violence has done nothing to diminish regard between Hindus and Muslims, say residents

NIKHIL M. BABU
KANPUR

Anil Sharma, 19, was working in a shop that makes garments near Yateem Khana of Kanpur when he heard about the violence on June 3, triggered by the controversial remarks on Prophet Muhammed made by the suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

"I was the only Hindu in the shop. The others are Muslims. When we came to know the news, they told me not to worry and they will drop me at my house. We worked till 6 p.m. and, though it was peaceful, they insisted on dropping me home," said Mr. Sharma.

Sitting in 26-year-old Mohammad Shahnawaz's tea stall in Yateem Khana, Mr. Sharma said the incident has not affected his relationship with his Muslim friends, including Shahnawaz. "I still come here every other day."

Mr. Shahnawaz said he has customers from all communities and they continue to come to his shop.

Babri memories

Many people in Yateem Khana and Nai Sadak area of Kanpur said Hindus and Muslims live together in the area. The violence was only between a small section from the two communities.

"All this doesn't matter to us," said Narayan Prasad Mishra, 74, about his relationship with Muslims, including Laiq Ahmed, 52, who runs a workshop near his own shop. "We are four shops away and still see each other every day," said Mr. Mishra.

The area where the violence erupted on June 3 has a mixed population.

Tranquil co-existence: Narayan Prasad Mishra in front of his workshop, in Nai Sadak area of Kanpur. ▪ NIKHIL M. BABU

Both Mr. Mishra and Mr. Ahmed said that the incident reminded them of the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992. "At that time, both Hindus and Muslims had come out on the streets. In outer area, there were some deaths too," Mr. Ahmed said.

"But back then, it was a bigger issue and there was curfew for at least a week," said Sanjay Sahu, 53, who sells chai at Parade Chowk and was listening to the conversation.

Mohammad Asim, 50, who lives in Becon Ganj, a Muslim dominated area close to Nai Sadak, said the situation had changed after the Babri Masjid demolition. "Earlier, even in our area there were a lot of Hindus. My best friend in school was a Hindu and we used to play cricket. But after Babri Masjid, Hindus started moving out," he said.

Divide and rule

"In 1989 and 1992, there was tension between Hindus and Muslims. I don't remember much, but there was tension," Mr. Mishra said.

After that, there was a violent incident between the two communities in 2000-2001, residents recall. Since then there has been peace.

"Whenever violence happens, there is some politics involved. Politicians divide Hindus and Muslims to rule over them. This is now being done for consolidation of Hindu votes, the way I see it," Mr. Asim said.

Rahul warns of Chinese hostility

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government is betraying the country by ignoring the Chinese infrastructure build-up at the borders, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said on Friday. He added that the build-up pointed towards "future hostile action".

"China is building the foundations for hostile action in the future. By ignoring it, the Government is betraying India," Mr. Gandhi said on Twitter. His remarks come just days after a U.S. General commented on the infrastructure development at the border. On Wednesday, General Charles A. Flynn, Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific, said that the Chinese activities across Ladakh were "eye-opening".

ED summons Sonia Gandhi on June 23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Congress president Sonia Gandhi on June 23 to record her statement in connection with a money laundering case involving the *National Herald*.

The agency had earlier sought Ms. Gandhi's appearance on June 8. However, she was tested positive for COVID-19 on June 2. Her office had written to the ED seeking a fresh date.

In the same case, the ED has also summoned Ms. Gandhi's son and former party chief, Rahul Gandhi, on June 13.

The case is to investigate the alleged financial irregularities under the PMLA.

Army chief visits areas of LAC in H.P., Uttarakhand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Gen. Manoj Pande interacting with personnel deployed in the forward areas of the LAC on Friday. ▪ @ADGPI - INDIAN ARMY

Army chief Gen. Manoj Pande is on a three day-visit to forward areas of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to review the operational preparedness and infrastructure development in the central sector. This is his maiden visit to the sector since taking over as Army chief.

While interacting with the commanders during his visit, the Army chief emphasised the need for vigil and alertness along the borders, the statement said. "He expressed his satisfaction on the rapid improvement of defensive posture and operational readiness of formations.

Gen. Pande also interacted with troops deployed in the forward posts and also complimented the excellent synergy between the Army, the Central Armed Police Forces, civil administration and the police towards operational effectiveness and sustainable development in the border areas.

Despite party diktat, Pragya Thakur backs Nupur Sharma

'India belongs to Hindus, *Sanatana Dharma* must stay here'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL

BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur aka Sadhvi Pragya on Friday backed Nupur Sharma, the former BJP spokesperson who was suspended by the party for her controversial remarks on Prophet Muhammed that sparked an international backlash.

On the response to Ms. Sharma's statement, Sadhvi Pragya – who is facing a trial in the 2008 Malegaon blast case and is currently out on bail – said, "These non-believers have always done so. They have a communist history... Kamlesh Tiwari said something and he was killed. Another person [Nupur Sharma] said something and got threat."

Pragya Singh Thakur

Earlier, Ms. Thakur also posted a tweet in support of her suspended party colleague. "If speaking truth is an act of rebellion, then I am a rebel myself," said the tweet.

Speaking to the presspersons, Ms. Thakur said that there was a Shiva temple under the Gyanvapi Mosque and that's how it would remain. She further added that India belonged to the Hindus and that *Sanatana Dharma* must stay here. "Muslims and non-believers give statement against our [Hindu] gods... How can we tolerate such insult?" she said.

These statements come even as the central leadership of the BJP, following the massive uproar over the Nupur Sharma incident, has reportedly asked its leaders to refrain from criticising any religion.

Russia delivers more efficient nuclear fuel for Kudankulam

After the next refuelling, the reactor will start operations in an 18-month fuel cycle, according to Rosatom State Corporation

DINAKAR PERI
SUDHAKAR P.
NEW DELHI/TIRUNELVELI

Rosatom State Corporation of Russia has supplied the first batches of more reliable and cost-efficient nuclear fuel over the existing one, the TVS-2M nuclear fuel, to India for the Units 1 and 2 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP), the company said in a statement on Friday.

Once the new TVS-2 M fuel is used in the next refuelling, the reactor will start operations with an 18-month fuel cycle. It means the reactor, which has to be stopped for every 12 months for removing the spent fuel and inserting the fresh fuel bundles and allied maintenance, will have to be stopped for every 18 months.

"Thus, TVEL has fulfilled the agreement with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) on implementation of a comprehensive engineering project, including introduction of TVS-2M nuclear fuel and elongation of the fuel cycle from 12 to 18 months for both VVER-1000 reactors," it stated.

Compared to the current fuel model, the TVS-2M fuel assemblies have a number of advantages making them more reliable and cost-efficient, according to Rosatom. Firstly, it is the rigidity of a bundle. Because of the welded frame, the fuel assemblies in the reactor core retain their geometry. The spacer grids protect the fuel rod cladding from fretting wear and the additional spacer grid makes the fuel assemblies more vibration-resistant.

The economic efficiency of Kudankulam nuclear project is set to increase due to the longer fuel cycles. ▪ A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

Secondly, the new fuel has increased uranium capacity – one TVS-2M assembly contains 7.6% more fuel material as compared to the earlier fuel bundles. In addition, the special feature of the Kudankulam fuel in particular is the new generation anti-debris filter protecting bundles from debris damage, which may be caused by small-sized objects in the reactor core, the statement explained.

Operation in longer fuel cycles also enhances the economic efficiency of a plant: As reactors have to undergo stoppage and refueling less frequently, the power units can produce more electricity. Besides, the plant needs to buy less fuel, and as the result, has to deal with smaller amounts of spent fuel.

Russia is building the KNPP under an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) of 1988 and follow on agreements in 1998 and 2008. The first stage, consisting of power units No. 1 and No. 2, was commissioned in 2013 and 2017, respectively. Power units No. 3, 4 and No. 5, 6 are are currently under construction.

RS poll vote counting halted in Maharashtra over objections

BJP alleges three MLAs had shown their ballot papers to polling agents

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

In what turned out to be a day of twists and turns, the results of the fiercely contested election for six Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra were not declared till the time of writing this report as both ruling party and the Opposition having approached the Central Election Commission with complaints to declare votes of the opponent's side invalid.

The counting for the election was delayed for hours after BJP approached the Central Election Commission against the decision of Returning Officer (RO) in Maharashtra, who refused to cancel the votes of three MLAs of the MVA on a complaint by the BJP. The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) too, by late evening approached Delhi, taking objection against the voting of BJP MLA Sudhir Mungantiwar and BJP-backed-independent MLA Ravi Rana over identical reasons.

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and Congress leader Ashok Arjunrao Jagtap arriving at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai. ▪ PTI

Seven candidates are in the fray for six seats from Maharashtra with BJP staking claim on three seats while the MVA fielded four candidates. The battle for the sixth seat is between Sena's Sanjay Pawar and BJP's Dhananjay Mahadik.

BJP MLAs Parag Alvani and Atul Save, who were the party's polling agents inside the polling center, had objected that NCP MLA Jitendra Awhad, Congress' Yashomati Thakur and Shiv Sena'Suhas Kande violated the polling procedure by displaying ballot papers to persons other than their own party election agents. The RO, however, had rejected the BJP's objection.

"We will approach the Central Election Commission as the RO did not even hold the hearing of our complaint," Mr. Alvani had said. The party's complaint to CEC delayed the start of the counting of votes by more than two hours. Congress MLA and minister Aslam Sheikh said that the BJP's action is out of fear of losing.

MVA suffered a shock after the court refused to grant permission to two of the jailed MLAs of NCP, namely Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh, to vote for the election. With death of one of the Sena MLAs, the ruling MVA was already facing the tough task of achieving the quota of 42.

Earlier in the day, all four parties ensured that the MLAs who had been kept at the hotels and resorts for last three days were brought to the legislative building in specially arranged buses. NCP MLA Dattatraya Bharne was the first voter and as per the strategy, all three parties of the MVA voted turnwise.

2 AIMIM MLAs vote for Cong. in Maharashtra

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Two Maharashtra MLAs of the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) voted for the 'Maha Vikas Aghadi' coalition in the Rajya Sabha polls on Friday. The AIMIM, which has often been accused by the MVA leadership – particularly the Shiv Sena – of being the BJP's 'B-team', said it voted for the Congress's candidate in order to defeat the BJP.

Before the polling, Imtiaz Jaleel, the AIMIM's lone MP in Maharashtra, said that while his party's "political and ideological differences with the Sena" would remain, the party's MLAs would cast their votes for the Congress candidate Imran Pratapgarhi.

Despite the AIMIM's justification of going with the MVA to keep the BJP at bay, their decision raised eyebrows as their votes constituted 'excess' Congress votes (42 being the quota, Congress having 44 MLAs).

Congress takes 3 out of 4 seats in Rajasthan; media baron loses

Surprisingly, a BJP MLA cross-voted for the ruling party

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The ruling Congress on Friday won three of the four Rajya Sabha seats from Rajasthan, with the party candidates Randeep Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik and Pramod Tiwari declared elected after counting of votes. BJP's Ghanshyam Tiwari won the fourth seat, while BJP-backed Independent, media baron Subhash Chandra, was defeated.

Ashok Gehlot with newly-elected Congress MPs Pramod Tiwari, Mukul Wasnik, Randeep Surjewala, and others. ▪ PTI

All the 200 MLAs cast their votes in the State Assembly building by the afternoon, but one vote was found invalid during the counting. The Congress and independent MLAs supporting the party were sequestered at a resort near Udaipur for about a week for their ostensible protection from poaching, while the Opposition BJP legislators went to a camp near Jaipur for training. Each candidate required 41 first-preference votes for victory. Mr. Surjewala secured 43 votes, Mr. Wasnik 42 and Mr. Tiwari 41. BJP's Mr. Ghanshyam Tiwari got 43 votes, while Mr. Chandra could poll only 30 votes. The Congress, which has 108 members in the Assembly, received the support of all the 13 independents as well as the MLAs of smaller parties. The BJP has 71 MLAs.

BJP MLA from Dholpur, Shobharani Kushwah, sprang a surprise by cross-voting in favour of a Congress candidate. Ms. Kushwah affirmed that she went against her party by listening to her "voice of conscience".

The six BSP-turned-Congress MLAs cast their votes, rejecting a whip issued by BSP State president Bhagwan Singh Baba directing them not to vote for either candidates. They had expressed resentment with the Congress government last week, but later relented after meeting the CM.

Show-cause notice to 102 Assam schools for poor results

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam's Secondary Education Department has served show-cause notices on 102 State-run schools for poor results in the Class X examinations.

The total pass percentage this year was 56.49%, a drop from the 93.10% in 2021 when the exams were not held due to COVID-19 and the results were declared through an evaluation formula based on the past performances of the students and internal assessment.

The success rate did not deviate much from "normal" years, but the Secondary Education Department's attention was drawn to 25 schools with "0%" result and 72 others that recorded a pass percentage of 10 or less.

The "pathetically dismal" result made Mamata Hojai, the director of Secondary Education, shoot off a letter to principals and headmasters of these schools, asking them to explain why their students could not perform.

Islamists' stir in Bangladesh putting pressure on Hasina

Shadow cast over her planned visit to India this year

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
DHAKA

The show of strength by the Islamists of Bangladesh at Baitul Mokarram or the national mosque here on Friday against the controversial comments on the Prophet has highlighted the mounting challenge against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who will face an election in 2023.

Sheikh Hasina

The protesters heckled and threatened the religious figures associated with the ruling Awami League with the party leaders receiving phone calls from many police stations across the country about public protests against the comments made by two former BJP leaders. Officials and party insiders here maintain that these developments are casting a shadow on PM Hasina's planned visit to India later this year.

"I went to offer my prayer at the Baitul Mokarram, but the aggressive crowd inconvenienced me and I was forced to offer *namaz* in a separate enclosure. Pressure is mounting on PM Hasina to take a clear stand on this matter. The budget session of our Parliament is underway and a statement in the Parliament will calm public sentiments," said Khandakar Golam Maula Nakshbandi, an influential leader of the Awami League.

Exchange of high-level visits has been a key feature of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Neighbourhood first' policy. In case of Bangladesh, since 2019, top level visits from both sides were shadowed by India's "internal" developments. In March 2020, PM Narendra Modi was scheduled to participate in the centenary celebrations of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The preparation for the mega event in Dhaka coincided with the enactment of the CAA on December 10, 2019. The act aimed to provide Indian citizenship to members of the persecuted minority communities of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. As Dhaka felt deep discomfort because of the CAA, the Hasina government cancelled the events citing the threat of COVID-19 after reportedly being warned about the pandemic's ferocity by her intelligence team.

Mr. Modi's rescheduled visit to Dhaka for the Mujib centenary events finally took place in March 2021 and next is the turn of PM Hasina to visit India. Sources here maintain that they are not finding any 'hint' of the visit as of now.

"She is most likely to club her India-visit with the trip to the U.S. in September when she will attend the UN General Assembly. Or she may visit India after that," said an official hinting that Dhaka would prefer to schedule a visit only after the storm is over.

BJP and Cong. spar in Haryana too

BJP wants to defeat free and fair polls, says Congress RS candidate Ajay Maken

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday accused the BJP of trying to defeat the process of free and fair election to Rajya Sabha in Haryana and demanded that the Election Commission declare the poll results in the State immediately.

A BJP delegation of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Jitendra Singh after meeting EC officials. ▪ PTI

A delegation of Congress leaders comprising Pawan Kumar Bansal, Vivek Tankha and Ranjeet Ranjan met the Election Commission and handed over a memorandum by Ajay Maken, its candidate for the Rajya Sabha poll in the State.

Party leaders Bhupesh Baghel, Bhupender Singh Hooda, P Chidambaram and Randeep Surjewala joined the meeting with the EC virtually and raised their objections over the alleged delay in declaring the results, soon after a delegation of BJP leaders questioned the poll process in Haryana..

Congress' Rajya Sabha candidate for Haryana Ajay Maken urged the Chief Election Commissioner to declare the results after rejecting the "frivolous" objection by the BJP over alleged violation of the secrecy of the ballot. In his letter to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar, Maken has alleged "unwarranted and illegal interference" by Independent candidate Kartikeya Sharma and the BJP in the election process.

Mr. Maken alleged they have raised frivolous objection before the Returning Officer with the sole agenda to "defeat the process of free and fair elections".

Tenure of NATGRID CEO curtailed: MHA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has curtailed the tenure of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) and moved him to the Border Security Force (BSF).

The move comes months before the Central deputation of Ashish Gupta, Indian Police Service officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre comes to an end in September.

A Home Ministry official said nothing much should be read into the order as Mr. Gupta had served eight years in the NATGRID and his tenure is coming to an end in September. The replacement for Mr. Gupta has not been finalised yet.

Earlier this year, Mr. Gupta was given an extension as NATGRID CEO as the post was upgraded to the rank of Additional Secretary. He is a 1989 batch IPS officer.

Ford sets June 14 deadline for workers to resume production

SANGEETHA KANDAVEL
CHENNAI

Ford India has informed its Chennai plant employees that if they do not resume production on June 14, there is a high likelihood that the company would call off the remaining export production and bring vehicle manufacturing to a close.

The company has a very limited amount of export production left to complete. According to sources, the announcement has been displayed on the company noticeboards. A copy of the announcement has been sent to the unions and the T.N. Department of Labour. The employees have been on strike since May 30, demanding a better severance package. "In light of the present circumstances, the company would like the permanent employees, who are willing to support production, know that the company is inviting you to opt for its best offer of severance package, which is approximately equal to 115 days of gross wages for each completed year of service. As you may note, this package is significantly higher than the statutory severance package (15 days of wages for each completed year of service)," the company said in its notice.

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

TENDER ALERT

1) E-Tender Notice No.CPC-03/2022-23: Engineering, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of " Construction of 02 nos of 33kV Bays along with 01 no of 33kV Bay swaping at 220/33kV Grid S/S Govindpalli for evacuation of power from 18 MW SHEP of Sri Avantika Power Project Pvt. Ltd. Under EHT (C) Division, Jeypore at an estimated cost of the package for Rs.1.18 Crore on "Turnkey Contract Basis"

2) E-Tender Notice No.CPC-02/2022-23: Execution of emergency/ normal OPGW stringing & maintenance works in EHV transmission lines in OPTCL system.

Complete set of bidding documents are available on **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** portal and **www.optcl.co.in.**

HIPR-11/2022-23 S/d- SGM (CPC)

CAD-801 OIPR-04011/11/0039/2223

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ZILLA PANCHAYATH CHIKMAGALUR

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION, CHIKMAGALUR.

Phone No.- 08262-295795, E-mail:eerwsckm@gmail.com

NO: EE/RDWS&S/ 2/E-Tender/2022-23 DATED : 08.06.2022

CORRIGENDUM

Vide this office Tender notification No. NO/EE/RDWS &S/2/E-Tender/2022-23/178/ Dated:30.5.2022 for the work "Drinking Water Supply Facilities to 172 Rural Habitations of Tarikere Taluk and Urban Population of Ajjampura Town in Chikkamagalur District, Karnataka through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) mode under Jal Jeevan Mission RWSSD/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT40888" The period of execution "30 months for execution and 60 months of O&M after successful completion of Scheme." to be read as "11 months for execution and 60 months of O&M after successful completion of Scheme". Others conditions remains same

More details can be had from the Office of the under signed and also through our website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in by clicking the List of Tenders which will be link all Department workslist.

Sd/- Executite Engineer, RDWS&S. Divn, Chikmagalur

DIPR/ckm/No.51/mca/22-23/385

FERRO SCRAP NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CORPORATE OFFICE
Equipment Chowk, Central Avenue
P. B. No. 37 ▪ BHILAI - 490 001 (C.G.)
Phone Nos. : 0788 - 2222474 / 475 Fax : 0788 - 2220423, 2223884
E-mail ID : g.saraswat@fsnl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tenders are invited for the following

TN-01/2022-23 : Empanelment of Agencies for deployment of module of equipment on hire to assist in various activities inside Steel Plants on as and when required basis for a period of 3 yrs.

The vendors who are enlisted with us are also required to submit the offers as per tender. The due date for submission of tender will be on or before **11.07.2022** by **2:30 PM** and tenders will be opened on **11.07.2022** at **3:00 PM**. Visit our website www.fsnl.nic.in for tender documents, Corrigendum, Time Extensions etc.

AGM(MM)

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No. JDA/Estt/2022-23/D-1521 Date: 07-06-2022

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB NO.: DC (Admn)-02/2022-23

Online Bids are invited up-to 5:00 PM 29.06.2022 for providing degree holder Junior Engineers (Civil/)Electrical) through placement agency. Estimated yearly cost of the bid is Rs. 203.00 Lakh UBN No. JDA2223SLOB00114 The last date for Applying Bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up-to 5:00 PM on 29.062022 Details may be seen in the Bidding Doucment at JDA office or on the State Public Procurement Portal website **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in.** To participate in the bid, bidder has to be :

1. Registered on JDA website **www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in**, For Participating in the bid, the bidder has to apply for the bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL. Processing Fee and Bid Security Deposit online only.
2. Bidder should be registered on c-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission. **UBN No.JDA2223SLOB00114**

Raj.Samwad/C/2022-23/3158 Deputy Commissioner (Admn)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
AUCTION PROGRAMME
NOTICE No: 07/2022

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non-Ferrous Scrap, other Misc Scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way Scrap Material.

Sl. No.	e-Auction Conducted by	Date of Auction for the Month of July' 22		Materials for Auction
1	DY.CMM/SALES/HQ/PER (for GSD/PER)	04.07.22	21.07.22	The details of item to be sold in e-Auction will be available in catalogue in www.ireps.gov.in website.
2	Dy.CMM/CSSD/GOC	05.07.22	22.07.22	
3	Sr.DMM/PGT (for SSD/PTJ)	06.07.22	25.07.22	
4	Sr.DMM/MAS	01.07.22	22.07.22	
5	Sr.DMM/SA	04.07.22	25.07.22	
6	Sr.DMM/TVC	07.07.22	26.07.22	
7	Sr.DMM/PGT	08.07.22	27.07.22	
8	Sr.DMM/TPJ	11.07.22	28.07.22	
9	Sr.DMM/TPJ (for MDU divn)	11.07.22	28.07.22	

For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our Website: **http://www.ireps.gov.in** → E-Auction → Sale → Live Auctions.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

BERHAMPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Letter No. No. 6378 / **Invitation for Bids** Date :08.06.2022

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT
Bid Identification No.BMC(BAM):- 261 / 2022-23

1.	The Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur, invites percentage rate bids in ONLINE MODE only, as per annexure "A".	
2.	Nature of Work	Civil
3.	No. of work	1 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost	The bidders shall remit online the cost of bid document for amount through the process as mentioned in the DTCN as per Annexure "A"
5.	E.M.D.	The bidder shall remit online the Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security at the rate of 0% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTCN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to remit online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. Of Odisha as per Annexure "A"
6.	Class of Contractor	AS per the Annexure "A"
7.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	From 10.00 hrs. of 09.06.2022 to 17.00 hrs. of 29.06.2022
9.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids.	11.30 hrs. onwards on Dt. 30.06.2022
10.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids.	Shall be intimated to the responsive Technically qualified bidder after evolution of Technical bids.
10.	Mode of submission of Tender	Tender Should submitted On line in - www.tendersorissa.gov.in
11.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

Commissioner,
Berhampur Municipal Corporation,
Berhampur, Odisha

C-487: OIPR-13035/11/0012/2223

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471- 2564568 / 5669 / 4545 / 4537)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER दिनांक / Dt. 10.06.2022

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

क्र.सं / Sl. No.	कार्य का शीर्षक तथा ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / Title of work & E-Tender Notice No.	कार्य पूरा होने की तिथि / Period of completion	अनुमानित लागत / Estimate cost	ईएमडी / E.M.D.
1.	वीएसएससी, तुंबा में तकनीकी गतिविधियों के लिए वीआरसी मुख्य भवन का संवर्धन **एसएच: इएसडी फर्स कार्य** / Augmentation of VRC Main Building for technical activities at VSSC, Thumba **SH: ESD Flooring Works** NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/09/2022-23 Dt. 10.06.2022	(03) तीन महीने / Three Months	₹ 57.70 लाख / Lakhs	₹1,15,400/-
2.	वीआरसी, वीएसएससी में सीएमजी के लिए नए कार्यालय में विद्युत कार्य / Electrical works for new office building for CMG at VRC, VSSC. NIT No. VSSC/CMG/E01/05/2022-2023 Dt. 10.06.2022	(05) पाँच महीने / Five Months	₹ 57.58 लाख / Lakhs	₹1,15,160/-

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 11.06.2022, 10.00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 24.06.2022, 23.00 बजे/hrs	**बोली स्पष्टीकरण / Bid Clarifications:** दिनांक 13.06.2022, 09.00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 27.06.2022, 12.00 बजे/hrs	**निविदाओं की प्राप्ति / Receipt of tenders :** दिनांक 29.06.2022 को 23.00 बजे/hrs	**निविदाओं को खोलना / Opening of tenders :** दिनांक 04.07.2022 को 15.00 बजे/hrs

योग्यता मानदंड़ तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in. **Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC**

Gujarat fishermen at sea due to steep hike in fuel prices, big fall in catch

With an eye on polls, both the BJP and the Congress are reaching out to the affected community in the State

A.M. JIGEESH
MORBI/ VERAVAL

Abid, a mechanic on the coast of Veravel in Gujarat, earns his livelihood by servicing the boats of fishermen. He is now looking for other vocations in other cities as the fishermen are unable to pay him. "The sea has started drying up. There is no fish. So how will they pay me," he asks. His father was also a helper at the yard in Veravel.

The steep increase in diesel prices, freight cost that went up six times in two years and the dwindling fish production are creating a distress-like situation in the coastal belt of Gujarat, giving tough times for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections. This year, the BJP is trying to address the woes of fishermen and industries in the fishing sector ahead of the elections. The Congress is also equally engaged to improve its tally and is ready with a lot of promises to voters in the belt.

Market concerns

More than five lakh people are directly involved in the fisheries sector and Gujarat is the largest exporting State in terms of volume. Several processing units have been shut due to lack of orders from China and European markets. The president of the Seafood Exporters Association of India and a former Mayor of Veravel, Jagdish Fofandi, said there were market and fiscal concerns for the sector. Mr. Fofandi, a BJP activist, said the freight charges had increased six times.

"In aquaculture products, for the U.S. market, the rate increased from ₹15 to ₹70 a kilogram. Because of the increase, the fishermen are not getting adequate prices. We are also not getting our working capital as the payment is usually delayed for months. It is a major issue. Certain units have been forced to shut as Chinese markets have been closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. We do not have a favourable free trade agreement with the European Union. So countries such as Vietnam get the benefit of import tax concessions," he said.

Livelihood affected: Fishermen of Veraval in Gujarat have few opportunities to supplement their income. ▪ VIJAY SONEJI

50% women workers

"Diesel price and high duty are the major issues here. There is no fishing industry without fishermen. They used to get subsidy in excise duties for the diesel they use in their boats and now it is very limited," said the Gujarat region president of the Seafood Exporters Association of India, Ketan C. Suyani. "About 50% of the workers are women. So any help to this sector is also a help to the women of Gujarat," Mr. Suyani said.

The inland fishing too is in crisis due to decrease in prices. "For fishing backwater prawns, we use boats and if the water is shallow, we walk and do fishing. The season is limited to July, August and September. About 22,000 people of the Maliya-Miyana block are working in this mode of fishing. They do not get adequate price. For a box of 18-20 kilograms, they get ₹600. Since the season is short, middlemen are their only resource," said Ramesh Parmar, who works among inland fishermen in Morbi district.

BJP leader and Junagadh MP Rajesh Chudasama also agrees that both the industries and the fishermen are facing a lot of problems. "We have also asked the governments to address these concerns. These are policy issues. Another issue is that the production is down. We should make sure that juvenile fish are not caught. We are trying to educate fishermen about this," he said.

The Congress says the BJP did nothing to protect a segment that contributes a lot to the GDP of the State and the country. "We will include the problems of fishermen in our manifesto. They need a better cooperative system, rebate on excise duty and a minimum export price for what they catch," said Congress' Dwarka district president Yasin Gajan.

SPECIAL

IN BRIEF

Press Club of India supports Saba Naqvi

NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India on Friday condemned the Delhi police's move to register a case against a senior journalist and columnist, Saba Naqvi, on the charge of spreading hate. It demanded immediate withdrawal of the FIR against Ms. Naqvi.

NHRC seeks report on cyclist's harassment

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued notices to the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry and the Sports Authority of India on the reported inappropriate behaviour of a sprint team coach with a top woman cyclist at a camp in Slovenia. The NHRC took suo motu cognisance of a media report on the matter.

No tax on compensation for land taken for rail project: HC

NHSRCL had acquired land at Bhiwandi in Thane for bullet train project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court held that no income tax should be deducted on the compensation given for acquiring land in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Hi-Speed Rail Project by the National Hi-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) and steps should be taken to refund the amount.

A Division Bench of Justices S.V. Gangapurwala and M.G. Sewlikar, which passed the order on Thursday, was hearing a petition filed by Seema Patil. She is the owner of certain plots of land situated at Bhiwandi in Thane district and the NHSRCL acquired the land from her under an agreement and deducted income tax at the source from the compensation paid to her on October 23, 2019.

On or around May 8, 2020, a supplementary deed was entered between Ms. Patil and the NHSRCL under which some additional amount was paid to her and TDS amount was deducted. On or around December 4, 2020, Ms. Patil requested the company to reverse the TDS on the ground that no tax was deductible. After 20 days, the NHSRCL got back to her and said exemption from income tax is not applicable if land is acquired from Ms. Patil and it was duly deposited with the Income Tax Department.

The advocate appearing for Ms. Patil contended that the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act specifically exempts payment of income tax on an amount of compensation paid under the award and/or agreement. He said the NHSRCL ought not to have deducted the tax at source because it is applicable only where the amount is taxable in the hands of the recipient.

The counsel appearing for the NHSRCL argued that the amount received by Ms. Patil pursuant to an agreement is taxable as the acquisition is by an agreement between the parties. Hence, the income tax at source is deductible.

On June 9, the court held, "As the exemption under the Act would squarely apply, no income tax can be levied in the present matter for the amount of compensation, inter alia NHSRCL could not have deducted amount of tax deducted at source (TDS) from the amount of compensation paid to the petitioner. The company has already deducted the TDS which it ought not to have deducted."

The court thus directed steps to be taken to refund the amount in accordance with the provisions of Income Tax Act and Rules.

Former CAG pushes for more accountability in government

The data available is not properly auditable, says Mehrishi

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Retired Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Rajiv Mehrishi on Friday said that the CAG, the supreme audit institution of the country, did not even meet the standards of chartered accountants of private companies when it came to assurances.

Rajiv Mehrishi

Mr. Mehrishi said the CAG officials see only the accounts that government departments want them to see. He was addressing a conference on the digitisation of public expenditure organised by the George Washington University and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation here.

"If you see the audit reports of CAG, we do not come up even to the insufficient standards of chartered accountants of private companies in the matter of assurance. We don't use the word assurance in our reports," Mr. Mehrishi said.

He said the CAG officials were faced with a strange situation where they were under pressure of time and the officers concerned said the "file is lost".

"That entire process is not auditable, so you get what the department wants to give... The way the accounts are, they are not properly auditable," he said.

The larger issue was that of the fundamental principle of Parliamentary democracy, that every rupee earned or spent had to be accounted for by the legislature. "Now, with the kind of data we have, Parliament can draw no assurances that every rupee is earned or spent is consistent with what they have approved," Mr. Mehrishi said.

The solution to the problem was not just digitisation, but "business process re-engineering". For example, he said, about 25% of the expenditure of several State governments was labelled as "other" expenditure. The data available was "obscure" and "error-ridden", he added.

Prominence given to Mughals at the cost of others, says Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Our history has been misrepresented, where prominence has been given to Mughals at the cost of empires like Pandyas, Cholas, Mauryas, Guptas and Ahoms, and now no one can stop us from rewriting it, said Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah on Friday.

"Those who have distorted our history have done what they had to. But who can stop us? History is not written on the basis of the government, but on the basis of facts. Neither is history confined to history books, but spreads its own light," Mr. Shah said at the launch of a book titled, *Maharana: Sahastra Varsha Ka Dharma Yuddha*.

He said that it was time to stand with pride in front of the world, and after several decades our culture is beginning to receive global acceptance.

"Historians have only discussed the Mughal rule. The Pandya empire ruled for 800 years. The Ahom empire ruled Assam for 650 years. They (Ahoms) defeated Bakhtiyar Khalji, Aurangzeb and kept Assam sovereign. The Pallava empire ruled for 600 years. The Cholas ruled for 600 years. The Mauryas ruled the whole country – from Afghanistan to Sri Lanka for 550 years. The Satvahanas ruled for 500 years. The Guptas ruled for 400 years. But there is no reference book on them," he said.

He appealed that India's glorious history must be brought forward so that gradually the history "we think is wrong will fade away and the truth will be known."

He asked why was it that many people had heard of the Battle of Haldighati, but not many knew of the Battle of Dewair. Neither is victory or loss in a battle the basis of history, but the outcome of such an incident is, Mr. Shah said.

Any study on 'racial purity' harmful, say historians

They write a joint letter to Ministry of Culture

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Over a 100 leading biologists, historians, anthropologists and intellectuals have written a joint letter to the Ministry of Culture protesting its purported plans to fund a project to study "genetic similarities and differences in the DNA (genetic) profiles of Indian population groups."

Last month, media reports surfaced of a plan involving the Anthropological Survey of India, some scientists at the Lucknow-based Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleo sciences (BSIP) and prominent archaeologist, Vasant Shinde, a former director of the Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute.

The report said the plan was to procure the latest DNA sequencing equipment for "establishing the genetic history and trace the purity of races in India".

The report quoted Mr. Shinde as saying the project aimed to study the "process of genetic mutation and mixing in Indian population over the last 10,000 years."

Mr. Shinde, now an Adjunct Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, and who led archaeological expeditions to trace the history of late-Harappan-era skeletons at Rakhigarhi, Haryana, following an uproar over the news report, said that his statement was "twisted and fabricated."

The Ministry of Culture too tweeted that the reports were incorrect and that the project wasn't related to establishing the "genetic history of races."

In their letter, the academics said that while it was "welcome" the government had disassociated itself from such a project, it was necessary to have "public disavowals" of any present or future project related to race, especially involving studying racial purity.

The concept of biological races was discarded long ago, the letter notes. The term "race" was invented as part of the effort to classify humans into distinct groups based on physical features such as bone structure and skin colour, and social characteristics such as faith and religion. It was assumed that the groups were somehow "natural", or that they had a meaningful biological basis.

However, in terms of the genes that make up individual biological inheritance, all human beings, irrespective of where they come from, share the same "gene pool." Most gene-based distinctions occur within so-called races, not between races and subsequent studies have only reinforced the strength of that conclusion, their letter notes.

Human history is replete with examples of horrible injustice – denial of benefits or even persecution - meted out to "less pure" groups by "more pure" groups. Racial stereotyping of humans has been discarded, and there should be no attempt to revive the concept in India, they note.

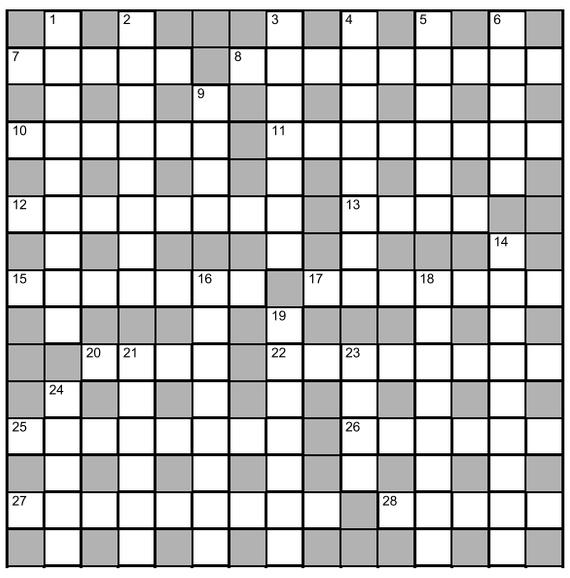
Prominent signatories include Partha Majumdar, of the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Vidyanand Nanjundiah, Centre for Human Genetics, Bangalore, L.S. Shashidhara, Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana, Ramachandra Guha, Historian and Writer, Raghavendra Gadagkar. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Rama Govindarajan, International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bangalore.

TH CROSSWORD + 13580

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



ACROSS

7 Sign on top of notebook and enter (3,2)
8 Caution; frequently in vain, soldier takes a weapon (9)
10 Republican is coming in to take last son out for propaganda (6)
11 No band has regulation (8)
12 Suggests removal of article and have only badges (8)
13 Ninety-nine.. hundred..timeless figure (4)
15 Retweet contains review of article on earnings (7)
17 Puke's contents establishes suicide (7)
20 Harry to play around lunch, perhaps (4)
22 Deep sore festering, grandma applies ointment finally (8)
25 Reptile primarily persisted in land earlier... (8)
26 ...long-lived, a precious commodity swimming over ocean (3-3)
27 Homes or adda, even by half should manifest clearances, say (9)
28 Considering that, change directions and start (5)

DOWN

1 Expression of frustration on finding goo in fridge all over the place (4,5)
2 Owning nothing setter left earlier being forsaken (8)
3 Still bald? Avoid heroin (7)
4 Driving under influence? Caught one at Singapore, at a corner in camouflage (8)
5 Communist actors dismissed (6)
6 Orange colour has reddish edges primarily; or is it another colour? (5)
9 Escort? Cut off the head. Cut (4)
14 Kicks father-in-law and destroys porn film (4,5)
16 Losing a dash, suffer sweetheart's barb at the end? It's a conspiracy (3-2,3)
18 Widespread fear around Delaware before storm arrives finally (8)
19 Relative had some gold, foreign exchange made into half (7)
21 Erode is a bad village ultimately, without roads (6)
23 Spread is a special one (4)
24 Primarily cinema enables lousy entertainer becoming a star (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5465 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to puzzle 13579

M	I	S	J	U	D	G	E	
O		E		N		O		
H	A	N	D	C	U	F	F	
A		T		L		O		I
W	R	I	T	E		R	A	D
K		M				I		L
	D	E	P	A	R	T		E
S		N		G				
P	A	T	R	I	O	T		D
O				T		R		I
R	E	P	E	A	L	I	N	G
A		E		T		M		I
D	A	C	O	I	T		S	T
I		A		O				A
C	A	N	I	N	E		O	L

S	P	A	R	G	E			
R		A			X			
C	O	M	B	A	T			
B		B			E			
A	T	I	O	N				
T					D			
E	P	I	S	O	D	E		
O		P			D			
D	A	N	G	E	R			
		N			M			
T	H	E	M	E				
I		N			T			
S	T	R	A	D	L	E		
A		R		E		O		
E	O	L	E	A	N	D	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Divya Dampati

The Visishtadvaita tradition considers the Divya Dampati, Lord Narayana and His consort Sri, always inseparable. Ramanuja derives the basic principles of this tradition from Alavandar, who inherited it from his grandfather, Sage Nathamuni. In his hymn the Stotra Ratna, Alavandar pays obeisance to the two great sages, Parasara, the composer of Vishnu Purana, and Nammazhwar, whose Tiruvaimozhi is held to be the very essence of the Vedas. He claims that both of them have been blessed with the direct perception of the essence of the truths about the chit, the achit and Ishwara, and have inspired him, pointed out Asuri Sri Madhavachariar in a discourse. They explain that the Divine Couple enjoy equal status and identical power in all respects of swaroopa and swabhava.

If the Lord is all pervading, Pirati too is equally so. Both have the authority to grant moksha and when the prapanna does saranagati, the request for moksha is directed to both of them who are seen as a single entity. Parasara also says that just as word and meaning cannot be delinked, and so sabda and artha always go together, so too Vishnu as sabda and Pirati as vak are integral.

This idea is echoed by Kalidasa who pays obeisance to Parvati and Parameswara, who are always together like vak and artha. Both the Lord and Pirati are bound by the dharma to punish the erring jivatmas and forgive them when they repent sincerely. Sita says she is on a par with the Lord in this regard in the Sundara Kanda. She tells Ravana she can punish him and reduce him to ashes if she willed. She also advises him to repent for his sins of not only separating her from Rama but also because he covets her. She says he can approach Rama as a friend and ask for forgiveness.

Won't rule out war over Taiwan: China

Chinese Defence Minister meets U.S. counterpart, says Beijing will destroy 'Taiwan independence' plot

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SINGAPORE

Beijing will "not hesitate to start a war" if Taiwan declares independence, China's Defence Minister warned his U.S. counterpart on Friday, the latest salvo between the superpowers over the island.

The warning from Wei Fenghe came as he held his first face-to-face meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore.

Beijing views self-ruled Taiwan as its territory and has vowed to one day seize the island, by force if necessary, and U.S.-China tensions over the issue have soared in recent months.

Mr. Wei warned Mr. Austin that "if anyone dares to split Taiwan from China, the Chinese Army will definitely not hesitate to start a war no matter the cost", Defence Ministry spokesman Wu Qian quoted the Minister as saying during the meeting.

The Chinese Minister vowed that Beijing would "smash to smithereens any 'Taiwan independence' plot and resolutely uphold the unification of the motherland", according to the Chinese Defence Ministry.

He "stressed that Taiwan is China's Taiwan... Using Taiwan to contain China will never prevail", the Ministry said.

Tough talks: Wei Fenghe, centre, heading for a bilateral meeting with Lloyd Austin in Singapore on Friday. ▪ REUTERS

Mr. Austin "reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the (Taiwan) Strait, opposition to unilateral changes to the status quo, and called on (China) to refrain from further destabilising actions toward Taiwan", according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Tensions over Taiwan have escalated in particular due to increasing Chinese aircraft incursions into the island's air defence identification zone (ADIZ).

U.S. President Joe Biden, during a visit to Japan last month, appeared to break decades of U.S. policy when, in response to a question, he said Washington would defend Taiwan militarily if it is attacked by China.

The White House has since insisted its policy of "strategic ambiguity" over whether or not it would intervene has not changed.

Japanese warning

With concerns mounting over China-Taiwan tensions, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida issued a stark warning at the summit: "Ukraine today, may be East Asia tomorrow".

The world must be "prepared for the emergence of an entity that tramples on the peace and security of other countries by force or threat without honouring the rules," he said.

He did not mention China, but repeatedly called for the "rules-based international order" to be upheld.

Mr. Austin is the latest senior U.S. official to visit Asia as Washington seeks to shift its focus back to the region from the Ukraine war.

Capitol riot panel blames Trump for 'attempted coup'

Aides' testimonies contend that his 'lies' led to the attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The House panel investigating the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol has laid the blame firmly on Donald Trump, saying the assault was not spontaneous but an "attempted coup" and a direct result of the defeated President's effort to overturn the 2020 election.

With a never-before-seen 12-minute video of extremist groups leading the deadly siege and startling testimony from Mr. Trump's most inner circle, the committee provided gripping detail on Thursday night in contending that Mr. Trump's repeated lies about election fraud and his public effort to stop Joe Biden's victory led to the attack and imperilled American democracy.

"Democracy remains in danger," said Representative Bennie Thompson, D-Mississipi, chairman of the panel, during the hearing. "January 6 was the culmination of an attempted coup, a brazen attempt, as one rioter put it shortly after January 6, to overthrow the government," Mr. Thompson said. "The violence was no accident."

Uncovering plot: The House Select Committee hearing on the January 6 attack, in Capitol on Friday. ▪ AFP

'Public record'

The hearings may not change Americans' views on the Capitol attack, but the panel's investigation is intended to stand as its public record. Before this fall's midterm elections, and with Mr. Trump considering another White House run, the committee's final report aims to account for the most violent attack on the Capitol since 1814, and to ensure such an attack never happens again.

Testimony on Thursday showed how Mr. Trump desperately clung to his own false claims of election fraud, beckoning supporters to the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, when Congress would certify the results, despite those around him insisting Biden had won the election.

In a previously unseen video clip, the panel played a remark from former Attorney General Bill Barr, who testified that he told Mr. Trump the claims of a rigged election were not correct.

In another clip, the former President's daughter, Ivanka Trump, testified to the committee that she respected Mr. Barr's view that there was no election fraud. "I accepted what he said."

Others showed leaders of the extremist Oath Keepers and Proud Boys preparing to storm the Capitol to stand up for Mr. Trump. One rioter after another told the committee they came to the Capitol because Mr. Trump asked them to.

"President Trump summoned a violent mob," said Rep. Liz Cheney, Republican from Wyoming, the panel's vice-chairman. "When a President fails to take the steps necessary to preserve our union – or worse, causes a constitutional crisis – we're in a moment of maximum danger for our republic."

Pence 'deserves it'

There was a gasp in the hearing room when Ms. Cheney read an account that said when Mr. Trump was told the Capitol mob was chanting for Vice-President Mike Pence to be hanged for refusing to block the election results. Mr. Trump responded that maybe they were right, that he "deserves it."

The riot left more than 100 police officers injured. At least nine people, who were there, died.

Ukraine launches air strikes on Russian targets in Kherson

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LYSYCHANSK

Ukraine said on Friday it had launched new air strikes on Russian positions in the captured southern region of Kherson as President Volodymyr Zelensky insisted Kyiv's forces were "holding on" in the east of the country.

Ukraine is trying to carry out a counterattack in Kherson, one of the first areas to be taken by Russia after the February 24 invasion, as Kyiv's troops struggle in the eastern Donbas region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin meanwhile compared his current actions to Peter the Great's against Sweden 300 years ago, saying the tsar "wasn't taking anything, he was taking it back".

'Cities are holding on'

Mr. Zelensky said in his evening address on Thursday that several "cities in Donbas, which the occupiers now consider key targets, are holding on".

He added that Ukrainian forces have made positive strides in the Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv regions outside Donbas, and are in the process of "liberating our land".

Ukraine's Defence Ministry said on Friday it had struck Russian military positions in Kherson, which is just north of the Crimean peninsula that was annexed by Russia in 2014, and among the first regions seized by Russia in February.

'100 to 200 Ukrainian soldiers get killed daily'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

Up to 200 Ukrainian soldiers are being killed every day in Russia's military onslaught, according to an adviser to Ukraine's President – and only more and more advanced Western weaponry will turn back the Russian offensive, reduce the casualties and force Moscow to the negotiating table.

Mykhailo Podolyak told the BBC, in an interview aired on Thursday, that the daily loss of between 100 and 200 Ukrainian soldiers is the result of a "complete lack of parity" between Ukraine and Russia, which has "thrown pretty much everything non-nuclear at the front" in its bid to advance in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region and beyond.

Recently Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky put the daily death toll at up to 100, but Mr. Podolyak said it had grown.

Ukrainian officials have demanded for more Western weapons.

Musharraf hospitalised in Dubai, says family

Denies reports he was on ventilator

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI

Pakistan's former military ruler General Pervez Musharraf is critically ill and has been hospitalised in Dubai since last month, his family said on Friday. They denied media reports that he was on a ventilator.

Gen. Musharraf has been living in the United Arab Emirates since 2016, when he was allowed to leave Pakistan on bail to seek medical treatment abroad. A death sentence against him, handed down in absentia in 2020 in a treason case related to the state of emergency that Gen. Musharraf imposed in 2007 while in power, was later overturned.

Over the years, the former ruler was said to be very ill and was unlikely to travel home to face the sentence. Friday's statement from his family, posted on Twitter, followed newspaper reports in Pakistan and statements attributed to his friends saying he was gravely ill.

Pervez Musharraf

"He is not on the ventilator. Has been hospitalised for the last 3 weeks due to a complication of his ailment," Gen. Musharraf's family said, adding that he has been suffering from amyloidosis, a chronic metabolic disease in which abnormal proteins build up and damage organs such as the heart, kidney and liver.

"Going through a difficult stage where recovery is not possible and organs are malfunctioning. Pray for ease in his daily living," the tweet added.

U.S. lifts COVID testing for incoming fliers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The United States on Friday announced that COVID-19 tests would no longer be demanded for international travellers arriving by air, a major step in the country's gradual lifting of pandemic restrictions.

White House Assistant Press Secretary Kevin Munoz confirmed the news on Twitter, with U.S. media saying the testing requirement would end this weekend after strong lobbying from the travel industry.

All passengers were required to show a negative COVID-19 viral test taken shortly before travel – or proof of having recovered from the virus in the past 90 days – before they boarded their flight.

Last month, the country crossed the threshold of one million COVID-19 deaths, with President Joe Biden acknowledging the "unrelenting" pain of bereaved families.

Shanghai to lock down millions again for mass COVID testing

Move comes 10 days after two-month lockdown was lifted

REUTERS
SHANGHAI/BEIJING

China's commercial hub of Shanghai will lock down millions of people for mass COVID-19 testing this weekend – just 10 days after lifting its gruelling two-month lockdown – unsettling residents and raising concerns about the business impact.

Racing to stop a wider outbreak after discovering a handful of community cases, including a cluster traced to a popular beauty salon, authorities have ordered PCR testing for all residents in 14 of Shanghai's 16 districts over the weekend.

Five of the districts said residents would not be allowed to leave their homes while the testing was carried out. A notice issued by Changning district described the stay-home requirement as "closed management" of the community being sampled.

Health workers with swab samples at a Shanghai residential area. ▪ AFP

The latest scare triggered a rush to grocery stores and online platforms to stock up on food, as users of China's Twitter-like Weibo expressed fear they could be locked down for longer, having only started going back to work after the last lockdown was lifted on June 1.

Some areas had remained sealed off or quickly returned to lockdown due to infections and their close contacts.

While China's infection rate is low, President Xi Jinping has doubled down on a zero-COVID policy that authorities say is needed to protect the elderly and the medical system, even as other nations try to live with the virus.

Mainland China reported 151 COVID-19 cases for June 9, of which 45 were symptomatic and 106 were asymptomatic, the National Health Commission said on Friday.

Meanwhile, oil prices slipped on Friday but remained within touching distance of three-month highs as fears over the lockdown measures outweighed solid demand for fuels in the U.S., the world's top consumer.

PHARMACY COUNCIL OF INDIA
(A Statutory Body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
NBCC Centre 3rd Floor, Plot No.2, Community Centre, Maa Anandamai Marg, Okhla Phase I, New Delhi-110020

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body working under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi.
Online applications are invited for various positions on contract basis details of which are available on PCI's website (https://www.pci.nic.in). Interested candidates may apply online only for the above positions on or before 1st July, 2022 by uploading the requisite supporting documents.
The following categories of applications will not be accepted-
- application in hard copy.
- incomplete applications / applications which are not in prescribed proforma.
- applications received after the due date.

File No. 1-73/2020-PCI **Registrar cum Secretary**

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS

The Executive Engineer (E), Postal Electrical Division, Bengaluru invites on behalf of the President of India, on line percentage rate e-tenders from eligible contractors for the work of"Internal Wiring & Providing EI & Fans ,UPS, LAN works for Construction of International Business Centre (IBC) & Foreign Post Office (FPO) building at Shamshabad (Near Railway Station) Vacant Site under Hyderabad South East Division, HQR." **Estimated cost** – Rs. 27,66,595/- **EMD** – Rs 55,332/- **Time of completion:** 12 Months vide NIT No. 06/EEE/PED/BGL/2022-23. **The last date of submission of online Tenders** – 20.06.2022 at 11.00AM and **Date of opening of tender** – 20.06.2022 at 11.30AM. The detailed tender notice, tender documents, corrigendum (if any) and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the website https://dopcivil.euniwizarde.com.

For further clarifications, please contact: 080-26676804.

Executive Engineer (E)

भारतीय पैकेजिंग संस्थान
Indian Institute of Packaging
An autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

ADMISSIONS OPEN

M.S: Master in Packaging Technology
(Affiliated by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, JNTU, Hyderabad)
Eligible Criteria: Full-Time Graduate Degree in Engineering & Technology or Four-year Science Graduate.

M.Sc: Master in Packaging Technology
(Affiliated by Guru Gobind Indraprastha University, Delhi)
Eligible Criteria: Full-Time Graduate Degree in Science, Engineering & Technology with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics and main subject or one of the second subjects in the three-year degree.
(Candidate should visit Guru Gobind Indraprastha University website (www.ipu.ac.in) for more information)

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(Mumbai and Kolkata only)
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For details please contact:
+91 22 69192242-5 for PGDP - Mumbai
+91 33-2367 0763 / 6016 for PGDP - Kolkata
+91 8826614743 for M.Sc - Delhi
+ 91 40 23814321 for M.S - Hyderabad
+ 91 044 24960730 for CPE - Chennai

Note: Candidates can visit the IIP website (www.iip-in.com) and submit the application form through online and offline modes for PGDP, M.S., and CPE
onlinepgdp@iip-in.com for PGDP at Mumbai & Kolkata
onlinems@iip-in.com for M.S at Hyderabad
onlinemsc@iip-in.com for M.Sc at Delhi
onlinecpe@iip-in.com for CPE at Chennai
www.iip-in.com for PGDP, M.S & CPE
www.ipu.ac.in for M.Sc

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in

Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2022-23/(SUT.-SURG.&OTH)-DHS (Re-Tender) /13 Date : 10/06/2022

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of Surgical, Sutures, Syringes and Other items (Re-Tender) as per the particulars mentioned below:**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	10/06/2022, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@gov.in	16/06/2022, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		18/06/2022, 3 PM	07/07/2022, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & Time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee of Tender document.	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		08/07/2022, 10 AM	15/07/2022,11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	15/07/2022, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

CAD-787 **SD/- Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha**
OIPR-10112/11/0018/2223

भारतीय पाक कला- संस्थान
INDIAN CULINARY INSTITUTE
(पर्यटन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन स्वायत निकाय)
(Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
NOIDA Campus A-35, Sector 62, Noida 201309 &
Tirupati Campus – 211/1, Kurakalva Village, Papanaidupeta Road, Tirupati (A.P.):517526

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITING ON-LINE APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO

- **MBA in Culinary Arts (2022-2024 Batch) 2 Years (4 Semester)**
- **BBA in Culinary Arts (2022-2025 Batch) 3 Years (6 Semester)**

Link to apply online application at ICI, Noida/Tirupati

For MBA: https://forms.gle/RDEZMTS47jDTRhha9 **For BBA:** https://forms.gle/TGwfx2qhx6JH6YGA8

The Indian Culinary Institute (ICI), will conduct the **Entrance Examination- 2022** for admission to the Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) and Master in Business Administration (MBA) in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak M.P. at its two Indian Culinary Institute i.e. ICI Tirupati and ICI- Noida, for the Academic Year 2022-23. This course produce good quality Chef for the Hotel Industry. Both the campus is having state of the art infrastructure, comparable to any international culinary institute. This is a full time, regular, job oriented program, equips with knowledge, technical skills, service aptitude and exposure of Hospitality Industry.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
- Chef in Hotel and allied hospitality industry;
- Kitchen Management positions in 5 Stars Hotels, Cruise Lines;
- Flight Kitchens Services; Airlines
- Indian Navy Hospitality services;
- Railway Hospitality and Kitchen Services
- Self-employment through entrepreneurship

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
- As a Food Blogger, Food Style photography & Journalism
- As a Management Trainee in Food based start up;
- As a Food Analyst in Culinary allied Industry
- Food parks/Amusement parks
- As an Entrepreneurship in self food based start-up
- Faculty in Hospitality Teaching Institutes

Examination	Date, Time & Mode of Examination
ICI, EE 2022	It will be announced at the earliest possible.

• **Eligibility for BBA Course:** Passed or appearing in 10+2 or equivalent from any stream from a recognized board with a minimum of 50% for General/OBC and 45% for SC/ST/PwD candidates.
Age : There is no age bar for any candidate
• **Eligibility for MBA Course:** Passed or appearing in BBAin Culinary Arts/Any hospitality graduates from a recognized university or institute with a minimum of 50% for General/OBC and 45% for SC/ST/PwD candidates.
Age : There is no age bar for any candidate

The eligible candidates who desire to appear in the said Examination may see the Information Bulletin available on the Websites and also apply online through the link provided : https://www.icinoida.com and https://www.icitirupati.in for the relevant details, such as career prospects, eligibility criteria, examination fees. Application form available from 06-06-2022 to 30.06.2022
For Enquiry at ICI, Noida: 9661693670 /1202975799 or email at : admission.icinod@gmail.com
For Enquiry at ICI, Tirupati: 8830280092 /9985486271 or email at : icitpt@gmail.com

MARKET WATCH

	10-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	54,303	-1.84
US Dollar	77.93	-0.24
Gold	50,793	-0.22
Brent oil	120.18	-2.56

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	726.40	-9.10
Apollo Hosp	3700.50	30.45
Asian Paints	2708.75	21.95
Axis Bank	660.70	-0.60
Bajaj Auto	3881.00	2.35
Bajaj Finserv	12253.50	-217.50
Bajaj Finance	5667.50	-231.05
Bharti Airtel	673.35	-3.00
BPCL	331.00	-1.85
Britannia Ind	3360.85	13.60
Cipla	966.80	-5.15
Coal India	198.50	-0.25
Divis Lab	3528.05	20.85
Dr Reddys Lab	4351.55	28.65
Eicher Motors	2712.85	-3.15
Grasim Ind	1326.50	17.40
HCL Tech	1015.35	-13.30
HDFC	2179.80	-85.65
HDFC Bank	1351.10	-26.60
HDFC Life	593.10	-11.80
Hero MotoCorp	2601.95	3.85
Hindalco	385.75	-14.00
Hind Unilever	2199.90	2.20
ICICI Bank	720.00	-12.75
IndusInd Bank	913.20	-7.10
Infosys	1476.80	-38.20
ITC	270.15	-0.70
JSW Steel	572.50	0.30
Kotak Bank	1791.80	-73.40
L&T	1585.10	-10.00
M&M	1036.50	-8.60
Maruti Suzuki	7935.10	5.25
Nestle India Ltd.	16774.90	6.75
NTPC	155.25	0.10
ONGC	164.65	-0.90
PowerGrid Corp	224.45	-0.40
Reliance Ind	2714.25	-84.50
SBI Life	1154.90	-8.80
State Bank	461.85	-5.10
Shree Cement	19178.85	-19.15
Sun Pharma	845.70	-13.15
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	756.60	2.20
Tata Motors	428.05	-0.45
Tata Steel	1023.70	-21.15
TCS	3359.90	-67.20
Tech Mahindra	1109.85	-28.75
Titan	2142.25	2.55
UltraTech Cement	5511.05	29.15
UPL	734.40	-12.90
Wipro	460.95	-14.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.63	77.95
Euro	82.24	82.58
British Pound	96.58	96.98
Japanese Yen (100)	58.05	58.29
Chinese Yuan	11.60	11.65
Swiss Franc	79.04	79.37
Singapore Dollar	56.21	56.45
Canadian Dollar	60.95	61.20
Malaysian Ringitt	17.63	17.72
Australian Dollar	55.32	55.60

Source:Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

CIL to source 6 MT more coal from overseas

NEW DELHI

CIL on Friday floated two medium-term tenders for sourcing 6 million tonnes (MT) of coal from overseas, a move aimed at securing domestic fuel supplies amid the fear of shortage during monsoon. These two tenders provide an option of increasing the bid quantity by 100% to 12 MT. PTI

Meet to discuss plaints against edutech firms

NEW DELHI

The Consumer Affairs Ministry will soon hold a meeting with edutech firms amid complaints that these platforms put extra study pressure on schools. Asked if the government is taking action against edutech firms' advertisements, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said: "I have called a meeting of edutech firms next week or so". PTI

Fitch upgrades India's outlook to stable citing 'rapid' recovery

Credit rating firm pares FY23 growth forecast to 7.8%, sees inflation at 6.9%

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings raised India's rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative' on Friday, citing fading downside risks to medium-term growth thanks to a rapid economic recovery and easing of weaknesses in the financial sector.

The credit rating firm has, however, lowered its GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 from 8.5% projected in March to 7.8% due to the impact of inflation on the growth momentum.

Despite near-term headwinds from the global commodity price shock, Fitch expects robust growth for India relative to similarly rated peers, but the country's public finances remain a credit weakness with the debt ratio broadly stabilising, based on its expectations of 'persistent large deficits'.

Slowed by prices: Fitch cites impact of inflation on growth momentum while paring its FY23 GDP forecast. ▪ AFP

The firm affirmed India's long-term foreign currency issuer rating at 'BBB-' while revising the outlook, noting that this 'balances India's external resilience from solid foreign-exchange reserve buffers against some lagging structural indicators'. A BBB rating reflects low expectations of default risk with adequate capacity for payment of financial commitments, although adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.

While high nominal GDP growth has facilitated a near-term reduction in India's debt-to-GDP ratio, Fitch sees the higher subsidies this year and the excise duty cuts on fuel to offset the surge in consumer prices would cost about 0.8% of GDP. This would push the fiscal deficit to 6.8% from the Budget target of 6.4%, despite robust revenues, it reckoned.

Rupee sinks to record low of 77.93 as oil, FPI outflows weigh

'Crude price rise fuels fears of global economic slowdown'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The rupee slid to a record low against the dollar on Friday amid demand for the U.S. currency from Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) exiting the markets and oil firms needing to pay for costlier crude oil imports. The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex also fell 1,016.84 points, or 1.84%, to 54,303.44.

The rupee ended at 77.93, weakening 19 paise from Thursday's 77.74, which was the previous all-time low.

'China curbs rattle'

"The rupee has slumped to a new record low after a prolonged phase of consolidation as risk sentiments have soared amid concerns about acute price pressures and the reimposition of some lockdown restrictions in China," said Sugandha Sachdeva, vice president – Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking.

She said the rise in crude prices towards three-month highs owing to supply tightness was further accentuating inflation concerns and inflicting damage on the global economy.

On the equity side, stocks that lost the most on the BSE included Kotak Bank (3.96%), Bajaj Finance (3.9%), HDFC (3.8%), Reliance (3.02%), Wipro (2.99%) and Tech Mahindra (2.51%). The NSE Nifty 50 too slid 1.7% to 16,201.80.

"Rising inflation fears gripped the domestic market leading to heavy sell-off ahead of the release of U.S. inflation data and the Fed policy meet next week," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services. "Inflation data will be crucial to sense the quantum of a rate hike," he added.

Indian crude oil basket touches 10-year high

Indian basket hit $121.28 on June 9

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The basket of crude oil that India buys has hit a decade high of $121 per barrel, but retail selling prices of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. The Indian basket touched $121.28 on June 9 , matching levels seen in February/March 2012, according to data available from the Oil Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).

As per the PPAC, the Indian basket of crude oil averaged $111.86 per barrel between February 25 and March 29 – the period after Russia's invasion of Ukraine when oil prices soared.

It averaged $103.44 a barrel between March 30 and April 27.

International oil prices held near a 13-week high on Thursday, underpinned by robust demand. They, however, pared some gains on Friday, with Brent crude futures for August losing 81 cents to trade at $122.26.

India is 85% dependent on imports to meet its crude oil needs and so local pump rates are benchmarked against international prices.

Industrial output growth rose to 8-month high of 7.1% in April

Low base helped, mining output lower than expected: ICRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Industrial output expanded 7.1% in April, the fastest pace in eight months, on the back of improved performance by the power and mining sectors, as per government data released on Friday.

The manufacturing sector recorded growth of 6.3% in the first month of the current financial year, data on Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed. The earlier high for IIP growth was 13% recorded in August 2021.

However, the NSO added that growth rates over the corresponding period of the previous year were to be interpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.

"The low base of the second wave of COVID-19 bumped up the IIP growth to an 8-month high of 7.1% in April 2022, although it trailed our expectation (9.2%), led by a weaker-than-anticipated performance of mining," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA

The power and mining sectors grew 11.8% and 7.8%, respectively, in April.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment recorded a growth of 14.7%, while consumer durables output expanded 8.5%.

Still, the weak showing of capital goods output relative to the pre-COVID level confirmed the view that the uptick in capacity utilisation in the fourth quarter of FY22 would not trigger a rapid private sector capacity expansion in light of the uncertainties generated by geopolitical developments, Ms. Nayar added.

U.S. inflation accelerates to almost 41-year high

May CPI quickens 8.6% on food, fuel

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

U.S. consumer prices accelerated 8.6% in the year through May, the largest annual increase since December 1981, as gasoline prices hit a record high and the cost of food soared. This suggests that the Federal Reserve could continue with its 50 basis points interest rate increases through September to combat inflation.

The inflation data also reflected a surge in rents, which increased by the most since 1990. The relentless price pressures are forcing Americans to change spending habits and will certainly heighten fears of an outright recession or a period of very slow growth.

"There's little respite...

until energy and food costs simmer down and excess demand pressures abate in response to tighter monetary policy," said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "The Fed might still raise policy rates 'just' 50 basis points next week, but it could easily ratchet up the pace beyond then if inflation keeps surprising," he added.

Duty on solar modules, cells to continue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

There are no plans to review the basic customs duty (BCD) levied on solar modules and cells, said Union Power Minister R.K. Singh. "I don't want any Chinese imports and want everything Made in India," said Mr. Singh.

Last year, the government had announced imposing 40% BCD on solar modules and 25% on solar cells with effect from April 1, 2022.

Mr. Singh said as a result of the duty, the domestic manufacturing capacity of modules and cells had started going up.

PV wholesales jumped to 2.5 lakh units in May: SIAM

'88,045 units were sold in May 2021'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers from manufacturers stood at 2,51,052 units in May this year, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

The wholesale numbers in May 2021, when dispatches were badly hit due to the second wave of the pandemic, stood at 88,045 units.

According to the data released on Friday, two-wheeler sales during the month stood at 12,53,187 units as against 3,54,824 units in May 2021, while total three-wheeler sales were 28,542 units as against 1,262 units in the same month of the previous year.

SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said recent government intervention would help ease supply side challenges, but a second increase in the repo rate and higher third party insurance rates could make it more challenging for consumers.

Govt. expresses 'concern' over LIC share price

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said it was "concerned" about the temporary blip in LIC scrip and the insurer's management would look into these aspects and raise shareholders' value.

Life Insurance Corporation was listed on the bourses on May 17 at ₹872 a share. The government had fixed the issue price of LIC shares at ₹949 apiece after a successful IPO which was over-subscribed nearly 3 times. Since the day of listing, LIC shares remained below the issue price, and on Friday closed at ₹709.70 on the BSE.

Visteon plans to double India workforce, eyes display unit

Aim to invest $20 mn in display panel facility, says CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Visteon Corporation plans to more than double both revenue and headcount at its Indian operation, said president and CEO Sachin Lawande. The company also plans to set up a display panel unit.

The global player in the automotive 'cockpit' electronics space is also planning to ramp up localisation from the current 15% to 50% over the next few years. It is also scouting for a place to set up its second unit in the country.

Display plant is set to come up next to the existing facility in Chennai

"This year, we are planning to invest $20 million to set up a display panel facility adjacent to the existing plant in Chennai," said Mr. Lawande, speaking to reporters. "This will be the third plant after Portugal and Mexico to make one million units each globally. It would become operational by mid-2023," he added.

Asserting that the firm aimed to reach turnover of $500 million from Indian operations by 2027 – compared with $180 million in 2021 – he said that technical and manufacturing teams in India play a key role in developing and advancing cockpit electronics technologies such as AI, deep machine learning and cybersecurity.

To raise output capacity, Visteon proposes to double the Indian workforce to 3,000. The company has technical centres at Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune and Goa and new ones are coming up at Coimbatore and Thiruvananthapuram.

SPORT

Zubair takes the pole position

Varun and Vignesh complete the front row

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Md. Samrul Zubair (Race'ists Motorcycle Club) snatched pole position in the Novice (Stock 165cc) category as the Rolon Round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2022 commenced at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Friday.

Zubair came up with a best lap of one minute, 25.963seconds, to qualify for pole position for Saturday's race. After finishing third in the morning free practice, Zubair gave an improved performance in the evening's qualifying session.

Filling the front row are second-placed Varun Nanjundegowda (Axor Sparks Racing, 01:26.078) and Vignesh Goud (Race'ists Motorcycle Club, 01:26.080).

Improved show: Zubair, who came up with best lap of one minute, 25.963seconds, negotiates a bend. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Qualifying (best laps):

National Championship – Novice (Stock 165cc): 1. Md Samiul Zubair (Team Race'ists Motorcycle Club) (01min, 25.963secs); 2. Varun Nanjundegowda (Axor Sparks Racing) (01:26.078); 3. Vignesh Goud (Team Race'ists Motorcycle Club) (01:26.080).

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship – Apache 310 RR (Open): 1. Navaneeth Kumar (01:17.788); 2. Jagadeesh N (01:17.865); 3. Alwin Sundar (01:17.885).

Girls (Apache RTR 200): 1. Aditi Krishnan (01:28.787); 2. Renuka Gajendran (01:30.226); 3. Riya Rohatgi (01:32.377).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup – CBR 150: 1. Siddesh Sawant (01:28.854); 2. Shyam Babu (01:30.061); 3. Harshith V. Bogar (01:31.175).

It's Smashing Blue versus Golden Oaks in feature

BENGALURU: Smashing Blue and Golden Oaks may fight out the finish of the Racing Patrons Trophy (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (June 11). False rails (width about 8m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 GUINDY PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 2-30 p.m.: 1. Habanero (7) A. Prakash 60, 2. Black Whizz (9) Suraj 59, 3. Light Of Love (8) Ikram A 59, 4. Adela (1) A. Fazal 58.5, 5. Osibisa (4) Siddaraju 58.5, 6. Altair (6) Arvind K 58, 7. Altamonte (3) Vivek 58, 8. Jan Zizka (11) Ajinkya 56.5, 9. Sand Castles (2) Akshay K 56.5, 10. Fierce Fighter (10) Arshad 55.5 and 11. Challenging Star (5) Abhay S 52.5.

1. BLACK WHIZZ,
2. SAND CASTLES, 3. ALTAMONTE

2 MOONLIGHT ROMANCE PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Black Eagle (6) Sandesh 56, 2. English Bay (1) T.S. Jodha 56, 3. George Everest (5) Dashrath S 56, 4. Pazel (3) Oliver Richard 56, 5. Rapidus (2) Akshay K 56, 6. Tranquilo (8) Trevor 56, 7. Worldly Wise (4) Ajinkya 56 and 8. Queen Envied (7) Anjar 54.5.

1. BLACK EAGLE, 2. RAPIDUS, 3. TRANQUILO

3 ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,800m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Silvarius (4) S. John 61, 2. Starry Wind (3) A. Prakash 55.5, 3. Pissarro (1) Trevor 55, 4. Ladida (2) C.S. Jodha 51.5.

1. PISSARRO, 2. LADIDA

4 RACING PATRONS TROPHY (1,200m), rated 80 & above, 4-00: 1. Golden Oaks (3) Salman K 64, 2. Augustus Caesar (2) A. Prakash 61.5, 3. Automatic (1) P.S. Chouhan 58, 4. Smashing Blue (5) Akshay K 58 and 6. Taimur (4) Bhawani S 57.5.

1. SMASHING BLUE,
2. GOLDEN OAKS

5 POONAWALLA STUD PLATE (1,200m), rated 45 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Aztec Queen (5) Arvind K 60, 2. Tactical Command (8) Dhanu S 57.5, 3. Thousand Words (6) Akshay K 57.5, 4. Alberetta (7) L.A. Rozario 57, 5. Devils Magic (4) P.S. Chouhan 54, 6. Kensington Court (2) Trevor 53.5, 7. Grey Channel (3)Khurshad 52.5 and 8. Lagopus (1) P. Surya 52.5.

1. KENSINGTON COURT,
2. THOUSAND WORDS,
3. TACTICAL COMMAND

6 PENDRAGON PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Ashwa Yudhvir (9) Suraj 61.5, 2. Mitsuro (7) J.H. Arul 60, 3. Silverita (5) Sandesh 56.5, 4. Belvedere (6) Akshay K 56, 5. Brooklyn Supreme (4) A. Prakash 55.5, 6. Eco Friendly (1) Ajeet K 54.5, 7. Lauterbrunnen (8) Rajesh K 54, 8. Ooh La La (2) D. Patel 53 and 9. Regal Melody (3) Vishal B 51.

1. ASHWA YUDHVIR,
2. MITSURO, 3. SILVERITA

7 GUINDY PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Ozark (11) T.S. Jodha 62.5, 2. Rightly Noble (1) Md. Aliyar 62.5, 3. She's Innocent (10) Arvind K 62, 4. Extraordinary (12) Ajeet K 61.5, 5. Tiger Returns (6) A. Imran 61.5, 6. Acaster (2) Vivek 61, 7. Anne Boleyn (4) A. Prakash 61, 8. Benignity (5) P. Surya 60, 9. Immortal Guest (8) Santosh Raj 60, 10. Country's Jewel (9) Shreyas S 59.5, 11. Jersey Legend (3) C.S. Jodha 59.5 and 12. Charmaine (7) Darshan 58.

1. TIGER RETURNS,
2. JERSEY LEGEND,
3. COUNTRY'S JEWEL

Day's best: **BLACK EAGLE**

Double: **KENSINGTON COURT – ASHWA YUDHVIR**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Sindhu, Lakshya bow out

INDONESIA MASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen made quarterfinal exits in their respective singles events, ending India's challenge in the Indonesia Masters Super Series 500 tournament here on Friday.

Lakshya was first to be eliminated as the 20-year-old went down fighting against Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen. Lakshya bounced back to level the second game but the third seed was superior in the decider, winning 21-16, 12-21, 21-14.

India's last hope then rested on Sindhu but the former World champion went down without a fight to her long-time Thai foe Ratchanok Intanon 12-21, 10-21.

GETTY IMAGES

Exploring Ronaldo's part in ten Hag's United rebuild

In crafting the Portuguese superstar's role, the Red Devils manager will have to balance long-term considerations against short-term gains

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

When Cristiano Ronaldo's return to Old Trafford was announced last summer – an emotional renewal of a relationship with the club where he won eight major trophies from 2003 to 2009 – several English football experts reckoned that Manchester United was back in business.

Most pre-season predictions had the Red Devils firmly in the top four; some even had them as title contenders. The public relations push was relentless at United, detailing everything about Ronaldo, from his movements in training, his greatest goals, his reclaiming of the "iconic" No. 7 jersey, to the inside story of his goal celebration.

Emotional homecoming

The mood among the fans approached elation, especially because widespread media reports said that Ronaldo's agent, Jorge Mendes, had agreed personal terms with bitter rival Manchester City before United reclaimed its favourite son.

The decision seemed a no-brainer to many – the galvanising return of a club great with guaranteed goals and the swagger of a proven winner.

Ronaldo's numbers in front of goal were still elite. He was the top scorer in Serie A in 2020-21 and had 101 goals and 22 assists in a total of 134 appearances for Juventus before deciding to leave Turin. Furthermore, he added two Italian league crowns and a Coppa Italia to his stacked trophy cabinet – validation, for those who sought it, that Ronaldo hadn't lost his winning touch.

For a United side that had ceded its primacy in the Premier League for the best part of a decade, the arrival of its talisman was both a reminder of the glory days and a sign of hope for the future.

Ronaldo's start was the stuff football fantasies are made of. His first appearance back, against Newcastle – billed as one of the most anticipated occasions in the history of the Premier League – adhered to the script of the heroic return. He scored twice for United after 12 years away, in a 4-1 victory; you could forgive fans for thinking the clock had been turned back.

> **I look forward to working with him. Ronaldo is a giant. Because of what he's already shown and I think he's still very ambitious. Of course I'd like to keep him**
> ERIK TEN HAG

Mixed reviews

And yet, nine months later, the views about Ronaldo and his move to United are decidedly mixed. The club had another disappointing season, failing to qualify for the Champions League after finishing sixth in the Premier League. It also didn't win a trophy for the fifth straight year – its longest trophy drought since 1983 when a FA Cup triumph had ended a six-year dry spell.

Just as worrying for United supporters was the football itself. The club went through two managers, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Ralf Rangnick, last season, with neither succeeding in coaching a coherent style. United's play was often disjointed and error-strewn, too dependent on moments of individual quality in both boxes to be sustainable.

Especially compared with City and Liverpool, the standard-bearers, United's football looked outdated.

What was Ronaldo's role in all of this?

Some experts thought he was a rare bright spark in United's bleak season; they cited his 24 goals (including three penalties) in 38 games (all competitions) as evidence of him pulling his weight. His rate of 0.68 goals per 90 minutes is lower than his career rate of 0.82, but it's still very good, especially given he did this in a season during which he turned 37.

Others, though, disagreed with this analysis, arguing that he was the cause of deeper structural cracks which his goal-scoring wasn't able to paper over – the team seemed to exist as a function to get the best out of him as opposed to working as a unit.

Ronaldo's lack of defensive work and his lacklustre pressing were thought to be costing the team's collective play. His three years at Turin were brought up: there were hints that some of his teammates at Juventus felt he was a 'luxury player', leading to his presence becoming divisive.

The Athletic's correspondent James Horncastle described Ronaldos as "a golden spanner in the works" at United.

The trade-off

"You have this paradox where Ronaldo still comes up with his memorable highlights that generate a lot of reaction," he told the Euro Leagues podcast. "But all they do is show up some of the flaws within the system and the dysfunctionality that's there at United.

"When a manager signs Ronaldo, they have to compromise on their philosophy and design a system around him. If you look at the other players he has eclipsed at United, like Bruno [Fernandes], they are a shadow of who they were," said Horncastle.

And so the appointment of Erik ten Hag, tasked with rebuilding United and returning the club to its once-lofty position, has sharpened the focus on Ronaldo's part in the project.

Ten Hag is a manager in the mould of Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp: structured positional play, high-intensity pressing and counter-pressing are non-negotiables in his philosophy.

These aren't strengths of Ronaldo at 37; he remains an exceptional athlete, but his game in recent years has relied on efficiency of movement and ball-striking, not relentless sprinting. His output has been of such a high standard that managers have shaped their team around this. But with only one year remaining on Ronaldo's contract, that doesn't make sense for ten Hag.

The former Ajax boss needs to focus on the long term; a season of catering primarily to Ronaldo, should ten Hag choose that path, only prolongs the rebuilding process.

Opportunity cost

In addition to deciding whether the Portuguese superstar makes his best starting XI, the manager will also have to assess the opportunity cost of his presence: it could push back the development of a young forward worth investing in by a year.

Will Ronaldo willingly warm the bench if United buys a high-priced striker with potential? Not if his usual response to being substituted is any indication. Considering how poor the dressing room atmosphere reportedly was last season, adding an unhappy Ronaldo to it is an unnerving thought for any manager.

Given his stature, Ronaldo also has the potential to undercut ten Hag's authority, even if he isn't consciously looking to do so. Alex Ferguson, who presided over United's phenomenal success, always held the view that the manager should be the undisputed leader; when a player began to threaten that status during his tenure, Ferguson usually parted ways with him.

For ten Hag, who is building from the ground up, it's imperative that the squad buys into his vision completely. He will need to command his players' respect, which is often easier when the manager's word is perceived to carry more weight than everybody else's. But unless it's Guardiola, Klopp or Zidane, this is unlikely to happen if Ronaldo is in the same dressing room.

Saying the right things

Ten Hag was guarded but positive when asked about Ronaldo during his first press conference. "Of course," he said in reply to a query on whether the striker was a part of his plans. What did he expect from him? "Goals," ten Hag said with a laugh. But when pressed on Ronaldo's role, the Dutchman said, "I will speak to Ronaldo about that before I speak to you."

Ronaldo, for his part, welcomed ten Hag's appointment, recently telling the club's website: "I know he did a fantastic job for Ajax and that he's an experienced coach but we need to give him time and things need to change – the way he wants. We are happy and excited. I wish him the best and let's believe that next year we're going to win trophies."

Ronaldo's role in ten Hag's rebuild will be one of the storylines to keep an eye on next season. "I think to build up good things sometimes you have to destroy a few things," Ronaldo said last season when the side was struggling. Several months later, those words have attained a greater and more personal significance than he perhaps intended when he said them.

> **I was happy to be back in a club that really raised my career so it was unbelievable, the feeling when I came back again. I was and still am very happy to be here. I believe that Manchester will be back where they belong**
> CRISTIANO RONALDO

RONALDO'S 2021-22 AT UNITED

38 appearances	
3,191 minutes played	
24 goals	
0.68 goals per 90 minutes	
0.59 non-penalty goals per 90 minutes	
GOALS BREAKDOWN	
18 goals in 30 Premier League appearances	
6 goals in 7 Champions League appearances	
0 goals in 1 FA Cup appearance	

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Novak Djokovic	35	8,770	13
2	Daniil Medvedev	26	8,160	23
3	Alexander Zverev	25	7,795	22
4	Rafael Nadal	36	7,525	11
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	23	6,100	25
6	Casper Ruud	23	5,050	28
7	Carlos Alcaraz	19	5,005	21
8	Andrey Rublev	24	4,260	27
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	21	3,955	27
10	Matteo Berrettini	26	3,805	19
11	Cameron Norrie	26	3,500	28
12	Jannik Sinner	20	3,355	30
13	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,258	26
14	Taylor Fritz	24	2,920	28
15	Diego Schwartzman	29	2,595	25

Top Indians ▶

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 175 ▼ 1 spot

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 280 ▼ 5 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Iga Swiatek	21	8,631	17
2	Anett Kontaveit	26	4,326	22
3	Paula Badosa	24	4,245	25
4	Ons Jabeur	27	4,150	20
5	Maria Sakkari	26	4,016	18
6	Aryna Sabalenka	24	3,966	20
7	Karolina Pliskova	30	3,678	17
8	Jessica Pegula	28	3,255	19
9	Danielle Collins	28	3,255	19
10	Garbine Muguruza	28	3,060	19
11	Emma Raducanu	19	2,975	24
12	Daria Kasatkina	25	2,765	21
13	Coco Gauff	18	2,756	17
14	Barbora Krejcikova	26	2,642	17
15	Leylah Fernandez	19	2,605	23

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 363 ▼ 18 spots

Riya Bhatia
Rank 494 ▼ 1 spot

F1 Drivers' standings

#	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS	WINS
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	125	4
2	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	116	2
3	Sergio Perez	Red Bull Racing	110	1
4	George Russell	Mercedes	84	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	83	0
6	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	50	0
7	Lando Norris	McLaren	48	0
8	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	40	0
9	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	30	0
10	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	15	0
11	Daniel Ricciardo	McLaren	11	0
12	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	11	0
13	Fernando Alonso	Alpine	10	0
14	Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	6	0
15	Sebastian Vettel	Aston Martin	5	0
16	Alex Albon	Williams	3	0
17	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	2	0
18	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	1	0
19	Mick Schumacher	Haas	0	0
20	Nico Hulkenberg	Aston Martin	0	0
21	Nicholas Latifi	Williams	0	0

Max Verstappen

Charles Leclerc

F1 Constructors' standings

POS	TEAM	POINTS	WINS	PODIUMS
1	Red Bull	235	5	9
2	Ferrari	199	2	8
3	Mercedes	134	0	3
4	McLaren	59	0	1
5	Alfa Romeo	41	0	0
6	Alpine	40	0	0
7	AlphaTauri	17	0	0
8	Haas	15	0	0
9	Aston Martin	7	0	0
10	Williams	3	0	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Viktor Axelsen	119,806	38
2	Kento Momota	112,554	27
3	Anders Antonsen	98,300	37
4	Chou Tien Chen	93,776	37
5	Lee Zii Jia	90,378	41
6	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	87,879	35
7	Chen Long	84,400	18
8	Jonatan Christie	82,812	35
9	Lakshya Sen	75,874	39
10	Loh Kean Yew	73,834	31
11	K. Srikanth	72,481	43
12	Ng Ka Long Angus	70,257	34
13	Rasmus Gemke	69,151	36
14	Kanta Tsuneyama	67,848	32
15	Wang Tzu Wei	65,876	43

Top Indians ▶

Lakshya Sen
Rank 9

K. Srikanth
Rank 11

Badminton Women's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Akane Yamaguchi	111,963	36
2	Tai Tzu Ying	109,845	23
3	An Se Young	103,603	43
4	Chen Yu Fei	102,656	26
5	Carolina Marin	100,380	22
6	Nozomi Okuhara	96,560	25
7	P.V. Sindhu	94,018	40
8	Ratchanok Intanon	87,549	36
9	He Bing Jiao	81,664	29
10	Pornpawee Chochuwong	78,265	41
11	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	70,294	47
12	Michelle Li	70,130	38
13	Sayaka Takahashi	66,573	34
14	Wang Zhi Yi	64,678	26
15	Mia Blichfeldt	63,819	28

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 7

Saina Nehwal
Rank 23

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Marnus Labuschagne	892	936
2	Joe Root	882	917
3	Steve Smith	845	947
4	Babar Azam	815	815
5	Kane Williamson	806	919
6	Dimuth Karunaratne	772	781
7	Usman Khawaja	757	757
8	Rohit Sharma	754	813
9	Travis Head	744	773
10	Virat Kohli	742	937

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	901	914
2	R. Ashwin	850	904
3	Kyle Jamieson	836	836
4	Jasprit Bumrah	830	835
5	Shaheen Afridi	827	827
6	Kagiso Rabada	818	902
7	James Anderson	772	903
8	Tim Southee	769	839
9	Neil Wagner	769	859
10	Josh Hazlewood	752	863

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	891	891
2	Virat Kohli	811	911
3	Imam-ul-Haq	795	795
4	Rohit Sharma	791	885
5	Quinton de Kock	789	813
6	Jonny Bairstow	775	796
7	Ross Taylor	775	841
8	R. van der Dussen	769	776
9	David Warner	750	880
10	Aaron Finch	745	798

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	726	770
2	Chris Woakes	700	711
3	Josh Hazlewood	698	733
4	Matt Henry	683	691
5	Jasprit Bumrah	679	841
6	Shaheen Afridi	671	671
7	Mehedi Hasan	661	725
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	657	712
9	Shakib Al Hasan	657	717
10	Rashid Khan	653	806

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	818	896
2	Aiden Markram	796	796
3	Mohammad Rizwan	794	798
4	Dawid Malan	728	915
5	Aaron Finch	713	900
6	Devon Conway	703	784
7	Pathum Nissanka	689	689
8	R. van der Dussen	669	780
9	Martin Guptill	658	793
10	K.L. Rahul	646	854

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Tabraiz Shamsi	784	821
2	Josh Hazlewood	778	806
3	Adil Rashid	746	746
4	Rashid Khan	714	816
5	Adam Zampa	712	743
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	669	797
7	Anrich Nortje	655	655
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	654	745
9	Nasum Ahmed	637	637
10	Shaheen Afridi	634	634

GETTY IMAGES

With Knighton following Bolt, can lightning strike twice?

The 18-year-old American is quicker over 200m than the great Jamaican was at his age. But can he stay on course and threaten the sprint world records that until recently looked untouchable?

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

When Usain Bolt decided that he had had his fill of life in the fast lane, his position as the greatest sprinter of all time was unassailable.

Even the mere thought that somebody someday might approach the times he had set was ludicrous – Bolt, after all, was the perfect storm, a 6'5" physical freak with both a meticulously drilled running technique and the mental ability to command his best under pressure on the biggest occasions. His world records of 9.58s in the 100m and 19.19s in the 200m appeared forever beyond the reach of athletic endeavour.

And yet, within five years of Bolt's retirement, the possibility – even if it's just a sliver at the moment – of at least one of his marks coming under threat has opened up. The cause for this is a teenaged American who not too long back was considering a career in gridiron.

Less than three years ago, Erriyon Knighton was a wide receiver on the American football pitch at Tampa Hillsborough High School in Florida. A hot prospect scouted by several top American colleges with reputed gridiron programmes, Knighton had a path to the NFL mapped out.

But when the pandemic hit and team sports were restricted, the youngster turned his attention to sprinting, a passion he hadn't explored seriously until then.

"I probably would still have been playing football if I would have had that extra year," Knighton told the BBC. "I only started running track in the ninth grade. Before then you could have asked me what 100m was and I wouldn't have known. I knew nothing about track. By the end of that year, I realised that I was kind of separated from the pack and faster than most people."

Knighton wasn't just "faster than most people" he was competing against; he was faster than anybody his age in history, including Bolt himself!

At 17, he toppled Bolt's 200m mark for athletes under 18 at an American Track

> I get called young every day, I am going to be 24 in 2028, that is in two more Olympics and still kind of young. I think about that all the time. As I grow older I am going to get stronger and faster. I am not the perfect 200m runner, I am still learning as I run it
> KNIGHTON

League meeting, winning the 200m in 20.11, shaving 0.02 seconds off Bolt's 2003 time. He also broke the under-20 200m record that once belonged to the Jamaican (19.93s), finishing in 19.84 at the US Olympic trials ahead of the Tokyo Games. As if that weren't enough, he destroyed his own mark earlier this year at the Baton Rouge meet with a scorching 19.49.

That performance elevated him to rarefied heights. He wasn't just the fastest teenager of all time over 200m; he was now rubbing shoulders with the best to have ever done it.

The 18-year-old's time blitzed those of sprint legends Carl Lewis and Tommy Smith, and placed him behind only Bolt (19.19), Yohan Blake (19.26) and Michael Johnson (19.32), making him the fourth-fastest man over 200m! What's more, it was also the quickest season opener ever.

"I was kind of shocked," Knighton told NBC. "I knew it was coming, but I didn't know it was coming this early into the season. I also didn't know that it was going to come this early in my career, either. I thought I was going to run 19.4 when I'm like 20 or something, like when I get stronger and older."

'Beamon-esque'

Ato Boldon, former 200m World champion, multiple-time Olympic medallist and current sports analyst with NBC, used an athletics analogy – Bob Beamon breaking the long jump world record by nearly two feet back in 1968 – to capture the magnitude of Knighton's achievement.

"If one junior [Bolt] in history, who is considered the greatest sprinter of all time, has broken 20 [seconds], and now this kid is half a second – which is a lifetime in the sprints – faster, then yes. It's not an exaggeration to say that this is the most Beamon-esque junior performance that we have seen," Boldon said.

In between his record-breaking runs, Knighton qualified for Tokyo and finished fourth in the 200m. Had he managed 19.49 back then, he would have beaten Andre De Grasse (19.62) to gold. "He's very young and talented," de Grasse said. "I definitely look forward to competing against him. He's younger than me, hopefully I can compete with him a little bit longer."

Silver medallist Kenny Bednarek and bronze medallist Noah Lyles, both in their early 20s and considered the future of American athletics themselves, hailed Knighton's Tokyo showing.

"He's going to be dangerous," said Bednarek. "He's got a lot of talent and a lot of things to work on, and he's definitely going to be a monster."

Inevitable comparisons

"I'm very proud of him," said Lyles. "I believe he's right down the road to even more amazing things."

The comparisons with Both are inevitable. Knighton is 6'3" tall and thought to be still growing; his stride length and ability to turn his legs over quickly remind experts of the Jamaican, with Boldon going so far as to say that Knighton has better biomechanics than Bolt had at 18. There's also the nonchalance: Knighton has shown he too can pose for the cameras as he crosses the finish line, with rivals trailing in his wake.

But is all this too much too soon? At the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, where the World Championships will be staged in July, Knighton was given a reality check in the 100m, as he finished sixth, with a time of 10.14s, in a strong field led by Trayvon Bromell. It's not his favoured event, but if the 18-year-old had any pretensions, they would have been swiftly depressed.

De Grasse and Carl Lewis, among others, have called for a lowering of expectations and urged Knighton to do things his way, without being weighed down by the pressure of chasing a ghost.

De Grasse, who knows a thing or two about pursuing Bolt, albeit unsuccessfully, advised Knighton not to "worry about being the next Usain Bolt". "That puts a lot more pressure when people say that you're the next Usain Bolt," he said. "Just be you, have fun, enjoy the moment."

Lewis also drew attention to the physical side of things. "The biggest thing is not rushing your age," he said. "Instead of running five hard races a year as a high-schooler, you're suddenly running every hard race in a year. He's a phenomenal athlete but he doesn't have to kill himself every week... you are physically not as strong at 18 or 19 as you will be at 21, 22."

Knighton does seem aware of the big picture. He has his eyes set on the World Championships in Eugene (July 15-24) provided he qualifies (June 23-26) at the same venue, but he knows he has plenty of time to leave his mark on the grandest stages.

"I get called young every day, I am going to be 24 in 2028, that is in two more Olympics and still kind of young," Knighton told the BBC. "I think about that all the time. As I grow older I am going to get stronger and faster. I am not the perfect 200m runner, I am still learning as I run it."

KNIGHTON'S PROGRESSION

The 18-year-old is the fastest teenager and the fourth-fastest man over 200m in history. Knighton has shown incredible gains year on year, much like Bolt, who went from 19.75 to 19.30 in a year. The American's best is 0.30 seconds slower than Bolt's world record 19.19, so he will need to continue his incredible progress to threaten it.

200m

Year	Timing	Place
2019	21.15s	Greensboro (USA)
2020	20.33s	Satellite Beach (USA)
2021	19.84s	Eugene (USA)
2022	19.49s	Baton Rouge (USA)

Like Bolt when he was younger, Knighton prefers the 200m, but the American has been getting quicker over 100m as well. Bolt, at 20, had a best of 10.03 seconds, while Knighton clocked 10.04 after turning 18. He also ran a wind-assisted 9.99 seconds (tail wind of +2.7, making his time illegal) last year.

100m

Year	Timing	Place
2019	11.08s	Jacksonville (USA)
2020	10.29s	Satellite Beach (USA)
2021	10.16s	Boston (USA)
2022	10.04s	Gainesville (USA)

> If one junior [Bolt] in history, considered the greatest sprinter of all time, has broken 20 [seconds], and now this kid is half a second – which is a lifetime in the sprints – faster, then yes. It's not an exaggeration to say that this is the most Beamon-esque junior performance we have seen
> ATO BOLDON, Former World champion (200m)

> He's very young and talented... but that puts a lot more pressure when people say that you're the next Usain Bolt. Just be you, have fun, enjoy the moment
> ANDRE DE GRASSE, Olympic gold medallist (200m)

GAME THEORY

Golf's most prolific trophy hunters

With the US Open set to tee off next week, it's a good time to take a look at the most successful golfers in Major events. Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods are the only players to have won each of the four Majors at least thrice.

Golfer	Winning span	Masters	US Open	The Open	PGA Championship	Total
Jack Nicklaus	1962–1986	6	4	3	5	18
Tiger Woods	1997–2019	5	3	3	4	15
Walter Hagen	1914–1929	0	2	4	5	11
Ben Hogan	1946–1953	2	4	1	2	9
Gary Player	1959–1978	3	1	3	2	9
Tom Watson	1975–1983	2	1	5	0	8
Harry Vardon	1896–1914	0	1	6	0	7
Bobby Jones	1923–1930	0	4	3	0	7
Gene Sarazen	1922–1935	1	2	1	3	7
Sam Snead	1942–1954	3	0	1	3	7
Arnold Palmer	1958–1964	4	1	2	0	7
Lee Trevino	1968–1984	0	2	2	2	6
Nick Faldo	1987–1996	3	0	3	0	6
Phil Mickelson	2004–2021	3	0	1	2	6
James Braid	1901–1910	0	0	5	0	5
John Henry Taylor	1894–1913	0	0	5	0	5
Byron Nelson	1937–1945	2	1	0	2	5
Peter Thomson	1954–1965	0	0	5	0	5
Seve Ballesteros	1979–1988	2	0	3	0	5

PICTURE THIS

MARCO KOST/GETTY IMAGES

Surfing history's wave

Carissa Moore surfs at the Quiksilver Pro G-Land event – the sixth stop on the 11-event World Surf League (WSL) circuit – at Plengkung beach in Banyuwangi, Indonesia, earlier this month.

The 29-year-old Moore is one of the most decorated competitors in the sport. A five-time WSL world champion, the American from Hawaii won the first-ever Olympic gold in women's short-board surfing at the Tokyo Games last year.

This made her the first surfer in history to win a WSL world title and the Olympic title in the same year.

Currently second in the standings for the 2022 WSL season, Moore is looking to defend her world title and close the gap to Australians Layne Beachley and Stephanie Gilmore, who have each won a record seven crowns. Kelly Slater, another Australian, holds the record for men (11 titles).

The 2022 WSL is the 45th season of all iterations of the tour circuit for professional surfers. It was originally known as International Professional Surfing, which was founded in 1976.

The season will conclude at Lower Trestles, in San Clemente, USA, with the top five men and women going head to head in their respective categories to determine the champion at the WSL Finals.

LIVE TELECAST

KIYG 2022: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Azerbaijan GP: Qualifying, SS 2 (SD & HD), 7.25 p.m.
England vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs Australia: 3rd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) 7 p.m.
NBA Finals: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot, 6.30 a.m.

Disappointment for Mary Kom

Knee injury forces reigning Commonwealth Games champion to quit trials

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

Six-time World boxing champion M.C. Mary Kom had disappointment in store as she bowed out of the Commonwealth Games trials due to a knee injury on Friday.

On the first day of the trials held in New Delhi, Mary sustained a knee injury after a minute of her 48kg bout against two-time World youth champion Nitu Ghanghas.

Mary returned after receiving medical attention, but still experienced pain. She had to leave the ring in the first round itself as the referee stopped the contest and declared Nitu the winner on RSC-I. According to an eye witness, Mary struggled to even stand.

The 39-year-old reigning Commonwealth Games champion in 48kg is in the final phase of her amateur career as the current cutoff age is 40.

Nitu will meet World championships silver medallist Manju Rani in the final trial on Saturday.

In other important results, current Worlds bronze medallist Parveen beat another Worlds bronze medallist Simranjeet Kaur 4-3 in a 60kg bout and Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain went past young challenger Ankushita Boro 7-0 in a 70kg fight.

PTI adds from New Delhi:

"I was training so hard for this. This is just bad luck, I have never had a knee injury before," said a distraught Mary Kom said as she limped towards her car to head to the hospital.

Mary Kom fell on the canvas while trying to dodge a punch in the first round. The 39-year-old tried to keep going after receiving medical assistance but after a couple of punches, she struggled to find her balance. She clutched her left knee and looked in a lot of pain.

"It is really unfortunate, but one can never predict such things. Mary had been training hard for this," said National coach Bhaskar Bhatt.

Pain writ large: Mary Kom grimaces while being attended to. ▪ PTI

Pakistan seals ODI series

Nawaz, right, spun it Pakistan's way. ▪ AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MULTAN

West Indies stumbled against left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz as Pakistan recorded a thumping 120-run victory in the second ODI on Friday. The win gave the hosts an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Nawaz recorded career-best figures of 10-0-19-4 to bowl out the West Indies for 155. Earlier, skipper Babar Azam (77) and Imam-ul-Haq (72) had taken Pakistan to 275 for eight.

The scores: Pakistan 275/8 in 50 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 72, Babar Azam 77, Akeal Hosein 3/52) bt West Indies 155 in 32.2 overs (Shamarh Brooks 42, Mohammad Wasim 3/34, Mohammad Nawaz 4/19).

Anand slips to third spot

SPORTS BUREAU

Viswanathan Anand made a queen-move when his rival Shakhriyar Mamedyarov was not around. He noted down the move and at once realised the decisive error he had committed.

He foresaw a two-move checkmate that Mamedyarov could deliver. The moment Mamedyarov returned to the board, Anand surprised him by resigning.

Such was the dramatic end to Anand's eighth-round clash in the Norway Chess at Stavanger on Thursday. The loss saw Anand (13 points) slip a rung to the third spot, behind leader Magnus Carlsen (15) and Mamedyarov (14.5).

The results: Eighth round: Viswanathan Anand (13/26.5) lost to Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 14.5/26); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 15/26.5) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 12.5/26); Armageddon: Carlsen bt Vachier; Wesley So (USA,11/27) drew with Veselin Topalov (Bul, 8.5/27.5), Armageddon: Topalov; Anish Giri (Ned, 11/26) bt Aryan Tari (Nor, 8.5/26.5); Teimour Radjabov (Aze, 6.5/26.5) drew with Wang Hao (Chn, 6.5/27), Armageddon: Radjabov.

Golden day for Jakhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Rahul Jakhar won the individual gold in P5-mixed 10m air pistol standard SH1 final and also helped India clinch the team gold at the shooting Para Sport World Cup in Chateauroux, France, on Friday.

After four days of competition, India's tally stood at five gold and three silver.

Jakhar defeated countrymate Indian Rubina Francis for the gold medal with a score of 367-6x in the final four series. He maintained a 90+ score in the first three series while Francis scored 355-7x. France's Eden Gaelle claimed the bronze with the same score of 355, but with 4x.

Jakhar's score was combined with that of Deepender Singh and Akash, who shot 342-2x and 338-4x, as India (1047-12x) took the gold.

Didn't panic at all: van der Dussen

SA IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Smashing the last 126 runs off 55 deliveries to chase down the target of 212, Rassie van der Dussen (75 not out) and David Miller (64 not out) showed they were never intimidated by the task ahead. It was also equally true that seldom has a team scored as many in the last 10 overs in pursuit of a 200-plus target.

Talking to mediapersons late on Thursday, van der Dussen mentioned how the duo planned to use the shorter boundaries to bring down the climbing asking rate.

"We didn't panic at all. We knew even if the asking rate got up to 14-15, we could use that one short boundary with the right-left combination. We knew we could target the bowlers."

About his slow start, van der Dussen admitted, "I put myself and the team under a bit of pressure by not being able to get boundaries early on in my innings. You know, sometimes it just doesn't come off."

Asked about the dropped catch when on 29, he said, "When Shreyas dropped it, I knew I had to make them (India) pay because I took the balls to get myself in." Indeed, van der Dussen changed gears to find four sixes and five fours over the next 15 deliveries he faced to put the finishing touches to the chase.

Ishan Kishan, who top scored with a 76, revealed, "Initially, we knew the pitch was not easy to get going and would be tough for the batters coming in. My plan was to target the loose balls because you need to put pressure on the bowlers," he added.

"One needs to give respect to the good balls, Anrich Nortje and Kagiso Rabada are experienced bowlers. My plan was to keep them on the backfoot, keep playing my shots and force them to think about their line and length," he said.

Masterstroke: van der Dussen and Miller's plan to target the shorter boundaries paid rich dividends. ▪ SPORTZPICS/BCCI

Mitchell, Blundell put NZ on top

Their unbroken 149-run stand takes Kiwis to 318 for four

NZ IN ENGLAND

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NOTTINGHAM

Daryl Mitchell led the New Zealand charge as the visitors powered to 318 for four against England by close of play on the first day of the second Test on Friday.

Mitchell's aggressive 81 not out and an unbeaten 67 from Tom Blundell made England captain Ben Stokes pay for his decision to bowl first on a flat pitch.

England's wounds were mostly self-inflicted, with three dropped catches as the bowling and fielding flaws that plagued the host in recent months returned.

Positive approach: Mitchell punished a wayward England attack and helped the Kiwis take charge. ▪ REUTERS

Williamson hit by Covid

World Test champion New Zealand, which lost a gripping first Test at Lord's, was without Covid-hit Kane Williamson after the skipper was ruled out on Thursday evening.

Despite Williamson's absence, the Kiwis punished some wayward England bowling, with Mitchell and Blundell amassing an undefeated 149-run partnership after Tom Latham and Will Young put on 84 for the first wicket. Stokes dismissed Young for 47 and, the very next ball, stand-in skipper Latham fell to James Anderson for 26. But New Zealand stayed positive, continuing to find the boundaries regularly as Devon Conway (46) and Tom Nicholls (30) kept the visitors on top.

Nicholls eventually edged Stokes to wicketkeeper Ben Foakes who also took the catch when Conway nicked one behind soon afterwards off Anderson.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand — 1st innings: Tom Latham c Potts b Anderson 26, Will Young c Crawley b Stokes 47, Devon Conway c Foakes b Anderson 46, Henry Nicholls c Foakes b Stokes 30, Daryl Mitchell (batting) 81, Tom Blundell (batting) 67; Extras (lb-16, nb-5): 21; Total (for four wkts. in 87 overs): 318.
Fall of wickets: 1-84, 2-84, 3-161, 4-169.
England bowling: Anderson 18-6-42-2, Broad 18-4-74-0, Potts 18-4-69-0, Stokes 12-0-40-2, Leach 18-3-62-0, Root 3-0-15-0.
Toss: England.

India faces the formidable Afghanistan challenge

ASIAN CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

India will be looking to consolidate its position in the league standings when it takes on a strong Afghanistan in the second round of the group D league fixtures of the AFC Asian Cup's final round qualification at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday.

Having won the first round match against Cambodia comfortably (2-0), India is expected to have a difficult task in the second outing where it takes on a more formidable opposition in the Afghans.

Measuring the threat perception ahead of the match, the Indian head coach Igor Stimac felt the "winning attitude" of the Afghanistan side will be the biggest challenge for his side.

"Afghanistan will be coming out with a winning attitude which is based on the fact that many of their players have international football experience which is much higher than the level of ISL. They get their confidence from there," Stimac said.

India enjoys a much better head-to-head record with Afghanistan having won nine and lost just once in the 15 occasions the two sides have met (the rest five have been drawn). But Stimac's assessment of his opponent was largely based on the last two meetings where the Afghans seemed to be more dominant as India looked happy to be holding on to a draw.

"We have to be ready to take control of the ball and make the opponent run. It should not be a situation where we chase their players," Stimac said.

He hinted that he would be considering some changes in his side, looking at the strengths of the Afghans, but said he preferred a youthful side which can "play with speed and intensity."

Coach Stimac and goalkeeper Gurpreet... ready for it. ▪ PTI

Sailor accuses coach of making her 'uncomfortable'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Days after a renowned cyclist accused her coach of sexual harassment, a National-level girl sailor has alleged that a coach made her "uncomfortable" during a foreign exposure trip to Germany.

According to a source, the complainant reached out to the Yachting Federation of India (YAI) several times but when she did not get any response, she sought SAI's intervention.

SAI has now sought a report from the Federation by the end of the day, asking if the sailor had approached them earlier, and if so why the matter was not taken seriously.

"SAI has received a complaint from a female sailor that a coach made her uncomfortable during an exposure tour to Germany. She claimed that she had approached the federation earlier, but after getting no response, she knocked on SAI's doors," a source said.

Portugal in firm control

Spain edges Switzerland for first win

NATIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LISBON

Portugal took control of its group in the Nations League by defeating the Czech Republic 2-0 on Thursday, while Spain earned a first win by edging past struggling Switzerland 1-0.

Portugal, the inaugural champion in 2019, jumped to the top in Group 2 of the top-tier League A, two points ahead of Spain and three in front of the Czechs after three matches.

The Spaniards ended their winless run with the victory over last-place Switzerland, which has lost all its matches.

Portugal opened the scoring with Joao Cancelo's low shot from a narrow angle in the 33rd minute, and Goncalo Guedes added to the lead five minutes later from inside the area after an assist by Bernardo Silva.

Spain got on the board in the 13th minute with Pablo Sarabia redirecting a cross from Marcos Llorente for a goal that had to be confirmed by video review after a check for offside.

The results: League A: Group 2: Switzerland 0 lost to Spain 1 (Sarabia 13); Portugal 2 (Joao Cancelo 33, Guedes 38) bt Czech Republic 0.

League B: Group 4: Sweden 0 lost to Serbia 1 (Jovic 45+3); Norway 0 drew with Slovenia 0.

League C: Group 2: Greece 3 (Bakasetas 8, Pavlidis 20, Limnios 48) bt Cyprus 0; Kosovo 3 (Muriqi 9-pen, 52, Bytyqi 19) bt Northern Ireland 2 (Lavery 44, Ballard 83).

Group 4: North Macedonia 0 lost to Georgia 3 (Zivzivadze 52, Kvaratskhelia 62, Kiteishvili 84).

On fire: Portugal's Guedes, centre, celebrates with assist provider Silva and the other scorer Cancelo. ▪ AFP

Sreeshankar and Baranica establish new meet marks

Abhishek, Sanjivani win 10,000m crowns in contrasting fashion

Scaling new heights: It was a day to remember for pole vaulter Baranica. ▪ VELANKANNI RAJ

ATHLETICS

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Two new meet records were set on the opening day of the 61st SNJ-National inter-State athletics championships here on Friday. However, no athlete could make the cut either for the Commonwealth Games or the World Championships.

Long jumper M. Sreeshankar of Kerala set a new mark in the qualifying event with a jump of 8.01m, erasing Prem Kumar's 8.00m effort in 2013. Muhammad Anees Yahiya of Kerala came second 7.85m ahead of Jeswin Aldrin 7.71.

It was a good day for Tamil Nadu in women's pole vault as it bagged the top three positions with E. Baranica claiming gold with a new meet mark of 4.05m. Rosy Meena Paulraj and Pavithra Venkatesh finished second and third after clearing 4m, the old mark set by Khyati Vakharia in 2018.

Unsuccessful attempts

After clearing 4.05m, Baranica went for 4.10m which she couldn't clear in two attempts while giving a 'pass' to the third. She went for the jugular by going for the National record held by Surekha (4.15m, 2014) but failed again.

Abhishek Pal and Sanjivani Baburao Jadhav scripted contrasting victories to bag the gold medal in the men's and women's 10,000m races respectively. While Sanjivani led from start to finish, Abhishek had to ward off a stiff challenge from Gulveer Singh and Dharmender.

The results: Men: 10,000m: 1. Abhishek Pal (UP) 29:55.51s, 2. Gulveer Singh (UP) 29:55.71, 3. Dharmender (Raj) 29:55.84.

Long jump (qualifying): 1. M. Sreeshankar (Ker) 8.01m (NMR, Old: Prem Kumar, 8.00m, Chennai, 2013), 2. Muhammed Anees Yahiya (Ker) 7.85, 3. Jeswin Aldrin (TN) 7.71.

Women's pole vault: 1. E. Baranica (TN) 4.05m (NMR, Old: Khyati Vakharia, 4.00m, Guwahati, 2018), 2. Rosy Meena Paulraj (TN) 4.00m, 3. Pavithra Venkatesh (TN) 3.90m.

Suhitha upsets Shruti

Rushil to take on Dhruv in boys' final

KIYG

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PANCHKULA

Suhitha Maruri fought hard to beat top seed Shruti Ahlawat 2-6, 6-1, 7-6(1) in the girls' tennis semifinals in the Khelo India Youth Games at the Gymkhana Club on Friday.

In the final, Suhitha will play Akanksha Nitture who subdued Maharashtra Statemate Vaishnavi Adkar for the loss of six games.

In the boys' section, Rushil Khosla set up a title clash with Dhruv Hirpara.

Haryana girls decimated Odisha in the hockey final while two of the boys – judoka Anil (55 kg) and swimmer Harsh Saroha (100m butterfly) – clinched gold to keep the hosts ahead with a tally of 36 gold, 28 silver and 36 bronze.

Maharashtra continued to breathe down Haryana's neck, adding gold in mallakhamb and judo to take its tally to 34.

In swimming events, Karnataka's Ridhma Kumar set a new mark even as her teammates ruled the pool with five gold on the third day of the swimming competition, helping the state leapfrog Manipur to the third spot in the overall standings.

Karnataka's Aneesh Gowda went on to take his fourth gold medal of the meet, winning the 400m freestyle.

Earlier, Punjab rode on Bharath Thakur's brace to upset favourites Uttar Pradesh 3-1 in a thrilling boys' hockey final.

The Tamil Nadu girls got the better of hosts Haryana 3-2 to set up a final against Jharkand, which defeated Gujarat 3-0.

Leakzes Angmo helped her side win Ladakh's first medal of the Games after finishing second behind Borji with a timing of 33:52.52s. Mukesh Kaswan of Rajasthan clinched the boys' time trial (30 km) ahead of J & K's Adil Altaf.

Tennis results (semifinals): Boys: Dhruv Hirpara bt Parv Nage 6-3, 6-4; Rushil Khosla bt Daksh Prasad 6-2, 6-2.
Girls: Suhitha Maruri bt Shruti Ahlawat 2-6, 6-1, 7-6(1); Akanksha Nitture bt Vaishnavi Adkar 6-2, 6-4.

Akanksha will face Suhitha in the girls' final.

Sub-eight is difficult but possible, says Sable

'There is no need to train any differently, it is all about setting the right targets'

ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

It isn't often that a top-level athlete admits to losing years to a bad mistake. Avinash Sable has no qualms doing the same but is also in a hurry on making up for the lost years.

From a then-national record-breaking 8:29.80 in 2018 to aiming for a sub-eight minute time, Sable has come a long way in the four years since he first took up the event, breaking his own record seven times now. After an impressive 8:12.48 at the Diamond League in Rabat, he is now focusing on the World Championships and the Commonwealth Games.

"It is definitely not easy but I don't think it is impossible or there is need to train any differently for a sub-eight timing. It is all about setting the right targets," Sable said in a virtual interaction from Colorado Springs on Friday.

Getting future ready: Sable, in his first ever foreign training stint, is enjoying the atmosphere. ▪ S. MAHINSHA

"In India, we only think of winning a race, getting a medal and a job or promotion. When I started, even 8:45 sounded good and you could get a medal even with a time of nine minutes!

Mindset

"There is also a mindset that foreign athletes are naturally or genetically gifted and we cannot compete with them but having done that here, I can say that is not true.

"*Agar 9 minute soch ke 8:12 tak aa sakte hain to yahan se sub-8 to kar hi sakte hain* (if we can cut to 8:12 from nine minutes, we can definitely go sub-8 from here)," he explained.

For someone considered among a handful of genuinely world-class Indian track & field athletes, the national 3000m Steeplechase champion, this is his first-ever foreign training stint and he rues the fact that he delayed travelling abroad for training for so long.

"I was first asked by (Late) coach Nikolai (Snesarev) to train abroad after I broke the national record for the first time at the 2018 Open Nationals but I did not agree. The AFI, SAI everyone planed foreign training for me, last year also before Tokyo Olympics they planned to send me to Uganda but I could not decide and I believe that was the biggest mistake of my life as an athlete," he admitted.

"In terms of facilities, I think we have the best in India. What the AFI or ministry or SAI provides us is unmatched. But I have to train alone.

"Here, I am training with Olympic and World champions, fast runners with lots of experience.

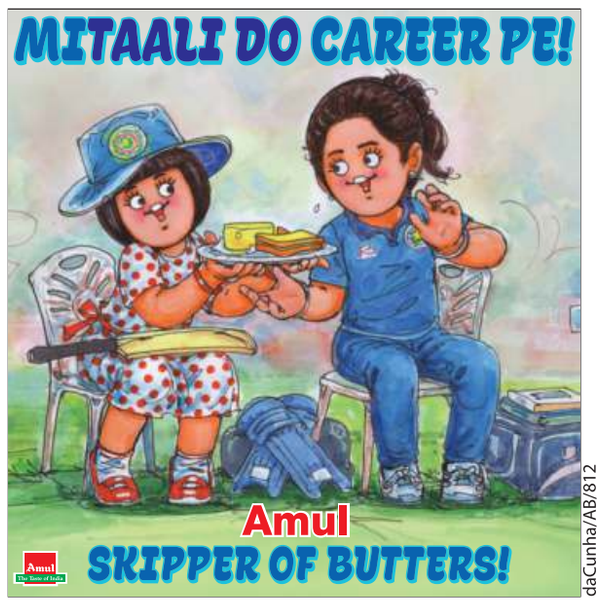
"Running in a pack, clearing hurdles in a crowd, managing the pace of the race - there are so many things I am learning now. I have also realized that you need to train and compete at the top level to be in that league and improve," he was candid.

Gaining confidence

Training with the best has also helped the Armyman from Beed gain the confidence he so lacked in his early years.

Immediately up next, though, is finding a good meet to participate in and go all out to test himself before the Worlds in July without bothering about results or targets.

Given his battles, the chances of another national record are high.



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IN BRIEF

Pranavi emerges on top

BENGALURU

Mysore teenager Pranavi Urs won the seventh leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour — her third title of the season — at Prestige Golfshire here on Friday. The eighth leg will be held at Karnataka Golf Association course here from June 14 to 17.

The scores (top five): 205: Pranavi Urs (67, 66, 72); **209:** Asmitha Sathish (70, 72, 67); **214:** Vidhatri Urs (71, 72, 71), Jahanvi Bakshi (72, 69, 73); **217:** Neha Tripathi (72, 74, 71).

Sri Lanka fined 40% of match fee

DUBAI

Sri Lanka has been fined 40 per cent of its match fee for maintaining slow over-rate against Australia in the second T20 in Colombo. Ranjan Madugalle of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after Dasun Shanaka's side was ruled to be two overs short of the target. PTI

FIFA WC: Ecuador gets a reprieve

ZURICH

Ecuador kept its place at the World Cup on Friday when a FIFA legal ruling rejected a complaint by Chile about an alleged ineligible player. FIFA said its disciplinary committee closed the proceedings in the claim that Ecuador defender Byron Castillo, who played in eight qualifying games, is actually Colombian. AP

Hamilton made honorary citizen of Brazil

SAO PAULO

Brazil's congress passed a motion on Thursday to make seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton an honorary citizen of the South American nation. "Today I was granted honorary citizenship to one of my favorite places in the world, I don't really have the words right now. Thank you, Brasil, I love you, I can't wait to see you again," Hamilton said on Instagram. AP

Jackson trumps Thompson-Herah

Mu strolls to victory in 800m; Kimeli sets new meet mark in 5000m

Sprinting success: Jackson, second from right, made the 200m her own on Thursday. ▪ AFP

DIAMOND LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROME

Shericka Jackson is gunning for an individual gold medal at next month's World championships after seeing off a star-studded field to claim victory in the women's 200m at Thursday's Diamond League meeting here.

Jamaican Jackson clocked 21.91sec to cross well clear of double Olympic gold medallist and compatriot Elaine Thompson-Herah and reigning World champion Dina Asher-Smith.

The 27-year-old won bronze in the 100m in last year's Tokyo Olympics and was part of the 4x100m relay team, alongside Thompson-Herah, which won gold in the Japanese capital.

"My aim is to add a gold medal to my name," said Jackson. "I have many individual medals at 400m and 100m, but I need to get that gold medal in any event that might be. This is my aim this season."

Kerley emerges fastest

Fred Kerley eased to victory in the men's 100m, cruising home in 9.92sec well ahead of a field which was without injured home hero Lamont Marcell Jacobs.

Tokyo gold medal winner in Athing Mu showed what she was made of by strolling to victory in her favoured 800m on her first appearance in a European Diamond League meeting.

American Mu, one of the stars of last year's Olympics who turned 20 on Wednesday, finished in 1:57.01, the fastest time in the world this year.

Femke Bol took the honours in the women's 400m hurdles with a season's best time of 53.02sec.

Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli set a new meeting record in the 5,000m, winning his first Diamond League race in 12:46.33 to beat marathon legend Eliud Kipchoge's previous stadium best set back in 2004.

The results (winners only): Men: 100m: Fred Kerley (USA) 9.92s; **200m**: Kenneth Bednarek (USA) 20.01; **400m:** Kirani James (Grn) 44.54; **5000m:** Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli (Ken) 12:46.33; **3000m steeplechase:** Lamecha Girma (Eth) 7:59.23; **3000m race walk: Francesco** Fortunato (Ita) 10:57.77; **high jump**: JuVaughn Harrison (USA) 2.27m; **shot put:** Joe Kovacs (USA) 21.85; **discus**: Kristjan Ceh (Slo) 70.72.

Women: 200m: Shericka Jackson (Jam) 21.91s; **800m:** Athing Mu (USA) 1:57.01; **1500m:** Hirut Meshesha (Eth) 4:03.79; **100m hurdles:** Jasmine Camacho-Quinn (Pur) 12.37; **400m hurdles:** Femke Bol (Ned) 53.02; **pole vault:** Sandi Morris (USA) 4.81m; **long jump:** Maryna Bekh-Romanchuk (Ukr) 6.85.

Jaiswal relieved after maiden First Class century

It's good for my morale and mindset, says Mumbai opener

CRICKET

AMOL KARHADKAR
BENGALURU

Soon after Mumbai completed Uttarakhand's rout on Thursday, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Suved Parkar, were given a special ovation. As the whole bunch sat in a circle at the Alur Cricket Ground 2, the duo was made to deliver a speech to the group standing on a chair.

As much as the game belonged to Parkar's phenomenal debut, it was pivotal for Jaiswal. Playing only his second First Class match of the season, the left-handed opening batter translated his prodigious talent into a maiden hundred. No wonder he had a mix of contentment and excitement on his face when asked about his milestone moment.

Matters a lot

"It matters a lot to me. I will always remember my first century, it will forever be memorable," Jaiswal said after Mumbai sailed into the semifinals.

"It's good for my morale and mindset. All the hard work is paying off. It's been almost four years since I played a Ranji match. Then came the Under-19 World Cup, and Covid came. Didn't get a chance in the first three games."

Jaiswal. ▪ R. RAGU

Jaiswal's emergence as 'boy wonder' in 2018-19 – he scored three hundreds in the Vijay Hazare Trophy in October 2019 – had given hopes of ending the hunt for a reliable opening pair.

However, ever since his record 203 against Jharkhand, he couldn't really convert the starts into big scores. Since that knock in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, Jaiswal had failed to reach the three-digit mark in 23 innings (14 in Vijay Hazare Trophy and nine in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy) coming into the season.

During the league stage, despite being a part of the squad, he wasn't considered for any of the three league matches. "Even in the IPL, it was the same. I played the first three games and then I was out for the next seven. Did well on my comeback. All this time, I kept myself motivated. These experiences are a part of my learning. I believe in myself, I am confident about my abilities," he said.

Having captain Prithvi Shaw at the other end really helped ease the pressure on Jaiswal in the second innings. "He was scoring briskly so I could take my time," he said.

Mumbai will be hoping that Jaiswal carries the form into the semifinal versus Uttar Pradesh, starting on Tuesday. If he does, even if he isn't made to deliver a speech standing on a chair again, his stock will definitely rise higher.

Bengal enters semis

RANJI TROPHY

DHRUVA PRASAD
BENGALURU

Manoj Tiwary (136, 185b, 19x4, 2x6) iced Bengal's march to the Ranji Trophy semifinals with a classy hundred against Jharkhand on the fifth and final day of the first quarterfinal at the Just Cricket Academy Ground here on Friday.

While a 475-run first innings lead on the fourth day had virtually sealed its spot in the last-four stage, Bengal added another 318 for seven declared in its second essay and shook hands with Jharkhand on a draw towards the end of the second session.

Bengal had decided against enforcing the follow-on on Thursday after Jharkhand folded up for 298 in reply to its 773 for seven declared, probably to allow its batters time in the middle ahead of its impending semifinal clash against Madhya Pradesh.

QUARTERS, FINAL DAY

Bengal 773/7 decl. & 318/7 decl. in 85.1 overs (Manoj Tiwary 136, Shahbaz Ahmed 46, Shahbaz Nadeem 5/59) drew with Jharkhand 298. *Bengal won on first innings lead.*

Semifinals: June 14 to 18: Bengal vs. Madhya Pradesh; Mumbai vs. Uttar Pradesh.

Final: June 22 to 26.

All matches at Bengaluru.

Bopanna-Shapovalov duo exits in semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Rohan Bopanna, partnering Denis Shapovalov, went down 6-7(1), 6-7(5) against Hubert Hurkacz and Mate Pavic in the €769,645 ATP tennis doubles semifinals in Stuttgart on Friday.

Other results: €134,920 Challenger, Nottingham: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Jonny O'Mara & Ken Skupski (GBR) bt Artem Sitak (Nzl) & Divij Sharan 6-4, 6-3.

€67,960 Challenger, Bratislava: Doubles: Semifinals: Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Alexander Erler & Lucas Miedler (Aut) 5-7, 7-5, [10-4].

$15,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Quarterfinals: Nam Hoang Ly (Vie) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-4, 7-5.

$15,000 ITF men, San Diego: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Yuta Kikuchi (Jpn) & Siddhant Banthia bt Ajeet Rai (Nzl) & Duarte Vale (Por) 6-3, 6-2.

$60,000 ITF women, Biarritz, France: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Anna Danilina (Kaz) & Valeriya Strakhova (Ukr) bt Lara Salden (Bel) & Prarthana Thombare 7-5, 6-4.

$25,000 ITF women, Tbilisi, Georgia: Doubles (quarterfinals): Darya Astakhova & Anna Kubareva bt Sandra Samir (Egy) & Zeel Desai 6-4, 6-4.

$25,000 ITF women, Chiang Rai, Thailand: Quarterfinals: Gao Xinyu (Chn) bt Ankita Raina 5-7, 6-4, 7-5; Rutuja Bhosale bt Patcharin Cheapchandej (Tha) 6-3, 6-3.

DELHI ROUND-UP

Big win for Youngster Club

Half-centuries by Sikander Kaushlya, Shivam Mudgal and Manthan Tanwar saw Youngster Club beat Three Star Club by 233 runs in the DDCA Under-19 League.

The scores: Youngster Club 339/5 in 50 overs (Sikander Kaushlya 87, Shivam Mudgal 55 n.o., Manthan Tanwar 50) bt TSC 106 in 26 overs (Adeeb 36, Aditya Tanwar 3/12, Shivam Tushir 3/28).

Rajveer scalps five

A five-wicket haul by Rajveer Bembay and four by Ayush Sharma helped Delhi Wonders beat Ajmal Khan Club by five wickets in the DDCA under-16 league.

In other games, South Delhi Colts beat Kashmiri Gate Colts by 17 runs and Rehman Club beat Maulana Azad Club by 41 runs.

The scores: AKC 120 in 37 overs (Rajveer Bambey 5/13, Ayush Sharma 4/13) lost to Delhi Wonders 126/5 in 22 overs (Ayush Kumar 39, Anshuman Singh 3/23); SDC 218 in 48 overs (Dev Yadav 39, Kairav Singhani 36) bt KGC 201 in 45 overs (Abeer Sudan 95, Aryan Singh 56); Rehman Club 211/8 in 50 overs (Priyanshu Arya 59, Divyansh Jha 55, Shorya Singh 3/28) bt MAC 170 in 41 overs (Viyyan Arora 38, Aarush singh 4/28).

Rajat hits 163

A match-winning 98-ball 163 by Rajat Paliwal and four wickets by Vivek helped SS Sports beat Sethi Sports by 152 runs in the All India RV Sports tournament.

The scores: SS Sports 343/7 in 40 overs (Rajat Paliwal 163, Mohit Ahlawat 67) bt Sethi Sports 191 in 33 overs (Naman Tiwari 65, Shubham Sharma 42, Vivek 4/33).

Sporting Club triumphs

Man-of-the-match Rohan Rathi scored 59 and picked up two wickets as Sporting Club beat India Railways by five wickets to lift the 38th All India Gold Cup.

The scores: Indian Railways 205 in 43 overs (Shubham Chaubey 54) lost to Sporting Club 207/5 in 37 overs (Abhimanyu 62, Rohan Rathi 59).

RRG triumphs

Ayush Dhilod's four for 11 helped Rohtak Road Gymkhana beat Crescent Cricket Academy by 73 runs to claim the 3rd Late Shree Subhash Chand Sheoran under-16 tournament title.

The scores:

RRG 218 in 39 overs (Hanuman Kumar 47) bt CCA 145 in 38 overs (Dweep Gehlot 43, Ayush Dhilod 4/11).

Vaibhav, Devansh shine

Vaibhav Sharma and Devansh Bisht picked up three wickets each as MRV Academy beat SOT Academy by eight wickets in the MRV Hot Weather tournament.

The scores: SOTA 57 in 16 overs (Vaibhav Sharma 3/1, Devansh Bisht 3/11) lost to MRVA 58/2 in 11 overs.

Easy for Airliner Academy

Delhi under-19 batsman Krish Yadav top-scored with 74 runs while Mudit Kapoor and Yash Kanojia took three wickets each as Airliner Academy beat Unique Academy by 171 runs in the BN Sharma memorial Under-19 Cup.

The scores: Airliner Academy 232/5 in 40 overs (Krish Yadav 74) bt Unique Academy 61 in 24.4 overs (Mudit Kapoor 3/02, Yash Kanojia 3/16).

Indian men meet Belgium today

TRUST OF INDIA
ANTWERP

Adequate game time against quality opposition, working on their tactical nous will be high on Indian men's and women's hockey teams' agenda as they resume their respective FIH Pro League campaigns against Belgium on Saturday as pre-cursor to the Commonwealth Games.

While the Indian men's team is scheduled to play hosts Belgium (June 11 & June 12), followed by games against the Netherlands (June 18 & June 19 in Rotterdam), the women will play Belgium (June 11 & June 12), Argentina (June 18 & June 19) and the United States (June 21 & June 22).

ATP announces reform starting next year

Changes include expanded tournaments, profit sharing

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

The ATP men's professional tennis tour announced reforms that include the expansion of five Masters 1000 events and 50-50 profit sharing between players and tournaments starting next year.

Changes approved by the ATP Board also include increased prize money, all the result of more than two years of negotiations.

The "OneVision" phase one plan hopes to increase profits by aggregating tournament revenue into ATP Media and the tour's Tennis Data Innovations.

"Importantly, this will open up major growth opportunities in media and data, two highly scalable revenue streams," the ATP said in a statement.

"Embracing the digital transformation will also shift the tour away from over-reliance on ticketing, a concerted move seen across many other major sports."

Profit sharing

Players will receive audited tournament financials for the first time and "a groundbreaking 50-50 profit sharing formula will align the interests of players and tournaments in growing the game as partners in success."

Starting next year, Masters events in Madrid, Rome and Shanghai will grow from eight-day competitions to 12 days in line with Indian Wells and Miami.

Beginning in 2025, the Canada and Cincinnati events will similarly expand.

Prize money at the five expanded events will increase by more than 35%, the ATP said.

ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi called approval of the plan "a game-changing moment for the tour and a huge collective effort across our sport."

The best: Salah and Kerr. ▪ AFP

PFA Award for Salah and Kerr

FOOTBALL

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah was voted the men's player-of-the-year by fellow professionals in England for the second time, while Chelsea striker Sam Kerr won the women's award.

Salah became only the seventh man to win the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Award more than once after a season in which he scored 23 goals in the Premier League – tied for the top spot with Tottenham's Son Heung-min – and had a league-leading 14 assists.

Despite having his best scoring season in the league, Son didn't make the PFA's team of the year, which contained six players from Liverpool – the runner-up to City in the league – and three City players along with Ronaldo and Antonio Rudiger, the defender who played for Chelsea last season and has since moved to Real Madrid.

Kerr was the top-scorer in the Women's Super League with 20 goals to help Chelsea to the title, with the team also winning the FA Cup.

She is the first Australian player, male or female, to win the award. Harry Kewell won the Young Player of the Year honor in 2000.

The winners: Men's Team of the Year: Alisson (Liverpool), Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool), Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool), Antonio Rudiger (Chelsea), Joao Cancelo (City), Kevin de Bruyne (City), Thiago Alcantara (Liverpool), Bernardo Silva (City), Sadio Mane (Liverpool), Cristiano Ronaldo (United), Mohamed Salah (Liverpool).

Women's Team of the Year: Ann-Katrin Berger (Chelsea), Ona Batlle (United), Leah Williamson (Arsenal), Millie Bright (Chelsea), Alex Greenwood (City), Kim Little (Arsenal), Caroline Weir (City), Guro Reiten (Chelsea Women), Lauren Hemp (City), Sam Kerr (Chelsea), Vivianne Miedema (Arsenal).

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