

**LIVE**

**Foundation Batch**  
First Time Ever



# UPSC IAS

(Pre + Mains)



Batch Starts From



20th June 2022



6:00 pm

**StudyIQ IAS अब तैयारी हुई Affordable**



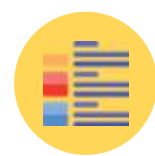
**Live Classes**

900+ Hours of LIVE teaching by top faculties



**One to One mentorship**

To help students in academic and non academic doubts throughout the exam journey



**Crisp Notes**

Handmade notes + supplementary notes of Static and Current Affairs for quick revision



**MCQ based learning**

To get exam ready for Prelims stage of CSE



**Answer Writing Practice**

Regular practice to increase marks in Mains and get closer to the desired rank



**Daily Current Affairs Program (CAP)**

PDF and Videos covering multiple resources relevant for the exam



**Weekly Revision tests**

For Benchmarking of students and tracking regular progress



**Prelims Test Series**

40+ Tests to crack the iron gate (Prelims stage) of UPSC CSE



**Gyanvani Sessions**

Group mentorship with retired Bureaucrats and Senior Mentors



**Success in Prelims (SIP)**

Crash course near Prelims to boost your score

Use Code | **HINDU**

Price ~~₹25000~~ **₹18500**

Visit [studyiq.com](http://studyiq.com) or Download the app



**95-8004-8004**

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



**LIVE**  
**Foundation Batch**



**Mohit Jindal**  
Program Coordinator  
(IIT Alumni, Co-Founder StudyIQ)



Amit Kilhor  
History



Shashank Tyagi  
Polity & International Relations



Kapil Bharadwaj  
Geography



Rahul Saigaonkar  
Science and Technology



Dilip Kumar  
Environment



Shubham Sardhalia  
Society / Internal Security



Prashant Tiwari  
Current Affairs / World History



Nanki Baweja  
Economy



Ankit Agrawal  
Indian Economy (Banking)



Aayush Gupta  
CSAT



Saurabh Tripathi  
Current Affairs



Chand Kubba  
Ethics

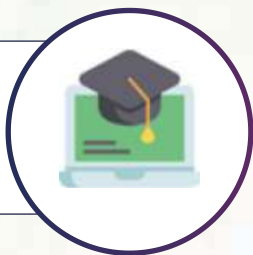


Jasmeet Singh  
Art and Culture

## Why Choose Us?



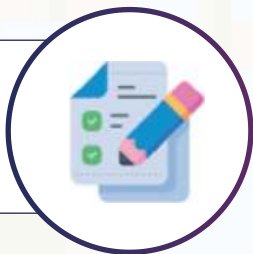
**Personal Guidance and mentors**  
To keep students well connected to the course. Help them in their learning process and learning outcomes. Students can reach us through Whatsapp, email and call.



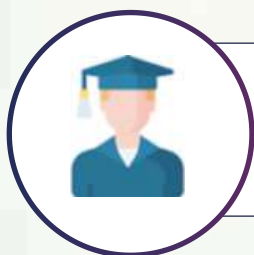
**Online Learning**  
Ease and accessibility of the lectures, student friendly app based ecosystem, well organised study material



**Benchmarking**  
Key performance indicators of students will be done through rigorous testing daily/weekly/monthly time



**Test Series**  
Year long running test series to ace up your game before the D - Day of exam



**Student First Approach**  
which has been the guiding philosophy of Study IQ always

## Schedule

Calendar Dates	Subjects
20th June - 28th July 2022	Polity
29th July - 6th September 2022	History
7th September - 10th October 2022	Geography
12th October - 21st November 2022	Economy
22nd November - 8th December 2022	Society
9th December - 26th December 2022	International Relations
27th December 2022 - 4th January 2023	Internal Security
5th January - 20th January 2023	Science and Tech
20th January - 8th February 2023	Ethics
9th February - 3rd March 2023	Environment
4th March - 10th March 2023	Art and Culture
11th March - 17th March 2023	Disaster Management
18th March - 26th March 2023	World History
27th March - 31st March 2023	Essay

## Mentorship

Mentorship is designed to help the students to calibrate their personality and be ready to face the challenges of the exam cycle. Personal experiences of officers and retired bureaucrats will help the aspirants in aligning their mindset to the nature and ethos of public service.



Mohit Jindal | Ankit Aggarwal | Gaurav Garg | Amrit Upadhyay | Furqan Hashmi | Jasmeet Singh | Dinesh Murthy | Ravi Bohra

Use Code  
**HINDU**

Price  
~~₹25000~~  
**₹18500**

Visit [studyiq.com](http://studyiq.com) or Download the app

**95-8004-8004**

**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO DOWNLOAD THE APP**





**Ajit Doval attends virtual BRICS meeting hosted by Chinese NSA**  
page 12



**U.S. Federal Reserve raises interest rate by 75 bps to tame inflation**  
page 16



**India's trade gap widens as imports surge 63% and exports rise 20.6%**  
page 16



**Hardik named India skipper for T20Is against Ireland**  
page 17

PRINTED AT • CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA

**IN BRIEF**



**Shiv Sena's Hindutva is clean: Aaditya Thackeray**  
**PUNE**  
Shiv Sena's Hindutva is 'clean' and the party has never broken its electoral promises, said Maharashtra's Environment and Tourism Minister Aaditya Thackeray said on Wednesday. The Minister said his Ayodhya visit was not political but a purely devotional one.  
**STATES** ▶ PAGE 4

**BJP expels Rajasthan MLA for cross-voting**  
**JAIPUR**  
The BJP on Wednesday expelled its Rajasthan MLA Shobharani Kushwah for cross-voting in favour of a Congress candidate in the elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from the State. Ms. Kushwah had turned defiant after her suspension from the party last week.  
**NEWS** ▶ PAGE 13

## 17 Opposition parties to field a candidate for Presidential poll

Pawar declines offer; he will host next meeting on June 20 to finalise nominee

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

Kick-starting the consultations on putting up a joint candidate for the Presidential election, 17 Opposition parties attended a meeting hosted by West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress president Mamata Banerjee in New Delhi on Wednesday.

At the end of the 90-minute meeting, the parties came up with a statement expressing their intent to field a common candidate, but no name was finalised.

There was consensus on NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar's name, but he declined the offer. Names of former West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi and former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah are in contention.

The next meeting, hosted



**One platform:** West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, along with Opposition party leaders, in New Delhi on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

by Mr. Pawar, will be held on June 20 in New Delhi to finalise the name. In the meantime, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Pawar and Ms. Banerjee have been allocated the responsibility of speaking to heads of all Opposition parties.

Political activist Sudheendra Kulkarni read out the

democracy and social fabric."

With Ms. Banerjee and Mr. Pawar hosting the two rounds of the meetings on the Presidential election, the Congress lost the opportunity to lead the consultations. In fact, Congress president Sonia Gandhi was the first off the block to reach out to the Opposition leaders to build a consensus soon after the Election Commission announced the poll dates.

The Trinamool had sent invites to 22 leaders. The list included eight Chief Ministers (Arvind Kejriwal, Pinarayi Vijayan, Naveen Patnaik, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, M.K. Stalin, Uddhav Thackeray, Hemant Soren and Bhagwant Mann). Leaders representing 17 political parties attended the meeting.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## ED summons Rahul again

Congress alleges trespass by police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

As former Congress President Rahul Gandhi went in for questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case linked to the *National Herald* newspaper for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, there were tense moments at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters as Delhi police personnel barged into its premises and dragged out workers, including a former Lok Sabha member.

Mr. Gandhi has been summoned again on Friday for further questioning.

**Complaint lodged**

Demanding the registration of an FIR for "criminal trespass" and beating up of workers without any provocation, the Congress said the Delhi police were behaving like the BJP's "private army". Later, the party filed a



**Spirited resistance:** Congress workers protesting in New Delhi on Wednesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

complaint at the Tughlak Road police station.

"This is patently criminal trespass. The goondaism of the Delhi police and the Modi government has reached its zenith," the party's chief spokesperson, Randeep Surjewala, told reporters.

"BJP has truly killed Indian democracy. It doesn't get darker than this," general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal tweeted.

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order Zone-II) Sagar Preet Hooda said

the police personnel deployed at the AICC office had to enter the party office after the workers started throwing barricades at them.

"The workers were resorting to physical violence only after which the police team was ordered to go inside and detain them," Mr. Hooda said.

On Thursday, the party plans to gherao the Raj Bhavans in every State to protest against the police action.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Cabinet approves mega 5G auction

Tech firms can set up captive networks

**Need for speed**  
A look at how 5G compares to previous technologies. 5G's maximum data speed is 10 times higher than the presently used 4G

Year	Generation	Maximum data speed
1979	1G	none (voice only)
1991	2G	14.4 Kbps
2000	2.5G	53.6 Kbps
2001	3G	384 Kbps
2010	4G	100 Mbps
2020	5G	1 Gbps

SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved the auction of airwaves capable of offering fifth generation, or 5G, telecom services, including ultra high-speed internet, and gave its nod for setting up of captive 5G networks by big tech firms.

The auction of over 72 GHz of the spectrum will be held by July-end, said an official statement detailing the decision taken by the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at its meeting held on Tuesday. The spectrum auction will start on July 26, 2022.

Sources said that the Cabinet has approved 5G auctions at reserve prices recommended by the sector

regulator, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

TRAI had earlier recommended about a 39% reduction in the reserve or floor price for the sale of 5G spectrum for mobile services.

While the 5G spectrum in nine frequency bands will be auctioned to telecom operators such as Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio, the Notice Inviting Applications – bid-related document issued by the Department of Telecom (DoT) – said big tech firms for the time being will be allowed to take the 5G spectrum for their captive network, on lease from the telecom companies.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Party leaders, veterans say Army morale may be harmed

Aspirants to armed forces protest against 'Agnipath' scheme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI/GHAZIABAD

The 'Agnipath' scheme has drawn flak from various political parties and some veterans. On Wednesday, a large number of aspirants to the armed forces blocked roads and railway tracks in protest against the new scheme.

Earlier, responding to a media query, Union Minister and former Army chief General V.K. Singh said he was not involved in formulating the scheme and that he did not know much about it.

Targeting the Central government, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter, "When India faces threats on two fronts, the un-called for 'Agnipath' scheme reduces the operational effectiveness of our armed forces. The BJP govt. must stop compromising the dignity, traditions, valour & discipline of our forces."



Youth protesting against the 'Agnipath' scheme in Buxar, Bihar, on Wednesday. • PTI

Sitaram Yechury of the CPI (M) tweeted: "Instead of raising a professional Army, Modi govt. proposes 'soldiers on contract' to save pension money! Training contract soldiers with no other prospects after 3-5 years but to serve private militias! Scrap this anti-national scheme."

Rashtriya Lok Dal president Chaudhary Jayant Singh said temporary recruitment in Army will be detrimental

to the discipline and morale of the Army.

Former Northern Army Commander Lieutenant-General (retd.) D.S. Hooda told *The Hindu*: "Obviously, like any other scheme, there are some advantages... junior leaders would get better, the government will save on the budget expenses. There are certain challenges as well, of people having apprehensions about the training period; whether morale motivation would be as strong as that of those who serve for a longer period of time."

Lieutenant General (retd.) Zameer Uddin Shah described the 'Agnipath' scheme as a "retrograde step" and "the most detrimental measure inflicted on armed forces."

"Let's not destroy our institutions," tweeted Major General (retd.) G.D. Bakshi.

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 12

## Prayagraj police put up posters of suspects

'Identification based on CCTV footage'

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

The police in Prayagraj on Wednesday started putting up posters of people accused of violence during the protest in the city last Friday against the controversial comments made by a former BJP spokesperson on Prophet Muhammad.

Based on CCTV footage of the protest as well as investigation of the case, the police had found more than 40 persons throwing stones or indulging in arson, Ajay Kumar, Senior Superintendent of Police, Prayagraj, said.

These persons identified by the police were absconding, the officer said, adding that the posters would be put up in the area of the incident as well as at railway stations, bus stops and on social media for their identification. The police have so far arrested 97 persons in connection with the protest.



A policeman putting up a poster of suspects at the Atala area in Prayagraj. • PTI

Across Uttar Pradesh, the police have arrested 357 persons, including 85 in Saharanpur, 55 in Hathras, 41 in Ambedkar Nagar, and 40 in Moradabad.

Mr. Kumar said that if the absconding suspects do not surrender before the police or court soon, the police would issue warrants against them or attach their property.

## Daughter of judge held in murder case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The CBI on Wednesday arrested a woman in connection with the murder of national-level shooter and lawyer Sukhmanpreet Singh, aka Sippy Sidhu in Chandigarh in 2015.

The accused, Kalyani Singh, is the daughter of the Acting Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, said an agency official, adding that the case appeared to be that of a relationship gone sour.

Sidhu had started his own law firm in the name of Sippy Sidhu LLLB in Punjab's Mohali. On the night of September 20, 2015, he was gunned down by unknown persons.

After Sidhu's killing, his family had alleged the role of the woman. The local police then questioned her. The victim's relatives held protests seeking justice.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## India a global security power: U.S. top diplomat

'We want India to project this status'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC

India is a global security power and the U.S. is keen for India to project this power, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Donald Lu, said.

During a wide-ranging interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Lu said India was "not only a security provider in the narrow Indian sub-continent" but "a global security power now". "And that's what's in the interest of the United States – that you are militarily ready, but that you are also able to project that power far beyond your borders, because we

are partners that share a common view of the security of Asia and of the world and we want India to be able to project that power."

On wait times for drop-box appointments for HI-B visas at U.S. missions in India, Mr. Lu said the administration was aware of the issue and the missions were fully staffed again (this was not the case earlier due to the pandemic). The visa wait times will go back to pre-pandemic levels "over the next few months", as per Mr. Lu.



Donald Lu

INTERVIEW ▶ PAGE 14

shankariasacademy.com  
iasparliament.com

**SHANKAR IAS ACADEMY**  
The Best IAS Academy in India

**UPCOMING COURSE 2022-2023**

**GENERAL STUDIES PCM FOUNDATION COURSE**

**ADMISSIONS OPEN**

**MAINSTORMING 2022**

- GS Mains Test Series for 2022 & 23
- Essay Test Series
- Optional Test series
- PSIR • History • Geography
- Sociology • Anthropology

WE SPEAK LESS, OUR RESULTS SPEAK MORE.

- Pan India
- 10 in Top 50
- 19 students cleared
- Top Scores in GS
- Mainstorming
- in their first attempt

**261** Selections out of **685** at All India Level

Upper ground floor, 25, Pusa Road, Delhi-110060.

**88991 80180**

TAMIL NADU | DELHI | BENGALURU | THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

**NICEIAS**  
INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SERVICES

Outstanding Performance by  
**Our Sociology Students**

**Our 2021 Toppers**

Anu Kumari AIR 2/2017	Sameer Saurabh AIR 32/2018	Gamini Singla AIR 3	Yaksha Chaudhary AIR 6	Priyamvada Mhaddalkar AIR 13	Namrata Choubey AIR 73
--------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------

And many more ...

**Sociology Courses**

- Regular Classroom Programme regular batch by **Praveen Kishore Sir** Ongoing batch from- 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022
- Next batch from 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- Crash Course cum Test Series programme for Mains-22 starts on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- Test Series cum Mentorship programme for Mains-22 starts on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Our USP**

- Conceptual Clarity
- Comprehensive GS Programme
- GS Programme regular batch for CSE 2023, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2022
- All educators have faced UPSC CSE interview atleast once.
- Free Mentorship & Test Series

JOIN US Telegram

CALL NOW : 7004734098, 011-47065959  
23/59, Old Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-110060

# Court's decision set aside after judge meets a party alone

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court quashed a decision of a family court here concerning the custody of a minor child after the estranged wife protested that the family court judge had shared his mobile number with both parties and even met the father alone in his chamber.

“This court also considers that it was not advisable for the family court judge to have shared his personal mobile number with the parties,” Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma observed, adding, “It is a settled proposition that justice must not only be done but must also appear to have been done”.

The High Court noted that the conduct of the judge in sharing his personal mobile

number with both the parties and admittedly having met one of the party in the chamber had “unnecessarily given a cause of reasonable apprehension of bias”.

“The judges have to remind themselves time and again that each and every conduct is observed and noted by the litigants and therefore, knowingly or unknowingly they may not act in any

manner which gives rise to even slightest of doubt in the minds of the litigants and lawyers,” the High Court said.

After setting aside the family court's orders on the aspect of visitation rights of the father, the High Court asked the family court's judge concerned to keep the matter with himself/herself and decide the same in accordance with the law.

The mother had in her plea challenged the family court judge's order on the ground that it focused solely on the rights of the father and his family.

The mother said that the child had lived with her since she was 18 months old. The father submitted that he has been the primary caregiver of the child, who is now approaching her third birthday.

# 'Kamla Nagar will have a world-class market'

Visitors will get a unique experience after revamp, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia paid a visit to the Kamla Nagar market on Wednesday and said that the Delhi government was chalking out a plan for its redevelopment in consultation with the traders.

“Once the plan is finalised, the project will move at a great pace. We will beautify the area and offer a business-friendly ambience,” Mr. Sisodia said.

Calling Kamla Nagar market an essential part of the Delhi University culture, Mr. Sisodia said that it will become Delhi's pride after being transformed into a “world-class” market.

During his visit, Mr. Sisodia identified the lack of facilities for sanitation, public utilities, and parking, at the market. He said that the



Manish Sisodia called the Kamla Nagar market an essential part of the Delhi University culture. FILE PHOTO

overhead transmission lines will be laid underground as part of the revamp.

He said the government will ensure that the visitors to the market, as well as its traders, get a unique and quality experience.

“Kamla Nagar market is a heritage market of Delhi. It has unfortunately fallen prey to the inadequacies of the MCD. The Delhi govern-

ment has now taken upon itself to revamp and rebrand this market in order to maximise its potential,” the Deputy Chief Minister added.

On Monday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that the Delhi government will redevelop five markets – Kamla Nagar, Khari Baoli, Lajpat Nagar, Sarojini Nagar and Kirti Nagar – as per global standards.

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

**WHEN STUDENTS DO THEIR SCHOOL PROUD**

It was indeed a proud moment for Goodley Public School, Shalimar Bagh, as Shankar Srikumar, an alumnus of 2004 batch made it to the Cannes Film Festival. Shankar, since his school days, always showed keen interest in listening to tales. He debuted at the Cannes Film Festival 2022 with his feature film 'Alpha Beta Gamma' as a writer and director. The school is proud of his journey and wishes him the best for his future endeavours.

**SESSION WITH BUDDING AUTHORS**

Grads International school organised an interactive session with a team of budding authors, consisting of students who just completed their AISSE 2022. Along with their regular school routine, Taksh Bamnavat, Nikita Kachhap, Pooja Yadav and Vinamra Singh Jadoun developed their writing skills and established a start-up publishing company. They already have six books to their credit, at this young age, that have been successfully written, published and are available online. This session was motivating and inspiring for both the students and teachers. Director Dr. Roya Singh, Principal Mrs. Aditi Basu Roy, Vice Principal Mrs. Malaya Paul, teachers, and students were present.

**TOYCATHON**

Manaskriti School, Sector 82, Greater Faridabad, participated in Toycathon, which was introduced to challenge India's innovative minds to conceptualise novel toys and games based on Indian civilization, history, culture, mythology, and ethos. This was held at Manav Rachna University. 150 teams participated from schools across India. Dr. Mohit Ghambir from the Ministry of Education was present. Principal, Mrs. Jyoti Bhalla, congratulated the winning team and appreciated the efforts put in by all the participants.

**FOR SUBSCRIPTION RELATED QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT KAPIL NAGAR:**  
Handphone: +91 9810089457 / Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in

**SECOND ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY**

15-10-1943 16-06-2020

**Dr P C Thomas**  
Founder Principal  
Good Shepherd International School, Ooty

Elsamma Thomas  
Jacob Thomas Julie Pradeesh  
Sara Jacob Pradeesh Lawrence  
Rhea Zackary Praju Eliza

**And all members of the Good Shepherd Family**

**TRAIN REGULATION FOR DOUBLING WORK OVER NORTHERN RAILWAY**

In connection with doubling work in Lucknow Division of Northern Railway, interlocking work will be held on & from 24.06.2022. Consequently following arrangements in train running has been made: • **Short Termination/Short Origination: (i) 13509 Asansol – Gonda Express (J.C.O. 05, 12 & 19.07.2022)** will be short terminated at Mau Jn. and will remain cancelled between Mau Jn. and Gonda. (ii) **13510 Gonda – Asansol Express (J.C.O. 06, 13 & 20.07.2022)** will be short originated from Mau Jn. and will remain cancelled between Gonda and Mau Jn. • **DIVERSION: 13483 Malda Town – Delhi Farakka Express (J.C.O. 24, 26, 28, 29.06.2022, 01, 05, 06, 08, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19 & 20.07.2022)** and **13484 Delhi – Malda Town Farakka Express (J.C.O. 23, 24, 26, 28, 30.06.2022, 01, 05, 07, 08, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17 & 19.07.2022)** will be diverted via Zafarabad – Sultanpur – Lucknow in both directions. Inconvenience is regretted.

**Chief Passenger Transportation Manager**

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Follow us at: @EasternRailway Eastern Railway Headquarter

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	UHBVN	33 KV C&R PANEL	CLOSING DATE 04.07.2022	1.73 CRORE	www.uhbvn.org.in TENDER No- 03/ XEN/PI/MM/ QH-2571 dated 10.06.2022	9316586886 cemm@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in SAMVAD - 13/2023/40/10347/11997

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

**SHIRT up to 60% off**  
TROUSER & JEANS SALE  
Formal & Party Wear

**ARROW ColorPlus PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE**

- PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-14-RT. The details are as under:

1. Name of the work :	Overhauling of Air Dryers of Trident make of Electric Locomotive
2. Approx. cost of work:	Rs. 47,87,984.52
3. Earnest Money to be deposited:	Rs. 95,800.00
4. Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender:	05-07-2022(11:00 Hrs.)
5. Date & Time of opening of tender document:	05-07-2022(After 11:00 Hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen :	www.ireps.gov.in

Note:  
1. The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in e-tender system.  
2. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.  
3. No manual offers are acceptable.  
4. Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-14-RT dtd. 14.06.2022 1452/2022  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**CITY UNION BANK LIMITED**  
Credit Recovery and Management Department  
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

**RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**

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.8,04,02,643/- (Rupees Eight Crore Four Lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Three Only) as on 17-02-2022 together with further interest to be charged from 18-02-2022 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the bank by the borrowers/guarantors No.1 M/s. Geeta Enterprises, at RZ-32, Block-B, Old Roshanpura, Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043. No.2 Mr. Hari Ram Gupta, S/o. Hari Lal Gupta, at RZ-32, Block-B, Old Roshanpura, Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043. No.3 Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, W/o. Hari Ram Gupta, at RZ-32, Block-B, Old Roshanpura, Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043. No.4 M/s. G.P.S Fire & Safety Co., at RZ-38, B - Block, Old Roshanpura, Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043. No.5 Mr. Sanjay Gupta, S/o. Hari Ram Gupta at RZ - 32, Block - B, Old Roshanpura, Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043. No.6) Mrs. Anju Gupta, W/o. Sanjay Gupta, at RZ-32, Block-B, Old Roshanpura, Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043.

Note: 1) That our 208 - New Delhi - Janakpuri Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (FITL - ADHOC: 501912090019248) dated 28-03-2021 requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for which No.3 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a total amount of Rs.15,50,000/- at a ROI of 11%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 28-03-2019 and the outstanding balance as on 17-02-2022 is Rs.17,51,690/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Sixty One Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Nine Only) plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 18-02-2022 till the date of realization.

2) That our 208 - New Delhi - Janakpuri Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (FITL - ADHOC: 501912090019247) dated 12-02-2021 requested by No.4 of you represented by No.5 of you as Proprietor for which Nos.2 to 6 of you stood as Co-obligants and No.3 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a total amount of Rs.13,35,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh and Thirty Five Thousand Only) at a ROI of 12.75% and the balance outstanding as on 17-02-2022 is Rs.15,43,953/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Forty Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Three Only).

**Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank**  
Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mrs. Pushpa Gupta, W/o. Hari Ram Gupta)

All that piece of Property Plot No.38, Out of Khasra No.498 of Village Roshanpura Extn., Najafgarh, Delhi - 110043 area admeasuring 175 Sq.Yards and the same bounded as under: North - Plot No.39, South - Gali No.37, East - Road 25 Ft. wide, West - Gali (with the superstructure built up thereon).

**Reserve Price: Rs.1,07,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seven Lakh only)**

**RE-AUCTION DETAILS**

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
07-07-2022	City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi - Janakpuri Branch, Ground Floor, Door No.30, Block-B1, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Delhi - 110058. Telephone No.011-25555343, Cell No.9311542475

**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 Ltd. New Delhi - Janakpuri Branch, Ground Floor, Door No.30, Block-B1, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Delhi - 110058. (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 Limited, 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.011-25555343, Cell No.9311542475. (5) The properties are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-theres-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 such an event, the sale shall be conducted on the basis of the highest bid, however, it is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges / fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (8) The successful purchaser shall pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (9) 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. (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: 14-06-2022 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110T1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

**CITY UNION BANK LIMITED**  
Credit Recovery and Management Department  
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

**RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**

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.7,91,38,312/- (Rupees Seven Crore Ninety One Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Twelve Only) as on 17-11-2021 together with further interest to be charged from 18-11-2021 onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers/ Guarantors No.1) M/s. Abhinav & Adithya, 1775, Gali Lattu Shah, Dariba Katan, Delhi - 110006. No.2) Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal, S/o. Om Prakash Aggarwal, Also, Karta of M/s. Sanjeevkumar & Sons (HUF), B-9, Ganapati Apartment, 6 Shammath Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi - 110054. No.3) Mrs. Shika Aggarwal, W/o. Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal, B-9, Ganapati Apartment, 6 Shammath Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi - 110054. No.4) Mr. Abhinav, S/o. Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal, B-9, Ganapati Apartment, 6 Shammath Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi - 110054. No.5) Mr. Adithya, S/o. Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal, B-9, Ganapati Apartment, Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal, 6 Shammath Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi - 110054. No.6) M/s. Sanjeevkumar & Sons (HUF), B-9, Ganapati Apartment, 6 Shammath Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi - 110054.

Note: That our 253 - Delhi - Chandini Chowk Branch has also extended financial assistance (FITL - ADHOC: 501912090016515) dated 04-09-2020 requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for which No.2 and 3 of you stood as Co-obligants for the facility for a total amount of Rs.32,73,000/- at a ROI of 10.50%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 30-11-2020 and the outstanding balance as on 17-11-2021 is Rs.37,62,199/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 18-11-2021 till the date of realization.

**Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank**  
(Property Owned by M/s. Sanjeevkumar & Sons (HUF))

One Flat bearing Private No.B.9 First Floor having Super Area 2,203 square feet, a part of property bearing No.6, Area admeasuring 11,150 sq.yards approx 9,323 square meters, situated at Alipur Road, Civil Lines, Delhi - 110054 along with one temporary/portable servant quarter admeasuring 64 square feet and bounded as under: East - Open area below, West - Flat No.B.10 Open Area below, North - Other Flats, South - Entrance of Flat Common Staircase Open Area.

**Reserve Price: Rs.4,25,00,000/- (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Five Lakh Only)**

**RE-AUCTION DETAILS**

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
05-07-2022	City Union Bank Limited, Delhi - Chandini Chowk Branch, 1917-18, 1st Floor, Opp. Gurudwara Srisanj Sahib, Chandini Chowk, Delhi - 110006. Telephone No.011-23929803, Cell No.9350011163

**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, Delhi - Chandini Chowk Branch, 1917-18, 1st Floor, Opp. Gurudwara Srisanj Sahib, Chandini Chowk, Delhi - 110006. (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.011-23929803, Cell No.9350011163. (5) The properties are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-theres-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: 14-06-2022 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110T1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

**Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India**

**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**

**Grand Challenge India call on Diagnostics for Neglected Tropical Disease Lymphatic Filariasis**

Jointly funded by

visit [www.birac.nic.in/grandchallengesindia/](http://www.birac.nic.in/grandchallengesindia/) for program details and online application form

**Deadline for submission JULY 21, 2022, 5 PM (IST)**

**CALL OBJECTIVES**

- To explore alternative tests that meet or exceed the current Filariasis Test Strip (FTS) or microfilaria detection tools.
- To seek novel methods for identifying viable adult filarial worms in the human body, i.e., the absence of signal must indicate the worms are either not present, dead or Permanently sterilized (as would be needed for stopping decisions).
- Identifying new methods specific for early exposure or pre-patent infection of LF causative species (as would be needed for surveillance).

**Contact Us**  
Grand Challenges India (GCI-BIRAC)  
Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (A Government of India Enterprise)  
First Floor, MTNL Building, 9, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003  
[www.birac.nic.in](http://www.birac.nic.in)  
GCI-BIRAC website: [www.birac.nic.in/grandchallengesindia](http://www.birac.nic.in/grandchallengesindia)  
Telephone: +91-1124389600

**For Enquiries**  
Please Email: Mission Director, GCI-BIRAC at [mdpmbmgf@birac.nic.in](mailto:mdpmbmgf@birac.nic.in), [pmubmgf@birac.nic.in](mailto:pmubmgf@birac.nic.in), [pmubmgf5@birac.nic.in](mailto:pmubmgf5@birac.nic.in) with the subject line: Grand Challenges India Call on NTD or call us at +91-1124389600

Please visit the BIRAC website at [www.birac.nic.in](http://www.birac.nic.in) and follow the link to the ONLINE registration and submission portal.

**Timings**  
**DELHI**

**THURSDAY, JUN. 16**  
RISE 05:24 SET 19:21  
RISE 21:41 SET 06:58

**FRIDAY, JUN. 17**  
RISE 05:24 SET 19:21  
RISE 22:33 SET 08:09

**SATURDAY, JUN. 18**  
RISE 05:24 SET 19:22  
RISE 23:18 SET 09:20

**Delhi Weather** max min

Delhi City 42 29  
Safdarjang 42 29  
Palam 43 29

**Delhi Palam Today**  
40°C The weather will be very hot and uneasy. Night will be comfortable. Dust storm with rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
38°C One or two spells of rain and thundershower with gusty winds. may occur at some places with cloudy sky.

© Copyright SkyMet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.

**THE HINDU**  
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT. LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

# 'Do away with archaic language in official papers'

LG tells govt. depts. to factor in contemporary needs

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena has instructed government departments to do away with the colonial practice of using "archaic language" in official communication and documents, Raj Niwas sources said on Wednesday.

Sources added that Mr. Saxena told officials that archaic words and terms that are still being used in departments such as the police, land records and the lower judiciary, should be changed and updated as per the "contemporary linguistic needs" of the people.

## Positive impact

The move would mean doing away with the use of Farsi in official communication and documentation, sources said. The aim of doing away with archaic language in official communication is in-



Delhi L-G V.K. Saxena.

tended to positively impact the interface between the citizens and the government, in the run-up to the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations this year.

Mr. Saxena issued the directions after chairing a review meeting on the 'Ease of Doing Business' recently.

Sources said the L-G has asked Home and Revenue Department officials to simplify the language used in police summons, FIRs, land records, mutation and regis-

try documents etc. to make public interaction with these government departments "easier and people-friendly".

"It was suggested by the L-G that even as government departments start this exercise, courts could be requested to simplify the language used in various legal matters and documents," a source said.

## List of reforms

Sources said the L-G has also instructed officials to prepare a department-wise list of reforms that could be introduced to make them more accessible for the public.

He also asked the departments concerned to seek public opinion on such matters. Sources added that based on the feedback and viability of the suggestions, specific reforms will be introduced.

# DDA to hold draw of lots for Kalkaji JJ dwellers

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is likely to hold a draw of lots for 950 eligible JJ households at Bhoomiheen Camp in Kalkaji on Friday.

The dwellers will receive economically weaker section (EWS) houses as part of the agency's in-situ slum rehabilitation project at A-14 Kalkaji Extension, said a senior DDA official on Wednesday.

In February, the urban body had conducted a draw of lots for 679 households

(out of 2,700) from the JJ cluster. Deficiency letters were issued to the remaining households. They were requested to submit the necessary documents.

A total of 2,700 households from the JJ cluster are to be allotted EWS flats under the Kalkaji project, which was conceived in 2011.

"We will have to see whether we can accommodate some households from the nearby JJ clusters at the Kalkaji site as well. But that will be subject to various factors," said the official.

# '228 policemen died in road accidents between 2010-2021'

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

A head constable wrote to Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana urging him to take steps towards road safety and ensuring that police personnel follow the traffic rules.

Citing an RTI query, Sandeep Kumar, a head constable at the Patel Nagar police station in central Delhi said 228 police personnel were killed in road accidents between 2010 and 2021. The victims were from across 27 police units up to the rank of ACP.

Mr. Kumar further mentioned that he has been injured twice in accidents at Daryaganj and Moti Nagar. Since then, he has been raising awareness about road safety measures.

In his letter, Mr. Kumar said the number of deaths of police personnel due to road accidents was higher than those who had died in encounters with terrorists and criminals. Most of those who died were constables, he said. The RTI also stated that 233 persons had died in road accidents between January and March this year.

# KERALA LENDS HELPING HAND TO CHILDREN IDENTIFIED WITH SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY (SMA)

Government of Kerala is initiating proactive steps to diagnose, treat and manage children identified with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Parents of children affected by SMA are requested to apply for treatment assistance in the prescribed format given in the website of Arogyakeralam (arogyakeralam.gov.in) and Dept. of Health Services (dhs.kerala.gov.in).

**Filled-in applications can be sent to** State Nodal Officer, Child Health, Office of SMD, DHS Compound, Thiruvananthapuram. Pin. 695035 as registered post or scan and mail to ch.nhm@kerala.gov.in

172 applications have been received by Govt. seeking treatment assistance so far. Treatment expense will range from 24 lakhs to 72 lakhs per child. In order to facilitate expert medical treatment to said children and support this noble initiative, donations are solicited from generous and broad-minded people across the country.

**DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO**

## STATE BANK OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, City (70028)  
Account No: **39229924684**  
IFSC Code: **SBIN0070028**

For more information contact **DISHA** tele helpline. **1056, 104** (toll free)/ **0471 2552056**



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

# MADE EASY

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs\*

Under the leadership of **B. Singh Sir**  
CMD, MADE EASY & NEXT IAS

*Once again* **MADE EASY students top in ESE & GATE**

### ESE 2021 Toppers

<b>1</b> AIR CE Kartikay Kaushik	<b>1</b> AIR ME Vineet Kumar	<b>1</b> AIR EE Abhishek Kumar Sharma	<b>1</b> AIR E&T Kuldeep
-------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

4 Streams 4 Toppers all 4 MADE EASY Students    40 in Top 10    185 out of 194 vacancies

### GATE 2022 Toppers

<b>1</b> AIR CE Abhishek Agrawal	<b>1</b> AIR ME Nikhil Kumar Saha	<b>1</b> AIR EE Gaurav Kumar	<b>1</b> AIR CS Abhinav Garg	<b>1</b> AIR IN Macherla Pranith Kumar	<b>1</b> AIR PI Sourabh Patel	<b>1</b> AIR ES Saurabh Singh Yadav
-------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

7 All India Rank 1 (CE, ME, EE, IN, CS, PI, ES)    69 in Top 10    116 in Top 20    470 in Top 100

## ADMISSION OPEN IN FOUNDATION COURSES

for **GATE 2023** | **GATE + ESE 2023**

### CLASSROOM COURSES

**Salient Features**

- ✓ Classes by experienced & renowned faculties.
- ✓ Exam-oriented learning ecosystem.
- ✓ Systematic subject sequence & timely syllabus completion.
- ✓ Efficient teaching with comprehensive coverage.
- ✓ Similar teaching pedagogy in online and offline classes.
- ✓ Concept building through solving workbooks.
- ✓ Comprehensive & updated study material.
- ✓ Regular performance assessment through class tests.

**New batches commencing from**

16<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

  
and  

30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

Streams : CE, ME, EE, EC, CS

### LIVE-ONLINE COURSES

**Salient Features**

- ✓ Teaching pedagogy similar to offline classes.
- ✓ Interaction and doubt chat with subject experts.
- ✓ Unique concept of problem-solving through workbooks.
- ✓ Convenience and flexibility of 24\*7 learning.
- ✓ Comprehensive & updated study materials.
- ✓ Systematic subject sequence & timely syllabus completion.
- ✓ User-friendly and intuitive learner interface.
- ✓ Regular assessment through tests & quizzes.

**New batches commencing from**

16<sup>th</sup> June & 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

**Morning Batches** (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

CE (Hinglish) | ME (Hinglish)

**Evening Batches** (2:30 PM - 10:00 PM)

CE, ME, EE, EC, CH (Hinglish) | CE, ME, EE, EC, CS, IN (English)

Facility to Convert Online to Offline

**Corporate Office : 44 - A/1, Kalu Sarai, Near Hauz Khas Metro, New Delhi - 16 | Ph : 9021300500**

**MADE EASY Centres : Delhi | Hyderabad | Jaipur | Bhopal | Lucknow | Bhubaneswar | Pune | Patna | Kolkata**

www.madeeasy.in



**JOIN OUR**  
**WhatsApp**  
**GROUP**

## IN BRIEF



## Justice B.S. Patil is Karnataka Lokayukta

**BENGALURU**  
Justice B.S. Patil, who was a Upa Lokayukta since 2019 and in-charge of Karnataka Lokayukta ever since Justice P. Vishwanath Shetty retired in January 2022, was sworn in as Lokayukta on Wednesday.

## Doctor falls to death in Bengaluru

**BENGALURU**  
A 32-year-old doctor working in Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru, died after falling from the 11th floor of his residential apartment at Amruthalli on Wednesday. The deceased, Pruthvikanth Reddy, is a native of Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh. The police have shifted the body for post-mortem while initiating an investigation to ascertain the cause of death.

## Efforts to convince RBI on borrowings go in vain

**HYDERABAD**  
The Telangana government's efforts to convince the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to raise resources to meet its financial commitments appear to have not yielded results as the apex bank continued to insist on viability and bankability of the projects for which loans have been sanctioned.

## CBI arrests Labour official on bribery charge

**VIJAYAWADA**  
Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Ministry of Labour & Employment, Vijayawada, Punnamalli Bapuji, was arrested by the CBI for reportedly demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹25,000 from a complainant. Searches were also conducted at the residence and on the office premises of the accused and incriminating documents were seized.

## BJP, Cong. win one seat each in MLC polls

Counting is still on for the two graduates' seats in which both national parties are leading in one each

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

On a day when the former Chairman and BJP nominee Basavaraj Horatti won a record eighth successive electoral battle, the ruling BJP and Congress won one seat each in teachers' constituencies and were leading in one seat each in the graduates' constituencies (at the time of going to press) in the keenly fought elections to the Legislative Council.

The BJP won the Karnataka West Teachers' seat and was leading in the Karnataka Northwest Graduates' constituency, while the Congress won the Karnataka North-west Teachers' constituency and was leading in the Karnataka South Graduates' constituency.

Before the election result, the BJP held 38 seats in the 75-member Upper House.

The Congress and the Janata Dal(Secular) held 24

and nine seats, respectively, in the House.

Mr. Horatti's record came in the West Teachers' constituency where he trounced his one-time associate and Congress candidate Basavaraj Gurikar by a margin of 4,669 votes. Mr. Horatti polled 9,266 votes while Mr. Gurikar polled 4,597 votes.

The election was necessitated as the term of Mr. Horatti, BJP's Arun Shahpur (North-west Teachers), and Hanumanth Nirani (North-west Graduates), and K.T. Srikanth Gowda (South Graduates) of the Janata Dal(Secular) comes to an end on July 4. Of the four, Mr. Horatti, who shifted from the JD(S) to the BJP days before he filed his nomination papers, resigned from his membership to the Council as well as from the Chairman's post. The JD(S) changed the candidature of Mr. Gowda.

In the North-west Teach-



The Returning Officer handing over the certificate of election to Basavaraj Horatti in Belagavi on Wednesday. ■ P.K. BADIGER

ers constituency, the Congress pulled off a victory against the BJP as senior party leader Prakash Hukkeri defeated incumbent BJP MLC Arun Shahpur by a margin of 5,055 votes. Mr. Hukkeri polled 11,460 votes as against 6,405 votes polled by Mr. Shahpur. Conceding de-

feat, Mr. Shahpur said he would accept the voters' verdict.

With the transferable preferential voting system in place, the counting took time. The results of the teachers' constituencies came early since the number of votes polled was less.

In the South Graduates constituency, which saw an intense triangular fight, Madhu Made Gowda, the Congress candidate and son of late farmers' leader G. Made Gowda, was leading by 2,958 votes when 49,700 votes, which is about half of the votes polled, had been counted. He had polled 16,137 first preference votes to lead from his nearest rival BJP candidate M.V. Ravishankar, who had polled 13,179. The JD(S) candidate Ramu was trailing behind in third place with 8,512 votes.

The results of the North-west Graduates constituency where Mr. Hanumanth Nirani, brother of Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani, was leading at the end of the fourth round of counting with a total of 27,580 first preference votes, a lead by 21,554 over Congress candidate Sunil Sunk, who polled 6,036 votes.

## HC quashes defamation case against IPS officer

She wrote on irregularities in prison

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

In a relief to senior IPS officer D. Roopa, the High Court of Karnataka has quashed a defamation case filed against her by H.N. Sathyanarayana Rao, IPS officer (retd.), in connection with the contents of an official letter that she had written to him when he was in service.

She had, in her 2017 letter, referred to various irregularities at the Central prison in Bengaluru, and the speculation around allegations of corruption against Mr. Rao, who was then heading the Department of



D. Roopa

Prisons. The High Court said that the defamation case cannot be continued as no prior sanction was either sought nor granted by the competent authority under Section 197 of the CrPc.

## 99.26% pass in Kerala SSLC examinations

Staff Reporter

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**  
The shadow cast by COVID-19 notwithstanding, the pass percentage in the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) examinations in Kerala this year remained above 99% for the second consecutive year.

As much as 99.26% of the students who wrote the SSLC exams became eligible for higher studies. This is 0.21 percentage point lower than the record 99.47% last year. The number of students who secured A+ in all subjects was 44,363. No grace marks were allowed this year, Education Minister said.

## A.P. committee on Pegasus spyware meets

Panel to summon officers involved

Staff Reporter

**VIJAYAWADA**  
The House Committee formed by Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Thammineni Seetharam to probe the alleged purchase of Pegasus spyware and phone tapping with its help during the Telugu Desam Party regime, met under the chairmanship of MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy at the Secretariat on Wednesday.

Addressing the media later, Mr. Karunakar Reddy said the gathering of information by the TDP government about political parties and individuals through sur-

reptitious means was anti-democratic and had far-reaching security implications. The main point on the agenda was the comment purportedly made by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee that her government had spurned an offer to buy the spyware but the then government of Andhra Pradesh purchased the equipment.

One of the main allegations was that the TDP government had even kept the voters under surveillance by using their personal data in brazen violation of the Indian Telegraph Act, Information Technology Act, etc.

## 'Nexus of gangsters' will be wiped out: Kejriwal

Delhi, Punjab CMs flag off bus service



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann during the flag-off ceremony of Volvo buses to Delhi's IGI Airport, in Jalandhar on Wednesday. ■ PTI

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH**

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said the "nexus of gangsters" would be soon wiped out from Punjab.

Mr. Kejriwal was speaking in Jalandhar after the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and he jointly flagged off a bus service to the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi from the city.

## Blames SAD, Cong.

Hitting out at the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Congress, Mr. Kejriwal blamed them for "nurturing gangster culture" by openly patronising criminals in Punjab. He added that after the formation of the AAP government, political patronage of these gangsters has ended and they will soon be put behind bars.

He said the "mafia" was being dealt with an iron hand in Punjab as the State government had zero tolerance towards it. He alleged that the previous government had been patronising anti-social elements, but the AAP government in Punjab would not spare anyone guilty of crimes. He said special efforts were being made to ensure discipline amongst the inmates of jails. He also

attacked "VIP treatment" inside jail premises.

The Delhi Chief Minister said the luxury bus facility would be smoother and more beneficial, especially for the Punjabi diaspora. He added that the AAP government was an honest one, and it has been working in a transparent manner, thus paving the way for the implementation of pro-people initiatives.

Mr. Mann said by starting the bus service to the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport, the Punjab government has fulfilled its promise to the people of ending the monopoly of private transporters.

His government has the mandate of the people to eliminate the "mafia", he said, and added, "With the rolling of these buses, transport mafia will also be a thing of the past."

Blaming the successive Congress and SAD governments for not plying government buses to the airport, he alleged that the vested interests of these leaders prohibited them from doing so.

Congress State president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring alleged that Mr. Kejriwal did not allow the Punjab State transport buses to ply up to the Delhi airport when the Congress was in power in Punjab.

## Panel seeks report on bridge for tribal hamlets

Concrete arch to be built in Nilambur

Staff Reporter

**MALAPPURAM**  
The State Human Rights Commission has directed the Scheduled Tribes Development Department (STDD) to inform the commission within a month about the progress of the proposed concrete bridge across the Chaliyar river connecting the marooned tribal hamlets of Kumbalappara, Tharippapotti, Vaniyampuzha and Iruttukuthi in Pothukal panchayat near Nilambur.

Last month, the commission had ordered that the Scheduled Tribes Development Department to construct a concrete bridge for the 100-odd tribal families living in the four hamlets across the Chaliyar.

The tribal families were marooned since the floods of 2018 destroyed two bridges connecting the hamlets

with the mainland at Munderi.

Although the Revenue department led by the then District Collector Jaffar Malik had constructed a hanging bridge by collecting funds from their colleagues, the floods of 2019 destroyed that structure also.

## Ensuing blame-game

Different government departments were engaged in a blame game as the tribespeople continued to appeal for a bridge since then. They were risking their lives by depending on bamboo rafts to cross the river, especially during the monsoon.

Human Rights Commission member K. Baijunath directed the Scheduled Tribes Development Department director to furnish a report about the progress of the construction of the bridge within a month.

## Imaginary battles



Cut and thrust: A view of the Oachira Kali ritual in progress at the Oachira padanilam in Kollam on Wednesday. The festival to commemorate the battle between the erstwhile kingdoms of Kayamkulam and Ambalappuzha has men and boys dressed as warriors engaged in a mock battle, held on the first two days of the Malayalam month of Midhunam. ■ C. SURESHKUMAR

## 3 held for stealing from police control centre

Goods worth ₹38 lakh pinched

Staff Reporter

**HYDERABAD**  
Three out of four people who allegedly stole copper wire bundles worth ₹38 lakh from the Police Command and Control Centre (CCC) in Banjara Hills were caught by Hyderabad police. All four accused were employed in various positions at the CCC — a State surveillance behemoth which is under construction.

One of the accused is a store helper, two were in security wing, and the fourth is an ambulance driver. The copper wire bundles stolen from a store in the building was taken away in an ambulance.

The police said that Shankar Kumar, store helper, and Sonu Khan, ambulance driver, plotted to steal the copper wires. Sourab Biswas worked as security guard and Bikash Ranjan Behera

was the security supervisor. Sonu Khan, who owns the ambulance, was employed at the construction site since the past four years.

Banjara Hills police inspector K. Nageswar Rao said that the four had started stealing the bundles from April 21 of this year.

Whenever there was a chance, they loaded the bundles in the ambulance. Since Sonu was a familiar face at the construction site, and as the vehicle was an ambulance, nobody used to check it.

They sold the bundles at three scrap stores, which agreed to pay around ₹600 to ₹700 per kg. Each bundle weighed around 100 kg. As per their agreement, the accused were paid around ₹3.7 lakh, and the rest was assured to be paid after melting the wires, said the police.

## Drones to drop balls with 11 lakh seeds

Major step to turn the Yogula Parvatham hillocks south of Tirupati greener

A.D. RANGARAJAN

**TIRUPATI**  
A whopping 11 lakh seeds are set to be sown on the hillocks abutting the Rayalacheruvu tank, 20 km south of Tirupati, in a bid to turn the landscape greener.

Pratap Swami of Ekaveera Seva Foundation, in association with Bhakta Malla Reddy Global Foundation (BMRGF), has taken the initiative to make green the hillock, which is referred to as Yogula Parvatham, going by the local folklore that the hillock was home to many saints and sages in the past.

Eleven lakh seeds mixed in clay are moulded in the shape of balls, to be air-dropped over the hillocks. "The seeds have been procured from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. We have



On the ball: Clay balls containing seeds are readied to be sown through drones near Tirupati. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

roped in 3,000 volunteers, mostly local villagers, to prepare the clay balls, which will be dropped through drones this Saturday," says Pratap Swami.

an idea to plant 31 different varieties of massive trees with a wider canopy such as neem, pongamia, custard apple, fig, teak, tamarind, gooseberry, palash, wood apple (Maredu), banyan, sandalwood, red sanders, jammi, jamun, plum and so on.

"This will also ensure a permanent habitat and make the region rich with biodiversity, attracting visiting animals and birds", adds BMRGF representative Sumathi Reddy.

The hillock is expected to be thronged by around 10,000 visitors on the day, when Tirupati Superintendent of Police P. Parameswara Reddy formally kickstarts the ambitious project on the Kuppambadur-Appalayagunta road.

## Eminent Urdu scholar passes away

Gopi Chand Narang's works blazed a new trail in understanding nuances of Urdu

Anuj Kumar

**NEW DELHI**  
Eminent Urdu scholar and former president of Sahitya Akademi Prof. Gopi Chand Narang passed away in the United States on Wednesday. The 91-year-old was living with his son Dr. Tarun Narang in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Through his perceptive analysis, academic rigour, and theoretical grounding, Prof. Narang was instrumental in making literary criticism a full-fledged branch of knowledge in Urdu literature.

A prolific writer with some 60 books to his credit, Prof. Narang's seminal work *Urdu Ghazal aur Hindustani Zehn-o Tahzeeb* is remembered for examining



and tracing the roots of the genius of the Urdu ghazal. Narang never saw ghazal as merely a love poem. He explored its philosophical complexity and maintained that its communication with absolute consciousness is in sync with the Upanishadic philosophy.

His works, *Hindustani*

*Qisson Se Makhooz Urdu Masnaviyan and Hindustani Ki Tehreek-e-Azadi aur Urdu Shayari*, blazed a new trail in understanding not only the nuances of Urdu prose and poetry but also the socio-cultural context in which they were penned.

Prof. Narang devoted his entire life in extricating Urdu from the confines of orthodoxy and communalism. He would always say that language will adjust and survive, like a river, it keeps changing its bank.

Born in Dukki town of Balochistan, Prof. Narang inherited the love for Urdu literature from his father. Starting his teaching career at St. Stephen's College, Prof. Narang taught at the Delhi University, University of Wisconsin,

University of Minnesota, and the University of Oslo.

In Wisconsin, Prof. Narang, spent time with Nobel laureate Prof. Har Gobind Khorana. While Prof. Khorana chose to move to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for better labs, Prof. Narang returned to his social lab in India to teach at Jamia Millia Millia Islamia and re-joined Delhi University in 1986.

In 1995, Prof. Narang won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his comprehensive work *Sakhtiyat, Pas-Sakhtiyat aur Mashriqui Sheriyat* (Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, and Eastern Poetics). He was charged with plagiarism but over a period of time, the accusations could not stand literary scrutiny.

# Punjab police interrogate Lawrence Bishnoi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who was brought under heavy security to Punjab from Delhi in the early hours of Wednesday, is being questioned at length in singer Sidhu Moosewala murder case.

Bishnoi is being quizzed at the Crime Investigation Agency office in Kharar near here, sources said.

After he was brought from Delhi, the gangster was produced before a court in Mansa district which remanded him in seven-day police custody.

As per an official statement issued here on Tuesday evening, Bishnoi has been named as an accused and conspirator in the murder case of the singer.

## Transit remand

A Delhi court on Tuesday granted the Punjab Police the transit remand of Bishnoi to take him to Punjab in the case.

**Govt. of Jharkhand Energy Department**  
**Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)**  
 3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002  
 Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

**e-Procurement Notice (Urgent)**  
**Tender reference no.: 09/JREDA/SPV/AIRPORT/22-23 Dated: 15.06.2022**

Online bids are invited for the work of Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 600 kWp of Grid connected SPV Power Plants including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis for solarization of Bokaro Airport in Jharkhand. The details are as follows:

1	Name of the work	Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 600 kWp of Grid connected SPV Power Plants including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis for solarization of Bokaro Airport in Jharkhand.
2	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Rs. 2,70,00,000.00
3	Tentative quantity (kWp)	600 kWp
4	Completion of work	06 (Six) Months
5	Period of contract	5 years and 6 Months
6	Date of publication of NIT on website: http://jrhkhandtenders.gov.in	16.06.2022 (Thursday)
7	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	24.06.2022 (Friday) at 2.00 P.M.
8	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	04.07.2022 (Monday) upto 05:00 PM
9	Submission of original copies of Bid fee & EMD (Offline)	04.07.2022 and 05.07.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.
10	Technical Bid Opening Date	06.07.2022 (Wednesday) at 3.00 P.M.
11	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA), 3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 (Jharkhand)
12	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/67/61
13	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/67/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: <http://jrhkhandtenders.gov.in> & [www.jreda.com](http://www.jreda.com). Further details can be seen on website: <http://jrhkhandtenders.gov.in> & [www.jreda.com](http://www.jreda.com) Sd/-  
**Director**  
**JREDA, Ranchi**  
 PR 271619 Energy (22-23)\_D

## SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



General public is hereby informed that this person namely Dilip Gupta S/o Bhola Gupta R/o G-468, Janta Enclave, Gali No. 12, Prem Nagar-III, Kirari, Delhi Age : 55 years, Height : 5'3", Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Build: Medium, wearing white colour shirt, black colour pant and black colour chappal in feet, has been missing since 26.05.2022 from his house. In this regard GD No. 124-A dated 27.05.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.  
**E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in**  
**Fax: 24368639, Ph: 011-2548980**  
**SHO : P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi**  
**Tel.: 24368638/24368641 Ph: 011-25489800**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely: Khushi, D/o Rakesh, R/o: H.No. 123, Sunar Wali Gali, Vill-Kanjhawala, Delhi, Age: 16 Years, Height: 143 Cms, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Build: Medium, Hair: Long, Wearing: Orange Colour Sui & Grey Jeans Pant and Slippers in foot has been missing since 28.04.2022 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 293/2022, Dated 29.04.2022, has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about this missing girl please inform to the following:-  
**Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in**  
**E-Mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Fax: 011-23011334**  
**DP/1467/RD/2022**  
**SHO P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi**  
**Ph: 011-25952485, 7065036125**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that this boy namely Vishal, S/o Late Babu Lal Jaiswal, R/o H.No. 1594, Gali Madarsa Meer Jumla, Lal Kuan, Delhi. Age 30 years, Height 5'9", Complexion Fair, Long Face, Thin Built, Identification he is mentally Disturbed, Wearing Blue colour T-shirt, grey colour lower and hawai chappal in feet has been missing since 10.10.2019 from his house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this boy but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 68-A dated 14.10.2019 has been lodged at PS Hazu Qazi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing boy may kindly inform to the following.  
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in**  
**Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Fax: 011-23011334**  
**Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218**  
**DP/1563/CD/2022**  
**SHO PS: Hauz Qazi, Delhi**  
**Ph: 011-23210414, 23212482**  
**8750870425**

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one Female namely Unknown D/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age about 20-30 years, Height about 160cm, Wearing Black Colour T-shirt & Payjama highly decomposed was found on covered Nala situated between 80 foota road & Green belt, Near Patthar Market, Singhola, Delhi on 13.06.2022. In this regard a Case FIR No. 448/22 dated 13.06.2022 U/s 302 IPC has been registered at PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased female may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.  
**SHO PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi**  
**Ph. 011-27787594**  
 DP/1918/ON/2022

## SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Rupesh Kumar, S/o Laleswar Singh, R/o U-189, Mangolpuri, Delhi. Age 22 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Wheatish, Long Face, Wearing Red colour shirt, blue colour jeans pant and black colour shoes in feet has been missing/ Kidnapped since 13.04.2022. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this boy but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 77-A dated 14.04.2022 has been lodged at PS Raj Park, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/Kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following.  
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in**  
**Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Fax: 011-23011334**  
**Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218**  
**DP/1830/OD/2022**  
**SHO PS: Raj Park, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-27910070, 27910071**

## Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 25/30 Yrs. (About), Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Build: Medium, Face: Crushed, Wearing: Grey Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Lower and Red Colour Chappal in feet, Place of Recovery: Found dead at KM Pole No. 8/5-8/7 UP Main Line Near Azadpur Flyover, Delhi.

In this regard DD No. 23A, U/s 174 Cr.PC, Dated: 09.06.2022 has been lodged at Police Station, Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersigned.  
**SHO P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302,**  
**DP/190/RLY/2022 7678485707**

**GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, ART CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (TOURISM)**  
**Director Ph.: 0651-2400493, Email : dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com**

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

### SELECTION OF CONSULTANT FOR CARRYING OUT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HANGING BRIDGE IN BUDHAI, DEOGHAR

**Ref. No. : 431. Dated : 15/06/2022**

Directorate of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand invites proposals from interested technical consultant agency for conducting feasibility study for Development of Hanging Bridge in Budhai, Deoghar as per the details given in Bidding Documents. A brief description of the Project may be seen in the Project Terms of Reference of this Bidding Document.

The Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the website [www.tourismjharkhand.gov.in](http://www.tourismjharkhand.gov.in)

The pre-proposal meeting for the Project shall be organized at the Directorate of Tourism at 1500 hours on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. The last date for submission of proposal shall be 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 up to 1400 hours at the office of Directorate of Tourism at the above mentioned address. All notifications, changes and amendments to the Bidding Document will be posted only on the website [www.tourism.jharkhand.gov.in](http://www.tourism.jharkhand.gov.in) and shall not be published in the newspapers.

Directorate of Tourism shall have the right to reject one or all proposals and also cancel the bid process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever.

In case of any queries/clarifications on the project/ documents please contact Directorate of Tourism.

**Sd/- Director, Tourism.**  
**PR 271594 Tourism, Art Culture Sports And Youth Affairs(22-23),D**

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION Bijbehara**

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**Fresh: e-NIT No. 24 OF 2022-23 NO/PHE/3046-66 Dated: 11 -06-2022**

For and on behalf of L1 Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara invitees-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (Days)
1	Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting of GMS Tubes and Ductile Iron Pipes of different Nominal Bore along with pipe fittings and control valves	As Per Annexure-I to this Bid document	500/-	02% Of the Estimated Cost	90 Days	As Per Annexure-I to this Bid document

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
 The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara  
 The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

### CRITICAL DATES

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (Days)
1	Publish Date	13.06.2022				
2	Document Download/sale start Date	13.06.2022 6.00 PM				
3	Pre-bid meeting date	18.06.2022 12.00AM				
4	Bid submission end date	23.06.2022 4.00 PM				
5	Date and time of Bid opening	25.06.2022 11.00 AM				

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)  
 2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.  
 3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.  
 A. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara  
 4. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder whose declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.  
 5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidders with draws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bids shall be declared non responsive.  
 6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).  
 7. Queries by email if any should be made at [phebijbehara230@gmail.com](mailto:phebijbehara230@gmail.com)

**No:PHB/3046-66**  
**Date: 11.06.2022**  
**SD/- Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara**

### ANNEXURE I SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S. No	Name of Water Supply Scheme	Description of work	Jal Shakti (PHE) Division	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Time of Completion Days	Class of Contractor
1	Gopalpora Khurd Part 2nd	Construction of Chemical Shed, Sluice Chamber, Chain Link Fencing and Laying/Fitting of Pipes for WSS Gopalpora Khurd Under Jal Jeevan Mission	Bijbehara	71.00	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
2	Dragnmullah	Construction of 2 No. 0.40lac Gallons SSFF.02.No Sluice Chamber, Chain Link fencing around various structures and laying fitting, Supply main, Sub main and distribution system for WSS Dragnmullah under JJM	Bijbehara	108.50	120 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
3	Brad Khrajpora	Retro fitting of WSS Brad Khrajpora including Laying/ fitting of pipes, Construction of SR, Sluice Chambers, Chain Link Fencing, Intake Chamber, Crate Protection Bund, Chowkdar Quarter and improve JJM	Bijbehara	119.10	120 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
4	Kamnivan	Retro fitting of WSS Kamnivan including Laying/ fitting of pipes, Construction of SR, Sluice Chambers and Chain Link Fencing under JJM	Bijbehara	50.63	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
5	Molvi Mohalla Badwan B	Laying and fitting of pipes excluding the cost of pipes, construction of Crate protection Bund, C.Conc Blocks, PST and improvements to the Existing pipe network WSS Molvi Mohalla Badwan B under JJM program.	Bijbehara	137.11	120 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
6	Lamadpathri	Retro fitting of WSS Lamadpathri including Laying/ fitting of pipes, Construction of SR, SSF Plant, Sluice chambers, Intake Chamber, Crate protection bund and Chain Link Fencing under JJM	Bijbehara	111.00	120 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
7	Fohar Batpora	Laying/ fitting of pipes, Construction of Intake Chamber, Crate Protection Bund, C.Conc Blocks, Chowkdar Quarter and Improvements to the existing pipe network of Wss Fohar Batpora under JJM.	Bijbehara	58.25	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
8	Molvi Mohalla Badwan A	Construction of 3 no. 0.10 lac gallons capacity SR.s, 3 No. SSF Plants, 7 No. sluice chambers, chain link fencing, collection chamber and Chowkdar Quarter of WSS Molvi Mohalla Badwan A under JJM.	Bijbehara	188.88	180 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
9	Frislana	Retro fitting of WSS Frislana including Laying/ fitting of pipes, Construction of SR, Sluice Chambers, Slow Sand Filtration plant and Chain Link Fencing under JJM.	Bijbehara	113.66	120 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
10	Halwani	Retro fitting of WSS Halwani including Laying/ fitting of pipes, Construction of SR, Slow Sand Filtration plant, Sluice Chambers, Chowkdar Quarter and Chain Link Fencing under JJM.	Bijbehara	156.04	180 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
11	Harden	Retro fitting of WSS Harden including Laying/ fitting of pipes, Construction of SR, Sluice Chambers and Chain Link Fencing under JJM.	Bijbehara	55.64	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
12	Malikpora Hapatnrad	Retro Fitting of WSS Malikpora Hapatnrad including Laying/ fitting of pipes, Construction of SR, SSF Plant, Sluice chambers, Intake Chamber and Chain Link Fencing under JJM	Bijbehara	137.54	120 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
13	WSS Bal Brakpora Part 2nd	Construction and Successful Commissioning of 0.25 Lac Gallons Service Reservoir with Sluice Chamber for WSS Bal Brakpora Under Jal Jeevan Mission	Bijbehara	16.35	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
14	for WSS Brah Part 2nd	Construction AND Successful Commissioning of 0.30 Lac Gallons Service Reservoir with Four No Sluice Chambers for WSS Brah Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	24.35	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
15	WSS Brisnoo Part 2nd	Construction and Successful Commissioning of Crude Filter with Four No. Sluice Chambers for WSS Brisnoo Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	27.48	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
16	WSS Cherpora Pakhtoonpora Part 2nd	Construction and Successful Commissioning of 0.15, 0.25 & 0.50 Lac Gallons S.R including PST, 06 No. Sluice Chambers & Revamping of existing SSFP/WSS Cherpora Pakhtoonpora Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	93.70	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
17	WSS Deethu Khull Part 2nd	Construction of 0.8 5 lac gallons SR with PST and 04 No Sluice Chamber Jal Jeevan Mission WSS Deethu Khull Part 2nd.	Bijbehara	59.12	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
18	WSS Kanganhal Magraypora Part 2nd	Construction Including Successful commissioning of 0.45 Lac Gallons Service Reservoir, including RCC Jacketting Dome to existing Sand Construction of Sluice Chamber WSS Kanganhal Magraypora Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	32.85	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
19	WSS Khanpora Kreeer Part 2nd	Construction including Successful Commissioning of 0.15, 0.20, and 0.30 Lac Gallons SR, PST, Collection Chamber, Revamping of existing SSFP and Six No Sluice Chambers WSS Khanpora Kreeer Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	88.57	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
20	WSS Krad Part 2nd	Construction and Successful Commissioning of 0.90 Lac Gallons Slow Sand Filtration Plant with 30,000 Gallons S.R and 03 No Sluice Chambers for WSS Krad Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	61.74	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
21	WSS Prakashpora Part 2nd	Construction including Successful Commissioning & Testing of PST along with 4 No Sluice Chambers for WSS Prakashpora Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	21.02	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
22	WSS Ranpora Chohar Part 2nd	Construction including successful commissioning of 0.90 Lac Gallons Slow Sand Filtration Plant with Two No. Sluice Chambers & Construction of Dome to Existing SR WSS Ranpora Chohar Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	73.52	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
23	WSS Sonach Part 2nd	Construction including successful commissioning of 0.35 Lac Gallons Service Reservoir with two No. Sluice Chambers WSS Sonach Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	18.15	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE
24	WSS Wakhilbalan Part 2nd	Construction and Commissioning of 0.30 Lac Gallons Slow Sand Filtration Plant with 0.15 Lac Gallons SR & Sluice Chamber WSS Wakhilbalan Under Jal Jeevan Mission Part 2nd	Bijbehara	39.11	60 days	AAY/ BEE/CEE/DEE

**DIPK-3956/22**

## READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE

[www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)

### ONLINE EXCLUSIVES Explainer

- An explainer on the Western Sahara conflict [bit.ly/saharaconflict](http://bit.ly/saharaconflict)

### Video

- Rooh Afza, the drink that unites India and Pakistan [bit.ly/3xt5A3G](http://bit.ly/3xt5A3G)
- You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.

## TENDER NOTICE

In pursuance of the orders contained in Circle Office letter No. Bldg/3-82/81 Dated 27.12.2021 the sealed tenders are invited for suitable accommodation measuring about 400 Square feet of carpet area preferably on ground floor in the surrounding area of Hazu Qazi, Delhi-110066 for housing a Post Office. The accommodation offered should be one hall centrally located near Hazu Qazi, Delhi-110066 and easily accessible to public as well as Mail Lories.

1. Tender should be addressed to the undersigned by name super scribed "TENDER OF BUILDING FOR Hazu Qazi PO" and should reach to this office before 13.00 Hrs. on 26th July 2022. The tenders will be opened on the same date i.e. 26th July 2022 at 11.00 Hrs. in the presence of such tenderers who may wish to be present.

2. Applicant will be required to provide proof of ownership along with application. The offer must have clear title of the property.

3. As per Post Office requirement antenna /tower will also be installed in the rented premises and it will not harm the interest of landlord /landlady.

4. The building offered should have independent water and electricity supply and lavatory arrangements. A sketch map of accommodation offered should be attached stating acceptable rent and others.

5. A lease deed shall have to be executed by the owner in the prescribed form (Gen-8) for a minimum period of 5 years subject to renewal according to terms and conditions of the deed.

6. The department does not have own any responsibility of taxes except the consumption charges of electricity and water supply for which separate meters will have to be provided by the landlord at his own cost before opening the post office in the accommodation offered and minor change /repairs to suit the post office has to be arranged by the landlord at his own cost.

7. Additions/alterations in the building desired by the department will have to be carried out by the landlord before the building is occupied.

8. The tenders received after prescribed date and time will not be entertained and rejected straight away.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**(Suresh Kumar Bhardwaj)**  
 Supdt. of Post Offices  
 New Delhi Central Division, New Delhi-110001.

## OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

Exhibition ground opposite High Court Jahangir Chowk Srinagar Phone 2479836 Fax 2452173  
 email [mdkpdcl@gmail.com](mailto:mdkpdcl@gmail.com)

### Expression of Interest for engagement of Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for Smart Metering Project under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) for Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited.

Expressions of Interest are invited from Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) including their Subsidiaries and JVs for engagement as PIA for Smart Metering under RDSS for Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited. way rejected. Details of tender notice are available on the website- [www.pmsgstenders.jk.gov.in](http://www.pmsgstenders.jk.gov.in)

The details of the Vehicle to be hired is as under:

#### I. CRITICAL DATES AND SCHEDULES:

i	Issue of Notification	13.06.2022
ii	Availability of document	<a href="http://www.kpdcl.jkpcdd.net">www.kpdcl.jkpcdd.net</a> ; <a href="http://cedistributionkmr.jkpcdd.net">http://cedistributionkmr.jkpcdd.net</a>
iii	Email ID for any clarification	<a href="mailto:mdkpdcl@gmail.com">mdkpdcl@gmail.com</a>
iv	Date/Time (Start) for submission of proposals	14.06.2022; 10:00 Hrs
v	Date/Time (End) for submission of proposals	24.06.2022; 16:00 Hrs
vi	Opening of Proposals	25.06.2022; 12:00 Hrs
vii	Place of submission of proposals	Office of Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited; Exhibition ground opposite High Court Jahangir Chowk Srinagar-190001
viii	Address for correspondence	Office of Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited; Exhibition ground opposite High Court Jahangir Chowk Srinagar-190001

Sealed envelope marked to the captioned address, containing EOI may be submitted mentioning "Expression of Interest (EOI) for engagement of Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for Smart Metering Project under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) for Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited" on the top cover.

**Managing Director**  
 Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited,  
 Exhibition ground opposite High Court Jahangir Chowk Srinagar-190001,  
 Phone 2479836 Fax 2452173

**KPDCL reserves the right to amend the EOI Schedule and Critical dates.** Sd/-  
**(Dr. Basharat Qayoom), IAS**  
 Managing Director,  
 KPDCL, Srinagar

**DIP/K-NB-1676/22**



**JOIN OUR**  
**WhatsApp**  
**GROUP**



## Bulldozer on the loose

The demolition of property of Muslim activists is a challenge to the rule of law

The demolition of houses and buildings linked to protesters in Uttar Pradesh is nothing but retribution and collective punishment targeted at Muslims. The destruction of the residence of Javed Mohammed, Welfare Party of India activist and businessman, in Prayagraj, shortly after he was identified by the police as an alleged conspirator behind the violence during a protest, amply demonstrates this. The fig-leaf of legality attached to the claim that the action by the Prayagraj Development Authority was to clear an illegal building has been blown away by the fact that the notice of demolition was addressed to Mr. Mohammed, and not to his wife, who owns the property. The family's charge that the notice was served only a day before the demolition and backdated to May 10 cannot be brushed aside. It is well-known that the removal of encroachments or illegal constructions cannot take place without due process, which includes giving the owner or occupier an opportunity to be heard and finding alternative accommodation under any existing rehabilitation scheme. That officials claimed that the notice was served on Mr. Mohammed based on local enquiries shows that they were only following orders to demolish the building and had not bothered to verify the record of ownership before action. Earlier, soon after violence was witnessed in Kanpur, the city's development authority demolished a commercial building allegedly linked to one of the accused in the case.

The latest demolitions are linked to the protests that took place in the wake of controversial remarks made by the now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on the Prophet. While the Centre has sought to clarify to Islamic countries that it does not brook any disrespect to any religion, U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath wants to send out a message that he will not brook any protests on the issue. It is now a well-established pattern that buildings belonging to those whose names are linked, with or without evidence, to riots or protests are chosen for demolition. For political purposes, it is presented as stringent action against anti-social elements for rioting, and for legal purposes, it is portrayed as removal of illegal constructions. It is unfortunate, and a defining feature of these convoluted times that some States take such pride in demolishing buildings that they want the bulldozer to symbolise their purported resolve in keeping minorities under check. The Supreme Court has ordered that status quo be maintained in respect of the demolitions at Jahangirpuri, in Delhi. Six former Supreme Court and High Court judges and six senior advocates have appealed to the Supreme Court to take *suo motu* cognisance of the demolitions. Whether the Court acts or not, there is little doubt that the demolitions amount to an abuse of power, a challenge to the rule of law and are inherently illegal due to the absence of due process or proportionality.

## Windfall

The BCCI should use its earnings to develop infrastructure and promote women's cricket

The Indian Premier League (IPL) seemingly remains immune to extraneous factors. Inflation, an economy under constant stress, a world grappling with a war in Europe and a pandemic that refuses to die down have had no bearing on the robust financial underpinnings of this domestic T20 league with an international flavour. The top-dollar yield of the IPL's latest media rights auction for the 2023-27 period, a term lasting five years, reiterates the monetary strength and brand equity of the league, which has gained incremental strength every year since its inception in 2008. Be it logistical issues such as dealing with general elections or internal rumblings like the spot-fixing and spread betting crisis, the league has an inner resilience and marches to its own beat while the hype-masters keep its marketing buzz on a high pitch. Though split into four packages in which three were a generous hat-tip to the digital markets, the media rights auction that concluded on Tuesday garnered ₹48,390 crore which is nearly thrice the ₹16,347 crore that the previous cycle offered thanks to the then successful bid by Disney Star. Even if the recent edition had its issues with a dip in TRP ratings, the league retained its sheen considering the big bucks that it continues to reap from broadcast and media firms as corporates lean excessively on it for advertising.

The interesting part this time was the segregation of the television and digital space unlike in the previous cycles. The current alteration is a pointer to the prominence of smartphones, laptops and tablets in the consumption of content. Disney Star retained the television space while shelling out ₹23,575 crore; in the package B for digital rights, Viacom18 prevailed at ₹20,500 crore. Viacom18 also won package C at ₹3,257.5 crore and in package D, Times Internet and Viacom18 split the booty. Flush with cash, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in a moment of reflexive kindness, hiked the pension of former cricketers and umpires. However, with so much money being spent on media rights, advertisers will come under pressure to spend more for commercial slots. And if the rights' holders want to maximise their profits, there could be demands to have more teams beyond the current 10, may be have two editions in the same year and this could affect the international cricketing season. With money in its coffers, the BCCI needs to improve stadiums and increase the number of international fixtures that India's women cricketers play. That someone like Mithali Raj played only 12 Tests in a career spanning 23 years is a shame. There is so much the BCCI can do and the latest windfall should help.

# A ground plan for India's COVID-19 response

The population-wide application of the pandemic response can be transitioned to be focused on individual protection



CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

India's daily new COVID-19 cases have crossed the 8,000-mark for the first time after more than 100 days. However, the cases (moderate to severe) and COVID-19 related hospital admissions continue to be low. The spike in infections has raised some worries about the start of the fourth national COVID-19 wave in India. Epidemiologically speaking, an immediate major national wave in India is improbable. Part of the reason is that the Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant is the only globally circulating variant of concern, as of now. The Omicron sub-lineage BA.2, which caused the third national wave in India, continues to be the dominant variant in the country. Though two new Omicron sub-lineages, BA.4 and BA.5, have been detected globally and reported from India as well, their share is minuscule. Finally, there is no evidence that the BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages can cause a major nationwide surge in settings already exposed to BA.2 sub-lineage. Clearly, while the concerns about another national wave are unfounded, the ongoing surge demands for a fresh approach to the COVID-19 pandemic response in India.

### Epidemiological triad

Then, a key question is if there is no new variant of concern, why this spike in COVID-19 cases? The answer lies in an age-old concept of epidemiology which explains 'why' and 'how' a disease spreads in any setting: the 'epidemiological triad' of agent, host and environment. Spread of a disease is an outcome of a complex interaction of the agent (or pathogen, in this case SARS-CoV-2 and its variants), host (humans and their immunobiological characteristics) and environment (social and behavioral factors).

In the ongoing COVID-19 epi-

dem in India, since the third wave in January 2022, with minor variations in sub-lineage, the agent (Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2) has remained largely unchanged. As far as host factors are concerned, immunologically speaking, though antibody levels wane with time and susceptibility to infection increases, declining immunity alone cannot be attributed to rising infection as neither a past infection nor COVID-19 vaccination protect from subsequent infection.

Rather, in spite of an increase in the daily new COVID-19 infections, the low rate of severe disease and hospitalisation shows that our immunity against SARS-CoV-2 is holding up. This brings the third component of the triad, i.e., environment or external factors, at the centre stage. Here, SARS-CoV-2 is very much around, in all settings, as it was for the last many months; and, it is unlikely to go away. However, there is increased travel now, economic activities are back to or even higher than their pre-pandemic level, there are regular social gatherings, and also noticeable lower adherence to face masks wearing in crowded places. Clearly, more than the agent and the host, environmental factors are driving the spike.

However, as SARS-CoV-2 is likely to be around, and as infectious diseases experts and especially those who have studied respiratory viruses would argue, localised COVID-19 case spikes are going to be a reality in many settings and for many months (and possibly years) to follow.

From an epidemiological point of view, the COVID-19 infections in India are not a public health concern any more. The reason is that June 2022 is completely different from March 2020. Back then, SARS-CoV-2 was a new virus; no one had immunity against this virus, and everyone was equally susceptible. There was no vaccine available and the risk of adverse outcomes after SARS-CoV-2 infection by age and other attributes, was unknown and unpredictable. It was clearly a public health challenge.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



Nearly 27 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, most people have developed immunity either after natural infection (during three national waves) or through vaccination (nearly 97% of the adult population has received at least one shot while 88% has had two shots of COVID-19 vaccines). There is better scientific understanding of who is at higher risk of severe outcomes (everyone in the 60 years plus group and any age group with co-morbidities or weakened immunity), and the risks are known and largely predictable. Arguably, COVID-19 is less of a public health issue and more of an individual health issue.

### A dynamic response strategy

Yet, a rise in daily new cases should not be ignored. However, continuing the five-pronged 'test, track, treat, vaccinate and COVID-appropriate behaviour' approach is not the best strategy for India any more and needs to be thoroughly revisited.

First, urgently revise the indicators to monitor and track the COVID-19 situation. The daily COVID-19 infections and test positivity rate may continue to be recorded but have limited utility for decision making. The two operational monitoring indicators which should be used now can be daily new symptomatic COVID-19 cases and new hospitalisations.

Second, any setting which reports a spike in COVID-19 cases should be prioritised for enhanced and expanded genomic sequencing, including the sequencing of all hospitalised COVID-19 cases and a subset of asymptomatic and the mild symptomatic cases, to track the emergence of any variant. A stronger linkage between health departments and the In-

dian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics (INSA-COG) Consortium network conducting genomic surveillance is needed to correlate the variants and the clinical outcomes.

Third, from now onwards the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection in India (or any setting across the world) is unlikely to be zero. Face masks and physical distancing have proven benefits in reducing transmission, but the benefit, at least in settings such as India, now is far greater at the individual level than at the population level. All social and economic activities (including schools) should continue to function to their full capacity. The face-mask recommendations should be calibrated, targeted, context-specific and evidence-guided and not uniform for the entire population. Science communication and public education should be used to nudge high-risk population groups to adopt such behaviour. The mandatory face-masks requirement for school-going children (implicit or explicit), is unscientific and without evidence. Mask guidelines for school children should be voluntary, without indirect coercion as is the case for some Indian States.

### Booster shots

Fourth, there is a known benefit of third shots of COVID-19 vaccines in select, specifically high-risk population groups; however, the benefits of fourth and fifth shots are marginal and short lasting, as studies have pointed out. Essentially, just one additional COVID-19 vaccine shot to get some enhancement in the level of antibodies and possible protection make some sense. Because of hybrid immunity in India with two shots of vaccines and three national COVID-19 waves which are unlikely to have spared anyone, even with only two vaccine shots in India, the protective immunity might be equal to even greater than three vaccine shots in countries with low infection rates.

Therefore, Indian health policymakers need to be very strategic and pragmatic in the use of a third COVID-19 vaccine shot. Every surge should not result in a re-

newed demand and a push for booster dose uptake for adults in all age groups. After all, if you have to take just one precaution shot, there is merit in delaying it and spacing it out as long as feasible and also getting a heterologous vaccine shot. Similarly, there is no scientific rationale to rush to vaccinate children younger than 12 years.

Fifth, a disproportionately high attention on COVID-19 is not completely innocuous and rather, it diverts attention from other equally and even more pressing health needs such as tuberculosis, diabetes and hypertension, which affects a far greater proportion of India's population. It is undoubtedly time, Indian States bring the attention back on long-standing health challenges and on strengthening primary health-care services.

### What must be done

After the 1918-20 flu pandemic, the influenza virus continued to be in circulation and present even today. In the last 100 years, with regular mutations in influenza viruses, there has been a seasonal rise in cases, outbreaks, and epidemics and two more influenza pandemics (1957-58 and 1968). Since then, there are annual flu seasons across the world. Being another respiratory virus and an RNA virus with a propensity for regular mutations, SARS-CoV-2 appears to be on the influenza trajectory. Factoring in country-specific SARS CoV-2 epidemiology, the population-wide application of the pandemic response in India can be transitioned to be focused on individual protection. India's COVID-19 response strategy, in the days and the months ahead, should focus on protecting the vulnerable; promoting voluntary face-mask use; strengthening COVID-19 surveillance, and using local COVID-19 data for decision making. We are on the path of learning to live with COVID-19.

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya is a primary-care physician, epidemiologist and public health specialist. He is Founder-Director of the Foundation for People-centric Health Systems, New Delhi

# In Sri Lankan crisis, a window of economic opportunity

The fruition of the idea of a Sri Lanka-south India single market sub-region can boost growth across the Palk Strait



T. RAMAKRISHNAN

In a recent interview with an Indian TV channel, the Sri Lanka Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, touched upon a less-emphasised yet significant aspect of India-Sri Lanka relations – the commonality between Sri Lanka and the southern parts of India. He even said he would "easily fit into Chennai or Kerala without a problem, while[,] similarly[,] people in the south can fit in here". This was not the first time that he has talked of forging closer ties between his country and south India.

### The sub-regional context

During his second term as Prime Minister, Mr. Wickremesinghe while delivering a lecture in Chennai, in August 2003, called for the development of the south India-Sri Lanka sub-region as a single market that would provide more opportunities for the economic growth of both countries. In 2016, addressing the South Asian Diaspora Convention in Singapore, he highlighted the fact that the five Indian southern States, with a total population of 250 million, had a combined gross state domestic product of nearly \$450 billion; with the addition of Sri Lanka's \$80 billion GDP, the sub-region would have a \$500 billion economy, having an aggregate population of around 270 million. In the southeast Asian country, he had even referred to the tri-nation economic convergence, encompassing Singapore too. Mr. Wickreme-

singhe's latest observations should be viewed in the context of his idea of sub-regional integration.

The present economic crisis in Sri Lanka has pushed it closer to India for immediate relief. For the last few months, the Indian media's regular coverage of the crisis has led to better understanding and even created a sense of empathy in India about the plight of the neighbouring country. India, as part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, has extended support to the people of Sri Lanka in the form of aid (close to \$3.5 billion) to help secure Sri Lanka's food, health and energy security by supplying it essential items such as food, medicines, fuel and kerosene.

### Aid from India

The latest in the series was the signing of an agreement on June 10 between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Export-Import Bank of India for a \$55-million short term Line of Credit to facilitate the procurement of urea for paddy crop in the ongoing 'Yala' season. During her discussions with the International Monetary Fund in April, India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urged the multilateral agency to provide urgent assistance to Sri Lanka. On its part, Tamil Nadu decided to provide aid of ₹123 crore, comprising 40,000 tonnes of rice, 137 types of life-saving drugs and 500 tonnes of milk powder. The first consignment, which was flagged off by State Chief Minister M.K. Stalin from Chennai on May 18, reached Colombo four days later. Mr. Wickremesinghe and the Leader of Opposition in Parliament, Sajith Premadasa, thanked the Chief Minister. About 10 days ago, at a meeting with Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India Milin-

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



da Moragoda, the Chief Minister assured him that the second consignment would be dispatched soon.

### Baggage of history as hurdle

Whether this bonhomie can lead to greater economic collaboration between Sri Lanka and south India, not necessarily Tamil Nadu alone, given the historical baggage, is anybody's guess. As pointed out by Jehan Perera, a prominent peace activist of Sri Lanka, during a discussion organised by the Press Institute of India last month on the crisis, some sections of the Sinhalese still hold the view that "India has been a threat to us. It can be a threat to us in future too". This perception can be traced to history when Sri Lanka was invaded by rulers of south India who humbled the Sinhala kings. In the aftermath of the 1983 anti-Tamil pogrom, the support provided by the Indian government to Tamil rebels only strengthened this perception. Bitter episodes of the past involving the two countries were recalled when the Indian consignments of essential commodities reached Sri Lanka.

Despite India's open willingness to take part in the development of Sri Lanka after the civil war, the scale of its involvement has been modest. The reason is not far to seek. The manner in which the Rajapaksa regime unilaterally scrapped in February 2021 a tri-

partite agreement signed in 2019 with India and Japan for the development of Colombo's East Container Terminal was a reflection of the historical baggage, though the official reason cited was opposition from workers' unions. Even though India was later provided with projects such as the West Container Terminal, the Trincomalee oil tank farm and a couple of renewable projects, there were several proposals that envisaged India's participation but did not see the light of day.

Another project, a collaboration between NTPC Limited and the Ceylon Electricity Board, was cancelled just when bids were to be floated for the coal-fired 500-megawatt project in Sampur in the Eastern Province (after obtaining environmental clearance). In fact, when Sri Lanka experienced prolonged power cuts a few months ago, some individuals did mention that had Sampur fructified, power shortages might not have been intense. Other projects too such as the development of the Kankesanthurai harbour and the expansion of the Palaly airport in Jaffna, both envisaging Indian participation, would have become a reality had there been show of political will from the other side. A few days ago, the Sri Lankan Cabinet was reported to have cleared two connectivity proposals: flights from Jaffna to Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu, and a ferry service from Kankesanthurai to Karaikal in Puducherry. The project of building a sea bridge and tunnel, connecting Rameshwaram to Talaimannar, remains on paper despite India's Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informing the Lok Sabha in December 2015 of the Asian Development Bank's readiness to fund it. It requires no great imagination to find out why sever-

al popular brands of south Indian restaurants and retail textile establishments, despite an overseas presence, not having opened their branches in Sri Lanka.

### Vast potential

Even now, there is enormous scope for collaboration between the two countries in the area of infrastructure development. The economic crisis has revived talk of linking Sri Lanka's electricity grid with that of India. If this project takes off, the first point of interconnectivity on the Indian side will most likely be in Tamil Nadu. India has cross-border energy trade with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

India's interests would also be served by developing the east coast of Sri Lanka, especially the Trincomalee-Batticaloa belt, whose potential for tourism, commerce, trade and industry is well known. At an appropriate time, regular movement of people and goods should be allowed again on the traditional sea routes of Thoothukudi-Colombo and Rameshwaram-Talaimannar. The apprehension in the minds of sections of the Sinhalese majority about India being a threat can be dispelled only by facilitating greater people-to-people interaction, including pilgrimages by monks and other sections of Sri Lankan society to places of Buddhist importance not only in north India but also in the south (Andhra Pradesh). Much more will have to be done but the opportunity created by the current circumstances should be utilised to bring Indian and Sri Lankan societies closer – a prerequisite to achieving an economic union between Sri Lanka and the southern States of India.

ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

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

### Jobs plan

If the Government's promise of large-scale recruitment "within the next 18 months" is realised in letter and spirit, it will definitely be a milestone (Page 1, "10 lakh persons to get govt.jobs in 18 months, announces Modi", June 15).

The Government should leave no stone unturned in making the announcement of mass recruitment "in mission mode" a reality, as the economy is being hit by inflation, and the unemployment rate is on the rise. Importantly, the Government needs to make

the process of recruitment transparent and fair.

S. SANJEEVI RAO,  
Puducherry

■ The report only makes one recollect the lost promise made eight years ago: crores of jobs. There needs to be data analysis of the jobs

created under this Government; the state of unemployment has been made worse by actions taken during the pandemic. The 'promise' now only seems to be a gimmick and optics before 2024.

GEORGE MLAKAZHYIL,  
New Delhi

### Bulldozer democracy

Closely following the protest by renowned former judges and senior lawyers against bulldozing dwellings in Uttar Pradesh, a lawyer, though visually handicapped, walked into the Court Hall where I was and whispered, 'Is this democracy?'

It made me reflect. Though handicapped he had a constitutional vision. Those in authority who are expected to have a vision are the ones who are visionless.

N.G.R. PRASAD,  
Chennai

# A poverty trend in search of an explanation

The delay in household consumption expenditure survey leaves us unsure of the studies



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

A noticeable absence in the blitzkrieg of information on the economy periodically unleashed by the Union government over the past few years has been estimates of poverty. A measure of the progress made with respect to the reduction of poverty in India is crucial to an assessment of the state of the economy of India, known to harbour the world's largest number of poor people. The last official estimate of poverty that is comparable over time, undertaken by the Planning Commission, is for the year 2011-12. The reason behind this state of affairs is that we have not had a household consumption expenditure survey for a subsequent year, such a survey being the ideal basis for poverty estimation.

**Real consumption expenditure**  
A consumption expenditure survey was conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) for 2017-18, but was rejected by the government as defective. Whether this decision was taken upon the advice of independent experts is not known, but a leaked version of the report showed that real consumption expenditure had fallen since 2011-12. At the time, a leading commentator on the economy had poured cold water on this possibility, stating that a decline in consumption is not possible when income (GDP) has grown.

In a prior article, I had at that time pointed out that a decline in consumption cannot be ruled out even in the presence of growth, for the income distribution could shift in a way that leaves those at the lower end of the distribution with less real income. The Union government's rejection of the report for 2017-18 has meant that we have not been able to say anything about the trend in poverty over a whole decade.

Now two recent studies have made up for this lacuna, emerging as they do, separately, from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (henceforth Fund-Bank). The first is a working paper by Bhalla, Bhasin and Virmani and the other is



GETTY IMAGES

by Roy and van der Weide. Both are in the public domain. It may be noted that as they are not based directly on a household expenditure survey, they arrive at estimates of consumption spending, and thereby poverty, by making somewhat strong assumptions, but I shall here accept their estimates at face value.

In the absence of official estimates of poverty in India for the past decade, these studies have naturally gathered attention. They give us an estimate of the poverty rate for five data points after 2011-12, poverty identified as per capita consumption of less than \$1.90 per day, being the World Bank's definition of "extreme poverty". While the level of poverty estimated by these two studies varies considerably, with the one by Roy and van der Weide showing twice the poverty level estimated by Bhalla et al., they share a common feature, which is an accelerated decline in poverty since 2011-12, with the acceleration commencing in 2014-15 in the Bhalla et al study and in 2016-17 in the former.

Now, though growth in the economy has slowed progressively from 2017-18, accelerated decline in poverty as overall economic growth slows is neither implausible nor unprecedented. We know that the first significant dent in poverty in India occurred in the late 1960s, while growth had begun to slow from the mid-sixties. Indeed, the poverty decline had continued even as growth spluttered for a whole decade. This co-movement can be quite easily explained by the feature that as the economy-wide growth rate had slowed, growth in India's agricultural sector permanently shifted to a higher gear

following the Green Revolution i.e., we have seen a higher average annual agricultural growth ever since. With the workforce concentrated overwhelmingly in agriculture, it would be expected that wages and consumption of rural workers grew. Rural poverty declined steadily. A decline in urban poverty was to take longer, pointing to the historic role of agriculture in India.

### Effects of demonetisation

It is difficult to see a surge in any one sector of the economy since 2016-17 that is comparable to the increase in the rate of growth of agriculture in the second half of the 1960s. Of course, theoretically there remains the income distribution shift to be considered, but it is difficult to imagine that the income distribution has shifted towards the lower income groups in this period, when the long-term trend is known to be the opposite.

Moreover, the demonetisation of 2016 is likely to have affected majority of workers adversely. While this is only a surmise, data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey show the unemployment rate rising sharply after demonetisation remaining higher than in most years of the decade, going all the way back to 2011-12. It is difficult to imagine an accelerated decline in poverty during such a phase.

At a webinar organised by the National Council for Applied Economic Research on June 9, I had asked the most widely known of the authors of the Fund-Bank studies his understanding of what drove the decline in poverty during the period under observation. His answer was that since

inflation has been lower since 2014, real wage growth would have been faster, enabling greater consumption and thus an accelerated decline in poverty.

As a quick check, if not a test, on the plausibility of this hypothesis, I computed real wage growth starting 2015-16, the mid-point of the year from which the acceleration commences in each of the two Fund-Bank studies. The annual all-India real wage growth is computed for two groups of rural men, namely non-agricultural labourers and construction workers. The economy-wide inflation rate was adopted. All data were drawn from the RBI's website. The resulting estimates show that for non-agricultural labourers, annual real wage rate growth was either negligible or negative in four out of the five years during the period 2015-16 to 2019-20, the end point for both the studies. For construction workers, annual real wage decline in urban poverty was to take longer, pointing to the historic role of agriculture in India.

This finding, that there has been very little real wage growth since 2015-2016, cannot be taken as a rejection of the Fund-Bank estimates of poverty. It does, however, underline the need for an explanation of the accelerated decline in poverty that they report.

We need to understand the drivers of poverty to undertake any kind of remedial action. But above all, we need reliable data provided by independent public bodies ring-fenced from potential political interference. That we once had this in India is seen from the Planning Commission estimates in 1997 that showed a slowing of the rate of poverty reduction soon after the reforms, resulting in a rise in the number of poor in 1993-94 for the first time in 15 years. The then government could have squashed the study, but to its credit it did not. Decades later, we seem to be backsliding.

In particular, the delay in this government's undertaking of a household consumption expenditure survey leaves us unsure of the trend in poverty in India in recent years.

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches at Ashoka University, Sonapat

# India's lingering homophobia

The homophobic attitude of society goes against the constitutional tenet of fraternity



FAISAL C.K.

Pride Month comes and goes; but homophobia in India is here to stay like a spectre. As a good omen for Pride Month of this year, the Kerala High Court set a trailblazing precedent recently by sanctioning a lesbian couple, Adhila Nasarin and Fathima Noora, to live together after they were coercively separated by their parents. Ms. Nasarin had filed a habeas corpus petition following which Ms. Noora, who was allegedly "incarcerated" by her family, appeared before court. The court simply asked the couple if they wished to live together, to which they replied yes. The joy of the couple spilled over into social media. People congratulated the court and many social media profiles talked about gender spectrum. But alarmingly, it triggered rude homophobic chirpings too in the cyber streets. It exposed that the "God made Adam and Eve; not Adam and Steve" attitude lingers in Indian society.

The Indian Psychiatric Society authentically stated that homosexuality was not a mental disorder; but that sentiment has not convinced most Indian homes.

### An attitudinal temperament

Homophobia is defined by *Britannica Encyclopedia* as culturally produced fear of or prejudice against homosexuals that sometimes manifests itself in legal restrictions or, in extreme cases, bullying or even violence against homosexuals. The term 'homophobia' was coined by George Weinberg, an American clinical psychologist, in his book *Society and the Healthy Homosexual* (1972). The suffix 'phobia' generally designates an irrational fear, in the case of homophobia, the word instead refers to an attitudinal temperament ranging from mild dislike to abhorrence of people who are sexually or romantically attracted to individuals of the same sex. It is a culturally conditioned response to homosexuality. Homophobia runs against the Constitutional values of fraternity and dignity.

J.B. Kripalani, a prominent member of the Constituent Assembly, commented on the principle of fraternity in the Assembly: "I come to the great doctrine of fraternity which is allied with democracy. It means that we are all sons of the same God, as the religious would say, but as the mystic would say, that there is one life pulsating through us all, or as the Bible says, we are one of another.

There can be no fraternity without this. So, I want this House to remember that what we have enunciated are not merely legal, constitutional and formal principles, but moral principles; and moral principles have to be lived in life. They have to be lived whether it is private or it is public life..." The social and psychological abhorrence prevailing in India against the LGBTQ+ community nullifies the constitutional fraternity that is to be lived out in public and private life of the nation.

Queerness isn't modern, western or sexual only, says mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik in his *Shikhandi: And Other 'Queer' Tales They Don't Tell You* (2014). He opens the treasure box of vast written and oral traditions in Hinduism, some over two thousand years old, to show us many overlooked tales, such as those of Shikhandi, who became a man to satisfy her wife; Mahadeva, who became a woman to deliver his devotee's child; Chudala, who became a man to enlighten her husband; and many more.

### 'Highest place to fraternity'

Fraternity too is not a pure western ideal. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar elucidated the Indian roots of the ideal of fraternity during an All India Radio interview in 1954: "My social philosophy may be said to be enshrined in three words: liberty, equality and fraternity. Let no one, however, say that I have borrowed my philosophy from the French Revolution. I have not. My philosophy has roots in religion and not political science. I have derived them from the teachings of my master, the Buddha... he gave the highest place to fraternity as the only real safeguard against the denial of liberty or equality - fraternity which was another name for brotherhood or humanity, which was another name for religion." Dr. Ambedkar championed the ideal of fraternity to uphold the cause of the oppressed castes, Dalits. The same principle is felicitous to the gender Dalits of present-day India - the LGBTQ+ community. The society should not deprive the LGBTQ+ community of affection and regards thanks only to their sexual orientation.

In *Is God anti-gay*, Sam Allberry quotes the Bible: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6 v 35). Allberry concludes his booklet by saying that "the invitation [of God] is there for everyone. And so precious is the gift that God cannot be truly said to be 'anti' anyone to whom this wonderful gift is being offered." If God is not anti-gay, how can His sons and daughters be homophobic?

Faisal C.K. is Under Secretary (Law) to the Government of Kerala

## STATE OF PLAY

# Time to roll out exam reforms

A way below par performance puts the spotlight on quality of education

P. SUJATHA VARMA

The unusually low pass percentage of students in the Secondary School Certificate examinations in Andhra Pradesh this year is worrisome. Only 67.26% of the total 6,15,908 students who appeared for the exam have cleared the all-important Board examinations and a disturbingly high number of 2,01,627 students have failed, contributing to the lowest pass percentage in Class 10 examinations in the State in the last 20 years.

A dissection of the exam fiasco brings to the fore two major factors leading to the dismal performance of students. The devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education sector with the longest school closures resulting in children losing valuable instructional time for many months at a stretch slowed the learning process. In post-COVID times, the overall welfare of children has declined substantially and they are deprived of the nutrition they received under the government-sponsored meal scheme.

The parents of students who failed have made a request to the government to allot 10 grace marks and help their children regain confidence that has taken a beating due to their failure and the demand has been endorsed by a few teacher unions and the Opposition party leaders, including the Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan.

The Class 10 results gave yet another platform to politicians for mudslinging. The ruling party, Yuvaiana Shramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) blamed the Telugu Desam Party for "allowing the rot of examination malpractices to continue during its rule in the State" while the latter holds the "YSRCP responsible for suicides by Class 10 students after the release of the exam results."

The other reason cited for the enormity of the non-performing students is a reason to ponder over. "This result is on expected lines given the tough stand we adopted against malpractices in the exams

this year," said Director of the School Education Department S. Suresh Kumar.

The worrying part is that teachers resorting to malpractices outnumbered the erring students. Recognising the need to nip this immoral practice in the bud, the government, for the first time, invoked the AP Public Examinations (Prevention of Malpractices and Unfair Means) Act, introduced 25 years ago. Arrests of a large number of teachers, many from government schools, as part of punitive measures to cleanse the examination system, worked as a deterrent, resulting in abysmally low rate of success in the public examination.

The government rolled out a slew of reforms in the education sector, sending out a clear message to non-performing institutions to clean up their act or risk being shut down. In a move to end malpractices, the exam pattern for students who wrote their SSC exams in 2019 was revamped.

Experts say that a good beginning has been made, but creating the right ecosystem to impart quality education will be a major challenge. Knowledge, skills and expertise being key enablers in this era of technology-driven disruptions, making children break away from the traditional rote learning, specifically in schools located in small villages, will be an uphill task, they point out.

The department officials have started discussing modalities to scale up reforms in the examination system by means of putting in place a fool-proof mechanism, besides initiating the exercise of improving quality of teaching by training and supporting them with modern teaching aids, tools and methodologies. The objective is to integrate the concept of lifelong learning and empower the students and make them productive citizens.

poothuri.varma@thehindu.co.in

## DATA POINT

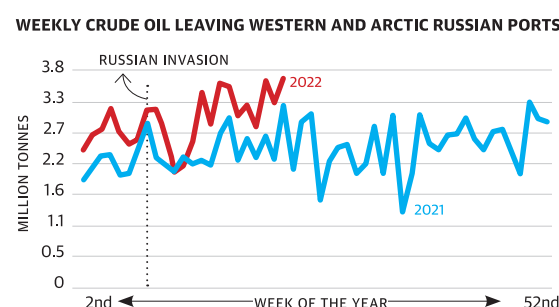


**3,619** In million Euros, the value of India's crude oil imports from Russia post the invasion

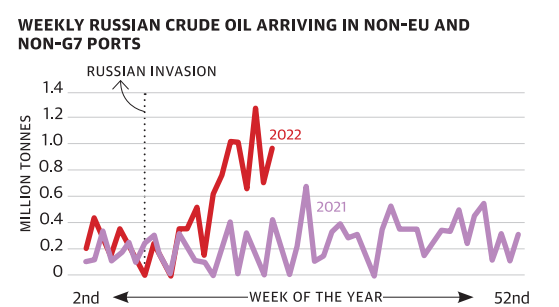
**6** India's position among the largest importers of Russian oil post the invasion

**1%** Share of Russian oil in India's total crude oil imports in the past five years

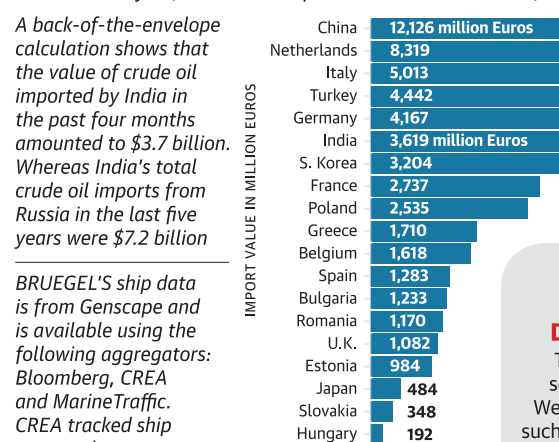
**1. MOSCOW'S OIL EXPORTS RISE** | The chart shows weekly exports of Russian crude oil for 2021 (—) and 2022 (—). Following the invasion, Russia's crude exports have been, in general, higher than 2021 despite sanctions imposed by many countries



**2. BUYERS POST WAR** | In 2022 (—), Russian crude oil exports to European countries were similar to the levels recorded in 2021 (—). In contrast, Russia's crude oil exports to non-EU and non-G7 countries such as China and India have surged this year post the invasion of Ukraine



**3. LARGEST IMPORTERS** | The chart shows the largest importers of crude oil from Russia, post the invasion of Ukraine. Since February 24, 2022 India imported Russian oil worth 3,619 million euros - sixth highest among all countries



BRUEGEL'S ship data is from Genscape and is available using the following aggregators: Bloomberg, CREA and MarineTraffic. CREA tracked ship voyages between ports in Russia and other countries using data from MarineTraffic.com and DataLastic

SOURCE: RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL TRACKER BY BRUEGEL, CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON ENERGY AND CLEAN AIR (CREA)

### 4. INDIA'S CRUDE DEPENDENCY

Traditionally, India sources its oil from West Asian countries such as Iraq, S. Arabia, and UAE. Between 2017 and 2021, India sourced only 1% of its crude oil needs from Russia - which ranked 14th among India's suppliers

Partner	Trade value (\$ billion)	India's dependency (in %)
Iraq	99.66	21.2
S. Arabia	86.50	18.4
UAE	44.84	9.5
Nigeria	39.78	8.5
Kuwait	25.19	5.4
Iran	25.01	5.3
U.S.	22.06	4.7
Venezuela	21.28	4.5
Mexico	15.39	3.3
Angola	12.36	2.6
Malaysia	7.74	1.6
Oman	7.72	1.6
Brazil	7.37	1.6
Russia	7.22	1.5

## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1972

### New world order

Stockholm, June 15: The Prime Ministers of India and Sweden have pledged to work for a new world order that would guarantee the economic independence and progress of developing nations. At a banquet held in honour of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Swedish Prime Minister Dr. Olaf Palme said colonialism in principle was dead but "there is a long way to travel" in regard to the economic independence and development of the new nations. In reply to the toast, Mrs. Gandhi criticised attempts by some Big Powers "to control balances and to carve out spheres of influence" and to dominate the developing countries by exploiting their economic weakness. Vietnam had shown that even a small country without economic and military strength could defy the mightiest power if it had the inner strength of the spirit, Mrs. Gandhi added. India, she declared, had not thrown off the yoke of imperialism "in order to accept any other protective umbrella." It would maintain its policy of non-alignment, notwithstanding the pressures. The two Prime Ministers reiterated their common commitment to bringing social transformation through democratic process and close identity of views on international issues.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1922

### Colonial development

London: A deputation from the Federation of British Industries and the London Chamber of Commerce submitted to Mr. Woods, under Secretary for Colonies a proposal for the establishment of unofficial committees in the Colonies to advise Governors on matters of finance and also a similar body in London to keep in touch with the Colonial Office. The deputation urged the desirability of postponing certain general schemes of development undertaken during influence of the boom period. Mr. Woods, replying, questioned whether high taxation would result in extravagant expenditures and emphasised the achievements of the Colonial Government during the past two years. He suggested that a short sighted policy would defer many development schemes largely undertaken for the benefit of British industry and for traders profit when trade revived. He pointed out nothing could prevent any Governor on his own initiative establishing an advisory committee and mentioned that one had already been appointed in Kenya. He referred sympathetically to the idea of a London Advisory Committee.

# Text & Context

## NEWS IN NUMBERS



### Pouring down

**27** The number of years after which Cherrapunji experienced a record high rainfall of 811.6 mm in 24 hours on Wednesday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). One of the wettest places in the world, Cherrapunji has recorded more than 750 mm of precipitation on a June day on 10 occasions since the IMD started keeping records. The department further informed that intense rainfall is likely to continue in the northeast and sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim in the next five days. **PTI**

### Economic gains rise

**37** India's rank in the World Competitiveness Index, an annual index compiled by the Institute for Management Development based on gains in economic performance. India has witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a jump of six positions from 43rd rank in 2021. Denmark has moved to the top of the 63-nation list from the third position last year, while Switzerland slipped from the top ranking to the second position and Singapore reached the third spot from fifth, a global study showed on Wednesday. **PTI**

### Assistance for athletes

**6.28** In ₹ lakh, the financial assistance allocated for each residential athlete training at accredited academies as per the annual Khelo India scholarship scheme. This includes an annual out-of-pocket allowance (OPA) of ₹1.20 lakh, according to a release by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). The SAI has sanctioned a total of ₹6.52 crore as OPA for 2,189 Khelo India athletes across 21 disciplines, including para, for the April-June period. The OPA will be transferred directly to the athlete's bank account. **PTI**

### Asia's World Cup entry

**6** The record number of teams to be representing the Asian football confederation at the World Cup for the first time in history. Qatar's hosting of the tournament between November 21 and December 18 this year, has added to Asia's usual automatic four qualification spots filled by Saudi Arabia, Japan, Iran and South Korea. South Korea had reached the semifinals while Japan made it to the Round of 16 in 2002 when the two countries co-hosted the tournament, but Asia has underperformed in every edition since. Europe is sending 13 teams. **AP**

### War hinders harvest

**1.435** In \$ billion, the total value of the winter crops across an area of 2.4 million hectares that will remain unharvested in Ukraine because of Russia's invasion, according to the Ukrainian agriculture Ministry. It said the agriculture sector had so far suffered losses of \$4.292 billion because of the invasion. It is estimated that the number of animals killed in areas affected by fighting included 42,000 sheep and goats, 92,000 cows, 2,58,000 pigs and more than 5.7 million birds. **REUTERS**

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

## EXPLAINER

# The fragile state of nuclear disarmament

How has India fared in SIPRI's annual report? Is the world becoming increasingly more militarised?

RISHABH KACHROO

**The story so far:** The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its yearbook a few days back highlighting some worrying trends of the past year in international security. The expected rise of the global nuclear arsenal was the chief cause of concern among SIPRI experts. The comprehensive report claims that while absolute numbers of nuclear arsenal have reduced, they are expected to grow over the next decade.

**What have been the trends in military spending?** During 2012-2021, military spending as a percentage of gross domestic product has largely been stable. If anything, the average worldwide trend has been slightly downward. Russia leads the charge in absolute numbers of nuclear inventory (5977 against the U.S.'s 5428), however it is the U.S. that has the largest number of deployed warheads (1744 against Russia's 1588). The U.K. has 225 nuclear weapons in its inventory, while France has 290, China has 350, India has 160, Pakistan has 165. Israel is estimated to have 90 and North Korea 20.

It is concerning, to say the least, to see how global discourse has created a sense of fear around China's military modernisation and their upward trend in nuclear weapons development while the thousands of nuclear weapons held by the U.S. don't seem to attract a similar level of attention.

**What about global arms imports?** Military modernisation is seen to be a global trend. All nuclear weapon owning states have, over the years, stated and worked upon their intention to modernise multiple facets of their armed forces—ranging from the development of newer and more efficient nuclear submarines, aircraft carriers, fighter jets, manned and unmanned aerial vehicles to the growing spread of the use of missile defence systems which may result in aggravating security concerns for other countries.

The yearbook has highlighted India as being the top weapons importer during the 2017-2021 period. Other countries to feature in the top five arms importers list include

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China, and Australia. According to SIPRI, these five nation states account for 38% of total global arms import.

### What are the key developments/concerns flagged by the yearbook?

The yearbook mentions low level border clashes between India and Pakistan, the civil war in Afghanistan, and the armed conflict in Myanmar as some of the worrying indicators of an unstable system. It also highlighted three cause of concern trends: Chinese-American rivalry, involvement of state and non-state actors in multiple conflicts, and the challenge that climatic and weather hazards pose. It is important to note here that the threat posed by climate change seems to feature in the report only nominally.

The marginal downsizing observed in the nuclear arsenal has come mostly from the U.S. and Russia dismantling retired warheads. But the Russian invasion of Ukraine has raised some serious eyebrows because of the continuous rhetoric from the Kremlin over them not shying away from the use of nuclear weapons. China's recent activities surrounding construction of 300 new nuclear missile silos have also been turning heads. Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue, Chinese Defence Minister, Wei Fenghe, claimed that while they have made "impressive progress" vis-à-vis their nuclear arsenal, the primary purpose of said arsenal continues to be self-defence. Over in the subcontinent, India and Pakistan seem to be making gains over their nuclear arsenal (in absolute numbers) while also looking at the development and procurement of newer and more efficient forms of delivery systems.

### Has Iran inflated its military expenditure?

The SIPRI yearbook claims that while there were some advances over the rollout of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran increased its enrichment of Uranium-235 to 60% in 2021. It also reported that Iran's military budget grew to \$24.6 billion, growing for the first time in four years. However, some analysts believe that SIPRI has, over the years, overstated Iran's military expenditure. This is based on there

not being a single Iranian exchange rate, resulting in a hyperinflated estimation of expenditure by SIPRI analysts.

It is claimed that SIPRI is aware of this 'accusation' and will investigate the 'exchange rate issue'.

### What is the general attitude among countries about existing nuclear and arms related treaties?

Earlier this year, the leaders of the P5 countries (China, France, Russia, the U.K. and the U.S.) issued a joint statement affirming the belief that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought". The joint statement also highlighted their seemingly collective belief that bilateral and multilateral arms control agreements and commitments were indeed important. The dichotomy of this sentiment against the upward trend in absolute numbers of arms and nuclear arsenals is rather unsettling. One could however claim that even with these upward trends, the nation states are making sure to remain well within the ambit of what the treaties and agreements ask for. The tactic here seems to be to milk the treaties and agreements to the hilt. The states are aware of the value of the rhetoric and the security dilemma that their actions present. The recent Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent NATO bids by Finland and Sweden seem to be telling events. While the Ukrainian invasion saw Russian military and political establishments hype-up its nuclear attack rhetoric against Ukraine, its primary leadership (both civil and military) had been rather diplomatic and 'relatively' cordial in its treatment of the Finnish and Swedish NATO bids.

Clear and constant communication between the countries involved was instrumental in making sure no unintended meanings were construed by the parties involved. The Russians seem to protract this invasion and hope to win it by exhausting Ukraine's defence capabilities.

The year 2021 also saw the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 2017 coming into effect. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Missile Technology Control Regimes (MTCR) held their annual meetings despite decision making being limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



### What lies ahead?

The recent geopolitical events transpiring around the world in practically all regions have made the global security climate more unstable. A sense of precariousness lulls the air. It is further aided by actions of authoritarian leaders of not just non-democratic systems but also of strongmen leaders of democratic systems. The muscular military policies of these nations coupled with the continuous use of rhetoric that fuel public sentiment over the state's use of military assets make ripe conditions for the situation to further deteriorate. A strong political opposition would be needed to help keep the ruling dispensation in check. Furthermore, the two largest nuclear weapons holding states need to take on a more engaging role in the international arena. SIPRI's yearbook, while not being devoid of some challenges, forces us to look critically at how the global disarmament project seems to be going.

*Rishabh Kachroo is a Ph.D scholar at the department of International Relations and Governance Studies at Shiv Nadar University*

## THE GIST

■ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its yearbook a few days back highlighting some trends of the past year in international security. Russia leads the charge in absolute numbers of nuclear inventory.

■ India is the top weapons importer during the 2017-2021 period. Other countries to feature in the top five arms importers list include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China, and Australia. According to SIPRI, these five nation states account for 38% of total global arms import.

■ Recent geopolitical events transpiring around the world in practically all regions have made the global security climate more unstable. Military modernisation is seen to be a global trend. All nuclear weapon owning states have, over the years, stated and worked upon their intention to modernise multiple facets of their armed forces.

## EXPLAINER

# The controversy around the Northern Ireland Protocol

Why is the European Union threatening legal action against the U.K.? How is the Johnson administration justifying the breach of international obligations?

G. SAMPATH

**The story so far:** The Boris Johnson administration has come up with a new legislation, the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill, which would enable the U.K. to override provisions of the Brexit deal that concern trading arrangements in Northern Ireland – the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP). The European Union (EU) has said that the proposed law violates international law and has threatened to take legal action against the U.K. if it goes ahead with the legislation.

### What exactly is the NIP?

Northern Ireland is the only part of the U.K. that shares a land border with the EU, as the Republic of Ireland (or Ireland) is an EU member-state. As long as the U.K. was part of the EU, things were fine. But with Brexit, the U.K. exited the EU's customs union. This created a problem whose solution needed two seemingly contradictory outcomes: preserving the sanctity of the EU's single market, as well as that of the U.K.'s domestic market. The NIP's solution was to avoid a customs check at the actual customs border – on the island of Ireland, between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – as this would have violated the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and risked instability

in a region with a volatile past. It instead shifted the customs border to that between Northern Ireland and Britain, effectively at the former's ports. As per the NIP, goods flowing into Northern Ireland would be checked at this 'sea border' before entering the island, and Northern Ireland would continue to follow EU rules in product standards.

### Why did the U.K. come up with the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill?

The Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) has been a lingering issue for the U.K. almost from the day Brexit was signed. In fact, back in July 2021, the Boris Johnson administration announced its intent to renegotiate the NIP. But with efforts at negotiations not producing the results it wanted, it decided to proceed with a unilateral revamp of the NIP via domestic legislation. The main irritant for the U.K. in the current version of the NIP was the creation of "unacceptable barriers" to trade within the U.K. internal market – between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It has sparked complaints from businesses about the enormous paperwork needed for supply of goods and services to Northern Ireland despite it being within the sovereign territory of the U.K. Also, the Unionists of Northern Ireland (the section loyal to the U.K.) are



Protesters in support of the NIP in Northern Ireland on May 16. **AP**

unhappy with the NIP, and resent having to put up with a provision that effectively puts them at one remove from the U.K., when compared with citizens in other parts of the U.K. Northern Ireland's main unionist party is, in fact, blocking the formation of a new power-sharing government in Belfast, saying it won't take part until the NIP rules are scrapped. It is in this context that the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill seeks to empower the U.K. government to override key provisions of the NIP.

### How does the proposed Bill undermine the NIP?

Instead of subjecting all goods moving

between Britain and Northern Ireland to customs checks, the new Bills proposes two categories of goods and checks: goods meant only for Northern Ireland would go in a 'green lane' and will be exempt from any checks, while goods headed for Ireland and the EU would go into a 'red lane' where they will be subjected to all the checks and customs controls. Secondly, the Bill would remove EU oversight on state subsidies and value-added taxes in Northern Ireland. Third, the Bill proposes settlement of trade disputes and the enforcement of the NIP by an independent body rather than the European Court of Justice. Lastly, the Bill wants to give businesses the choice of selling their goods in Northern Ireland either according to the U.K. rules or the EU rules, in effect, proposing a dual regulatory regime instead of the single (EU) one as per the NIP.

### What has been the reaction to the proposed Bill?

The Bill has triggered strong pushback from MPs belonging to Mr. Johnson's own party, from Irish legislators, and from EU officials. All of them have pointed out that the legislation would violate international law, damage the U.K.'s reputation as a trade partner, and spark a trade war with

the EU. The EU's executive branch announced on June 15 that it would be taking legal action against the U.K. for violating international law.

### How has the Johnson administration justified the Bill?

The Johnson administration has sought to justify its breach of its obligations under the Brexit agreement by invoking a principle of international law known as the "doctrine of necessity". The UN's International Law Commission allows a state to invoke this doctrine when its "essential interests" are facing a "grave and imminent peril". The Johnson administration believes that this emergency loophole will enable it to defeat any legal challenge to its proposed Bill. The "grave peril" in this context, according to the British government, is the threat posed by the NIP to the Good Friday Agreement. "The maintenance of stable social and political conditions in Northern Ireland, the protection of the 1998 Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement...and the preservation and fostering of social and economic ties between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom, are essential interests of the United Kingdom," says a statement from the U.K. Foreign Secretary.

## THE GIST

■ The Boris Johnson administration has come up with a new legislation, the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill, which would enable the U.K. to override provisions of the Brexit deal that concern trading arrangements outlined in the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP).

■ The main irritant for the U.K. in the current version of the NIP was the creation of "unacceptable barriers" to trade within the internal market, between Britain and Northern Ireland.

■ The Johnson administration has sought to justify its breach of obligations by invoking the "doctrine of necessity" as the NIP according to them, posits a "grave and imminent peril" to the Good Friday Agreement.



ABSTRACT

# Brain networks and nicotine addiction

A study of patients who quit smoking spontaneously reveals brain networks that are associated with alcohol and other forms of addiction

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Joutsa, J., Moussawi, K., Siddiqi, S.H. et al. Brain lesions disrupting addiction map to a common human brain circuit. *Nat Med* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-01834-y>

By studying brain scans of human patients who incurred lesions in their brains after an accident, and then spontaneously quit smoking, researchers map out the brain networks associated with addiction. The study published in *Nature Medicine* sheds light on areas of the brain that can be used as target for modulation and therapy for addiction to nicotine or alcohol. The authors of the paper caution that more larger studies need to be done to ascertain what side effects such modulation and therapy will produce.

### The harms of substance abuse

Substance use is a term in common parlance that includes the use of a range of products, including psychoactive drugs. Psychoactive drugs are substances which when taken or administered into the system cause an alteration in mental processes, such as perception, consciousness, cognition and mood or emotions. Psychoactive drugs include alcohol and nicotine. While not all of these are addictive, substance use disorders are a major health hazard. They affect 8-10% of adult population and are a leading cause of death. Hence there is an interest in understanding how to treat addictions and substance use disorders.

Among these, tobacco alone is a major factor, and the data on tobacco use is grim. India is the second largest consumer of tobacco. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (2016-17) nearly

267 million adults (15 years and above) in India, which is about 29% of India's adult population, use tobacco in some form or the other. To add one more datapoint to this, about 8 million people annually die because of tobacco use – that is nearly half the people who use it – and of this, over 7 million are primary users and around 1.2 million are non-smokers exposed to tobacco in a passive manner.

### New methods of substance abuse treatment try modulating specific parts of the brain which are believed to be implicated in addiction

Treatment for substance use disorders are inadequate and do not show promise in the long term. New methods of treatment try modulating specific parts of the brain which are believed to be implicated in addiction. Now, a study published in *Nature Medicine* tries to identify the network of regions in the brain that are involved in substance addiction. The study finds that brain lesions that lead to spontaneous remission of tobacco addiction in people affect a part of a common brain network. Further, they find evidence of commonality of this network across different substance addictions and this seems to suggest new targets for neuromodulation therapies.

### Brain circuits, not regions

The researchers studied the brain scans of 129 patients addicted to smoking at the time they suffered localised brain damage. Of these, 60% were male and their average age was 56 years. Of the 129, 34 patients experienced spontaneous

addiction remission following the injury. That is, they were able to quit smoking without experiencing craving or relapse. They also show that though the lesions associated with remission occurred in many different places in the brain, these can be mapped to a specific brain network. Additionally they found this network was reproducible in the case of other substances of abuse, in independent groups of people with lesions. These included people with reduced risk of alcohol addiction and case reports of lesions that disrupted addiction to substances other than nicotine.

Broadly speaking, the authors found that brain circuits rather than specific brain regions may be involved in causing addiction, and damage to these circuits – whatever the reason – may result in remission. Common areas were found for alcohol and tobacco addiction. “These results did not correlate with psychological tests which indicates that anatomical rather than behavioural factors may be involved,” says Dr. Smita Deshpande who is a professor of psychiatry at St. John's Research Institute, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, in Bengaluru.

Dr. Deshpande also points out that the authors have measured alcohol dependence by a questionnaire which did not actually mean that those people were alcohol dependent. “They also did not look at issues such as degree of recovery, ability to function in daily life, family support, occupational factors and psychological factors other than those described in the paper,” she says. It is also not specified for how long the patients studied had quit smoking (remained free of nicotine), “as relapses are common in all addictions.”

## THE GIST

■ Substance use is a term in common parlance that includes use of a range of products, including psychoactive drugs. While not all of these are addictive, substance use disorders are a major health hazard.

■ A study published in *Nature Medicine* tries to identify the network of regions in the brain that are involved in substance addiction. The study finds that brain lesions that lead to spontaneous remission of tobacco addiction in people affect a part of a common brain network.

■ Additionally they found this network was reproducible in the case of other substances of abuse, in independent groups of people with lesions.

## THE DAILY QUIZ

### Here's a quiz on famous speeches from history

1 Delivered in 1963, this speech has a well-known refrain that symbolises the soul of the civil rights movement in America. Although its title has many origins, it is believed that towards the end of its delivery, someone shouted to the speaker from the crowd, “Tell them about the dream, Martin.” Name the speech and the speaker.

2 Name this philosopher whose most famous speech was delivered at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893, and began with the words “Sisters and brothers of America...”

3 This inspirational slogan was mentioned by Apple co-founder Steve Jobs in 2005 in his Stanford commencement address. The slogan is today associated with Jobs' legacy and his vision

for Apple. Name the slogan.

4 The Gettysburg Address, delivered in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln, contains a line that is often cited today as the definition of democracy. Identify this timeless sentence, which conveys that in a democracy, the citizens of the country elect the government to rule the country and the elected government works for the welfare of the people.

5 This sporting legend earned many of baseball's top honours and awards before passing away at 37 after a brief battle with ALS. Name this baseball player, who lends his name to ALS.

6 The following are words from the inaugural address of which President of the U.S.? “And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”



◀ In this still from the war film *Darkest Hour* (2017), Gary Oldman is seen portraying a British leader known for delivering the speech ‘Blood, toil, tears and sweat’. Identify the leader.

Please send in your answers to the [dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in](mailto:dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in)

**Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. The name of the Visegrád Group can be traced back to this event in world history. **Ans: 1335 Congress of Visegrád**

2. This term is used to refer to the eastern part of the Arab world. There is a companion term to this term which is used to refer to the western part of North Africa. **Ans: Mashrek, Maghreb**

3. The Central American Integration System was formed with the signing of this protocol. It is also called by this name. **Ans: Protocol of Tegucigalpa, Guatemala**

4. The New Development Bank has four more members apart from the five founding states. **Ans: Bangladesh, the UAE, Uruguay, Egypt**

5. The only writer who has received the SAARC Literary Award award twice. **Ans: Suman Pokhrel**

6. The legally binding agreement signed in 2002 by the member states of the ASEAN to reduce haze pollution. **Ans: ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution**

7. The North American Free Trade Agreement has been replaced by this agreement. **Ans: United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement**

8. Mercosur is a portmanteau of this Spanish word. **Ans: Mercado Común del Sur, which means Common Market of the South**

Visual: Identify this international agency with the help of the logo. **Ans: The Universal Postal Union established through the Treaty of Bern. World Post Day is observed every year to commemorate this establishment.**

Early Birds: Mahima Srivastava| Sarbrinder Singh| Bipin Arya|

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

# Know your English

Good morning, sir”.  
“Good morning”.  
“What's the difference between ‘respectfully’ and ‘respectively’, sir?”  
“ ‘Respectfully’ means ‘full of respect’, ‘in a courteous manner’.

*He spoke to him respectfully.*  
‘Respectively’ refers to the order of items in a series.

*Rama and Sridhar brought mangoes and oranges respectively.*

This means that Rama brought mangoes and Sridhar brought oranges.

*Krishna and John have their offices in Perambur and Mylapore respectively.*

This means that Krishna's office is in Perambur and John's office is in Mylapore”.

“Is there any difference between ‘angry at’ and ‘angry with’, sir?”

“Yes. You get angry with people.  
*Ram is angry with her.*

*They are angry with John.*

You are angry at what someone says.  
*He was angry at the way the meeting was conducted.*

*They were angry at the way she spoke.*

You are angry at situations and angry with people”.

“What is the difference between ‘reconciled to’ and ‘reconciled with’, sir?”

“You try to reconcile with another when there is a dispute. You don't want to quarrel for ever. You may decide to live in harmony with him. Then you use ‘reconcile with’.

*She stayed away from her husband for several months. Now she is reconciled with him and is staying with him.*

When you can't do anything about an unpleasant situation, you learn to live with it. Then you say ‘I am reconciled to the situation’. ‘Reconciled to’ means ‘resigned to’.

The situation is such that you must reconcile yourself to it. When you reconcile with someone, harmony is restored. When you say you are reconciled to something, it means you have to put up with something disagreeable or unpleasant”.

“What is the difference between ‘historical’ and ‘historic’, sir?”

“Historic means ‘momentous’ or ‘important in the frame-work of history’.

*It was a historic occasion.*

*It was a historic speech.*

*It is a historic building.*

A historic occasion is an important occasion that will go down in the annals of history. ‘Historical’ means ‘pertaining to history’.

*Is it historically true?*

*It is a historical novel.*

A historical novel is based on history. What is historical may not be historic; what is historic is part of history”.

“How do you pronounce the second syllable ‘et’ in ‘bucket’, sir?”

“It is pronounced as ‘it’. It's the same in ‘ticket’ also. Well, let's stop here. Goodbye”.

“Thank you, sir. Goodbye”.

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) with the subject ‘Text & Context’

FROM PAGE ONE

## 17 Oppn. parties to field a common candidate

The key absentees included the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). The AAP, according to sources, has said it will wait and see whose name emerges and then decide. The TRS remains non-committal.

Wednesday's meeting was just to bring all parties on one platform. Sources said that no detailed discussions on any candidate was held. At the very beginning, Ms. Banerjee said the Trinamool and other Opposition parties would have wholeheartedly supported Mr. Pawar's candidature, but since he had already rejected the idea further consultations were required.

None of the other leaders mentioned any names, and towards the close of the meeting, Ms. Banerjee suggested Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Abdullah. Both these names were discussed at a meeting that CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI general secretary D. Raja had with Mr. Pawar.

The Left had supported Mr. Gandhi's nomination in the 2017 Presidential election too, but withdrew his name after the Congress pushed for former Speaker Meira Kumar's candidature.

Ms. Banerjee, in her opening remarks, expressed concern at the misuse of Central agencies at the behest of the Modi government, citing the Enforcement Directorate's case against Congress president Sonia Gand-

hi and Rahul Gandhi.

Mr. Kharge said, the Opposition should be proactive and not reactive. The Congress party, he said, had no particular candidate in mind and was willing to back a candidate acceptable to all. He said many parties at the meeting competed with each other in Assembly elections. But that had not prevented this meeting from taking place, because each party had taken a larger national view and come here for a bigger cause. Obliquely expressing Congress's concern at being outfoxed by the Trinamool, Mr. Kharge said: "Let me close by saying that we must remain united and disciplined and not score political points against each other. The unity we demonstrate now will have implications going well beyond the Presidential polls".

The Left parties, represented by Elamaram Kareem (CPI-M) and Binoy Viswam (CPI), said without taking names that other Opposition parties who were not present should also be convinced to join forces.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Kharge, Jairam Ramesh and Randeep Surjewala from the Congress, DMK MP T.R. Baalu, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, RLD president Jayant Chaudhary, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and senior National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, among other leaders.

## Cabinet approves mega 5G auction from July-end

The notice inviting offer said direct allocation to the big tech companies will follow a demand study and sector regulator TRAI's recommendation on aspects such as pricing and modalities of such allocation.

Big tech companies like Google have been seeking direct allocation of spectrum for applications such as machine-to-machine communications, IoT and AI, while telecom companies have been opposing direct allocation of 5G spectrum to them saying it will

distort the level playing field and rob the government of revenues. According to the document, the auction is slated to start on July 26, 2022. Among other key dates to watch out for is the pre-bid conference scheduled for June 20, 2022, submission of applications with a deadline of July 8, and pre-qualification of bidders on July 18. Mock auctions will be held on July 22 and 23, 2022. Overall, the payment terms have been eased for bidders in the coming auction.

## Daughter of judge held in murder case

Subsequently, on a reference from the Chandigarh administration, the CBI re-registered the case on April 13, 2016.

In September 2016, the agency announced a reward of ₹5 lakh for clues leading to the identity of those involved in the murder. The amount was increased to ₹10 lakh in December 2021.

In December 2020, the CBI had submitted an "un-

traced report" in a court, with a plea that it would like to continue the probe giving a strong suspicion about the woman suspect's role.

Based on its findings, the agency finally summoned Ms. Singh for questioning and arrested her as she was allegedly evasive in her responses.

"She was remanded in four-day police custody," said a CBI statement.

## ED summons Rahul Gandhi again tomorrow

A video clip released by the official Twitter handle of the Congress party showed police constables, accompanied by Additional DCP Hemant Tiwari, barging in and dragging out workers including former Lok Sabha MP Kamal Kishore from the party headquarters.

In another video, the Lok Sabha member from Karur, S. Jothi Mani, showed how the police had torn off her clothes and removed her shoes. "Honorable Speaker Sir, Delhi Police has brutally behaved with us and assaulted us. Please take action," she said.

In another video, the Lok Sabha member from Karur, S. Jothi Mani, showed how the police had torn off her clothes and removed her shoes. "Honorable Speaker Sir, Delhi Police has brutally behaved with us and assaulted us. Please take action," she said.

**Pilot detained**  
Senior leader Sachin Pilot was detained and taken to the Narela police station while Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda claimed

he was not allowed to leave his MP's bungalow.

Contesting these claims, the Delhi Police officials said the Congress leaders ignored their suggestions to protest at Jantar Mantar and some workers even disrupted traffic by burning tyres close to the ED office.

On day three, Mr. Gandhi's questioning began at noon and went on until 3 p.m. After an hour's lunch break, the questioning resumed at around 4 p.m. and went on till about 9.30 p.m. Sources claimed that the ED has been conducting a video and audio recording of the statement of Mr. Gandhi during all the sessions. The Congress leader is said to be minutely reviewing the transcripts before signing and submission to the investigating officer.

# Doval attends meeting hosted by China

Both sides downplay differences on anniversary of Galwan conflict; BRICS summit to held on June 24

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval attended a virtual BRICS meeting hosted by Chinese NSA Yang Jiechi on Wednesday, aimed at strengthening "political and security cooperation" within the five-nation grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Sources said that Mr. Doval called for cooperation on terrorism "without reservations", and preventing the use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) by terrorists during the meeting. He also emphasised the "need for urgent reform of the multilateral system", and the importance of resilient supply chains.

Significantly, the NSA's meeting was one of two multilateral events attended by



The BRICS Security Advisers and High Representatives meeting underway on Wednesday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India and China on a day that marked two years since the Galwan clashes along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). On Wednesday, New Delhi also hosted a border security conference of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) countries, that includes officials from China, Russia, Pakistan and Central Asian countries.

"With profound changes in the international landscape interwoven with a pandemic unseen in a century, our world has entered a new phase of turbulence and transformation," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Wednesday, adding that China would work with BRICS members to "further consolidate political mutual trust, deepen political and security cooperation, uphold the five countries' security and deve-

lopment interests, and contribute to world peace and stability".

The virtual meeting came a week ahead of the BRICS summit on June 24 hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend along with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

This will be the first BRICS summit after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and will be watched closely for the discussions between the leaders. On Wednesday, Mr. Xi spoke to Mr. Putin, reaffirming China's "mutual support" for "sovereignty and security". Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also spoken to President Putin over the telephone several times since the beginning of the conflict, but this will be the first such occasion when all

three leaders will be on a common platform along with Brazilian President Bolsonaro and South African President Ramaphosa, albeit virtually.

Meanwhile, the BSF hosted the 21st meeting of the Experts Group and eighth meeting of the Heads of Border Authorities of the Competent Bodies of SCO member states in New Delhi.

The meetings on Wednesday, the two-year anniversary of the clashes in the Galwan valley where 20 Indian soldiers were killed in brutal clashes with Chinese soldiers, also signify an attempt by New Delhi and Beijing to downplay the differences between the two countries despite the standoff between an estimated 1,00,000 soldiers on both sides of the boundary.

## Justice Desai is new Press Council chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a former judge of the Supreme Court, has been selected for the post of the Press Council of India (PCI) Chairperson.

Justice Desai had recently headed the Delimitation Commission on J&K which was set up to redraw the Assembly constituencies of the Union Territory.

A committee comprising Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Press Council member Prakash Dubey approved her appointment at a meeting held on Tuesday, sources said.

The post was lying vacant since Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad (retd.) completed his term in November last year.

## Petition in SC seeks stringent population control law

It will secure the fundamental rights of citizens: petitioner

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A Mathura resident has asked the Supreme Court to direct the government to "ascertain the feasibility" of enacting a "stringent population control law."

Devkinandan Thakur Ji, the petitioner, said such a law would secure the fundamental rights of citizens, including the "right to peaceful sleep" along with "clean" air, water, food, health and shelter. Mr. Thakur said the injury caused by population explosion for women especially was "extremely large".



defined as more than four viable births, in developing countries like India is 20% while it is only 2% in developed countries".

In December 2020, in a similar petition filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, the government had clarified that it was against coercing couples into having a "certain number of children" in a bid to curb population explosion.

**Impact on women**  
"The impact that repeated child-bearing has on women are seldom highlighted outside niche areas," the petition said.

It said the "incidents of grand multiparity, which is

In fact, the government said the period between 2001-2011 had witnessed the sharpest decline in decadal growth rate among Indians in a 100 years.

**Government's stand**  
"The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables couples to decide the size of their family and adopt the family planning methods best suited to them, according to their choice, without any compulsion," the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had said in an affidavit.

It said India was a signatory to the Programme Of Action (POA) of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, which was unequivocally against coercion in family planning.

## Myanmar unlikely to be part of ASEAN-India meeting

India has been under pressure to avoid country's inclusion

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE  
NEW DELHI

The Foreign Minister of Myanmar is unlikely to be part of the 24th ASEAN-India Ministerial here on Thursday, an official source indicated.

Myanmar's representation at the meeting was in focus as India had been under pressure to avoid inclusion of Myanmar in the high-level meeting. The other factor behind Myanmar's absence is the souring ASEAN-Myanmar ties that were affected beginning with the February 1, 2021 coup that overthrew the Aung San Suu Kyi government in Myanmar.



Wunna Maung Lwin

The non-participation of Myanmar in the ASEAN India Senior Officials' Meeting will follow the "ASEAN consensus".

The non-participation of Wunna Maung Lwin in Thursday's meet is being interpreted as India accommodating international concern over the junta in Myanmar which has refused to enter into a negotiation with the

protesters demanding restoration of democracy. In comparison, the Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin had participated in the BIMSTEC summit in a virtual format earlier. That participation had drawn criticism from the United States.

However, Myanmar Senior General and *de facto* ruler Min Aung Hlaing sent a message for the 25th anniversary of BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation - on June 6 in which he wished "peace and prosperity" for the Bay of Bengal community.

Wednesday's meeting witnessed India welcoming "positive contributions of and continued support of Singapore" in strengthening ASEAN-India relations as the Country Coordinator.

*The Hindu* had earlier reported that India was unlikely to invite Myanmar Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin. The Ministry of External Affairs last week an-

## Agniveers to get priority in CAPF recruitment

Data show 80% decline in recruitment since 2017, only 10,000 personnel recruited in 2020

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Youth recruited in the armed forces under the short-term 'Agnipath' scheme will get priority in recruitment to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Assam Rifles, the Union Home Ministry announced on Wednesday.

A senior Ministry official said the details were being worked out, but 'Agniveers' would be given priority when they completed the four years of military service. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that the Ministry had taken steps to fill vacancies in mission mode in accordance with Prime Minister Naren-



**High priority:** In 2020, only 10,184 CAPF posts were filled, while vacancies stood at 1.29 lakh. •FILE PHOTO

dra Modi's instructions to recruit 10 lakh personnel in a year and a half.

However, according to the latest Home Ministry data, there has been an over 80% decline in the number of

CAPF personnel - constables, sub-inspectors and assistant commandants (ACs) - recruited in the past four years. The 10-lakh-strong CAPF is one of the largest employment generation

agencies under the Home Ministry.

According to the 2021 Data of Police Organisations report, in 2020, only 10,184 CAPF posts were filled, while vacancies stood at 1.29 lakh.

In 2017, as many as 58,396 personnel were recruited against vacancies of 77,153.

In 2018 and 2019, the number of such recruits stood at 30,098 and 14,541, respectively.

**'Bulk of appointments'**  
In 2020, the bulk of such appointments - 7,369 constables and sub-inspectors - were made for the Railway Protection Force (RPF) under the Railway Ministry, though the vacancies were

filled by the Home Ministry.

The CAPF comprises the Central Reserve Police Force, the Central Industrial Security Force, the Border Security Force, the Sashastra Seema Bal and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, which are under the administrative and operational control of the Home Ministry. The Assam Rifles deployed along the Myanmar border is under the administrative control of the Home Ministry.

The recruitment of 10 lakh personnel in government departments and Ministries is to be completed in the next 18 months, just before the 2024 general elections are held.

## 'Agniveers can serve during wars'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Youth recruited in the armed forces under the short-term 'Agnipath' scheme can be called back if the situation demands, particularly in case of a full-fledged war, Lt. General K.K. Repswal, Chief of Staff, Eastern Command, said on Wednesday.

"It will be trained pool available to you and if the situation so demands they can be called back," Mr. Repswal said.

Asked about whether women can be part of the new scheme, Lt. General Repswal said that once the scheme stabilises "girls will get a chance".

## 'Data being collated for giving cash aid to women family heads'

T.N. Finance Minister cites irregularities in loan waiver

STAFF REPORTER  
MADURAI

Data is being collated and rectified before the DMK's poll promise of ₹1,000 cash aid for women heads of families is rolled out, Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan said on Wednesday.

Addressing mediapersons here on Wednesday, Mr. Thiagarajan said data was being collated as there were certain discrepancies while implementing the loan waiver for jewellery and crops and the financial assistance for ration cardholders.



Palanivel Thiagarajan

"Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has already addressed the issue of distributing monthly cash assistance to women heads of families in the Assembly, and steps are being taken in this regard. Data is the basis for this," he said.

Mr. Thiagarajan said the government would increas-

ingly make use of online platforms for people to avail themselves of government services.

For those who were unable to access online platforms, the services would reach them at their doorstep, just like the Illam Thedi Kalvi and Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam schemes, he said.

Speaking on providing a platform for start-ups, the Finance Minister said the State government would benefit through innovations like drones for conducting surveys, help in property tax assessment, automated cooking machines and use of robots to unclog sewage systems.

## 3-year degree programme for Agnipath recruits

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

A day after the Cabinet approved the 'Agnipath' scheme for temporary recruitment to the armed forces, the Union Education Ministry on Wednesday said it will launch a three-year degree programme that will give credits to serving defence personnel who avail themselves of the scheme.

The aim is to "enhance the future career prospects of our 'Agniveers', and equip them for various job roles in the civilian sector and recognise the skill training received" by them during their defence tenure, the Ministry said.

Under the programme that will be designed and executed by IGNOU, 50% of the

credits required for the graduate degree will come from skills received under the 'Agnipath' scheme, and the remaining 50% will come from a basket of courses that cover a wide variety of subjects like languages, economics, history, political science, public administration, sociology, mathematics, education, commerce, tourism, vocational studies, agriculture, environmental studies, English communication and astrology.

**MoU for programme**  
IGNOU will enter into an MoU with the Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force to offer the programme to their personnel. The course has been recognised by the All India Council of Techni-

cal Education (AICTE), the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) and the UGC, the Ministry of Education said. It will be recognised in India and abroad.

The programme will conform with UGC norms as well as those laid down under the National Skill Qualification Framework as part of the National Education Policy, 2020.

Those who apply for the programme will also have the provision of multiple exit points under which they will get an undergraduate certificate on completion of the first year, an undergraduate diploma on completion of the first two years and a degree on completion of all the three years.

# Rajnath dials Mamata, Kharge, Naveen

Defence Minister and BJP chief contact key political leaders and parties over Presidential election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president J.P. Nadda on Wednesday began the consultation process, on behalf of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), for the upcoming election for the next President of India by dialling key Opposition leaders, NDA allies and neutral parties such as the Biju Janata Dal (BJD).

Mr. Singh and Mr. Nadda have been empowered by the BJP to undertake this process of consultation, even as 17 Opposition parties held a meeting to arrive at a common candidate to be fielded by them for the poll.

Among the leaders whom Mr. Singh spoke to included Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav. Among NDA allies, Mr. Singh spoke to Bi-



Talk time: A file photo of Rajnath Singh and J.P. Nadda with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

har Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

He also spoke to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik whose party, the BJD, is equidistant from both the NDA and the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), but who is expected to go with the NDA on the Presidential poll.

Mr. Singh is also in touch with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Red-

dy, and is expected to reach out to BSP chief Mayawati, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar, former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (S) leader H.D. Deve Gowda and AIADMK leader O. Panneerselvam.

Sources said the Opposition leaders asked Mr. Singh about the BJP-led NDA's nominee for the Presidential election, when he put a

## 11 nominations filed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Eleven people filed their nominations on the first day on Wednesday for the Presidential election to be held on July 18. One of the nominations was rejected for want of proper papers.

Among the candidates is a Lulu Prasad Yadav from Saran in Bihar, not to be confused with his namesake and Rashtriya Janata Dal

chief. Some of the nominations filed were from individuals who have contested the Presidential poll as well as other elections several times. K. Padmarajan from Salem, Tamil Nadu; Jeevan Kumar Mittal from Moti Nagar in Delhi; and Sairo Bano Mohammad Patel and her husband Mohammad A. Hamid Patel are among the contestants.

question on whether the Opposition had any suggestions to offer. "Our response was that the NDA should share its ideas over who they thought would be the ruling alliance's candidate," a source said.

Mr. Nadda is also in touch with the DMK, the NPP, the NC, the AJSU and the Nagaland People's Front.

During the meeting convened by Ms. Banerjee, at

least two more names emerged - National Conference supreme Farooq Abdullah and Gopalkrishna Gandhi - after Mr. Pawar declined to be a candidate.

The election for the President will be held on July 18, while the nomination process began on Wednesday.

The incumbent Ram Nath Kovind's term ends on July 24.

# Cong. resorting to protest to hide corruption: BJP

It points to the progressive decline of the party: Trivedi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday accused the Congress of resorting to violent protests to "hide" its corruption, stating that the Opposition party's protest against the summoning of Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged case of graft shows its "progressive decline", the true "satya" of the Congress claimed it was undertaking on the issue.

At a press conference in New Delhi, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi pointed out to Mahatma Gandhi's decision to call off the Congress-led non-cooperation movement due to violence, and contrasted it with the "violent protests" by the Congress opposing the investigation in a case of



BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi

Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel) and most of its MPs are in Delhi as part of the Congress's protests against the ED's summons to the former party president.

Mr. Gandhi appeared before the ED for the third consecutive day on Wednesday for questioning in the National Herald money laundering case, with the agency seeking answers on decisions taken with regard to the media organisation and its owner Young India.

Congress leaders and workers staged protests outside the ED office and the party headquarters here and were detained by the police. Several Youth Congress and Mahila Congress workers protesting outside the party office on Akbar Road were roughed up by the police and taken away, the party said.

## SC to hear today pleas on demolitions

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled on Thursday to hear separate petitions filed against the demolition drives, especially the destruction of homes in Uttar Pradesh of people allegedly linked to the riots that broke out following objectionable remarks made by two now-sacked BJP leaders against Prophet Muhammad.

A Vacation Bench of Justices A.S. Bopanna and Vikram Nath will hear two petitions filed by the Jamiat. The first alleges that bulldozers in several States targeted only one community after incidents of communal violence. This petition was filed in the top court shortly after the demolition drive in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri following communal violence in April.

The second petition filed by the Muslim body concerns the recent destruction of homes in Uttar Pradesh in the aftermath of Prophet remarks row. Jamiat has alleged that authorities began to demolish the houses without even giving people an opportunity to be heard. The petition has asked the court to direct the authorities to stop any further demolition from being carried out in violation of the due process of law.

# Demolition drives may challenge the rule of law

Petitions have alleged that they violate Article 300A

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The recent demolition drives in the aftermath of the row over the remarks on Prophet Muhammad may challenge certain basic tenets of law, including the right of a person to be heard first, and that the state can deprive a person of his or her property only after following due procedure and under the authority of a valid law as mandated under Article 300A of the Constitution.

"The right to property under Article 300A is a human right," former Supreme Court judge Justice V. Gopala Gowda told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Justice Gowda is one of the 12 signatories of a letter urging the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognisance of the demolitions in Uttar Pradesh. The letter conveyed that razing buildings without giving affected persons prior notice or hearing them first was a violation of the rule of law. Rule of law is a basic feature of the Constitution.

The letter quoted media reports of the Chief Minister "exhorting officials to take such action against those guilty that it sets an example so that no one commits a crime or takes law into their hands in future". It contended that the "coordinated manner in which the police and development authori-



A house being demolished in Prayagraj. •PTI

ties have acted lead to the clear conclusion that demolitions are a form of collective extrajudicial punishment, attributable to a state policy which is illegal."

A plea by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind in the Supreme Court contended that the "demolition of properties carried out by the Uttar Pradesh government in retaliation was in breach of the laws enacted by the State legislature itself".

It referred to Section 10 of the Uttar Pradesh (Regulation of Building Operations) Act of 1958 which mandates that a building should not be demolished without giving the affected parties "a reasonable opportunity of being heard".

Section 27 of the Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973 requires the affected person to be heard and given 15 days' prior notice before proceeding with the demolition. Besides this, the Act allows a

person aggrieved with the order of demolition to appeal within 30 days.

A former Madras High Court judge, Justice K. Chandru, said Article 300A is a "potent" right. He said demolitions were a product of the "politicisation of the bureaucracy". Justice Chandru said acts such as demolition were a "nuclear button" held against "problem creators".

"It is like cause and effect. If these people have violated building laws, give them a chance to be heard, give them notice... Immediate demolitions without court orders hark back to the Emergency days," Justice Chandru said.

A slew of Supreme Court decisions on Article 300A, including in the *Indian Handicrafts Emporium* case, has held that right to property was also a "constitutional right".

Article 300A was inserted shortly after the Emergency through the Constitution (44th Amendment) Act of 1978.

Mere executive fiat cannot be used to take away a person's property, the court has held. While it is inherent for a sovereign state to exercise its power of eminent domain over private property, the deprivation of the property should be for a public purpose and was subject to judicial review.

# Adequate fuel stocks available: oil firms

Don't resort to panic buying, state-run companies urge customers

N. RAVI KUMAR  
HYDERABAD

Fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) have urged customers not to resort to panic buying as sufficient petrol and diesel stocks are available.

The appeal came as petroleum dealers continued to complain about not being given adequate supplies on time.

The state-run companies, who between them command the lion's share of fuel sales, sought to reiterate the fuel availability.

"There is sufficient product availability and supplies to retail outlets are being met in line with demand. Request not to panic. We reassure our full commitment to serve you at all times without interruption," IOC Director (Marketing) V. Satish Kumar tweeted.

BPCL and HPCL, whose outlets have been under the limelight ever since dealers last month accused the com-

panies of rationing fuel supplies, said there was adequate product availability and supplies across their network in all markets, and cited an unprecedented growth in fuel demand at retail outlets in a few States.

Contesting oil refiners' assertions, some dealers and their associations pointed to issues, including short to no supplies for some outlets in Haryana, and how one of the companies had been unable to execute tenders placed three or four days in advance with full payment in Uttar Pradesh.

In a post on Twitter, one dealer said that Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and many more States were suffering 'dry outs' due to a lack of diesel supply by oil firms.

Senior officials of the firms contended that any incidents of 'stock outs' at outlets were not on account of curtailed supplies.

They have averred that any such incidents were tied to dealers who were unable to pay upfront for tenders af-



People at a fuel station in Mumbai.

ter BPCL and HPCL had withdrawn credit facilities.

Leaders of petroleum dealers' association, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, asserted that while the withdrawal of the credit facility was indeed an issue, oil companies were for their part not honouring all the tenders placed with them and also taking time to supply.

### Dual pricing

The leaders as well as oil company officials, who did not wish to be identified, said at the heart of the issue was the dual pricing of diesel, with supplies to bulk consumers such as road transport corporations priced at about ₹25 higher per litre.

This was leading to bulk consumers fuelling at retail

outlets, thus resulting in a 'loss' for the oil companies.

Compounding the problem for the oil marketers was an apparent lack of 'real freedom' to price petrol and diesel in tandem with crude oil prices, despite the government technically having ostensibly deregulated product prices.

The OMCs also pointed to a surge in retail sales as most fuel outlets of private retailers were no longer operational.

On increased sales, BPCL said it was on account "of shifting of customers, due to reported lack of supplies or higher prices at private marketing companies' fuel stations".

In Tamil Nadu, oil industry sources said closure of private retailers' outlets had led to higher demand for products at bunks of PSU companies, especially those of HPCL and BPCL, which was increasingly becoming difficult to manage. It is not customers who are hit, as dealers too said they are feeling the heat of inflation and want their commission to be increased.

(With inputs from Deepa H. Ramakrishnan in Chennai)

## BJP expels Rajasthan MLA for cross-voting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday expelled its Rajasthan MLA Shobharami Kushwah for cross-voting in favour of a Congress candidate in the elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from the State held recently.

Ms. Kushwah, elected from the Dholpur constituency in 2018, had turned defiant after her suspension from the party last week.

In a letter to Ms. Kushwah, the BJP central disciplinary committee's member secretary, Om Pathak, said a separate action would be initiated against her for showing indiscipline. "You have publicly levelled unrestrained and unverified allegations against the party leadership instead of giving a clarification," the letter stated.

The BJP had fielded former Minister Ghanshyam Tiwari as its official candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections and extended support to media baron Subhash Chandra, who contested as an Independent. Ms. Kushwah, who was asked to vote for Mr. Chandra, ended up cross-voting for Pramod Tiwari of the Congress, causing embarrassment to both Mr. Chandra and the BJP.

Mr. Pathak said in the letter that since Ms. Kushwah's act was in violation of the BJP's Constitution, she would be relieved of all other roles in the organisation, apart from her expulsion from the party.

### TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD

Sl.No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	CE/Tr. Pr.-I	040	1

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website [www.tantransco.gov.in](http://www.tantransco.gov.in), [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in), [www.intenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://www.intenders.gov.in/nicgep/app), [www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/home/tnb](http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/home/tnb)

### PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)  
Corporate Identification Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813,  
Website [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
Contact Number : 96461-18774

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-2011/2022-23/PO(M) Dated : 13.06.2022

Chief Engineer / Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender for Design, Supply, Testing, Commissioning, Integration, Reading, Analysis and 5 year O&M of 5 lacs 'IS' Marked LT AC, Single Phase 2-wire, Whole Current, D.LMS compliant (Category D-1) Static Intelligent Energy Smart Meters of rating 10-40 Amps (or better), 50Hz, 240 V of Accuracy Class-1 (in default Pre-Paid mode) with 'Optical Port'. All system & Communication infrastructure with a network platform across Punjab. For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 13.06.2022 from 07:00 PM onwards.

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

C 228/22 76155/12/921/2021/14957

### GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

**YOUTH WELFARE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF TAMIL NADU**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Tenders are invited by the Member Secretary, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu towards the Selection of Agencies for identifying Sponsorships for the 44<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad. The tender document (RFP) can be downloaded at free of cost from SDAT website [www.sdat.tn.gov.in](http://www.sdat.tn.gov.in) from 15.06.2022, 13:00 hrs.

Pre-bid meeting is scheduled online on 20.06.2022 at 11:30 hrs through Video Conferencing (VC) by SDAT and the link for the VC can be referred in the RFP.

EMD for an amount of Rs.1,00,000/- has to be paid through DD mode. Last date and time for online submission of bids is 22.06.2022 till 16:00 hrs. Technical Bid shall be opened on 22.06.2022 at 16:30 hrs.

Chief Executive Officer / Member Secretary, SDAT.

### SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED

CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

**TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited for the following project of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project Area 1) Selection of Contractor for Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Automated Multilevel Mechanized Parking System at A Block, behind Saphalayam complex, Palayam on EPC Mode.

Sl. No.	NAME OF PROJECT	TENDER ID	PAC AMOUNT (EXCLUSIVE OF GST)
1	Selection of Contractor for Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Automated Multilevel Mechanized Parking System at A Block, behind Saphalayam complex, Palayam on EPC Mode	SCTLT_495007_1	Rs. 27,04,92,744/-

Bid Submission Last Date: 07<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Thursday, 5.30PM  
Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail.  
All the RFP documents and details are available on <https://www.smartcityvm.in/> (Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

### SOUTHERN RAILWAY

**CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION, ERNAKULAM JN**

1. TENDER NOTICE No. 06-CE-CN-ERS-2022-OT, DATED: 09.06.2022  
Name of Work: Construction of Road Over Bridges; Tender Value : ₹ 1240.58 Lakhs; Bid Security: ₹ 770300/-; Completion Period: 12 Months.

2. TENDER NOTICE No. 07-CE-CN-ERS-2022-OT, DATED: 09.06.2022  
Name of Work: Construction of ROB; Tender Value : ₹ 464.18 Lakhs; Bid Security: ₹ 382100/-; Completion Period: 12 Months.

3. TENDER NOTICE No. 08-CE-CN-ERS-2022-OT, DATED: 09.06.2022  
Name of Work: Elimination of causeway, earthwork etc.; Tender Value : ₹ 2653.44 Lakhs; Bid Security: ₹ 1476700/-; Completion Period: 12 Months.

4. TENDER NOTICE No. 09-CE-CN-ERS-2022-OT, DATED: 09.06.2022  
Name of Work: Construction of ROB; Tender Value : ₹ 1434.57 Lakhs; Bid Security: ₹ 867300/-; Completion Period: 15 Months.

5. TENDER NOTICE No. 10-CE-CN-ERS-2022-OT, DATED: 09.06.2022  
Name of Work: Construction of Platform, earth work etc.; Tender Value : ₹ 1895.56 Lakhs; Bid Security: ₹ 1097800/-; Completion Period: 15 Months.

6. TENDER NOTICE No. 11-CE-CN-ERS-2022-OT, DATED: 09.06.2022  
Name of Work: Transportation of Permanent way materials; Tender Value : ₹ 455.33 Lakhs; Bid Security: ₹ 377700/-; Completion Period: 18 Months.

Date and time of tender closing: 04.07.2022  
Complete details and tender document will be available at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>  
Chief Engineer / Construction / Ernakulam Jn.

Follow us on [twitter.com/GMSRailway](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway)

### TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI

TIRUPATI DIST., Office of the Chief Engineer TENDER NOTICE

Adv.No.16/DS/CE/TTD/2022-23 Date: 13-06-2022  
Offline Request for proposal (RFP) are invited for the following TTD Project on BOOT basis.

NIT No.	Name of the work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs & Time for completion	Tender Schedule Issue starts from	Due date for submission of Tender Documents
1	2	3	4	5

Superintending Engineer-II

22/SE/II/TTD/2022-23	Setting up of Mini Dairy plant 5000 LPD in S.V.Goswami nashala premises, TTD, Tirupati to process milk into milk products for 10 years under BOOT Basis.	Request for Proposal	18-06-2022 5.00 p.m.	05-07-2022 3.00 p.m.
----------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Note: Requests for proposals are invited for the above work in off line mode. For full details log on to the Website <https://www.tirumala.org/>

Roc.No.PR4/13943/Adv.No.86/PRO/2022, Dated:15-06-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

Indian Council of Agricultural Research  
केंद्रीय समुद्री मत्स्यिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान  
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

CMFRI  
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India)  
पते: कोचि-682 018, केरल, भारत  
Phone: 91 484 2394867/2391407, Fax: 91 484 2394959/2396885, Email: [director@cmfri.org.in](mailto:director@cmfri.org.in), Web: [www.cmfri.org.in](http://www.cmfri.org.in)

Celebrating 75 Glorious Years of Marine Fisheries & Mariculture Research

F. No. 14-5/2019-Cdn. Dated:16.06.2022

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Tender Enquiry No. ITMU/CMFRI/01-4/2022-2023

The Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, PB No. 1603, Ernakulam North P.O., Kochi-682 018 invites sealed tenders from the competitive bidders to out-license Cadalmin™ Liv Cure extract (Cadalin™) Lc) to combat non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NFAFD) developed by ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. Tender document issued by this office or downloaded from our official website ([www.cmfri.org.in](http://www.cmfri.org.in)) only be accepted. Interested registered companies (private or public) with proven track record may send the tender by post in the prescribed format (as detailed at our official web site [www.cmfri.org.in](http://www.cmfri.org.in)) to the address (The Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, PB No. 1603, Ernakulam North P.O., Kochi-682 018 Kerala. (Kind attention: Assistant Administrative Officer-Coordination) from 25 days of publication of the advertisement.

Director, ICAR-CMFRI

INTERVIEW | DONALD LU

# 'India is a global security power, and this is in U.S. interests'

The two countries share a common view of the security of Asia and of the world, says U.S. State Department's Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

The U.S. State Department's Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia, **Donald Lu**, in a wide-ranging interview, discusses India's security role, human rights issues, visas and his forthcoming trip to Texas to engage with the South Asian diaspora and companies. Excerpts:

**On the State Department's push to engage domestically with the Indian and South Asian diaspora...**

■ Well, I have had the great privilege of working on South Asia generally, but specifically India, since the mid-1990s. And what has been true then, and is very much true today, is that the heart of this relationship is not governments talking to each other. It's not even business talking to each other. It's families, right? It's the interconnectedness. We have a million people travelling back and forth between the United States and India every year. And so we want to channel that. We want to make sure that we are listening to the diaspora that we are responsive to their interests, but that we're also engaging them and being part of making this relationship fuller and more developed. They've got a lot of great ideas, particularly on the commercial side. And we want to make full use of that.

**On reports of individuals in**

**need of H-1B visa appointments at U.S. missions in India getting drop-box appointments that are far out in the future, sometimes in 2023. Is this something that you plan to look into?**

■ Well, we know that there are delays in this process, but what I can also verify is it's getting better, not worse, that we're in touch with our colleagues, both staff at our visa sections in the many places that we offer services in India, as well as people looking at the metrics all throughout India and South Asia. And we see improvement week on week.

Yes, in a particular post, there may be a glitch that causes a delay of several additional weeks.

But as a whole, throughout the country, we're seeing wait times continue to go down...

**So what are the challenges you are facing with not having a Senate-confirmed Ambassador in New Delhi, and how**

**are you overcoming those challenges?**

■ Well, we are really excited about the President's nominee, [Los Angeles Mayor] Eric Garcetti, going to New Delhi. I have been lucky enough in my career to work for both career State Department people who have been Ambassador in India, as well as political appointees chosen by the President. Eric Garcetti is someone who knows India well but he's also a leader in the United States and will represent our country with distinction there. It is taking longer than we would have liked. Our system is very slow. But I am confident within the next few months that we're going to have a confirmed Ambassador there. I know the Congress cares deeply about this. And the President does as well. I ask for a little patience on behalf of our Indian counterparts.

I think those who know the United States well, know that our process sometimes takes a little time. It's not untrue in many parts of the world, we're still waiting for our Ambassadors to be confirmed.

**About the human rights dialogue between the United States and India: The government of India's**



**W**e want to make sure that we are listening to the diaspora, that we are responsive to their interests

**response to the U.S. criticism of human rights violations in India has been that there is "vote bank politics" going on in the U.S. What is your response to this and has the dialogue between both countries progressed since the start of the Biden administration in terms of human rights?**

■ We've had several excellent discussions with the Indian government and I would say the Indian government is clear that they also have human rights concerns in the United States, particularly relating to the treatment of people of South Asian descent in the United States. So it goes both ways.

And I think that's a healthy development that's happened in our relationship.

I'm a big believer that of the many countries I get to work on, or that I've worked on in my 30-year career, India has the most dynamic democracy, believes in the values that the United States does. So one of the things that I believe that we can do as a partner is to support Indian democratic institutions, your [India's] independent courts, your very free media – some would argue to free media; your robust civil society; that we should as a partner, look for ways that we can contribute to those democratic institutions, through exchanges, our judges and our prosecutors, training of journalists that goes both ways because, honestly, we have a lot to learn from Indian journalists and talking about how our civil society in America supports Indian civil society and vice versa. We have a lot, as democracies, we can do together. If we can do that successfully, I believe these democratic institutions will uphold human rights standards in India. I don't think it's going to be that foreign countries are able to fundamentally change how other foreign countries deal with human rights. But, I think if we can support these inter-

**We don't see much emphasis from the U.S. on the Indian Ocean part of the Indo-Pacific. Is that because the U.S. is building an understanding with India and its partners regarding security oversight of the Indian Ocean?**

■ I would say it is completely accurate to say that the Indian Navy and the Indian military and the Indian government are very focused on the security of the Indian Ocean. I don't think it's right to say we don't care...that's not true at all. But we also have a lot of confidence that the Indian government, the military, are focused on the threats in the Indian Ocean, that you actually have a very robust Navy, that you are creating capabilities today that will ensure the security of this broader region, not just the Indian Ocean but far afield.

We see Indian naval vessels now transiting many parts of the globe. You are not only a security provider in the narrow Indian subcontinent, you are a global

security power now, and that's what's in the interest of the United States – that you are militarily ready, but that you are also able to project that power far beyond your borders, because we are partners that share a common view of the security of Asia and of the world and we want India to be able to project that power. And we are working in very concrete ways, right now, between our militaries, to talk about how do we cooperate more intensively, which is complex, multi-services exercises, but it's also: How do we get our defence systems to work better together? How do we help India to develop but also to obtain some of the best defence equipment in the world?

**Is a visit by President Biden to India on the cards such as, say, for the next Republic Day?**

■ I am working every day to try to encourage my big boss, the President, to visit India. I have the honour of working in India when President Biden visited [Mr. Biden has visited India in the past, such as in 2013, when he was Vice-President] and when President Clinton visited as well. There is nothing like an American presidential visit to create warmth,

goodwill and progress in a relationship. So I'm a huge supporter of this. I can't tell you a date because I can't speak for the White House, but we are working on this very closely with our Indian counterparts.

**On the visa appointment issue again: You said the wait times are coming down. Can you commit to doing something proactively to bring those times down?**

■ Throughout the pandemic, we weren't able to fully staff our visa sections because of limitations of the number of people allowed to come into our spaces. That has dramatically changed.

We are fully staffing – as of the summer – all of our visa sections throughout Mission India, and we're going to be able to see dramatic reductions in wait times over the next few months.

So everyone should stay tuned. Everyone has been so patient with us. I travel a lot. I know that visas really matter. We're going to see, over the course of the next few months, those wait times go back to a normal level from pre-pandemic. We're focused on that, I know that Indian families are focused on it.

(Full interview on [bit.ly/donaldlu](http://bit.ly/donaldlu))

## Panel to study vaccines data for 6-12 group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation will meet on Thursday to review data on Covaxin and Corbevax vaccines for the six-12 age group and also deliberate on reducing the gap between the second and precaution doses from the current nine to six months.

The NTAGI will hold its meeting amid a fresh spike in COVID-19 cases.

The agenda for the NTAGI's Standing Technical Sub-Committee meeting includes discussion on a study by the Christian Medical College, Vellore, on the feasibility of allowing precaution dose of a COVID-19 vaccine separate from the one used for primary vaccination, the COVID burden in paediatric population, and long-term safety of ZyCoV-D vaccine, official sources said.

The drug regulator in April granted emergency use authorisation for Corbevax made by Biological E for those aged five to 12 and Covaxin of Bharat Biotech for those in the age group of six to 12.

## Nursing degree with add-on Ayurveda soon

Nursing Council to give approval to course by year-end

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

India is all set to unveil its first integrated Ayurveda nursing degree as an add-on to Allopathy or conventional nursing programme in an effort to offer the best of integrated medicine benefits to patients. Offered to nurses trained in Allopathy, the Ayurveda component will be a year-long add-on training capsule with specific subjects and hands-on training.

The proposal, which is in the last phase of its approval with the Nursing Council of India, is expected to become a reality by this year-end.

The syllabus has been created by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), the apex tertiary care centre for Ayurveda in the country, said AIIA Director Tanuja Nesari, who added that this will be "a first of its kind programme which will be a breakthrough in integrative health care".

Giving details of the initiative, Rajagopala S., medical superintendent, AIIA, said nursing care was one of the



The Ayurveda component will be a year-long training capsule. • GETTY IMAGES

IA, institutes that have the infrastructure and manpower to conduct the course will be offering this to students," he added.

**Residency programme** Sindhurajesh, nursing superintendent at the AIIA, said this would be a residency programme where students would take theory classes and work in hospital for hands-on training.

"We are proposing a 80:20 ratio of practical and theory," she said, adding that the syllabus had been approved in-principle and the suggestions made by the council had been incorporated. The draft syllabus was now undergoing the approval process.

"The idea is to provide holistic and rigorous medical care for patients," she said. "The notification for the course could come in by August-end if all goes well," Ms. Rajesh said.

India currently offers Ayurveda nursing for those having finished Class 12 with science subjects.

## 2 LeT militants killed in J&K encounter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, one of them involved in the targeted killing of a bank manager from Rajasthan, were killed in an overnight encounter in south Kashmir's Shopian on Wednesday.

"One of the killed terrorists has been identified as Jan Mohd Lone of Shopian. Besides other terror crimes, he was involved in the recent killing of Vijay Kumar, a bank manager, on May 2, 2022 in Kulgam district," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

The second slain terrorist has been identified as Tufail Ganai. "Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including an AK-47 rifle and a pistol, were recovered from the site of encounter," the police said.

The duo was trapped by the security forces during an anti-militancy operation in Shopian's Kanjiular area.

Meanwhile, the security forces have engaged a group of hiding militants in south Kashmir's Kulgam. "Exchange of fire is on in the area," the police said.

## 75 transformed urban spaces to be models for accessibility

NIUA provides examples of fully implemented guidelines

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

Seventy-five projects of transformed urban spaces, including waterfronts, transit hubs and markets or plazas, selected by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in a recently released compendium, would serve as examples where harmonised guidelines on accessibility are fully implemented, Director, NIUA, Hitesh Vaidya said.

The e-book, *Transforming Urban Landscape in India*, released on June 6 by the NIUA, covered 75 completed projects to mark 75 years of Independence. The compendium included reimagined public spaces, including the Marine Drive walkway redevelopment in Kochi, Neela Haaz Biodiversity Park and Raahgiri Day in Delhi, the M.G. Road boulevard in Bengaluru, and the Pondy Bazaar pedestrian plaza in Chennai.

Now, Mr. Vaidya said, the projects would be used as examples for other cities to learn from.



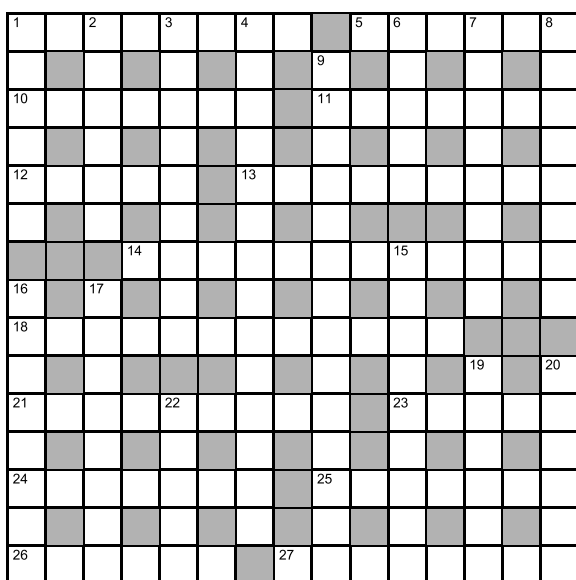
**Well planned:** A view of the Pondy Bazaar pedestrian plaza in Chennai, a public space included in the compendium.

partment in 2021, updating the existing accessibility guidelines notified in 2016. The new guidelines are yet to be rolled out, so the 2016 standards are still applicable.

Speaking about the book, Mr. Vaidya said: "The main reasons behind this e-book are to nudge all States and cities that if these cities can do it, then we can do it, and then people who will see it will put pressure on their own cities as well...Our cities require open spaces and not concrete jungles. Open spaces will contribute to the larger goal of net zero and be the first baby step towards it."

## THE CROSSWORD + 13584

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



- 14 Memorisation without understanding is rubbish and idiotic in general (4,8)
- 18 Where marathoner might be participating eventually (2,3,4,3)
- 21 Citizens in depression, overwhelmed by endless struggle (9)
- 23 Yahoo hacked! Overwhelming commotion (3-2)
- 24 Destroy syndicate essentially involved in destroying nature (7)
- 25 Repeating point, member ignored harangue (7)
- 26 Couple of girls in vigorous wrangle (6)
- 27 Africans in union also involved in reviewing problem (8)

■ DOWN

- 1 Ebullient president, clever to accumulate stock (6)
- 2 Enamoured by writer's third novel, fantastic (2,4)
- 3 Impressive broadcast organised (9)
- 4 How some drugs are sold in public by predator controlling drug business (4,3,7)
- 6 Mare turned to eat one plant (5)
- 7 Guy meeting most audacious high-ranking official (8)
- 8 Page with elaborate diagram showing prototype (8)
- 9 Fat boy's rage about barb, shocking (14)
- 15 Uncouth expression of disgust by man in quarrel with nationalist (5-4)
- 16 Chief priest greeting queen with bow (8)
- 17 Hiding in silence, suppressed by corrupt government (8)
- 19 Person at auditorium conducting instrumental composition (6)
- 20 One praying in front of mosque, saint perhaps (6)
- 22 Drone in area around lake (5)

■ ACROSS

- 1 A little boy catching gnat-like fly (8)
- 5 Summon fool endlessly drinking liquor (4,2)
- 10 Bundle containing convict's rifle (7)
- 11 Like smooth flow of beat by popular artist in retreat (7)
- 12 Exasperated by four through cover (5)
- 13 Large antelope chasing nocturnal mammal around plateau (9)

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13583

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

## FAITH

### Treasure trove of gunas

Parasara Bhatta was the chief priest in the Srirangam temple. He wrote a work called Sri Guna Ratna Kosa. Kosa in Sanskrit means a box. This box of Parasara Bhatta contains gunas. But whose gunas are there in this box? The qualities of Goddess Sridevi, and particularly Goddess Ranganayaki of Srirangam, constitute the treasure, said Thenthiruperaai Aravindalochanan in a discourse.

The Vedas speak of Sri, and we have works like Sri Sukta, Bhu Sukta, Neela Sukta, Sradhha Sukta and Medha Sukta, all of which extol Her. But none could have sung of Her greatness the way Sri Vaishnava Acharyas did. Alavandar was the forerunner in this respect, with his Chatus Sloki. Here in just four verses, he succinctly speaks of Her qualities. The substance of Alavandar's work was subsequently elaborated by Kooratazhvan in his Sri Stava, which has eleven verses. Later Kooratazhvan's son Parasara Bhatta elaborated on the same ideas in his Guna Ratna Kosa, which has 61 verses. The first four verses of Guna Ratna Kosa are mangala slokas. If we recite or even listen to a recitation of Guna Ratna Kosa, we will be blessed by Lord Ranganatha. To earn His love, the best way would be for us to recite this work.

In the first verse, Bhatta says that the Lord being responsible for creation, protection and dissolution, is tired after all these activities! But the Goddess' glances of approval drive away the fatigue! A peacock spreads its feathers when it spots a peahen. Likewise, the Lord's delight lies in approval from His Consort. Vedanta Desika in his Sri Stuti says that Lakshmi's feet are adorned with a red dye. Since She resides in Lord Narayana's chest, Her feet leave a red mark on His chest. It is Her presence on His chest which identifies Him as the Supreme One.

# Ukraine pleads with West for weapons

Russian focus lies on securing Donbas region

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LYVCHANSK

Ukraine pleaded with Western governments on Wednesday to decide quickly on sending heavy weapons to shore up its faltering defences, as Russia said it would evacuate civilians from a frontline chemical plant.

The industrial city of Severodonetsk is under intense bombardment as Russia focuses its offensive on the Donbas region in an effort to secure a swathe of eastern and southern Ukraine.

Moscow's forces have intensified efforts to cut off beleaguered Ukrainian troops remaining in the city, and have said that they will open a corridor to allow civilians to flee the besieged factory.

Western Defence Ministers, including U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, were meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels, under pressure to step up weapons shipments to Ukraine.



**Need of the hour:** Ukrainian forces firing a gun towards Russian positions in Donbas on Wednesday. •AFP

"Brussels, we are waiting for a decision," Mykhaylo Podolyak, senior aide to President Volodymyr Zelensky posted on social media, warning that Ukraine's artillery is outgunned by 10 to one.

## 'Training needed'

But NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg, hosting the meeting of around 50 allies and partners in Brussels, warned it would take time to get the latest hardware into service

with trained Ukrainian troops.

"Ukraine is really in a very critical situation and therefore, it's an urgent need to step up," Mr. Stoltenberg told journalists ahead of a gathering of NATO ministers.

About 500 civilians are taking shelter in Severodonetsk's Azot chemical plant, according to the head of the city's administration.

The Russian Defence Ministry announced a humanitarian corridor would be es-

# Biden announces \$1 bn in military aid for Kyiv

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden announced a new package of arms and ammunition for Ukraine on Tuesday after reaffirming Washington's support in a call with President Volodymyr Zelensky. The package includes more artillery, coastal anti-ship

defense systems and ammunition for artillery and advanced rocket systems that Ukraine is already using. Mr. Biden said he "reaffirmed my commitment that the U.S. will stand by Ukraine as it defends its democracy". Mr. Biden also announced \$225 million worth of humanitarian assistance.

established on Wednesday for evacuations from the plant, saying it was "guided by the principles of humanity".

## Humanitarian corridor

Evacuees would be transported to the city of Svatovo in the separatist-held region of Lugansk, Moscow said, urging those holding out at the plant to cease their "senseless resistance".

There was no response from Kyiv to the announcement, and in a video address

on Tuesday, Mr. Zelensky lamented "painful losses" in the ongoing fighting.

"But we must stay strong. This is our nation... Hanging in there in Donbas is crucial. Donbas is the key to deciding who will dominate in the coming weeks."

The Kremlin, meanwhile, said it had not received a request from London to intervene in the case of two Britons sentenced to death by pro-Moscow separatist authorities in eastern Ukraine.

# Xi reasserts support for Russia on security issues

Beijing, Moscow to support each other on core interests

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping reasserted his country's support for Russia on issues of sovereignty and security in a phone call with Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, state media said.

Mr. Xi told Mr. Putin that "all parties should responsibly push for a proper settlement of the Ukraine crisis," according to the official *Xinhua News Agency*.

China has refused to criticise Russia's invasion of Ukraine or even to refer to it in such terms, while accusing NATO and the West of provoking Moscow into attacking.

Weeks before the Russian attack, Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi met in Beijing in February and oversaw the signing of an agreement pledging that relations between the sides would have "no limits." It remains unclear whether Mr.



**Shared traits:** Xi Jinping, right, has refused to criticise Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. •FILE PHOTO

Xi knew at the time of Russia's plan to invade Ukraine. In that meeting, the two leaders pushed back against U.S. pressure, declaring their opposition to any expansion of NATO and affirming that the island of Taiwan is a part of China.

Mr. Xi told Mr. Putin on Wednesday that China "is willing to work with the Russian side to promote the steady and long-term development of bilateral prag-

matic cooperation," *Xinhua* reported, "China is willing to, together with Russia, continue to support each other on issues concerning core interests and major concerns such as sovereignty and security."

While offering its tacit support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, China has sought to appear neutral and avoid possible repercussions from supporting the Russian economy amid sanctions.

# Egypt, Israel step in to boost gas supply to EU

Volume of imports not disclosed yet

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
CAIRO

Egypt, Israel and the European Union on Wednesday signed a deal to increase liquefied natural gas sales to EU countries, who aim to reduce their dependence on supplies from Russia as the war in Ukraine drags on.

The deal will see Israel send more gas via Egypt, which has facilities to liquefy it for export by sea, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said.

"What a special moment," she said in a joint news conference alongside the Egyptian and Israel energy ministers. "I very warmly welcome the signing of this historic agreement."

## Diversifying sources

Ms. Von der Leyen, who visited Israel earlier this week, said the agreement was part of Europe's efforts to diversify energy sources away from Russia and import hydrocarbons from "other trustworthy suppliers." She named Israel and Egypt who have emerged as gas exporters in recent years following major offshore discoveries.

Under the deal, the EU will help Egypt and Israel increase their gas production and exploration in their territorial waters. It was not immediately clear how much gas the EU will import from either country.

"It is known that the Russian war against Ukraine has exposed our European dependency on Russian fossil fuels and we want to get rid of this dependency," Ms. von der Leyen said later in a joint news conference with Egypt President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.



Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi with Ursula von der Leyen in Cairo on Wednesday. •AP

Last year, the European Union imported roughly 40% of its gas from Russia and has had difficulty imposing sanctions on Russia over its ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

Israeli Energy Minister Karin Elharrar said the deal was a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which caused a European energy crisis. She said it also highlights increasing cooperation between Egypt and Israel, two former foes.

## 'Public statement'

"This is a statement to those who see in our region only negative forces such as division and conflict," Ms. Elharrar said.

Egyptian Petroleum Minister Tarek el-Molla described the deal as "an important milestone" for cooperation between Egypt, Israel and the EU. He said it will lead to further cooperation between members of the East Mediterranean Gas Forum.

According to the deal, the Israeli gas will be brought via pipeline to Egypt's LNG terminal in the Mediterranean Sea before being transported by tanker to European shores, Israel's Energy Ministry said.

# New turn in Saudi's war against homosexuality

Officials seize rainbow-coloured toys

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
RIYADH

Saudi officials are seizing rainbow-coloured toys and articles of clothing from shops in the capital as part of a crackdown on homosexuality, state media reported.

Targeted items include rainbow-coloured bows, skirts, hats and pencil cases, most of them apparently manufactured for young children, according to a report broadcast on Tuesday evening by the state-run *Al-Ekhabariya* news channel.

"We are giving a tour of the items that contradict the Islamic faith and public morals and promote homosexual colours targeting the

younger generation," says an official from the Commerce Ministry.

Gesturing towards a rainbow flag, a journalist says: "The homosexuality flag is present in one of the Riyadh markets."

The colours send a "poisoned message" to children, the report says.

Homosexuality is a potential capital offence in Saudi Arabia.

In April, the kingdom said it had asked Disney to cut "LGBTQ references" from *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*, the latest Marvel movie, but that Disney had refused. The film ultimately did not screen in Saudi cinemas.

# Reduced Russian gas flow is political, says German official

Vice-Chancellor refutes Moscow's claim of a technical snag

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BERLIN

Russia's announcement that it would reduce natural gas flows through a key European pipeline by roughly 40% appears to be a political move rather than a result of technical problems, Germany's Vice-Chancellor said on Wednesday.

Russia's state-controlled energy giant Gazprom also told Italian gas giant Eni that it would reduce gas through a different pipeline by roughly 15% on Wednesday. The reason for the reduction has not been made clear, and the Italian company said it was monitoring the situation.

The reduced flows follow Russia's halt of natural gas supplies to Bulgaria, Poland, Finland, Netherlands, Denmark as Europe works to reduce its dependence on Russian energy amid the war in Ukraine. Gas demand has fallen after the end of the winter heating season, but

European utilities are racing to refill storage ahead of next winter with prices high and supplies uncertain.

Gazprom said Tuesday that deliveries through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Europe would drop after Canadian sanctions over the war prevented German partner Siemens Energy from delivering overhauled equipment.

## 'Maintenance works'

Siemens Energy said a gas turbine that powers a compressor station on the pipeline had been in service for more than 10 years and taken to Montreal for a scheduled overhaul. But because of sanctions imposed by Canada, the company has been unable to return the equipment to the customer, Gazprom.

German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck, who is also the country's Economy Minister and responsible for energy, told reporters in Ber-

lin that he had established with the European Union's executive Commission that the maintenance of Siemens compressor stations on the pipeline isn't subject to EU sanctions.

He said officials are in contact with Canada to check what is possible under Ottawa's sanctions. But he added that, as far as German officials know, the first "relevant" maintenance session isn't due until the fall, and because there are several such installations, that wouldn't explain a 40% reduction.

"So I also have the impression that what happened yesterday is a political decision, and not a decision that is technically justifiable," Mr. Habeck said.

He said there's no supply problem in Germany, which gets about 35% of its natural gas to power industry and generate electricity from Russia, and it should be able to keep filling up reserves.

# EU initiates legal action against U.K.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BRUSSELS

The European Commission launched new legal action against Britain on Wednesday, accusing London of putting peace in Northern Ireland at risk by trying to overhaul the post-Brexit trade deal.

"The U.K. government tabled legislation confirming its intention to unilaterally break international law," EU commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic said.

"More precisely to break an agreement that protects peace and stability in Northern Ireland," Mr. Sefcovic said.

"Opening the door to unilaterally changing an international agreement is a breach of international law, as well. So let's call a spade a spade. This is illegal," Mr. Sefcovic added.

In London, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman told journalists: "We are disappointed that the EU has taken this legal action today."

And he insisted that European proposals to resolve the impasse were a "step backwards". On Monday, the British government introduced legislation to rip up post-Brexit trading rules for Northern Ireland, in an attempt to override the EU withdrawal treaty that it had signed.

# China lifts COVID-19 visa ban on Indians

Requests of students under process; tourist, private visas still suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BEIJING

China has announced plans to provide visas to Indian professionals and their families stranded in India for over two years following the strict visa restrictions imposed by Beijing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Separately, China is also processing requests of thousands of Indian students studying in Chinese universities who have conveyed their in-

terest to re-join their colleges and universities.

On Monday, the Chinese Embassy in India updated its COVID-19 visa policy after over two years to accept visa applications of foreign nationals and their accompanying family members wanting to go to China for resumption of work in all fields.

It is a big relief for hundreds of Indian professionals and their families who are stuck back home since 2020.

Besides the Indians, the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi said family members of Chinese citizens and foreigners with Chinese permanent residence permits going to China for family reunions or visiting relatives can apply for visas.

Besides Indians some of whom have Chinese spouses, many Chinese employees working for various companies were also stranded in India due to Beijing's blanket

visa bans and flight cancellations.

However, visas for tourism and private purposes remain suspended, the Chinese Embassy announcement said.

In April, after prolonged representations from India, China agreed to permit the return of "some" stranded Indian students and asked the Indian Embassy here to collect the details of the students wanting to return.

# 'Cutting chai': a tip to save economy

Pakistan Minister advises citizens to cut down on tea to reduce import bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan has urged its countrymen to cut down on the consumption of tea to help reduce the import bill eating into the country's depleting foreign exchange reserves.

The appeal from Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal came after it emerged that Pakistan consumed tea worth \$400 million in the fiscal year 2021-22, *The News International* newspaper reported.

He said that Pakistan, one of the biggest importers of tea in the world, has to borrow money to import it.

"I appeal to the nation to cut down the consumption of tea by 1-2 cups because we



**Greater good:** The appeal came after it emerged that Pakistan consumed tea worth \$400 million during 2021-22. •AFP

import tea on loan," Mr. Iqbal said while speaking to reporters here on Tuesday.

The federal Budget document for the outgoing fiscal year showed that Pakistan imported \$60 million worth of more tea than the last fis-

cal year. In the fiscal year 2020-21, \$340 million was spent on the import of tea, the *News Network International* news agency reported.

Mr. Iqbal's appeal to cut down the consumption of

tea by one to two cups did not go down well with people as they started criticising him on Twitter.

"Did Ahsan Iqbal really ask the nation to cut down on chai? Did he honestly really ask us for that? Do they really think we're that stupid," a Twitter user said.

"Ahsan Iqbal urging the nation to cut down on chai im sorry but I can not be a part of this," another user named Zoha said in a tweet.

The planning Minister said the traders' community has also been asked to close markets by 8:30 p.m. to conserve energy.

Mr. Iqbal said this will help the country cut the import bill of petroleum products.

# Give written assurances to join NATO: Turkey

Sweden and Finland's bids hang fire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ANKARA

Turkey said on Wednesday that it was waiting for a "written response" from Sweden and Finland to Ankara's objections to their NATO bids.

"We have transmitted our questions in writing to these two countries," Turkey Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters.

"Now we're waiting for their written responses," he said.

The two Nordic countries reversed decades of military non-alignment by applying for NATO memberships in May, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Any NATO membership deal must, however, be unanimously approved by all 30 members of the alliance, and Turkey has thrown a spanner in the works.

Ankara is accusing the Nordic neighbours of providing a safe haven for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), listed as a "terrorist" group by Turkey



Recep Tayyip Erdogan

and its Western allies.

Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told members of his party on Wednesday that "as long as Sweden and Finland don't adopt concrete measures on the fight against terrorism, our position will not change."

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg had said that NATO was working "hard and actively" to resolve Turkey's concerns.

Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin acknowledged that the Nordic bids could stall if agreement with Turkey is not reached before a summit later in June.

# WTO makes final push for trade deals

REUTERS  
GENEVA

The World Trade Organization on Wednesday extended its negotiations by a day amid growing doubts they would find consensus on any change to global trade rules and India adamant it would not yield on food, fisheries and vaccines.

During the WTO's ministerial conference this week, its first major meeting in over four years originally set to end on June 15, the 164-member body is seeking to agree on a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a reduction of fishing subsidies, pledges on food security and the launch of an internal reform.

# Shooter in U.S. charged for hate crime

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NEW YORK

The U.S. Justice Department announced federal hate crimes charges against Payton Gendron, the 18-year-old who shot dead 10 African Americans at a Buffalo supermarket in May. The charges say Gendron was motivated by racist hate when, he killed 10 persons, while wounding three others.

MARKET WATCH

	15-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,541	-0.29
US Dollar	78.22	-0.23
Gold	50,304	-0.33
Brent oil	120.06	-3.23

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	703.75	-0.95
Apollo Hosp	3722.70	16.50
Asian Paints	2661.15	25.75
Axis Bank	650.50	-0.25
Bajaj Auto	3698.10	16.35
Bajaj Finserv	11809.70	473.20
Bajaj Finance	5484.95	109.20
Bharti Airtel	682.50	0.05
BPL	314.00	-0.30
Britannia Ind	3385.40	2.55
Cipla	968.80	4.10
Coal India	190.05	-2.15
Divis Lab	3581.10	55.45
Dr Reddys Lab	4335.50	24.45
Eicher Motors	2720.10	-2.65
Grasim Ind	1331.70	22.35
HCL Tech	989.90	-7.00
HDFC	2105.45	-4.05
HDFC Bank	1307.45	-4.55
HDFC Life	579.75	7.35
Hero MotoCorp	2605.30	47.70
Hindalco	357.50	-0.80
Hind Unilever	2146.55	-24.45
ICI Bank	687.25	1.75
IndusInd Bank	843.30	-0.90
Infosys	1422.20	-18.35
ITC	262.40	-2.05
JSW Steel	563.00	1.10
Kotak Bank	1736.65	-3.05
L&T	1560.35	15.70
M&M	1025.50	6.25
Maruti Suzuki	7853.45	41.80
Nestle India Ltd.	16802.30	-69.15
NTPC	148.15	-3.25
ONGC	151.40	-4.55
PowerGrid Corp	222.25	-1.70
Reliance Ind	2596.30	-31.80
SBI Life	1125.75	-6.35
State Bank	451.35	3.25
Shree Cement	19314.20	105.35
Sun Pharma	822.30	-2.75
Tata Consumer	737.75	1.90
Products Ltd.	414.10	8.95
Tata Motors	959.55	-36.60
Tata Steel	3206.30	-4.25
TCS	1020.05	-10.10
Tech Mahindra	1020.05	-10.10
Titan	2105.05	3.05
UltraTech Cement	5454.15	25.55
UPL	712.15	-3.55
Wipro	440.10	-5.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 15

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.87	78.19
Euro	81.07	81.40
British Pound	93.92	94.31
Japanese Yen (100)	57.81	58.05
Chinese Yuan	11.60	11.65
Swiss Franc	77.82	78.15
Singapore Dollar	55.90	56.14
Canadian Dollar	60.09	60.34
Malaysian Ringgit	17.64	17.72
Australian Dollar	53.94	54.17

Source: Indian Bank

# Trade gap widens as imports surge 63%

Merchandise exports rose 21% to \$38.94 bn in May; oil, coal, gold purchases lifted imports to \$63.22 bn

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports in May rose by 20.6% to \$38.94 billion, while the trade deficit ballooned to a record \$24.29 billion, government data released on Wednesday show.

Imports surged 62.8% to \$63.22 billion.

The trade deficit stood at \$6.53 billion in the same month last year.

Cumulative exports in April-May 2022-23 rose by about 25% to \$78.72 billion.

Imports in April-May climbed 45.4% to \$123.41 billion, widening the trade deficit in the first two months of this fiscal to \$44.69 billion, from \$21.82 billion in the year-earlier period.

Commenting on the data, ICRA Ltd. chief economist



**Lure of yellow metal:** Gold imports vaulted to \$6 billion, from \$677 million in May 2021. ■ AFP

Aditi Nayar said that the mild sequential dip in non-oil exports amid a sharp jump in gold imports widened India's merchandise trade deficit to \$24 billion in May.

"Based on the expectation

that gold imports may reduce after the Akshaya Tritiya season, the trade deficit may demonstrate some moderation in the current month," she said.

Ms. Nayar added that

based on the performance in April-May 2022, "we foresee the current account deficit to widen to \$26 billion in Q1 FY23, from \$23 billion in Q3 FY22 and an expected \$16 billion in Q4 FY22," she said.

**Oil imports double**  
Petroleum and crude oil imports more than doubled to \$19.2 billion.

Coal, coke and briquettes imports jumped to \$5.4 billion, from \$2 billion.

Gold imports increased to \$6 billion, from \$677 million in May 2021.

Engineering goods exports increased by 12.7% to \$9.7 billion, while petroleum products exports grew by 60.9% to \$8.54 billion.

Gems and jewellery exports stood at \$3.22 billion compared with \$2.96 billion

in May 2021.

Exports of chemicals rose 17.4% to \$2.5 billion in May.

Similarly, shipments of pharma and ready-made garments of all textiles grew by 10.3% and 27.9% to \$2 billion and \$1.41 billion, respectively.

Export sectors that recorded negative growth in May included iron ore, cashew, handicrafts, plastics, carpet and spices.

The Commerce Ministry said the estimated value of services import for May was \$14.43 billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 45% from \$9.95 billion in the same month last year.

"The estimated value of services imports for April-May 2022 is \$28.48 billion exhibiting a positive growth of 45.5%," it added.

# 5G will drive 'significant' advancements: analysts

'Spectrum base price remains an issue'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

The much-awaited 5G spectrum auction will bring significant advancements for the industry and consumers, according to market watchers. However, some said the base price for spectrum remained an issue for bidders who were expecting much lower rates.

The auction and steps outlined for bidding would open up newer avenues for deeper penetration, access and rich user experience, said Peeyush Vaish, partner and Telecom Sector Leader, Deloitte India.



He noted that the Centre had also announced an auction of the millimetre-wave band, which would not only help unlock the 'true' potential of 5G but would also help strategically manage costs for the operators.

ders who were expecting a much lower price," Mr. Ghosh added.

In its meeting on June 14, the Union Cabinet had approved the auction of airwaves capable of offering fifth-generation, or 5G, telecom services, including ultra-high-speed Internet, and gave its nod to the setting up of captive 5G networks.

The auction will commence on July 26. The Cabinet has approved 5G auctions at reserve prices recommended by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which had in April recommended an about 39% cut in the reserve, or floor, price for the sale of 5G spectrum for mobile services.

**'Much-awaited auction'**

"The roads are now clear for 5G auctions. This is probably one of the most awaited spectrum auctions, which will bring significant advancements for the industry and the consumers," Mr. Vaish said, adding that the good part was that spectrum across bands would go under the hammer shortly.

Another aspect which would spur 'a good auction' was that operators would have the flexibility to surrender the spectrum after 10 years without any liabilities, he pointed out.

**'Economic benefits'**  
Separately, the Broadband India Forum (BIF), which had batted for private 5G networks by enterprises, on Wednesday said the Cabinet's decision to enable captive networks was a forward-looking step that would drive digital transformation, augment industry efficiencies and lead to greater economic benefits.

Jaideep Ghosh, chief operating officer of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, said the wide availability of spectrum across all bands was encouraging, as potential bidders could opt for spectrum bands and quantum as per their strategy.

"Having said that, the base prices for spectrum remain an issue for the bid-

BIF - whose members include Google, Amazon, Meta and Tata Consultancy Services - had pitched for direct allocation of spectrum for private 5G networks to enterprises at a nominal administrative fee, countering telcos' stand on the vexed issue.

# U.S. Fed raises rate by 75 bps to tame inflation

Rate move biggest since 1994

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
WASHINGTON

The Federal Reserve announced the most aggressive interest rate increase in almost 30 years, raising the benchmark borrowing rate by 0.75 percentage points on Wednesday as it battles against surging inflation.

The Fed's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee reaffirmed that it remained "strongly committed to returning inflation to its 2 percent objective" and that it expected to continue to raise the key rate.

Until recently, the central bank seemed set to approve a 0.5-percentage-point increase, but economists said the rapid surge in inflation put the Fed behind the curve, meaning it needed to

**Economists said the rapid surge in inflation put the Fed behind the curve**

react strongly to prove its resolve to combat inflation.

The move was the first 75-basis-point increase since November 1994.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell will hold a press conference after the meeting to provide more details on the central bank's plans, which will be closely watched for signals on how aggressive policymakers will be in coming meetings.

Committee members now see the federal funds rate ending the year at 3.4%, up from the 1.9% projection in March, according to the median quarterly forecast.

# Petrol, diesel sales jump in June

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

India's petrol consumption jumped by 54% and that of diesel by 48% in the first fortnight of June from a year earlier with continuing demand recovery from a relatively low base in 2021 when the world's third-biggest oil user was in the grip of the second wave of COVID-19.

Petrol sales by state-owned fuel retailers, which control roughly 90% of the market, at 1.28 million tonnes between June 1 and 14, was 54.2% higher than the same period last year.

Month-on-month sales were up 0.8%, preliminary industry data showed.

Diesel saw sales jumping 47.8% year-on-year to 3.4 million tonnes.

# 'Global oil demand to rise 2% to new high in 2023'

Sanctions on Russia stifling supply: IEA

**REUTERS**  
LONDON

World oil demand will rise more than 2% to a record high of 101.6 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2023, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said, although sky-high oil prices and weakening economic forecasts dimmed the future outlook.



The Paris-based IEA also said in its report that supply was being constrained because of sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

"Economic fears persist, as various international institutions have recently released downbeat outlooks," the IEA said, forecasting demand would rise 2.2 million bpd, or 2.2%, in 2023 compared with 2022 and would exceed pre-pandemic levels.

"Tightening central bank policy, impact of a soaring U.S. dollar and rising interest rates on the purchasing power of emerging economies mean the risks to our outlook are concentrated on the downside," it said.

Advanced economies in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development would account for most demand growth in 2022, while China would lead the gains in 2023.

IN BRIEF



**Yes Bank seeks investor nod to raise ₹10,000 cr.**

**NEW DELHI**  
Yes Bank will seek shareholders' approval next month to raise debt capital of ₹10,000 crore through various modes on a private placement basis. The funds may be raised in one or more tranches in domestic or overseas markets, the lender said. The bank's annual general meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2022. PTI

**Wipro merges lighting with seating solutions**

**BENGALURU**  
Wipro Lighting has announced the creation of a new business unit combining commercial lighting and seating solutions. On the rationale behind the merger, Anuj Dhir, VP and business head for Commercial & Institutional Business, said, "By combining Commercial Lighting and Seating Solution businesses, we aim to offer wider solutions to our customers in the B2B space."

# IOB's plan to raise ₹2,000 cr. gets board nod

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI

The board of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has approved a proposal to raise ₹2,000 crore during the current fiscal, subject to shareholders' approval.

The board approved the issue of equity shares to the maximum extent of ₹1,000 crore with appropriate premium either by way of follow-on public offer or rights issue, with or without participation from the Union government, it said in a regulatory filing.

It was also decided to raise tier II capital by way of issue of bonds up to a maximum of ₹1,000 crore, with or without green shoe option, on a private placement basis to the retail segment by way of public issue either domestically or overseas.

# JM Baxi plans to bid for ports, related projects

Projects valued at up to ₹7,000 cr.: MD

**LALATENDU MISHRA**  
MUMBAI

JM Baxi Ports & Logistics Ltd. (JMBPLL), an integrated maritime logistics services provider, is planning to bid for various port and related projects such as rail links and cold chain facilities, valued at up to ₹7,000 crore, in five years, Dhruv Kotak, managing director, JMBPLL, said in an interview.

**The company is also proposing an Initial Public Offering of ₹2,500 crore**

"We are targeting to bid for major port projects valued at anything from ₹3,000 crore to ₹5,000 crore out of this huge pie subject to various feasibility and competitive bidding parameters," he added.

JMBPLL also plans to bid an additional ₹1,500-to-₹2,000 crore in mostly brownfield projects in the port-linked land infrastructure during the next five years, Mr. Kotak said. The firm is also proposing an Initial Public Offering of ₹2,500 crore.

# Schneider Electric unveils plans to equip data centres for 'net-zero' operations

'Demand for data centres insatiable; energy use must be measured, managed'

**M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA**  
PARIS

Schneider Electric has unveiled solutions to equip the IT infrastructure and data centre industry with the ability to ensure net-zero operations and sustainability.

"There is an insatiable demand for data centres," said Pankaj Sharma, executive vice-president, Secure Power Division, Schneider Electric, at a media conference in Paris recently. Though decarbonisation at data centres had accelerated in the recent past, data centres of the future needed to be more sustainable, efficient, adaptive, and resilient, he stressed.

Based on a Schneider Electric projection, total energy consumption by the



IT sector would be 2,700 terawatt-hours (TWh) by 2040, with 60% coming from distributed sites and 40% from data centres.

In the backdrop of the International Energy Agency's 'net zero emissions' roadmap (Net Zero 2050), Schneider has unveiled

plans to prepare the information technology and data centre industry for sustainability and 'net-zero' operations.

**'Modular, compact UPS'**  
The company has introduced a modular, compact UPS (3 kW and 5 kW), which will hit the U.S. market initially and is expected in India next year. With lithium-ion technology, the single-phase UPS is scalable, occupies very little space, and is Green Premium certified.

Alexandra Thin, VP, Transactional and Edge Line of Business, said data centres were not located only in remote places but were becoming more distributed, located close to consumer

points. So there was a need for compact technology, she pointed out.

According to Kevin Brown, senior VP of EcoStruxure Solutions, Secure Power, as IT infrastructure spreads, continuity of business depends on factors starting from the smallest end-point to the large data centre.

Software tools with enhanced capabilities were needed to maintain the resilience and security of the infrastructure, he said. The energy consumption and carbon footprint of data centres would need to be measured and managed.

(The journalist was in Paris recently at the invitation of Schneider Electric)

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

A Business Initiative

**CMD inaugurates IREDA pavilion in the exhibition on "Nation Building and CPSEs"**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd, had participated in the exhibition on "Nation Building and CPSEs". The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), in collaboration with SCOPE, under the aegis of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM), has organised the mega event at Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from 9th to 12th June, 2022. The Hon'ble Union minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, inaugurated the exhibition. Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA, in the presence of Shri Chintan Shah, Director (Technical), and other officials inaugurated the IREDA pavilion at the exhibition. IREDA showcased its various financial products, schemes, and contributions towards the development of the RE sector in the country under the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. A total of 75 CPSEs had put up stalls at Mahatma Mandir showcasing their contribution and development of the country during the past seven decades. CMD and Director (Technical), IREDA, along with other CMDs, MDs, and Directors of other CPSEs, also participated in the Roundtable of CEOs of CPSEs on the 'Role of CPSEs for a Self-Reliant India'. The discussion centred on increasing professionalism and competitiveness while also focusing on their core competency.

of Hydro Power Development. His experience would be of great advantage for CVP-PPL in timely construction of Pakal Dul, Kiru and Kwar HE Projects and in Kirithai-II (930 MW) where balance investigation works are under progress

**Chandigarh University Gharuan makes stellar debut into QS world rankings, ranks in top 800 Universities globally**



Adding yet another accolade to its name, Chandigarh University Gharuan has become the youngest University to make it into QS World University Ranking, debuting straight into the stellar 801-1000 rank band across the globe in the prestigious annual rankings for the year 2023. The overwhelming ranking placed Chandigarh University at third position among all the private universities in India, even as overall, the varsity secured its place in 21st position among all the private and public universities in the country, and bagged top spot in Punjab, informed S. Satnam Singh Sandhu, Chancellor, Chandigarh University on Friday.

company promoted by EIL and National Fertilizers Limited.

**DISTRIBUTION OF COINS BY STATE BANK OF INDIA ON THE OCCASION OF "AAZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV"**

The glorious 75th anniversary of Independence is being celebrated as "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". In this regard, coins of ₹2, ₹5, ₹10 and ₹20 are being exchanged at New Delhi Main Branch, Parliament Street, Central Secretariat, North Block, Jeevan Tara Building & Patel Chowk at New Delhi with effect from 7th June, 2022. All the general public is informed that they can exchange coins from these branches as per their convenience.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY CELEBRATES 67th RAILWAY WEEK**

Northern Railway celebrates its 67th Railway Week. Shri Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager, Northern Railway presided over the award ceremony held in New Delhi today. Naveen Gulati, Additional General Manager, Smt. Pramila Bhargava, Principal Chief Personnel Officer and other Principal Heads of the various Departments, other senior Railway officials and employees of Northern Railway, members of unions associations & federations, President, Northern Railway Women Welfare Organization (NRWVO) Smt. Shikha Gangal and other Members of NRWVO were present on the occasion. The ceremony started with facilitation of 250 railway employees (Officers & Staff) for their meritorious services by Shri Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager, Northern Railway. 54 running shields were presented based on performance-oriented parameters to the Divisions. Lucknow Division has been awarded the General Manager's Excellence Shield. Delhi Division was chosen for the Best overall performance shield. The Best Improvement shield was awarded to Firozpur. Moradabad & Firozpur Divisions jointly have been awarded for Most Economical Functioning.

**ICAI Celebrates "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" - "Iconic Day"**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) organised the "Iconic Day" on June 8th 2022 at New Delhi commemorating 75 years of India's Independence as a part of country wide Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations. The event at New Delhi was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Shri Arun Singh. Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Guest of Honour. Shri Rajesh Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. Present on the occasion were CA. (Dr) Debashis Mitra, President; CA. Aniket Sunil Talati, Vice-President, and Central & Regional Council Members of ICAI. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Arun Singh, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and a Chartered Accountant shared "The nation is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and it is pertinent to mention that Financial inclusion of all citizens is the key towards the economic growth and development of our nation."

# Chirpy Chahal finishes batters softly

The leg-spinner leaves them flummoxed with his revs, dip, drift and control

## SA IN INDIA

**S. DINAKAR**  
VISAKHAPATNAM  
The little man floors the big guns. He does not employ heavy weapons either. He kills 'em softly.

Watching him at work, you are reminded of the Mohammed Ali song, "He floats like a butterfly and stings like a bee."

When Yuzvendra Chahal throws the ball up, he does the same. The revs on the ball cause it to either dip or drift.

The batter, whose eyes light up at the flighted delivery and who lines up for a massive hit, is flummoxed as he never quite reaches the ball.

The resultant catch is gobbed up. Chahal is the toast of his team.

### Attacking bowler

He is an attacking bowler, always on the look-out for wickets. And he lures the batsmen to their doom.

Chahal's three for 20 here on Tuesday night in the crucial third T20I, was a masterclass in the art of leg-spin.

He is a *jadugar*, a wrist-spinner with a bag of tricks. Chahal has a good wrong 'un, an effective flipper and a handy top-spinner to go with his potent leg-spinners. Importantly, he has control.



**Having a ball:** Chahal produced a masterclass in the third T20I against South Africa on Tuesday. •K.R. DEEPAK

Chahal, bowling with rhythm and an easy action, consumed the dangerous Dwaine Pretorius whose dab shot came to nothing as the ball spun away slightly and

nested in 'keeper Rishabh Pant's gloves.

Rassie van der Dussen too succumbed to a leg-spinner with drift. He attempted to strike the sphere square but

only managed to nick the ball.

One of Chahal's tricks when the opposition batters are going for runs is to throw the sphere wide. And mak-

ing the batter reach for it. But then, these deliveries have drift and dip. The batter invariably ends up miscuing the stroke.

As it happened with Heinrich Klaasen, who, desperate for the big blows, pursued a fuller length and rather wishy leg-spinner only to hole out at extra-cover.

### Perfect night

The dismissal encapsulated the perfect night for Chahal. But then, hasn't he made a habit of becoming a game-changer?

In the shorter versions of the game, there is no better bowler than Chahal for India. In 61 ODIs, he has 104 wickets at an economy rate of 5.17. And in T20Is, Chahal has 72 wickets in 57 matches at 8.23.

It is hard to predict how he bowls. He can be a skiddy, slippery customer one day. Chahal can also get the ball to bounce using the seam.

He had a wonderful IPL for Rajasthan Royals this season. The 31-year-old Chahal won the purple cap for the highest number of wickets in the competition with 27.

He can bowl and deliver under immense pressure. Mentally tough and consistent he is.

Chahal is a jovial, chirpy individual with an eye for wickets.

# 'We wanted to show we were going after them'



**Taking control:** Ruturaj set the tone for the Indian innings with a busy knock. •K.R. DEEPAK

**S. DINAKAR**  
VISAKHAPATNAM

What strikes you the most about Ruturaj Gaikwad is his composure. The calmness of his mind is his greatest ally. His lightness of feet and a wide repertoire of strokes are also his strengths. When he puts his dancing shoes on, he means business.

Ruturaj 35-ball 57 and his 97-run first-wicket partnership with Ishan Kishan in 10 overs built the platform for India.

Ruturaj said that he played to his strengths and did not indulge in slogging. "We did not take undue chances. When the ball was in our area we went for it."

He added, "We backed our strength. We also wanted to show intent to the bowlers that we were going after them, put them under pressure."

Ruturaj said the Indians had played well in the first two games too. "But the South Africans won the crunch moments. And they batted very well in the first two games. We did not play poorly."

The India opener conceded that the host's bowling was a lot better at Visakhapatnam. "There was greater intensity and focus in the bowling," he said.

South African captain Temba Bavuma said, "They put us under pressure. The conditions suited the slow bowlers. We were not able to handle them here."

Bavuma conceded "We were not able to put together any partnerships, build any momentum. It was an off-day for the batters. Quinton de Kock is our top player at the top, but he is injured and is not available."

# Hardik to lead India in Ireland T20Is



Hardik. •K.R. DEEPAK

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
RAJKOT

All-rounder Hardik Pandya, who led Gujarat Titans to the IPL 2022 title, will captain India in the two-match T20I series against Ireland to be played in Dublin on June 26 and 28.

Rishabh Pant, who is leading India in the ongoing T20I series against South Africa, and Shreyas Iyer will be joining the squad for the one-off Test against England.

**The squads:** India: Hardik Pandya (Capt.), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (Vice-capt.), Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar Yadav, Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Harshat Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, and Umran Malik.

**Ireland:** Andrew Balbirnie (Capt.), Mark Adair, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Stephen Doherty, Josh Little, Andrew McBrine, Barry McCarthy, Connor Olphert, Paul Stirling, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, and Craig Young.

# India will have to be on its toes against England, says McGrath



**Swarming the Pigeon:** MRF Pace Foundation's trainees in rapt attention to McGrath. •R. RAGU

**PRANAY RAJIV**  
CHENNAI

There were flights of pigeons flying around the MRF Pace Foundation here on Wednesday as cricket's very own 'Pigeon', Glenn McGrath, stood assessing his wards with an eager eye.

McGrath, director of cricket at the foundation, was as composed with his words as he was with the ball during his playing days. He spoke to the media after a training session.

### Praise for his wards

The Australian pace bowling legend expressed great pride in the way his trainees performed in IPL 2022. "All the

MRF trainees have done well. Mukesh was impressive, the same with Avesh, Khaleel and Prasad... I think 19 of our boys were involved in this season. It is one thing to come here and learn, and it is another thing to execute it in the middle," he said.

About England's win over New Zealand at Nottingham in the second Test on Tuesday, McGrath pointed out the impact of Ben Stokes' captaincy in addition to Brendon McCullum's influence.

"He [Stokes] is an aggressive cricketer who is bringing his brand of cricket into his captaincy. It has also helped Root play without pressure,"

said McGrath.

When asked about James Anderson going past the 650-mark in Tests, McGrath said, "For a fast bowler to take 650 wickets is just amazing. It just shows his longevity and work ethic."

### Interesting match-up

On India's one-off Test in England next month, McGrath said: "They [Indians] have been there and played there. So they have the experience. It will be interesting because England is playing a very positive brand of cricket that reminds me a bit of the Australian side of my era. India will have to be on their toes against them."

# Costa Rica completes line-up

Earns it the hard way with a 1-0 win over New Zealand

## WC QUALIFYING

**AASHIN PRASAD**  
AL RAYYAN

Costa Rica earned a hard-fought 1-0 win over 10-man New Zealand to become the final team to book its place in the finals of the FIFA World Cup on Tuesday. Joel Campbell struck the match-defining goal in the third minute in the inter-confederation playoffs at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium here.

After a fast start, Costa Rica broke up the field on the left, where Jewison Bennette played a cutback for Campbell to turn the ball into the bottom corner of the goal.

Surprisingly, it was just one-way traffic from there on with the All Whites camping themselves in Costa Rica's half of the pitch. They were sharper and quicker in possession and used Chris Wood's 6'3" frame up front to cause problems.

Alex Greive and Matthew Garbett squandered good opportunities from Wood's knockdowns inside the box. In the 39th minute, the Newcastle United striker struck the ball into the roof of the net but VAR ruled out the goal after spotting a foul in



**Here we come, Qatar!** Campbell celebrates after sending Costa Rica to the finals. •AFP

the build-up. After half-time, Costa Rica coach Luis Suarez made three substitutions, including the one of veteran Bryan Ruiz to help make better use of ball possession.

For New Zealand, substitute Kosta Barbarouses was sent off within nine minutes of coming on as he wiped out Francisco Clavo from behind and received his marching orders after a VAR check.

Despite New Zealand's numerous raids, *Los Ticos* held on and made it to their third straight World Cup.

(The writer is in Qatar at the invitation of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy)

## Groups for the 2022 World Cup finals in Qatar

- Group A:** Qatar, Ecuador, Senegal, Netherlands
- Group B:** England, Iran, USA, Wales
- Group C:** Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Poland
- Group D:** France, Australia, Denmark, Tunisia
- Group E:** Spain, Costa Rica, Germany, Japan
- Group F:** Belgium, Canada, Morocco, Croatia
- Group G:** Brazil, Serbia, Switzerland, Cameroon
- Group H:** Portugal, Ghana, Uruguay, South Korea

# Prannoy gets the better of Lakshya for first time

Srikanth stunned by Leverdez; Arjun-Kapila duo advances

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
JAKARTA

H.S. Prannoy got the better of compatriot Lakshya Sen 21-10, 21-9 in 34 minutes in their opening round match at the Indonesia Open badminton tournament on Wednesday. It was Prannoy's first-ever win against Lakshya in three meetings so far.

K. Srikanth, back in action after nearly a month, was stunned by the 41st-ranked Brice Leverdez of France 21-23, 10-21. It was the Indian's first loss against the 36-year-old Frenchman

in six matches.

In men's doubles, M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila overcame the higher-ranked Japanese pair of Kelichiro Matsui and Yoshinori Takeuchi 27-25, 18-25, 21-19. However, it was curtains for the women's duo of Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam as it lost 9-21, 10-21 to China's Zhang Shu Xian and Zheng Yu.

The other women's pair of Haritha M. Harinarayan and Ashna Noy suffered a 9-21, 8-21 loss against South Korea's Jeong Na Eun and Kim Hye Jeong.



**Easily done:** Prannoy had the measure of Lakshya in quick time. •BADMINTONPHOTO/COURTESY OF BWF

# Country Club course will test skill, toughness

122nd U.S. Open tees off today

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
BROOKLINE (US)

The mental fortitude of the world's finest golfers will be tested by unrelenting challenges and moments of adversity when the 122nd U.S. Open starts at The Country Club on Thursday.

Defending champion Jon Rahm, who won his first Major at oceanside Torrey Pines last year, seeks a repeat on a 7,254-yard layout at a 140-year-old urban club where golf has been played since the 1890s.

### Old school

But it's the usual formidable US Open set-up. "It's going to be long rough and firm and fast greens," said the fifth-ranked American Justin Thomas. "It's old school."

It is a test of mental toughness as much as shot-making skills, said the second-ranked Rahm. "It's a US Open. You need everything," he said. "You need to drive well, hit your irons well, chip well and putt well,



Rahm. •AFP

and be mentally sane for four days. You can't hide. Period."

Reigning British Open champion Collin Morikawa says acceptance is the best sign of good mental attitude.

"We're the best players in the world and we set ourselves high standards. Sometimes when you don't perform the way you want to, you can get upset. It can be frustrating," he said. "It's the small things that really make a difference. That's what it takes to win Majors."

# Gill ready for Kenyan Safari

Says he used pandemic time to optimise his fitness

**RAKESH RAO**  
NEW DELHI

Gaurav Gill looks almost restless to get back to racing action as he eyes a creditable finish in the World Rally Championship (WRC) Safari Rally in Kenya from June 23 to 26.

"I last raced before the pandemic set in and now I can't wait to get going," said Gill here on Wednesday. Gill, an Arjuna Awardee, will be driving Skoda Fabia R5 in the WR2 with Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Moraes.

"This terrain is considered one of the toughest in the world and I need to have the right mindset to complete the course," said Gill. The safari comprises 19 special stages covering around 365km of competition, the challenges being closed dirt roads and rocky and rutted tracks, not to forget unpredictable weather.

A three-time Asia-Pacific Rally championship (APRC) winner, Gill mentioned how tough it was to deal with the days of the pandemic but was quick to add, "I made



Gaurav Gill. •FILE PHOTO

the most of the time on hand and worked a lot on optimising my fitness levels. There are stages when we drive up to 12-16 hours and lose 5-6 kgs of water weight. One needs to be in the best of shapes to be able to deal with the challenges."

Gill's last competitive race in the WRC2 was the 2019 Rally of Turkey where he missed out on a top-five finish but his stupendous drive attracted a lot of praise from the driving community.

JK Tyre has announced a scholarship programme that offers ₹300,000 to five talents, including one girl

About his expectations, Gill said, "I'm pretty hard on myself. I am looking to give it all and complete it in a good time."

Back home, the JK Tyre plans grand celebrations to mark its 25-year association with the National Racing Championship while being optimistic about bringing back its marquee event at the Buddh International Circuit, Greater Noida.

JK Tyre's Head of Motorsports Sanjay Sharma also announced a scholarship programme that offers ₹300,000 to five talents, including one girl, across all verticals of motorsports.

Rising 17-year-old Amir Sayed is one of the beneficiaries of this programme. This Kottayam-based racer was the 2020 JK Tyre Novice Cup Champion having won all 12 races in his category.

# Plans to bring MotoGP to India

FMSCI chief Akbar Ebrahim says discussions in progress

**K. KEERTHIVASAN**  
CHENNAI

Plans are afoot to bring a round of the MotoGP and Formula-E World championships to India, and discussions on this front are in progress, according to Akbar Ebrahim, president, Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI).

In his keynote address at the FMSCI annual awards function to honour all the 2021 National champions, here on Wednesday, Ebrahim also announced that

Chennai would be the venue for a round of the FIA World Rally Star (17-26 age group) in September, and to be organised by the Madras Motor Sports Club.

"We are also working towards getting a round of MotoGP and the Formula-E to India. The Formula-E is likely to be held on a street circuit in Hyderabad. As regards the FIA Rally Star, it is a gateway to youngsters targeting the World Rally Championship."

"Further, India has joined

the FIM's Road to MotoGP programme through the World MiniGP championship which is restricted to those in the 10-14 years age group.

"Dorna Sports, promoters of MotoGP, and Italian bike manufacturer Ohvale are actively involved in the programme. The first of the five rounds will be held in July this year. At the end of the Indian series, the top two riders will qualify for the World Finals in Spain," Ebrahim said.



**Champions' day out:** The 2021 National winners with Akbar Ebrahim. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## LIVE TELECAST

**Badminton:** Indonesia Masters, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 7.30 a.m.  
**Ranji Trophy:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.  
**Sri Lanka vs Australia:** 2nd ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m.  
**West Indies vs Bangladesh:** 1st Test, day 1, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



## Parmjeet, Manpreet clinch bronze

**NEW DELHI**  
 Indian para powerlifters Parmjeet Kumar (lifted 169kg in 49kg open category) and Manpreet Kaur (88kg in 41kg category) put up impressive displays to win bronze medals at the 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on Wednesday. PTI

## Ridhima Dilawari in the van

**BENGALURU**  
 Ridhima Dilawari fired a three-under 69 to grab a three shot lead at the end of the first round of the eighth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, at Karnataka Golf Association course here on Wednesday. Ridhima, who has not won since January 2021, had three birdies in a row from the 11th to 13th holes.  
**The scores (top six):** 69: Ridhima Dilawari; 72: Trimann Saluja, Agrima Manral, Disha Kavery; 73: Jahnavi Bakshi, Afshan Fatima.

## Nunez completes move to Liverpool

**LIVERPOOL**  
 Liverpool secured the signing of Darwin Nunez from Benfica on Tuesday for a fee that could rise to a club record €100 million. The club has splashed an initial €75 million on the 22-year-old with an extra €25 million in performance-related add-ons. AFP

## Mumbai rides on Tamore's ton

Mulani chips in with a half-century; Uttar Pradesh ends day two on 25 for two

## RANJI TROPHY

AMOL KARHADKAR  
 BENGALURU

A typically gritty performance from a team used to winning crucial matches ensured that Mumbai went from a relatively tricky position at the end of the first day to one of strength by the time a truncated second day ended.

Heavy overnight showers meant that play could only begin at 12.30 p.m. Once it did, the going was slow, initially, for the pitch had been under covers and sweated.

In this context, the 113-run sixth-wicket partnership between Hardik Tamore (115) and Shams Mulani (50) proved invaluable.

Both batters were solid, and after one ball beat the outside edge of Mulani early



**Taking control:** Tamore's composed innings was instrumental in Mumbai's recovery. \*K. PICHUMANI

on, there were few scares.

Mulani was dismissed against the run of play when Karan Sharma brought himself into the attack drawing the bat-pad catch to forward short leg.

But the day belonged to Tamore. In the knowledge that there were enough hands in the lower order to keep him company, he bat-

ted with application and common sense.

UP managed to avoid further damage, going to stumps on 25 for two, trailing by 368 runs.

**The scores: Mumbai – 1st innings:** Prithvi Shaw c Garg b Dayal 0, Yashasvi Jaiswal c Jurel b Karan 100, Armaan Jaffer lbw b Mavi 10, Suved Parkar c Saurabh b Dayal 32, Sarfaraz

Khan c Jurel b Karan 40, Hardik Tamore c Jurel b Saurabh 115, Shams Mulani c Kaushik b Karan 50, Tanush Kotian c Mavi b Saurabh 22, Dhawal Kulkarni c sub b Saurabh 0, Tushar Deshpande c Jurel b Karan 1, Mohit Avasthi (not out) 0; Extras (b-13, lb-7, nb-2, w-1): 23; Total (in 140.4 overs): 393.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-0, 2-24, 3-87, 4-170, 5-233, 6-346, 7-386, 8-392, 9-393.

**Uttar Pradesh bowling:** Dayal 23-6-51-2, Rajpoot 27-4-76-0, Mavi 18-3-52-1, Saurabh 39-4-11-07-3, Prince 16-4-41-0, Karan 17-5-46-4.

**Uttar Pradesh – 1st innings:** Madhav Kaushik (batting) 11, Samarth Singh c Tamore b Kulkarni 0, Priyam Garg b Deshpande 3, Karan Sharma (batting) 10; Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for two wks. in 12 overs): 25.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-1, 2-4.

**Mumbai bowling:** Kulkarni 6-0-14-1, Deshpande 5-1-10-1, Mulani 1-1-0-0.

## Tiwary, Shahbaz rescue Bengal

Their unbroken stand of 143 takes the team to 197

AYAN ACHARYA  
 BENGALURU

Manoj Tiwary (84, 182b, 9x4) and Shahbaz Ahmed (72, 149b, 9x4) showed stomach for a fight after a lamentable first dig from their top order saw Bengal crumble to 54 for five in response to Madhya Pradesh's first-innings score of 341 during the second day of their Ranji Trophy semifinal in Alur on Wednesday. The pair's unbroken stand of 143 took Bengal to 197 for five at stumps, still 144 behind.

It looked like a good day for fast bowling – damp and overcast for the large part. But MP, instead, opened with Kumar Kartikeya's (two for 43) left-arm orthodox spin. The move worked as Kartikeya removed Abhishek Raman and Sudip Gharami for ducks in the very first over.

**The scores: Madhya Pradesh –**



Tiwary. \*K. MURALI KUMAR

**1st innings:** Yash Dubey lbw b Mukesh 9, Himanshu Mantri c Abhishek Porel b Mukesh 165, Shubham Sharma b Pramanik 17, Rajat Patidar c Tiwary b Mukesh 7, Aditya Shrivastava b Shahbaz Ahmed 10, Akshat Raghuvanshi lbw b Akash 63, Saransh b Akash 17, Puneet Datey c Abhishek Porel b Shahbaz Ahmed 33, Anubhav Agarwal (not out) 2, Kumar Kartikeya c Akash b

Shahbaz Ahmed 6, Gaurav Yadav c Abhishek Porel b Mukesh 0; Extras (b-7, lb-2, nb-3): 12; Total (in 105.3 overs): 341.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-10, 2-59, 3-72, 4-97, 5-220, 6-259, 7-323, 8-333, 9-340.

**Bengal bowling:** Mukesh 27-3-6-66-4, Akash 26-7-73-2, Mondal 14-3-47-0, Shahbaz 20-3-86-3, Pramanik 14-0-50-1, Tiwary 4-0-10-0.

**Bengal – 1st innings:** Abhishek Raman b Kartikeya 0, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Mantri b Puneet 22, Sudip Gharami b Kartikeya 0, Anustup Majumdar c Patidar b Saransh 4, Manoj Tiwary (batting) 84, Abhishek Porel c Shubham b Puneet 9, Shahbaz Ahmed (batting) 72; Extras (lb-6): 6; Total (for five wks. in 66 overs): 197.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-0, 2-0, 3-11, 4-44, 5-54.

**Madhya Pradesh bowling:** Kartikeya 25-9-43-2, Saransh 16-3-58-1, Puneet 9-0-34-2, Anubhav 5-1-18-0, Gaurav 8-1-24-0, Shubham 3-0-14-0.

## Hungary humbles abject England

## NATIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
 WOLVERHAMPTON

England suffered its worst home defeat since 1928 with a 4-0 loss to Hungary in the Nations League on Tuesday. It was England's biggest home loss since being beaten 5-1 by Scotland 94 years ago.

England was booed by its own fans after a heavy loss to an unheralded Hungarian team that completed a double after upsetting England last week.

European champion Italy had it little better as it was beaten 5-2 by Germany.

It was 5-0 down before scoring two late goals.

**The results:**  
**League A: Group 3:** England 0 lost to Hungary 4 (Sallai 16, 70,

Nagy 80, Gazdag 89); Germany 5 (Kimmich 10, Gundogan 45+4-pen, Mueller 51, Werner 68, 69) bt Italy 2 (Gnontto 78, Bastoni 90+4).

**Group 4:** The Netherlands 3 (Lang 17, Gakpo 23, Depay 90+3) bt Wales 2 (Johnson 26, Bale 90+2-pen); Poland 0 lost to Belgium 1 (Batshuayi 16).

**League B: Group 1:** Armenia 1 (Bichakhchyan 6) lost to Scotland 4 (Armstrong 14, 45+1, McGinn 50, Adams 54); Ukraine 1 (Dovbyk 47) drew with Republic of Ireland 1 (Collins 31).

**Group 3:** Bosnia-Herzegovina 3 (Pjanic 5-pen, Dzeko 29, 58) bt Finland 2 (Pukki 10, Kallman 18); Romania 0 lost to Montenegro 3 (Mugosa 42, 56, 63).

**League C: Group 1:** Luxembourg 2 (Rodrigues 12-pen, Martins Pereira 49) drew with Faroe Islands 2 (Bjartalid 57, 59); Turkey 2 (Ayhan 37, Calhanoglu 54-pen) bt Lithuania 0.

## Russian, Belarusian players can compete at U.S. Open

REUTERS  
 NEW YORK

Russian and Belarusian players will be allowed to compete at the U.S. Open this year but only under a neutral flag, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) announced on Tuesday.

Players from Russia and Belarus are not being allowed to compete at Wimbledon later this month, a move which prompted the men's ATP and women's WTA Tours to strip the grasscourt Grand Slam of its ranking points.

## Ramkumar, Smith duo in last eight

SPORTS BUREAU

Ramkumar Ramanathan and John-Patrick Smith beat the fourth seeds Andrea Vavassori and Szymon Walkow 7-6(4), 6-2 in the €134,920 Challenger tennis pre-quarterfinals at Ilkley, United Kingdom, on Wednesday.

**Other results: €46,720 Challenger, Blois, France: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Sriman Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Hendrik Jebens (Ger) & Piotr Matuszewski (Pol) 6-3, 6-4; Boris Arias & Federico Zeballos (Bol) bt Ruben Gonzales (Phi) & Arjun Kadhe 6-4, 7-6(0).

**\$15,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Singles (first round):** Takuya Kumasaka (Jpn) bt Suraj Prabodh 6-1, 6-3; Chien Hsun Lo (Tpe) bt Dhakshineswar Suresh 6-3, 6-3; Ishaque Eqbal bt Masamichi Imamura (Jpn) 6-4, 6-1.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Madhwin Kamath & Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Joao Marcos Nusdeo (Bra) & Parth Aggarwal 6-2, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Chiang Rai, Thailand: Singles (first round):** Priska Madelyn Nugroho (Ina) bt Vanshita Pathania 6-1, 6-1.

## Indian teams on a roll

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian boys outplayed Maldives 3-0, dropping just one game in all, in the league phase of the IITF South Asia under-12 tennis tournament in Kathmandu on Wednesday.

In the girls' round-robin league, India beat host Nepal 3-0, losing only six games.

**The results (league):**  
**Boys: India bt Maldives 3-0** (Tavish Pahwa bt Mika Mohamed Kaleem 6-0, 6-0; Fazaal Ali Meer bt Adam Aal Niyaz 6-0, 6-1; Kushagra Arora & Tavish bt Adam & Ibrahim Zafayaan Salaam 6-0, 6-0).  
**Girls: India bt Nepal 3-0** (Prachi Malik bt Pranja Manandhar 6-0, 6-2; Aahan bt Shivali Gurung 6-0, 6-0; Prachi & Anandita Upadhyay bt Shivali & Karmishtha Nugah Shrestha 6-2, 6-2).

## Sunil Chhetri climbs another peak

Striker is joint 5th highest scorer in international football

ANI  
 KOLKATA

Sunil Chhetri – the Indian men's football team captain – became the joint fifth highest goalscorer in international football history.

Chhetri achieved this feat during India's AFC Asian Cup Qualifier clash against Hong Kong on Tuesday, where he scored his 84th goal. He has now equalled legendary Real



Sunil Chhetri. \*PTI

Madrid and Hungarian player Ferenc Puskas goal-scoring exploits on the international stage.

Earlier in October 2021, Chhetri had surpassed legendary football player Pele's record of 77 goals. He is now third on the list of active international goalscorers, just behind Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Argentina's Lionel Messi.

Currently, Ronaldo is the highest goalscorer in international football with 117 goals, while Messi is in fourth with 86.

## Sachdeva stretched by Deepam

SPORTS BUREAU

Top seed Dhruv Sachdeva was stretched to the limit by fifth seed Deepam Malik before he prevailed 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(6) in the under-16 boys' quarterfinals of the AITA Super series junior tennis in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

**The results (quarterfinals):**  
**Boys: Under-18:** Vatsal Manikantan bt Dhruv Sachdeva 6-3, 6-2; Bhicky Sagolshem bt Harsh Fogaat 6-0, 2-6, 6-2; Om Yadav bt Deepam Malik 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; Anmol Nagpure bt Arntya Ohlyan 6-3, 6-1.

**Under-16:** Dhruv Sachdeva bt Deepam Malik 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(6); Vatsal Manikantan bt Dhruv Kumar 6-4, 6-2; Kabir Chothani bt Akshat Dhull 6-2, 6-2; Swastik Sharma bt Jevin Kanani 6-1, 6-2.

**Girls: Under-18:** Jaya Kapoor bt Shagun Kumari 6-2, 7-6(4); Suhani Gaur bt Isheta Midha 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; Riya Kaushik bt Saijanyani Banerjee 6-3, 6-2; Harleen Kaur Dhanda bt Tamanna Panwar 6-0, 7-6(3).

**Under-16:** Aarushi Raval bt Radha Sadhra 6-3, 6-1; Saijanyani Banerjee bt Divya Sharma 6-4, 6-1; Isheta Midha bt Tamanna Panwar 6-1, 6-1; Jaya Kapoor bt Poonam 6-1, 6-0.

## Vijayveer Sidhu wins rapid fire gold



**On target:** Vijayveer in action. \*FILE PHOTO: KAMESH SRINIVASAN

## SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

Vijayveer Sidhu beat Arpit Goel 33-27 for the gold in 25-metre rapid fire pistol event in the 20th Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship at the Madhya Pradesh Academy in Bhopal on Wednesday.

Arpit had topped qualification with 581 along with Gurmeet but was unable to match Vijayveer in the gold match.

Vijayveer was pipped 32-31 in the junior final by Adarsh Singh, who had to settle for the bronze in the men's event.

In the 50-metre rifle prone event held at the Dr. Karni Singh Range in Tugh-

lakabad, Akhil Sheoran topped with 623.7. The junior honours went to Surya Pratap Banshtu who shot 616.9. The non-Olympic event does not feature a final.

**The results:**  
**25m rapid fire pistol: Men:** 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 33 (16) 575; 2. Arpit Goel 27 (14) 581; 3. Adarsh Singh 19 (15) 575; 4. Gurmeet 10 (13) 581.

**Juniors:** 1. Adarsh Singh 32 (14) 575; 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 31 (16) 575; 3. Rajkanwar Sandhu 16 (9) 568; 4. Harsimran Singh Ratta 7 (11) 566.

**50m rifle prone: Men:** 1. Akhil Sheoran 623.7; 2. Zahid Husain Parry 620.9; 3. Pavan Kumar Vaishnav 620.8.

**Juniors:** 1. Surya Pratap Banshtu 616.9; 2. Shivam Dabas 609.8; 3. Vedant Waghmare 609.6.

# DANT KANTI Sensitive

with the goodness of 21 Precious Herbs

## SCIENTIFIC AYURVEDIC SOLUTION for sensitivity

**Tumru, Akarkara, Clove, Suvarchika, Kantakari, Apmarga, Green Tea, Vajradanti, Misvak, Honey, Babul, Camphor, Ajwain, Mint, Cinnamon, Big Cardamom, Eucalyptus, Nutmeg, Neem, Shubhra etc.**

### Scientific Formulation of Herbs

Cold & hot causing painful sensation  
Give sensitivity a natural medication

Long-lasting fresh breath

Creates protective layer on teeth

Get rid of germs

Strengthens gums

Beneficial in pyorrhoea

Shop Online- [www.patanjaliayurved.net](http://www.patanjaliayurved.net) | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - [feedback@patanjaliayurved.org](mailto:feedback@patanjaliayurved.org) | Website - [www.patanjaliayurved.org](http://www.patanjaliayurved.org)