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Yashwant Sinha files nomination for Presidential election
 page 10



Days after Gehlot's barb, Pilot plays down CM's comment
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World Bank approves \$250 million loan to India for road safety
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Chahal, batters give India a 1-0 lead in T20I series; second match today
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IN BRIEF



Simranjit Mann's win may spell return of Akali politics
 CHANDIGARH
 Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) president Simranjit Singh Mann's hard-fought win over the Aam Aadmi Party candidate in the bypoll to the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat on Sunday is likely to spark a resurgence of Akali politics and embolden radical elements in Punjab.

STATES PAGE 4

ONE PAPER = ONE BOOK

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SC gives breather to Sena rebels

'Respond to disqualification notice by July 12'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said rebel Shiv Sena legislators led by Eknath Shinde need "breathing time" while giving them time till July 12 to respond to a notice issued by Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal on June 25 initiating disqualification proceedings against them for defection.

Mr. Shinde and 15 other MLAs, against whom disqualification notice was issued, were supposed to submit their written responses before the Deputy Speaker by 5.30 p.m. on June 27.

A Vacation Bench of Justices Surya Kant and J.B. Paridwala headed their conten-



Alert state: Police guarding the Shiv Sena's office in Thane on Monday, apprehending a gathering of rebels' supporters. •PTI

tion that they were given hardly 48 hours to respond to the disqualification notice when the law required the Speaker to grant them seven whole days.

"The disqualification notice is a classic example of the Deputy Speaker acting hand in glove with the government in an attempt to hastily disqualify the petitioner [Mr.

Shinde] along with other supporters. The disqualification rules and the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules are sought to be completely bypassed," Mr. Shinde, through senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, had alleged.

Virtually putting the disqualification proceedings on hold, the Bench, in its order,

ED summons Sanjay Raut

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut in a money laundering case of 2018. He has been summoned on June 28 in a case regarding irregularities in the redevelopment of Patra Haveli project at Goregaon. • PAGE 11

recorded that as an "interim measure, the time granted by the Deputy Speaker to the petitioners and other similarly placed MLAs to submit their written submissions today [on Monday] by 5.30 p.m. is extended till July 12, 2022, 5.30 p.m."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
 MORE REPORTS PAGE 11

Mir's quick trial came ahead of U.S.-Pak. meet

Conviction aimed at FATF reprieve

Who is Sajid Mir?

- Deputy chief of international operations of Lashkar-e-Taiba
- Recruited terrorists for Mumbai 26/11 attacks, guided attackers over telephone from the LeT "control room" in Karachi, directly ordered killings



Mir is on the FBI's most wanted list. He is No.14 on the wanted terrorists' list under India's UAPA

- Wanted for involvement in terror recruitment and financing cases in France, Australia, Denmark and the United States
- Declared "dead" by Pakistani officials in December 2021, but arrested in April 2022, convicted and sentenced in May 2022

SUHASINI HAIDAR
 NEW DELHI

Lashkar-e-Taiba deputy chief and 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks planner Sajid Mir was sentenced by a Pakistan anti-terrorism court in Lahore on terror-financing charges in May this year, in a speedy trial completed just three weeks after he was arrested, three days before a U.S.-Pakistan ministerial meeting and a month before the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary that gave Pakistan a reprieve.

Mir had been declared "dead" by Pakistani officials as recently as in December 2021, but was then arrested by the police on April 21, 2022, convicted on May 16, 2022, and sent to prison to serve three consecutive sentences amounting to fifteen and a half years in prison.

According to a report in

Pakistan Geo News, officials said Mir was tried and convicted "quietly", given the sensitivities around the case. The Ministry of External Affairs in India has not commented on the case, given that the arrest, conviction and sentencing have not been formally announced by Pakistan. However, a government official said that the "timing" of Pakistan's actions were "clearly aimed at being granted leniency from western countries at the FATF".

The conviction of Mir came just three days before a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto on May 19 in New York, where they discussed Pakistan's grey listing at the FATF.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Karnataka to make 8 changes in textbooks

STAFF REPORTER
 BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has issued a notification making eight corrections in Kannada and Social Science textbooks of Classes I to X.

The move comes following objections raised by members of the public, people's representatives, and seers of various communities to the changes made in the textbooks by the Rohith Chakrathirtha led-Textbook Revision Committee. However, the Opposition parties, writers, educationists and seers said the corrections were "too inadequate" and demanded the withdrawal of the revised textbooks.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said while some changes had been brought in, the government had decided not to make many changes in the textbooks.

Some of the key changes accepted by the government include adding the prefix "Samvidhana Shilpi" to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Class IX textbook, which was there in the old textbook but was dropped by the Rohith Committee. It has agreed to reinsert lines on the contributions of the Siddaganga Math and the Adichunchanagiri Math.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Alt News co-founder held for four-year-old Twitter post

Congress and Trinamool slam Zubair's arrest

ARNABJIT SUR
 ABHINAV LAKSHMAN
 NEW DELHI

Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair was on Monday arrested by Delhi Police's IFSO unit in connection with an "objectionable tweet" he had posted in 2018 against a Hindu deity, officers said.

The arrest resulted in a strong political backlash. Taking to Twitter, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said: "Every person exposing BJP's hate, bigotry and lies is a threat to them. Arresting one voice of truth will only give rise to a thousand more. Truth ALWAYS triumphs over tyranny #DaroMat".

Other senior Congress leaders such as Shashi Tharoor and Supriya Shrinete and Opposition leaders like Trinamool Congress MP De-

rek O'Brien also spoke out against the arrest. "Strongly condemn the arrest of one of the world's finest journalists who exposes the BJP's #FakeNews factory every single day," Mr. O'Brien tweeted.

Strong condemnation
 Digipub, an association of online news organisations, of which Alt News is also a member, was also quick to condemn Mr. Zubair's arrest in the "strongest possible terms" and issued a state-

ment in this regard.

Mr. Zubair has been at the forefront of reporting on hate speech and was the first one to point out suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's derogatory comments on Prophet Muhammad during a TV news debate, which resulted in outrage, the suspension of Ms. Sharma and the filing of several FIRs against her.

Advocate Kawalpreet Kaur, who represented Mr. Zubair in the remand hear-

ing, said he was produced before Patiala House court Duty Metropolitan Magistrate Ajay Narwal in a makeshift court at his apartment complex's garage in Burari around 10.30 p.m.

The police sought his custody for seven days, arguing that he was not cooperating with their investigation. Mr. Narwal heard the arguments and granted the police Mr. Zubair's custody for one day.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Won't arrest Marathi actor, MVA govt. tells HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 MUMBAI

The Maha Vikas Aghadi government on Monday told the Bombay High Court that it won't arrest Marathi actor Ketaki Chitale in the 21 FIRs filed against her for allegedly sharing a defamatory post

on social media against Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar.

Ms. Chitale was arrested on May 14 after an FIR was lodged at the Kalwa police station and she was granted bail last week by a Thane court. However, there are

still 21 FIRs against her in various districts in Maharashtra. Earlier this month, the actor had moved the High Court to quash the FIRs.

On Monday, the plea came up for hearing before a Division Bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and N.R. Borkar.

Public prosecutor Aruna Kamat Pai made a statement that the petitioner would not be arrested in any of the remaining 21 cases.

The Bench accepted the statement and adjourned the matter for further hearing on July 12.

'India's gig workforce to reach 2.35 cr. by 2030'

Social security, work accident insurance among NITI Aayog recommendations

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
 NEW DELHI

The Centre's policy think tank NITI Aayog has recommended steps to provide social security, including paid leave, occupational disease and accident insurance, support during irregularity of work and pension plans for the country's gig workforce, which is expected to grow to 2.35 crore by 2029-30.

According to a study released by NITI Aayog on Monday, the number of gig workers is estimated to be 77 lakh in 2020-21. "India re-

quires a framework that balances the flexibility offered by platforms while also ensuring social security of workers. The consequent platformisation of work has given rise to a new classification of labour - platform labour - falling outside of the purview of the traditional dichotomy of formal and informal labour," the study said.

It added that platform workers are termed "independent contractors" and as a result, they cannot access many aspects of workplace protection and entitlements.

The report broadly classifies gig workers into platform and non-platform based workers. While platform workers are those whose work is based on online software applications or digital platforms, non-platform gig workers are generally casual wage workers and own-account workers in the conventional sectors, working part-time or full time.

More medium-skilled jobs
 The report noted that at present, about 47% of gig work is in medium-skilled jobs,

about 22% in high-skilled, and about 31% in low-skilled jobs, and the trend shows the concentration of workers in medium-skilled jobs is declining and that of the low-skilled and high-skilled is increasing. By 2029-30, gig workers are expected to form 6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce or 4.1% of the total livelihood workforce in India, the study said.

The think tank has also recommended introducing a 'Platform India initiative' on the lines of the 'Startup India initiative'.

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PM invites G7 nations to invest in clean energy

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE
 NEW DELHI

Access to energy should not be a privilege of the rich and the poor also should have equal right to energy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

At a special session of the G7 summit in Germany, he said the clean energy sector had emerged as a major domain in India and developed economies should invest in this arena.

"All of you will agree that energy access should not be the privilege of the rich only. A poor family also has the same rights. And today, when energy costs are sky-high due to geopolitical tensions, it is more important to remember this," Mr. Modi said at a session, "Investing in a better future: Climate, Energy, Health".

India, along with South Africa, Indonesia, Argentina and Senegal, is a guest at this year's G7 summit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

COVID-19 jabs at mohalla clinics soon

Clinics to double up as vaccination centres; their addresses would be uploaded on CoWin, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhiites will soon be able to get their COVID-19 vaccine shots at the city government-run mohalla clinics. An announcement to this effect was made by the authorities on Monday.

There are 520 functional mohalla clinics and after conducting a feasibility study, vaccination centres will be started wherever possible, a Delhi government spokesperson said.

So far, the Delhi government has mainly used schools as COVID-19 vaccination centres. "But now that the schools have reopened, such a huge population for vaccination cannot be allowed on the premises. Since mohalla clinics are located in the heart of populous areas



A feasibility study will be conducted at the mohalla clinics before starting the vaccination centres, say officials. ■ FILE PHOTO

and are easily accessible, they will be useful for the government to provide vaccination to eligible beneficiaries," an official said.

Boost to drive

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the decision has been taken to boost the inoculation drive in the Capital. "The State has adopted a

multi-pronged strategy to achieve optimal coverage of vaccination of all eligible beneficiaries. Currently, vaccination is being provided on a mission mode, still a cohort of the population is due for the second dose and a significantly higher cohort is due for the newly added precaution dose. The addition of vaccination centres at mo-

halla clinics will help us achieve the higher vaccination target soon," Mr. Sisodia said.

He added that designated staff at mohalla clinics will be provided training regarding COVID-19 vaccination operational guidelines. "The responsibility of the Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinic will be to provide adequate space for vaccination, counsel the beneficiaries and ensure that COVID vaccination guidelines are followed at the clinic," he said.

The Minister said as soon as the vaccination centres are functional, they will be uploaded on CoWin and the beneficiaries will be able to book their slots easily.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri questioned

why the city government did not take this decision when the Capital required it the most - during the peak of the COVID-19 waves.

Why now, asks BJP

"Even the Delhi High Court had pulled them [govt.] up and asked why the so-called world-class mohalla clinics were not providing COVID testing and other services. More importantly, a majority of these clinics continue to remain shut. Over 90% of the population in the city is now vaccinated and this move is only to gain cheap publicity. Where were they at the time of need?" asked Mr. Bidhuri.

According to the Delhi government, 3.49 crore doses have been given in the city till now, including first, second, and booster doses.

Demolition drive on Yamuna floodplains

DDA removes nearly 30 encroachments

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) carried out an anti-encroachment drive on a stretch of the Yamuna floodplains in the Sarai Kale Khan area on Monday, a senior official said.

Close to 30 illegal constructions were cleared. Officials said the exercise was carried out in pursuance of the guidelines of the National Green Tribunal.

People had encroached upon DDA land and constructed shanties while also carrying out agricultural work, which is prohibited, said another DDA official.

Out of nearly 80 illegal structures, around 30 constructions were removed on

Monday, the official said, adding that the remaining encroachments would be cleared in subsequent phases of the drive.

A senior police officer confirmed that close to 30 shanties were demolished during the drive that was carried out on Monday morning.

"The officials had notified us regarding the same, following which, police assistance was provided," the police officer added.

Between November and December 2015, the DDA had carried out a series of demolition drives in over 100 acres of the Yamuna floodplains, removing several illegal structures in the process.

Senior leader's personal secy. charged with rape

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police have registered an FIR under sections of rape and criminal intimidation against a senior political leader's 71-year-old personal secretary on a complaint filed by a 26-year-old woman.

DCP (Dwarka) M. Harsha Varshan said a complaint was received on Saturday from the woman at the Utam Nagar police station.

According to the FIR, the victim belongs to the Scheduled Caste community. She said she was assaulted twice, most recently in February this year.

The woman said the accused lured her on the pretext of providing her a job and promising to marry her. She said the man subsequently raped her and threatened her with dire consequences if she reported the matter.

No arrests have been made so far.

Govt. to spend ₹13 crore to beautify roads

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will beautify and strengthen 17 roads in Tilak Nagar, Vikaspuri and Janakpuri areas at a total cost of ₹13.58 crore, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Monday.

Mr. Sisodia said that the Public Works Department has been asked to expedite the project.

"It is using modern technologies and global standards of street design to provide a new look to the city's roads," he said.

IN BRIEF



Conference on 'social impact of digitisation'

The KCC Institute of Legal and Higher Education organised a conference on Friday on 'Social Impact of Digitisation'. Several academics presented their research papers at the conference. Deepak Gupta, the chairman of the institute, said they will organise such events in the future too.

MBBS aspirant cheated of ₹20 lakh; 1 held

A 33-year-old man with PhD in economics has been arrested from Sheikh Sarai for allegedly operating a gang that duped an MBBS aspirant of ₹20 lakh on the pretext of getting him admission into a government medical college.

'Identify, repair buildings that are collapse-prone'

L-G asks agencies for report in 2 weeks

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena has directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to identify all dangerous buildings that are prone to collapse and take remedial measures.

According to sources at Raj Niwas, Mr. Saxena asked the civic bodies to complete the exercise and submit a report within a fortnight, before the monsoon's expected arrival in the Capital.

The move comes in the wake of a massive fire that broke out in a four-storey commercial building in Outer Delhi's Mundka last month. A total of 27 persons died and several suffered in-

juries in the incident.

"The L-G has directed the agencies to ensure that such collapse-prone buildings do not cause any mishap or loss of lives and property. For this, the civic agencies have been directed to take appropriate action, including demolishing or repairing such vulnerable buildings," an official at Raj Niwas said.

Mr. Saxena also directed the civic bodies to identify areas with limited access for fire tenders, keeping in mind the roadblocks faced in executing rescue and relief operations in the case of mishaps in densely populated areas.

The L-G asked the officials to prepare an action plan to ensure effective disaster management.

Talaq-e-Hasan: HC seeks police, husband's reply

Complainant has sought protection from those who are 'propagating the practice'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has sought a response from Delhi Police and a Muslim man over a petition filed by his wife seeking to declare a notice of 'Talaq-e-Hasan' sent to her as "void and unconstitutional".

Talaq-e-Hasan is a form of 'triple talaq' by which a Muslim man can divorce his wife by pronouncing 'talaq' at three separate intervals - the gap being at least one month or one menstrual cycle.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma issued a notice to the Delhi Police Commissioner and the SHO of Dabri police station to protect her from religious groups that permit and propagate such practices, and from those who are forcing her to accept Talaq-e-Hasan.



The Delhi HC will hear the case next on August 18.

The woman, in her plea, stated that even though she and her husband were in a relationship prior to their 'love marriage' in September 2020, her husband never stopped his parents from demanding dowry or expensive gifts again and again.

Domestic violence case She said as her husband and in-laws became more demanding, inflicting physical

and mental torture on her, she filed a domestic violence complaint against her husband with the Delhi Commission for Women in September 2021 and later lodged an FIR at the Dabri police station in December 2021.

To avoid any action against him and his family, the husband took the route of Talaq-e-Hasan and sent her the first notice on June 2 "just to force her to withdraw all legal action against him", said advocate Shubham Jha, representing the woman.

'Arbitrary practice'

Advocate Jha said Talaq-e-Hasan notice is not only "arbitrary, illegal and an abuse of law" but also a unilateral extrajudicial act, which directly infringes upon Articles 14, 15, 21, 25 of the Constitution.

The woman further contended that Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, does not secure for her the protection from bigamy, which has been statutorily secured for other Indian women belonging to other religions.

She said that bigamous marriage has been made punishable among Christians by Christian Marriage Act, 1872, amongst Parsis by Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, and amongst Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains by Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

"The legislature has failed to ensure the dignity and equality of women in general and Muslim women in particular, when it concerns matters of marriage, divorce and succession," her plea said. The High Court will hear the case next on August 18.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this Person Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx. 40 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Build: Thin, Face: Oval, was found in unconscious condition at Roshanara Road, Subzi Mandi, Delhi on dated 11.06.2022 and during the treatment doctor declared him dead. The dead body has been preserved in mortuary at Hindu Rao Hospital for 72 hrs for identification.

In this regard a DD No. 54-A dated 11.06.2022 U/s 174 Cr.Pc., has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

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

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

SHO

P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi

DP/2481/N/2022(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23823161, 8750870126

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Laxmi D/o Jagatpal R/o H.No. 104-B, Kh 25/2, Uday Vihar, Nilothi, Delhi Age: 16 years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, wearing Suit and Pajami, has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 20.03.2022. In this regard a FIR No. 631/22, dated 21.05.2022 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

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

Website : http://cbi.nic.in

E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-24368639

Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi

DP/1891/OD/2022 Ph. No.: 011-25946700, 25946710

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male namely Madan Singh Mehra S/o Jagdish Mehra R/o Rain Basera, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi-06, Age: 65 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'4", Face: Oval, Build: Normal, was found in Rain Basera, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi and admitted in LNJP Hospital, Delhi. During the treatment doctor declared him dead. In this regard a DD No. 56A & 33A, U/s 174 Cr.Pc., dated 22.06.2022 & 24.06.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi.

His dead body has been preserved in Maulana Azad Medical College Mortuary. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO

P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi

DP/2485/N/2022 Ph.: 011-23953776, 23958234

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
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01	Selection, Design, Manufacture, Packaging, Forwarding, Assembling, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Trial Running of Variable Snow Plough along with 4-wheel drive Unitrig and like Carrier Vehicle having an output of 190-210 KW	Rs. 5000/-	20.00 Lac	120 days from date of opening of LC	Available

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Tender Dates

Bid Document Downloading Start Date	27-06-2022 from 10:00 AM
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Venue	Office of the Chief Engineer Mechanical Engineering Department UT Ladakh, Leh
Bid Submission Start Date	05-07-2022 from 10:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	16-07-2022 up to 4:00 PM
Bid Validity Period	180 days from the date of opening of cover 1st.
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Notice No. ASTC/HO/CE(A&T)/ Procurement of EV/024/Vol-2/2021-22/0835

Corrigendum-IV

Tender Title: Purchase of 100 Nos 9 meter AC Electric bus (High Range) from Original Equipment Manufacturer /

Authorized Dealer by Assam State Transport Corporation

RFB No: ASTC/HO/CE/Proc of EV/024/2021-22/725

Tender Published Date : 21st May, 2022

This Corrigendum is being issued for the following amendments to the RFB :

S. No.	Tender Clause No. & Page No.	Existing Clause	Modified Clause
1	Important Dates, Page No. 3 & Corrigendum-I, Annexure-A, Sl. No.-1	Last date and time for Bid Submission 27 th June, 2022 upto 2:00 P.M.	Last date and time for Bid Submission 7 th July, 2022 upto 2:00 P.M.
		Date and time for opening of Technical Bids 27 th June, 2022 2:30 P.M.	Date and time for opening of Technical Bids 7 th July, 2022 upto 2:30 P.M.

Notice No. ASTC/HO/CE(A&T)/ Procurement of EV/024/Vol-2/2021-22/0834

Corrigendum-IV

Tender Title: Purchase of 100 Nos 9 meter AC Electric bus(Low Range) from Original Equipment Manufacturer / Authorized Dealer by Assam State Transport Corporation

RFB No: ASTC/HO/CE/Proc of EV/024/2021-22/726

Tender Published Date : 21st May, 2022

This Corrigendum is being issued for the following amendments to the RFB :

S. No.	Tender Clause No. & Page No.	Existing Clause	Modified Clause
1	Important Dates, Page No. 3 & Corrigendum-I, Annexure-A, Sl. No.-1	Last date and time for Bid Submission 27 th June, 2022 upto 2:00 P.M.	Last date and time for Bid Submission 7 th July, 2022 upto 2:00 P.M.
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Ruckus in Bihar Assembly over Agnipath adjournment motion

Demand for rollback of what Opposition MLAs called PM Modi's 'dictatorial step'

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

The Bihar Assembly on Monday witnessed uproarious scenes over the Opposition's demand for an adjournment motion against the Centre's Agnipath scheme.

Opposition members also called the scheme a "dictatorial step" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

As soon as the proceedings of the monsoon session of the State Assembly began on Monday, the Opposition members, both inside and outside of the House, set off a din demanding an adjournment motion over the Agnipath scheme. Lalit Yadav (Rashtriya Janata Dal), Ajeet Sharma (Congress), and Satyadev Ram (Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist) raised the demand for an adjournment motion over the scheme for debate, calling it a matter related to national security. The Opposition party MLAs demanded that the Speaker should accept the motion.

However, Speaker Vijay



Senior RJD leader Rabri Devi with party legislators staging a protest against Agnipath scheme in Patna on Monday. •PTI

Kumar Sinha pleaded that the matter be raised after Question Hour and, later, even allowed Mr. Yadav, Mr. Sharma and Mr. Ram to read out the text of the motion to "pacify the protesting MLAs". But the protesting Opposition legislators kept creating uproarious scenes and trooped into the Well of the Assembly demanding a debate on the Agnipath scheme and its rollback.

Earlier, thousands of aspirants in Bihar had protested over the Agnipath scheme for

short-term contractual recruitment in the armed forces. Over a dozen trains and railway stations were set on fire; national highways were blocked and offices of the ruling coalition partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), at Nawada and Madhepura districts were ransacked.

Internet services were suspended for days in over 20 districts across the State to end the protest. Hundreds of aspirants were arrested and nearly 200 FIRs were lodged against them.

Over the Opposition's protest in the Assembly on Monday, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhury said the Speaker had already extended the MLAs the favour of allowing them to read out the text. "An adjournment motion is either accepted or rejected by the Speaker," Mr. Choudhury quipped.

Deputy CM's objection

Later, senior State BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishor Prasad rose in his chair and objected to the Opposition MLAs' repeated remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "dictatorial step" in implementing the Agnipath scheme.

"Shouting slogans against the Prime Minister sets a bad precedent. Opposition members are raising an issue which doesn't fall under the purview of the State Assembly," Mr. Prasad said. However, the Opposition members continued their protest, forcing the adjournment of the proceedings till lunch.

RLP's rally in Jodhpur calls for rollback of Agnipath scheme

Participating youths say it has 'crushed their dreams'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP), which has three members in the Rajasthan Assembly and one in the Lok Sabha, on Monday called for the rollback of the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces at a massive rally organised in Jodhpur. The rally was aptly titled 'Yuva Hunkar Maha rally' ('mega rally with the roar of the youth').

Thousands of youths from four districts in central and western Rajasthan, where the RLP enjoys considerable support, participated in the rally, with the pledge to oppose the Agnipath scheme, saying it had "crushed [their] dreams", as they aspired to join the Army as regular soldiers to serve the nation.

The RLP is also planning to organise a march to Delhi soon to step up its agitation.

The RLP was the first political force in the State to launch a protest against the scheme, and hit the streets even before the ruling Congress took up the matter. Senior Congress leaders, including Chief Minister Ashok

Gehlot, were busy with the party's agitation against the Enforcement Directorate's questioning of Rahul Gandhi in the *National Herald* case when the Union government announced the scheme.

The Agnipath scheme came as an opportunity for the RLP – a former member of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance – to strengthen its position in the Jat community, which sends a large number of youths to the Army and para-military forces every year, and establish its position as the third political front in the State. The party, founded before the 2018 State Assembly election, claims to represent farmers and soldiers.

Addressing the rally, RLP convener and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal said the party's agitation was not aimed at getting any political mileage, as the issues involved pertained to the younger generation's future. "The Jat Regiment of the Indian Army is praised all over the world for its courage and valour. The Agnipath scheme, with one stroke, has shattered the aspirations of our youths and destroyed

the hard work put in for recruitment," he said.

Mr. Beniwal, who has been trying to position himself as the most influential Jat leader, said he had staged a 70-day-long dharna and parted ways with the NDA over the agriculture sector laws in 2020.

'Ill-advised scheme'

"Like the farm laws, the Centre will have to withdraw this ill-advised scheme. If needed, we will block highways and railway tracks... We will march to Delhi," he said.

The RLP has also staged protests at district headquarters during the last few days and announced that it was the party's "final battle" to secure the rights of youths.

Rajasthan is among the leading States from where youngsters join the armed forces. Thousands of youths from the Shekhawati region's districts, such as Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Churu, have been recruited in the defence forces, while there are many families have been serving in the Army for several generations.

It will hit Haryana the hardest: Hooda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Former Chief Minister of Haryana and Leader of the Opposition Bhopinder Singh Hooda on Monday said the Agnipath scheme will weaken the Army and reduce its numbers. He said Haryana would be among the States hit the hardest by the scheme.

Addressing the party's "Satyagraha" agitation in Rohtak against the scheme, held as part of the protests across all Assembly constituencies in the State, Mr. Hooda said there were two lakh vacancies in the armed forces since recruitment was on hold for the past three years due to COVID-19, but the government had come up with this scheme to play with the future of the youth instead of filling the vacant posts.

He claimed that if this scheme was implemented, the strength of the Army would gradually come down to six lakh. "This will have a very bad impact on employment, especially in Haryana. Till now 5,000-7,000 youth were recruited into the Army every year from the State," he said.

Justice Sanghi bids adieu to Delhi HC

Says the general public feels that judges have it too easy

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

After spending 5,872 days as a judge of the Delhi High Court and having delivered 2,210 judgments, Justice Vipin Sanghi is headed for Uttarakhanda High Court as its Chief Justice.

In the course of his judicial career spanning 16 years, Justice Sanghi has delivered several landmark judgments which deserve special mention.

Justice Sanghi will, however, be remembered most for pushing himself and fellow judges beyond their call of duty to listen to the helpless public who had turned to the judiciary as everything else failed during the deadly second COVID-19 wave.

"No life should be lost due to lack of oxygen," a bottom-line set by Justice Sanghi during the height of the second wave helped save countless lives in the Capital.

Justice Sanghi made sure that grievances of Delhiites regarding oxygen, hospital beds, vaccines and more were met urgently, said Justice Siddharth Mridul.

At his farewell function, Justice Sanghi shared fond



Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Vipin Sanghi (right) at the farewell function • DELHI HIGH COURT YOUTUBE CHANNEL

memories of his years at both the bar and later at the Bench. "Judging is not an easy task and it requires time. The general opinion of the member of public that judges have it too easy because they have five working days a week and also summer and other breaks is a result of their ignorance of the amount of workload that judges carry," Justice Sanghi said.

"Practically, every vacation or break that I have had ever since I became a judge has been spent in substantial part in writing or completing judgments. This explains why there is a flurry of pronouncements soon after the reopening of courts," he said.

"I will not be exaggerating if I say that the typical working day of a judge is 12 hours or more," he added.

Need more judges

Justice Sanghi also reminded that the disposal of cases as a whole greatly depends on the working strength of the court.

"Low judge strength not only puts a strain on the judicial system, but results in putting the serving judges through tremendous amount of work pressure," he said.

"The entire burden which ideally should be shared by the full complement of judges falls on the reduced numbers in office, that slows the disposals," he added.

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IT professional held for raping colleague
PUNE
An IT professional was arrested for allegedly raping a colleague after getting her drunk in his house in Pune, the police said on Monday. The incident took place on June 6 when the accused called the woman for a meal, forced her to have liquor and raped her, the police said. •PTI

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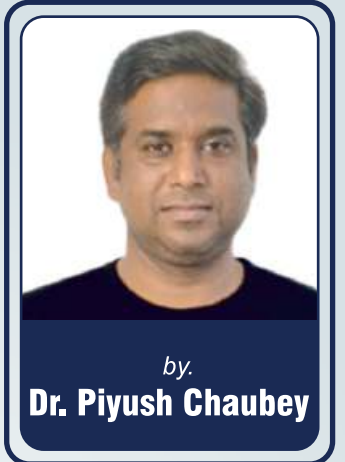


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Haryana govt. approves electric vehicle policy
CHANDIGARH
The Haryana government on Monday approved the State Electric Vehicle Policy-2022 and offered several financial incentives to the EV manufacturers. A decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal. The policy offers various financial incentives to the EV manufacturers, including incentives on the fixed capital investment, net SGST, stamp duty, employment generation, etc. PTI

Simranjit Mann's win sets stage for return of Akali politics

To counter radicalism, AAP govt. needs to make development and governance its main agenda, say political observers

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH
Seventy-seven-year-old Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) president Simranjit Singh Mann's hard-fought win over the Aam Aadmi Party candidate in the bypoll to the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat on Sunday is likely to spark a resurgence of Akali politics in Punjab.

A known hard-line Sikh leader who has frequently raised the bogey of Khalistan, a sovereign state for Sikhs, Mr. Mann's first electoral victory in 23 years is expected to embolden radical elements in the State.

Observers of the State's politics and law and order fear this "dangerous trend" could pose a stiff challenge to the three-month-old AAP government if it does not make

development and governance its main agenda to counter the emergence of hard-line leaders.

The Khalistan movement had lost popular support following the traumatic phase of militancy in the mid-1980s and early 1990s. However, recent sporadic incidents over the demand for Khalistan in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have reignited

NEWS ANALYSIS

the debate over the movement's revival.

Mr. Mann, a third-time MP, founded his party in 1994. He quit from the IPS in June 1984 as a mark of protest against Operation Blue Star. In the same year, he was arrested on various charges, including involvement in a conspiracy



Supporters of SAD (Amritsar) candidate Simranjit Mann celebrating after his bypoll victory, in Sangrur on Sunday. PTI

to murder the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and jailed for five years.

A key plank of the SAD (Amritsar) president's campaign for the bypoll was to secure the release of Sikh prisoners lodged in jails even after the completion of their sentences.

In May, Mr. Mann had raised the demand for Khalistan at a meeting convened by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to deliberate the release of Sikh prisoners.

He had urged the SGPC to support the pro-Khalistan resolution that he claimed was

unanimously passed by it in 1946.

"The victory of Simranjit Singh Mann shows the resurgence of Akali politics with the dominance of the radical faction. Akali politics mainly involves Panthic (Sikhs), peasantry and provincial (anti-centrism approach) components. The result shows that the SAD (Amritsar) has secured support from all three constituents," said Pramod Kumar, director of the Institute for Development and Communication in Chandigarh.

'A dangerous signal'

Dr. Kumar said the undercurrent of radicalism in the run-up to the bypoll could have been countered had the AAP government delivered on its promise of good governance

and development. "AAP failed to take off on the development and governance front. To counter and weaken radicalism, the government needs to make development and governance its main agenda. Secondly, the discourse of Punjabi identity has to be reinforced. The Shiromani Akali Dal's moderate politics has weakened and radical politics has become dominant, which is a dangerous signal," he said.

Shashi Kant, former State DGP, said Mr. Mann's win sends out the message that hardliners are becoming strong and the narrative around the demand for Khalistan could get stronger.

He said drones, drugs, money and explosives from Pakistan have entered the State in the recent past.

Mukul Roy resigns as PAC chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Senior TMC leader Mukul Roy on Monday submitted his resignation as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee in West Bengal Assembly to Speaker Biman Banerjee citing ill health.

Mr. Roy, who won the Krishnanagar Uttar constituency in Nadia district on a BJP ticket last year, defected to the TMC just a month later in June 2021. He did not, however, resign as a legislator. "I have sent my resignation as PAC chairman to Speaker Biman Banerjee. My tenure (as PAC chairman) was for a year. It is about to end soon. So I decided to resign," Mr. Roy said.

'No knowledge of links between police, Swapna'

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that he has no knowledge of any collusion between senior police officers and the accused in the UAE diplomatic channel gold smuggling case. He, however, vowed stringent action against any officer found to have any involvement.

Responding to questions raised in the Assembly on Monday, the CM said it was up to the Customs to probe the alleged role of middle-

men who purportedly derailed the prime accused, Swapna Suresh, from making any fresh revelations in the case.

While the gold smuggling case was being investigated by the Customs, the Kerala police have registered two cases on complaints by K.T. Jaleel, MLA, in Thiruvananthapuram and CPI(M) leader C.P. Pramod in Palakkad following the statements made by the prime accused, Mr. Vijayan said. He added that an SIT had been formed for the probe.

Many in Andhra get SMS on vaccination without taking jab

Senior citizens have got messages that they have 'received' dose

THARUN BODA
VIJAYAWADA

With the number of COVID-19 infections rising by the day, several people are planning to get the third dose or precaution dose for protection from the virus.

However, several senior citizens and adult citizens in

A.P. who have not visited any vaccine centre after the second dose, were taken aback on receipt of messages that they had 'received' the dose as per CoWIN.

People received SMSs on their phone numbers used for the earlier doses that they have been successfully administered with the third dose and certificates were also generated. Some of them realised this only on visiting the vaccination centres.

"I have received an SMS informing that I am eligible and

may avail myself of the precaution dose, and three days later I received another SMS that I have been successfully vaccinated with precaution dose. I haven't been to any vaccine centre after taking the second dose," said M.V. Anjaneyulu, a senior citizen.

"We have come across such a situation in one of the PHCs in the city. We asked the PHC to call the persons who were registered and provide them with the third dose," said P.J. Amrutha, Health Dept. official.

AAP presents ₹1,55,860 cr. no-paper budget for Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema on Monday presented the Aam Aadmi Party government's first budget for the year 2022-23 with a total outlay of ₹1,55,860 crore. He presented the State's first paperless budget, a step expected to save ₹21 lakh per annum. The budget puts the current effective outstanding debt of the State at ₹2.63 lakh crore.

The proposals focused on education, health agriculture and police modernisation.

Mr. Cheema announced upgrading of 100 schools as 'schools of eminence', and setting up cyber crime control units. "I propose a total budget expenditure of ₹1,55,860 crore for the FY 2022-23, which reflects 14.20% growth compared to the FY 2021-22," he said.

He said he expected the State's revenue receipts in 2022-23 to increase by 17.08% compared to 2021-22, contributing ₹95,378 crore to the exchequer. "This would be done without imposing any new tax."

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2. Nature of work : Road work
3. No. of work : 1 No.
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : Super Class
6. Available of bid document : From 10.00 A.M. of 05.07.2022 to 05.30 PM of 25.07.2022.
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.26.07.2022 at 11.30 AM
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He will be remembered for his kind and gentle demeanour and philanthropy.
Deeply mourned by
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T.N. asks A.P. to suspend supply of Krishna water from July 1

State has received a record 2.4 tmcft of water from Andhra Pradesh since May 8

K. LAKSHMI
CHENNAI

The Water Resources Department (WRD) has written to the Andhra Pradesh government to suspend Krishna water supply from the Kandaleru reservoir from July 1 as two city reservoirs are filled up.

Officials said Chennai has received nearly 2.4 tmcft. of Krishna water released from Kandaleru reservoir in Andhra Pradesh since May 8. This was one of the highest quantum to be realised within a short span of time.

On Monday, the entry point into Tamil Nadu on the Kandaleru-Poondi canal at Uthukottai in Tiruvallur district, recorded 610 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of Krishna water.



Though the water level at the Poondi reservoir is only one-third of its capacity, the Water Resources Department is not increasing the storage owing to work on shutters.

However, the department has urged the Andhra Pradesh authorities to suspend Krishna water release temporarily as the State did not have facility to store any

more water with reservoirs in Chembarambakkam and Red Hills getting filled up.

Though the reservoir at Poondi has only 1.3 tmcft of water, which is nearly one-

third of its capacity, the department is not keen on stepping up its storage.

The shutter gates of Chembarambakkam reservoir were opened last week to release water as a precautionary measure when the city received heavy rains.

The department let out a small quantum of water on Monday. The recently-built Theruvokandigai-Kannankottai reservoir is full.

"We have asked the Andhra Pradesh authorities to resume water release from September for the next spell," said an official.

Officials said work was on to reconstruct the sluice that releases water to the Institute of Hydraulics and Hydrology, Poondi.

Murmu may be good, but is on wrong side: TRS

Will seek support for Sinha: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Working president of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) K.T. Rama Rao has said that his party was not part of the Opposition front in the Presidential election but was supporting the candidature of Yashwant Sinha in its individual capacity.

Speaking to presspersons in New Delhi after Mr. Sinha filed his nomination, Mr. Rao said the TRS supported the former to defeat the BJP for heading an "autocratic, dictatorial, undemocratic and unconstitutional" rule in the country. Since the President occupied the highest constitutional post in a democracy, it was decided to defeat the BJP candidate in the election to save democracy.

The TRS looked forward

to the victory of Mr. Sinha and appeal to parties in this regard.

Asked whether the social background of BJP candidate Droupadi Murmu as a tribal did not evoke sympathy of TRS for her, Mr. Rao said she may be a good person but she stood on the wrong side. "Bheeshma was also a noble person in the epic Mahabharat but he stood with Kauravas in the battle against Pandavas."

Mr. Rao warned the BJP that it could not do politics taking cover behind a tribal candidate. It was wrong to imagine that parties would fall in line to extend support to such a candidate, he said.

Mr. Rao also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for resorting to threats to pull down elected governments.

Musical boost for Tibetan carpets in Arunachal

Overhaul of weaving centre has helped



Hitting the right note: Work in progress at the carpet-weaving centre on the outskirts of Miao in the State. • RAHUL KARMAKAR

RAHUL KARMAKAR
MIAO (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

An investment in a music system may power the journey of a carpet-weaving centre in Arunachal Pradesh from gloom to a GI (geographical indication) boom.

Floor and wall carpets have been the unique selling point for the Choephelling Cooperative Society since it was established in 1975 by Tibetan refugees on the outskirts of Miao, a subdivisional headquarters in Changlang district.

But productivity slumped after more than four decades and the society was finding it hard to replace the ageing weavers with younger, faster ones.

Reasons: the carpet unit and its wooden looms were falling apart and a poor lighting system was affecting the eyesight of the weavers.

Complete makeover

The scenario changed after the Changlang district administration undertook a ₹15-lakh project to overhaul the carpet-weaving centre a few months ago.

"The old looms were non-adjustable. For carpets of different sizes, they had to dismantle a loom and reinstall it, wasting a day in the process. The weavers al-

so had to sit on a low wooden block, bend and stand for different stages of work on a carpet," said Sunny K. Singh, Changlang's Deputy Commissioner.

"We replaced the old looms with 30 adjustable third-generation metal looms and provided ergonomic seats that are adjustable to four heights, thus eliminating bending and standing. The interiors were redone to make them cooler and airier while soothing ceiling lights were provided for better illumination," he said.

The game changer was a music system worth ₹68,000. It plays a range of Tibetan and popular songs, often in sync with the movement of the weavers' hands and fingers.

"The ambience of the unit with music wafting in the air has had a huge impact on the weavers. They stay behind for eight-nine hours now against five hours at the most earlier. The output has increased significantly, and most importantly, young girls and boys are finding carpet-making a profession worth pursuing," said Tenzin Rabjor, the secretary of the cooperative society.

At least five young women joined the centre in the past couple of months, he said.

IN BRIEF



Actor Vijay Babu arrested in rape case

KOCHI Actor-producer Vijay Babu was arrested and later released on bail in the case registered by Ernakulam South police on charge of raping an actor. The arrest was recorded shortly after he appeared at the South police station for interrogation as per the orders of the Kerala High Court, which had granted him conditional anticipatory bail last week. His arrest is also likely to be recorded in the case registered for revealing the survivor's identity subject to similar bail conditions. He has been ordered to refrain from contacting the survivor.

Kerala Assembly witnesses raucous scenes

UDF protests against attack on Rahul's office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Turmoil and outrage reigned over the Kerala Assembly on Monday as the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) legislators staged a raucous protest against the 'CPI(M)-sponsored SFI attack' on the regional office of Rahul Gandhi, MP, in Wayanad.

As soon as Speaker M.B. Rajesh stepped up to the rostrum, Opposition MLAs carrying banners denouncing the attack trooped into the well of the House.

They chanted slogans blaming Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for the



Opposition MLAs coming out of the Kerala Assembly after boycotting the proceedings on Monday. • S. MAHINSHA

violence in Wayanad and alleged that he had orchestrated the attack to divert public attention from the gold smuggling scandal plaguing the administration.

MLAs in dark shirts

Notably, at least six Opposition legislators sported dark shirts. Of late, black had

emerged as a symbol of UDF protest against the government after the police allegedly stopped persons wearing dark-coloured COVID-19 face masks from attending Mr. Vijayan's public functions.

Mr. Rajesh's repeated warning that signs and banners were not allowed in the

House seemed to fall on deaf years. Provoked by the UDF's apparent attempt to single out Mr. Vijayan for the attack, UDF legislators moved somewhat menacingly towards the Opposition benches.

The almost deafening verbal face-off between the two sides drowned out Mr. Rajesh's invitation to the Opposition to move the motion to decide whether the House should adjourn to discuss the attack on the MP's office.

Later, Mr. Vijayan claimed the UDF had backed off from pressing the motion because it had no case against the government. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said the ruling front's ominous bid to unleash violence against Congress legislators in the Assembly had prompted

the UDF not to press the adjournment motion and impede the day's proceedings instead.

'Confining journalists'

Mr. Satheesan criticised Mr. Rajesh's 'decision to confine journalists' covering the Assembly to the press gallery and media rooms. He termed the alleged directive 'authoritarian and Prime Minister Modi-like'. Later, Mr. Rajesh denied he had given any order to limit journalists' freedom of movement.

Soon, the Speaker read the obituary reference and hurried through the motion to send various bills to the subject committee before adjourning the Assembly for the day. Later, UDF legislators held a mock sitting outside the House.

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

WHEN STUDENTS DO THEIR SCHOOL PROUD

It was indeed a moment of pride when Arsh Pandey, a student of Army Public School, Delhi Cantt, secured the All India first Rank in UPSC NDA NA2 Examination 2021. The school and management were extremely happy with this accomplishment and expressed their appreciation for him. His teachers described him as a self-motivated student who is willing to take guidance from his mentors and is keen to put forth his best efforts to achieve his goal. The school wishes him the best for his future endeavours.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



The students and teachers of Colonel Satsangi's Kiran Memorial Public School were the proud participants of a conference organised by the International Internship University and IELTA. The subject of the conference was Emotional Intelligence (EI) for learners and teachers. Different perspectives of EI were addressed to as it was taken up globally by students, teachers, educators, and experts. 40 student speakers, 23 teacher speakers, 10 guest speakers and around 53 guest writers from across the globe participated in this three-day conference. The students of CSKMPSS did a commendable job in expressing their thoughts and opinion very lucidly on an international platform.

GOING BEYOND CURRICULUM

On World Environment Day, students of DLF Public School, Sahibabad, performed a street-play titled 'Dhuan' for the prestigious United Nations Volunteers India. The play underlined the lethal repercussions of the polluted air we breathe. Mr. Shombi Sharp, the UN Resident Coordinator, praised the students for taking action to make their communities resilient and called them inspiring. The performance and the message that it carried left a deep impact on the audience. Mr. Shankar Singh, founder of Vrikshit Foundation and Mr. Devashish, Mass-media & Theater faculty and the director of the play, were present.



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

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Named: Unknown S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead in injured condition at RTA, Gandhi Vihar/Wazirabad Highway, P.S. Wazirabad District, North Delhi and admitted in Susruti Trauma Centre, Delhi. During treatment doctor declared dead on **13.06.2022**. The body has been preserved in Sabji Mandi Hospital's Mortuary, New Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **FIR No. 490/22, U/s 279/304A IPC dated 13.06.2022** at P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** About 30 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Pink colour printed T-shirt and light black colour jeans, white colour vest and blue colour mat touch marka underwear. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi
DP/2488/N/2022 Ph: 011- 23810076, 8750870131

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: **Nazia Khatoon D/o Ashraf Ali R/o House No. 241/2, Gali No. 4, Gulshan Chowk, Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **18.06.2022** from the area of P.S. Patel Nagar. In this regard **FIR No. 408/2022 U/S 363 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi on 19.06.2022**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, **Age:** 15 years, **Height:** 5'5" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Black and Chocolate colour Top and Blue Colour Jeans and White colour slipper in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph. No.: 011-25872637, 25874034
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No.: 8750870434
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/1608/CD/2022

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of an unknown male **Age:** Approx 32 years, **Complexion:** Dark, **Height:** 5'2", **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, was wearing Shirt and Pant, was found near Khanpur Red Light, Ambedkar Nagar, under the jurisdiction of P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 39A, dated 13.06.2022, has been lodged at P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi.**

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

SHO
P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-29052304, 29051917, 8750870832
DP/290/SD/2022

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown**, Age about 70 years, Height 5'7", Complexion Fair, Wearing White colour kurta & pajama and hawai chappal in feet was found dead at Near Lotus Temple, New Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 34-A date 12.06.2022 has been lodged at PS Amar Colony, New Delhi.**

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

SHO
PS: Amar Colony, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-26412194, 26474748
8448971823
DP/217/SE/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Laxmi D/o Uma Shankar R/o A-1791, Phase-2, Holambi Kalan, Delhi** has been missing since 30.10.2021 from her house. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 610/21 dated 30.10.2021** has been registered at Police Station Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Age: 17 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black Colour T-Shirt & Lower and White Colour Hawai Chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi at E-mail cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639 Outer North Distt., Delhi
DP/1942/ON/2022 Ph. No. 011-27787592, 27787593

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Jitender@Jony, S/o Rakesh, R/o H.No.: A-214, Gupta Colony, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 362/18 U/S 323/328/342/498A/34 IPC, P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Jitender@Jony** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Jitender@Jony** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Jitender@Jony** of **FIR No. 362/18 U/S 323/328/342/498A/34 IPC, P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said case on or before **30.08.2022**.

By Order
Sh. Gagandeep Singh
Special Judge (NDPS), North
Room No. 207, 2nd Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi
DP/1922/ON/2022(Court Matter)

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Interim signals

The BJP is posing a seemingly insurmountable challenge to a fragmented Opposition

The outcomes in three Lok Sabha constituencies, one in Punjab and two in Uttar Pradesh, make significant political points, unusual for such routine bypolls. AAP faced a major setback in Punjab as it lost its bastion Sangrur, which was vacated by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann who had won it in 2014 and 2019. The party's Assembly victory in Punjab was seen as validation of its national ambitions, but Sunday's setback must serve as a reality check. If anything, AAP's performance in Punjab in the last three months, far from proving its capacity to be a national party, has only raised several questions. As it turned out, the Opposition — the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), SAD (Amritsar), the Congress and the BJP — all fighting separately, made the point on the gap between AAP's promise and delivery; and between its claims and capacity. In Punjab, a State with its finances in a shambles and its bureaucracy and the police a law unto themselves, the inexperienced band of activists that came to power is caught in a bind. Mr. Mann also faces the charge of being remote-controlled from Delhi by party chief Arvind Kejriwal. The winner, Simranjit Singh Mann of the SAD (Amritsar), made Sangrur as significant as the loser did. He is a vociferous supporter of Khalistan and an ardent follower of Bhindranwale, who spearheaded the violent, terrorist separatism of the 1980s. His victory, and the complete emaciation of the Congress, the SAD and the BJP, signals the dangerous crossroads Punjab is at.

In U.P., the BJP's victories in Rampur and Azamgarh prove the continuing potency of the party in the heartland. Azamgarh was vacated by SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who chose to retain the Assembly seat that he won while the party lost a second consecutive time. Rampur was vacated by senior party leader Azam Khan, who will retain his Assembly seat. That such strongholds have slipped out of its hands is further proof that the SP's hopes of a return in U.P. may be unrealistic, and its style, character and personnel are unacceptable to large sections of the voters. While the U.P. results make the BJP's position unassailable, they also open new possibilities in the Opposition space as the SP's slide continues. In the Atmakur Assembly segment in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagannathan Reddy's YSRCP scored an impressive victory, while a victory each in Tripura and Jharkhand made the day for the Congress. The CPI(M) continued to sink in Tripura, its former stronghold. In Delhi, AAP retained the Rajinder Nagar Assembly seat, but that is little solace for the party that lost its representation in the Lok Sabha entirely. Overall, the bypoll outcomes underscore the continuing dominance of the BJP, and the continuing inability of the Opposition to rise to the challenge.

Green as always

Wimbledon is shorn of ranking points, but is not short of star power

Wimbledon is a tournament apart. It is delightfully anachronistic in that it is played on pristine grass courts, a throwback to the era when the sport was still called 'lawn tennis'. Star players, who otherwise resemble walking billboards, are required to be reticent and don spotless white attire, resonating with the tournament's strict policy of keeping the site relatively free of commercial sponsorships. Until 2021, the tournament even had a 'Middle Sunday' holiday, an out-of-place idea in the era of mega television deals and ambush marketing. And such is the event's magnetic pull that even the biggest crisis to hit tennis in recent times — of Wimbledon barring Russian and Belarusian players against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war and the ATP and WTA retaliating by removing ranking points — did not turn into a smoky inferno. Rafael Nadal, who three weeks ago won his 14th French Open and a record-extending 22nd Grand Slam title literally on one leg, is set to feature after undergoing radiofrequency treatment. Seven-time singles champion Serena Williams has come out of a year-long semi-retirement. Roger Federer's grass-court majesty will be missed — for the first time since 1998 — but such is sport's uncanny knack to replenish itself that there will be enough verdant pomp and splendour as the iconic Centre Court celebrates its centenary year.

Nadal and three-time defending champion Novak Djokovic will be the biggest men's drawcards, along with eighth seed Matteo Berrettini who is seemingly back to his best after recovering from a hand injury. The absence of the top-two ranked men in Daniil Medvedev (barred) and Alexander Zverev (injured) is unfortunate, but the farthest they had progressed at SW19 was fourth round. Nadal, who is halfway towards an improbable Grand Slam (winning all four Majors in a single year), can be a handful, if he survives the first week when the grass is still lush and the bounce low and skiddy. Djokovic will be desperate to add to his 20 Slam titles and avoid the rare scenario where he would not be the reigning champion at any of the four Majors. Berrettini comes in with a grass-court win-loss record of 20-1 since Wimbledon 2019, including two titles at Queen's Club, one at Stuttgart and a final at Wimbledon 2021. Among women, after the retirement of defending champion Ash Barty, Iga Swiatek has established herself as the numero uno. Grass is admittedly the Pole's weaker surface and there is a closely bunched group with established credentials comprising Serena, Petra Kvitová, Garbine Muguruza, Simona Halep and Angelique Kerber. But Swiatek's splendid recent form — six titles including Roland-Garros and 35 consecutive match-wins on hard and clay — means she will not be short on confidence even without the specific skillsets demanded by grass courts.

States, freebies and the costs of fiscal profligacy

The need for instituting more effective checks that can make wayward States fall in line is compelling



DUVVURI SUBBARAO

During the planning last year and the campaign ahead of the Punjab Assembly election, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) promised a sum of ₹1,000 per month to every woman in the State. To drive home the generosity of the promise, the AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, emphasised that under AAP's 'Mission Punjab' for the Punjab polls 2022, if there were three adult women in a household (daughter-in-law, daughter, mother-in-law), each of them would get ₹1,000. When questioned how Punjab, already reeling under heavy debt, could afford this, Mr. Kejriwal said something to the effect that if there is good political management, money would not be a problem.

Growing freebie culture

Electoral promises of this kind raise several questions. Is borrowing and spending on freebies sustainable? Is this the best possible use of public money? What is their opportunity cost — what is it that the public are collectively giving up so that the government can fund these payments? Should not there be some checks on how much can be spent on them?

I am using Punjab to illustrate a point and by no means to suggest that it is unique. In fact, many States are pursuing the freebie culture, some even more aggressively than Punjab.

Ideally, governments should use borrowed money to invest in physical and social infrastructure that will generate higher growth,

and thereby higher revenues in the future so that the debt pays for itself. On the other hand, if governments spend the loan money on populist giveaways that generate no additional revenue, the growing debt burden will eventually implode and end in tears.

Concerned by an increasing number of States that are embarking on this financially ruinous path, senior bureaucrats reportedly flagged the issue at a meeting with the Prime Minister, telling him that 'some States might go down the Sri Lankan way'.

There is an argument that this concern is being exaggerated. After all, if you look at any analysis of State Budgets by the Reserve Bank of India or any think tank, the inference you will draw is that State finances are in good, if indeed robust, health, and that all of them are scrupulously conforming to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) targets.

This is a misleading picture. Much of the borrowing that funds these freebies happens off budget, beyond the pale of FRBM tracking. The typical *modus operandi* for States has been to borrow on the books of their public enterprises, in some cases by pledging future revenues of the State as guarantee. Effectively, the burden of debt is on the State exchequer, albeit well concealed. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) had in fact pointed out that in respect of some States 'if extra-budgetary borrowings are taken into account, the liabilities of the government are way above what is acknowledged in the official books'.

How big is the problem? There is no comprehensive information in the public domain to assess the size of this off-budget debt, but anecdotal evidence suggests that it is comparable in size to the debt admitted in the Budget books.



The obvious motivation for States in expanding freebies is to use the exchequer to build vote banks. A certain amount of spending on transfer payments to provide safety nets to the most vulnerable segments of the population is not only desirable but even necessary. The problem arises when such transfer payments become the main plank of discretionary expenditure, the spending is financed by debt, and the debt is concealed to circumvent the FRBM targets.

The more States spend on transfer payments, the less they have for spending on physical infrastructure such as, for example, power and roads, and on social infrastructure such as education and health, which can potentially improve growth and generate jobs. The truth of the Chinese saying, 'give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime' is self-evident to everyone, including politicians. But electoral calculations tempt them to place short-term gains ahead of long-term sustainability.

Institutional checks, balances

What about the institutional checks and balances that should prevent this downward spiral? Unfortunately, all of them have become ineffective. In theory, the first line of defence has to be the legislature, in particular the Opposition, whose responsibility it is to keep the Government in line. But given the perils of our vigorous de-

mocracy, the Opposition does not dare speak up for fear of forfeiting vote banks that are at the end of these freebies.

Another constitutional check is the CAG audit which should enforce transparency and accountability. In practice, it has lost its teeth since audit reports necessarily come with a lag, by which political interest has typically shifted to other hot button issues. Besides, our bureaucracy has mastered the fine art of turning audit paras into 'files' which run their course and die a quiet death.

The market is another potential check. It can signal the health or otherwise of State finances by pricing the loans floated by different State governments differently, reflecting their debt sustainability. But in practice this too fails since the market perceives all State borrowing as implicitly guaranteed by the Centre, never mind that there is no such guarantee in reality.

The costs can be huge

The costs of fiscal profligacy at the State level can be huge. The amount States borrow collectively every year is comparable in size to the Centre's borrowing which implies that their fiscal stance has as much impact on our macroeconomic stability as does that of the Centre. The need, therefore, for instituting more effective checks that can make wayward States fall in line is compelling.

Here are two suggestions towards that end.

First, the FRBM Acts of the Centre as well as States need to be amended to enforce a more complete disclosure of the liabilities on their exchequers. Even under the current FRBM provisions, governments are mandated to disclose their contingent liabilities, but that disclosure is restricted to liabilities for which they have extended an explicit guarantee. The provision

should be expanded to cover all liabilities whose servicing obligation falls on the Budget, or could potentially fall on the Budget, regardless of any guarantee.

Second, under the Constitution, States are required to take the Centre's permission when they borrow. The Centre should not hesitate to impose conditionalities on wayward States when it accords such a permission. States slapped with conditionalities will of course balk and allege political motives. The challenge for the Centre will be to act transparently and in accordance with well-defined, objective and contestable criteria.

Finally, there is the draconian provision in the Constitution of India which allows the President to declare financial emergency in any State if s/he is satisfied that financial stability is threatened. This Brahmastra has never been invoked so far for fear that this will turn into a political weapon of mass destruction. But the provision is there in the Constitution for a reason. After all, the root cause of fiscal irresponsibility is the lure of electoral nirvana. It will stop only if the political leadership fears punishment. It is therefore important to ensure that the prospect of a financial emergency in case of gross and continuing fiscal irresponsibility is not just an abstract threat but a realistic one.

Disappointingly, the Centre itself has not been a beacon of virtue when it comes to fiscal responsibility and transparency. To its credit, it has embarked on course correction over the last few years. It should complete that task in order to command the moral authority to enforce good fiscal behaviour on the part of States.

Duvvuri Subbarao was Finance Secretary to the Government of India and Governor, Reserve Bank of India

Complicated, volatile, the descriptors of Israel's politics

It remains to be seen whether the country's fifth national election, later this year, will result in a stable government



KHINRAJ JANGID

Israel is to call for yet another national election, its fifth since 2019, as Naftali Bennett's coalition government has ended abruptly. Israel's Foreign Minister, Yair Lapid, has succeeded him as the caretaker Prime Minister and Israel is to go to the polls in either October or November 2022. In April, Mr. Bennett had planned to travel to India to celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. His visit was cancelled at the last minute due to the rise in terror attacks in Israel and the crisis of a failing coalition.

Domestic polarisation

In the scene of a rapidly changing domestic politics, Naftali Bennett and his right-wing members were constantly targeted by Opposition leaders such as Benjamin Netanyahu for having an alliance with an Arab party and giving work permits to the Palestinians from Gaza. The coalition whip, Idit Silam, left the government in April and said this government has not been Jewish enough or loyal to the right-wing constituencies. Accommodation of ideological differences was rejected; ideological compromise was seen as weakening the state of Israel. Mr Bennett could not create unity in diversity and offered to

step down.

Mr. Bennett gave his 'exit statement' to *The New York Times* columnist, Bret Stephens ("Naftali Bennett's Exit Interview") who reported their telephone conversation; the first thing Mr Bennett said in the interview was: "In a world where domestic polarisation is becoming almost the single biggest challenge, the experiment succeeded (the fact that his government was in power for one year and showed that there is an alternative to hardline leaders such as Netanyahu)". His experiment was putting together a diverse coalition of eight odd parties together with his friend and partner, Yair Lapid. They were called 'agents of change'.

This coalition spelt exceptional change in domestic Israeli politics as it had Ministers and the parliamentary unity of the right, centre, left. For the first time, there was an Arab party as well. A year ago, while making his first speech in Parliament, Mr. Bennett said, "I am proud of the ability to sit together with people with very different views than mine." He invited all his ideological opponents to join the government with the realisation that Israeli society and politics have become too divided, toxic, and violently radical. He worried for national unity and knew Israel is threatened from within — divisions across the right and the left, religious and secular and Mirahim (oriental Jews) and Ashkanazim (European Jews) have caused political instability for too long. The forecast for the next national election is also worrisome



as no political party, including Mr. Netanyahu's Likud, is likely to get a majority of its own according to the pollsters.

Spoiler leader

Mr. Netanyahu was one of the factors behind the formation of the coalition; he has also helped in its failure. Otherwise, ideologically divided parties were compelled to come together by the logic of 'anyone but Netanyahu' and give Mr. Bennett a historic opportunity. Mr. Netanyahu, as the Opposition leader, ensured this would not last for long. Despite him being indicted for corruption charges and a trial he did not leave any stone unturned in Parliament to oppose the government. It was nothing less than an audacious decision on his part to oppose the bill extending Israeli laws in the West Bank last week that brought down the Bennett government. Mr. Netanyahu said to Ms. Silam who defected, "Idit, you're proof that what guides you is the concern for the Jewish identity of Israel, the concern for the land of Israel, and I welcome you back home to the national camp. I call on all those elected by the national

camp to join Idit and come home. You will be welcomed with complete respect and with open arms."

Mr. Netanyahu, the orator of rhetoric in Israeli politics, has been sharp in his attacks on this government for having an Arab party (labelled as the 'terror supporters') and left parties (labelled as anti-national because of their support for the peace process and two-state solution with the Palestinians). In short, Mr. Bennett lost the battle of narratives even when he meant sincere *tikkun* (the Hebrew word for repair) of Israel's internal divisions with moderation and compromises.

It is the right-wing politicians, of Mr. Bennett's own party, who felt they have been making too many compromises and now need to revive their radical positions to uphold macho-nationalist, ultra-religious constituencies where a compromise of core principles is not rewarded. Whether this is true or merely an assumption will be known after the fresh elections. For now, Israeli domestic politics is becoming too polarised. Mr. Bennett still thinks that the new government that will come will have to build consensus and agree to compromise because no one is going to get a majority (61 out of 120 seats) in Parliament.

The road ahead

Henry Kissinger once said that Israel does not have a foreign policy but domestic politics. Israel is a house that is constantly in chaos; domestic issues overpower leaders so much that Israel fails to have

long-drawn pro-active foreign policy. As a small state, Israel is inward-looking and parochial.

The Times of Israel has reported that "Bennett said he should have focused more on managing his own party and domestic politics while he was prime minister, and less on making progress with international leaders including Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky and the United Arab Emirates' Mohamed bin Zayed".

Mr. Bennett has attempted to mediate between Russia and Ukraine when the conflict between them started. Israel has also signed a Free Trade Agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which is a historical development considering the amount of regional isolation Israel has had to endure. There is a new chapter opening in Israel-Turkey relations. There is a buzz with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan as well. Next month, the United States President, Joe Biden, is making his first trip to Israel and there is a scheduled joint summit level meeting of the Middle East Quad (now called I2U2, or India, Israel, the U.S. and the UAE). So, not only is a celebration of 30 years of India-Israel relations awaiting a stable Israeli government but there are also other very significant geo-political changes.

Khinraj Jangid is Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Israel Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs at the O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat. He is currently Adjunct Professor at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

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.

At the China border

It is worrisome that China is upgrading its defence equipment on its border with India (Page 1, "China upgraded firepower on LAC", June 27). That these developments in terms of a military infrastructure build-up have been going on ever since the stand-off between India and China confirms the point that China has been planning meticulously in terms of a permanency. One wonders where the talks that have been held so far on disengagement and de-escalation are heading if China is working to a plan. Though India has expanded its military capabilities and augmented its border

defence infrastructure, it should be alert to face any eventualities.
D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ If the report is true, it reveals the true intentions of Beijing. And if the shared interests of India and China are dominant in other spheres, it is not clear why no major headway has been made to de-escalate the situation on the border. Keeping the border issue alive will only lead to unintended consequences, regardless of other breakthroughs achieved in bilateral relations and at multilateral forums.
A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

The Left is back

In past decades, most nations were swinging far right, some totalitarian like China, Russia and Turkey. The world over, leaders sought political longevity in right-wing bias and in a duet with authoritarianism under a thin veneer of democracy. Now, there is a perceptible shift to Leftist parties across geographies, be it in Latin America and South East Asia. In Europe, the far Left is challenging the far Right. The U.S. had already discarded Donald Trump and western nations seem no longer enthusiastic about right-wing politics. The outcome in the French elections is a signal. COVID-19 exposed the

fragility of the common man in the face of a deteriorating economy globally. While Emmanuel Macron was elected President to also ward off Russian belligerence, the divide induced by the pandemic between the rich and the commoner had the French electorate leaning significantly Left in the Parliament elections, in the hope of moderating capitalist bias in economic policies. The global quest to find an ideological equilibrium will be endless.
R. NARAYANAN,
Navi Mumbai

U.S. and women's rights

Can a girl or woman be burdened with an unwanted

child? Where is the freedom of choice? Why restrict the decision only to abortion? Does the Statue of Liberty standing so high sanction all this? Do women alone have to trace their rights to the Constitution? Is there not something such as the basic inalienable right of women? The anti-abortion judgment in the United States that has reversed a 50-year stand in *Roe vs Wade*, proceeds on a misconception of women's rights and the Constitution. The U.S. can no longer boast that it is a democratic country wedded to the rule of law. At one end of the spectrum the U.S. Supreme Court is taking away the right to abort and at the other end it

expands the right to have a gun which will only increase the risk of killings and promote the gun lobby.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
Chennai

Ranji win

In its spirited Ranji campaign that culminated in style, Madhya Pradesh did play some winsome cricket ("Sport" page, "Madhya Pradesh keeps its date with maiden Ranji Trophy glory", June 27). The achievement of M.P. should have reminded many of the era and legacy of the Holkar team from Indore.
C.G. KURIKOSE,
Malappara, Kothamangalam, Kerala



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From higher to hire education

Higher education is increasingly getting delivered by for-profit entities



FURQAN QAMAR



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

Higher education policy planners and regulators are busy giving shape to the digital university, which was announced in the 2022-23 Union Budget. Though still on the drawing board, the digital university is expected to offer any number, kind, and type of course without limits on intake, in a hybrid or 'physical plus digital' mode. It proclaims to provide equitable access to quality higher education and employability-enhancing skill development programmes to all.

Recent developments

In the interim, the University Grants Commission has relaxed the norms and standards for setting up open universities. In particular, land requirement has been reduced from 40 acres to just five acres. This is likely to open the floodgates for private open universities. Simultaneously, more universities are being enabled to offer courses in the distance, open and online mode, mostly in collaboration with EdTech startups and unicorns. Some have already outsourced the delivery of their courses to such agencies. Students are also made to complete a certain portion of their course requirements through Massive Open Online Courses. Additionally, they can accumulate credits at will and deposit them in their Academic Bank of Credit to be exchanged for a degree at a later stage. Higher education in India is getting metamorphosed into 'hire education'. In the process, higher education is now getting delivered by for-profit entities, in contravention of the long-held belief that education at all levels must be provided on a not-for-profit basis.

The idea of providing higher educational opportunities in a non-formal mode is not new. Most mainstream universities in India have been allowing students, particularly women and working people, to learn on their own and take university exams as private candidates. Many have performed quite well.

The mode and medium of remote learning have, however, been changing to keep pace with technological advancement. Broadcasts and telecasts were once regarded as game changers to impart education remotely. They were espoused to be the cheapest way of en-

hancing access to quality education. The realities belied these expectations.

Information Communication and Entertainment technologies, augmented and virtual realities, artificial intelligence and machine learning are being touted as technologies with immense possibilities for transforming the delivery of education. The higher education horizon appears densely dotted with EdTech startups and tech companies as higher education aggregators.

Technology-enabled and mediated digital learning is projected as the future of higher education. Such learning is supposed to end face-to-face formal education – so much so that some have already started writing the obituary of the brick-and-mortar universities. Two years of COVID-19-compelled online education seems to have convinced them that in future, education, particularly higher education, will transform into a virtual space.

Evidence of massive learning losses due to the digital divide, but primarily due to the inherent limitations of technology, are being regarded as mere teething troubles. Sold to the idea, policy planners and regulators are aggressively pushing the distance, open, virtual, and online modes of education.

The EdTechs and technology companies are euphoric about these developments. The media is already abuzz with EdTechs raising resources and enhancing capacities to capitalise on the opportunities that these market-friendly reforms throw up. How successful and effective would such programmes be? No one knows. Going by the evidence, employers across the world are generally negatively disposed towards this. Most recruiters prefer to hire those who have graduated in face-to-face mode.

No wonder even the strongest proponents of online and virtual education feel that such programmes be subjected to stricter oversight, tighter regulations, and rigorous processes to ensure high standards and robust quality control. Gi-

ven the fact that the quality of higher education is inversely proportional to the intensity of regulation, designing and developing an efficient and effective regulatory mechanism often proves more challenging than imagined.

The open and distance mode of learning, including the latest model based on digital and virtual delivery, often finds favour with the government due to cost considerations. It is, however, wrong to assume that these are economical and cost-effective. To be effective, they not only require massive capital investment in infrastructure, but also demand a significantly higher recurring expenses on content development and their continuous updating and upgradation.

No substitute for teachers

Digital delivery and technology integration in education may undoubtedly serve a useful purpose. Higher education must indeed embrace and keep pace with the advancements in technology. Technology can be effectively leveraged as a quality-enhancement tool. It would, however, be a blunder to regard technology-mediated teaching-learning as an alternative to face-to-face education. Technology can supplement and not substitute teachers.

No world-class universities, including those with a high degree of technology integration in their teaching and learning processes, are planning to cut down their faculty cost or their number any time soon. On the contrary, they envision hiring more of them to attain greater excellence. India cannot be an exception to this. Higher education is a lot more than borrowing content and delivering them online or outsourcing content. This would render India a consumer of knowledge. We must, instead, be focussed on exploiting our full potential to emerge as a producer of knowledge and providers of the global workforce.

Furqan Qamar is a former Adviser (Education) in the Planning Commission. Views are personal

Modi's two summits: UAE trumps G7

The UAE was a bigger investor in India in 2021 than Germany and France combined



MAHESH SACHDEV



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is attending two summits this week - he is a 'special invitee' at the 48th G7 Summit at Schloss Elmou in Germany. After that, he has a bilateral summit in Abu Dhabi with the UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on June 28. Though the pundits may consider the second event as a sideshow, some statistics are enough to prove them wrong.

If the U.S. is exempted, no G7 country comes close to the UAE as India's trading partner, exports market, Indian diaspora base and their inward remittances. According to our official Foreign Direct Investment data, the UAE invested more in India in 2021 than Germany and France combined. Unlike the UAE, none of the G7 countries has yet signed a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with India.

Both summits are important to India, but unlike the interlocutors in the Bavarian Alps, our Prime Minister is unlikely to be hectoring in Abu Dhabi about where not to buy oil from or how much Indian wheat and sugar must be sold. The agenda is likely to be more constructive and benign.

India-UAE synergy

The current India-UAE synergy and amity are largely due to Prime Minister Modi's tending. This would be his fourth visit to Abu Dhabi and sixth summit with Sheikh Mohammed over the past seven years. These have re-energised this historic, but long-dormant, relationship. The visits have plenty to show - from Emirati investments in Jammu and Kashmir to a CEPA. After a COVID-19-induced three-year hiatus, a Modi-Sheikh Mohammed summit was desirable to infuse a fresh momentum.

In protocol terms, Mr. Modi would commemorate the passing away of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed on May 13 and the appointment of Sheikh Mohammed, 61, as his successor. As Sheikh Mohammed has been the de facto President since Sheikh Khalifa suffered a stroke in 2014, the change at the helms means little in the practical term. However, this being the only second

transition at the top since the formation of the UAE in 1971, it is significant. It symbolises political stability and continuity in a turbulence-prone region. Mr. Modi would probably be the first non-Arab leader to be received in Abu Dhabi after the 40-day State mourning ended on June 22. Thus, the Abu Dhabi summit would be a useful opportunity to recalibrate the bilateral ties and open vistas following the operationalisation of the bilateral CEPA from May 1.

Changes since the pandemic

Significant changes in the bilateral, regional and global context have taken place since the two leaders last met in August 2019. Both countries have successfully contained the COVID-19 pandemic and can pool their experiences. Their bilateral trade grew by 68% in 2021-22 to \$72.9 billion, a new record. While both exports and imports grew, the trade deficit reached \$16.8 billion, also a new record. Thanks to the CEPA, the robust economic revival, higher oil prices and larger Indian imports, trade is likely to grow even higher in 2022-23. The corrective mechanism built into CEPA would, hopefully, prevent the deficit from going out of hand. As the UAE collects petrodollars, India, the world's fastest-growing major economy, could be a lucrative market for investments in areas such as petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, renewables, infrastructure, manufacturing, logistics, start-ups, etc. A lot has already been done to streamline the manpower sector, including skilling the young Indian labour force to suit the Emirati requirements, but more can be done. The two sides can collaborate for the eventual reconstruction of

the war-ravaged regional countries such as Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan. In the bilateral political domain, the two sides have cooperated efficiently on security and anti-terrorism, but they need to do more to fight money laundering and the flow of illicit narcotics.

A complex area

The South West Asian region is a complex and evolving area. The UAE has disrupted the longstanding Arab Israeli stalemate by normalising relations with Israel in 2020. The two sides have recently signed a bilateral CEPA. After pursuing a muscular regional foreign policy against political Islam and in regional hotspots such as Syria, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, and Somalia, Abu Dhabi seems to have decided to stage a phased withdrawal and improve ties with Syria, Qatar and Turkey. The ties with Saudi Arabia remain somewhat edgy, due to policy divergences and economic competition. Similarly, Abu Dhabi has developed some ruction with the Biden presidency in the U.S. and is diversifying its strategic options with Russia and China. It has conspicuously ignored the plea by the U.S. and other Western countries to raise its oil production. India, the UAE's second-largest trading partner, and largest source of tourists and manpower, can be a useful ally.

Against this ongoing regional and global flux, the India-UAE summit is both topical and opportune and can have an impact beyond the bilateral context.

Mahesh Sachdev, a former Indian Ambassador, is President, Eco-Diplomacy and Strategies, New Delhi

STATE OF PLAY

Why healthcare workers are restive

In Kerala, trust between the people and the medical community has broken down

C MAYA

Last Tuesday, a three-member gang barged into Neendakara Taluk hospital in Kollam district of Kerala and attacked the hospital staff and security personnel with iron rods. This was in retaliation to an altercation between one of the accused and the health workers days earlier. In response to the attack, the hospital staff and medical fraternity went on strike. The police have arrested the members of the gang. However, healthcare workers remain restive since at least 12 such major incidents have been reported in the last one year besides the attacks against doctors that take place almost on a regular basis.

This has caught the attention of the Kerala High Court. While adjudicating on the case, the court directed the authorities to devise a clear plan of action so that hospitals, especially in remote areas, are provided police protection at night and healthcare workers are able to work without fear. It also asked the government to revert on the crowd-control measures it plans to take to enable healthcare workers to do their work without stress.

This is not the first time that the High Court is intervening on behalf of doctors. Last week, the court had refused to grant anticipatory bail to a man accused of obstructing a doctor, pointing out that even an obstruction or hindrance committed on a healthcare person is a grave offence as per the law.

At the heart of the issue is the fact that the State's public sector hospitals are mostly understaffed. In a casualty ward, sometimes one doctor is forced to take care of 250-300 patients. As a consequence, dissatisfied patients are not a rarity. Doctors working in late evening shifts are the most vulnerable as they often have to deal with those with criminal backgrounds or people coming in an inebriated state. Overcrowding and the lack of competent security arrangements often aggravate the situation.

After one major incident last August, the government had issued or-

ders that CCTV cameras be installed at casualty wings and OPD counters and that such cameras be linked to police aid posts.

The Kerala Health Service Persons and Healthcare Services Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act 2012 has not been a deterrent to these incidents despite its stringent provisions. Doctors say local politicians put pressure on the police not to file cases under the Act, as local people are often involved in such incidents. The police are accused of allowing offenders to abscond or file fake counter cases against doctors.

The deeper problem is the breakdown of trust between people and the medical community. The advancements in health technology and medical diagnostics have improved patient safety, but somehow the message that not all medical complications are due to human error has not been effectively conveyed to the public.

Many of the issues of public distrust might be put to rest if doctors properly counselled the patients.

But given the overcrowded hospitals, the shortage of human resources and the acute stress under which healthcare workers function, trust has only declined. The medical fraternity believes that the media's coverage of incidents of perceived medical negligence have only worsened the situation.

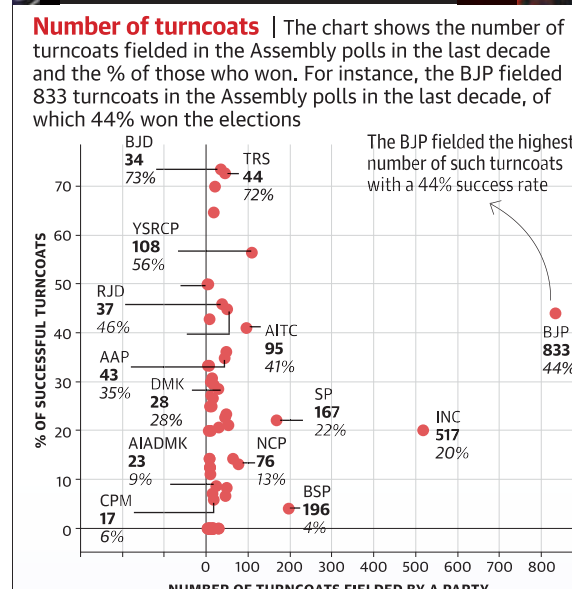
It does not bode well for the health system to have doctors in a combative mood. Creating safe workplaces for healthcare workers is important for improving the delivery of quality service. The State government has made sizeable investments, especially during the pandemic, in augmenting health infrastructure. Increasing human resources and improving the security system would go a long way in boosting the confidence and morale of a weary workforce.

maya.c@thehindu.co.in

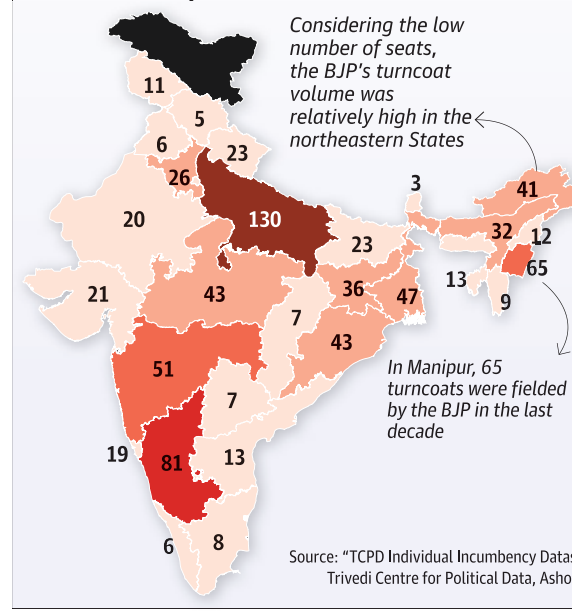
DATA POINT

A decade of turncoats

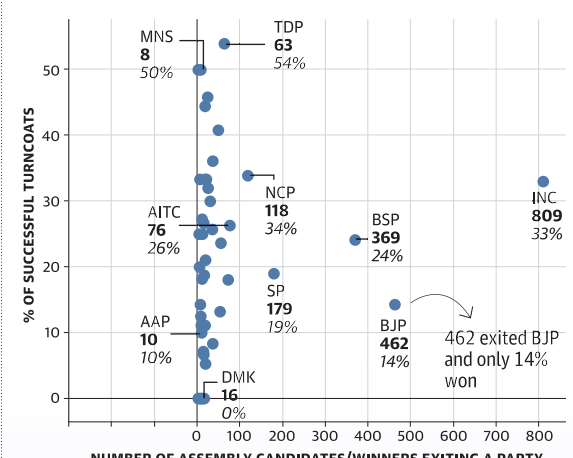
It is a common spectacle in India to see politicians defect from a party, re-contest from another party, and become MLAs again. The rebellion in the Shiv Sena has once again put the spotlight on defections. Data show that in the last decade, the BJP fielded more than 830 turncoats in the Assembly polls, the highest number by any party. A turncoat is an MLA candidate who participated in the previous election as a candidate of another recognised State/national party. More than 44% of the turncoats fielded by the BJP have won – a relatively high success rate. By Rebecca Rose Varghese and Vignesh Radhakrishnan



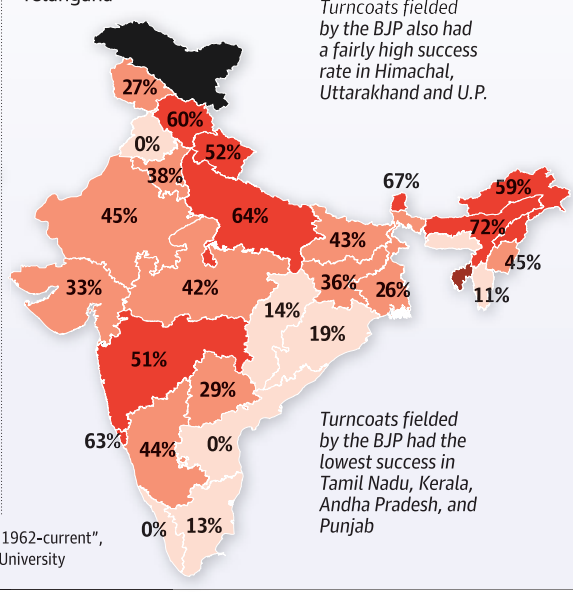
BJP's turncoats | The map shows the number of turncoats fielded by the BJP in the last decade in the Assembly polls. Most of them were fielded in Uttar Pradesh (130) followed by 81 in Karnataka



Previous party | The chart shows the number of Assembly candidates/winners who exited a party and joined another in the last decade and the % who won. For instance, 806 Congress candidates/winners switched parties in the last decade and 33% of them won after switching



BJP's success rate | The map shows the % of turncoats who won the polls after being fielded by the BJP in the last decade in Assembly elections. Turncoats fielded by the BJP had a high success rate in select northeastern States and Telangana



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 28, 1972

Demonetisation will not help

New Delhi, June 27: Several members are reported to have told the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for Finance to-day that demonetisation of currency would not help in unearthing black money in the country. The meeting presided over by the Finance Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan heard the views of members on the measures proposed by the Wanchoo Committee for unearthing black money, greater administrative control for tax collection and demonetisation of currency. The committee will to-morrow continue the discussion on the recommendations of the Wanchoo committee on tax reforms. On the question of unearthing black money, it was pointed out by some members that in the recent raids on houses of film stars in Bombay, hardly any cash was found by Income-Tax officials. Black money was not kept in cash but converted into gold jewellery and other valuables. They said many people fearing demonetisation would have converted higher denomination notes into hundred rupee notes which were also in the hands of many people in the villages. Demonetisation of hundred rupee notes was completely inadequate to tackle the problem, they said. Almost all speakers are also reported to have criticised the recommendations made by the committee for reduction of tax rates on personal income. They pointed out that if the tax rates at the highest slab were reduced as recommended by the committee, there was no guarantee that people would still not resort to tax evasion. Members said that lowering of tax rates would not lead to removal of disparities.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 28, 1922

Sentenced for sedition

Hyderabad, Sind, June 26: Maharaj Dokaram, who was for some time the editor of "Hindoo", a social non-co-operation organ and is one of its proprietors, was arrested this morning and immediately tried before the District Magistrate under Section 124-A, previous sanction of the Local Government having been obtained. The accused admitted this responsibility and did not offer defence. The Magistrate sentenced him to 10-18 months rigorous imprisonment. The whole trial lasted for less than two hours. The conviction of Maharaj Lokram brings to five the number of editors of "Hindoo" who have been sentenced for sedition.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Applying for Agnipath

94,281 The number of applications received by the Indian Air Force under the Agnipath scheme, four days after the registration process started. After the scheme was unveiled, violent protests against it rocked several States for nearly a week with several parties demanding its rollback. Under the scheme, youths between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 years would be inducted for a four-year tenure after which 25% of them will be inducted for regular service. **PTI**

Gig economy expansion

2.35 In crore, the expected expansion of India's gig workforce by 2029-30 from 77 lakh in 2020-21, according to a NITI Aayog report. It recommended extending social security measures for such workers and their families in partnership mode as envisaged in the Code on Social Security. The report titled 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy' said that gig workers are expected to form 6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce or 4.1% of the total livelihood in India by 2029-30. **PTI**

Hike in electricity bills

835 In percentage, the hike in price sought by the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) for its poorest customers with Sri Lanka out of fuel, according to the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka. The neighbouring state has been hit by an economic crisis, leaving it short of dollars for imports, including fuel to generate electricity. Currently, anyone using less than 30 KW a month pays a flat 54.27 rupees, which the CEB sought to raise to 507.65 rupees as the board lost 65 billion rupees in this year's first quarter. **AFP**

Countering the BRI

600 In \$ billion, the funding expected to be mobilised by the G7 leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden by 2027 to deliver transparent and game-changing infrastructure projects in developing countries like India, in a move seen as a counter to Chinese President Xi Jinping's multi-trillion-dollar Belt and Road (BRI) initiative. The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment was unveiled during the G7 Summit re-launching a scheme unveiled at last year's G7 talks in England. **PTI**

Investment in aviation

14.5 In \$ billion, the amount to be invested by Russia's government in the country's aviation industry by the end of this decade to boost the share of domestically manufactured aircraft. The Russian aviation industry has been in crisis since the West imposed sanctions after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, banning Russian airlines from flying to Europe and other countries. Russian airlines have largely stopped international flights, after leasing companies said they would seize planes in line with sanctions. **REUTERS**

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The significance of Sajid Mir's conviction in Pakistan

Why did it take so long for the neighbouring country to convict terror leaders and conspirators like Mir and Hafiz Saeed?

AMIT BARUAH

The story so far: Sajid Mir, described as the Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) "project manager" of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks of 2008, was convicted on charges of terror financing by a Pakistan anti-terrorism court earlier this month. This sentencing has largely been seen as a move by Pakistan to get itself off the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list.

Who is Sajid Mir and how has he been arrested and convicted?

The conviction of Sajid Mir, described by the U.S. as the mastermind behind the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, is the most significant action taken by Pakistan against Mir. The U.S. State Department's 2020 review of global terrorism, released in December 2021, specifically pointed out that Pakistan did not take steps to prosecute Mumbai "mastermind" Mir, and Masood Azhar, founder of the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM). Placing Mir and Azhar in the same category is testimony to the importance of the two individuals. Mir was also responsible for recruiting terrorists for Lashkar's international operations, which brought him under the American radar.

In November 2020, Lashkar chief Hafiz Saeed was sentenced to jail time on multiple counts of terror funding; convictions that were reported in both the Pakistani and international press. However, Mir's sentencing was an altogether different affair. "It all happened so quietly that no one came to know about such an important court verdict in such a high-profile case, except for a very brief report in one of the newspapers..." the *Dawn* reported on June 25. Another Pakistani newspaper, *The News*, reported that Mir had been "missing" since the November 2008 terror strike on Mumbai, and that "rumours of his death were spread for some time".

Far from being missing or dead, Mir's conviction indicates that Pakistan was aware of his whereabouts. Given the close links between Lashkar and Pakistan's intelligence agencies, Mir's conviction relieves some of the pressure building up on Pakistan to conform to international norms for the moment. It also shows that Pakistan protects

Lashkar "assets" as its own and proceeds against them only when forced. The shadowy nature of Mir's arrest and conviction also implies that only Pakistan's intelligence agencies were/are aware of his location.

What was Sajid Mir's role in the Mumbai terror strikes?

According to the U.S. treasury department in 2012, Mir "trained and provided guidance to the [10] operatives involved in the attacks and directed the execution of hostages taken during the operation". The terror leader also "directed the pre-operation target surveillance conducted by LeT operative David Coleman Headley for the attacks". Mir, a senior member of the Lashkar since 2001, was in charge of the LeT's international operations. He was also personal secretary to Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, known to have been the military chief of the Lashkar, who has been in and out of Pakistani jails. Also a key figure in the Mumbai terror strikes, Lakhvi like Mir and Saeed, has never been prosecuted for his actual role in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Sajid Mir was also responsible for recruiting terrorists for Lashkar's international operations, which brought him under the U.S. radar

In the same year, Mir and Headley met to plot a possible attack on the *Jyllands-Posten* newspaper in Copenhagen, Denmark. In August 2011, Mir was also charged as a co-conspirator by the U.S. for the Mumbai attacks. It remains to be seen whether the U.S. will seek Mir's extradition. The FBI has offered up to \$5 million for information leading to his arrest. An arrest warrant for Mir was issued by the U.S. in April 2011.

Why did Pakistan take action against Mir now?

Since June 2018, Pakistan has been on the "grey" list of the FATF, the international counter-terror financing and anti-money laundering body. The conviction of Mir is a step forward in convincing the FATF and its affiliated bodies that Pakistan is serious about addressing concerns when it comes to



senior terror functionaries involved in terror financing. Saeed, Lakhvi and now, Mir, have all been convicted for terror financing by Pakistani courts. The FATF, in its June deliberations, has said it will conduct an on-site visit to ensure Pakistani compliance. Continued presence on the grey list would have serious implications for Pakistan to do business with the rest of the world.

What role does the Lashkar-e-Taiba play?

Unlike groups such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) or the JeM, the Lashkar is not known to have conducted any terror strikes inside Pakistan nor has it called for the overthrow of the elected Pakistani government.

The Lashkar has been nurtured and used by the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Directorate against India for several decades. It has been focused on India, which is in line with the ISI Directorate's policy of

using non-state actors to commit acts of terrorism in India.

What are the dangers of not reining in groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba?

Given that the Lashkar as an organisation has got away scot free for the Mumbai attacks and its relationship with the ISI remains intact, the group retains the ability to target civilians in India. The dramatic arrest of Ajmal Kasab, one of the 10 Mumbai attackers, who was captured alive during the attack by a Mumbai policeman, Tukaram Omble, gave the game away for Pakistan. Nearly 14 years after the Mumbai strikes, Pakistan is yet to cut its umbilical links with the Lashkar, a sign that the state is yet to align itself away from jihadist groups. India and Pakistan nearly came to war in 2008. Both Islamabad and Rawalpindi must be aware that the strategic cost of any major attack on India from Pakistani territory will extract a high price.

THE GIST

■ The conviction of Sajid Mir, described by the U.S. as the mastermind behind the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, is the most significant action taken by Pakistan against Mir.

■ According to the U.S. treasury department in 2012, Mir "trained and provided guidance to the [10] operatives involved in the attacks and directed the execution of hostages taken during the operation".

■ Since June 2018, Pakistan has been on the "grey" list of the FATF. The conviction of Mir is a step forward in convincing the FATF and its affiliated bodies that Pakistan is serious about addressing concerns involving terror financing.

EXPLAINER

A history of the Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi

Why did the local communities oppose the functioning of the copper plant in Tuticorin? Has its closure impacted the Indian copper industry?

SANGEETHA KANDAVEL

The story so far: In the last four years, teams from Sterlite Copper, a part of the Vedanta Group have been running around to get its legal issues fixed in order to re-open its plant at Thoothukudi which was closed in 2018. But now – even as the case is in the Supreme Court – the company suddenly announced that it is selling off the plant, raising eyebrows of the local people, industries, politicians and environmentalists who have been constantly tracking them.

Is the Vedanta Group hiving off its copper plant in Tamil Nadu?

On June 20, the Vedanta Group put out an advertisement which said that Sterlite Copper, Thoothukudi is up for sale. Vedanta, in conjunction with Axis Capital, has invited expression of interest (EOI) for the sale of its copper plant along with its other units, which includes the smelter complex (primary and secondary), sulphuric acid plant and copper refinery among others. The last day for submission of bids is July 4.

Why is the Sterlite copper plant up for sale?

Ever since the plant was sealed in 2018 by the Tamil Nadu government after seeking advice from the Tamil Nadu Pollution

Control Board (TNPCB), the company has been running from pillar to post to re-open the plant.

Sterlite Copper has also been incurring a loss of five crore per day since it went under lock and key. During recent interactions the company officials indicated that even if the Supreme Court allowed them to re-open the company, it would need around ₹800 to ₹1,000 crore to revamp the plant. When questioned about the reason for the sale the company issued a statement in which it said that it was exploring options to make sure that the plant and the assets are best utilised to meet the growing copper demands of the nation.

Why was the plant under lock and key?

Trouble starting brewing for the company ever since it set foot in the Pearl city. The first blow for the company came from the fishermen in the region. The fishermen, backed by the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) a political party in Tamil Nadu, were worried that the effluents discharged by the plant would pollute the sea which will in turn ruin their livelihoods. In 2010, the Madras High Court ordered immediate closure of the plant for not complying with environmental norms. The Supreme Court later stayed the High Court's order.



Protesters demanding the closure of Vedanta's Sterlite Copper clashing with police on May 22, 2018. **PTI**

The company got into troubled waters again in 2013 after a sulphur dioxide leak. But the Supreme Court allowed them to function after the payment of a fine of ₹100 crore for polluting land and water by running the company without approval for a considerable period of time. In 2018, after the company announced that it would be enhancing its capacity, large-scale protests from local and neighbouring localities broke out. On May 22, the protests turned violent and the police open fired which led to the death of 13 civilians. A week later the Tamil Nadu government sealed the plant.

What has the company said about the many allegations against it?

Officials at Sterlite have always emphasised the fact that the plant is equipped with full-fledged air pollution control measures and adequate solid waste management facilities. In the last four years, senior management has stressed that the plant follows Zero Liquid Discharge since inception – all the effluent is treated and recycled back into operations, so that there is no effluent discharge.

They also said that the regulator, TNPCB, carries out regular monthly sampling across all village bore wells and has found no abnormalities. All the allegations have already been dealt with in both the Supreme Court 2013 judgment and the National Green Tribunal 2013 judgment.

What was the impact of the closure of the plant?

India has shifted from being a large net exporter of refined copper to now being a net importer of copper during the last four years since the shutdown of the Tuticorin plant. According to data provided by Care Ratings, India is now importing copper at a historically higher price close to around \$9600 per tonne which is around 50% higher as compared to the average prices

of copper when India was a net exporter of the same (around \$6500 per tonne). Sterlite was a major domestic supplier of phosphoric acid with a capacity of 2,20,000 metric tonnes, which is a key raw material for fertilizer manufacturing companies. These fertilizer units were impacted due to stoppage of supplies and had to start importing.

While operational, it was the largest supplier of sulphuric acid (used in detergent and chemical industries) in Tamil Nadu, and had a 95% share of the market.

Why was a part of the Sterlite plant allowed to function during the COVID-19 pandemic?

On April 27, 2021, when the second wave of the pandemic was at its peak the Supreme Court granted permission to re-open two oxygen plants at Sterlite Copper's Thoothukudi plant.

While granting permission a bench comprising of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, L. Nageswara Rao and S. Ravindra Bhat noted that this was done because of national need and that it does not mean they are favouring the Vedanta Group.

The Tamil Nadu government immediately constituted a seven-member committee headed by the then district collector to oversee proper functioning of the oxygen plants.

THE GIST

■ On June 20, the Vedanta Group put out an advertisement which said that Sterlite Copper, Thoothukudi is up for sale.

■ In 2018, after the company announced that it would be enhancing its capacity, large-scale protests from local and neighbouring localities broke out. On May 22, the protests turned violent and the police open fired which led to the death of 13 civilians. A week later the Tamil Nadu government sealed the plant.

■ Since the shutdown of the plant, India has shifted from being a large net exporter of refined copper to now being a net importer of copper.



In and out: A sign from a protest by the Assam Congress against the alleged trading of Maharashtra MLAs, in Guwahati on June 23. •PTI



KEYWORD

Economic calculation problem

Whether resources can be efficiently organised in a centrally planned economy

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

Also known as the socialist calculation debate, this refers to an important academic debate on the question of whether centrally planned economies can allocate scarce resources efficiently. The debate was between the Austrian school economists Ludwig von Mises and Friedrich Hayek on the one side and socialist economists Oscar Lange and Abba Lerner on the other in the first half of the twentieth century.

The debate

The debate was kickstarted by Mises' 1920 monograph "Economic Calculation in the Socialist Commonwealth" which argued that rational allocation of resources was impossible in a centrally planned socialist economy. Mises argued that in the absence of private property, as is the case in a centrally planned economy, there would be no market for resources and hence no rational resource allocation. Before Mises, many economists had argued that a socialist economy would be inefficient because it did not reward people according to their economic output. The logic was that people in general would have very little incentive to work hard when rewards are skewed. Mises, however, argued that even if a solution was found to the problem of incentives, a socialist economy would still not function efficiently. This, he argued, was because the group of central planners managing the economy would not have sufficient information to allocate the scarce resources under their control efficiently.

It should be remembered that resources in any economy are scarce when compared to the unlimited desires of human beings. So, these limited resources need to be allocated towards the most urgent needs of society in order to maximise social welfare. Take the case of a raw material like timber. It can be allocated for literally thousands of different uses, some a lot more urgent than others. In a market economy, in which resources are owned by private individuals who are free to exchange the resources that they own for resources owned by others, prices act as a crucial signal. When resource owners sell their resources to whoever is ready to pay the highest price, they thus ensure that the resource is allocated to those who need it the most. The implicit assumption here is that, generally speaking, people who are willing to pay the highest price for a resource also want it the most urgently.

In a centrally planned socialist economy, in which all resources are owned by the state, decisions regarding where to allocate resources are made by a group of central planners. No resource is owned by private individuals, and hence there is no possibility of exchange between individuals and the formation of market prices to guide the allocation of resources. Mises and Hayek argued that in the absence of prices which act as crucial signals to producers in a market economy, central planners would be left groping in the dark trying to figure out how to allocate resources. Central planners will, for instance, have to know by other means how much of the timber that is produced in a day need to be allocated towards each of the thousands of uses towards which it could possibly be allocated. In a market economy, this decision is made spontaneously together by millions of individuals through the market.

The socialist argument

Some socialist economists, however, retorted that markets were not essential for the rational allocation of resources. They argued that a central planning board can allocate resources according to a plan that takes into account the genuine needs of society. Other socialist economists such as Lange, however, acknowledged the importance of prices in resource allocation. They argued that a socialist economy can use the market mechanism to allocate resources even when all resources are owned by the state.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

When defection is a mere detour for an MLA

It is possible to avoid Karnataka-like incidents if MLAs jumping ship are disqualified for six years

THE GIST

■ The most prominent case of political defection was that of Haryana's Gaya Lal, originally an independent MLA who, in 1967, juggled between the Congress and Janata Party for two weeks. The recurrence of this phenomenon led to the 1985 Anti-Defection Law.

■ The Anti-Defection Law provided a safeguard for defections made on genuine ideological differences. It accepted "split" within a party if at least one-third of the members of the legislative party defect, and allowed the formation of a new party or "merger" with other political party if not less than two-thirds of the party's members commit to it.

■ Defections like these can only be stopped by extending the disqualification period from re-contesting to at least six years.

S.Y. QURAIISHI

The Supreme Court, after hearing rebel MLA faction leader Eknath Shinde's petition challenging the disqualification notices issued to him and 15 other rebel MLAs, extended the deadline given to the concerned MLAs to file their responses to the disqualification notices. In this article dated January 3, 2020, S.Y. Quraishi explains how defecting MLAs need to be barred for at least six years before they can contest elections again.

They defected, re-contested, and became members again, all in six months. Some are even likely to become Ministers soon.

The Karnataka byelection results have widely put to display the ineffectiveness of the Anti-Defection Law. Of the 17 defecting Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) MLAs, 11 were re-elected on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket. Not only did this set of events lay down a well-structured framework to sidestep the law, it even set a dangerous precedent for neutralising the consequences of the law altogether.

The phenomenon of defections is not new to Indian politics. It has been plaguing the political landscape for over five decades. The most prominent case was that of Haryana's Gaya Lal, originally an independent MLA who, in 1967, juggled between the Congress and Janata Party for two weeks, during which he switched his loyalty thrice. The recurrence of this evil phenomenon led to the 1985 Anti-Defection Law, which defined three grounds of disqualification of MLAs – giving up party membership; going against party whip; and abstaining from voting.

Resignation not a condition

Resignation as MLA was not one of the conditions. Exploiting this loophole, the 17 rebel MLAs in Karnataka resigned, their act aimed at ending the

majority of the ruling coalition and, at the same time, avoiding disqualification. However, the Speaker refused to accept the resignations and declared them disqualified. This was possible as the legislation empowers the presiding officer of the House (i.e. the Speaker) to decide on complaints of defection under no time constraint.

The main issue is that defectors treat disqualification as a mere detour, before they return to the House or government by re-contesting

The law originally protected the Speaker's decision from judicial review. However, this safeguard was struck down in *Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu and Others* (1992). While the SC upheld the Speaker's discretionary power, it underscored that the Speaker functioned as a tribunal under the anti-defection law, thereby making her/his decisions subject to judicial review. This judgment enabled judiciary to become the watchdog of the anti-defection law, instead of the Speaker, who increasingly had become a political character contrary to the expected neutral constitutional role. The same could be witnessed in *Shrinanth Balasaheb Patel & Ors vs Speaker Karnataka Legislative Assembly & Ors* (2019), where the three-judge SC bench upheld the then Karnataka Speaker's decision of disqualification of the 17 rebel MLAs. However, it struck down his ban on the MLAs from contesting elections till 2023, negating the only possible permanent solution to the problem. The Supreme Court played the role of a neutral umpire in this political slugfest. But, the spectacle of MLAs hoarded in a bus, and being sent to a resort, openly exposed not just the absence of ideological ties between a leader and his party, but also her/his weak moral character. It was also upsetting to see public acceptance of

such malpractices as part of politics, with some even calling it Chanakya niti!

Exit, and swift return

The Anti-Defection Law provided a safeguard for defections made on genuine ideological differences. It accepted "split" within a party if at least one-third of the members of the legislative party defect, and allowed the formation of a new party or "merger" with other political party if not less than two-thirds of the party's members commit to it. The 91st Constitutional Amendment introduced in 2003 deleted the provision allowing split.

The 91st Amendment also barred the appointment of defectors as Ministers until their disqualification period is over or they are re-elected, whichever is earlier. But, obviously, such laws have not put to rest the trend of defections.

The main issue, as witnessed in Karnataka, is that the defectors treat disqualification as a mere detour, before they return to the House or government by re-contesting. This can only be stopped by extending the disqualification period from re-contesting and appointment to Chairmanships/Ministries to at least six years. The minimum period limit of six years is needed to ensure that the defectors are not allowed to enter the election fray for least one election cycle, which is five years.

Of course, MLAs can still be bought from the ruling dispensation to bring it to a minority by being paid hefty sums, simply to stay at home for six years. Almost every political outfit has been party to such devious games, with hardly any political will to find a solution.

The writer is former Chief Election Commissioner of India and the author of *An Undocumented Wonder – The Making of the Great Indian Election*

THE DAILY QUIZ

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28 in 1914 precipitated World War I. A quiz on the Great War that saw over 35 million casualties

1 Where and by who was the Archduke and his wife assassinated?

2 Name the 'Powers' that were the belligerents in the war that lasted more than four years and three months?

3 Which weaponry, now common in any country's military arsenal, was first used by the British in September 1916 at Flers-Courcelette during the Battle of the Somme?

4 Margaretha Geertruida MacLeod was a Dutch dancer and courtesan who was shot by the French on charges of spying for Germany during World War I. How is she better known?

5 What prompted the U.S. to join the War?

6 Name the organisation, headquartered in Geneva that was created after WWI as a forum to resolve international disputes.

7 Which flower has come to symbolise World War I and the soldiers who died in conflict?

8 The treaty that ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers was signed exactly five years after the killing of Franz Ferdinand. In which famous location was it signed?



◀ Designed by Sir Herbert Baker, and opened in 1927, where is this main memorial to the Indian Army that fought on the Western Front?

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

- Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. The member of this rebel group of the 1960s and 70s, led by Marxist lawyer Raul Sendic, went on to become the President of Uruguay. **Ans: Jose Pepe Mujica, Tupamaros**
2. This person was a member of the Democratic Labour Party before joining the Workers Party in the early 2000s and later becoming President in 2011. **Ans: Dilma Rousseff**
3. A former corporal in the Portuguese army, this rebel and freedom fighter went on to head the first new sovereign state of the 21st century. **Ans: Xanana Gusmao, Timor-Leste**
4. Known by his nom de guerre Commander Leonel Gonzalez, this person went on to become the only ex-rebel to become President in 2016. **Ans: Salvador Sanchez Ceren**
5. The only President of India to win the post as an independent candidate in the presidential elections. **Ans: V.V.Giri**
Visual: This former guerrilla fighter who become the first President of his independent country. **Ans: Sam Nujoma of Namibia**

Early Birds: Ravindra Kumar Sahu| Prerna Singh| Shubhajit Roy| K.N. Viswanathan

Raut wants to finish off Sena: rebel MLAs

Deepak Kesarkar blames MP for the break in former ties with BJP, terms him 'blue-eyed boy' of NCP

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
MUMBAI

Denying that they had staged a 'rebellion', the Shiv Sena MLAs led by Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday launched a blistering attack on Sena MP Sanjay Raut, accusing him of finishing off the party allegedly on the orders of NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

The dissident MLAs claimed that they were fighting for the preservation of the party's respect.

In a strongly-worded open letter which he posted on Twitter, Sena MLA Deepak Kesarkar, said it was only because of the vitriol spewed on the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Mr. Raut that the chasm between the two parties had widened.

"It is unfortunate that the party is being run on Sanjay Raut's advice... a person who has not been elected by the people is set out to finish off the party. You may distance us from the BJP. But if you distance the Shiv Sena from 'Hindutva', then how do you expect us to tolerate this?" Mr. Kesarkar said.

With the majority of the

55 Sena MLAs siding with Mr. Shinde, the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction on Monday had taken the offensive against the rebel MLAs.

Mr. Raut had called them "living corpses" who would be sent to a mortuary for post-mortem on their return from Guwahati.

The controversial statement by the Rajya Sabha member provoked Mr. Kesarkar's letter, and castigated the former for being the "blue-eyed boy" of NCP.

"Sanjay Raut has committed the heinous crime of distancing Uddhav Thackeray from us...the NCP fires the gun from his shoulder and who does the bullet hit - not enemies of our party but party loyalists like us. This is not acceptable," Mr. Kesarkar said. He questioned whether the Sena ought to let go of all its self esteem to merely "please Sharad Pawar and Sonia Gandhi".

"How can we defend a Minister who has ties to Dawood Ibrahim [NCP's Nawab Malik]? Even during the recent Rajya Sabha elections, the NCP defeated the Sena's candidate," alleged Mr. Kesarkar. He further said that Mr. Raut could today sit in the Rajya Sabha only because of the support of all Sena MLAs.



Angry protesters: Eknath Shinde's supporters burning an effigy of Sanjay Raut in Thane on Monday. •PTI

Mr. Kesarkar said while the BJP had initially promised 140 seats, they eventually agreed to let the Sena have 147 seats while they themselves contested on 127. However, the Sena leadership remained intransigent on its demand for four more seats which led to the split in the alliance, alleged Mr. Kesarkar. He further remarked that when the two parties eventually got together, Mr. Raut began hurling his venomous barbs and using language and cheap criticism that was not used even by the Opposition parties. The rebel Sena MLA further said that despite the growing gulf

between the BJP and the Sena owing to Mr. Raut being brought to the notice of the party leadership, nothing was done about it.

"While the BJP was increasing its strength under Modi's leadership, even the Sena was constantly trying to grow. The outcome was that due to two similarly ideological parties growing Hindutva was gaining strength...Balasaheb's basic mantra was that focusing on Hindutva was above alliances," he said.

He further said that just when the government formation [after 2019 Assembly election] remained a mere formality, Mr. Raut allegedly became active on the advice of the "strong NCP leader".

Alleging that a very systematic effort was made to demolish all that the Shiv Sena stood for, the MLA questioned the rationale for the ideologically opposed 'Maha Vikas Aghadi' government.

"What kind of power it is when one is on a path of self-destruction? What is the point of power if Shiv Sena will cease to exist?" he asked.

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Maharashtra CM reallocates portfolios of nine Ministers

BJP continues to distance itself from turmoil in the State

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

With a number of Maharashtra Ministers joining the Eknath Shinde rebel MLAs group, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday handed over their portfolios to other Ministers.

Meanwhile, the BJP continues to stick to its position that it has no hand in the political crisis in the State.

Terminating the turmoil Shiv Sena's internal matter, the Maharashtra unit chief of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday reiterated that the party has nothing to speak on the issue.

"This is Shiv Sena's internal matter. We will not interfere. We are going forward with our agenda. We will not comment on Sena's activities," said Chandrakant Patil.

Among the Ministers, Subhash Desai is given charge of Urban Development Department and Public Works Department (Public Undertakings) which were held by rebel group leader Eknath Shinde. Anil

Details on govt. orders sought

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has asked the State chief secretary to provide complete information of all Government Resolutions (GRs) and circulars issued

by the government from June 22-24.

The direction came after the departments issued government orders for the release of funds worth hundreds of crores from June 22-24 for various development-related works.

Parab is given charge of Water Supply and Sanitation department of Gulabrao Patil, Shankarao Gadakh will look after Agriculture and Ex-servicemen welfare held by Dadaji Bhuse as well as Employment Guarantee and Horticulture with Sandipan Bhumre.

Aaditya Thackeray will look after the Higher and Technical Education department of Uday Samant. Shambhuraaj Desai's Home (Rural) is now with Sanjay Bansode; Finance, planning, Skill Development, Marketing is with Vishwajit Kadam and Excise with Satej Patil.

Rajendra Patil Yadavkar's Public Health and family welfare is now with Mr. Kadam, Medical Education and Textile with Prajakt Tanpure, Food and Drug Administration with Satej Patil and Cultural department is now with Aditi Tatkare. Abdul Sattar's Revenue is now with Prajakt Tanpure, Rural development with Mr. Patil, Ports, Salt pan is with Ms. Tatkare. Omprakash alias Bachchu Kadu's School Education is now with Ms. Tatkare, Water resources and Command Area development and Labour is with Mr. Patil.

ED summons Sanjay Raut in money laundering case

The MP has been asked to appear before the agency today

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

Amidst all the political drama in Maharashtra, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday summoned Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut in a money laundering case of 2018.

He has been summoned to be present before the central agency on June 28 in a case relating to the irregularities in the redevelopment of Patra Chawl project at Goregaon. The MP tweeted, "I just came to know that the ED has summoned me. Good! There are big political developments in Maharashtra. We, Balasaheb's Shivsainiks are fighting a big battle. This is a conspiracy to stop me. Even if you beat me, I won't take the Guwahati route. Arrest me! Jai Hind"

The case dates back to March 2018 when an FIR was registered under the provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act against M/s Guru Ashish Construction, Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited's (HDIL) promoters Rakesh and Sarang Wadhwan on the basis of a complaint filed by



In the spotlight: Sanjay Raut leaving the Shiv Sena Bhavan after a press conference in Dadar, Mumbai, on Monday. •PTI

an executive engineer of the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development (MHADA). The FIR booked them under Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant, or banker or agent), 420 (cheating), 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC.

According to the ED, M/s Guru Ashish Construction was entrusted with the development of Patra Chawl for rehabilitation of 672 tenants in 47 acres. During the relevant time, the Wadhawan brothers and Pravin Raut were the directors of M/s Guru Ashish Construction.

As per the agreement, the developer was to provide flats to the tenants and de-

velop flats for the MHADA and thereafter the remaining area was to be sold by the developer. The ED contends that the directors of Guru Ashish Constructions misled the MHADA and managed to sell the floor space index to nine developers and collected approximately ₹901.79 crore without constructing the rehabilitation portion for 672 displaced tenants and the MHADA portion.

The company launched Meadows project and took the booking amount of around ₹138 crore from buyers. The total proceeds generated by the company through the illegal activities was around ₹1,039.79 crore.

Junior Thackeray takes up the task to avoid split

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

From visiting a Shiv Sena worker in hospital to holding a meeting with party workers in a rebel MLA's constituency, Yuva Sena chief and Maharashtra's Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray seems to have taken it upon himself to connect with the party organisation in a bid to control the party's biggest-ever collapse.

"Those who ran away are calling themselves rebels. Had you been real rebels you would have dared to come

face to face and told us about your intention. Those who have left, should resign and contest the elections. Show us if you can win this election without Shiv Sena. We will defeat you," Mr. Aaditya said at a party meeting in Mumbai on Sunday.

Mr. Aaditya is facing an uphill task of regrouping the party that is struggling after 39 of its MLAs deserted it to join hands with rebel second-in-command Eknath Shinde. In a bid to avoid a vertical split within the party organisation, Mr. Aaditya



Aaditya Thackeray

seems to have stepped up as party president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's fragile health may bring restrictions on the latter's movements.

Appealing to party workers to strongly reply to the 'betrayal', the junior Thackeray has been using aggressive language in his speeches, making it a point to visit places and boosting the confidence of party workers from the areas where the MLAs have ditched the party and joined the rebel group.

On Monday, he visited families of police personnel residing in BDD chawls in Worli and made the announcement of reducing the construction cost of to be newly redeveloped homes to

₹25 lakh instead of the earlier ₹50 lakh. "He is not meeting workers and travelling for the first time. But there is qualitative difference. Earlier, he was focused on Yuva Sena, this time it is Shiv Sena. Preference given to Yuva Sena cadre is one of the reasons of present condition of the party. The old guards wanted more say in matters of governance and party organisation," said Sanjay Patil, researcher at the civics and politics department of Mumbai University.

Patole urges Governor to call Assembly session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

As the political drama sparked by fierce problems within the ruling Shiv Sena entered its seventh day on Monday, Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole - whose party is in alliance with the Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) - demanded Governor B.S. Koshyari to convene a session of the Assembly at the earliest, while accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre

of 'scripting' Maharashtra's turmoil.

"It is clear now that the BJP is trying to finish off the Shiv Sena and attempting to destabilise the cultural and political fabric of Maharashtra. The BJP will have to bear the fruits of their action," said Mr. Patole. Urging the Governor to convene a special session of the State Assembly, he said that the rebel MLAs and the BJP ought to prove their majority on the floor of the House if they had the numbers.

PIL in HC seeks direction to Sena rebels to return

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

A public interest litigation (PIL) petition has been filed at the Bombay High Court on Monday seeking appropriate action against Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde and other Ministers for omission of duties towards the citizens.

The petitioners are journalists, lawyers and students - Utpal Chandawar, Abhijeet Ghule-Patil, Naelima Vartak, Hemant Karkam, Manali Gupte, Medha Kulkarni and Madhavi Kulkarni

The petition states, "Citizens' public rights are getting ignored due to the current political turmoil that is taking place in Maharashtra. It is causing public nuisance to the citizens as the Ministers of Maharashtra are neglecting their duties towards the citizens who have elected them. Instead of working for the community, the Ministers are aiming at securing personal gains by instigating internal disorder within the governance of the State."

It says that the rebel Ministers have ignored Article 38 of the Indian Constitution that reads, "The State shall strive to promote the

Manipur Sena workers detained in Guwahati

Four Shiv Sena members from Manipur were on Monday detained from near the five star hotel where the dissident party MLAs from Maharashtra, led by Eknath Shinde, are holed up. About 70 Sena workers from Manipur, Tripura, and different parts of Assam have been camping in Guwahati in a bid to reach the dissidents and request them to patch up with Uddhav Thackeray.

welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life." The plea filed by advocate Ajinkya Udane contends that it is the duty and responsibility of each elected/appointed Member of the Legislative Assembly or Member of Parliament to not disturb or create nuisance in constitutional governance for their public gain or ego.

The PIL urges the court for a direction to all the Ministers to return and assume their duties.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISION — ELECTRICAL / WORKS

E-Tender Notice No.: V-EG-0T-04 2022- 2023 Dt. 21.06.2022
Name of work: 1) Trivandrum Division: Creation of basic carriage & wagon maintenance. 2) Trivandrum Division: Augmentation of welding facilities for rolling stock — Electrical arrangement. 3) Trivandrum Division: Augmentation of infrastructure in Kochuvelli for maintenance of LHB coaches. 4) Trivandrum Division: Replacement of over aged and obsolete interlocking arrangements with electronic interlocking at Ochira, Karunagappally, Sasthamkotta, Perinad and building for JBS hut (Quilon, Perinad & Perinad-Sasthamkotta) & Kumbalam, Thuravur, Cherthala, Mararikulam & Alappuzha (5 stations) ERS-ALLP-KYJ section in TVC Division — Electrical arrangement. Value: (1) Rs. 23663711/- (2) Rs. 7425121/- (3)Rs.19615551/- (4)Rs.7776889/-
Bid security: (1) Rs.268300/- (2)Rs.148500/- (3)Rs.248100/- (4)Rs.155500/- Tender closing date & time: 14.07.2022, at 14.00hrs.

E-Tender Notice No.: V-EG-0T-05 2022-2023 Dt. 22.06.2022.
Name of work: Trivandrum Division: Proposed platform shelter at Changanacherry (6 bays) — Electrical arrangement. Value : Rs.525736/-
Bid security: Rs.10500/-
Tender closing date & time: 15.07.2022, at 14.00hrs
Complete details & tender document will be available at www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. DEE/G/TVC

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

TENDER NOTICE No.: 02-DYCE-CN-II-MDU-2022 dated 22.06.2022
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction-III, Southern Railway, Arasaradi, Madurai - 625016 invites e-tender for the work as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in The Tenderer(s)/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the tender and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple bank's net-banking, debit card and credit.
Tender No. & Date : 02-DYCE-CN-II-MDU-2022 dated 23.06.2022
Name of work : Proposed New BG line between Madurai and Tuticorin via Arupukottai, Milavittan and Melmarudur Section: Proposed miscellaneous works in between MILAVITTAN and MELMARUDUR STATION.
Approximate cost of the work : Rs.3,25,000,28,94/-
Cost of Tender Form :Rs. 0.00
Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 3,12,500/-
Completion period of work : Twelve (12) months
Closing date and Time of tender through IREPS web portal : 11.00 Hours of 15.07.2022
Date and Time of tender opening through IREPS web portal : at 11.30 Hours on 15.07.2022
Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in
Notice board where particulars details can be obtained : Office of the Deputy Engineer, Construction III, Arasaradi, Madurai - 16.
Note: The Detailed terms and conditions and other details have already been uploaded in the website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Tender is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.
Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction - III Madurai - 625 016. For and on behalf of the President of India
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. T-SG-36-I-5-6-2022-2023 Dt. 23.06.2022
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites online tender on behalf of The President of India, for the following works up to 14.00 hrs on 19.07.2022
1) Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-5-2022-2023
Name of the work: Cleaning and Lubrication of Interlocked Point Chairs over Tiruchchirappalli Division
Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees: Rs.118.42 Lakhs
Earnest Money Deposit Amt: Rs.2,09,200/-
Period of Completion in Months: Twelve Months
Validity Offer: 60 Days
Closing date and time: 19.07.2022 @ 14.00 Hrs
2) Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-6-2022-2023
Name of the work: Signalling of work in connection with provision of sick line for 30m daily extending the over run line at Vadalur.
Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees: Rs. 4.34 Lakhs
Earnest Money Deposit Amt: Rs.8,700/-
Period of Completion in Months: Three Months
Validity Offer: 60 Days
Closing date and time: 19.07.2022 @ 14.00 Hrs
If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.
The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through <https://www.ireps.gov.in/> GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI
Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, DRM of the complex Tiruchchirappalli, - 620001
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

LOCO WORKS, PERAMBUR, AYANAVARAM, CHENNAI - 600 023

TENDER NOTICE No. ELW-ACL-HOG-22 Due on 25.07.2022
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Loco Works/Perambur, Southern Railway, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023 invites following online Open Tenders as per Tender Notice issued as in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in. The Tenderer(s) intending to apply e-tender for works/service contract, need to get enrolled in the aforesaid e-tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted. The payment towards Bid Security Deposit is to be made through online payment method only. It is the responsibility of the tenderer(s) to obtain necessary Digital Signature Certificates for participating in the e-tenders.
Tender No.ELW-ACL-HOG-22
Tender for (Name of work): Ancillary work for the fitting of Hotel Load Converter in Three Phase Locomotives.(Excluding supply of power cables and control cables)
Quantity: 17 No's
Period of Contract: 18 Months
Estimated Tender value: Rs.1,16,08,398.83 (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Lakhs Eight Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Eight and Paise Eighty Three only)
Bid Security: Rs. 2,08,100/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Eight Thousand One Hundred Only)
Cost of Tender Document: NIL
Tender Due on: 25.07.2022, 15.00 hrs
Website Particulars: www.ireps.gov.in
For further details interested persons may kindly log on to www.ireps.gov.in
Railway reserves the right to issue any corrigendum to the tender till 10 days prior to the opening of the tender. Tenderers are advised to check the website before submitting their offer whether any such corrigendum to the tender has been issued or not.
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ Loco Works/Perambur, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LIMITED

Corporate office: H.No.19-13-65/A, Simhasaparam, Tiruchchirappalli, Tamilnadu-617603

Tender Notice Nos. CGM/Projects/03.04.05/2022-23, Dt. 27.06.2022
Bids through www.approprocurement.gov.in are invited from the eligible bidders for Survey, Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 1) 24 Nos. (Twenty four) 33/11KV Semi-Indoor Sub-stations in Ananthapur District 2) 26 Nos. (15 Nos for Jagananna Colonies and 11 Nos under T&D) 33/11 KV Semi-Indoor Sub-stations in 5 Districts of APSPDCL 3) 1 No. (One number) 33/11KV Out-Door Sub-station for APDICO houses in Kurnool on Semi-turnkey basis. The tender will be made available from 23.00 Hrs on 29.06.2022 onwards in the website: www.approprocurement.gov.in
Contact No.: 83329 99180 & 83329 99885 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER/PROJECTS

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

Regd. Office: PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SG033813
Contact No. 96461-18773
Tender Enquiry No.: QQ-1316/PQ-C&S
Chief Purchase Officer / MM, Central Purchases Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for supply of ISI marked, Three Core, 11kV, stranded Aluminum Conductor, XLPE insulated PVC sheathed, screened, armoured cable as per IS: 7098 (Part-2):2011 as per PSPCL specification No. QQ-1316.
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> in form 28.06.2022 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C-247/22 DPRPB 76155/12/955/2021/15259

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PPP)

P.W.D., RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR
No. F/7(566)/SHA/PPP/W/2020-21/D-468 Date: 22.06.2022
Short Term NIT No. 12/2022-23
INVITATION OF RFP FOR TOLL COLLECTION
Bids for Toll Collection for Jodhpur- Marwar Jn.- Jajawar Highway (SH-61 & 61A) (Km 0.00 to km. 119.100) are invited from the interest bidders upto 11:30 AM on 28.06.2022. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on website <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> and www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate value of procurement is Rs. 8.01 Crores.
UBN no: (PWD2223SLOB02860)
Add. Chief Engineer (PPP) PWD Rajasthan, Jaipur
DIPRC/8576

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Central Office: Purchase Department, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027, e-mail: cosp.gm@mtc.com
No. BMTCCOSP/SCRAP/SSD/2022-23 Date: 27.06.2022
"e"-Auction Notice
Scrap Vehicles, Scrap Engines, Scrap Gear Boxes & Scrap Engine Blocks available at BMTCC will be sold through e-Auction to be conducted by M/s. M.S.T.C. (A Govt. of India undertaking). The e-Auction schedule is as under:
(1) Scrap Vehicles, Scrap Engines, Scrap Gear Boxes & Scrap Engine Blocks Date of e-Auction : 05.07.2022 to 08.07.2022. The interested bidders may log on to www.msstccommerce.com for further details and registration. They may also contact M/s. M.S.T.C. Ltd., at below mentioned address for detailed clarification. Address: M/s M.S.T.C. LTD., No.19/5, 19/6, 3rd Floor, Kareem Tower, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru- 560 052. Contact phone Nos: 080-22260054, 22266417, 22287356, FAX No. 080-22256365. BMTCC Contact phone Nos: + 91 7760991153/ 7760991157
Sd/-Controller of Stores & Purchases



Satyendar Jain's custody extended by 14 days

NEW DELHI
A Special CBI Court here on Monday extended Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain's judicial custody by 14 days after he was produced before the judge through video conference from a city hospital, where he was admitted last week after his health deteriorated in jail. Mr. Jain was arrested on May 30 by the ED in a money laundering case related to an FIR that was registered by the CBI in 2017.

Commonwealth academy planned by India, U.K.

LONDON
India and the U.K. will create a joint Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy programme to train young and aspiring diplomats from both nations. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his U.K. counterpart, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss announced plans for the establishment of a new joint academy to jointly promote Commonwealth values after a meeting in Rwanda last week. **PTI**

Filmmaker Avinash Das's anticipatory bail rejected

AHMEDABAD
The Gujarat High Court on Monday dismissed an application seeking anticipatory bail by filmmaker Avinash Das, who was booked for sharing a photo of Union Home Minister Amit Shah with an arrested IAS officer of Jharkhand, and a painting allegedly insulting the national flag, on social media platforms. The court also rejected his submission to offer an "unconditional apology".

Sangli suicide case: two held for poisoning family

PUNE
Investigations into the death of nine members of the family of two brothers in Maharashtra's Sangli district, which was earlier suspected to be a case of suicide pact due to harassment by money lenders, revealed that the deceased, including four children, were allegedly poisoned to death by a *tantrik* and his accomplice both of whom have been arrested, police said on Monday. **PTI**

NCB seizes 286 kg of ganja worth ₹3.5 crore

MUMBAI
The Narcotics Control Bureau zonal unit here on Monday claimed to have busted an inter-state drug racket and seized 286 kg of high grade ganja worth ₹3.5 crore from traffickers moving in a car on the Solapur-Mumbai highway. Two persons were arrested following the anti-drugs operation carried out on the intervening night of Sunday-Monday, an NCB official said. The NCB had received inputs about a drug trafficking syndicate planning transportation of a huge drug consignment to Mumbai. **PTI**

Sikar in Rajasthan tops school grading index at district level

However, there are 12 States and UTs which don't figure in the top categories

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Rajasthan's Sikar is the top performer, followed by Jhunjhunu and Jaipur in the Union government's index for performance of school education system at the district level.

The Ministry of Education's Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) for 2019 released on Monday studied 83 indicators grouped in six categories.

These categories are outcomes, effective classroom transaction, infrastructure facilities and student's entitlements, school safety and child protection, digital learning and governance process.

The three districts have figured in the 'Utkarsh' category (scoring 81-90% on a scale of 100) with Jhunjhunu scoring the maximum (236 out of 290) in learning outcomes.

Also, in the second grade 'Ati-uttam', Rajasthan is significantly ahead of the se-



Eight districts improved their PGI score by more than 20%.

cond and third top States with 24 of its districts in this category.

The PGI-D grades the districts into 10 grades with the highest achievable grade being 'Daksh', which is for districts scoring more than 90% of the total points in that ca-

tegory or overall.

'Utkarsh' category is for districts with score between 81-90%, followed by 'Ati-Utkarsh' (71-80%), 'Uttam' (61-70%), 'Prachesta-I' (51-60%), 'Prachesta-II' (41-50%) and 'Prachesta III' (31-40%).

The lowest grade in PGI-D

is called 'Akanshi-3' which is for scores up to 10% of the total points.

The other States whose districts have performed best in the latest index released by the Ministry of Education (MoE) on Monday are Punjab with 14 districts in 'Ati-uttam' grade (scoring 71-80% on a scale of 100), followed by Gujarat and Kerala with each having 13 districts in this category.

However, there are 12 States and Union Territories which do not have even a single district in the 'Ati-uttam' and 'Uttam' categories and these include seven of the eight States from the North East region.

The report states that since none of the States have districts in the top category, there was a need for further improvement in the years to come. Overall, eight districts improved their PGI score by more than 20% and 14 districts improved their PGI score by more than 10%.

CSG team goes the extra mile to save elderly Lankan couple

They fainted after arriving on the shores of Rameswaram

**SUNDAR S
RAMESWARAM**

A team of Coastal Security Group (CSG) personnel, who have been securing Sri Lankan nationals who clandestinely land on the shores of Rameswaram island, had a different challenge on Monday - saving the lives of two elderly persons.

During a regular patrol of the seashore, the team, led by Sub-Inspector of Police S. Kalidoss, found two aged persons - a man and a woman - lying unconscious on the beach near Kothandaram temple.

"Since they had been dropped in neck-deep water on a pitch-dark night, the couple, who did not eat properly the previous night, became tired and fainted after arriving on the shore," the SI said.

Since the stretchers in the 108 ambulance could not be used to carry unconscious people across the shallow backwaters for nearly two km, the CSG team had to



An elderly Sri Lankan man being rescued by a team from the Coastal Security Group in Rameswaram. **• BALACHANDAR L**

wait for the arrival of a hovercraft of the Indian Coast Guard.

Till then, the personnel kept the man hydrated by giving him glucose. They also used a saree as a temporary shade for the couple, who were lying on the sand.

Later, the Sri Lankan nationals were shifted to the government hospital in Rameswaram, where they were provided first aid.

While the man showed

signs of improvement, the woman remained unconscious. They were identified as Sivam, 82, and his wife, Parameswari, 70, of Mannar. They were subsequently admitted to the Ramanathapuram Government Medical College Hospital.

With the new arrivals, the number of Sri Lankan nationals who have reached Rameswaram after fleeing the crisis-hit island nation has risen to 92.

Two militants killed in Kulgam encounter: police

BSF shoots intruder in Jammu

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR**

Two militants were killed in an anti-militancy operation in south Kashmir's Kulgam, while one Pakistani intruder was killed near the border in Jammu's R.S. Pora on Monday.

The police identified the slain militants as Zubair Ahmad Mir and Idrees Ahmad Dar from Qaimoh and Kulpora in Kulgam. As per police records, both the terrorists were categorised and involved in several terror crime cases, including attacks on security forces, the police said. "Mir was active since August, 2021, and was trying to revive the terror group," the police added. Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar termed this operation as "as an impor-



Jawans returning from the encounter site in Kulgam. **• NISSAR AHMAD**

tant one because of the location of the encounter site". "It is very close to the national highway, which is a *yatra* route. The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has been issuing threats to *yatra*," IGP Kumar said.

Earlier in the day, an intruder was shot dead by the Border Security Forces (BSF) near a border outpost in R.S. Pora in Jammu.

India, EU resume FTA negotiations

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

India and the European Union (EU) on Monday resumed negotiations, after a gap of over eight years, for a comprehensive free trade agreement, a move aimed at strengthening economic ties between the two regions.

Senior officials from both the sides will hold discussions till July 1.

"India and the EU today kick-start 1st round of trade negotiations in #NewDelhi," Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the EU to India and Bhutan, said in a tweet.

India had started negotiations for a trade pact with the EU in 2007, but the talks stalled in 2013 as both sides failed to reach an agreement on key issues.

Water challenge



Slow recovery: Villagers drive along an inundated road transporting a load of bamboo for house repairs in the flood-affected Morigaon district of Assam. **• RITU RAJ KONWAR**

HC dismisses petition by Adani Ports

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

The Bombay High Court on Monday dismissed the plea by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited challenging disqualification of its bid for upgrade of the container terminal in Navi Mumbai by the Board of Trustees of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA).

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice M.S. Karnik rejected the plea as non-meritorious and directed the companies to pay ₹5 lakh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority.

The Bench also refused Adani Ports's request to maintain status quo and not open bids till it sought relief before the Supreme Court.

India, Malaysia discuss defence ties

Both countries to upgrade HADR operations

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

In a video conference with Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Tun Hussein on Monday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted the areas in which Indian defence industries could assist Malaysia.

"Mr. Singh suggested a visit of senior officers from Malaysia to India to get a first-hand experience of the facilities and products of Indian defence industry," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Stating that the Malaysian Minister expressed the need for inducting women personnel in peacekeeping missions, the Ministry said, "Both sides agreed to engage each other on this issue. It

was also agreed to upgrade capability for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations."

Framework in place
The two Minister also discussed the existing defence cooperation activities and framework between the two countries, and ways to further enhance them under the existing Malaysia India Defence Cooperation Meeting (MIDCOM) framework.

The next MIDCOM is scheduled to be held in July, and it was decided to use this platform for a deeper engagement in defence, the Ministry said.

"A wide range of issues concerning bilateral, regional and defence industrial cooperation were discussed during the meeting. Both Ministers expressed the intent to further boost the already strong India-Malaysia defence cooperation," it added.

World Bank approves \$250-mn loan to boost India's road safety

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

The World Bank has approved a \$250 million loan to support the Government of India's road safety programme for seven States under which a single accident reporting number will be set up to better manage post-crash events.

The India State Support

Programme for Road Safety, financed by the World Bank, will be implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. The \$250 million variable spread loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 18 years, with a

grace period of 5.5 years. The project will also establish a national harmonised crash database system in order to analyse accidents and use that to construct better and safer roads. The project will also provide incentives to States to leverage private funding through public private partnership (PPP) concessions and pilot initiatives.

THE CROSSWORD + 13594
(set by WrdPlougher)

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

argument (2,7)
18 Revealing new bespoke luxury brand owned by old Indian actor making comeback (3-6)
21 New intel briefly interrupts gangster and darling (5)
23 Gear manufactured by Kia Grand's factory, centrally located close to hub (3,3)
25 Maori dancing (all over Instagram) is art (7)
27 Provisional rent distributed between two months (7)
28 Former British PM never introduced his namesake counterpart at the Knesset? (7)
29 How a weatherman might get wind of mean meteor burst (10)
30 Sampling from tracks, bends old alternative western songs (4)

Down
1 21 shifts taken up as doctor? Getting close (10)
2 Director's second sublime short, some oddly visual poetry (7)
4 Dollar having collapsed, WHO briefly has to work through rough patch (9)
5 Chase former lover, appeal every now and then (5)
6 Ray altering names, some bits of Feluda's essential character (7)
7 Hold back! Injured boatswain letting out cry of pain (7)
8 Printing mistake - transgression you pardon ordinarily when selecting beginners (4)
9 In the climax, manic Basha blowing up African citadel (6)
14 Mostly uses slime - if prepared, makes a kind of watery paint (10)
17 Dry ox hide spread as a base (9)
19 Shri! sound from street interrupting spell (7)
20 Queen taking bishop in mating attack primarily to advance check (7)
21 Evacuated any pair erupting in hives (6)
22 Divine being, having regularly saved cheat, in return gives permission (2-5)
24 One/two minutes into draining game, getting easy one (5)
26 Prima donna effortlessly streaking lady on a horse (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13593

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Drama scripted by Krishna

Rukmini, the only daughter of the King of Vidarbha, had five brothers. Rukmini wanted to wed Krishna. But her brothers wanted her to marry Sisupala. We can look at the five brothers as symbolic of our indriyas, and Rukmini as the jivatma wanting to reach the Supreme One, said V.S. Karunakarachariar, in a discourse. The indriyas always lead us towards attachment to material life, and Sisupala is symbolic of this material life. So, Rukmini's five brothers were leading her to a material life. But Rukmini was clear about her goal, namely, reaching the Supreme One. She was determined to spurn her brothers' ideas, and to reach Lord Krishna - the Paramatma.

The only way out for jivatmas is to seek an Acharya, who will help us cross the ocean of samsara. Rukmini, too, in order to attain her goal, sought the help of a learned man. There was a Brahmin scholar who visited Vidarbha often, and Rukmini chose him to be her messenger to Krishna. She wrote a letter and asked the Brahmin to take it to Krishna. Just as an Acharya makes representations to Bhagavan on our behalf, so did this Brahmin act on behalf of Rukmini, by taking her letter to Krishna. The Lord's avatars were all dramas which He scripted and enacted, and with the purpose of making us realise that moksha should be our goal. The end is to attain the Lord's feet and the means to that is also the Lord. But we need someone to guide us in the right direction. So we need a good Acharya to speak for us to the Lord.

In Krishna avatara, Rukmini shows us this by choosing a messenger who will act as the bridge between her and Lord Krishna. We tend to be inattentive when we are given advice but a story helps us remember important lessons. That is why Krishna gave us messages through dramatic stories.

MARKET WATCH

	27-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,161	0.82
US Dollar	78.37	-0.05
Gold	50,822	0.52
Brent oil	114.78	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	687.75	1.35
Apollo Hosp	3794.50	-43.90
Asian Paints	2820.95	60.05
Axis Bank	637.10	3.10
Bajaj Auto	3861.20	47.85
Bajaj Finserv	11595.15	12.20
Bajaj Finance	5641.20	53.45
Bharti Airtel	683.95	12.75
BPCL	315.00	7.45
Britannia Ind	3459.10	-10.25
Cipla	932.35	-1.35
Coal India	182.05	5.30
Davis Lab	3673.45	7.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4320.35	10.90
Eicher Motors	2848.30	-29.60
Grasim Ind	1349.30	26.05
HCL Tech	992.35	25.65
HDFC	2194.45	5.45
HDFC Bank	1356.25	2.45
HDFC Life	558.00	-3.45
Hero MotoCorp	2755.50	-4.45
Hindalco	329.95	7.65
Hind Unilever	2320.65	16.75
ICICI Bank	717.35	3.90
IndusInd Bank	823.50	17.00
Infosys	1474.60	33.50
ITC	269.95	4.10
J&S Steel	571.65	3.85
Kotak Bank	1691.55	-6.85
L&T	1535.80	40.95
M&M	1082.70	10.65
Maruti Suzuki	9448.75	65.55
Nestle India Ltd.	17358.25	126.60
NTPC	138.50	1.90
ONGC	141.50	4.15
PowerGrid Corp	211.55	2.60
Reliance Ind	2492.65	-7.40
SBI Life	1084.55	6.00
State Bank	461.20	6.95
Shree Cement	19101.50	307.85
Sun Pharma	835.65	11.05
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	729.40	0.40
Tata Motors	414.50	5.20
Tata Steel	867.85	15.00
TCS	3314.70	21.60
Tech Mahindra	1007.20	26.00
Titan	2040.30	-5.30
UltraTech Cement	5560.25	91.95
UPL	657.10	16.25
Wipro	424.90	6.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	78.14	78.46
Euro	82.70	83.05
British Pound	95.90	96.30
Japanese Yen (100)	57.78	58.02
Chinese Yuan	11.68	11.73
Swiss Franc	81.54	81.87
Singapore Dollar	56.43	56.67
Canadian Dollar	60.62	60.87
Malaysian Ringgit	17.73	17.82
Australian Dollar	54.17	54.39

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



M&M unveils new Scorpio-N at ₹11.99 lakh
MUMBAI
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) on Monday virtually unveiled the all-new Scorpio-N, built on the legacy of its Scorpio SUV, at ₹11.99 lakh. The vehicle, in petrol and diesel variants, will be available for test drives from July 5 in 30 cities and July 15 in the rest of the country, the company said.

Bajaj Auto to buy back shares up to ₹2,500 cr.
NEW DELHI
Bajaj Auto on Monday said its board had approved a share buy-back programme for an aggregate amount of up to ₹2,500 crore. The board of directors, at its meeting, approved the proposal for buy-back of fully paid-up equity shares of the company with a face value of ₹10 each from existing shareholders, except promoters and promoter group, from the open market on the stock exchanges, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing. PTI

Mufin plans to roll out prepaid wallets, cards
MUMBAI
Mufin Finance Ltd., a subsidiary of Hindon Mercantile Ltd., said it will offer semi-closed prepaid payment instruments (PPI) to customers in India. The RBI recently gave an in-principle authorisation to NBFC Hindon Mercantile for issuance of semi-closed prepaid payment instruments. Mufin would use the permission to unveil MufinPay, a digital payment solution that would complement the firm's lending business.

Standard Chartered's Solv raises ₹300 crore
BENGALURU
Solv, a B2B digital marketplace for MSMEs, also a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered, has raised ₹300 crore in a funding round led by SBI Holdings (Japan) with participation from SC Ventures, an early-stage investor of Solv. With this, Solv's total funding has gone up to \$80 million, the firm said. CEO Amit Bansal said the investment would help the firm become a dominant player in the business.

'Centre may raise small savings rates'

Economists cite rising G-Sec yields — to which such rates are linked — as reason for optimism

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI
Households could get some relief this week as economists expect the Centre to raise the interest rates paid on small savings schemes for the July to September 2022 quarter, with the yields on 10-year government securities hitting a four-year high of 7.6% earlier this month.

The rates of interest on instruments like the Public Provident Fund and the National Savings Certificate, currently at 7.1% and 6.8%, respectively, have not been changed for eight quarters since a reduction was effected in the first quarter of FY21. Retail inflation too had hovered above 7% in April and May, squeezing household budgets. Raising rates on small savings could also



Eager anticipation: The Centre will announce rates for small savings instruments for the next quarter on June 30. •PTI

help the government reduce its reliance on market borrowings this year.

'Deposit rates rising'
"There are chances of small savings rate being increased in upcoming review for July-September, in line with the

higher policy repo rate," CARE Ratings chief economist Rajani Sinha told *The Hindu*, noting that banks had also started revising deposit rates upwards. The government will announce the rates for the next quarter on June 30. "While the Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) has hiked the policy interest rate by 90 basis points (bps) in the last two meetings, we expect further increase of at least 100 bps increase in FY23. This implies that yields on government securities (G-Secs) will continue to increase in the next few months," Ms. Sinha said. One basis point is equal to 0.01%.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA, said she too expected interest rates on small savings instruments to be raised, given the sharp rise in the G-Sec yields of various maturities, to which such rates are linked.

"In view of the increase in the G-Sec yields in recent months, the excess of the announced interest rates on SSIs over the respective formula-based rates moderated

to 9-118 bps for Q1: 2022-23 from 42-168 bps in Q4 2021-22," the RBI had noted in April. The average G-Sec yield, based on which the quarterly rate on the 15-year PPF is pegged, was 6.76% between December 2021 and February 2022, resulting in a formula-based rate of 7.01% for the April to June quarter.

The 7.10% for the quarter was thus nine bps higher than the formula then.

"The average month-end G-Sec yields for one-year, two-year and five-year bonds have increased substantially to 5.26%, 5.65% and 6.79%, respectively, between March and May 2022, from 3.88%, 4.72% and 6%, respectively, in the previous three months," Ms. Nayar pointed out. On June 24, yields on 10-year G-Secs stood at 7.44%.

Need star rating for trucks too: DICV's Arya

MD urges road map to end fatalities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Commercial vehicles such as trucks too should be part of the Centre's scheme for crash-linked safety performance star rating system, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) CEO and MD Satyakam Arya said on Monday.

"Why not include commercial vehicles in Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme)? Are truck drivers not entitled to safer roads?" asked Mr. Arya at Safety Pioneer's Conference organised by Intel India.

He said a safety road map for commercial vehicles was needed with the goal of zero fatalities in the first step and zero accidents in the next. Last week, the Ministry of



Satyakam Arya

Road Transport and Highways had issued a draft notification on Bharat NCAP under which passenger vehicles with up to eight seats would be given zero to five stars following their performance in a crash test, to allow buyers to make a decision based on safety. The programme will take effect in April 2023.

Russia rebuts external debt default claim

REUTERS

Russia rejected claims on Monday that it had defaulted on its external debt for the first time in more than a century, telling investors to go to Western financial agents for the cash which was sent but which bondholders did not receive.

"Statements of a default are absolutely unjustified," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told a call with reporters on Monday, pointing to the May forex coupon payment.

"The fact that Euroclear withheld this money and did not bring it to the recipients is not our problem. There are absolutely no grounds to call such situation a default." Euroclear did not respond to a request for comment.

GST panel may discuss States' compensation, e-com norms

28% tax for online games, casinos, horse racing may get nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The GST Council in its two-day meeting starting Tuesday is slated to discuss an array of issues, including a mechanism for compensating States for revenue loss, tax rate tweaks in some items and relaxed registration norms for small online suppliers.

Further, the Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprising State counterparts, will also clear levying the highest tax rate of 28% on online games, casinos and horse racing.

The GST Council will also consider a report of the panel of State ministers on



making the e-way bill mandatory for intra-State movement of gold/precious stones worth ₹2 lakh and above and e-invoicing mandatory for all taxpayers supplying gold/precious stones and having annual aggregate turnover above ₹20 crore.

Besides, an interim report of a group of Ministers on

Rupee tests fresh low on outflow of foreign funds

BSE Sensex, NSE Nifty 50 rise 0.8%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The rupee on Monday tested a fresh record low of 78.43 amid outflow of foreign funds and other factors, according to analysts.

The rupee finally closed at 78.37 against the dollar on Monday. "The currency has drifted on the downward trajectory despite the softness seen in the greenback, as domestic equity indices erased much of the early session gains," said Sugandha Sachdeva, VP, Commodity & Currency Research, Religare Broking.

"Besides, India's forex reserves have witnessed a fall for the third consecutive week to \$59.59 billion as the RBI is stepping up its intervention in the forex mar-

Currency may see support at 78.50. A breach may pave the way for rupee to slip to 79.20

kets to curb the steep decline in the Indian rupee."

"We reckon that the 78.50 mark will provide near-term support to the rupee-dollar exchange rate, while a decisive breach of the same shall pave the way for further depreciation towards the 79.20 mark in the coming days," she said.

However, key equity benchmark indices surged almost 1%, led by IT stocks. The S&P BSE Sensex gained 433.30 points, or 0.82%, to 53,161.28. The NSE Nifty 50 index gained 132.80 points, or 0.85%, to 15,832.05.

Implement labour codes in phases: ISF

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

The Centre has to implement the labour codes one by one, section-wise or in a phased manner for the improvement of the employment scenario in the country, said the Indian Staffing Federation (ISF), the apex body for staffing firms.

Though the codes are set to take effect on July 1, ISF said there had been 'no further movement' on the same by the Centre. "Our appeal to the government is to implement the codes one by one or section-wise, rather than not moving at all. The roll-out in a phased manner will create the pathway for more codes and sections to be introduced," said ISF president Lohit Bhatia.

TVS Motor 'cautiously optimistic' about FY23

Scooter sales to grow: chairman Speth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company said it was 'cautiously optimistic' about the business outlook for the FY23, chairman Ralf Dieter Speth said.

Addressing the shareholders of the company at the 30th AGM, he said TVS had posted the highest-ever turnover and profit in FY22 while achieving one million in two-wheeler sales.

Going forward, the company said, it could sustain the momentum given the normal monsoon, improved consumer sentiment, government spending in infrastructure and PLI and FAME-II initiatives of the government.

However, companies might face headwinds due to geopolitical issues, climate change, supply-chain



constraints on account of the semiconductor shortage and the 'super cycle' of increase in commodity prices, among others.

Stating that the firm had planned a series of product introductions in FY23 catering to different customer segments, he said scooter sales would grow amid demand from students and working women. New premium bikes would further boost sales. Exports were also likely to see growth.

SEBI warns Aurobindo on U.S. FDA audit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a warning letter to Aurobindo Pharma for disclosing "very limited and restricted information" about an USFDA audit of the company's active pharmaceutical ingredients manufacturing facility (AP) in Hyderabad.

"The only fact disclosed was that a warning letter was received from U.S. FDA. The company did not disclose details on the reason and the non-compliance/aberration observed," the June 24 letter from the regulatory watchdog said, holding that the disclosure was not in line with principles governing disclosures and obligations of listed entities.

TTK to tap ₹9,500-crore modular kitchen market

Firm to raise stake in Ultrafresh to 51%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Kitchen appliances manufacturer TTK Prestige announced its foray into India's ₹9,500 crore modular kitchen market by entering into a strategic partnership with Chandigarh-based modular kitchen firm Ultrafresh Modular Solutions.

The partnership would make TTK Prestige a player equipped to offer kitchen appliances as well as modular kitchen solutions under one roof, company officials told the media.



"The modular kitchen market is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 20% in 2021-2026 and reach ₹23,000 crore in the next five years," said TTK Prestige chairman T.T. Jagannathan.

COCHIN CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE
(an autonomous centre under Government of Kerala) Cochin, Ernakulam - 683 903
PH: +91 484 241 170, e-mail: ccrckochi@gmail.com, www.ccr.kerala.gov.in

FOR EXISTING VACANCY - DIRECTOR (on Permanent basis)
Scale of pay - Basic Pay ₹ 80,000/- Fixed (Pre revised)

Cochin Cancer and Research Centre is an autonomous institution under the Health and Family Welfare Department of Government of Kerala. It is one of the three designated Apex cancer centres of the state. It is envisaged to be developed as a premier institution in the field of cancer treatment and research. The institution seeks applications from eminent oncologists with vivid vision on the development of the institution as world class institution.

Application in the prescribed CRC form, with detailed bio data, attested copies of testimonials, Certificates, Experience, etc. along with D/D worth ₹ 2,500/- (₹ 1,000/- for SC/ST candidates) favoring Director, Malabar Cancer Centre, payable at Thalassery, should reach The Director, Malabar Cancer Centre, Muzhikkara (PO), Thalassery-670103, Kerala, India on or before 30/07/2022. Application form and details are available in www.mcc.kerala.gov.in Sd/- Director, MCC.

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUTHI SOUDHA - VIJAYAWADA

NOTICE

It is bringing to the notice of Smt. Anees Sulthana Begum, AE/Elect O/o the Chief Engineer/Generation/Viduyuth Soudha/APGENCO that, an enquiry was initiated for her unauthorised absence to duty from 28.12.2013 onwards, and hearing notices have been issued vide Memo.No.SE/Enq./APGENCO/VS/ VJA/E02/2022, D.No. 24/22, Dt. 29.04.2022 & Memo.No.SE/Enq./APGENCO/VS/ VJA/E02/2022, D.No. 33/22, Dt. 24.05.2022 to attend the office of the Superintendent Engineer / Enquiries & E.O./APGENCO/3rd Floor/Viduyuth Soudha/Vijayawada at 11.00 A.M on 20.05.2022/14.06.2022 respectively. The said notices have been dispatched by Registered Post to the addresses given by her and those were returned undelivered by the postal authorities. Regarding hearing notices etc. you may visit our website, www.apgenco.gov.in Therefore, she is directed to attend the O/o Superintendent Engineer / Enquiries & E.O./APGENCO/3rd Floor/Viduyuth Soudha/Vijayawada, (Ph.No.0866-2526885, Cell No.9440907650) along with all supporting documents, information and orders, if any, in self-defense within 20 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case of failure to report within stipulated time, the enquiry will be proceeded with ex parte as per the material available on records.

Sd/- S.VISWESWARA RAO
SE/ENQUIRIES/VS/APGENCO

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Chief Engineer (SCM),
Vydyuthi Bhavanam Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram

E-Tender ID: 2022_KSEB_496410_1 PAC-Rs.6,96,35,467/- Last date: 20.07.2022 3.30pm
O/o the Chief Engineer, Transmission (North), Kozhikode

E-Tender ID: 2022_KSEB_495470_1 PAC-Rs.3,40,00,000/- Last date: 05.07.2022 03.00pm
O/o the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Thiruvananthapuram

E-Tender ID: 2022_KSEB_496484_1 PAC-Rs.2,20,76,221/- Last date: 14.07.2022 05.00pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in - Ref: FR/IMCI/E362/E-Tender/2022

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U05110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders through e-procurement portal mode are invited from the contractors/ agencies that are reputed individuals/ company and having past experience, for the following works at RTPS.

1) KPCL/2022-23/PM/WORK/INDENT 12529 for Repair and Re-conditioning of Stackler cum Reclaimer Boom Luffing Operation Hydraulic Cylinders in CHP2. Approx. amount put tender (incl. of GST): Rs. 19,47,000/-, EMD: Rs. 49,000/-.

2) KPCL/2022-23/PM/WORK/INDENT 12531 for Supply, Repair and Re-conditioning of wet Type Dust extraction systems installed at Primary Crusher, Secondary Crusher & Wagon Tippler area of CHP. Approx. amount put to tender (incl. of GST): Rs. 71,76,399/-, EMD: Rs. 14,35,000/-. Last date for submission of completed tender: 05.07.2022 up to 17.30 Hrs. Opening of Technical Bid: 07.07.2022 at 9.30 Hrs. Opening of Price bids of pre qualified tenderer: 07.07.2022 at 15.30 Hrs. The detailed notification in e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to GoK e-procurement website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (CHP) M-2, KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar - 584 170, Raichur Dist. Karnataka. Mobile: 82775 02856.

LOOK OUT NOTICE

The accused person in this photograph, Mukesh, Age.35, S/o Mani, Manthoni House, Pallavoor (PO), Palakkad, Kerala since 15/04/2022 and a case has been registered in this regard at Kottayam Police Station in Cr.145/2022 U/s 447, 341, 326, 307, 436, 427 IPC & 9 (B) 1 (b) Explosive Act & 27 of Arms Act and is being investigated. If any information received about the absconding accused person, kindly inform the following numbers.

Sub Divisional Officer, Alathur : 9497990096
Inspector of Police, Kottayam PS : 9497941933
Sub Inspector of Police, Kottayam PS : 9497980627
Kottayam Police Station : 04922-285501
Email.id : shoktypkd.pol@kerala.gov.in

Physical features:
Height 170cm, Weight: 70Kg, Fair Complexion, Black Hair.
RO/01605/F2/2022/I&PRD

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 12,13,14,15/SE/PHC/TSR/2022-23
Jal Jeevan Mission 2021-22 Augmentation of PRWS - Providing FHTCs in Kadavallur Panchayat (Phase III), Vallachira (Phase II), Vadakkkad Panchayat (Phase III) and Pariyaram Grama Panchayat (Phase II).

EMD : Rs. 500000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 17700/-, Last Date for submitting Tender : 16-07-2022, 03.00 pm. Phone : 0487-2423230.
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-429-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Thrissur

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Divisional Railway Manager (Stores) Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division invites E-Tenders for the supply of under mentioned stores for and on behalf of the President of India.

Tender No	Description of Stores	Quantity	Due date
93225453	NYLON RAIN SUIT SHIRT WITH CAP AND PANT. NYLON AS PER IDENTIFICATION OF TEXTILE FIBRE TO IS 667/1981 RA 2008. THICKNESS OF GAUGE IS 0.17MM TO 0.20MM. MASS OF BASIC FABRIC IS 60 TO 60 GSM, MASS OF PROOFED FABRIC IS 150GSM TO 160 GSM (TESTING AS PER IS 7016 PART -1/1982 RA 2003). BREAKING STRENGTH OF PROOFED FABRIC WARP 60 KGF WEFT 40KGF (TESTING AS PER IS 7016 PART - 2/1981 RA 2003). ZIPPER AT THE CENTRE OF SHIRT (POLYMERIC NON - RESTED) WITH EXTRA COVER ON ZIPPER. SPECIAL INNER TAPLING ALONG STITCHES FOR TOTAL WATER PROTECTION. COLOUR KHAKHI OR BROWN ONLY. SIZE OF RAIN COAT M-3, L-16, XL-411, XXL-1572, XXXL-240, XXXL-1Nos. Print - SOUTHERN RAILWAY-on the rear side of shirt with white colour of font size 30mm-Acceptable brands for PUMA or WILDCRAFT or DUCKBACK orA22 or ACME orNIKE orADIDAS	2243 Nos	21.07.2022
93225454	Leather safety Shoe as per IS Specification IS 15298(Part 2) Lo-Ankle Upper, Leather Toe - 2001 composite, Sole: PU Double Density Size & Nos 4 inches-44, 5 inches - 133, 6 inches - 265, 7 inches-479, 8 inches - 681, 9 inches - 397, 10 inches - 194, 11 inches -36, 12 inches-8, 13 inches-5. Acceptable brands are Allen Cooper, Bata, Acme, Woodland, Liberty or Reebok	2242 Pairs	21.07.2022

Tender closing and Opening Time : 21.07.2022 at 14.30 Hrs..
For further details, please refer to web portal www.ireps.gov.in> E-Tenders>Stores>View tenders.
Please note that only online tenders are accepted and tenders are to be digitally signed.

DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER / STORES
SOUTHERN RAILWAY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 014
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G7 vows support for Kyiv 'as long as it takes'

Zelensky urges leaders to help end the war before winter sets in, seeks further sanctions on Russia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ELMAU CASTLE

The Group of Seven most industrialised countries vowed enduring support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression, in a statement from its summit in southern Germany on Monday.

"We will continue to provide financial, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support and stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes," the G7 said.

After speaking with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for nearly two hours by video-link from Kyiv, G7 leaders issued a forceful message of solidarity with the embattled nation.

"As G7 we stand united on Ukraine's side and will continue our support. For this, we all have to take tough but necessary decisions," the summit's host, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz tweeted, thanking Mr. Zelensky for



Rescue workers trying to douse the blaze at a shopping mall hit by a Russian missile in Kremenchuk on Monday. • REUTERS

taking part.

"We will continue to increase pressure on Putin. This war has to come to an end."

'Food passage'

Addressing Russia, the G7 said Moscow must allow grain shipments to leave Ukraine to avoid exacerbating a

global food crisis.

"We urgently call on Russia to cease, without condition, its attacks on agricultural and transport infrastructure and enable free passage of agricultural shipping from Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea," it said.

The leaders also called for

'Missile strike on mall kills 10'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

A Russian missile strike on a crowded mall in the central Ukrainian city of Kremenchuk killed at least 10 people and injured more than 40 on Monday, a regional Governor said.

"Ten dead and more than 40 people have been injured," said Dmytro Lunin, the Governor of the Poltava region in Kremenchuk.

Moscow to allow Ukrainians taken to Russia against their will to return home at once.

"We demand that Russia immediately allow the safe return of Ukrainian nationals taken often with force to Russia without their consent," they said.

The club of rich nations expressed "serious concern"

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said "over a thousand civilians" were in the mall when the missiles struck the city.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's office condemned the Russian attack as "totally deplorable".

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the "world was horrified by the attack".

over Russia's plans to deliver missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads to Belarus.

Mr. Zelensky urged leaders to help end the war before winter sets in and conditions for his troops become tougher.

He also stressed the need to keep heaping "heavy" punitive action on Russia.

NATO to raise response force from 40,000 to 3 lakh troops

Its new strategic concept to focus on Russia and China

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS

NATO will increase the strength of its rapid reaction force nearly eightfold to 3,00,000 troops as part of its response to an "era of strategic competition," the military alliance's secretary-general said Monday.

The NATO reaction force currently numbers around 40,000 soldiers which can deploy quickly when needed.

Coupled with other measures including the deployment of forces to defend specific allies, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the move is part of the "biggest overhaul of collective defence and deterrence since the Cold War."

Mr. Stoltenberg made the remarks at a press conference ahead of a NATO sum-



Jens Stoltenberg

mit later this week in Madrid when the 30 allies are expected to also agree on further support to Ukraine in its war against Russia.

Mr. Stoltenberg said he expects allies to make clear they consider Russia "as the most significant and direct threat to our security."

In NATO's new strategic concept, the alliance is also expected to address for the

first time the security challenges posed by China, Mr. Stoltenberg said. In Madrid, allies will discuss how to respond to the growing influence of Russia and China in their "southern neighborhood," he added.

Mr. Stoltenberg said allies will agree to deliver further military support to Ukraine when they convene in Spain, with NATO members set to adopt a "strengthened comprehensive assistance package," including deliveries of secure communication and anti-drone systems.

Over the long term, Mr. Stoltenberg said allies aim to help Ukraine transition from Soviet-era armaments to modern NATO equipment.

Another central theme at the NATO summit will be the possibility for Finland and Sweden to join the alliance.

U.K. presses on with Brexit rules rewrite

The law would remove checks on goods entering N. Ireland from the rest of U.K.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Britain is ramping up a feud with the European Union by pressing on with a plan to rip up parts of the post-Brexit trade deal it signed with the bloc.

Legislation that rewrites trade rules for Northern Ireland is scheduled to get its first major House of Commons debate on Monday, the first step on what could be a rocky journey through Parliament.

The legislation, if approved by lawmakers, would remove checks on goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K., thereby scrapping parts of a trade

treaty that Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed before Britain left the EU in 2020.

Mr. Johnson said he thought the plan could be approved "fairly rapidly" if Parliament cooperates, and that the measures could become law by the end of the year.

'Businesses burdened'

"What we are trying to do is fix something that I think is very important to our country, which is the balance of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement," Mr. Johnson told reporters at the Group of Seven summit in Germany.

The British government

says the rules are burdening businesses and undermining peace in Northern Ireland. It argues the unilateral move is justified under international law because of the "genuinely exceptional situation."

Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis said on Sunday that the aim was to "fix," rather than throw out, the trade agreement, known as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Mr. Johnson's opponents, however, say the move is illegal and will shred Britain's international reputation. It is also causing concern among some of the prime minister's fellow Conservatives, already worried about Johnson's

judgment – and popularity – following a series of ethics scandals and two special election defeats.

EU slams move

The European Union has threatened to retaliate against the U.K. if it goes ahead with its plan to rewrite the rules of the post-Brexit deal, raising the specter of a trade war between the two major economic partners.

Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney said he was "hugely disappointed" that the U.K. government is still pursuing its "unlawful" approach to the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Iran, U.S. set to resume nuclear talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran and the U.S. plan to resume indirect talks this week in Qatar, in a fresh bid to revive the landmark 2015 nuclear deal, both sides said on Monday.

The talks will be separate from broader EU-mediated negotiations in Vienna between Iran and major powers, the bloc's top diplomat Josep Borrell.

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration has sought to return to the deal, saying it would be the best path ahead with the Islamic republic, although it has voiced growing pessimism in recent weeks.

Indian-origin man gunned down in U.S.

Second fatal attack in recent days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

A 31-year-old Indian-origin man was shot dead while sitting in a parked SUV down the street from his home in New York, according to media reports, days after an Indian national was killed after sustaining an apparent gunshot wound to his head in Maryland.

Satnam Singh was found sitting in the car at around 3:46 p.m. on Saturday in the South Ozone Park section of Queens with gunshot wounds in his neck and torso, the *New York Post* newspaper reported, quoting New York Police Depart-

ment as saying.

Mr. Singh was sitting in the vehicle borrowed from a friend when a gunman approached and started shooting, *New York Daily News* reported.

Mr. Singh was rushed to Jamaica Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

Although police said the gunman approached Mr. Singh on foot, neighbours said the shots came from a silver-coloured sedan with a black trunk as it passed the parked vehicle.

The shooting was caught on a resident's security camera.

Gas leak in Jordan kills 10, injures 250

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AMMAN

A poisonous gas leak in Jordan's southern port city of Aqaba on Monday killed at least 10 people and injured some 250, authorities said.

Video carried by state-run media outlets showed a crane hoisting a large tanker from a truck and then dropping it on the deck of a ship, causing an explosion of yellow smoke and sending dock workers racing away.

The Public Security Directorate said a gas tank sprung a leak while being transported. It did not identify the contents of the tanker.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

The Championships 2022: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 2nd Test, day 5, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
Ireland vs India: 2nd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 9 p.m.

Cech leaving Chelsea advisory role

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Former Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech will leave his role as technical and performance adviser at the Premier League club this week.

Cech's departure was announced Monday in the latest change under Chelsea's new ownership, which recently said sporting director Marina Granovskaia is also moving on.

"With the club under new ownership, I feel now is the right time for me to step aside," said Cech, who spent 11 seasons as a player at Stamford Bridge before taking the advisory role in 2019. I am pleased that the club is now in an excellent position with the new owners, and I am confident of its future success both on and off the pitch."

Todd Boehly, the American businessman who fronted the purchase of the club, said Cech is "important member of the Chelsea family" and "we wish him the best".



Cech. • GETTY IMAGES

England completes sweep

Buccaneering Bairstow and Root seal it in style

NZ IN ENGLAND

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LEEDS

Jonny Bairstow led England to a whitewash of Test world champion New Zealand with a stunning fifty on his Headingley home ground on Monday.

Bairstow made a blistering 71, including England's second quickest Test fifty of all time (30 balls), to follow a stunning 162 that helped revive the host from a first-innings collapse (55 for six).

Only outstanding all-rounder Ian Botham, with a 28-ball half-century against India at Delhi in 1981, had made a quicker Test fifty for England.

Winning stand

Former captain Joe Root, largely reduced to the role of a spectator by Bairstow, was 86 not out after sharing a partnership of 111 with his Yorkshire teammate, having started the day on 55

England, chasing a target of 296 for victory, finished on 296 for three to complete a 3-0 series clean sweep in their first campaign under new captain Ben Stokes and red-ball coach Brendon McCullum, a former New Zealand captain.

Rain washed out the morning session to leave England, 183 for two overnight, with a nominal 78 overs in which to score the remaining 113 runs it needed for victory.

But it took just 15.2 overs, scoring at a rapid rate of 7.43 an over, with Bairstow sealing victory in storybook style with a six off spinner Michael Bracewell.

Ollie Pope, 81 not out overnight, fell to the fifth ball of the day when bowled by a Tim Southee off-cutter to end a sparkling stand of 134 with Root.



Job done! Bairstow hoists Bracewell for a six to close out the third Test. • GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand — 1st innings: 329.

England — 1st innings: 360.

New Zealand — 2nd innings: Tom Latham c Bairstow b Overton 76, Will Young c Pope b Potts 8, Kane Williamson c Bairstow b Potts 48, Devon Conway c Pope b Root 11, Henry Nicholls c & b Leach 7, Daryl Mitchell lbw b Potts 56, Tom Blundell (not out) 88, Michael Bracewell c Crawley b Leach 9, Tim Southee b Leach 2, Neil Wagner c Billings b Leach 0, Trent Boult b Leach 4; Extras (b-9, lb-2, nb-2, w-4): 17; Total (in 105.2 overs): 326.

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-125, 3-152, 4-153, 5-161, 6-274, 7-291, 8-305, 9-305.

England bowling: Broad 24-7-63-0, Leach 32.2-12-66-5,

Potts 25-5-66-3, Overton 14-2-61-1, Stokes 4-0-30-0, Root 6-0-29-1

England — 2nd innings: Alex Lees run out 9, Zak Crawley c Williamson b Southee 25, Ollie Pope b Southee 82, Joe Root (not out) 86, Jonny Bairstow (not out) 71; Extras (b-9, lb-12, nb-2): 23; Total (for three wickets in 54.2 overs): 296.

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-51, 3-185.

New Zealand bowling: Boult 12-2-65-0, Southee 19-5-68-1, Bracewell 15.2-0-109-1, Wagner 8-2-33-0

England won by seven wickets in test series 3-0.

Player-of-the-match: Leach; **England player-of-the-series:** Root; **NZ player-of-the-series:** Mitchell.

Morgan likely to hang up his boots today

Buttler set to replace him as England skipper for white-ball series against India

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LEEDS

England's World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan is set to announce his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday after a career spanning 16 years during which he amassed over 10,000 runs across ODIs and T20Is.

According to a report in Sky Sports, the 35-year-old Dublin-born Morgan wanted to lead England at this year's T20 World Cup in Australia but he had a change of heart after struggling with his form and fitness in the last 18 months.

Morgan captained England in the first two ODI games against the Netherlands this month but failed to open his account on both the occasion. He subsequently missed the third game due to a groin niggle.

Vice-captain Jos Buttler is likely to replace him as England skipper and the upcoming white-ball series against India could be his first assignment.

Morgan made his debut for Ireland in 2006 but then after three years he switched his allegiance to England in 2009.

The elegant left-handed

batter has so far scored 7,701 runs from 248 ODIs, after making his debut against Scotland.

He also featured in 115 T20 matches, amassing 2,458 runs.

Morgan also featured in 16 Tests but managed to score only 700 runs and played his last Test in 2012 against Pakistan.

However, Morgan's legacy will be defined by his seven and a half year rein as England's limited-over captain during which the team rose to the No. 1 position in the world rankings in both ODI and T20 cricket.



Morgan. • AFP

Sri Lanka looks to maintain the stranglehold

Injury-hit Australia will have its hands full as two-Test series begins tomorrow

AUSTRALIA IN SL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE

Sri Lanka is looking to inflict more pain on injury-hit Australia when the first match of a two-Test series starts on what looks certain to be a turning wicket here on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka secured a stunning 3-2 victory in the One-Day International series last week and the hosts will be counting on a bowling attack packed with spinners.

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne will lead a side bolstered by the addition of Jeffrey Vandersay to the spin brigade of Lasith Embuldeniya, Praveen Jayawickrama and Ramesh Mendis.

The hosts bowled more than 40 overs of spin in the fourth ODI to clinch the 50-over series, giving a glimpse of what the Australian batsmen can expect to face in the longer format.

Sri Lanka whitewashed Australia in a three-Test se-



Reinforcement: Vandersay, seen with Chamika Karunaratne, left, gets a Test call-up to bolster the spin attack. • AFP

ries on its last visit in 2016, but Karunaratne warned that the visitors would have done their homework this time.

Lyon's take

Australia's premier spinner Nathan Lyon said he expected the wicket to turn from day one.

Lyon is likely to be partnered by leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson.

Middle-order batsman Travis Head is battling to recover from a hamstring injury suffered in the ODIs, meaning a possible recall for explosive batting all-rounder Glenn Maxwell, who can bowl off-spin.

Maxwell has so often been a star of the white-ball side but he has played just seven Tests since his debut in 2013, with the last in Bangladesh almost five years ago.

Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar also remains doubtful, but Mitchell Starc and Steve Smith are both expected to be passed fit for the opener.

Led by Pat Cummins, Australia will take confidence into Galle, as it looks to avenge that 2016 drubbing, having won a three-Test series in Pakistan 1-0 earlier this year.

The squads (from):

Sri Lanka: Dimuth Karunaratne (Capt.), Pathum Nissanka, Oshada Fernando, Angelo Mathews, Kusal Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva, Kamindu Mendis, Niroshan Dickwella, Dinesh Chandimal, Ramesh Mendis, Chamika Karunaratne, Kasun Rajitha, Vishwa Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka, Praveen Jayawickrama, Lasith Embuldeniya and Jeffrey Vandersay.

Australia: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Ashton Agar, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson and David Warner.

Men in Blue coast to seven-wicket win

Hooda stays the course as Ireland puts up a spirited fight in a rain-hit contest reduced to 12 overs

INDIA IN IRELAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALAHIDE

India proved too strong for a spirited Ireland, winning the rain-hit opening Twenty20 International by seven wickets here on Sunday.

Harry Tector's counter-attacking 64 not out off 33 balls took Ireland to 108 for four after rain reduced the game to 12 overs a side.

Always ahead

India was always ahead of the run rate and with contributions from Ishan Kishan (26 off 11), Deepak Hooda (47 not out off 29) and skipper Hardik Pandya (24 off 12), cruised home in 9.2 overs.

The first over of India's chase went for 15 runs as Kishan collected a couple of fours and a six off Joshua Little. In a rather surprising move, Deepak Hooda opened in place of Rituraj Gaikwad.

He found his rhythm after a scratchy start and put up a match-winning 64-run stand with Hardik. Just when it seemed Indian was running away with the match, Craig Young got rid of Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav (0) off successive deliveries.

Double blow

Kishan's stumps were rattled in another attempt to get a full ball out of the park. Returning to the side after an injury break, Suryakumar got a beauty first up that seemed back to trap him in front.

However, Hardik and Hooda kept going for their strokes and a 21-run over from Andy McBrine put In-



Firm control: Chahal kept things tight with a miserly spell and the wicket of hard-hitter Tucker. • TWITTER/CRICKET IRELAND

Rituraj had a niggle in his calf. We had the choice of taking a risk and sending him in [to open the innings], but I was not okay with it

—HARDIK

dia back in control.

While Hardik departed after hitting three sixes, Hooda stayed till the end to hit the winning four. His innings comprised two sixes and six fours.

Earlier, India opted to bowl in overcast conditions but soon the rain arrived, delaying the start by two hours and 20 minutes. Bhuvneshwar Kumar got the ball to swing both ways before an in-swinger breached skipper Andrew Balbirnie's defence.

Hardik came on in the second over and took two balls

to dismiss the dangerous Paul Stirling. After hitting the first ball over cover, Stirling went for the same shot but mistimed to be caught at mid-off.

Avesh Khan then had Gareth Delany caught behind in his first over to leave Ireland at 22 for three. Ireland, ho-

wever, staged a spirited recovery through Tector, who went on the offensive.

Nervy Umran

All eyes were on Umran Malik but he had a rather nervous start to his international career. He dragged his third ball down the leg side

and it raced to the boundary off Lorcan Tucker's (18 off 16) pads. Two balls later, Tector played a beautiful straight drive off a full delivery.

Umran pitched the next one short but Hector was ready to pull it for a six. Tucker smashed two successive sixes off Hardik.

SCOREBOARD

IRELAND
Paul Stirling c Hooda b Hardik 4 (5b, 1x4), Andrew Balbirnie b Bhuvneshwar 0 (2b), Gareth Delany c Karthik b Avesh 8 (9b, 1x4), Harry Tector (not out) 64 (33b, 6x4, 3x6), Lorcan Tucker c Axar b Chahal 18 (16b, 2x6), George Dockrell (not out) 4 (7b); Extras (lb-7, w-3): 10; Total (for four wkts. in 12 overs): 108.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-1 (Balbirnie, 0.5 overs), 2-6 (Stirling, 1.2), 3-22 (Delany,

3.5), 4-72 (Tucker, 8.4).
INDIA BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 3-1-16-1, Hardik 2-0-26-1, Avesh 2-0-22-1, Axar 1-0-12-0, Umran 1-0-14-0, Chahal 3-0-11-1.

INDIA
Deepak Hooda (not out) 47 (29b, 6x4, 2x6), Ishan Kishan b Young 26 (11b, 3x4, 2x6), Suryakumar Yadav lbw b Young 0 (7b), Hardik Pandya lbw b Little 24 (12b, 1x4, 3x6), Dinesh Karthik (not out) 5 (4b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-7): 9; Total

(for three wkts. in 9.2 overs): 111.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-30 (Kishan, 2.4), 2-30 (Suryakumar, 2.5), 3-94 (Hardik, 7.6).

IRELAND BOWLING
Little 2-2-0-39-1, Adair 2-0-14-0, Young 2-0-18-2, McBrine 1-0-21-0, Olphert 2-0-18-0.
Toss: India; **Player-of-the-Match:** Chahal; **India won by seven wickets with 16 balls remaining; Second T20I:** June 28, Malahide.

Roach puts Bangladesh on the mat

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GROS-ISLET (ST. LUCIA)

Kemar Roach became the sixth West Indian to claim 250 Test wickets as he put his team on course for victory on the third day of the second Test on Sunday.

Roach's three wickets reduced the visitors to 132 for six in their second innings. Wet ground conditions prevented play in the first two sessions on Monday.

The scores: Bangladesh 234 & 132/6 in 36 overs (Najmul Hossain 42; Kemar Roach 3/32) vs West Indies 408 in 126.3 overs (Kraigg Brathwaite 51, John Campbell 45, Jermaine Blackwood 40, Kyle Mayers 146; Khaled Ahmed 5/106, Mehidy Hasan 3/91).

We've ticked all the boxes, says Dravid

Coach satisfied with India's preparation; Mayank called up as cover for Rohit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LEICESTER

India ticked all the required boxes during the four-day practice match against Leicestershire and will look to hit the ground running when it faces England in the rescheduled one-off Test beginning on Friday, said head coach Rahul Dravid.

Batters come good

Shreyas Iyer, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja all struck fifties during the drawn game.

"I think whatever we needed to achieve and whatever boxes we needed to tick in terms of our preparation leading into the Test



Right frame of mind: The warm-up game gave the Indians the opportunity to check their state of preparedness. • REUTERS

match on Friday, I think we are very satisfied and happy, we have been able to do that this week," Dravid said in a video posted by Leicester-

shire Foxes on Twitter. Asked about the challenges of playing in English conditions, Dravid said: "When you have got just one game

or one-off game in a series, it's not really a lot of time, you've got to hit the ground running hard and you've got to be able to hopefully get your act together right from the first day of the Test."

Meanwhile, opener Mayank Agarwal has been called up to join the India squad in England as cover for skipper Rohit Sharma, who is doubtful for the Edgbaston Test after testing positive for COVID-19.

"Mayank is flying out as cover for Rohit and if need be will be available for the Test as UK COVID protocols don't require any quarantine period on landing if RT-PCR test is negative," a BCCI source said.



Mission accomplished: The Indian women's team with the trophy after clinching the series 2-1. • TWITTER/BCCIWOMEN

Athapaththu denies India

SL skipper's 48-ball 80 gives the hosts a consolation win

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DAMBULLA

Skipper Chamari Athapaththu struck a counter-attacking 48-ball 80 as Sri Lanka outplayed India by seven wickets in the third and final T20I to avoid a whitewash here on Monday.

The 32-year-old Athapaththu smashed 14 boundaries and one six and became the only player from the island nation to get to the 2000-run mark in T20Is.

Tillakaratne Dilshan (1889) is the highest run-scorer among the men cricketers from Sri Lanka.

Chasing 139 to avoid a clean sweep by the Indians, Sri Lanka reached the target with three overs to spare.

The three-match T20I series thus ended 2-1 in favour of India, who stuttered after opting to bat before skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's 39 not out (33b, 3x4, 1x6) propped up the total to 138 for five.

Sri Lanka lost Vishmi Gunaratne (5) in the first over, but Harshitha Samarawickrama (13) gave support to Chamari in the powerplay before falling to Radha Yadav in the fifth over.

Nilakshi de Silva (30 off 28 balls) joined hands with Chamari as the skipper cruised to a 29-ball fifty – the fastest for Sri Lanka women's T20I.

Chamari got a reprieve on 42 when Jemimah Rodrigues

missed a running catch in the midwicket boundary. She soon slammed back-to-back fours en route to her fifth T20I fifty.

With Chamari looking furious, Sri Lanka just needed 18 runs in the final five overs and it did it without much ado to seal their first T20 win against India at home.

Earlier, India stuttered in the middle overs after Smriti Mandhana (22, 21b, 3x4) and S. Meghana (22, 26b, 3x4) departed in successive overs to leave the visitors reeling at 51 for three.

The duo looked well in control during its 41-run se-

cond wicket partnership after Shafali Verma (5) fell in the opening over but run-rate dried up as the hosts bounced back.

There was a lull in the middle when India failed to get a boundary in 38 deliveries with Harmanpreet and Jemimah Rodrigues struggling to get going.

They finally broke the shackles in the 13th over as Jemimah showed her attacking intent in her 30-ball 33.

After Jemimah's departure, Harmanpreet took charge and along with Pooja Vastrakar scored 49 runs in the final five overs.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Smriti Mandhana c Nilakshi b Ranasinghe 22 (21b, 3x4), Shafali Verma c Athapaththu b Sugandika 5 (4b, 1x4), S. Meghana c Athapaththu b Ranaweera 22 (26b, 3x4), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 39 (33b, 3x4, 1x6), Jemimah Rodrigues c Vishmi b Kanchana 33 (30b, 3x4), Pooja Vastrakar run out 13 (6b, 2x4); Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 138.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-7 (Shafali, 0.6 overs), 2-48 (Smriti, 7.4), 3-51 (Meghana, 8.5), 4-115 (Jemimah, 18.1), 5-138 (Pooja, 19.6).

SRI LANKA BOWLING
Sugandika 4-0-28-1, Kanchana 4-0-22-1, Ranasinghe 3-0-13-1, Ranaweera 4-0-31-1, Dilhari 3-0-22-0, Athapaththu 2-0-21-0.

SRI LANKA
Vishmi Gunaratne c Harman-

preet b Renuka 5 (5b, 1x4), Chamari Athapaththu (not out) 80 (48b, 14x4, 1x6), Harshitha Samarawickrama c Smriti b Radha 13 (14b, 2x4), Nilakshi de Silva run out 30 (28b, 4x4), Kavisha Dilhari (not out) 7 (7b); Extras (lb-1, w-5): 6; Total (for three wkts. in 17 overs): 141.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-6 (Vishmi, 0.6), 2-37 (Harshitha, 4.5), 3-114 (Nilakshi, 14.2).

INDIA BOWLING
Renuka 4-0-27-1, Deepti 3-0-26-0, Radha 4-0-41-1, Pooja 1-0-9-0, Harmanpreet 2-0-13-0, Simran 2-0-20-0, Shafali 1-0-4-0.

Toss: India; **Player-of-the-match:** Athapaththu; **Player-of-the-series:** Harmanpreet.

Sri Lanka won by seven wickets with 18 deliveries to spare. Next match: First ODI: July 1, Pallekele, 10 a.m.

Shafali's bowling, Yastika's 'keeping give team more options, says Powar

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

India may have struggled to put runs on the board against Sri Lanka in the T20I series, which concluded with a comprehensive defeat in the third match at Dambulla on Monday, but coach Ramesh Powar believes the batting is on the right track.

"The wickets were slow and we were not expecting too many high-scoring games," he said.

"(If we look at the way Harmanpreet, Jemimah, Shafali and Smriti have batted, we are on the right track as far as batting is concerned."

The coach thinks Yastika Bhatia keeping wicket and Shafali bowling give the team more options. "They open up the options to play more all-rounders in the team," he said.

"We are trying to create players we could use in par-

ticular situations or tours."

Looking back at the positives from the series, which India won 2-1, Powar said he could see that the players grew individually.

"And the fitness has gone up a little," he said.

Winning habit

"Winning a series is important and a winning habit is important... hopefully, we will carry this momentum forward in the coming days."

Djokovic drops a set against Kwon; Jabeur cruises home

Alcaraz taken the distance by Struff; Davidovich Fokina packs off seventh seed Hurkacz; Raducanu returns in style



REUTERS
LONDON

Defending champion Novak Djokovic became the first player to win 80 or more matches at all four Grand Slams while teenage star Carlos Alcaraz battled over five sets to make the second round at Wimbledon on Monday.

Six-time champion and top seed Djokovic saw off South Korea's Kwon Soo-woo 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. But 20-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic was made to work after falling a break down in the opening two sets against his 81st-ranked opponent – losing the second of those.

"Now we have got to 80 wins, let's get to 100," said Djokovic.

Alcaraz, a potential quarter-final opponent for Djokovic, came back from two sets to one down to defeat Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff. The 19-year-old fired 30 aces



Tough day in office: Djokovic was stretched by Kwon before winning in four. • AFP

and 73 winners in a dazzling display of shot-making to win 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6(7), 6-4.

"Last year, I played five sets in the first round here as well so this shows how much I like grass," joked Alcaraz.

John Isner fired 54 aces and 97 winners to beat French qualifier Enzo Couacaud 6-7(6), 7-6(3), 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. Marin Cilic, the 2017 runner-up, withdrew before hitting a ball due to illness.

Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina knocked out 2021 semifinalist Hubert Hur-

kacz, courtesy the tournament's first final-set 10-point tiebreak. Davidovich Fokina triumphed over the seventh-seeded Pole 7-6(4), 6-4, 5-7, 2-6, 7-6(10-8) in a match interrupted twice by rain.

Around two hours of play was lost during the day due to a downpour – and 10 matches cancelled – but that did not faze new women's World No. 2 Ons Jabeur.

The Tunisian, a quarter-finalist in 2021, eased past Swedish qualifier Mirjam Bjorklund 6-1, 6-3 in just 54

minutes. World No. 3 Anett Kontaveit began her bid to reach the second week for the first time with a 7-5, 6-1 win against Bernarda Pera of the United States.

U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu beat Alison Van Uytvanck 6-4, 6-4, much to the delight of a partisan home crowd on Centre Court.

"It's an incredibly special feeling to be back at Wimbledon," said the British No. 1, who reached the fourth round last year.

Day in numbers

3 Davidovich Fokina registered his third career win against a top-10 opponent, his first two coming against Berrettini (2021) and Djokovic (2022), both at the Monte Carlo Masters

50 Isner hit 50-plus aces in a Grand Slam match yet again. The American had served 52 aces in the U.S. Open first round in 2020

80 Djokovic is the first player – man or woman – in the Open era with 80 or more main draw wins in all four Grand Slams (85 at Roland Garros, 82 at Australian Open, 81 at U.S. Open and 80 at Wimbledon)

Tuesday's picks

MEN

2-Nadal vs Cerundolo
4-Tsitsipas vs Ritschard
8-Berrettini vs Garin

WOMEN

16-Halep vs Muchova
Serena vs Tan

THE RESULTS

First round: Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt Kwon (Kor) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 9-Norrie (GBR) bt Andujar (Esp) 6-0, 7-6(3), 6-3; 3-Ruud (Nor) bt Ramos-Vinolas (Esp) 7-6(1), 7-6(9), 6-2; 22-Basilashvili (Geo) bt Rosol (Cze) 6-7(4), 7-6(6), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

23-Tiafoe (USA) bt Vavassori (Ita) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 30-Paul (USA) bt Verdasco (Esp) 6-1, 6-2, 7-6(4); 20-Isner (USA) bt Couacaud (Fra) 6-7(6), 7-6(3), 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; 5-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Struff (Ger) 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6(3), 6-4; Davidovich Fokina (Esp) bt Hurkacz (Pol) 7-6(4), 6-4, 5-7, 2-6, 7-6(10-8).

Women: 2-Kontaveit (Est) bt Pera (USA) 7-5, 6-1; 28-Riske (USA) bt In-Albon (Sui) 6-2, 6-4;

Fallen seeds

Men: 7-Hurkacz

Women: 22-Trevisan, 23-Haddad Maia, 31-Kanepi

3-Jabeur (Tun) bt Bjorklund (Swe) 6-1, 6-3; 26-Cirstea (Rou) bt Krunich (Srb) 7-6(5), 7-6(1).
Cocciaretto (Ita) bt 22-Trevisan (Ita) 6-2, 6-0; Juvan (Slo) bt 23-Haddad Maia (Bra) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; 29-Kalinina (Ukr) bt Bondar (Hun) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

10-Emma Raducanu (GBR) bt Van Uytvanck (Bel) 6-4, 6-4; 24-Mertens (Bel) bt Osorio (Col) 1-6, 6-2, 4-2, ret.; Parry (Fra) bt 31-Kanepi (Est) 6-4, 6-4.

South Sports Conclave in Chennai today



SPORTS BUREAU

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will deliver the keynote address at Sportstar's first-ever South Sports Conclave on Tuesday in Chennai, where a host of speakers will discuss key issues pertaining to the sports ecosystem in the region.

The full-day conclave will have different segments, including a panel discussion on private-public partnerships for promotion of sports.

Former BCCI president and Chennai Super Kings owner N. Srinivasan will give an insight into the journey IPL champion's fortune. Viswanathan Anand will be in conversation with coach R.B. Ramesh on the strong bond between chess

and Chennai.

Mithali Raj will lead a panel discussion on how to encourage girls to play sports in schools and communities.

There will also be a panel discussion comprising former Australian cricketer Glenn McGrath and former India bowling coach B. Arun who will speak on the role of high-performance centres in sports.

The Conclave will be held in association with Hero We Care, a Hero Motocorp CSR Initiative, K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management, JK Tyre, FIITJEE Global School, Indian Oil, Nippon Paint and Casagrand. Readers can follow the Conclave live on the Sportstar website www.sportstar.thehindu.com

IN BRIEF



South Korea's Chun wins WPGA Championship

BETHESDA (USA) South Korea's Chun In-gee captured her third Major title on Sunday, winning the Women's PGA Championship and snapping a four-year victory drought. The 27-year-old finished on five-under 283 for a one-stroke triumph over American Lexi Thompson and Australian Minjee Lee. AFP



Schauffele emerges champion at Travelers

NEW YORK Tokyo Olympic champion Xander Schauffele birdied the final hole on Sunday to win the Travelers Championship, holding off Sahith Theegala for his sixth career USPGA Tour title. The 28-year-old American finished on 19-under 261, two strokes ahead of compatriots Theegala and J.T. Poston. AFP



Wolff latest to leave PGA for LIV Golf

WASHINGTON World No. 77 Matthew Wolff, a 23-year-old American, is the latest player to leave the USPGA Tour for the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series, according to reports on Sunday. Wolff, who won his only USPGA title at the 2019 3M Open, was the 2020 US Open runner-up and shared fourth in the 2020 PGA Championship. AFP

Sindhu will be keen to make amends

Prannoy eyes another consistent show, desperate to end title drought

MALAYSIAN OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KUALA LUMPUR P.V. Sindhu will look to quickly recover from her first-round exit at the Indonesia Open Super 1000, while H.S. Prannoy will eye another consistent show as the duo spearheads the Indian challenge at the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament starting here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, lost in the opening round to China's He Bingjiao in Indonesia and will have to put behind her that defeat when she begins her campaign against Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand. Sindhu enjoys a 5-3 head-to-head record against Pornpawee.

Saina back

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal is in the same half of the draw and will open against USA's



Good to go: Sindhu at a practice session in Kuala Lumpur on Monday. • AP

Iris Wang. A win will put her face-to-face with Japanese sixth seed Nozomi Okuhara, a former world champion.

Saina had skipped the Indonesia leg to manage her workload and will look to put up a good show against

Wang, whom she had defeated in three games the only time they met last year at the Orleans Masters.

Prannoy has been consistent, with a series of quarter-finals since the World Championships last year. Prannoy,

desperate to end a five-year title drought, will be pitted against Malaysian veteran Daren Liew.

Among others, Tokyo Olympian B. Sai Praneeeth will be up against sixth-seeded Indonesian Anthony Sini-

suka Ginting, while Sameer Verma takes on another Indonesian Jonata Christie, seeded seventh.

Former Commonwealth Games gold medallist P. Kashyap, returning from injury, will meet Korea's Heo Kwang Hee.

Satwik-Chirag fit again

The World No. 8 pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will also be back in action after skipping the last two events due to fitness issues.

The duo will open against Malaysia's Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee.

In mixed doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and B. Sumeth Reddy, who are part of India's Commonwealth Games squad, will take on the Netherlands' Robin Tabeling and Selena Piek.

Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan will square off against Korea's Kim Won Ho and Jeong Na Eun.

Wellbrock is 5km open water champ

SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE BUDAPEST German Florian Wellbrock won his first individual title of the 2022 World Championships in the men's 5km open water event on Monday, with Brazil's Ana Marcela Cunha winning the women's race for the second time.

The reigning 10km Olympic champion completed the course in Lake Balaton in 52 minutes and 48.80 seconds to beat Italian Gregorio Paltrinieri by 3.90s. Mykhailo Romanchuk won his Ukraine's second medal of the championships by taking bronze.

It was Wellbrock's third world title after his 10km



Making a mark: Wellbrock completed the race in 52 minutes and 48.80 seconds. • REUTERS

and 1500m freestyle successes three years ago in Gwangju. The 24-year-old had taken silver in the 800m and 1500m freestyle races last week.

Cunha, Olympic champion over 10km, pipped France's Aurelie Muller by 0.90s. It was the sixth world title for the 30-year-old Brazilian, a four-time gold me-

dallist over 25km, who also won the 5km race in 2019. The results: Men: 5km open water: 1. Florian Wellbrock (Ger) 52:48.80s; 2. Gregorio Paltrinieri (Ita) 52:52.70s; 3. Mykhailo Romanchuk (Ukr) 53:13.90s.

Women: 5km open water: 1. Ana Marcela Cunha (Bra) 57:52.90s; 2. Aurelie Muller (Fra) 57:53.80s; 3. Giulia Gabrielleschi (Ita) 57:54.90s.

Daley 'furious' over transgender ruling

REUTERS

LONDON Olympic diving champion Tom Daley said he is "furious" at governing body FINA's decision to restrict the participation of transgender athletes in elite women's competitions.

Daley, who came out as gay in 2013, was recently speaking at the British LGBT Awards, where he was named Sports Personality of the Year after winning gold in the 10 metre synchronised platform diving event at the Tokyo Olympics.

Transgender rights has become a major talking point as sports seek to balance inclusivity while en-

suring there is no unfair advantage.

"I was furious," he said of FINA's decision, which bans athletes who have been through any part of male puberty from elite women's competition.

FINA also said it would create a working group to establish an "open" category for transgender athletes as part of its new policy, which covers events in swimming, diving, water polo, artistic swimming, high diving and open water swimming.

Former Olympic medalist Sharron Davies said FINA was "standing up for fair sport for females".

Sreeshankar forced to pull out of Stockholm Diamond League

Passport held up at the U.S. Embassy

STAN RAYAN KOCHI

With his passport held up at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi for visa processing for next month's World Championships at Oregon, long jumper M. Sreeshankar has been forced to pull out of the June 30th Diamond League in Stockholm.

"I had my visa interview done today. They had promised to give my passport this evening and I was planning to leave for Stockholm by Tuesday's 3 a.m. flight," Sreeshankar told *The Hindu* from Delhi on Monday night.

"But later, I got information that it would



Sreeshankar. • FILE PHOTO

be delayed and that we would know the position only by 2 or 3 p.m. on Tuesday. So, I have to drop the Stockholm Diamond League. I have now informed the meet directors that we (Sreeshankar and his

dad-cum-coach S. Murali) won't be able to make it.

"This would have been a nice build-up for the Worlds. I had bought all my luggage for Stockholm here. But if we go for an event like the Diamond League with travel fatigue, it could lead to injuries. We have a good chance at the Worlds, so now we have decided to focus directly on that."

Sreeshankar, who was supposed to compete against the Olympic champion Miltiadis Tentoglou in Stockholm, said the Sports Ministry, SAI and the AFI had tried their best to help him get the passport on time.

Men's team returns to National camp

Chief coach Reid eyes good CWG show

ANI BENGALURU

After an impressive outing in Europe where India lived up to its billing against Belgium and the Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League, the team is back at the National camp which began at the SAI Centre here on Monday.

Hockey India named 31 players for the camp which will conclude on July 23, ahead of the team's departure for the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Birmingham. The squad, led by Manpreet Singh, is scheduled to begin its campaign on July 31 against Ghana.

Grouped in Pool-B, India will take on host England, Canada and Wales in the

round-robin league.

Chief coach Graham Reid said: "The players got a six-day break to go spend time with their families after the FIH Pro League in Europe. I believe this break has helped the players both mentally and physically. In the next three weeks, we will focus on improving our performance.

Areas to improve

"I have recognised a few areas where we can do better and be consistent at. This is something we will work on in the upcoming weeks. CWG is a mega-event with world ranking points at stake. We will eye a good show in Birmingham," added an optimistic Reid.

Karman faces Sahaja in opener again

ITF WOMEN'S

KAMESH SRINIVASAN GURUGRAM

Champion of the last tournament Karman Kaur Thandi will have the same opponent for the first round, Sahaja Yamalappalli, in the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis to be played at the Tennis Project, Baliawas, from Tuesday.

Sahaja had stretched Karman to three sets and possibly prepared her well for the challenges ahead in the last tournament at the same venue.

It will be interesting to see how the two handle the challenge.

Karman figures in the top quarter and could face top seed Diana Marcinkevica of Latvia, if both progress that far. Rutuja Bhosale joins the event as the sixth seed and will play a qualifier in the first round.

Ankita Raina is the second seed and will have a qualifier in the first round. After being beaten by Vaidehi Chaudhari in the first round last week, Ankita has been training well and is better prepared for the second event.

Last week's runner-up, world No. 3 junior Sofia Costoulas of Belgium is in the fourth quarter, in which the two Thais, Luksika Kumkhum and Puninn Kovapitukted face each other in the first round.

The four wild cards were given to Ananyaa Bhargava, Vineetha Mummadi, Kashish Bhatia and Yubarani Banerjee.

The hot and humid conditions took its toll. Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, a quarterfinalist last week, could not recover from her illness and withdrew from the second event. Nidhi Chilumula could not play her second

qualifying round on Monday, and gave a walkover to Sanjana Sirimalla.

Overall, players will need a strong game, sound fitness and the ability to tackle the situation to make progress.

The seedings: 1. Diana Marcinkevica (Lat), 2. Ankita Raina, 3. Viktoriya Morvayova (Svk), 4. Ekaterina Yashina (Rus), 5. Luksika Kumkhum (Tha), 6. Rutuja Bhosale, 7. Misaki Matsuda (Jpn), 8. Karman Kaur Thandi.

The results: Qualifying singles (second round): Sahira Singh bt Apurav Venuri 6-4, 6-1; Ishwari Matere bt Mansi Vadyala (US) 6-2, 3-2 (retired); Farhat Aleen Qamar bt Vanshita Pathania 6-2, 4-6, [10-3]; Anjali Rathii bt Bela Tamhankar 6-4, 6-4; Elena Pridankina (Rus) bt Joell Nichole 6-2, 6-1; Prathiba Narayan bt Sachi Sharma 6-2, 7-6(2); Shreya Tatavarthy t Siri Patil 6-1, 6-1; Suhitha Maruri bt Shria Atturu (US) 6-1 (retired); Sanjana Sirimalla w.o. Nidhi Chilumula; Himaanshika Singh bt Jagmeet Kaur Grewal 7-6(3), 1-0 (retired); Ikumi Yamazaki (Jpn) bt Arthi Muniyan 6-1, 6-2.

DELHI ROUND-UP

Yash Bhatia blazes away

Delhi Under-19 batsman Yash Bhatia smashed 167 runs as Kranti Star Club beat Young Friends Club by 62 runs in the DDCA Under-19 league. In other games, Keshav Mehta's 112 runs and three wickets each by Bhavesh Vats and Yuvraj Rathi helped Gush Club beat Malviya Club by 303 runs, half-centuries by Yashraj and Daksh saw KG Colts beat Delhi Wonders by seven wickets.

Ishan Chopra's half-century helped Pusa Youngsters beat Delhi Gymkhana by seven wickets.

Also, Shashank Gupta's 68 and Aditya Chandel's three for 34 helped Mishra Sports beat Delhi Blues by five wickets, four wickets by Hari Prasad helped Ekta Club beat Darling CC by 115 runs and a century by Sushant saw Paragon CC beat Roop Nagar by five wickets.

The scores: KSC 325/7 in 50 overs (Yash

Bhatia 167, Rajveer Singh 56) bt YFC 263/8 in 50 overs (Arif Akhtar 60, Sandeep Yogi 51). Gush Club 377/6 in 50 overs (Keshav Mehta 112, Karan Garg 81, Rishi Pal 3/91) bt Malviya Club 74 in 21 overs (Bhavesh Vats 3/6, Yuvraj Rathi 3/27). Delhi Wonders 255/7 in 50 overs (Ayush Kumar 89 n.o., Yash Rana 42) lost to KGC 258/3 in 47 overs (Yashraj 94, Daksh 66, Dhushyant 48). Delhi Gymkhana 149 in 31 overs (Sonu Sharma 3/28) lost to Pusa Youngsters 155/3 in 22 overs (Ishan Chopra 50, Shaurya Pratap 44).

Delhi Blues 186/8 in 50 overs (Mritunjay Tiwari 50, Manish Yadav 50, Aditya Chandel 3/34) lost to Mishra Sports 187/5 in 41 overs (Shashank Gupta 68). Ekta Club 305/4 in 50 overs (Umang Rohilla 53, Ayush Kumar 51) bt Darling CC 190 in 48 overs (Sambhav Goyal 65, Hari Prasad 4/58). Roop Nagar 253 in 40 overs (Ujjwal Kapoor 72) lost to Paragon CC 257/5 in 39 overs (Sushant 138, Divyansh 3/37).

Sporting Club posts win

Man-of-the-Match Lalit Yadav scored an unbeaten 43-ball 92 and Pradeep Sangwan made 61 as Sporting Club beat RV Sports by 12 runs in the third Bhrm Singh Gurjar memorial tournament.

The scores: Sporting Club 213/3 in 20 overs (Lalit Yadav 92 n.o., Pradeep Sangwan 61) bt RVS 201/8 in 20 overs (Gaurav Kumar 66, Deepak Kumar 4/38).

Sohrab, Sandeep help Sapience CC lift title

Sohrab Dhaliwal picked up six wickets for just 28 runs and Sandeep Tomar made a 55-ball 101 not out as Sapience Cricket Club beat Ambika Amsterdam by 74 runs and won the first all-India RV Sports tournament.

Bharat Sharma was named best batsman, Vijay Bhardwaj best bowler and

Saurabh Dhariwal best all-rounder of the tournament.

The scores: SCC 366/5 in 40 overs (Sandeep Tomar 101 n.o., Bharat Sharma 76, Kuldeep Devatwal 64) bt Ambika Amsterdam 292 in 36 overs (Bhagvender 81, Rahul Dagar 48, Pradeep Malik 47, Sohrab Dhaliwal 6/28, Vineet Sharma 3/39).

Big win for Nav Bharti CA

Damanjeet Singh's 95 runs, Aditya Kataria's 90 not out and Purne Shreshtha's 88 not out helped Nav Bharti Cricket Academy beat Indraprastha Cricket Academy by 103 runs in the fourth Vijay Saini tournament.

The scores: NBCA 339/6 in 40 overs (Damanjeet Singh 95, Aditya Kataria 90 n.o., Purne Shreshtha 88 n.o.) bt ICA 236 in 39 overs (Lakshay Dubey 37, Viren Chadha 36, Aaron Taneja 35, Vansh Saini 3/28).

Jackson runs third-fastest 200m

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE KINGSTON

Shericka Jackson delivered on her promise to produce something special in the women's 200m with a world-leading 21.55s on Sunday's final day of the Jamaican National athletics championships as track stars produced the third-fastest event ever at the world team trials, with Jackson completing the 100-200 sprint double impressively.

Jackson surprised herself with a 200m performance that trails only US legend Florence Griffith-Joyner's 34-year-old 21.34s and the Jamaican record 21.53s by Elaine Thompson-Herah at last year's Olympics. Olympic champion Thompson-Herah was second in 22.05s with Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce third in 22.14s.

Top performers in Ranji season 2021-22

Batting	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Sarfaraz Khan (Mumbai)	6	9	982	275	122.75	4/2
Rajat Patidar (MP)	6	9	658	142	82.25	2/5
Chetan Bist (Nagaland)	4	6	623	155*	311.50	5/0
Yash Dubey (MP)	6	10	614	289	76.75	2/1
Shubham Sharma (MP)	6	9	608	116	76.00	4/1



Bowling	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	SR	SWI/10WIM
Shams Mulani (Mumbai)	6	11	45	7/114	34.5	6/2
Kumar Kartikeya (MP)	6	11	32	6/50	55.4	3/0
Shahbaz Nadeem (Jharkhand)	5	9	25	5/58	56.6	3/1
Gaurav Yadav (MP)	5	10	23	5/11	33.1	1/0
Satyajeet Bachhav (Maharashtra)	3	5	21	7/45	36.9	2/1

The coveted one: The Madhya Pradesh players are gung-ho after winning their maiden Ranji title. • K. MURALI KUMAR



Pogacar given familiar support cast

Cavendish, Alaphilippe miss out



Favourite: Tadej Pogacar will hope to clinch his third straight title. • AFP

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE PARIS

Tadej Pogacar will begin his bid for a third straight Tour de France title later this week alongside four of the same teammates who helped him to last year's yellow jersey.

On Monday, the Slovenian was named in the UAE Team Emirates line-up for the race, which gets underway in Copenhagen on Friday.

Switzerland's Marc Hirschi was a notable omission, but Polish climber Rafal Majka, Mikkel Bjerg, Brandon McNulty and Vegard Stake Laengen all made the cut.

New Zealander George Bennett and Spain's Marc Soler, both signed in the off-season, are in the team, as is Italian sprinter Matteo Trentin.

"We've worked very hard all year as a team to prepare for this," said the 23-year-old Pogacar. "So far this year has been positive for the team and we hope to continue this momentum."

Impressive season

Pogacar is a strong favourite for the Tour after another impressive season which has seen him win the one-

day Strade Bianche and two stage races.

Meanwhile, Trek-Segafredo named former world champion Mads Pedersen as the team leader on Monday.

Great Britain's Mark Cavendish and France's Julian Alaphilippe have both missed out on a place in the Tour, the Quick-Step team said on Monday.

Double World road cycling champion Alaphilippe only returned to competition on Sunday, two months after suffering multiple fractures in a heavy fall on the Liege-Bastogne-Liege race in Belgium.

The teams:

UAE Team Emirates: Tadej Pogacar (Slo), George Bennett (NZ), Mikkel Bjerg (Den), Vegard Stake Laengen (Nor), Rafal Majka (Pol), Brandon McNulty (USA), Marc Soler (Esp), Matteo Trentin (Ita).

Trek-Segafredo: Giulio Ciccone (Ita), Tony Gallopin (Fra), Alex Kirsch (Lux), Bauke Mollema (Ned), Mads Pedersen (Den), Quinn Simmons (USA), Toms Skujins (Lat), Jasper Stuyven (Bel).

Quick-Step: Kasper Asgreen (Den), Andrea Bagioli (Ita), Mattia Cattaneo (Ita), Tim Declercq (Bel), Mikkel Honoré (Den), Fabio Jakobsen (Ned), Yves Lampaert (Bel), Michael Morkov (Den).