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IN BRIEF



Neither scared nor threatened: Rahul

NEW DELHI
In his first comments after five days of questioning by the ED in a money laundering case, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said a leader who fights for the truth is neither scared nor threatened.

NEWS PAGE 10

AAP, BJP to face off in Rajinder Nagar bypoll

NEW DELHI
The Rajinder Nagar bypoll on Thursday is being seen as a face-off between AAP and the BJP. The poll is also a test of the popularity of CM Arvind Kejriwal. While AAP is confident of recording a "historic victory", the BJP is banking on its "local face versus outsider" plank.

CITY PAGE 3

ONE PAPER = ONE BOOK

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WWW.SUNYAIAS.COM

Uddhav Thackeray fights to keep control over Shiv Sena

Rebels, now in Assam, reiterate call to quit MVA

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

A revolt against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray by his second-in-command and senior Minister, Eknath Shinde, on Wednesday turned into a battle for the control of the Shiv Sena. In an emotional address to the people over Facebook, Mr. Thackeray said he would resign as Chief Minister and leave even the Sena's top position if the party workers told him to do so to his face.

Later in the evening, Mr. Thackeray moved from the Chief Minister's official residence in south Mumbai to his family's Matoshri bungalow in suburban Bandra – a declaration he made in the speech. Thousands of Sena workers lined up on the road to Matoshri as a show of strength.

Mr. Thackeray, now COVID-positive, said: "We joined hands with Congress and NCP [Nationalist Congress Party], but it's not they



Secure camp: The police stationed outside the Guwahati hotel, where the rebel MLAs are staying, on Wednesday. • PTI

who are telling me to quit. The sad part for me is that my own people [Shiv Sainiks] have lost trust in me. I considered them mine; I don't know about them. I am ready to resign. But come and meet me face-to-face. Tell me that I should quit on my face and I will resign."

'Exit alliance'

Mr. Shinde, who is in Guwahati with the MLAs supporting him, has been claiming the support of the majority

Legislator 'escapes' from Shinde camp

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Even as Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's rebellion attracted more MLAs and split the party wide apart, legislator Nitin Deshmukh returned to Maharashtra, while alleging a conspiracy by the BJP and Gujarat authorities to abduct him.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

ri as the legislature party leader was illegal, and maintained that Mr. Shinde still held the position. The group claiming majority passed resolutions on the appointments of Mr. Shinde (as legislature party leader) and Mr. Gogawale (as chief whip).

The rebel group's letter was sent to the Governor and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

'CONG. IS UNITED' PAGE 10

Earthquake kills over 1,000 in east Afghanistan

600 injured, remote mountain villages bear the brunt

REUTERS
KABUL

The death toll from an earthquake in Afghanistan on Wednesday hit 1,000, disaster management officials said, with more than 600 injured and the toll expected to grow as information trickles in from remote mountain villages.

Houses were reduced to rubble and bodies swathed in blankets lay on the ground, photographs on Afghan media showed.

Helicopters were deployed in the rescue effort to reach the injured and fly in medical supplies and food, Interior Ministry official Salauddin Ayubi said. "The death toll is likely to rise as some of the villages are in remote areas in the mountains and it will take some time to collect details," he said.

Wednesday's quake was the deadliest in Afghanistan since 2002. It struck about 44 km from the southeastern city of Khost, near the border with Pakistan, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said.



Razed homes: Residents surveying the damage in the Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday. • AP

"1,000 dead, 1,500 injured, and this number might go up, many families have been lost. Injured people have been taken to Kabul and Gardez," Mohammad Amin Hozaifa, information and culture director of the Paktika province, said.

Most of the confirmed deaths were in the eastern province of Paktika, where 255 people were killed.

Haibatullah Akhundzada, the Supreme Leader of the Taliban, offered his condolences in a statement.

Mounting a rescue operation will prove to be a major test for the Taliban, who took over the country last August and have been cut off from much international assistance because of sanctions.

Shaking was felt by about 119 million people in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said on Twitter. The EMSC put the earthquake's magnitude at 6.1, though the USGS said it was 5.9.

\$1-tn scope for digital economy: PM

'Changes unfolding in India never been seen before on the world stage'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

There are more than 100 unicorns in over 70,000 start-ups in India, and their number continues to grow... Transformative changes are taking place in every sector in the emerging New India

NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER

India's digital economy and the infrastructure sector has a total potential for \$2.5 trillion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday. Addressing a meeting of the BRICS Business Forum, Mr. Modi said the digital transformation unfolding in India had never been seen before on the world stage.

China's President Xi Jinping, who is the host of this year's BRICS summit, referred to the crisis in Ukraine and cautioned against "bloc confrontation".

Mr. Modi, who will address the summit virtually on Thursday, said: "There are more than 100 unicorns in over 70,000 start-ups in India, and their number con-

tinues to grow. There are investment opportunities of \$1.5 trillion under our National Infrastructure Pipeline. The value of the Indian digital economy will reach \$1 trillion by 2025... Transformative changes are taking place in every sector in the emerging New India."

Mr. Modi presented opportunities emerging in areas such as space, blue economy, green hydrogen,

clean energy, drones and geo-spatial data.

'Wake-up call'

The BRICS summit is being held against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis which found reflection in the remarks by Mr. Xi, who hosted the forum as China is the BRICS Chair this year.

He appeared to implicitly criticise NATO and the West over the Ukraine crisis. "The

tragedies of the past tell us that hegemony, group politics and bloc confrontation bring no peace or security; they only lead to wars and conflicts," he said. "The Ukraine crisis is another wake-up call for all in the world. It reminds us that blind faith in the so-called 'position of strength' and attempts to expand military alliances and seek one's own security at the expense of others will only land oneself in a security dilemma."

The Chinese President also hit out at western sanctions, saying that "it has been proved time and again that sanctions are a boomerang and a double-edged sword".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Racing against time



Taking shape: Traditional artisans busy constructing the giant wooden chariots of the three main deities of the Jagannath Temple in Puri on Wednesday ahead of the annual Rath Yatra on July 1. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

Srinagar loses two key events in run-up to Amarnath Yatra

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Two high-profile events have exited Srinagar in the past one week owing to security forces and administrative resources being reserved for the smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra from June 30 to August 11.

A film festival organised by the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry scheduled for June 15 was cancelled and a Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting to be held on June 28 and 29 has been moved to Chandigarh.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar said, "The yatris [pilgrims] will start arriving from June 29. Since all security personnel will be engaged in the management of the yatra, we have advised the government not to give permission for other such functions."

Mr. Kumar said counter-terror operations will not be stopped during the pilgrimage. Security forces have killed 118 militants so far this year. Of them, 28 were killed in June alone.

8 lakh pilgrims

The J&K administration and the police have been asked to make arrangements for around 8 lakh devotees who will be undertaking the pilgrimage after a gap of two years owing to COVID-19.

A government official said the film festival, which was being organised after more than 35 years, was cancelled on the request of the J&K administration. However, a senior J&K government official said, "The film festival has not been cancelled. It has only been postponed and will be held after a few days. The entire focus of the administration is now on conducting the Amarnath Yatra."

Demolitions lawful, U.P. govt. tells SC

'It was not targeted at any community'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI



A protest in New Delhi against the demolitions. • AP

The Uttar Pradesh government said in the Supreme Court on Wednesday that the demolitions carried out in the aftermath of violence following remarks made against Prophet Muhammad were not "extra legal punitive measures" targeting persons of a particular religious community linked to rioting, but routine measures taken by independent local authorities against owners of illegal structures.

In a 63-page affidavit, the government denied having done anything "extraordinary" and stuck to its portrayal of autonomous development authorities and their bulldozers going about their duties without fear or favour. It snubbed petitioner Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind's version of "retaliatory" action as "absolutely false".

"We take strong excep-

tion to the attempt by the petitioner to name the highest constitutional functionaries of the State and falsely colour the local development authorities' lawful actions strictly complying with the U.P. Urban Planning and Development Act of 1973 as 'extra legal punitive measures' against accused persons, targeting any particular religious community," the government affidavit said.

Action under separate laws

The government said the rioters were being dealt with under separate laws such as the U.P. Gangster Act, Prevention of Public Property Damages Act, U.P. Recovery

of Damages to Public and Private Property Act, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Penal Code.

Dealing separately with the demolitions in Kanpur, the State explained that the structures were illegal and non-compliant constructions. Proceedings against them were initiated long before the rioting in June 2022.

Proceedings in one of the two cases dated back to August 2020, and the other, began in February 2022. It said that in these cases, the builder and the owner had admitted to them being illegal constructions.

On the razing down of the house of Javed Mohammed in Prayagraj on June 12, the affidavit said the building was without sanction. It was unauthorisedly used as an office and the proceedings had started prior to rioting.

On June 16, the Supreme Court had told the Uttar Pradesh government that demolitions can happen only in accordance with the provisions of the law and cannot be retaliatory.

Four new corals recorded from Indian waters

The species newly found off Andaman and Nicobar Islands belong to same family

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Scientists have recorded four species of corals for the first time from Indian waters. These new species of azooxanthellate corals were found from the waters off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae and derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of planktons.

They are deep-sea representatives with the majority of species being reported from depths between 200 metres and 1,000 metres. They are also reported from shallow waters unlike zooxanthellate corals that are restricted to shallow waters.

The details of the new species have been published in *Thalassas: An*



The corals *Truncatoflabellum crassum* and *Truncatoflabellum aculeatum* (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848).



International Journal of Marine Sciences.

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientist behind these new findings, Tamal Mondal, said all the four groups of corals are from the same family, Flabellidae.

Truncatoflabellum crassum (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848), *T. incrustatum* (Cairns, 1989), *T. aculeatum* (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848), and *T. irregularis* (Semper, 1872) under the family Flabellidae were previously

found in Japan, the Philippines and Australian waters, while only *T. crassum* was reported with the range of Indo-West Pacific distribution.

Solitary corals

Mr. Mondal said azooxanthellate corals are a group of hard corals and the four new species recorded are not only solitary but have a highly compressed skeletal structure. "Most studies of hard corals in India have been

concentrated on reef-building corals while much is not known about non-reef-building corals," he added.

Dhriti Banerjee, director of ZSI, said coral reefs are one of the most productive ecosystems in oceans. "Hard corals are the prime and intrinsic part of the coral reef ecosystem. ZSI has given special emphasis on the exploration of the coastal and marine biodiversity of India in recent times. It has come out with several new discoveries," she said.

The new species enhance the national database of biological resources of India and also define the expansion of scope to explore these unexplored and non-reef building corals, she said.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead near Parmanand Hospital, Nigam Bodh Ghat, Yamuna Bazar, Delhi dated 15.06.2022. In this regard a DD No. 66/67A dated 15.06.2022 has been lodged in P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unkonwn, S/o: Unkonwn, R/o: Unkonwn, Age: Approx. 40 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Wearing: Maroon T-Shirt and Black line pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.



SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi DP/2443/N/2022 Ph.: 011-23967889, 23968730, 8750870123

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 60-65 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Hair: Black & White, Wearing: Orange Colour Kurta and Lining shorts has been found dead at Mohalla Clinic, Near Hanuman Mandir, Jamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 07.06.2022. In this regard a case vide DD No. 52A dated 07.06.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at Subzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi North Distt., Delhi Tel. No. 9462895060 DP/2438/N/2022

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this Person Name: Rakesh, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 55 Years approx., Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Oval, Wearing: White T-shirt & Half Nicker, was found dead at Parking Gate, Sadar Bazar Thana Road, Delhi on dated 12.06.2022. The dead body has been preserved in the mortuary of Subzi Mandi for identification for 72 hrs. In this regard a DD No. 59-A U/s 174 Cr.PC, dated 12.06.2022, has been lodged at P.S. Sadar Bazar, 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. Sadar Bazar, Delhi DP/2446/N/2022(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23512411, 8750870124

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl Name: Divya Rani @ Kajal, D/o Ram Vilash, R/o: WZ 07 Harizan Basti, Nasirpur Road, Delhi, Age: 18 Years 2 month, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Hair: Long, Black, Wearing: Red Colour Shirt and Black Colour Lower and Fancy Chappal in feet has been missing from the area of P.S. Palam Village, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 100A, Dated 03.06.2022, has been registered at P.S. Palam Village, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about this missing girl please inform to the following:-

Phone : 011-23014046 (Direct), 23015229 & 23015218 ext. 210 Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in SHO E-Mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in P.S. Palam Village, Delhi Fax: 011-23011334 DP/1250/SW/2022 Ph.: 011-25365981, 25365979

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Name: Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: About 30 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: White coloured shirt and green coloured pant, was found dead on 13.06.2022 at footpath near washroom of Baraf Khana Chowk, near Subzi Mandi Mortuary. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hrs. in Subzi Mandi Mortuary. In this regard a DD No. 27A, U/s 174 Cr.PC, Dated 13.06.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.



SHO P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi Ph.: 011-23815444, 23810633 DP/2448/N/2022 Mob.: 8750870127

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

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

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|---|--|
| 1 Name of work | Hiring of Truck and other allied works for miscellaneous work of track maintenance/renewal for two years in the section of ADEN/DLI & ADEN/NDLS under Sr.DEN-III/NDLS. |
| 2 Approx Cost of Work | Rs. 62,36,735.86/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Five & Eighty Six Paise Only) |
| 3 Earnest Money to be deposited | Rs. 1,24,700/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Only) |
| 4 Cost of Tender Document | Rs. 0.00/- |
| 5 Date & Time of Submission of Tender bid and Opening of Tender. | 19.07.2022 at 15:00 Hrs. |
| 6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen. | www.ireps.gov.in |

* The tenderer's must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. Notice No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-27-2022-23/W-3 Dated: 21.06.2022 1523/2022 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NDMC member moves resolution to declare Kejriwal's seat 'vacant'

He cites CM's absence in four meetings

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI A resolution has been moved in the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to declare the seat of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the civic body "vacant" following the latter's absence from four consecutive council meetings.

Kuljeet Chahal, a member of the NDMC, moved the resolution during the civic body's meeting on Wednesday. He cited the Chief Minister's absence without prior permission during four meetings – in December 2021 and in January, February and March this year.

NDMC Act "If during three successive months, a member, without the permission of the council, is absent from all the meetings, the council may recommend to the Central government that the seat of the member be declared vacant," states Section 8 of the

NDMC Act. Mr. Kejriwal is a member of the NDMC as a result of being a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the New Delhi constituency.

'Nobody's above law' Referring to the provisions under Section 8, the resolution says that the council may recommend to the Central government to declare Mr. Kejriwal's seat vacant, while recommending further necessary action as per the provisions contained in the Act.

"It has been proved by the law that his seat will have to be declared vacant, and nobody is above the law. The resolution is yet to be passed, and it is a time-bound process, which will be discussed and cleared in the next meeting," said Mr. Chahal.

When reached for a comment, the AAP government did not respond.

Deputy Secy. in CMO, 2 SDMs suspended by L-G

Action on charges of 'corruption, non-probity' in functioning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A deputy secretary currently attached to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's office and two Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) were suspended by Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday on charges of "corruption and non-probity" in their functioning.



L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena

Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against Prakash Chandra Thakur, posted as a Deputy Secretary in CMO, Vasant Vihar SDM Harshit Jain and Vivek Vihar SDM Devender Sharma, said sources said.

Previous complaints According to the sources, the directions were issued on the basis of complaints alleging financial and procedural lapses by the officials on which action was pending. The complaint against Mr. Thakur, a source added, pertained to his previous posting in the Revenue Department and was not related to

his present position in the CMO.

'Postings L-G's domain' A Delhi government source said transfers and postings of officials fell under the L-G's domain and the former did not have a say in them – whether these pertained to the Revenue Department or the CMO – at all. Sources said the officials were placed under suspension before the completion

of inquiries into the allegations against them in line with Mr. Saxena's "commitment to zero tolerance for corruption and ensuring probity in the functioning of the government".

Reacting to the development, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said "suspension on corruption charges of a deputy secretary in the CMO had exposed the hollowness of claims of honest administration" made by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"CM claims zero tolerance on corruption but today a black sheep has been found in his own office, clearly indicating there is no monitoring against corruption in the CM office and the Delhi Secretariat," Mr. Kapoor said.

The L-G had, on Monday, suspended two assistant engineers of the Delhi Development Authority after finding lapses in the construction of flats meant for the rehabilitation of EWS citizens in Kalkaji Extension.

No hospital at site claimed by govt.: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

"Not even a brick was laid" at the site of a temporary hospital the Delhi government had announced to have set up during the second wave of COVID-19 in north Delhi's Kirari, the BJP said following a visit to the location on Wednesday.

A delegation, led by Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta and North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari, said it came across only "a barren plot" and a board at the location. "During the COVID period, the DDA, on being asked by the Centre, gave this plot to the Kejriwal government for a hospital. The State government talked about setting up a 458-bed hospital, which, in its files, was ready on June 28, 2020," Mr. Gupta said.

When reached for a comment, AAP spokesperson did not respond. L-G V.K. Saxena recently granted permission to the Anti-Corruption Branch to probe allegations of corruption in award of contract for setting up seven temporary hospitals.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this Person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 50-55 Years approx., Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Hair: Black, Wearing: Blue colour banyan & lungi and bare footed, was found dead at Near Hanuman Mandir, Rain Basera, Jamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on dated 07.06.2022. The dead body has been preserved in mortuary of Subzi Mandi for identification for 72 hrs. In this regard a DD No. 45-A U/s 174 Cr.PC, dated 07.06.2022, has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, 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. Kashmere Gate, Delhi DP/2433/N/2022(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

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CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE

In reference to this office e-tender invited previously by this office are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons as under:-

| Sl. No. | Tender Specification No. | Name of work | Last Date & time of online request for Tender and submission of tender in online & offline mode | Date of opening of Part-I of tender in online & offline mode |
|---------|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1. | CCP-III/4/2022-2023 | Onsite Checking & Testing of LT Single Phase and Three Phase meter | 20.07.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs. | 21.07.2022 at 15:30 Hrs. |
| | | Name of Package | No. of connections | |
| | | 1-phase | 3-phase (Whole current) | |
| | | Garhwal Zone | 1 88 000 | 8 700 |
| | | Haridwar Zone | 73 000 | 7 350 |
| | | Kumaon Zone | 1 14 000 | 4 600 |
| | | Rudrapur Zone | 75 000 | 4 350 |
| 2. | CCP-III/5/2022-2023 | Onsite Checking & Testing of LT Three Phase CT connected meter | 20.07.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs. | 21.07.2022 at 15:45 Hrs. |
| | | Online | Offline | |
| | | 5 000 | 1 000 | |

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.
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TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.49,44,118/- (Rupees Four Crore Ninety Seven Lakh Forty Four Thousand One Hundred and Eighteen Only) as on 17-06-2022 together with further interest to be charged from 18-06-2022 onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors No.1) M/s. American Radio & Automobile Co. Pvt., at 1680-83, S.P. Mukherjee Marg, New Delhi - 110006. No.2) Mr. Bipin Bhatia, S/o. Krishan Lal Bhatia, at 328, B-Block, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi - 110034. No.3) Mr. Kunal Bhatia, S/o. Bipin Bhatia, at 328, B-Block, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034. No.4) Mrs. Sunita Bhatia, W/o. Bipin Bhatia, at 328, B-Block, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi - 110034. No.5) Mr. Sunit Bhatia, S/o. Bipin Bhatia, at 328, B-Block, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034.

Reserve Price: Rs. 3,50,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Lakh Only)

| Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale | Venue |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 01-08-2022 | City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi - Rohini Branch, C - 9/115, Sector - 8, Rohini, New Delhi - 110085. Telephone No.011-27941336, Cell No.9350011173 |

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

- The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself.
- The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi - Rohini Branch, C - 9/115, Sector - 8, Rohini, New Delhi - 110085.
- The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12:00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified.
- For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact : Telephone No.011-27941336, Cell No.9350011173.
- The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there-is" basis.
- The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited.
- The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein.
- The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law.
- The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies.
- The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 21-06-2022 Authorised Officer
Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PLANNING CIRCLE, KPDCCL, BEMINA SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER.
e-NIT No.- SE/EPL/KPDCCL/TS/13of 2022-23 D a t e d : 20-06-2022.

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited From Government Registered Original Equipment Manufacturers, for supply of Material, as details below:-

| Name of the Item | Qty | Estt. Cost (Lacs) | Cost of Tender Document | EMD | Completion Period/delivery period |
|---|---------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 10 MVA, 33/11 KV, Outdoor Type, 3-Phase, Two Winding, Copper Wound, Oil Immersed Power Transformer(s) with ON Load Tap Changer (OLTC), Remote Tap Change Control (RTCC) panel with SCADA Compatible, complete with all fittings, accessories, associated equipments, NCT on LV side and Spares. | 12 Nos. | 815.12 Lacs | Rs. 10,000/- | Rs. 16,30 Lacs/ Bid Security Declaration | As per SBD, Start 02 months after issue of P.O & Completion within 03 months thereafter. |

- Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) / Tender Specifications carefully. Submission of a Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examine, of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://uktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

| Sl. No. | Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document | The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://uktenders.gov.in from 23-06-2022: 4:00PM |
|---------|---|--|
| B | Sale of Bid Document (Start) | 23-06-2022: 4:00PM |
| C | Sale of Bid Document (End) | 20-07-2022: 3:00PM |
| D | Clarification start date | 27-06-2022: 11:00AM |
| E | Clarification End date | 13-07-2022: 3:30PM |
| F | e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format) | 14-07-2022: 10:30AM |
| G | e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format) | 20-07-2022: 3:00PM |
| H | Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along with Original Copy of e-tender fee, EMD Instruments and other supporting documents) | Up-to 22-07-2022: 03:30PM in office of the CE P&P wing, PDD Complex, Bemina, Srinagar |
| I | Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time | 23-07-2022: 02:30PM |
| J | Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders) | Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders |
| K | Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids | office of the CE P&P wing, PDD Complex, Bemina, Srinagar |
| L | Cost of e-bid document. | Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. 500/- for local SSI unit holders registered with J&K Govt.) |
| M | Amount of Earnest Money Deposit | As mentioned above. |

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Planning (KPDCCL)
DIP/K-NB-1843/22

Clear over 20,000 pending cases at FSL, fill up vacant posts: L-G

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Pendency in cases at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) is unacceptable, Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena told officials here on Wednesday.

Directing them to take steps to tide over the nearly 20,000 pending cases at the FSL, Mr. Saxena demanded a list of cases along with their expected date of disposal which he would personally monitor.

He also directed the officials to take necessary action in terms of manpower and technological upgrade for disposal of cases in a time-bound manner," Raj Niwas said.

The L-G also took exception to various technical posts lying vacant and issued strict instructions to fill them at the earliest. He was reviewing the functioning and progress of work undertaken by the FSL with senior government officials.

Mr. Saxena said retired technical personnel from similar agencies and organisations should be re-employed immediately as an interim and temporary measure to ensure that pending cases are disposed of and reported. "He urged the FSL to look at itself from a different perspective of not just being another government department but as an agency upon which thousands of lives depended," Raj Niwas stated.

He also advised the authorities to tie-up with institutions of repute like IIT Delhi and the National Forensic Science University, Ahmedabad, among others.

Couple held over fake immigration racket

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A couple was arrested for allegedly running an immigration racket, the police said on Wednesday. The accused used to issue fake Polish visas to the victims with the help of their accomplices.

DCP (IG) Tanu Sharma said the accused have been identified as Parveen, 32, and Priyanka Madhan, 28. The DCP said on June 15 a passenger, Sarabjit Singh, who was holding an Indian passport and a Poland visa approached for departure immigration clearance to Paris. Mr. Singh was carrying a Polish visa with him.

On thorough scrutiny, it was found that the visa was a duplicate copy. An FIR was lodged and Mr. Singh was interrogated. He allegedly told the police that he came in contact with an agent named Jasveer, an assistant sub-inspector of Punjab Police, who assured him that he could arrange a Polish visa for him at a cost of ₹12 lakh and went on to share the contacts of the accused.

Timings DELHI

THURSDAY, JUN. 23

RISE 05:25 SET 19:23
RISE 01:29 SET 14:23

FRIDAY, JUN. 24

RISE 05:25 SET 19:23
RISE 01:59 SET 15:19

SATURDAY, JUN. 25

RISE 05:26 SET 19:23
RISE 02:31 SET 16:15

Delhi Weather

| | max | min |
|------------|-----|-----|
| Delhi City | 37 | 24 |
| Safdarjang | 37 | 24 |
| Palam | 38 | 24 |

Delhi Palam Today
36°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
37°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be very warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be comfortable.

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THE HINDU
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Rajinder Nagar bypoll today: test of AAP's popularity, BJP's confidence

All preparations in place, says Delhi CEO; requests voters to follow COVID protocol

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The Rajinder Nagar bypoll scheduled for Thursday is being seen as a face-off between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), both of which have aggressively campaigned for their respective candidates – Durgesh Pathak and Rajesh Bhatia.

The Assembly seat fell vacant after former AAP legislator Raghav Chadha, who won the seat with a margin of over 20,000 votes in the 2020 election, quit his membership to contest the Rajya Sabha election in March this year.

As many as 14 candidates are in the fray, including Congress candidate Prem Lata, eight Independents and three candidates from unrecognised parties. In all, 1,64,698 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the bypoll – 92,221 males,



CM Arvind Kejriwal, (right) BJP leaders Adesh Gupta and Hans Raj Hans during their roadshows in Rajinder Nagar. • FILE PHOTO

72,473 females and four from the third gender.

Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer Ranbir Singh told *The Hindu* that 23 FIRs have been registered under the Defacement Act, while close to 37,000 defacements, in the form of posters, banners and hoardings, have been removed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi since the model code of conduct came into effect on May 25.

"There are 12 FIRs against



BJP leaders Adesh Gupta and Hans Raj Hans during their roadshows in Rajinder Nagar. • FILE PHOTO

AAP, nine against the BJP and one against the Congress. Five illegal arms have been seized and five persons have been arrested, while 280 licensed arms from the constituency have been deposited," said Mr. Singh.

CM's promise

The bypoll is also a test of the popularity of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has addressed three roadshows in the constituency and given

his personal guarantee to the residents to resolve all major issues confronting them.

Top leaders of both AAP and the BJP have held multiple rallies in support of their candidates. While AAP is confident of recording a "historic victory", the BJP is banking on its "local face versus outsider" plank to work in its favour.

Mr. Singh said all preparations for the bypoll are in place. Keeping in mind the COVID-19 protocols, the maximum number of voters per polling booth has been reduced from 1,500 to 1,250.

"Every eligible voter must check his/her voter information slip and carry it along with their voter ID card. They must wear a mask," he said. A total of 190 polling booths, including 13 auxiliary booths, have been set up at 21 locations, equipped with all necessary facilities, he added.

Central govt. wants to demolish 53 temples in Delhi, says AAP

Sanjay Singh says list sent to city govt. for approval by panel

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day before the Rajinder Nagar bypoll, the Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday alleged that the Centre has sent a letter to the Delhi government seeking permission from a religious committee to demolish 53 temples in the city.

Addressing a press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh alleged that the BJP was staging a "drama" in the name of religion and temples and the party was actually "anti-Hindu".

"No God or Goddess has been spared and that's why I am here to expose the Prime Minister [Narendra Modi], Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta and the entire party," he said, adding that Mr. Modi and Mr. Gupta should come forward and apologise to the people of Delhi for this "gross crime".

AAP shared the list of 53 "unauthorised" religious structures in seven areas and said the Union Ministry of



AAP MP Sanjay Singh during a press meet on Wednesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Urban Affairs also did not respond to queries on the list of temples.

Past allegations

AAP had made similar allegations in April too. The party had claimed that the Centre has ordered the demolition of a temple in Srinivaspuri and vowed to "not allow bulldozers to run over the temple". Both AAP and the BJP had accused each other of hurting the sentiments of Hindus.

On Wednesday, Mr. Singh alleged that the BJP was "spreading hate" in the name of religion and was using temples as a "means to incite violence". "One of the structures is an ancient temple of Lord Ram that they intend to demolish. Temples of Lord Krishna, Lord Shiva, Goddess Durga, Lord Hanuman and Sai Baba are also on the list. BJP leaders should smear black ink on their faces and walk with shame," the AAP leader said.

Classroom becomes battleground for PG students of JNU school

The students have been agitating against online classes

VICTORIA LAVELLE
NEW DELHI

Patiently sitting on the stairs of the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, a group of 20 students hold up posters to protest against continued online classes.

"We started the sit-in a week ago. We make sure that a small group of students is present here 24x7 so that the security staff doesn't close the building," said an International Relations and Area Studies (IRAS) student.

Lack of resources

Due to the pandemic, SIS' postgraduate students have never attended a physical class because of "lack of infrastructure and financial resources", said Srikanth Kondapalli, the School's Dean, adding that the JNU administration had released a state-

ment in February saying offline classes were to resume soon.

"A yoga event happened yesterday [Tuesday] on the campus, which was attended by about a hundred people who did not wear masks and did not respect social distancing. Also, other schools in JNU organised offline classes. There is double standards and hypocrisy regarding COVID-19 in this university," said Vaishnavi, another IRAS student.

Physical classes of JNU's SIS have been closed since 2019. After six months of repeated peaceful protests, the postgraduate students started a sit-in near the building on June 14 and then resorted to occupying a classroom at the SIS building on June 19.

Most of these students live in hostels, where they share dorms with no Wi-Fi. With

the closure of the classrooms, they have nowhere to study except in the library or the reading rooms, which are quiet areas where they cannot ask questions or interact like during classes.

While other classrooms in the building have been locked, the students have managed to occupy one of them. "The JNU administration tagged us as rebellious demonstrators. All we want is access to quality education," said a student.

The SIS students have sent three letters to the Dean of the School, all of which went unanswered. Mr. Kondapalli was confronted by the students one week ago in his office.

The university administration is scheduled to meet next week and the protesting students hope their concerns will be addressed.



Illegal constructions being demolished during the anti-encroachment drive on Wednesday. • R.V. MOORTHY

MCD removes 50 'illegal structures' in ITO area

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi on Wednesday conducted an anti-encroachment drive at ITO during which 50 illegal "permanent structures" were removed using bulldozers in the presence of the police.

HC directive

The exercise was carried out on the directions of the Delhi High Court, said a senior MCD official, adding that the

drive will continue on Thursday.

"They [locals] were unable to furnish any documents to prove that the structures were legal, and there was no resistance from their end during the drive," he said.

"My father started this eatery nearly 40 years ago, and only now it seems to be a problem for the authorities," said Dinesh Gupta, whose eatery was removed during the drive.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

PODCAST Women Uninterrupted

An inter-generational podcast of women of different age groups engaged in difficult but important conversations. Episode 2 of this five-part series features a free-flowing conversation with a teen and a preteen on the very first times they heard of menstruation. This series from *The Hindu* is brought to you by BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd.

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, SARAIKELA

Very short E-Procurement Notice
E-Procurement Notice No. DWSD/SKL/Cluster SVS/18/2021-22 Dated-18.06.2022 (3rd Call)

| Sr.No. | Tender No. | Modified Brief Description | Qty. | Closing date |
|--------|------------|---|--------|--------------|
| 1. | 93225238A | Valve Regulated Lead Acid Battery with M.S. Rakes and Connectors 110 V, 650Ah Capacity (1 Set Consisting of 5 Cells) conforming to RDSO, Spec no: RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0009-2014 (Rev-2) | 03 Set | 14.07.2022 |

NOTE:-
1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Sr. DMM/NSL/P/93225238A/2022 Date: 21-06-2022 1522/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

पत्रांक - 38(II)/मं० **दिनांक - 21/06/2022**

झारखण्ड सरकार राजस्व, निबंधन एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग
-:: आवश्यक सूचना ::-

न्यायालय पीठासीन पदाधिकारी द्वारा छोटानागपुर कारखाने अखिनियम, 1908 की धारा-49(5) के तहत सुनवाई की जा रही वाद की सूचना का प्रकाशन निम्नवत् किया जाता है। जिसमें प्रतिवादी मेसर्स भारत बॉल बियरिंग कंपनी लिमिटेड डी० सी० एम० प्रांगण, बड़ा हिन्दु रोड दिल्ली के प्रतिनिधि/विद्वान अधिवक्ता अनुपस्थिति हो रहे हैं। इस सूचना का प्रकाशन इस आशय के साथ किया जा रहा है कि दिनांक 05/07/2022 को माननीय मंत्री के कल्याण कॉम्प्लेक्स, बलिहार रोड, मोरारबादी, सँची स्थित न्यायालय में प्रतिवादी मेसर्स भारत बॉल बियरिंग कंपनी लिमिटेड डी० सी० एम० प्रांगण, बड़ा हिन्दु रोड दिल्ली के मालिक/निदेशक/अधिकृत अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से निश्चित तौर पर उपस्थित होंगे, अन्यथा नीचे तालिका में वर्णित वाद में एक पक्षीय आधार पर कार्यवाई की जाएगी।

| क्र० सं० | वाद सं० | वादी का नाम | प्रतिवादी का नाम | मौजा का नाम/थाना नंबर | खता सं. | प्लॉट सं० | रकबा (९० मे) | कुल रकबा (९० मे) |
|----------|------------|----------------|---|-----------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 | 13/2018-19 | दीपक भगत वैगरह | मेसर्स भारत बॉल बियरिंग कंपनी लिमिटेड डी० सी० एम० प्रांगण, बड़ा हिन्दु रोड दिल्ली | मखमन्द्रो | 45 | 517 | 2.48 | 17.70 |
| | | | | | 40 | 521 | 1.32 | |
| | | | | | 38 | 522 | 1.80 | |
| | | | | | 36 | 525 | 1.41 | |
| | | | | | 85 | 536 | 4.56 | |
| | | | | | 11 | 714 | 0.30 | |

(अमित कुमार)
माननीय मंत्री के आप्त सचिव

PR 272180 Revenue, Registration & Land Reform (22-23)D

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
Department of Environment | Delhi Pollution Control Committee
6th LEVEL, 'C' WING, DELHI SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI-110002

<https://environment.delhigovt.nic.in/> <https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in/>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Call for Entries for 3 Day Mela exhibiting Alternatives to Single Use Plastics (SUPS)

Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi, and Delhi Pollution Control Committee is organizing a **3 Day Mela** from 1st to 3rd July 2022 to encourage and promote Startups/Entrepreneurs/Individuals/Self Help Groups/Institutions/NGOs/Organizations/Traders etc. involved in manufacture/supply chain of products which serve as Alternatives to Single Use Plastics.

Business entities/Producers/Brand Owners etc. related to SUP are also expected to attend the event to create **B2B interactions**.

Register your interest for stall exhibition by filling the form on our website <https://environment.delhigovt.nic.in/> under Important Links section or by **scanning the QR code below**.

Shortlisted entries will be provided **FREE stall space for sale, promotion, marketing, interactions and lead generation**. Further details of the event will be available on our websites.

Last date for registration is **26th June, 2022 at 11.59 PM**. Decision on selection of exhibitors would be final and binding.

In case of any queries, please write to officeenv123@gmail.com

Business entities/PIBOs etc are invited to the Mela to benefit from the display of alternatives to SUPS, network with manufacturers and get competitive pricing.

Member Secretary / (DPCC) **Special Secretary (Dept. of Environment, GNCTD)**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

Sr.DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items.

| Sr.No. | Tender No. | Modified Brief Description | Qty. | Closing date |
|--------|------------|---|--------|--------------|
| 1. | 93225238A | Valve Regulated Lead Acid Battery with M.S. Rakes and Connectors 110 V, 650Ah Capacity (1 Set Consisting of 5 Cells) conforming to RDSO, Spec no: RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0009-2014 (Rev-2) | 03 Set | 14.07.2022 |

NOTE:-
1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Sr. DMM/NSL/P/93225238A/2022 Date: 21-06-2022 1522/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (R.F.P.)
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

NIT No. : WRD/JH/CE/DMPH/RFP/02/2022
National Competitive Bidding

| Sr. No. | Name of the Work | Request for Proposal for Preparation of Preliminary project report (PPR) & bid document for Underground Pipe Line (UGPL) or/and open channel (Based on site feasibility) for water carriage and distribution system under Bagodar Branch Canal, Bagro Distributary and their associated sub-distributaries and minors under Konar Irrigation Project (Konar Canal Division, Bagodar/Dumri), Water Resources Department, Govt. of Jharkhand. |
|---------|--|---|
| 1. | Name of the Work | Request for Proposal for Preparation of Preliminary project report (PPR) & bid document for Underground Pipe Line (UGPL) or/and open channel (Based on site feasibility) for water carriage and distribution system under Bagodar Branch Canal, Bagro Distributary and their associated sub-distributaries and minors under Konar Irrigation Project (Konar Canal Division, Bagodar/Dumri), Water Resources Department, Govt. of Jharkhand. |
| 2. | Mode of Submission of Bids | Online through www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in |
| 3. | Tender fee (In INR) | Rs. 10,000.00 (Ten thousand only)- (Non-refundable) |
| 4. | Bid Security (In INR) | Rs. 100,000/- (One Lakh only) |
| 5. | Time of completion | 120 days form the date of LOA |
| 6. | Date of availability of Bidding Document on Website | 24/06/2022; 16:00 HRS |
| 7. | Time and date of submission of pre-bid queries | 04/07/2022; 11:00 HRS |
| 8. | Date of Pre Bid Meeting | 04/07/2022; 11:30 HRS Chief Engineer, Design Master Planning And Hydrology, Room No.203, Second Floor, Jal Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand. 834002 |
| 9. | Last Date of Submission of online Bids | 25/07/2022; 15:30 HRS |
| 10. | Date & time of opening of Technical Bid | 28/07/2022; 16:30 HRS Chief Engineer, Design Master Planning And Hydrology, Room No.203, Second Floor, Jal Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand. 834002. |
| 11. | Last date & time for receipt of Bid security & Tender fee of Bids in the office of E-procurement officer | 27/07/2022; 16:00 HRS at the office of Chief Engineer, Design Master Planning And Hydrology, Room No.203, Second Floor, Jal Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand. 834002. |
| 12. | Name of address of E-procurement officer | Chief Engineer, Design Master Planning & Hydrology, Room No. 203, Jal Bhawan, Doranda Ranchi-834002 Jharkhand Email: cedesign-wrd.jhrcin.in |
| 13. | Helpline no. | 09431359304, 07250760091, 08709858734 |

Note:- Please see details on www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

(Ashok Kumar)
Chief Engineer
Design, Master Planning & Hydrology
Water Resources Department
Government of Jharkhand

PR 272207 Water Resource (22-23)_D



Rajasthan Congress expansion getting delayed amid Delhi stir

CM Ashok Gehlot has been camping in the national capital for several days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR

The organisational expansion at the block and district levels in the ruling Congress and political appointments in Rajasthan are getting delayed amid the party's ongoing agitation in New Delhi.

While the party workers in Rajasthan districts are waiting with great expectations, the delay may affect the truce between the rival factions of the State Congress.

The district and block units of the Congress were dissolved in July 2020 after the rebellion staged by the then Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and the MLAs supporting him. Since then, Pradesh Congress Committee president Govind Singh Dotasra has appointed only 13 district unit presidents and two spokespersons.

The PCC had recently announced that the process for election of the block presidents had been completed and the list of new office-bearers would be made public shortly.

However, important events such as the *Chintan Shivir* of the Congress in Udaipur and the Rajya Sabha elections for four seats from the State held up the action on this front.



Key figure: Ashok Gehlot (right) and senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh in New Delhi on Wednesday. •R.V. MOORTHY

The agitation in Delhi, for which Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has been camping in the national capital for several days, may delay the appointment of the office-bearers for the new bodies, affecting the booth-level workers' efforts to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots.

Mr. Gehlot has emerged as the leading face of the party's protest against the questioning of party leader Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate.

Despite the PCC's claim that all the vacancies would be filled up and new teams of office-bearers be available to strengthen the party in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly election, doubts persist on the early elections of district presidents and the State-level representatives.

The Congress workers have also been waiting for the third list of political appointments after the nomination of 58 leaders in the first list and 78 in the second list earlier this year.

The names were not announced before the Rajya Sabha polls to avoid any controversy. The PCC has established about 2,200 *mandals* [circles] as new units between the blocks and the polling booths.

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Mr. Gehlot has emerged as the leading face of the party's protest against the questioning of party leader Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate.

Crucial LS bypolls today in Rampur, Azamgarh

AAP faces test of popularity in Sangrur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA RAMPUR/AZAMGARH/SANGRUR
Over 35 lakh people will be voting on Thursday to decide the fate of 19 candidates in the bypolls to the Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha seats, considered as the bastions of the Samajwadi Party.

The bypolls were necessitated by the resignation of Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, and party leader Azam Khan after their election to the U.P. Assembly earlier this year.

Thirteen candidates are in the fray from Azamgarh, and six are contesting from Rampur.

The BJP has fielded Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi, who recently joined the party, from Rampur while the SP has fielded Asim Raja. The Mayawati-led BSP is not contesting from Rampur.

Azamgarh will see a triangular contest among BJP's Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirhua', a famous Bhojpuri actor-singer, Dharmendra Yadav (SP) and Shah Alam (BSP), also known as Guddu Jamali.

The BJP is eyeing to bolster its strength in the Lok Sabha further through these bypolls while the SP will go an extra mile to protect its pocket-boroughs.

High stakes for AAP

The bypolls for the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat in Punjab will be a test of popularity for the ruling Aam Aadmi Party after its impressive performance in the Assembly polls earlier this year.

The polls come at a time when AAP is facing opposition heat over the law and order issue and the killing of singer Sidhu Moosewala.

While AAP has fielded Gurmail Singh, Congress has fielded former Dhuri MLA Dalvir Singh Goldy. The BJP has fielded former Barnala MLA Kewal Dhillon. Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) chief Simranjit Singh Mann is also in the fray.

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Can't arrest Rashmi Shukla till July 6: HC

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The Bombay High Court on Wednesday extended till July 6 the interim protection from arrest granted to IPS officer Rashmi Shukla in a phone tapping case.

A Bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and N.R. Borkar restrained the Mumbai police from taking any coercive action against Ms. Shukla in connection with an FIR registered against her at the Colaba police station here in February this year in the case of alleged phone tapping.

In a plea, Ms. Shukla claimed she had been falsely implicated in the case and that the FIR was politically motivated. The FIR was registered following a complaint by police officer Rajiv Jain, accusing Ms. Shukla of ordering surveillance on phones of Sanjay Raut and Eknath Khadse.

In a plea, Ms. Shukla claimed she had been falsely implicated in the case and that the FIR was politically motivated. The FIR was registered following a complaint by police officer Rajiv Jain, accusing Ms. Shukla of ordering surveillance on phones of Sanjay Raut and Eknath Khadse.

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NOTICE/SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE XX OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
To, M/s Broadview Mediacom Pvt Ltd, A company incorporated under Companies Act, 1956 having its office at 189-C, 1st Floor, Arjun Nagar, Safderjung Enclave, New Delhi-110 029. Represented by its Managing Director.
WHEREAS, the plaintiff has filed the above suit for recovery of a sum of Rs. 41,61,868/- together with interest @ 24%/pa, till the amount is realized and other relief against you and you are hereby directed to appear in person or through duly authorized advocate/pleader on 14/07/2022 at 11 am before this court to answer the said suit, failing which the suit will be heard & determined ex parte.
Given under my hand & seal of the Court on this 17-06-2022.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.
Advocate for Plaintiff: A.V. Narasimha Reddy, Address: Office No.121, 1st Floor, Amar Tower, Gandhinagar, Bangalore -560009.

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No. Tech.-11/03/2022

PRESS NOTICE (RE-TENDER)
In cancellation of earlier Press Notice issued vide this office No. Tech -II/03/2022/20 Dated Guwahati the 23rd May 2022, the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids from eligible contractors having requisite experience as specified in the DNIT for the following work.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in
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| 1 | Construction of Freedom Movement Part at Jorhat Jail, Assam | Rs.112,44,28,078.00 | 30 (thirty) months | (2% for General, and 1% for Reserved category) | 30,000.00 |

N.B. - Value of work may vary according to the DNIT.

The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Document.

Work will be allotted after receipt of A/A from competent authority.

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD, BUILDING, ASSAM: CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI - 3.

No. CE/TB-IV/87/2021/7

Press Notice (Re-Tender)
In cancellation of earlier Press Notice issued vide this office letter No. No. CE/TB-IV/87/2021/4, Dated Guwahati the 28th April 2022, the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, on behalf of the governor of Assam invites fresh bids from eligible contractors having experience in similar nature of work, for the following work.

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| 1 | Construction of Integrated Deputy Commissioner Office at Diphu, Assam | Rs.19,65,55,333.00 | 24 (twenty four) months | 2% of value of work for General and 1% of value of work for Reserved category | 20,000/- |

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High office

The Opposition did not use the presidential election to counter the BJP's narrative

The BJP has stolen a march over the Opposition by naming Droupadi Murmu as its candidate for President. With the support of BJP allies and regional parties such as Odisha's BJD and Andhra Pradesh's YSRCP, she is poised to win and become the first from a tribal community to occupy the highest office of the Republic. The significance of her elevation is particularly pronounced in the 75th year of India's independence. A tribal woman succeeding a Dalit in the highest office of the country is a remarkable testimony to the deepening of Indian democracy, notwithstanding the disturbing signs of the mobilisation of subaltern communities for majoritarian politics. Ms. Murmu will be the second woman to hold the highest office, after Pratibha Patil, and at 64, she will be the youngest President in the country's history. From Mayurbhanj in Odisha, part of the region that houses a vast majority of India's aboriginal population, Ms. Murmu was a teacher, and joined the BJP in 1997. She was a Minister in Odisha and the Governor of Jharkhand between 2015 and 2021. Her nomination by the BJP for the highest office of the country signifies the party's sustained efforts to incorporate tribal communities politically and culturally. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal signature on the decision is unmistakable and is in line with his relentless efforts to expand the BJP's social base wide and far.

With numbers tilted in the BJP's favour, the Opposition could have only used the contest for the highest office as an opportunity for political messaging. The joint candidate of the Opposition parties, Yashwant Sinha – a former BJP leader and Union Minister in the Janata Dal and BJP governments – hardly serves that purpose. For all his track record, Mr. Sinha hardly represents anything political. That he turned into a strong critic of Mr. Modi after being ignored for positions, if anything, weakens any claim of his candidacy being an ideological counter to the BJP. The lack of imagination, initiative and capacity for any radical politics in the Opposition comes across starkly in the selection of the candidate. While Mr. Modi uses every election as an opportunity to respond to group aspirations of various communities, the Opposition remains adrift and ensconced in cocoons. That Mr. Sinha comes from a tribal State, Jharkhand, makes the optics of this contest even more damaging for the Opposition. The Opposition is right to point out that the BJP did not make any serious effort to field a consensus candidate. But excusing its own limitations by blaming the BJP is self-defeating. This turned out to be yet another missed opportunity for the Opposition to construct a counter narrative to the BJP, which is inclusive in its messaging in instances such as this, while not giving up its pursuit of an exclusivist politics.

No cause for alarm

India must return to COVID-appropriate behaviour

After the third wave driven by the Omicron sub-lineage BA.2 peaked in end-January this year with over 0.33 million cases a day, there has been a small bump in the number of daily cases reported in the first fortnight of June and a slightly bigger increase in the last one week to touch over 13,200 cases on June 17. But the rate of increase has been small and restricted to a few States and some major cities. The rate of growth of active cases has also been low. While the sub-lineage BA.2 is still the dominant strain in India, BA.4 and BA.5 seem to be causing the new cases. The small increase in testing in the past week could be a reason for the more cases reported. The seven-day average test positivity rate doubled from less than 1% in early June to over 2% by mid-June and has been increasing incrementally since then to 2.7% on June 20. Increasing the number of daily tests will result in more cases being detected. But with a large percentage of the adult population fully vaccinated and a sizable percentage also infected, the focus should be more on hospitalisations and deaths and not daily infections. There has been a slight increase in hospitalisation in a few States, but there is no cause for alarm. However, there has not been any increase in daily deaths. The small bump in daily cases seen in a few States for the last three weeks therefore does not appear to mark the beginning of a new wave.

That said, the BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages are fast spreading to more countries in Europe with a concomitant increase in cases. The BA.5 sub-lineage has become dominant in Portugal leading to a surge in daily infections, hospitalisations and even deaths despite very high primary and booster dose vaccination coverage; the reasons for increased deaths are not known. With both BA.4 and BA.5 endowed with greater transmissibility and higher immune escape from vaccination and earlier infection, including of the BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron sub-lineages, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control designated them as variants of concern in mid-May; WHO too has given the same designation. On June 13, the ECDC cautioned that these sub-lineages will become dominant throughout Europe leading to increased daily cases. However, it notes that based on limited data, the two sub-lineages do not appear to be associated with increased disease severity compared with the BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron sub-variants. Given the greater transmissibility of BA.4 and BA.5 and immune escape, the sub-lineages may become dominant in India too, especially as COVID-appropriate behaviour is now poor. While the two sub-lineages may not lead to increased deaths, the risk of long-term complications even among the young and healthy when infected cannot be overlooked. Masks must be made mandatory, especially in public and closed spaces with poor ventilation.

The role of caste in economic transformation

The divergent outcomes in structural transformation in the global South, i.e., India, China and S.E. Asia, are illustrative



KALAIYARASAN A.

India has been in a phase of jobless growth for at least two decades now, coupled with rising poverty and discontent in rural areas. The ongoing protests against the Agnipath programme, agitations against farm laws a year before, and agitation for reservation by agriculture castes are all arguably an outcome simmering discontent due to this jobless economic growth. Why could India not generate a pattern of growth that produces jobs and inclusive development in the way most of the East Asian countries have done? Caste, which is mostly confined to politics, could be among the answers, a structural factor that impedes economic transformation in India.

Indeed, there is a link between economic transformation and caste in India, which is often missed by academics. In contemporary literature too, caste enters as a post-facto category in understanding inequalities in economic and social outcomes when the fact is that caste is central to economic transformation itself. Caste through its rigid social control and networks facilitates economic mobility for some and erects barriers for others by mounting disadvantages on them. Caste also shapes the ownership pattern of land and capital and simultaneously regulates access to political, social, and economic capital too.

Ways it impedes

There are three ways in which caste impedes the economic transformation in India: ownership and land inequality related to productivity failure within the farm sector; elite bias in higher education and historical neglect of mass edu-

cation, and caste-based entry barriers and exclusive networks in the modern sector.

If Arthur Lewis, a Nobel Prize winner for development economics, emphasised accumulation of physical capital for economic transformation in the developing world, Theodore William Schultz, an American economist who shared the prize with him the same year in 1979, underscored the need for human capital for better transition to modern sectors. For him, an educated workforce enhances productivity while entrepreneurship ability is increased through education, training, experience and so on.

Hence, the divergent outcomes in structural transformation between countries in the global South, particularly India, China and South East Asia, is due to these three factors. All the nations which succeeded in achieving inclusive growth in the Global South had land reforms combined with human capital, invested in infrastructure by promoting capitalism from below and began industrialisation in the rural sector. Only India lost on all three counts.

Land ownership, productivity

India has one of the highest land inequalities in the world today. Unequal distribution of land was perpetuated by British colonial intervention that legalised a traditional disparity. Some castes were assigned land ownership at the expense of others by the British for its administrative practices. The British inscribed caste in land governance categories and procedures that still underpin post-colonial land ownership pattern in India. They made an artificial distinction between proper cultivators who belong to certain castes and those labourers – lower caste subjects who cultivated granted/gifted lands (Panchami, etc.) that have institutionalised caste within the land revenue bureaucracy. The prescribed categories and practices have entrenched caste



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inequality in land ownership. Even the subsequent land reform that took place after India's independence largely excluded Dalits and lower castes. It emboldened and empowered mainly intermediate castes at the expense of others in rural India.

Even the Green Revolution that brought changes in the farm sector did not alter land inequality as it was mostly achieved through technological intervention. Though India has certainly seen surplus food production since then, the castes that were associated with this land pattern and benefited from the Green Revolution tightened their social control over others in rural India. Land still defines social status and pride in many parts of rural India.

While land has lost its productive capacity since the 1990s, thanks to the real estate and construction turn in the Indian economy, it still works as a source of inheritance, family lineage and speculative capital. In that sense, the economic reforms of the 1990s were a watershed moment. The farm lobby lost its power. Even those who made surplus in farm sectors could not transform their status from cultivators to capitalist entrepreneurs in the modern sectors, except a few castes in western and southern India. Those castes that had a stake in agriculture did not benefit from the economic reforms for two reasons – historical neglect of education and the entry barriers erected by the upper castes in modern sectors. The recent agitations by the Jats in Haryana and Punjab, the Marathas

in Maharashtra and the Patels in Gujarat, demanding, among other things, reservation for their castes in higher education and formal jobs exemplify this new trend.

Neglect of education

If strong growth in productivity within the farm sector is crucial for sustained economic growth, an educated workforce is equally necessary to move to the modern sectors. India failed on both accounts. The Indian education system has been suffering from an elite bias since colonial times. British colonialists educated tiny groups of elites, largely from upper castes, for their own administrative purpose.

As political scientist Myron Weiner had argued, India suffered from caste bias in education. Although the Indian Constitution guaranteed free and compulsory education under its directive principles, it was hardly translated into practice. Instead, attention was given to higher education for the elites. Hence, inequality in access to education got translated into inequality in other economic domains including wage differentials in India. Indian elites in fact sustained their position at the top by denying education to a substantial proportion of the population till positive-discrimination policies were implemented in higher education. India's turn toward service growth – particularly its claims of emerging as a leader in software development and a natural inheritor of soft power – is arguably an outcome of this historic elite bias in education.

In contrast, Chinese and other East Asian countries invested in basic education and gradually shifted towards higher education. Their success in manufacturing is a direct outcome of the investment in human capital. One can find such trends even in the contemporary global labour market mirroring this skill spectrum; as South East Asia and China captured low-end manufacturing

jobs, India largely concentrated in high-end technology jobs. China taking over India in manufacturing is due to this neglect in human capital formation. Here, a comparison with China is illustrative. Yasheng Huang, a Chinese economist, argues that rural entrepreneurship was able to grow out of the traditional agricultural sector on a massive scale. Rural India, in contrast, hampered by a poor endowment of human capital, could not start entrepreneurial ventures even remotely on the scale of the Chinese.

Barrier to entrepreneurship

India did not witness such capitalism from below except in a few cases. Caste shaped policy outcomes, including India's highly unequal land reform and lack of public provision of education and health, which in turn erected barriers to economic diversification. Caste also worked in building social networks. Castes that were already in control of trading and industrial spaces resisted the entry of others. Even those who had economic surplus in farm sectors could not invest in non-farm modern sectors. Social inequalities have mounted barriers for economic transition. Agrarian capital could not move into modern sectors due to these roadblocks. Even the relative success in South India is being attributed to the 'Vaishya vacuum' – an absence of traditional merchant castes. In contrast such a transition took place in South East Asia, where diversification into urban enterprises by agrarian capitalists was possible.

Truncated transformation is partly an outcome of this interface between caste and economy. For caste is not a residual variable, but is an active agent which stifles economic transformation.

Kalaiyarasan A. is an Assistant Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), India and a non-resident fellow at the Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University

Heal the nation before healing the rest of the world

Political or geopolitical expediency or cultural chauvinism should not be allowed to undercut India's health interests



SOHAM D. BHADURI

Bolstering health human resources has been a prime focus of many of the Union government's recent initiatives and policy pronouncements. The Union health Budget 2022 made handsome appropriations for the same, much in line with the Fifteenth Finance Commission's recommendations which laid a conspicuous emphasis on utilising existing capacities at the district and sub-district levels to train different cadres of health-care personnel. Much to the ecstasy of public health advocates, the Health Ministry recently released a set of implementation guidelines for a long over-due Indian public health cadre.

A more recent announcement, however, raises concerns over the coherence of India's vision with respect to health human resources. The Centre under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and the "Heal by India" initiative is reportedly developing an exhaustive online repository of all categories of health-care professionals in the country. Though such an innova-

tion is much needed because of the currently fragmented nature of such data, one of its proposed primary purposes is to aid external stakeholders, viz. foreign employers and patients in finding a right Indian match for their respective needs. It is an atavistic return to the widely shunned principles of liberalisation in health care, which is not only gratuitous today but also menacing.

WHO forecast for India

The concerns are legitimised by the current estimates and future projections of health manpower in the country, which paint a not-so-salutary picture. A World Health Organization (WHO) 2020 report projected a requirement of nearly two million more doctors and nursing professionals for India in order to attain the minimum threshold ratio of health-care professionals to the population.

As per a study by WHO and the Public Health Foundation of India, over and above a veritable shortage of health-care personnel and their skewed skill-mix across a number of States, their current pace of growth is unlikely to result in any significant improvement in the density or skill-mix of health-care professionals by 2030. Such inadequacies are further compounded by the legions of health-care professionals who remain inactive and outside the labour



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

force. In the face of these colossal challenges, the current measure which aims to subtly reinforce medical tourism and worsen the out-migration of health-care professionals from the country is utterly counter-intuitive.

Soft power projection

In the mid-1990s, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) aimed to create an unprecedented scope for cross-border trade in medical and health-care services. While the health equity implications of this neoliberal offshoot are well known and its central tenets have been widely criticised, health care particularly in the post-COVID-19 era has been a fertile ground for countries to project soft power – at times even at the expense of the nation's own health interests. A crucial distinction must always be drawn between exporting products such as vaccines and that of health-care

professionals.

While the first is characterised by a much simpler transactional math, training health-care manpower entails large subsidies (even a fraction of which is hardly recovered through remittances and skill transfers), thus entailing a net drain of resources from the native country.

A similar draw on scarce national health-care resources is laid through medical tourism which is almost always to the detriment of health equity, particularly in developing settings such as India. The magnitude of these could be somewhat attenuated by the use of telemedicine and virtual platforms, though the larger concerns shall persist. While neither medical tourism nor out-migration can or need to be dispensed with in their entirety, to pursue them actively when the country is reeling under acute shortages in an aspirational decade for health care is least warranted.

India needs a registry

It is also hard to justify an immediate need for this measure. While an online health-care professionals repository will certainly aid foreign stakeholders in finding their right choices, there is neither a strong demand-side desperation nor a significant supply-side scarcity preventing a market to function well in its absence. For in-

stance, a recruiter from a developed country willing to hire Indian nurses and remunerate them handsomely will not be hard pressed to find suitable candidates regardless of the assistance rendered by an online repository, and the latter would only be marginally helpful.

Rather, it is at the national and sub-national levels that such an exhaustive and updated registry of health-care professionals is the need of the hour, for addressing the many challenges and disparities in health manpower availability, distribution, and skill mix. This would also come to strongly complement measures such as an integrated public health cadre and the initiatives to train, deploy and retain more local manpower.

In health care, which is characterised by perennially scarce resources and a surfeit of challenges, everything revolves around identifying the priorities right. And no amount of political or geopolitical expediency or cultural chauvinism should be allowed to undercut national health interests. It is time to go all out to address national health-care workforce challenges and heal the nation before embarking on a healing cruise of the world.

Dr. Soham D. Bhaduri is a physician, health policy expert, and chief editor of 'The Indian Practitioner'

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.

Presidential candidate

The decision made by the ruling NDA government to nominate Droupadi Murmu as its presidential candidate for India's presidential elections in July is laudable. Ms. Murmu represents real empowerment as her journey in life is very inspiring. Despite personal setbacks she dedicated her life to public service. Let us hope that she will do justice to the post.

MEJARI MALLIKARJUNA,
Visakhapatnam

It is certainly a smart move and the NDA has stolen a march over the Opposition. Ms. Murmu's background is sure to send a message of pride and hope to Adivasis. On the other hand, the Opposition must blame itself

for failing to rise to the occasion. If Ms. Murmu wins, it is hoped that it does not remain a development of mere optics. It should infuse an urgent sense of direction and spirit in the Government to protect the rights of, and deliver justice to, Adivasis, many of whom are oppressed for trying to defend their constitutional and human rights.

FIROZ AHMAD,
New Delhi

With the formal announcement of Ms. Murmu as the candidate of NDA and Yashwant Sinha as the Opposition's candidate, the die has been cast. The NDA's choice underlines the resolve and commitment of the ruling combine

towards the uplift of the weak, the marginalised and the underprivileged. Ms. Murmu's life is an ideal example of hard work and perseverance.

B. SURESH KUMAR,
Coimbatore

Agnipath and message

The message from the Agnipath saga is that India's youth must begin to look at self-employment in a serious way rather than don the cap of a job seeker and be subjected to shocks.

Equipping our youth with the necessary skills in a vocation of their choice will help them get self-employed and with dignity. There are many programmes offered by governments to also enable them to seek loans through banks. What is

needed is ending the absence of information as well as pulling down bureaucratic hurdles so that they are able to avail the benefits of programmes. Longer loan repayment periods at soft interest rates will help their small projects to become viable. In the absence of any big push for employment generation in the private as well as in the public sectors, self-employment should be encouraged by all means.

BRIJ BHUSHAN GOYAL,
Ludhiana, Punjab

It has been interesting to read some of the readers' letters (Letters to the Editor) on the Agnipath scheme. The more pertinent question to ask is: why spend a king's ransom in constructing

another Parliament house or pander to the comforts of top bureaucrats and Ministers? The Government could have ensured the welfare of committed and patriotic young people. Taking care of our military personnel does not begin and end with patriotic films and songs. There needs to be a budgetary rethink and solutions to supporting their welfare.

SOMDATTA GOSWAMI,
Bengaluru

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the report headlined "Youth join Army not just for the money" (June 22, 2022), the opening paragraph erroneously said "those who join the armed forces are there just for the money." It should have been *not just* for the money.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturba Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

Towards a single low tax regime

The Finance Minister should do away with all the confusing tax slabs in one fell swoop



G.R. GOPINATH

In December 2018, the late Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, announced that the 28% GST slab, which he called the “dying slab”, would be phased out, except for luxury items. India, he said, would eventually have just two slabs: 5% and a standard rate between 12% and 18% (apart from exempt items). Tragically, he passed away less than a year before fulfilling his assurances.

Simplicity is not easy to achieve. Great sages, artists and designers have preached simplicity. It was the mantra of Henry David Thoreau, who influenced Mahatma Gandhi.

The introduction of a uniform GST was a watershed moment in India since the country’s earlier regime of taxes and cesses, both at the Centre and the States, was a big barrier to free trade and economic growth and was a cesspool of corruption.

Complex and confusing

However, GST is still a complicated tax regime with different slabs. It is not easy to comprehend or comply with, and is open to interpretation, harassment and avoidable litigation. To simplify it, Finance Ministry officials must be reminded of KISS.

KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) is a well-known acronym and an accepted credo in business. Attributed to Lockheed aircraft engineer Kelly Johnson, it was meant to urge engineers to keep aircraft design so simple that even a stupid person would be able to repair the aircraft with ordinary tools on the combat field.

Bureaucracy, the world over, is usually oblivious to the KISS principle. An Amazon ad boasts that it sells more than a crore of different products, besides myriad services. More categories are added every day. In this context, asking bureaucrats to identify and categorise all products and services for differential tax slabs in the GST regime is the surest way to get into a muddle.

Empirical data from across the world on the benefits of a unified single tax is incontrovertible. So, an un-



ambiguous directive to the bureaucracy is necessary from the ruling dispensation to come up with just two categories: goods eligible for zero tax and goods that will fall under a single rate, say 10% or 12%. That means everything except those specifically exempt, is taxed.

This needs bold and clear reformist thinking at the political level. Imposing a high GST in some areas does not make sense. ‘Sin’ taxes, for instance, are at cross purposes with the government’s policy of generating growth and creating jobs under ‘Make in India’. A typical 300-room five-star hotel generates direct employment for around 500 people of whom 90% are waiters, housekeeping staff, front desk staff, security and concierge staff, besides cooks, financial and clerical staff. There are a host of others employed in associated services such as the spa, gift shops and swimming pool. The hotel also generates indirect employment in ancillary areas: it buys bed linen, furnishings, rugs and carpets, air conditioners, cutlery, electrical fittings and furniture, and consumes enormous quantities of food produce. All these generate jobs and income for farmers, construction contractors, artisans and other manufacturers. Five-star hotels also generate foreign exchange by attracting rich tourists and visitors. So, it’s unwise to tax these hotels to death.

Similarly, high taxes on air-conditioners, air conditioned restaurants, chocolates and luxury cars create an economic ripple effect downstream, in a complex web of businesses that have symbiotic relationships. The effect finally reaches down to the bottom of the employment pyramid.

The plan must be to figure out how to rev up the economy by making the rich and upper middle class spend and move more people up the value chain in order that more chocolates and ACs and automobiles are bought by them, instead of designing a tax system that keeps these products out of the new consumer class’s reach.

Instead, the current regime is plain confusing. At an Iyengar Bakery, GST on bread is zero, but the vegetable sandwich is in the 5% tax slab, hitting the vegetable grower directly. The GST on buns is zero, but buns with a few raisins fall in the 5% slab. The GST on masala peanuts, murukku and namkeen is 12%. And the GST on cakes and chocolates is 18%. The same lack of logic applies to taxes on wine, rum and beer, which generate large-scale employment and are the backbone of grape and sugarcane farming and the cocoa industry. The ancient art of toddy tapping in villages, a large employment generator and income booster in rural areas, was killed by unthinking politicians and bureaucrats and replaced with Indian-made foreign liquor. Imagine killing the wine industry in France? It would be sacrilege.

In the automobile sector, the GST on electric cars, tractors, cycles, bikes, low-end and luxury cars ranges anywhere from 5% to 50%. The sale of automobiles is the barometer of an economy.

The confusion has given rise to several disputes. ID Fresh Food, for instance, which makes ready-to-eat foods like chapatis, rotis, parotas and sells various types of idli and dosa batter, appealed against a GST ruling of the Authority for Advance Rulings (Karnataka bench). The ruling had

called for a distinction between rotis and parotas and had subjected parotas to a higher GST rate of 18% since the food item did not fall under the category of “khakhra, plain chapati, or roti” (which fall under the 5% slab) and needed to be processed or heated for further consumption. Can a country aspire to be a \$5 trillion economy if its taxmen turn gourmet chefs and get bogged down by researching the differences between various kinds of food items prepared with dough?

Then there are items that are exempt from GST. Petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel are not under the purview of GST, but come under Central excise and State taxes. Central excise duties and varying State taxes contribute over 50% of the retail price of petrol and diesel, probably the highest in the world barring banana republics. There is distrust between the States and the Centre on revenue sharing. There is also anger at the Centre for riding roughshod over the States’ autonomy and disregarding the federal structure of the Constitution. Opposition-ruled States point fingers at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who ironically accused the United Progressive Alliance regime of trampling on the rights of the States while he was Gujarat Chief Minister.

Use the KISS principle

The low-cost airline model is successful because of the KISS principle. All the frills such as food, freebies and assigned seats are dispensed with. Single class seating, point-to-point travel with no code sharing, direct Internet booking, no middlemen, etc. have sustained this model. It’s an Udupi self-service hotel in the sky.

The Finance Minister should take a cue from the Prime Minister, who hinted at major reforms in the aftermath of COVID-19, and do away with all the confusing tax slabs in one fell swoop. She can then usher in a truly single low tax regime along with a list of exempt items. That will ensure compliance, widen the tax net, improve ease of doing business, boost the economy, create jobs, increase tax collections and reduce corruption as witnessed in many countries – a move that will be both populist and well-regarded by economists.

G.R. Gopinath is the founder of Air Deccan

Crypto came tumbling after

As crypto assets are digital assets, the rate of return is sensitive to changes in the global liquidity conditions



PARAG WANKNIS

The precipitous downturn of the crypto market has brought cryptocurrencies back in the news. People wonder if this is the end of the crypto boom. The answer is ‘no’. Cryptocurrency is not really a currency. It is an asset that allows people to keep their money outside the formal financial system and make it accessible so that it can be used anywhere in the world. In today’s world, such an asset would be in great demand until some other asset innovation allows owners to achieve this objective in a more efficient way.

Price increases and decreases

Crypto assets like Bitcoin have been subject to wide fluctuations in their prices since their inception. The current downturn is not the first of its kind. There have been similar fluctuations in the past. The phenomenal rise in the price of Bitcoin in recent years has dwarfed the fluctuations in its price in the past. The popularity of Bitcoin is obvious from the price differentials with Ethereum and Litecoin. Most of the fluctuations in the price of Bitcoin are brought about by changes in the demand side as the asset’s supply moves very slowly given the enormous cost of mining an additional Bitcoin at this stage.

The rise in the price of crypto assets began at the onset of the pandemic as people with excess funds parked them in crypto assets. This made sense given the lack of investment opportunities on account of the uncertainty arising from lockdowns. As the COVID-19 spread slowed down, people may have wanted to move their funds out of crypto assets and into more lucrative real investment opportunities arising from a recovering economy. This led to the eventual decline in prices. The halt in withdrawal by Celsius especially led to panic among investors as this company is supposed to be one of the biggest crypto lenders.

Notwithstanding the effects of these specific events, we must acknowledge that a crypto asset is only one of the assets in an individual’s portfolio. Therefore, changes in the general availability of profitable business opportunities and movement in the prices of other assets will definitely affect the price of crypto assets. Recently, there have been changes in the price of an important class of assets: government bonds issued by the governments of developed countries. Many central banks across the developed world

have been raising their policy interest rates to combat rising inflation. For example, the Federal Funds Rate was hovering around zero for most of the pandemic. The Federal Reserve raised it recently leading to a sustained rise in the Federal Funds Rate as well as the three-month Treasury Bill Secondary Market Rate.

Safe assets

Debt raised by developed country governments, especially the U.S. but also by U.K. and Germany, is an important class of assets because these are deemed as safe assets across the world. In an influential paper published in 2017, Ricardo Caballero and Emmanuel Farhi defined a safe asset as a simple debt instrument that is expected to preserve its value during adverse systemic events. As the central banks of these countries raise their policy interest rates, the rate of return is also expected to go up, motivating large institutional investors to buy more of these. Accordingly, these investors would get out of some current investments and use the newly realised liquidity to buy these safe assets.

U.S. government bonds form a large fraction of safe asset portfolios, such as the portfolios of many central banks including that of India. The world over, demand for safe assets has increased as many developing countries have grown fast and accumulated enormous foreign exchange reserves. These countries then demanded USD-denominated assets to preserve the value of their portfolios. Events like the pandemic only increased the demand further for safe assets. Unfortunately, the supply of safe assets has not kept up with this demand as the developed countries that produce these assets have grown at a much slower rate. Given that there is generally a shortage of safe assets, it is likely that the demand and prices of crypto assets will change frequently as institutions look for alternatives with slight movements in the rate of return on safe assets. For example, Celsius reportedly could not raise additional liquidity because of tightening of interest rates leading to suspension of its operations.

Overall, investors must understand the nature of crypto assets and their demand and not ignore the interconnectedness of financial markets at the global level. As crypto assets are digital assets that can be mined and transacted from anywhere in the world, the rate of return of crypto assets is more sensitive to changes in the global liquidity conditions than to local conditions.

Parag Wanknis is Dean, International Affairs and Associate Professor of Economics, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi

STATE OF PLAY

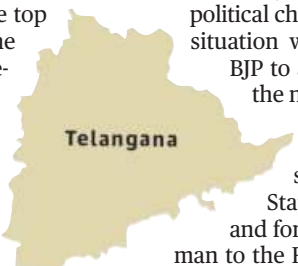
Making inroads into Telangana

The BJP has started making efforts to expand its influence in the State before the 2023 elections

V. GEETANATH

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited BJP corporators of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to New Delhi for an informal meeting this month, he sent out two messages. The first was to show that the BJP is a party which gives importance to grassroots leaders and that these leaders have access to the top leadership, in sharp contrast to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) where Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao’s official residence-cum-office is out of bounds for even his own ministers. The second was that the top leadership is serious about the 2023 Assembly elections in Telangana where it expects to mount a serious challenge to the TRS. After Karnataka and Puducherry, the BJP sees Telangana as the next best bet for its expansion in the south.

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The party created history two years ago when it won as many as 48 seats (from just four in 2016) in the 150-member GHMC civic body. In the Assembly elections of 2018, Raja Singh from Goshamahal was the only BJP candidate to win a seat, but in the 2019 general elections, the party performed well. In Nizamabad, the BJP’s D. Aravind defeated Mr. Rao’s daughter Kavitha. In, Secunderabad, which is a BJP stronghold, Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Northeast Development G. Kishan Reddy won. Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who was then official spokesperson of the party and is now BJP State president, won in Karimnagar. The party also won Adilabad unexpectedly. Later, it won two Assembly bypolls – Dubbaka and Huzurabad – decisively by fielding Mr. Raghunandan Rao and Eatala Rajender, who were earlier with the TRS.

Since these victories, Mr. Kumar has been going hammer and tongs against the Rao regime, egged on by the top leadership. Mr. Kumar launched a Praja Sangrama Yatra (walkathon) over two phases to fight what the party terms “corruption and misgovernance of the TRS go-

vernment”. In the two phases of the yatra, BJP leaders have covered different districts. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, national BJP president J.P. Nadda and other senior leaders have participated in the yatra, using the opportunity to launch a no-holds-barred attack against the TRS government. Mr. Kumar has been playing the communal card, hitting out at the TRS-Majlis Party friendship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi too accused the regime for its “dynastic and corrupt” rule when he addressed party-persons at the Begumpet airport during a recent visit. He claimed that the people of Telangana are ready for political change and that the situation was ideal for the BJP to assume power in the next elections. Besides this, the party has also sent a former State BJP president and former MLA K. Laxman to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh, indicating the importance it was giving to Telangana leaders.

The BJP will get another chance to project its strength in the State when the national executive meets in July in the first week in Hyderabad. Top leaders including Mr. Modi, Mr. Shah, the Chief Ministers of all the BJP-ruled States and senior leaders are expected to attend the meeting. This will be the first physical meeting of BJP’s key decision-making body outside the national capital after a gap of five years.

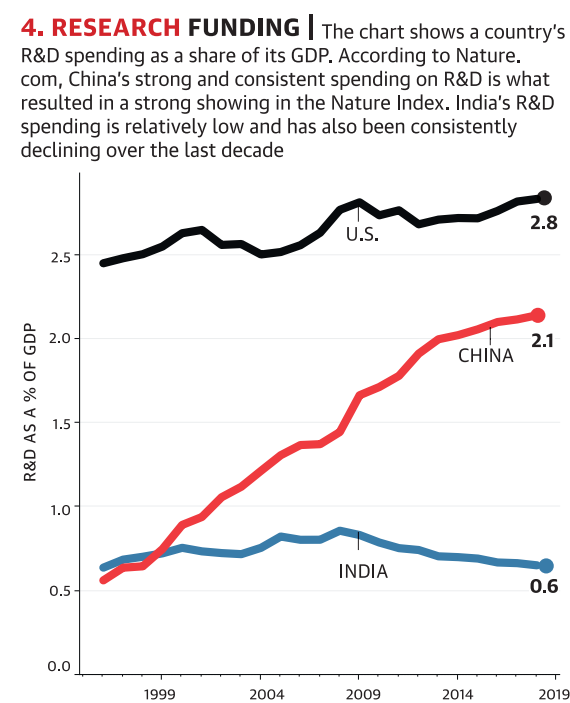
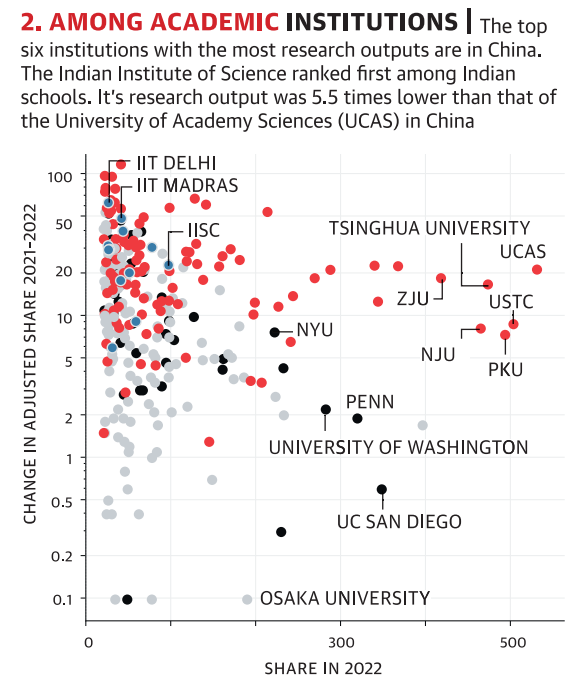
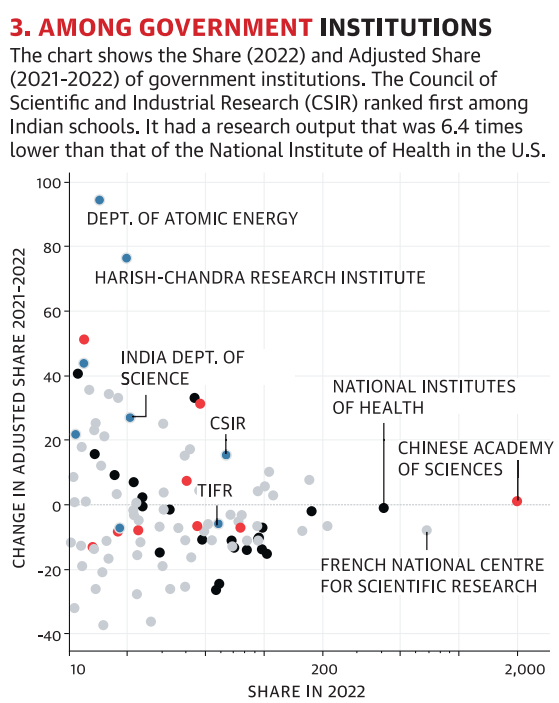
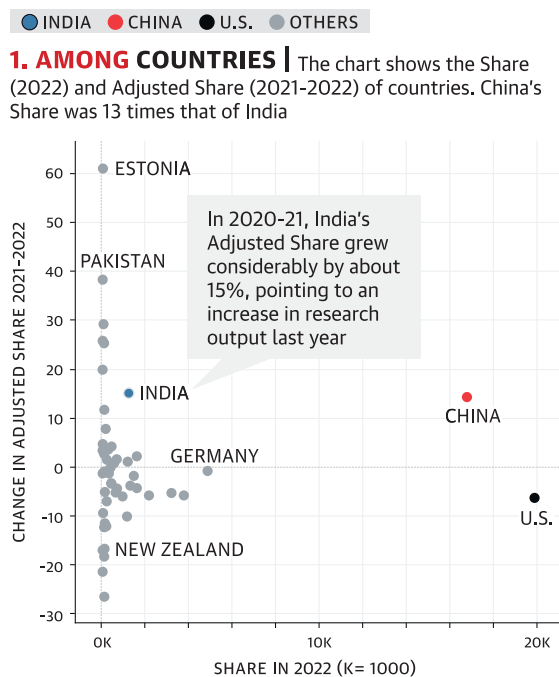
It is clear that the BJP, having had pockets of influence till now in Telangana, expects to do better in the next elections and is taking various initiatives to achieve this. But this is no easy task considering that the Congress has a sizeable support base and the TRS is no pushover even if its popularity may have taken a few knocks in recent times. The challenge for the BJP is to build a grassroots cadre across the State and identify winning candidates to face the stiff challenge from the TRS and the Congress.

geetanath.v@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

China’s research output surged in 2021: Report

Research outputs from China surged last year, **Nature.com** said in a report released last week. This means that investment in research in the country paid off. The scientific journal measures research output based on Share and Adjusted Share. A Share is a fractional count allocated to an institution or country for an article that takes into account the share of authors from that institution or country and the number of affiliated institutions that contributed. When we compare data over time, Share values are adjusted to account for the small annual variations in the number of articles in Nature Index journals. This % change is denoted by the Adjusted Share. China’s Share was next only to the U.S. and its Adjusted Share surged in 2021



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 23, 1972

France to ignore protests

Paris, June 22: Despite protests from nations in many parts of the world, France intends to go ahead with its nuclear tests in the South Pacific. The explosions could come at any time. Notices have been distributed and radio broadcasts in the area give frequent reminders, that ships should steer clear of the Mururoa Atoll, the test area, starting from midnight on June 20. Presumably, officials now are awaiting only favourable weather conditions for the first experiment. Australia, New Zealand, Peru and Japan have protested against the tests at the Geneva Disarmament Conference. The Canadian and Ethiopian delegates said they were associating themselves with the protests. Meanwhile the French Government yesterday formally denied that any danger existed to the populations or environment of the southern hemisphere from its above-ground nuclear test programme in the Pacific. Government spokesman Jean-Philippe Lecat said the French Cabinet yesterday discussed the test series. Mr. Lecat told newsmen that the Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann reported to the Cabinet on the reaction to the programme. Mr. Lecat said, “Precautions have been taken which are superior to those which have been taken by nations which carried out, or are still carrying out, atmospheric experiments. They are superior also to the precautions taken by those who continue to carry out underground tests.”

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 23, 1922

Re-making of Europe

Sir Fredrick Whyte delivered last night an interesting lecture on the “Remaking of Europe”. After giving an account of Europe immediately before the war in 1914 Sir Fredrick Whyte said that the shock of the war resulted in the disintegration of two great states, Russia and Austria-Hungary which politically were in a state of instability when the two countries entered the great war. The stable states like Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy had survived the great shock. While all nations had in common economic difficulties awaiting solution, the real problem of remaking of Europe was the remaking of Russia and the Little Entente which had sprung upon the ruins of the Empire of Austria-Hungary. The solution lay in politicians understanding the unity of civilisation as some thing above old conceptions of national sovereignty and taking to the problem of reconstruction through an international organisation like the League of Nations.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Fall in malaria numbers

86 The percentage by which the number of malaria cases in India has fallen since 2015, according to a report by the non-profit organisation Malaria No More. There has also been a 79% reduction in the number of deaths caused by the disease between 2015 and 2021, the report stated. The report titled, "India's march towards malaria elimination", also informed that the country's budgetary allocation to fight malaria more than doubled between 2017 and 2019. It was also made a notifiable disease in 31 States and Union Territories. PTI

Job vacancies

70,000 The vacancies that will be filled by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) in various central government departments. The commission has said that it would start the process of recruitment on Tuesday in a public notice. The announcement by the SSC assumes significance as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had last week asked various central government departments to undertake recruitment of 10 lakh people in the next year-and-a-half. PTI

Green investment

223 In \$ billion, the investment India will need to meet its goal of wind and solar capacity installations by 2030, according to a new report by research company BloombergNEF. The government has set a target of increasing non-fossil power capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030. By 2021, 165 GW of zero-carbon generation had already been installed in the country. Central Electricity Authority forecasts the country's reliance on coal to drop from 53% of installed capacity in 2021 to 33% in 2030. PTI

Fall in exports

48 In percentage, the fall in exports of Ukrainian grain in the first 22 days of June from a year earlier to 9,07,000 tonnes, according to Agriculture Ministry data. The volumes included 8,03,000 tonnes of corn, 78,000 tonnes of wheat and 21,000 tonnes of barley. Ukraine exported up to six million tonnes of grain a month before Russia's attack. May export volumes fell to about 1.7 million tonnes as Ukraine, which used to export through seaports, has been forced to export by train via its western border or via the Danube river. REUTERS

Tremor in Afghanistan

1,000 The death toll from the earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, according to a local official in the province of Paktika, one of the hardest-hit areas in the country. Information remained scarce on the magnitude 6 tremor that struck the Paktika province, but it comes at a time when the international community has largely left Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover in 2021 which will complicate any relief efforts the country is expected to receive. AGENCIES

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Understanding bird strikes and aviation safety

When are aircraft more prone to bird strikes? How is the DGCA planning to prevent such incidents?

MURALI N. KRISHNASWAMY

The story so far: On June 19, a SpiceJet Boeing 737-800 on the Patna-Delhi sector (SG723) with 185 passengers was in the climbout phase (the period immediately after take-off during which the aircraft climbs to a predetermined cruising altitude) when it suffered a bird hit in its left engine. Ensuing visuals showed flame streaks. The engine was shut down and the flight returned to Patna about 20 minutes later. The same day, an Indigo Airbus A320N (6E-6394, Guwahati-Delhi) was taking off when it experienced a bird hit in the left engine. The aircraft returned to Guwahati about 15 minutes after its departure. In both incidents, some of the engine blades were damaged or had fractures. India's civil aviation regulatory body, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has ordered an inquiry. Further, in a directive to all airport operators, it has asked all airports to "review their wildlife hazard management plans" for "within and outside the airfield".

Being the monsoon season with heightened wildlife activity, this would include grass trimming, runway inspections, garbage disposal in operational areas and ensuring water drainage.

What is the data on bird strikes?

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been collecting bird strike data since 1965, but it was in 1979 that it requested member states to begin reporting bird strikes to aircraft into a data entry and retrieval system. The ICAO Bird Strike Information System (developed with the help of experts) has been in operation since 1980. An analysis of 62,416 verified records showed that most hits were in or near airports during the take-off and approach phases of flight. About 60% occurred at or below 30 metres or around 100 feet, according to a paper on the ICAO bird strike information system. Another paper, "Bird strikes at commercial airports explained by citizen science and weather radar data", says that in 2017, "over 14,000 bird strikes were reported only in the United States; for that year alone, the cost was \$142 million". A third paper, "The costs of bird strikes and bird strike prevention", by Allan J.R., says that, globally, "the annual costs of bird strikes are an estimated \$1.2 billion". Scientists from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and partners say that information on bird movements throughout the year can help avoid aircraft damage and risk to passengers. In 2018, the Federal Aviation Administration data on civilian flights in the U.S. recorded 14,661 collisions with wildlife, which is over 40 cases a day.

A report says that in India in 2021, DGCA data has recorded over 1,400 suspected and confirmed wildlife incidents (for 20.5 lakh aircraft movements), up from nearly 840 cases in 2016 (for 22.9 lakh aircraft movements). Most of the incidents were reported from Delhi and Mumbai airports.

In India's National Aviation Safety Plan (2018-2022), which is in line with ICAO's Global Aviation Safety Plan, the DGCA has said that one of the key safety priorities (under the Safety Enhancement Initiatives of the Regional Aviation Safety Plan - Asia Pacific) is looking at "wildlife and bird strikes". It says the audits suggested by the National Bird Control Committee (NBCC) are being followed. Under Safety Performance Indicators of "Number of reported bird strikes at all Indian airports per 10,000 movements", it lists a Safety Performance Target of 4.26 for the year 2022.

How is it from a pilot's perspective?

A senior commander who flies the Airbus A320 aircraft told *The Hindu* that bird hits are a risk that flight crew have to be constantly ready for, especially during the take-off phase as the aircraft is fully loaded and fuel-laden. If a bird hit is suspected, the crew have to watch all parameters. There are the usual places where the crew knows the bird hit has occurred, i.e., the windshield, the belly and the engines. Damage to the engines can vary with twisted fan blades,

blade separation and vibrations. This could result in an engine imbalance as well. Apart from this there can be damage to the wing surfaces (flaps, spoilers and slats) and the airframe too. This results in huge losses for the airline operator.

He added that there are crew standard/operating procedures laid down by the manufacturers and the airline company, followed by simulator checks. He said adherence to wildlife management rules is imperative within and around the airport and its vicinity.

What is the perspective from experts? What is being done to help minimise instances of bird hits?

Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan, a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser – he brought out a bird strike handout when he was part of the Bird Strike Committee in 2011 – told *The Hindu* that the recent bird hit incidents show that all areas surrounding an airport ought to be clear of slaughter houses and garbage dumping (factors which can attract wildlife and increase risks). Airports are also expected to have incinerators to dispose of garbage removed from aircraft. The expert said that airlines are supposed to have some standard operating procedures for bird strike prevention. He added that for pilots, it is important to have constant monitoring. After lift-off, the pilot flying should have his eyes on the instruments and the pilot not flying has to have his/her eyes outside to look out for birds. This has to be emphasised during training. Finally, he said, understanding bird behaviour is something crew and operators need to be familiar with. Close to the ground, the instinctive response of birds is to get away from the aircraft path. Bird strikes occur when pilots try to climb over them during the initial take-off phase. Birds get sucked into an engine as an aircraft engine's field of ingestion is quite high with take-off thrust. Over 100ft, birds tend to dive to avoid an aircraft. Therefore, it is important to understand bird behaviour.

The Hindu also spoke to Dr. P. Pramod, Principal Scientist, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore, which is a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. SACON has been closely associated with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) as bird hits affect both organisations. From 2017-2020, SACON undertook a study of air hazard issues at three airports – Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Kannur (Kerala). An analysis of the ecosystem (a radius of 10 km) revealed that the problems are not the same everywhere.

In India's National Aviation Safety Plan (2018-2022), which is in line with ICAO's Global Aviation Safety Plan, the DGCA has said that one of the key safety priorities is looking at "wildlife and bird strikes".

SACON has now expanded the study to 12 airports across India based on a memorandum of understanding signed in February 2020 with the AAI. A similar arrangement is being worked out with the IAF. SACON is to start a series of training programmes from August 2022 involving airport bird hazard management teams. The scientist says that it must be noted that each airport in India has its unique ecological setting and therefore the solutions are different. For example, if there are 60 avian species that could be around an airport, only five to six could pose a problem. A study of birds over a year would lead to a specific list of recommendations on how to handle the dynamics of these species. There are good results in airports where there is 100% implementation.

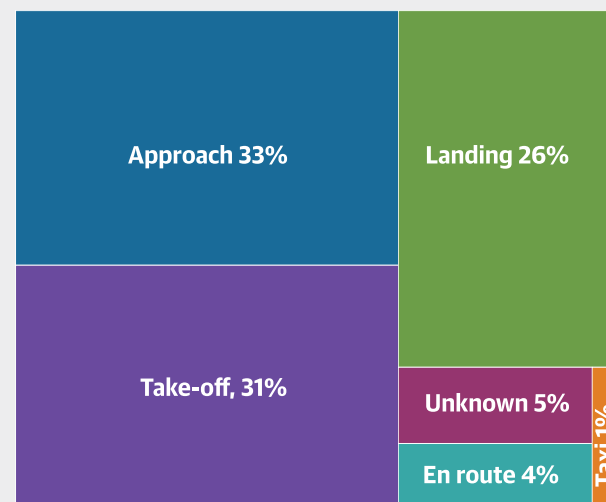
Highlighting an example, he said that in Coimbatore, 90% of bird hits involved the lapwing, a ground-nesting bird. It was found that the species was using the airport area as a nesting ground, seeking the open soil

Bird Trouble

These charts taken from a summary of wildlife strikes reported to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Bird Strike Information System from 2008 to 2015, explains bird strikes; when they occur, which birds are more prone to such incidents, the damage done to aircraft and so on

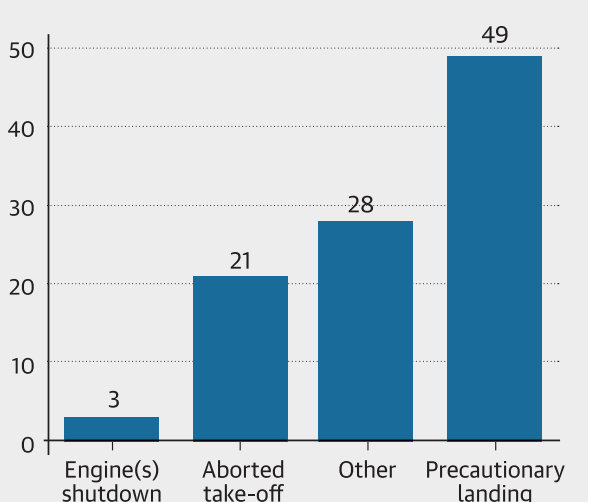
FLIGHT PHASE 2008-2015

Most bird hits happen predominantly during the approach and take-off phases



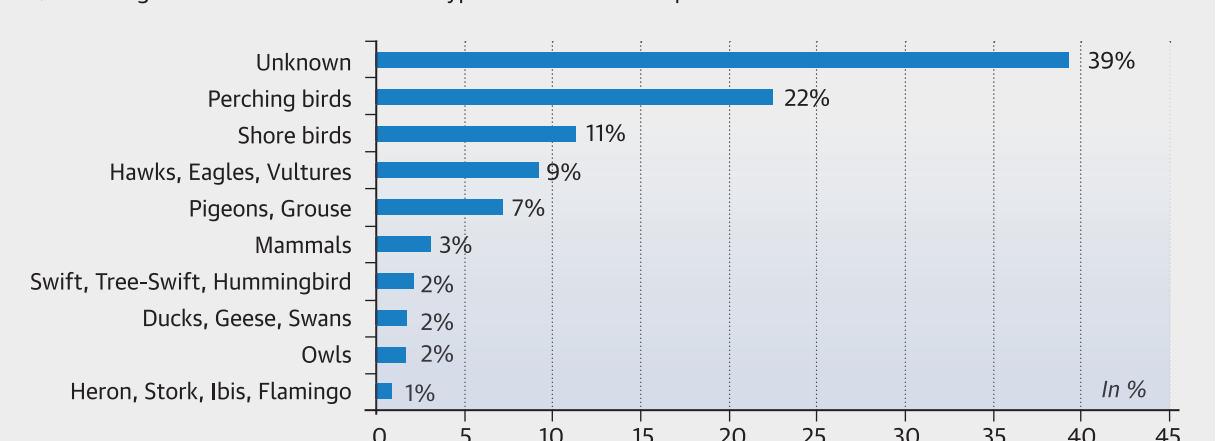
EFFECTS ON FLIGHT

In the event of a bird hit, flights usually resort to a precautionary landing



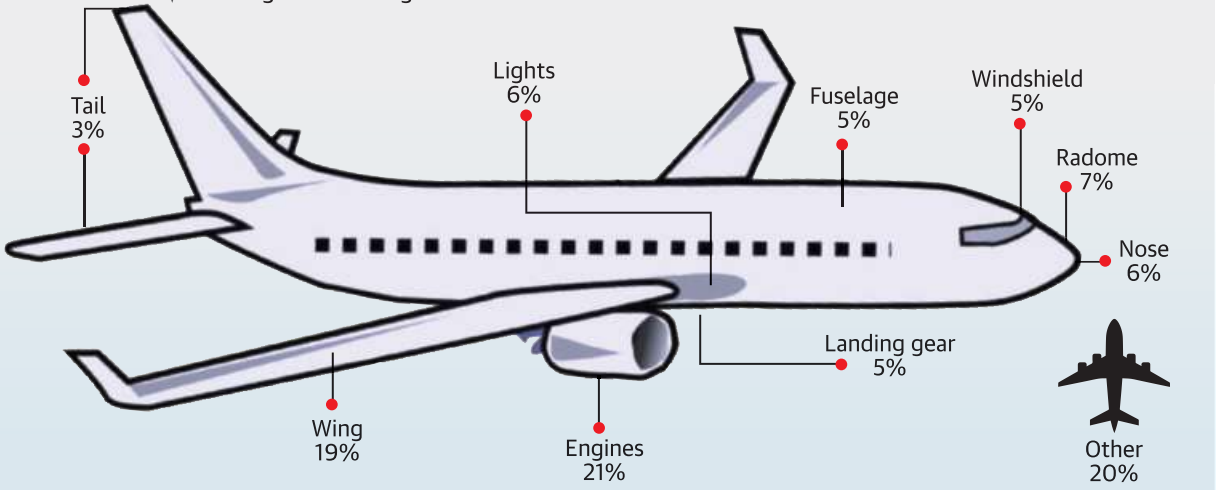
COMPARISON BETWEEN WILDLIFE STRUCK AMONG SPECIES

Perching birds are the most common type of birds which are prone to bird strikes



PARTS OF AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

The engines and wings are the most affected areas in case of a bird strike



stretches near the runway. SACON recommended reintroducing grass in these areas as it was an instance of habitat management. SACON has also worked on engineering solutions at airports and surroundings to keep problematic birds at bay.

As far as bird hits are concerned, Category 1 hits, which involve large birds such as kites that are dangerous to aircraft, are on the decline. It is hits that involve small birds that are on the rise now, he added. In civil aviation, it has been observed that a height of 100 metres is usually where most of the hits occur when the aircraft is in either the take-off or landing phase.

In the Indian scenario, a proper database needs to be developed that collects essential details such as the bird species, the height of occurrence and exact geospatial coordinates.

The scientist also highlighted SACON's National Avian Forensic Laboratory which can identify the bird species using just blood samples, tissue and feathers (through DNA and feather microstructure) – which is

usually what aircraft engineers get from a bird-hit aircraft. He added that SACON was reaching out to Indian airports on the need to ensure proper forensics and a data reporting and management system.



Bird strikes are a significant threat to flight safety. GETTY IMAGES



FILE PHOTO

ABSTRACT

How the Trinamool Congress sustains power in West Bengal

A paper exploring the strategies used by the incumbent party to maintain its seat of government

REBECCA ROSE VARGHESE

Jha, Debajit, et al. 'Prosperity or Decay? Political Stability in West Bengal', Economic and Political Weekly, Vol 57, Issue No. 25, June 18, 2022

THE GIST

■ Debajit Jha in his article, 'Prosperity or Decay? Political Stability in West Bengal' draws attention to the strategies used by the Trinamool Congress in maintaining its influence among the people.

■ The Trinamool Congress, in the absence of a strong ideology or political organisation or sufficient funds for welfare schemes, had to come up with innovative strategies to maintain its popularity.

■ To avoid accusations of cadre corruption, the Trinamool government appointed external agencies to re-distribute welfare schemes. Since the funds used for the schemes are rationed, the government found ways to make sure that the fees paid to the agencies were taken from the beneficiaries of the schemes themselves. The two modes through which money has been extracted include syndicates (in urban regions) and cutting money techniques (rural regions).

The All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC) or popularly known as just the Trinamool Congress (TMC) continues its regime in West Bengal with a higher vote share in 2021 than in the 2016 Assembly elections. Debajit Jha in his article, 'Prosperity or Decay? Political Stability in West Bengal' draws attention to the strategies used by the party in maintaining its influence among the people. He explains how the concept of political society plays an important role in the sustenance of such power and how an intricate relationship based on inter-dependency is created to secure the party's vote share.

Prioritising the rural economy

The paper begins by explaining how the per capita income growth rate of West Bengal during 2011-19 (Trinamool government) not only remained lower than the growth rate of the previous decades of the Left-led regime but also declined below the national average. Looking at the sectors of agriculture, industry and service, it further explained that while there was 3.3% growth in agriculture compared to 1.6% in India, the other two sectors that grab more income and form the engines of modern economy saw a decline in growth. This implies a lack of resources to fund the welfare schemes that the State implemented during this period.

Yet, driven by agricultural growth and expenditures on social welfare schemes, the rural per capita expenditure increased while the level of poverty in the State declined sharply. Data also showed that the unemployment rate of the State in both rural and urban regions was lower than the national average. The evidence of the State's strategy to redirect schemes for agricultural and rural development suggests how the present model of development benefitted the rural region and the agricultural sector at the cost of urban and industry/service sectors. Despite the minuscule amount being spent on schemes, the government ensured that it satisfied the needs of the rural crowd who constitute 70% of the population, forming a majority.

The political society

The success of welfare schemes depends on their effective implementation and for this, the formation of cadre organisations that distribute

and deal with any grievances related to the schemes becomes extremely crucial. The role of the informal sector in the formation of what Partha Chatterjee describes as the political society becomes important to understand the process of cadre formation and people's dependence on welfare schemes.

The political society constitutes those who depend on the incumbent political party for their everyday life. The paper focuses on the people from rural regions who have low and uncertain sources of income as a majority of them depend on agriculture for their survival. They depend on panchayats and political parties for assistance in subsidised seeds, fertilizers, farm insurance, etc. This is particularly the case when the drivers of growth do not offer many income opportunities.

During the 34 years of the Left regime in West Bengal, the political, as well as the socio-cultural aspects of society were associated with the party. Strong ideology and pro-poor policies such as the redistribution of land was an important factor in attaining the loyalty of the people and formed what was called the 'party society', as described by Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya in his paper, 'Of Control and Factions: The Changing Party Society of Rural West Bengal'. Yet, the lack of productive investment in agriculture after re-distribution, among other reasons, caused a transition of power and control in West Bengal.

The Trinamool Congress, in the absence of such a strong ideology or political organisation or even sufficient funds for welfare schemes, had to come up with innovative strategies to maintain the political society and its popularity.

'Cutting money' schemes

The experience of the Left regime shows how party organisations get accused when there is corruption in the implementation of welfare schemes. To avoid such problems, the Trinamool government appointed external agencies that are paid through rents or commissions to re-distribute welfare schemes. Since the funds used for the schemes are rationed, the government found ways to make sure that fees/commissions were paid by the beneficiaries of the schemes themselves.

The two instruments that have been used to extract rent are popularly known as "syndicate" and "cut money". Evidence shows that the rent obtained is shared between the local and central leaders of the ruling political party. Syndicate is a term used for organised corruption and extortion rackets formed by a small group of unemployed youth connected to a political party, mainly

controlling a geographical area and operating in the manufacturing and construction sectors of urban West Bengal.

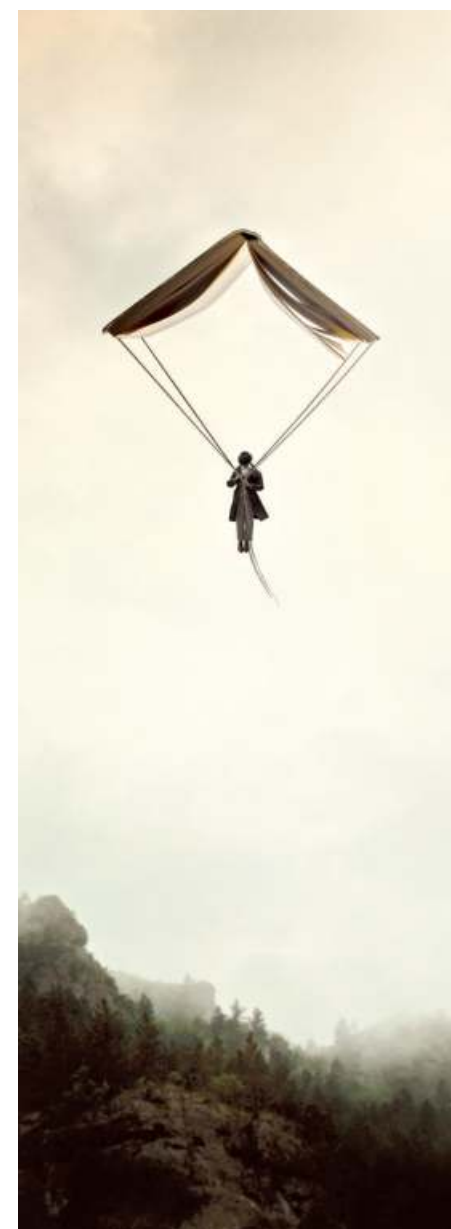
A symbiotic relationship is formed between the syndicate and the government, wherein the syndicate continues its illegal activities with government protection and the government in turn takes a share of the money that the syndicate generates as well as their muscle power to oppress opposition voters.

In the rural regions, 'cutting money' – the unofficial commission charged from the beneficiaries of government schemes by local leaders – ensures the funding for external agencies. The lack of proper understanding of schemes and the 'take it or leave it' attitude of the politicians in a State where economic opportunities are minuscule pushes people to pay for benefits and still not become completely averse to the government as external agencies are considered responsible.

Such methods have different impacts on rural and urban regions. Syndicates, due to their method of extracting money from small businessmen and investors, lead to a decline in economic activity. On the other hand, cutting money generates rent, which also implies that the more the welfare schemes, the more the rent generation. Thus to seek more rent, more government schemes and policies are passed which increases the economic development of the region.

The notion that growth in the economy leads to the growth in popularity of the ruling party is contested through the strategy used by the Trinamool government. While economic agents can have conflicting interests in an unequal society, the incumbent party prefers to serve the lower-income group to gain popularity among the majority. This may not result in true development as the focus of the State is skewed toward a specific need instead of overall growth. Further, resource mobilisation through rent-seeking encourages cadres to work for incumbent interests as their livelihoods depend on it. This results in fear-mongering and violence in the State when there is dissatisfaction among the public over favouritism, deprivation, poor governance, and a lack of transparency.

While the paper goes in-depth on the strategies used by the incumbent party to sustain its power in West Bengal with the use of political society, it does not explain its socio-cultural role which was an important aspect of the party society that helped the Left regime sustain its power for over three decades.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."
 "Good morning."
 "Sir, could you give some sentences with ago, since and for?"
 "I'll ask a few questions and you answer them. When did your father come here?"
 "In 1964."
 "He came 20 years ago."
 "Yes sir."
 "He has been here since 1964?"
 "Yes sir."
 "How long has he been here?"
 "He has been here for 20 years, sir."
 "So he came here 20 years ago. He has been here since 1964. He has been here for twenty years."
 "What is the meaning of 'it will cut no ice' sir?"

"It means that it will have no effect or influence. It won't make any impression whatsoever.

It is pointless to mention this to him. It will cut no ice with him.

It means that it won't have any effect on him. This is always used in the negative. You don't ever say 'This will cut ice with him.'

"What is the meaning of 'jargon', sir?"
 "It's a big question. First let me give you an example.

An American plumber wrote to the Bureau of Standards in America saying that he found hydrochloric acid good for cleaning clogged drains. He wanted to know whether he was doing the right thing. The Bureau replied; "The efficacy of hydrochloric acid is indisputable, but the corrosive residue is incompatible with metallic permanence." The plumber wrote back and said he was happy that they agreed. The Bureau wrote again: "We cannot assume responsibility for the production of toxic and noxious residues with hydrochloric acid and suggest that you use an alternative procedure." The plumber wrote again saying how happy he was that they agreed with him. Finally the Bureau wrote thus: "Don't use hydrochloric acid. It eats the hell out of pipes." Well, the plumber didn't use it. The plumber understood when it was written in plain English. He had not understood earlier as it was all written in jargon.

Jargon means 'unintelligible or meaningless talk or writing familiar only to a group or profession', it is full of special words known only to the members of a group. Each profession has its own jargon or special vocabulary. When it is used outside the group, it becomes unintelligible. You have medical jargon, legal jargon, commercial jargon, bureaucratic jargon and so on. When people tend to use long words or try to say something in a roundabout fashion, you find it difficult to understand them. Jargon is also defined as 'speech or writing full of long, unfamiliar or roundabout words or phrases'.

Writers afflicted by jargon don't use things but only utilise them; they never do anything but only perform; they don't carry out but always implement something. I will continue with this next week. It's getting late for you. Goodbye.

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here's a quiz on video games from the 1980s and 1990s

1 Shigeru Miyamoto, the creator of this video game, initially toyed with the names 'Jumpman' and 'Mr. Video' for the game's protagonist, before naming the character after the landlord of Nintendo's warehouse. Identify the protagonist.

2 Rockstar Games is an American video game publisher. Name their best-selling video game, whose title references the term used in the U.S. for motor vehicle theft.

3 In 1984, Alexey Pajitnov set out to recreate a video game from his childhood featuring pentominoes. The game, which became Nintendo's top-seller in early 1990, is a portmanteau of a word meaning 'four' and his favourite sport, tennis. Name the video game.

4 Japanese company Nintendo first released this portable video game console with a built-in screen, controls and

speakers in April 1989. Identify this console.

5 Identify this arcade fighting game that is popular for its finishing moves called 'Fatalities'.

6 Toru Iwatani, a video game designer, is a Guinness World Record holder for developing a game that has the most "coin-operated arcade machines" installed worldwide. Identify this video game that involves dots and coloured ghosts.

7 Having observed the success of Sonic the Hedgehog and the Tasmanian Devil, the creators of this game wanted to incorporate an animal that was cute but unheard of. They then purchased a book on Tasmanian mammals and picked this animal, naming the character after its species and the visceral reaction to its destruction of boxes. Identify the character.



Released in 1989, this city-building simulation video game is also known as 'Micropolis'. Identify the game based on the screenshot pictured here.

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

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This date is celebrated as Army Day. **Ans: January 15. It is the day K.M. Cariappa took over the reins of the Indian Army.** 2. The present Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces. **Ans: Ram Nath Kovind**

3. The motto of the Indian Navy. **Ans: 'Sham No Varunah'** 4. This 'elite' regiment's badge comprises the Ashoka borne aloft on an open parachute supported by crossed lances and held together by its title. **Ans: President's Bodyguard** 5. This operational cruise missile, used by the Indian armed forces, is a portmanteau formed from the names of two water bodies. **Ans: Brahmos (Brahmaputra & Moskva)**

6. This quote attributed to Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw: "If anyone tells you he is never afraid, he is a liar or he is a ____." **Ans: Gurkha**

7. The HQs of the Indian Army's Northern and Western Commands. **Ans: Udhampur and Chandni Mandir** Visual: This person is the only individual to receive this rank. **Ans: Arjan Singh, the only Marshal of the Indian Air Force**

Early Birds: Dhananjay Shukla| Pranzal Joshi| Nikhil Kumar Yadav| Yamini Chowdhury| Harsh Kumar

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

FROM PAGE ONE

Uddhav fights to keep control over Shiv Sena

After Mr. Thackeray's speech, Mr. Shinde tweeted with the hashtag #Hindutva-Forever: "While allies were getting stronger, Sena workers and Sena was systematically damaged. It is extremely important to quit from this unnatural alliance to save party and workers. It is important to take the decision now."

The exodus from the Shiv Sena continued on Wednesday as Minister Gulabrao Patil and young MLA Yogesh Kadam, too, headed for Guwahati, while another MLA Dipak Kesarkar, said that the Sena should join hands with the BJP.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shinde and his loyalists moved to Guwahati, from where he challenged the authority of a letter issued by Sunil Prabhu, Shiv Sena's chief whip and Mr. Thackeray's loyalist, in which he asked rebel MLAs to attend a meeting of party MLAs on Wednesday evening. Mr. Prabhu, in his letter, warned that the absence of an MLA would be considered as his voluntary decision to quit the party's membership and he would face action under the sections to disqualify him.

The rebel group, however, challenged Mr. Prabhu's authority and appointed Bharat Gogawale as the party's new chief whip. In the letter, Shinde group claimed that, "There has been great

Sena legislator 'escapes' from Shinde camp

The MLA, whose wife had earlier filed a 'missing' complaint with the Akola police, claimed that a number of MLAs with Mr. Shinde wanted to return to Maharashtra, implying they had been spirited away to Surat under duress.

'Like Shivaji's escape'

The MLA from Balapur constituency in Akola district (in the Vidarbha region) said his dramatic return to Maharashtra from Guwahati was akin to "Shivaji's escape from Aurangzeb's clutches in Agra".

"Despite the fact that I am in good health, I was taken to a government hospital in Surat on Tuesday. Then, I saw that the police and the doctors were talking something among themselves. I suspected they were trying to harm me. I told the doctor that I have no ailment. He claimed I had a heart attack though my blood pressure remained normal. Then, 15-20 persons caught me and thrust a needle in me," said Mr. Deshmukh.

Lambasting the BJP and the Gujarat police, he said Prakash Abitkar, MLA from Kolhapur, had apparently tried to leave Surat, but was caught by the Gujarat police and forced to turn back.

"I am leaving from Mumbai to discuss this entire matter with the Chief Minister and then decide on the future course of action," he said. Given Mr. Shinde's claims that a majority of the Sena's

\$1-trillion scope for digital economy: PM

"To politicise the global economy and turn it into one's tool or weapon, and wilfully impose sanctions by using one's primary position in the international financial and monetary systems will only end up hurting one's own interests as well as those of others, and inflict suffering on everyone," Mr. Xi said.

On Thursday, Mr. Xi will host the BRICS leaders summit, which will be followed by a high-level dialogue on global development on Friday. The summit and dialogue are expected to include leaders from several emerging nations besides

dissatisfaction prevalent amongst members of our party viz. Shiv Sena and our party cadre at large, on account of corruption in the government, administration regarding police posting, corruption by then Home minister Anil Deshmukh (who is in jail) and sitting minority minister Nawab Malik (who is also in jail for involvement with underworld don Dawood Ibrahim)." The letter also claimed that the party cadres were dissatisfied for aligning with ideologically opposed parties like the Congress and NCP despite having fought the 2019 election in alliance with the BJP.

While passing the resolution, the signatories to the letter said that they had been subjected to lot of criticism for being part of "this corrupt Maharashtra government". They reiterated that their leader Balasaheb Thackeray's ideology was to provide a clean and honest government without compromising on the principles of Hindutva.

Following Mr. Thackeray's public address, NCP chief Sharad Pawar along with Baramati Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule, Maharashtra Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad and State unit chief Jayant Patil held a meeting with him. The NCP and the Congress have called all their MLAs to Mumbai on Thursday.

legislators were with him, Mr. Deshmukh pointedly said that he was "Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sainik".

'Doctored footage'

Refusing to divulge how he got to Maharashtra, he simply said that he returned to Nagpur in a chartered plane. He further rejected suggestions that he had signed any resolution form, alleging that his signature and the footage showing him signing were doctored.

Mr. Deshmukh said the BJP was behind all the turmoil, which was wrongly perceived as being Mr. Shinde's handiwork. "I urge all Sena MLAs who are in Guwahati to return. Remember, you all have not become MLAs on your strength but had Balasaheb and Uddhav Thackeray's blessings. I urge Mr. Shinde to come back... the party does not depend on MLAs but on the strength of ordinary Shiv Sainiks who are firmly behind Uddhav Thackeray," he said. Mr. Deshmukh.

Quashing suggestions of festering resentment against Mr. Thackeray's performance as Chief Minister, Mr. Deshmukh said: "What resentment? He [Uddhav Thackeray] did everything that was possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. He waived farmers' loans and was the most popular Chief Minister in the country. So, where does the question of being disappointed with his performance arise?"

the five BRICS countries, with both China and Russia pushing efforts to expand the grouping's membership and influence as a counter to the West.

Addressing the forum, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the BRICS grouping is considering the introduction of an international reserve currency based on the currencies of the BRICS states.

He also said that Moscow will implement the national MIR payment system in more countries to build a sustainable mechanism that will remain unaffected by western sanctions.

Neither scared nor threatened: Rahul

Congress leader says every worker, every leader of the party was present in the interrogation room

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

In his first comments after five days of questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said a leader who fights for the truth is neither scared nor threatened.

He made these remarks at an event organised by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Wednesday at its headquarters, where party leaders from across the country gathered to express their support and solidarity.

Using it as a platform to address the youth who are protesting against the Agni-path scheme, Mr. Gandhi said the Modi government was weakening the armed forces, and the new recruitment scheme had now made it "No Rank No Pension" from the promise of "One Rank One Pension". Like the

The government has taken away the last path open to them to express their patriotism by joining the armed forces. I can say this with guarantee, that when you go home after serving the Army, you won't get any employment

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader



farm laws, he said, the Modi government would have to withdraw the new recruitment scheme too.

Party workers' support

Mr. Gandhi, who has been questioned for more than 50 hours over five days, shared his experience of ED's questioning with his party colleagues. He said ED officers, three of them who grilled him in a 12 feet by 12 feet room, wanted to know why he did not get tired despite long hours of questioning.

"I would mostly be sitting

in my chair, even though the officers would keep going out. Perhaps, they had to take instructions from their seniors. So, when they asked me for my secret, I told them that's because I do *Vipassana* meditation."

Mr. Gandhi said the real reason, though, was the support of lakhs of party workers. "In that room, Rahul Gandhi wasn't alone. Every worker, every leader of the party was present in the room. Every person who is fighting this government without fear was seated

there. You can tire one person, but you can't tire crores of Congress leaders and workers," said Mr. Gandhi.

"The ED officers also understood that Congress leaders cannot be threatened or oppressed because they fight for the truth... Truth never gets tired, even though lies do," he added.

'Symbols of patriotism'

The former Congress chief said his problems with the ED were far less important than the employment situation for lakhs of youth. "The government has taken away the last path open to them to express their patriotism by joining the armed forces".

"I can say this with guarantee, that when you go home after serving the Army, you won't get any employment," he said.

Urging his party colleagues to take up their cause, Mr. Gandhi said, "For-

get the ED, these youth, who run every morning from 4 a.m., are the symbols of patriotism. It is our duty to protect their future".

Apart from Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chiefs and leaders of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP), MLAs and MPs, several senior leaders were present, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, party's leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, former Union Ministers P. Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh and party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal.

Earlier, Mr. Gehlot told reporters that the country was passing through a very critical juncture and Opposition leaders were being treated as enemies.

CUET-UG to be held from July 15, says NTA

Over 11 lakh candidates have enrolled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The first edition of the Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG) will be conducted from July 15 to August 10, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Wednesday.

"CUET-UG will be spread over 10 days, starting from July 15. There will be no CUET papers on July 17, 2022 due to the NEET-UG and between July 21 and August 3 due to the JEE (Main) exams," an official notification by NTA said.

Over 11 lakh candidates have registered for the first edition of CUET.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Ja-

gadesh Kumar in March announced that CUET scores, and not Class 12 marks, would be mandatory for admission to 45 central universities, and that the central universities can fix their minimum eligibility criteria.

He had also clarified that students from State Boards would not be at a disadvantage in the undergraduate admission process and the examination would not give a push to the coaching culture. A total of 44 Central universities, 12 State universities, 11 deemed universities, and 19 private universities have applied for participating in the first edition of CUET for UG admissions this year.

BJP accused of hijacking democracy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid the crisis in the Maharashtra government over the rebellion of a group of Shiv Sena MLAs, political parties such as the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Samajwadi Party have blamed the BJP for "hijacking democracy".

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury urged people to reject the politics of the BJP. "Transporting Maharashtra MLAs to expensive hotels in Gujarat and then Assam by brazenly misusing Central agencies is hijacking democracy," Mr. Yechury said.

Mr. Yechury added that it was high time the Supreme Court heard long-pending matters on electoral bonds. "BJP is perfecting the art of losing elections, but forming governments," he tweeted.

Leader of the Opposition in U.P. and SP president Akhilesh Yadav also expressed similar views. "This is the politics of the hunger for power," he said.

'Complete unity' prevails in Maharashtra, says Kamal Nath

Congress MLAs not for sale, says AICC observer

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

After Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's intra-party rebellion put the existence of the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in jeopardy, senior Congress leader Kamal Nath on Wednesday stressed there was complete unity within the Maharashtra Congress adding that both his party and the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) stood firmly behind Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

"There is complete unity within the Maharashtra Congress. Forty-one of the 44 MLAs were present during my meeting with them. The others are *en route*. I have spoken with Uddhav Thackeray over phone and could not meet him personally as he has tested COVID-19 positive. I have assured him that the Congress will keep supporting the MVA," he said. "I have spoken with Sharad Pa-

NCB files draft charges against Rhea Chakraborty, brother

Prosecution asks the court to charge them in drugs case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday filed draft charges against actor Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and others before a special court in connection with a drugs case linked to Bollywood star Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

Special public prosecutor Atul Sarpande said the prosecution maintained charges against all the accused as mentioned in the chargesheet filed before the court.

The prosecution has proposed the court to charge Rhea and Showik for con-



Rhea Chakraborty with her brother Showik. •PTI

sumption of narcotic substances and also for procuring and paying for such substances for deceased actor Sushant. Mr. Sarpande said the court was scheduled to frame charges against all

the accused. However, it could not be done as a few of the accused moved discharge applications.

The court has said that the charges would be framed only after the discharge pleas are decided, he said. All the accused, including Rhea and Showik, were present before the court on Wednesday.

Special judge V.G. Raghuvanshi, hearing cases pertaining to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, posted the matter for hearing on July 12.

The CBI is probing the case pertaining to Sushant's death.

An Assam link in the Maharashtra crisis

Sarma flayed for 'shameful indulgence'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, known to have had a hand in making and breaking governments in the northeast, has emerged as a major player in the Maharashtra political crisis.

Soon after Maharashtra MLAs led by Shiv Sena leader and Minister Eknath Shinde were escorted to a luxury hotel in Guwahati on Wednesday morning, the Congress and other Opposition parties slammed Mr. Sarma for "shameful indulgence" in the political crisis in another State when millions were caught in a rain-induced crisis in Assam.

Mr. Shinde and the MLAs, a few of them Independents, flew in from Surat where they had been taken after alleged cross-voting saw the Bharatiya Janata Party win five of the 10 Maharashtra Legislative Council seats.

The Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) won two seats each and the Congress bagged one. The three are allies in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Providing relief

"The Chief Minister of Assam should concentrate on his own job and provide adequate relief and rehabilitation to the flood-affected people in the State. He can do his politicking in happier times," Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah said.

The Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) criticised Mr. Sarma for hosting the Maharashtra MLAs possibly to topple the government there.

"It is sad that Assam has been turned into the epicentre of dissension in Maharashtra in a show of insen-

Sonia seeks time to appear before ED

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day before Congress president Sonia Gandhi was scheduled to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Ms. Gandhi on Wednesday has written to the agency to seek a postponement for a few weeks to fully recover from COVID-related issues.

The Congress chief had been summoned by the ED for questioning in a money laundering case related to the *National Herald* newspaper on June 23.

New date

The agency is said to have accepted the request and Ms. Gandhi could now be given a date for the third week of July. There is, however, no formal statement from either the investigation agency or the Congress on a fresh date.

"Since she has been strictly advised rest at home following her hospitalisation on account of COVID-19 and lung infection, Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi has written to ED today seeking the postponement of her appearance there by a few weeks till she has recovered completely," Jairam Ramesh, Congress's communication chief, had said earlier in a tweet.

Originally summoned to appear before the agency on June 8 in connection with the *National Herald* case, Ms. Gandhi, 75, tested COVID-positive on June 2.

Though the ED had given June 23 as the new date, she had to be hospitalised on June 12, following an episode of nasal bleeding and an infection in the respiratory tract.

On Monday evening, she was discharged from Sir Gangaram Hospital but has been advised complete rest.

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IN BRIEF



Patnaik urges all Odisha MLAs to support Murmu

BHUBANESWAR Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday appealed to all members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly to extend their support to Droupadi Murmu for her presidential bid by rising above party lines. Soon after her name was announced late evening on Tuesday, Mr. Patnaik congratulated her on being announced as the candidate of the NDA for the country's highest office. It is to be mentioned that his party Biju Janata Dal is not part of NDA. It had severed ties long ago. The NDA is also looking to the BJP for the smooth sailing of Ms. Murmu.

Defamation suit filed against Manish Sisodia

GUWAHATI Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, the wife of Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, has filed a ₹100-crore defamation suit against Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia for accusing her firm of malpractice involving personal protective equipment kits in 2020. Citing media reports, he said that Mr. Sarma gave PPE supply orders to the firms of his wife and son's partners for ₹990 apiece while the Assam government bought each kit for ₹600 from other companies.

ED allows Sachin Vaze to turn approver

MUMBAI The ED has allowed dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to become an approver in a money-laundering case against former Maharashtra Home Minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh. The case dates back to March 20, 2021 when former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh wrote to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray alleging that Mr. Deshmukh abused his position to seek monetary benefits. It alleged instances of Mr. Vaze and others to collect ₹100 crore from bars and restaurants over a month.

Nitish affirms support for NDA nominee

Droupadi Murmu's victory in Presidential polls is a foregone conclusion, says JD(U) chief Rajiv Ranjan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PATNA

Janata Dal(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday welcomed the National Democratic Alliance's decision to name tribal leader Droupadi Murmu as its candidate for the Presidential election.

The Chief Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called him to inform him of the decision to field Ms. Murmu. The Opposition United Progressive Alliance (UPA) has fielded former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha. The election is slated to be held on July 18.

"We express happiness



Upbeat mood: Babulal Marandi and other BJP leaders celebrate Droupadi Murmu's candidature, in Ranchi. ♦PTI

over the candidature of Droupadi Murmu for President of India. She is a tribal woman and it is a matter of great happiness that a tribal woman is the candidate for

the highest position in the country. She performed well as a Minister in the Odisha government and her role as Jharkhand Governor was also commendable," Mr. Kumar said in a tweet.

JD(U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aka Lalan Singh, said the Bihar Chief Minister had always stood for empowerment of women and his government had worked for this. "Our party welcomes Droupadi Murmu's candidature for the post of President. Her victory is a foregone conclusion," he said.

Bound to support However, party sources told The Hindu that Mr. Kumar was bound to support the

NDA candidate as he had never been on good terms with UPA candidate Yashwant Sinha. Mr. Sinha had been critical of Mr. Kumar and his government on several issues.

Meanwhile, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan said his party would support Ms. Murmu. Mr. Paswan said senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had spoken to him.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader and party spokesperson Manoj Pandey said though his party welcomed Ms. Murmu's candidature, a decision to support her would have to be taken by the top leadership.

Sinha to begin campaign from Ranchi, says it's battle of ideas

However, ruling JMM will find it difficult to oppose Murmu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Amid speculation that Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha president Hemant Soren will vote for the NDA's Presidential candidate, Droupadi Murmu, the State capital, Ranchi, will be the first campaign stop for Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha.

So far, Mr. Soren has not made a formal comment, but party insiders claim that in all likelihood, the JMM will vote for Ms. Murmu. Both Ms. Murmu and Mr. Soren belong to the Santhal tribe.

It is a particularly tricky problem for Mr. Soren since he supported the idea of a common candidate and sent out his representative for the first round of the joint Opposition meeting on June 15. Interestingly, the JMM was not present at Tuesday's meeting, where Mr. Sinha's name was finalised. The Congress is a key ally in the Jharkhand



Yashwant Sinha

BJP and one hopes that this fundamental sentiment will prevail," he said.

Mr. Sinha has thrice represented the Hazaribagh Lok Sabha constituency in Jharkhand. On June 24, he will be in Ranchi and the next day, he will visit Patna.

In a statement later, he said, "Leaders of one ideology are hell-bent on throttling the Constitution. They believe India's Rashtrapati should not function with a mind of her/his own and should merely serve as a rubber stamp to do the government's bidding. I am proud to belong to the other ideology that is determined to save the Constitution and the Republic.

The Opposition parties have been criticised for picking a former BJP leader to counter the BJP. Mr. Sinha said this criticism was invalid since he had served in a "different BJP". "The BJP which I served is not the BJP of today," he added.

government. At the same time, with Ms. Murmu being the first tribal leader in line for the President's post, it will be difficult for the JMM, a party born out of a tribal movement, to oppose her.

Battle of identity

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr. Sinha asserted that it was a contest of ideas. "This is not a battle of identity, it is a battle of ideology. And if identity was the parameter, then it can go to ridiculous depths. The JMM has deliberately chosen not to be with the

Rairangpur basks in national glory

From dawn, people started queuing up in front of Droupadi Murmu's house

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR

From a nondescript town in one of Odisha's backward regions, Rairangpur overnight finds itself basking in the glow of the national spotlight. It will now forever be known as the home of Droupadi Murmu, who is almost certain to be the next President of India.

The sleepy town woke up early on Wednesday to congratulate Ms. Murmu as she prepares to hold the highest Constitutional post from July. It was not dawn yet but people had started to queue up in front of her Mahuldiha house in Rairangpur. They came not just from Odisha but neighbouring Jharkhand and West Bengal as well.

"Many people had gone to bed early on Tuesday and missed the news of Ms. Murmu being nominated as the Presidential candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). But phones kept ringing with some denizens enthusiastically sharing the news. In the morning, the message boxes were



Paying respects: Droupadi Murmu sweeps the Purnandeswar Shiv temple at Rairangpur in Odisha on Wednesday. ♦PTI

full," Naveen Ram, a resident of Rairangpur, who has known Ms. Murmu for over two decades, said.

Ms. Murmu, too, only managed to catch a few hours of sleep. "Congratulations messages kept flowing till late into the night and madam had to answer each phone call," Kishore K. Rajak, a close associate of Ms. Murmu, said. By morning,

Jaher, a Santhal sacred grove. Ms. Murmu belongs to the Santhal tribe.

As the flow of visitors to her residence began to swell over the course of the day, security forces had to intervene. Those who know Ms. Murmu, however, had unhindered access to her home.

"Despite personal tragedies, she has achieved spectacular success in her life. When she was Governor of Jharkhand, she used to come to her house more often. She has conducted herself like any other normal citizen of Rairangpur," Mithila Tudu, a resident of Rairangpur, said.

The 64-year-old has endured the untimely death of her husband, Shyam Charan Murmu, and of two sons. She has one daughter, who works in a bank.

Ms. Murmu was born in Uparbeda village under the Kusumi block of Mayurbhanj district. A vegetarian, who often carries packed food to her workplace, Ms. Murmu started out as a clerk in Odisha's Irrigation Department.

Golden era of Santhal tribe in India now, say community leaders

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

The Santhal community is in the spotlight after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominated one of its leaders, Droupadi Murmu, for the election to the highest Constitutional post of India.

With chances bright for Ms. Murmu to become the first tribal person to become the President, community members appear to be on cloud nine. Santhal is the third largest Scheduled Tribe community in the country after Gond and Bhill.

The Santhal population is mostly distributed in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Ms. Murmu's home district, Mayurbhanj, has one of the largest concentrations of the tribe. In Odisha, Santhals are found in Keonjhar and Balasore, other than in Mayurbhanj district.

According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRI), Bhubaneswar, the word Santhal is derived from two words: santha meaning calm and peaceful and ala meaning man.

The institute says that in the past, the Santhals had led a nomadic life. Gradually, they came to settle down on the Chhotanagpur plateau. Towards the end of the 18th century, they migrated to the Santhal Parganas of Bihar and then came to Odisha. Community leaders say it is a golden era now for Santhals in the country. If elected, Ms. Murmu will become the first tribal woman President of India. Hemant Soren, a Santhal, is the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Girish Chandra Murmu, the first Lieutenant-Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is now Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

Mayurbhanj MP Bishweswar Tudu, a Santhal, is the Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti.

"Their literacy rate is very high compared with that of other tribes in Odisha. If one sees in terms of prosperity in the community, its members playing key roles in national and international spheres, Santhals have few parallels," SCSTRI Director A.B. Ota said.

Santhals speak Santhali which has its own script called Ol Chiki invented by Pundit Raghunath Murmu. Santhali in the Ol Chiki script has been included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. Ol-Chiki is the medium of instruction in many schools across the State. Santhal is a subject for postgraduate study.

MISSING The above shown is the photo of missing persons in Crime No 476/2022 U/s 57 of KP Act Kovalam Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Their details are as follows: Name - AMIT GUPTA, Height - 160 cm, Known Languages - Hindi, Hair Colour - mixed gray hair, Colour - White, Build - Bulky Name - PINKY GUPTA, Height - 158 cm, Known Language - Hindi, Hair - Short, Colour - White, Build - Normal Name - ADAR GUPTA, Age - 5 The above said Three were stayed in Mareena Guest House Kovalam and missing from the above said Guest House on 30.04.2022. Station House Officer - 9497947102 Kovalam Police Station - 0471 2480 255 RO/01509/F2/2022&PRD

TAMILNADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process) SI.No. Tender Inviting Authority Specification No. Total 1 SE / C / Dist 05 1 For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app DIPR/2933/Tender/2022

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION Central Offices, K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. No.BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/04/2022-23 Dt: 22.06.2022. NOTICE INVITING TENDER Tender is invited through e-procurement portal for the following items. (1) Tender No. & Date: BMTC/2022/007 Date: 22.06.2022. (Regular Tender) Description: Supply of ETM along with ETM Software on rental basis for BMTC. Tender Value Approximate: Rs. 494.00 Lakhs. Last date for bid submission in e-procurement portal: 11.07.2022 at 14.30 Hrs. For more details visit www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases (Tender Inviting Authority)

IndianOil Research & Development Centre, Faridabad NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) IndianOil R&D invites EOI for "Vendor empanelment for sourcing DeMet & Grading bed catalysts for hydrotreating units". For further details, kindly refer EOI No: RNDEOI2202 in following weblink (https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app)

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are invited for the following project of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project Design Supply Installation and Maintenance of Tensile Roof Structure above the central plaza of EK Nayanar RFP for Selection of Contractor for Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Tensile Roof Structure above the central plaza of EK Nayanar memorial park on EPC Mode at Thiruvananthapuram. Bid Submission Last Date: 14th July 2022, Thursday, 5:30 PM Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on https://www.smartcitytvm.in/ (Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

Agriculture University, Jodhpur Jodhpur - 342304 (Rajasthan) Website: www.ajodhpur.ac.in Email: registrarajodhp@gmail.com, Telefax: (0) 0291-2570711 Advt. No. - AUJ/2022/05 Date - 21/06/2022 Advertisement for the post of Vice-Chancellor (AU, Jodhpur) Application/nominations, in prescribed application format, are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Agriculture University, Jodhpur, on behalf of the Search Committee. The applicants are advised to send their application by post and email in the prescribed form so as to reach the office of the undersigned on or before 25 July, 2022 at 05.00 PM. Detailed advertisement and application format can be downloaded from the website www.ajodhpur.ac.in or www.rajbhawan.gov.in. Raj.Samwad/C/22/3836 REGISTRAR

TAMILNADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process) SI.No. Tender Inviting Authority Specification No. Total 1 CE / MM M.13, M.14 2 For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app DIPR/2933/Tender/2022

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE Nehru Nagar, National Highway No. 4, BELAGAVI - 590 010. Tel: 0831- 2475477 NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Director, ICMR-NITM, Belagavi invites tender in single bid system for Disposal of vehicles - 02 Nos., on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" at ICMR - NITM, Belagavi. For details like Tender document, vehicles model, EMD, Terms & conditions, etc., further updates, corrigendum, if any institute website https://icmrnitm.res.in may be referred. The last date of submission of bid documents will be 13.07.2022 upto 02:00 p.m. Date : 21.06.2022 Place: Belagavi Sd/- Director

INSTITUTE OF ROAD TRANSPORT Regd. Office: 100 Feet Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600113, Tamil Nadu, India Global Invitation for submitting Expression of Interest (EOI) for supply and deployment of Electric Buses (Battery Operated Electric Vehicle) along with Charging Infrastructure in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. IRT reference No.17/EOI-EB/CP/IRT/2022 KFW reference No: BMZ209919234/KW508477 Institute of Road Transport (IRT) intends to purchase 100nos. of 12m, Low - Floor AC Electric Buses for Urban application on behalf of Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC), Chennai, Tamil Nadu along with Charging Infrastructure and bus repair and maintenance equipment and spares etc. Expression of Interests (EOI) are invited from reputed National and International Vehicle Manufacturers with manufacturing facilities and experience in deployment of electric buses and charging solutions and are requested to present their credentials and proposed technological solutions with respect to the technical and functional requirements of electric bus operations in Chennai as specified in the Eol document. The Eol Document can be downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in and www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc. The proposal for the Eol shall be in English only and shall be submitted online only at https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/index.jsp before 3.00 PM on 22.07.2022. The interested bidders are requested to send queries if any to ittaramani@gmail.com and/or irtcpo@gmail.com before 04.07.2022. Note: The invitation for EOI is open for all, unpriced and non-binding process. Non- submission of the Eol from any prospective bidder/interested party shall not be considered as disqualification for the RFP stage. DIRECTOR DIPR/2958/Tender/2022

ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY (AWES) ADMISSION NOTICE : B Sc (NURSING) DEGREE COURSE CORRIGENDUM Reference to the original advertisement published in the newspaper on 03 Jun 2022. Last date for submission of online application form for admission into B.Sc (Nursing) Course at Army Institute of Nursing Guwahati and Army College of Nursing Jalandhar Cantt extends from 26th Jun 2022 to 30th Jun 2022 and for downloading of Admit Cards from 03rd July, 2022 onwards. Candidates must visit for details AIN, Guwahati website : www.ainguwahati.org and ACN Jalandhar Cantt website : www.acn.co.in regularly.

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED Office of the Superintending Engineer (Regulation) Room No. 149, Old Power House Premises, Banipark, Jaipur-302016 Email- sera@jvnl.org Website: energyrajasthan.gov.in/jvnl E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE E-tenders in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) are invited from eligible bidders for Configuration of devices with providing SCADA Software License, Deployment, Integration and Go Live services for each Remote Monitoring System as well as integration with existing State Level Portal & National Level Portal of PM-KUSUM Scheme Component - A, B & C along with 05 years cloud services (MEITY approved) and O&M contract under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM Scheme). All the details regarding tenders available at web site www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvnl, www.spp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in vide NIT No. JVNVL / SE (REGULATION) / XEM(DSM)/SCADA/ITM 08. In future, corrigendum/extension, if any, shall be published only at website www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvnl, http://www.spp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in UBN No. VVN223WLO080104 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (REGULATION) JPR 2715 (2022) For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507 Raj.samwad/C/22/3905

TAMIL NADU MINERALS LIMITED No. 31, Kamarajar Sala, Chepak, Chennai - 600 005 Ph: 044-29862018 / 28511972 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER with Forward Bidding Description Sale of Graphite ore (As mined) at Graphite Mine, Sivaganga, Tamilnadu Tender No. & Date TMMN/258/NAP/2/2022, Dated : 21.06.2022 Tender ID TMMN/258/2022/1 Bid submission end date 21.07.2022 upto 1400 hrs Technical bid opening date 22.07.2022 at 1600 hrs EMD Rs.1,18,000/- (Rupees One lakh eighteen thousand only) Tender form fee Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two thousand only) Note : For further details please visit Tamil Nadu e-tendering portal : https://tntenders.gov.in DIPR/2953/Tender/2022 GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE)

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भरतपुर क्रमांक/न.नि.म./पूल शाखा / 2022-23 / 2820 दिनांक: 16.06.2022 ई-निविदा सूचना नगर निगम भरतपुर में हल्के एवं भारी वाहनों पर घालक उपलब्ध कराने हेतु केन्द्र सरकार व राज्य सरकार के विभागों में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत, अनुभवी संवेदकों/फर्म/NGO से निविदा प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्चुरमेंट प्रक्रिया के अन्तर्गत ऑनलाइन निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। समस्त कार्यों के लिए धरोहर राशि के अनुमानित लागत पर सशम संवेदक द्वारा 2 प्रतिशत राशि पृथक-पृथक रूप से खाते में RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से जमा करना होगा। निविदा की महत्वपूर्ण शर्तें एवं विवरण वेबसाइट http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। कार्यों की संख्या 01 कार्य कार्यों की कुल लागत 22.00 Lac वेब साईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से निविदा अर्जलौड करने की समय व तिथि दिनांक 21.06.2022 से 30.06.2022 सांय 6.00 बजे तक वेब साईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से ऑनलाइन निविदा अर्जलौड करने की अन्तिम समय व तिथि दिनांक 30.06.2022 सांय 6.00 बजे नगर निगम में प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क निविदा शुल्क धरोहर राशि की रू.द्वि.आर. सीड भौतिक रूप से जमा कराने की तिथि दिनांक 01.07.2022 दोपहर 12.00 बजे तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की समय व तिथि दिनांक 01.07.2022 सांय 4.00 बजे, नगर निगम, भरतपुर UBN NO.: DLB2223SLRC08469 आयुक्त राज.संवाद/सी/3749/2022-2023 नगर निगम, भरतपुर

Rain and snow lead to Kashmir floods

Most rivers and tributaries in spate in the Valley; two persons reported missing in Pahalgam

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Heavy rain in the plains and snowfall in the upper reaches on Wednesday left most rivers and tributaries in Jammu and Kashmir in spate and triggered flash floods, inundation of residential areas and closure of highways. Two persons went missing in Pahalgam in south Kashmir where a group of tourists were left stranded by the inclement weather.

A spokesman of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Kashmir, said the people residing along the Jhelum river in south, central and north Kashmir were requested to remain vigilant as water was flowing above the danger mark at several places in the Valley. "The flood duty as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been put in force," the spokesman said.

Even the residents living along the higher contours of tributaries, including the Vishow and Rambiyara streams in south Kashmir, were also asked "to remain vigilant as water level was expected to rise further in res-



Under water: Residents waded through a flooded street in the Bemina area of Srinagar on Wednesday. ■NISSAR AHMAD

ponse to the rainfall in the catchment". Classwork in schools was suspended in eight districts of the Valley "as a precautionary measure".

Two persons, one a tourist from Uttarakhand, went missing in the upper reaches of Pahalgam in south Kashmir. "A group of trekkers was stranded in upper reaches of Tarsar-Marsar lakes. Fortu-

nately, 11 sightseers were rescued so far but two, including a doctor from Uttarakhand, went missing after they drowned in a stream," Mohammad Husain Mir, an official said.

Vehicles were struck by mudslides on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Udhampur and Ramban districts, which left the crucial road closed. The Shopian-

Poonch and Srinagar-Gurez highways were closed after snowfall. Kashmir's upper reaches, including locations in tourist hotspots of Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Gurez, received snowfall, unusual for June.

The fresh snowfall has set in a cold wave. Srinagar's maximum temperature hovered around 15°C, 14 notches lower than the normal.

In receding mode, Assam floods kill 12

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The flood situation improved marginally in Assam on Wednesday but left 12 people dead, officials said.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the number of flood-affected districts came down from 31 to 29 during the last 24 hours, with almost 4 lakh people returning home.

"Minus the status of three districts from where we are yet to receive reports, 12 human lives have been lost since Tuesday evening. There are now 51.25 lakh affected people across 4,374 villages and 97,368.50 hectares of cropland under water," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

A total of 101 people has died in floods and rain-induced landslips in Assam so far.

Wadhawans, DHFL booked in ₹34,615-crore fraud case

Firm, promoters allegedly cheated a consortium of 17 banks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL), its promoters and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of 17 banks of ₹34,615 crore. This is the biggest-ever bank fraud case registered by the agency.

Among those arraigned are the DHFL's then chairman-cum-managing director Kapil Wadhawan, promoter director Dheeraj Wadhawan, Sudhakar Shetty of the Sahana Group, Amaryllis Realtors, Gulmarg Realtors, Skylark Buildcon, Darshan Developers, Sigtia Constructions, Creatoz Builders, Township Developers, Shishir Realty and Sunblink Real Estate.

On Wednesday, the CBI conducted searches on the premises of the accused persons at 12 places in different parts of Mumbai.

Incorporated in April 1984, the DHFL extended financial assistance to low-



The CBI conducted searches on premises of accused at 12 places in Mumbai. ■REUTERS

and middle-income group individuals for buying houses and also engaged in other financial intermediation.

The case has been registered on a complaint from the Union Bank of India, which led the consortium. According to the first information report (FIR), a group of 29 lenders, formed in July 2010, initially extended credit facilities to the company. In July 2020, there were 17 consortium members and the quantum of credit facili-

ties was ₹42,871.42 crore.

The loans were sanctioned by lenders in Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mangalore and Bengaluru.

This aside, the banks had subscribed to the DHFL's non-convertible debentures in 2016-18. The company defaulted on its debt payment obligations from May 2019 onwards.

Well before that, several non-banking finance companies were facing problems in fund-raising after the IL&FS Group entities defaulted on its commitments. It was followed by a sharp correction in the DHFL share price.

DHFL-linked entities are already under the scanner of multiple probe agencies for alleged financial irregularities, including the Yes Bank loans.

In March 2021, the CBI had booked the company and its promoters for allegedly claiming interest subsidy under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

MoD approves 'BRO cafes' in border areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday approved the setting up of wayside amenities with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), to be branded as 'BRO Cafes', at 75 locations in 12 States and Union Territories on different sections of roads.

"These are intended to provide basic amenities and comfort to tourists and lead to boosting of economic activities in border areas, besides generating employment for the local people," the Ministry said in a statement.

The scheme provides for wayside amenities in public-private partnership mode with agencies, on a licence basis, which will design, build and operate the facility as per guidelines of the BRO. Proposed amenities include parking for two and four wheelers, food plaza, restaurant, separate rest rooms for men, women and differently abled, and first aid facilities, among others. Selection of licences will be done through a competitive process, the Ministry said.

To provide comfortable transit of tourists on these roads, located at harsh climatic conditions, the need to establish multi-utility wayside amenities was recognised, it said.

Australia says LAC assault was a warning

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles says his country stood up for India's sovereignty then

DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI

The assault on Indian forces along the Line of Actual Control in 2020 was a "warning we should all heed", and Australia stood up for India's sovereignty then and continues to do so now, visiting Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles said on Wednesday. He was referring to the stand-off in eastern Ladakh and the clash in Galwan which led to the death of 20 Indian soldiers. It is vital that China "commits to resolving this dispute" through dialogue, he said.

"It is vital that China commits to resolving this dispute through a process of dialogue consistent with inter-



Australian Deputy PM Richard Marles with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■R. V. MOORTHY

national law. The global rules-based order matters everywhere, including in the highest place on earth," Mr.

Marles said at the National Defence College on Wednesday. Earlier in the day, he held

a bilateral meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during which the two sides agreed to explore means to grow connections and opportunities between the defence industrial bases of two countries as well as to increase the resilience of supply chains and deliver capabilities to their respective defence forces, the Defence Ministry said.

"It is critical that China's neighbours do not see its build-up as a risk for them because without that reassurance, it is inevitable that countries will seek to upgrade their own military capabilities in response," Mr. Marles said in the address referring to China's massive military build-up. He termed

India as "one of the priorities of the new Australian government".

He said the return of war in Europe was another warning while adding that he was not here to "lecture" India on how it should respond to this conflict, or how it should manage its relationship with Russia.

A Defence Ministry statement said that both Ministers committed to give a fillip to the India-Australia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Research and Materiel Cooperation, which will meet in Australia later this year.

India is also set to participate in the Indo-Pacific Endeavour exercise in October 2022.

More members of AIADMK extend support to Palaniswami

'EPS has urged O. Panneerselvam to attend the general council meeting'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Even as all eyes are on the AIADMK's general council meeting, scheduled for Thursday, the camp led by the party's co-coordinator, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, appears to be well ahead of the group headed by party's coordinator O. Panneerselvam, in terms of support from the members of the general council and the party functionaries.

While the Palaniswami faction wants the present system of dual leadership to be changed to single leadership, the other is against any change. Members of the former claim that their camp has the support of about 2,500 members of the council, the strength of which is around 2,700.

On Wednesday, former MP V. Maitreyan, who was with the Panneerselvam camp until recently, met Mr.

Members of the EPS group claim they have support of about 2,500 members of the council

Palaniswami and expressed his support for making the co-coordinator the party's chief.

Veteran member of the party and former Chennai Mayor, Saidai Duraisamy, also called on the co-coordina-

tor. A few more district secretaries of the party switched over to the Palaniswami group. This group also says that its leader has replied to Mr. Panneerselvam, urging him to attend the council meeting.

'Exercise patience' Earlier in the day, the co-coordinator, in a tweet, deplored the tendency of the party becoming "dictatorial" and "anarchic." Counselling

party workers to exercise patience, he quoted a Tamil saying that referred to the ultimate triumph of "dharma" over manipulation.

An aide said Mr. Palaniswami was "keen" on shepherding the party to a successful path so that it would become the ruling party again. A group of Mr. Panneerselvam's supporters raised slogans backing their leader near the memorial of Jayalalithaa on the Marina.

Modi to attend G-7 summit in Germany

Members to plan move against Russia

SUHASINI HAIDAR BONN/NEW DELHI

As the world's most developed economies meet for the G-7 summit this weekend to discuss their next move against Russia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will fly to the German Alpine resort of Schloss Elmau as a special invitee to the meeting on June 26 and 27, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Wednesday.

New Delhi is preparing for more pressure from the G-7 countries, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K., the U.S. and the EU, which have unilaterally imposed sanctions on Russia since it invaded Ukraine. They want India to cooperate in restricting its purchase of Russian oil, not circumvent the sanctions by using a rupee-rouble mechanism, and in lifting the ban on the export of wheat, all requests that the Modi government has turned down.

"The Prime Minister is expected to speak in two sessions that include environment, energy, climate, food security, health, gender equality and democracy," the MEA said, announcing that the PM would hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit.

The visit from June 26 to



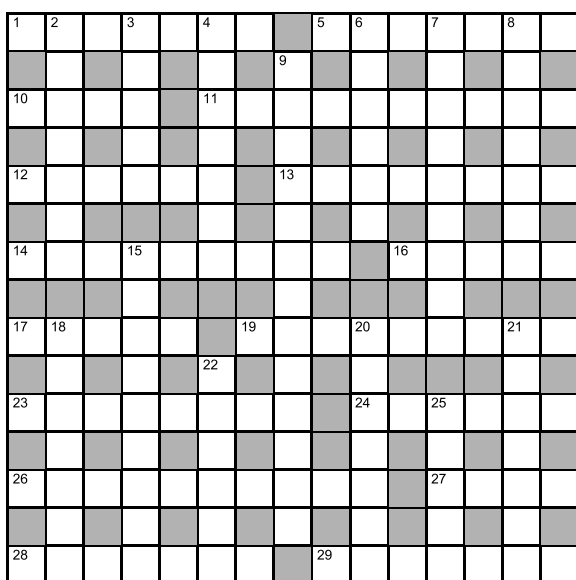
Narendra Modi

28 will include a stopover on the return journey in Abu Dhabi, where Mr. Modi will pay a condolence visit following the death of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and meet with the new ruler and President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Among the special invitees to the G-7 summit are the leaders of Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa, and ahead of an expected meeting between Mr. Modi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo on June 27, officials are working on finding common ground on keeping an independent position in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and keeping the focus on the economic impact of the war. Mr. Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will attend a virtual summit of BRICS hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

THE CROSSWORD + 13590

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



- 14 Cry for help if the pot's burning (4,5)
- 16 They project women on the radio (5)
- 17 Act withdrawn by a story-teller (5)
- 19 A place to rest and drop lifeless, according to Spooner (6,3)
- 23 Unpredictable Western movie recording starting off with cage (4-4)
- 24 Estate of Parisian cardinal (6)
- 26 With malice, aunt turned to libel (10)
- 27 Controversial case of migrant eating exposed food (4)
- 28 Modification of limits for trade and price leads to cash inflow (7)
- 29 A dame, naked in shower - becomes red-faced (7)

Down

- 2 Grade set wrongly? That is most offensive (7)
- 3 Find dog with name written in Arabic (3,2)
- 4 Everybody's invited to "Tea and Hot Bread" (7)
- 6 Navy quietly dumps contracts for cradles (6)
- 7 Drink in poem about diversity followed by Auden's introduction (9)
- 8 Maybe Trojan horse's entertaining somersaulting drill? (7)
- 9 Without external help, no bet was on (3,4,3,3)
- 15 Short time in troupe reformed Sue (9)
- 18 Drug mafia's chief upset the office of the Head of Kuwait (7)
- 20 They make name-tags for hounds (7)
- 21 Chapter missing in classic book's abstract (7)
- 22 West Indian city rising after "Operation Ease Lockdown" (4,2)
- 25 Mother of millions - most affectionate, primarily (5)

- Across
- 1 Stir freshly cut fruit (7)
- 5 Shops due to get millions (7)
- 10 Avtaar leaves His Majesty drinking a peg (4)
- 11 Cheap American car featured in a fairy tale (10)
- 12 Distant acquaintance? (3,3)
- 13 Old writer taking shot at limerick - basically, it is an easy target (4,4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13589

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

The way of penance

We often speak of penance but how is one to understand its import? Who really does penance? The term 'tapas' refers to penance or asceticism, which is identified in qualities of heart like truthfulness, ahimsa, endurance, selfless service and so on, rather than certain external marks and ways of life. In fact, Tiruvalluvar says that 'thavam', the Tamizh word for 'tapas' or penance, is manifest in each individual's desire to consciously practise these qualities and principles in day-to-day life, pointed out Sri Nallur Sa Saravanan in a discourse. All beings are bound to reach God whether they are aware of this or not. Every birth brings with it many opportunities to each individual who tries to learn about this quest. The time-tested rule, 'learning and practising what is learnt', that helps one to become mature and adept in any field or vocation is also relevant for those who wish to tread this path to reach the ultimate goal. There is the chance to improve one's nature and mind by penance. There is no time limit for this process.

Tiruvalluvar gives prime place to endurance or tolerance which he says is reflected in people's nature in two ways, the ability to accept whatever is one's lot and also refraining from causing harm to other beings. More important is his observation that when one gets the desire to do penance, one automatically directs his actions to a certain worthwhile purpose. The result is most beneficial as this makes him avoid all those acts that are not relevant for him in life. The life of Ramalinga Adigalar is an example of how leading a life of penance can endow one with higher and subtle attainments. This saint, who lived among us, has inspired many into the paths of satya and dharma by the way he lived his life rather than by merely speaking of these values.

'India, Russia should have direct trade and investment agreements'

Industrialist Oleg Deripaska says the Ukraine war has pushed Moscow to develop new trade and investment ties with India, China and Southeast Asian countries

KSENIYA KONDRATIEVA
ST. PETERSBURG

As Russia's access to its traditional markets of exports and imports are hugely limited following its Ukraine invasion and the subsequent sanctions, Moscow is looking to develop new trade and investment relations with partners in Asia, including India, China and Southeast Asian countries, said Russian aluminium tycoon Oleg Deripaska.

Speaking on the sidelines of 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), also known as the 'Russian Davos', Mr. Deripaska, founder of RUSAL, one of the world's largest aluminium producers, said there's an understanding that "the new normal" would fundamentally change Russia's economic

reality in the coming years.

To facilitate such a shift, he said, Russia needed to create the same kind of infrastructure as it had built over the 12 years, from 1991 to 2003, with Europe. This includes setting up new logistics routes and related infrastructure, customs procedures, trade agreements, infrastructure for settlements, gaining access to capital markets and creating an ecosystem for various modes of trade financing.

Transport corridors

Mr. Deripaska, who has been under U.S. sanctions since 2018, was one of the few Russian billionaires who publicly criticised President Vladimir Putin's "special military operation" in Ukraine. Following the February 24 invasion, Britain and

the EU have also imposed sanctions on him.

"It is a lengthy process," he said about the shift in the trade routes. "We need to build transport corridors through the Bosphorus via Turkey to North Africa and the Middle East; through the Caspian Sea via Iran to India; and from the [Russian] Far East to Southeast Asia. This requires significant efforts and large investments."

The funding, he added, should come from both the government and the corporate sector, as well as the countries that would benefit from those new routes, including India, as this would reduce the price of key commodities, including oil and gas, in the long term.

"This is a complex process, it will require certain efforts from the government



Oleg Deripaska

— which, too, must change its approach and thinking. If earlier we relied on the WTO and believed everyone plays by the same rules, it is clearly a thing of the past now," the tycoon said.

Turn to the East

It is important for both Russia and India to have direct trade agreements and bilat-

eral investment treaties, Mr. Deripaska added. Solving the payment issues by creating a full-fledged settlement ecosystem that is supported by currency swaps as well as new-age mechanisms like digital currency and crypto-currency is another critical factor to enable Russia's "Turn to the East".

Moscow and New Delhi have been attempting to finalise negotiations of the Bilateral Investment Treaty for several years now, while talks on a trade agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union, comprising Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, have been under way since 2017. The bilateral trade between India and Russia stood at around \$13 billion by the end of 2021, and the countries have

set a target of \$30 billion by 2025.

"Look, Russia's annual bilateral trade with the European Union was in the range of €750 billion to €1 trillion. We expect to reach around \$200 billion with China in the next three years; it could be even \$500 billion, depending on what kind of economic growth Russia will be able to maintain. I believe Russia-India bilateral trade will reach \$120-150 billion in the next decade, I have no doubt about that," Mr. Deripaska said.

India's energy needs

He added that India as a dynamically growing economy would require raw materials and energy resources, machinery, components, and technologies that Russia could supply. Emphasising

India's energy needs vis-à-vis its strong commitments to carbon neutrality, Mr. Deripaska noted the growing importance of nuclear energy as a base load source of energy, and Russia's advanced nuclear generation capabilities, including its leading positions in the fast breeder reactor technology, paved the way for broader cooperation in this field.

"Resources will be very important to India if it wishes to have minimal carbon footprints, and Russia can supply some of the most sustainable raw materials," Mr. Deripaska said.

India has increased its imports of Russian hydrocarbons many-fold over the past few months.

"One should understand that [redirecting trade and investment flows] won't

happen all of a sudden, also because of the existing sanctions. See, sanctions have an instantly destructive effect, but at the same time, they have a certain lifespan, an expiration date. I have been under sanctions, so I do understand how it works," Mr. Deripaska said.

"The lifespan of sanctions is two years. For two years, people will be reluctant [to cooperate], but after two years, the ways will be found, and agreements will be reached. I am confident that in the next two and a half years, we will find ways to work with all our major partners, and in 10 years Russia's exports will be well-diversified," Mr. Deripaska added.

Kseniya Kondratieva is an independent journalist based in Moscow

Kyiv, Moscow far from peace talks: Scholz

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

Ukraine and Russia are a long way from ending the war through negotiations, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Wednesday, adding that President Vladimir Putin still wrongly believed he could dictate the terms of peace.

"The truth is, we are far from negotiations between Ukraine and Russia. Because Putin still believes in the possibility of a dictated peace," Mr. Scholz said in an address to German lawmakers.

'Task for generations'

The German Chancellor also said that Ukraine needed massive financial help to rebuild after the devastation wrought by Russia's invasion. Mr. Scholz added that the reconstruction would be a "task for generations".

Pro-Russian forces 'close to encircling' key Ukrainian city

Massive Russian bombing has turned Luhansk into hell, says regional Governor

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine claimed on Wednesday they were close to surrounding Ukrainian forces defending the twin cities of Lysychansk and Severodonetsk, the site of fierce weeks-long fighting.

An officer in the separatist army of Luhansk — a pro-Russian breakaway region in eastern Ukraine — said their forces surrounded Ukrainian troops in the villages of Hirsk and Zolote, a day after capturing the neighbouring village of Toshkivka.

The three settlements are located a few kilometres outside Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, which Moscow's forces have been trying to seize for weeks. "Very soon (Ukrainian) groups in Lys-



Honouring the dead: People attending the funeral of a Ukrainian commander in central Kyiv on Wednesday. • REUTERS

chansk and Severodonetsk will also be surrounded," Andrei Marochko told Russian state TV.

In Zolote and Hirsk "there is a full encirclement of Ukrainian troops", he added.

Intense fighting for the strategic city of Severodonetsk has raged as Russian forces advance in Ukraine's

eastern Donbas region.

Meanwhile, Kyiv said "massive" Russian bombardment "has turned Severodonetsk into 'hell', while insisting that defenders would hold "as long as necessary".

"The Russian army is massively shelling Lysychansk," Sergiy Gaiday, Governor of the Lugansk region, wrote

on Telegram. "They are just destroying everything there... They destroyed buildings and unfortunately there are casualties."

He later wrote that "it's just hell out there" after four months of shelling in Severodonetsk, across the Donets river — while adding that "our boys are holding their positions and will continue to hold on as long as necessary".

In a briefing on Wednesday, the Russian Defence Ministry claimed responsibility for a missile strike it said killed a number of Ukrainian troops in southern Mykolaiv. In central Ukrainian city Zaporizhzhia, women were training to use Kalashnikov assault rifles in urban combat as Russian forces edged nearer.

Biden calls for pause on gas tax amid record prices

He faces opposition from own party

REUTERS

U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday called on Congress to pass a three-month suspension of the federal gasoline tax to help combat record pump prices and provide temporary relief for American families this summer.

The President also urged States to temporarily suspend state fuel taxes, which are often higher than federal rates, the official said, and will challenge major oil companies to bring ideas on how to bring back idled refining capacity.

Mr. Biden and his advisers have been discussing the issue for months amid increasing pressure to act as

record-high gas prices weigh down the President's poll ratings. Lawmakers in both parties have expressed resistance to suspending the tax, with some Democrats, including House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, worried the move could have a limited effect on prices if oil companies and retailers pocket much of the savings.

"A gas tax holiday alone will not, on its own, relieve the run up in costs that we've seen," the White House said in a statement. "This unique moment when the war in Ukraine is imposing costs on American families, Congress should do what it can to provide families breathing room."

'Goal is preservation of Tibetan culture, not Independence'

Dalai Lama says he is not trying to propagate Buddhism

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

The political goal is not independence for Tibet, but the preservation of Tibetan culture, the Dalai Lama said via a recorded message released on Wednesday. The video of the 86-year-old spiritual head of the Tibetans was played before a group of parliamentarians and other supporters of the Tibetan cause, gathered in Washington DC for the 8th World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet (WPCT).

"Politically we are not seeking Independence for Tibet. What most concerns us is the importance of preserving and safeguarding



Dalai Lama

our culture and language," he said.

"And the reality today is that there are growing numbers of Chinese people taking interest in Buddhism. Under such circumstances, if we can revive and extend

Tibetan culture of warm heartedness and ethics, it will help not only Tibetans, but others with a Buddhist background to such as the Mongolians and on a larger scale the people of China," the Dalai Lama said.

He emphasised that he was not propagating Buddhism. "We are not trying to propagate Buddhism, cultivating a warm heart and becoming good human beings is of benefit whether you are religious or not," he said.

Others who spoke at the opening session of the convention included Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, and actor Richard Gere.

Economy has collapsed, unable to buy oil: Ranil

We could fall to rock bottom, says PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's debt-laden economy has "collapsed" after months of shortages of food, fuel and electricity, its Prime Minister told lawmakers on Wednesday, in comments underscoring the country's dire situation as it seeks help from international lenders.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told Parliament the South Asian country is "facing a far more serious situation beyond the mere shortages of fuel, gas, electricity and food. Our economy has completely collapsed."

While Sri Lanka's crisis is considered its worst in recent memory, Mr. Wickremesinghe's assertion that the economy has collapsed did not cite any specific new developments. It appeared intended to emphasise to his critics and Opposition lawmakers that he has inherited a difficult task that can't be fixed quickly, as the economy founders under the weight of heavy debts, lost tourism revenue and other impacts from the pandemic, as well as surging costs for commodities.

Lawmakers of the country's two main Opposition parties are boycotting Parliament this week to protest against Mr. Wickremesinghe, who became Prime Minister just over a month ago and is also Finance Minister, for not having deli-



Ranil Wickremesinghe

vered on his pledges to turn the economy around.

Mr. Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka is unable to purchase imported fuel, even for cash, due to heavy debt owed by its petroleum corporation.

"Currently, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is \$700 million in debt," he told lawmakers. "As a result, no country or organisation in the world is willing to provide fuel to us. They are even reluctant to provide fuel for cash."

Mr. Wickremesinghe took office after days of violent protests over the country's economic crisis forced his predecessor to step down. On Wednesday, he blamed the previous government for failing to act in time.

"If steps had at least been taken to slow down the collapse of the economy at the beginning, we would not be facing this difficult situation today. But we lost out on this opportunity. We are now seeing signs of a possible fall to rock bottom."

Poliovirus found in U.K. sewage sample

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

A type of poliovirus derived from vaccines has been detected in London sewage samples, the World Health Organization and British health officials said on Wednesday, adding that more analysis was under way.

No human cases of polio have been found in Britain, where the crippling disease was fully eradicated two decades ago.

The WHO said in a statement that "type 2 vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV2)" had been found in environmental samples in the British capital.

"It is important to note that the virus has been isolated from environmental samples only," it said, stressing that "no associated cases of paralysis have been detected." But it warned, "any form of poliovirus anywhere is a threat to children everywhere."

A global effort has in recent decades come close to wiping out polio, a crippling and potentially fatal viral disease that mainly affects children under the age of five. Cases have decreased by 99% since 1988.

The wild version of the virus now exists only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but a type of vaccine that contains small amounts of weakened but live polio still causes occasional outbreaks elsewhere.

Pakistan secures IMF deal to restore \$6 billion stalled aid

Monetary body has put forth conditions for Islamabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan has secured a deal with the International Monetary Fund to restore the stalled \$6 billion assistance package and unlock doors for financing from other international sources, according to a media report on Wednesday.

The make-or-break deal was reached on Tuesday night following the IMF staff mission and the Pakistani team, led by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, agreeing on an understanding on the 2022-23 Budget after the authorities committed to

generating Rs. 43,600 crore more taxes and increase petroleum levy gradually up to Rs. 50 per litre, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The extended fund facility package of \$6 billion was agreed upon in July 2019 for a period of 39 months. So far only half of the promised money has been reimbursed. The revival of the facility will immediately provide access to \$1 billion.

The MEFP will also contain certain prior actions that would be necessary for implementation before the IMF board takes up Pakistan's case for approval and

the subsequent disbursement of about \$1 billion next month.

Citing top government sources, the report said that to win over the global lender, the Pakistani side agreed to start charging on all petroleum products a levy which will be gradually increased by Rs. 5 per month to reach a maximum of Rs. 50.

In yet another retreat, the government agreed to impose 1% poverty tax on firms earning Rs. 15 crore, 2% on those earning Rs. 20 crore, 3% on over Rs. 25 crore and 4% on Rs. 30 crore.

Israel uncovers remains of mosque

Discovery sheds light on region's transition from Christianity to Islam, say officials

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RAHAT

Israeli archaeologists on Wednesday unveiled a rare ancient mosque in the country's south that the antiquities officials said sheds light on the region's transition from Christianity to Islam.

The remains of the mosque, believed to be more than 1,200 years old, were discovered during works to build a new neighbourhood in the Bedouin city of Rahat, the Israel Antiquities Authority said in a statement.

The mosque located in the Negev desert contains "a square room and a wall facing the direction of Mecca", with a half-circle niche in that wall pointing to the



Past forward: Israeli archaeologists working at the newly discovered ancient mosque in Negev on Wednesday. • AFP

south, the IAA said.

"These unique architectural features show that the building was used as a mosque," the authority said, not-

ing it probably hosted a few dozen worshippers at a time.

A short distance from the mosque, a "luxurious estate building" was also discovered, with remains of tableware and glass artefacts pointing to the wealth of its residents, officials of the IAA said.

Three years ago, the authority unearthed another mosque nearby from the same era of the seventh to eighth century AD, calling the two Islamic places of worship "among the earliest known worldwide".

The mosques, estate and other homes found nearby illuminate "the historical process that took place in the northern Negev with the introduction of a new religion — the religion of Islam, and a new rulership and culture in the region," the IAA said.

Indian origin woman is U.S. science adviser

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Leading Indian-American scientist Dr. Arti Prabhakar has been nominated by Joe Biden as a top science adviser to the U.S. President, a decision hailed by the Indian-American community as "historic." If confirmed by the Senate, Dr. Prabhakar would make history as the first woman, immigrant, or person of colour to head Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). She will also be the latest highly-qualified professional from the Indian-American community to be named for a key position in the Biden administration.

MARKET WATCH

| | 22-06-2022 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex | 51,823 | -1.35 |
| US Dollar | 78.32 | -0.24 |
| Gold | 50,487 | -0.39 |
| Brent oil | 111.4 | -2.72 |

NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| Adani Ports | 668.30 | -20.80 |
| Apollo Hosp | 3787.75 | -20.45 |
| Asian Paints | 2666.35 | -12.00 |
| Axis Bank | 626.80 | -9.70 |
| Bajaj Auto | 3635.65 | -9.60 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 11435.55 | -314.35 |
| Bajaj Finance | 5439.60 | -109.55 |
| Bharti Airtel | 642.85 | -11.45 |
| BPLCL | 305.90 | 4.70 |
| Britannia Ind | 3403.65 | -25.65 |
| Cipla | 1916.90 | -21.30 |
| Coal India | 179.35 | -5.45 |
| Divis Lab | 3599.60 | 0.10 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 4260.90 | -7.75 |
| Eicher Motors | 2662.75 | -40.05 |
| Grasim Ind | 1324.90 | -9.20 |
| HCL Tech | 961.30 | -25.30 |
| HDFC | 2159.25 | -15.45 |
| HDFC Bank | 1330.25 | -6.30 |
| HDFC Life | 551.80 | -12.65 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2524.45 | 25.25 |
| Hindalco | 316.45 | -22.80 |
| Hind Unilever | 2202.85 | -2.15 |
| ICICI Bank | 686.60 | -9.50 |
| IndusInd Bank | 777.65 | -21.20 |
| Infosys | 1437.25 | -12.65 |
| ITC | 265.30 | -4.60 |
| JSW Steel | 550.40 | -25.80 |
| Kotak Bank | 1669.70 | -11.80 |
| L&T | 1478.75 | -21.55 |
| M&M | 983.80 | -14.15 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 7782.75 | 2.15 |
| Nestle India Ltd. | 16775.15 | -196.65 |
| NTPC | 137.65 | -2.30 |
| ONGC | 134.85 | -4.25 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 210.65 | 0.30 |
| Reliance Ind | 2505.60 | -78.50 |
| SBI Life | 1019.45 | -25.90 |
| State Bank | 447.65 | -3.10 |
| Shree Cement | 18496.75 | -54.60 |
| Sun Pharma | 809.30 | -8.15 |
| Tata Consumer | 708.95 | -18.30 |
| Tata Motors | 393.10 | -4.50 |
| Tata Steel | 838.10 | -46.70 |
| TCS | 3222.95 | 11.00 |
| Tech Mahindra | 980.00 | -20.10 |
| Titan | 2031.20 | -46.90 |
| UltraTech Cement | 5409.95 | -8.95 |
| UPL | 613.65 | -40.55 |
| Wipro | 411.25 | -13.90 |

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 22

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|--------------------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 78.19 | 78.51 |
| Euro | 82.25 | 82.60 |
| British Pound | 95.78 | 96.18 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 57.45 | 57.69 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.65 | 11.70 |
| Swiss Franc | 80.99 | 81.36 |
| Singapore Dollar | 56.27 | 56.50 |
| Canadian Dollar | 69.27 | 69.52 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 17.74 | 17.83 |
| Australian Dollar | 53.96 | 54.18 |

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Vietjet announces more flight services to India

MUMBAI Vietnam's Vietjet has introduced four more services linking top destinations of India and Vietnam, including Mumbai - Ho Chi Minh City/Hanoi and New Delhi/Mumbai - Phu Quoc. The Mumbai - Phu Quoc route will see the operation of four weekly flights. Passengers can book tickets on these routes now for fares starting at \$18 for one way, Vietjet said.

EV firm Okinawa to set up plant for ₹500 crore

NEW DELHI Electric two-wheeler maker Okinawa Autotech said it will invest ₹500 crore to set up a new manufacturing plant at Karauli in Rajasthan with an annual capacity of 10 lakh units. The plant, the company's third, would be spread across 30 acre and fully operational from October 2023, Okinawa said in a statement, adding that the plant would employ more than 5,000 people.

AU Small Finance Bank unveils LIT credit card

MUMBAI AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) has introduced LIT Credit Card. "Last year, we became the first SFB to start a credit card portfolio," said Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO. "Soon, we observed digitally-savvy and GenZ consumers needed more control over products they use. This led to the evolution of the LIT Credit Card which brings the features of many credit cards into a single card."

Airtel Africa to buy back up to \$300 million debt

NEW DELHI Bharti Airtel International (Netherlands) BV, which manages Airtel's Africa business, has issued a tender offer to buy back up to \$300 million (about ₹2,348 crore) of senior notes, the telco said. The offer to purchase \$300 million worth senior notes has commenced on June 21 and will expire on July 19, Bharti Airtel said in a regulatory filing. PTI

No option but to raise rates: RBI's Patra

MPC's minutes show unanimity on urgent need to tackle inflation, Varma urges quicker tightening

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

India's central bank has no choice but to raise interest rates to keep a lid on inflation expectations as supply-side measures would take time to bring down prices, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said at the last meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee that concluded on June 8 with the RBI raising its policy rate by 50 basis points, the minutes of the meeting show.

"Although the ongoing inflation surge is a supply phenomenon... mending supply always takes time," Dr. Patra noted. "To gain time for supply to respond, the blunt instrument of monetary policy has to be deployed - there is no other recourse at this



Revenge spending: Broadening inflation shows there is some demand able to afford the high prices, says Patra. FILE PHOTO

junction," he stressed. Observing that the fact that inflation remained elevated and was broadening indicated that there was some demand that was able to afford these high prices possibly on account of 'revenge spending' in the wake of the pandemic, the RBI Deputy Governor overseeing monetary policy said, "this warrants some monetary policy front load to modulate it [demand] so that even though it is not at full

strength, it does not exceed the available supply".

"The objective should be to take the repo rate to a height that is at least above the four quarters ahead forecast of inflation, knowing that monetary policy works with lags," he said. "Our endeavour should be to bring down inflation into the tolerance band by the last quarter of 2022-23 or the first quarter of 2023-24 and progressively align it to the target during the course of 2023-24," Dr. Patra added. "This should minimise the loss of output," he added.

'Catching up to do' MPC member Jayanth R. Varma, who has in the past voiced dissent with the majority view, said the MPC had a lot of catching up to do given that since April the MPC had raised the policy rate by 90 basis points while during the same period the RBI's projection of inflation for 2022-23 had risen by 100 basis points to 6.7%.

Fed's Powell won't rule out 100 bps hike

REUTERS

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Wednesday said he would not take any specific size of rate increase "off the table", when asked if the central bank would raise rates by as much as 100 basis points at once to contain inflation.

Earlier, Mr. Powell told the U.S. Senate Banking Committee that the Fed was "strongly committed" to bringing down inflation, which is running at a 40-year high.

"It is essential that we bring inflation down if we are to have a sustained period of strong labor market conditions that benefit all," he stressed, adding that the Fed would be looking for "compelling evidence" of easing price pressures.

Rupee touches new low of 78.32; Sensex falls 1.4%

Stocks to eye Fed Chair's comments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The rupee weakened to a new closing low of 78.32 against the dollar on Wednesday as foreign funds continued to pull out. The S&P BSE Sensex slid 1.4% to close at 51,822.53.

Losses were led by Tata Steel (5.24%), Wipro (3.29%), Reliance (3.07%), IndusInd Bank (2.67%) and HCL Tech (2.61%).

"After a breather, bears took tight control over markets," said Ajit Mishra, vice-president, Research, Religare Broking Ltd. "The benchmark started on a muted note tracking weak Asian markets and further negative bias continued throughout the day as selling pressure widened in me-



tals, media and energy," Mr. Mishra added.

"The broader markets, mid-cap and small-cap ended in-line with the benchmark. All sectoral indices ended in the red," he said, adding markets would first react on Thursday to the U.S. Fed chairman's comments. "Besides, progress of monsoon, crude price and currency movement will be key," he observed.

India reports FY22 CAD of 1.2% as trade deficit widens

Net FPI recorded an outflow of \$16.8 billion: RBI data

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

India recorded a current account deficit (CAD) of 1.2% of GDP in 2021-22 against a surplus of 0.9% in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to \$189.5 billion from \$102.2 billion a year earlier, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India.

"The current account balance recorded a deficit of 1.2% of GDP in 2021-22 as against a surplus of 0.9% in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to \$189.5 billion from \$102.2 billion a year ago," the RBI said.

Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows at \$38.6 billion in 2021-22 were lower than \$44 billion in 2020-21.

Merchandise trade deficit sequentially narrowed to \$54.5 billion in the March quarter

Net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of \$16.8 billion in 2021-22 as against an inflow of \$36.1 billion a year earlier.

For the January-March 2022 quarter, the CAD narrowed on a sequential basis to \$13.4 billion, or 1.5% of GDP, against \$22.2 billion, or 2.6% of GDP, in the December 2021 quarter.

"The CAD printed well below our forecast of \$16 billion in Q4 FY2022 benefiting from higher-than-expected secondary income," said Ad-

iti Nayar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA.

"On a year-on-year basis, although gold imports halved, and the services trade surplus rose, this improvement was dwarfed by the widening of the merchandise trade deficit led by imports of commodity inputs such as crude oil, coal and fertilisers, as well as electronic goods."

Merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$54.5 billion in the March quarter compared with a deficit of \$60.4 billion in the previous quarter. The deficit in the year earlier period, however, had stood at \$41.7 billion.

(With inputs from PTI, Reuters)

May sees highest number of domestic air passengers

The 1.2 cr. highest in last 2 years: DGCA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The month of May this year saw the highest number of air travellers since the pandemic at 1.20 crore, according to DGCA's monthly data.

May also saw a growth of 9.8% in domestic air passenger traffic.

The numbers seen in the month are close to those seen in February 2020 - at 1.23 crore passengers - before travel restrictions on account of COVID-19 began to be imposed in the country, followed by a total ban on domestic and international flights in the last week of March 2020.

Air India was, however, the only airline in the country that saw passenger numbers fall in May as compared to April. Its market share also shrank to 6.8% - which



was the lowest in the recent past. It was also the first airline in the country that saw passenger numbers fall in May compared with April.

IndiGo, which has been increasing its share of the pie, cornered 57.9% of the market share.

The robust demand also led to airlines improve their seat occupancy.

SpiceJet saw 89.1% of its seats sold on an average, followed by GoFirst at 86.5% and Vistara at 84.8%.

Akme to tap digital lending for rural India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Akme Fintrade (India) Ltd., a two-decade-old non-banking finance company, is developing a fintech-led digital lending platform to offer lending solutions for rural people under the brand name aasaanloans.com, its MD said.

"Aasaanloans.com will utilise technology and the experience generated from serving customers for more than two decades to ensure right amount of credit to the right borrower at right time and that too digitally, interacting in their own language," said Nirmal Kumar Jain. "The platform will provide customised products in their own language with end-to-end processing of loans to happen digitally."

Digital wearables can expose users to cyberattacks: IEEE

'Users perceive wearables as having low cybersecurity risk'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Digital wearables, smartwatches and fitness trackers pose unique threats to the security and privacy of customer data, warned the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a global outfit for technical professionals.

"By connecting a wearable to an extended ecosystem, one is exposing a larger attack surface," cautioned Aiyappan Pillai, Senior Member of IEEE. "Cybersecurity experts look at this as a supply chain that includes a data generator, an analytics engine and a service provider. Each link in the chain, including the connecting networks, pre-



sents a potential risk."

As per a document shared by the IEEE, most criminal intrusions of computer networks have a financial motive. That may lead people to conclude that wearables have a low cybersecurity risk. But wearables data, especially in healthcare settings, is often tied to financial information.

"Depending on the organisation from which it was obtained, stolen health data can be extremely valuable because it often includes so much personally-identifiable information - including birthdays, email addresses and other login information, that can be used for identity-theft purposes," said Kevin Curran, Senior Member of IEEE.

India has been witnessing a massive adoption of wearable technology in the recent years.

The wearables market in India had clocked a record-breaking, double-digit growth in the first quarter of 2022, with shipments surpassing 13.9 million devices, as per IDC.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Gulam Rabbani S/o Gulam Rashul R/o E-34, Gali No. 2, Chand Bagh, Karawal Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 234/2016 u/s 279/338 IPC P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Gulam Rabbani** cannot be found and where as it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Gulam Rabbani** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Gulam Rabbani** of FIR No. 234/2016 u/s 279/338 IPC P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.07.2022**.

By Order: Ms. Vidhi Gupta Anand
Metropolitan Magistrate-08 (Central),
Room No. 272, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1605/CD/22

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sheela W/o: Ram Niwas R/o: P-315, Basti Khwaja Meer Dard, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 206/15, U/s 392/411/34 IPC at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sheela cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sheela has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sheela of case FIR No. 206/15, U/s 392/411/34 IPC at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.08.2022**.

By Order: Ms. Meena Chauhan
Metropolitan Magistrate-08
Central Room No. 272, 1st Floor,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1587/CD/2022(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Bam Bahadur @ Dhanraj, S/o Om Bahadur R/o H.No.159, Gali Halwai Wali, Main Bazar, Paharganj, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 31/20, u/s 12/9/55 G. Act, P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Bam Bahadur @ Dhanraj** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Bam Bahadur @ Dhanraj** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Bam Bahadur @ Dhanraj** of FIR No. 31/20, u/s 12/9/55 G. Act, P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.09.2022**.

By Order: Ms. Vidhi Gupta Anand
Metropolitan Magistrate-08, Room No.272,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1548/CD/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one Girl **Namely: Antum, D/o: Raju, R/o: H-382, JJ Colony, Swada, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since **19.05.2022** from her house from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 151A, dated 20.05.2022** has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped girl is as under: **Age: 5 years, Sex: Female, Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Unknown.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
DP/1591/RD/2022 Ph.: 011-25951486, 8750870324

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Monika, W/o: Sonu, R/o: H.No. 469, Near Shiv Mandir Village Bhorgarh, Delhi.** **Aged: 21 years** has been missing from her own house at **18.04.2022 at 02:00 pm.** In this regard a **DD No.: 56A, Dated 19.04.2022, has been lodged at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.** His physical description is as under: **Height: 5' feet, Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Normal, Clothing: Unknown.** Any person is having any information/clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O
P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
DP/1882/ON/2022 Ph.: 011-2787593, 7065036324

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) **namely Geeta D/o Shankar Shah R/o H.No.A-82, Gali No.02, Near Post Office, Mukund Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi** **Aged- 26 Years** has been reported missing since **26.05.2022** vide **DD No.39-A, Dated 06.06.2022** registered at Police Station Karawal Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:- **Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Face: Round, Built: Medium, Clothing: Black coloured T-shirt, jeans and white coloured shoes in feet, riding a scooty number DL6SBF 3387.** Any person having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Karawal Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/-
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Karawal Nagar, Delhi
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-22932396, 22932232
DP/1691/NE/2022 Mob.: 8750870728

SAI approves Bajrang's USA training

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) on Wednesday approved Bajrang Punia's 35-day training camp in the USA ahead of the Commonwealth Games.

TOPS will fund Bajrang's travel, boarding and daily costs during training from June 25 to July 30.

The MOC also approved financial assistance for the procurement of two T20 Proteam Look TT track bikes for TOPS development cyclists Ronaldo Singh and David Beckhame.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (final), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.

England vs New Zealand: 3rd Test, day 1, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.

TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.15 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Froome in Premier-Tech's team for Tour de France

Four-time winner Chris Froome was named on Wednesday in Israel Premier-Tech's team for next month's Tour de France. Froome, 37, claimed the last of his Tour successes in 2017 but has struggled for form since suffering career-threatening injuries in June 2019. AFP

Laver Cup goes to Vancouver and Berlin

Vancouver and Berlin will host the 2023 and 2024 editions of the Laver Cup, the international indoor hard court men's team tennis tournament that pitches Team Europe against Team World, organisers announced on Wednesday. This year's event will be held between Sept. 23-25 in London. AFP



Osaka and James launch media company

Naomi Osaka is launching a new media company 'Hana Kuma (flower bear)' in partnership with basketball legend LeBron James aimed at telling stories that cross cultural barriers, she said on Tuesday. It will produce stories that are "culturally specific but universal to all audiences". REUTERS

Bayern confirms Mane signing from Liverpool

Bayern Munich has signed Sadio Mane from Liverpool, it was confirmed on Wednesday, as the attacker has signed a three-year deal with Bundesliga champion. The transfer fee is reportedly around €41 million. AFP



Pakistan recalls fit-again Yasir Shah

The Pakistan selectors on Wednesday recalled Yasir Shah for the two-Test series against Sri Lanka next month after the leg-spinner's career was put on hold by nagging injuries last year. He played the last of his 46 Tests 11 months ago in West Indies. **The squad:** Babar Azam (Capt.), Mohammad Rizwan, Abdullah Shafique, Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Numan Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Yasir Shah. PTI

Milak delights his home crowd

Hungarian better his own 200m butterfly world record; Dressel pulls out

SWIMMING

REUTERS
BUDAPEST

Hungary's Kristof Milak brought joy to his home crowd by smashing his own world record to win the men's 200m butterfly, powering to the gold medal in a time of 1:50.34, at the World Championships on Tuesday.

Olympic champion Milak beat the record he set at the 2019 Worlds in Gwangju by 0.39 seconds and finished 3.03 seconds ahead of silver medalist Leon Marchand of France.

"It was a fantastic feeling. As soon as I stepped in the starting area, I didn't hear or see anything. It was like being in a dream. I waited three years to swim a personal best and it came off," he said.

Electric late burst

Bobby Finke of the United States won the men's 800m freestyle with an electric late burst to finish ahead of Germany's Florian Wellbrock and Ukrainian Mykhailo Romanchuk.

The win for Finke was a



Powering ahead: Milak on his way to the 200m butterfly gold. • GETTY IMAGES

boost for the U.S team after 100m free Olympic and World champion Caeleb Dressel pulled out of the event for medical reasons. Dressel later decided to withdraw from the championships.

Nic Fink delivered a second victory for the U.S., winning the 50m breaststroke in 26.45, three hundredths of a second ahead of Italy's Nicolò Martinenghi with another American Michael Andrew taking bronze. USA claimed the 4x100m

mixed medley race with ease, with Hunter Armstrong leading off in backstroke before Fink extended the lead in breaststroke.

China's Yang Junxuan won the women's 200m freestyle in a time of 1:54.92, beating Australia's highly rated 18-year-old Mollie O'Callaghan.

The results:
Men: 800m freestyle: 1. Bobby Finke (USA) 7:39.36s, 2. Florian Wellbrock (Ger) 7:39.63, 3. Mykhailo Romanchuk (Ukr) 7:40.05.

200m butterfly: 1. Kristof Milak (Hun), 1:50.34s (WR), 2. Leon Marchand (Fra) 1:53.37, 3. Honda Tomoru (Jpn) 1:53.61.

50m breaststroke: 1. Nic Fink (USA) 26.45s, 2. Nicolò Martinenghi (Ita) 26.48, 3. Michael Andrew (USA) 26.72.

Women: 200m freestyle: 1. Yang Junxuan (Chn) 1:54.92s, 2. Mollie O'Callaghan (Aus) 1:55.22, 3. Tang Muhan (Chn) 1:56.25.

Mixed 4x100m medley relay: 1. USA 3:38.79s, 2. Australia 3:41.34, 3. the Netherlands 3:41.54.

Khelendrajit upsets top seed Ankur

Suresh Raj also enters quarterfinals

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ALAPPUZZHA

Qualifier Yengkhom Khelendrajit (Manipur) upset top seed Ankur Bhattacharjee (Bengal) to enter the Youth Boys (under-17) quarterfinals in the 83rd National junior and youth table tennis championships at the N.C. John Memorial YMCA TT Arena here on Wednesday.

Khelendrajit's defensive game put him in good stead against Ankur, who struggled to find any sort of rhythm. After losing a close first set 10-12, Ankur bounced back to take the second 11-7.

But in the seesaw third set the Manipur lad kept his nerve to crawl back for a 13-11 win. Khelendrajit held the aces in the fourth set and mixed his shots well to pocket the match 12-10, 7-11, 13-11, 11-9.

Tamil Nadu's Suresh Raj Preyesh entered the quarterfinals with a 11-7, 11-6, 11-8 win over Ayan Ghosh. In the

quarterfinals, Suresh will meet Jash Modi who beat Sujal Banik (TTFF) 15-13, 11-3, 11-6 in the pre-quarterfinals.

In the under-19 category, it was business as usual for top seed Payas Jain who breezed into the pre-quarterfinals with 12-10, 11-8, 11-9 win over Jayabrata Bhattacharjee (Bengal). However, K.J. Akash (Karnataka) upset sixth seed H. Jeho (Manipur) 12-10, 11-4, 11-8 in the second round.

The results: Under-17: Pre-quarterfinals: Yengkhom Khelendrajit (Man) bt Ankur Bhattacharjee (Ben) 12-10, 11-8, 11-9; Suresh Raj Preyesh (TNNTA) bt Ayan Ghosh (Ben) 11-7, 11-6, 11-8; Jash Modi (Mah) bt Sujal Banik (TTFF) 15-13, 11-3, 11-6.

Under-19: Second round: Payas Jain (Del) bt Jayabrata Bhattacharjee (Ben) 12-10, 11-8, 11-9; Josh Modi (Mah) bt Swastik Athanikar (Mah) 14-12, 11-7, 7-11, 11-4; Varun Balusuri (Tel) bt Aditya Swagnik (TTFF) 16-14, 11-7, 7-11, 11-4; K.J. Adarash (Kar) bt H. Jeho (Man) 12-10, 11-4, 11-8; Sarat Mishra (UP) bt Bhaskar Praneet (Ben) 18-16, 11-9, 12-10.

Priyanshi advances

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Qualifier Priyanshi Bhandari beat Yatawee Chimcham of Thailand 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Chiang Rai, Thailand on Wednesday.

Other results:
\$15,000 ITF, Chiang Rai, Thailand: Women: Singles (first round): Chompoothip Jundakate (Tha) bt Sanjana Sirimalla 6-3, 6-0; Supapith Keaurum (Tha) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthy 6-0, 6-1.

Men: Singles (first round): Naoki Tajima (Jpn) bt Rishi Reddy 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Pol Watanakul (Tha) bt SD Prajwal Dev 7-6(5), 7-6(4).

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Rishi Reddy & Parikshit Somani bt Chien Hsun Lo & Bang Shuo Yin (Tpe) 6-3, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Enzo Wallart (Fra) & Karunaditya Singh bt Keisuke Saitoh & Daiki Yoshimura (Jpn) 7-5, 2-6, [10-2].

Women: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Chihou Mushika & Mao Mushika (Jpn) bt Astrid Cirotte (Fra) & Jennifer Luikham 6-3, 6-4.

Dinesh Karthik jumps 108 spots

Ishan Kishan the only Indian in the top-10 in T20 rankings

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

On the back of his recent exploits, veteran Dinesh Karthik jumped a massive 108 spots to 87th on the latest ICC T20 rankings for batters, even as young opener Ishan Kishan broke into the top 10.

Kishan finished the series with two half centuries against South Africa and was the leading run scorer with 206 runs at an average of 41. That form catapulted the left-hander up one spot to sixth on the latest T20 rankings for batters.

Pakistan skipper Babar



Karthik. • AFP

Azam still holds the top spot on the T20 batting rankings and Kishan is the only Indian player rated inside the top 10.

Yuzvendra Chahal was

the biggest mover on the T20 rankings for bowlers with the India spinner jumping three places to 23rd.

R. Jadeja maintains his top position in the Test all-rounders' list with 385 rating points.

Bangladesh captain Shakib al Hasan moved up to second position with 346 rating points.

Virat Kohli (742) maintained his 10th position in the Test batting chart, while seasoned off-spinner R. Ashwin (850) and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (830) occupied the second and third positions in bowling respectively.

Rumeli Dhar announces her retirement



Rumeli. • FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Former India women's team captain Rumeli Dhar on Wednesday announced her retirement from all forms of the game.

The right-handed batter and medium-pacer announced her decision through an *Instagram* post.

"23 years of my cricket that started from Shyamnagar in West Bengal has finally come to an end as I announce my retirement from all formats of cricket," Dhar said in her post.

The 38-year-old played four women's Tests, in which she scored 236 runs with one half-century. She picked up eight Test wickets since debuting against En-

gland in 2005 at Delhi. She played her last Test against the same opponent in 2006 at Taunton.

She also played 78 WODIs, scoring 961 runs and taking 63 wickets, with six half-centuries since her debut against England in 2003 at Lincoln. She played her last ODI in 2012.

Dhar, who played for Bengal among other domestic sides, also featured in 18 T20s, in which she scored 131 runs and took 13 wickets after making her debut against England Women in 2006.

At 34, she made an unexpected comeback to the India T20 team in 2018 against South Africa, and played her last game in the format

against Australia Women at the Brabourne Stadium the same year.

One of the highlights of her career was taking India to the final of the 2005 Women's World Cup in South Africa.

"The journey has been prolonged one with highs and lows. The high was representing the Indian Women's cricket team, playing the World Cup final in 2005 as well as leading the Women in Blue," said Dhar.

According to Dhar, a "string of injuries" plagued her career but she always came back stronger.

She thanked the BCCI, her family, friends, and all the teams that she represented for their contributions.

Serena registers win

TENNIS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
EASTBOURNE (ENGLAND)

As "What A Feeling" boomed around Devonshire Park, Serena Williams strode onto centre court at Eastbourne to a standing ovation for her first competitive match in nearly a year.

Around 90 minutes later, fans were on their feet again, celebrating a comeback win for the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion at the Wimbledon warm-up event.

Serena partnered Ons Jabeur to victory over Sara

Sorribes Tormo and Marie Bouzkova in the first round of the women's doubles.

Serena and Jabeur recovered from losing the first set 6-2 to win the second 6-3 and then the match tiebreaker 13-11 on the third match point.

The win means Serena will have at least one more competitive match before playing singles at Wimbledon as a wild-card entry. Main-draw play at the All England Club starts Monday.

It was at the grass-court Slam where Serena was last seen in competitive action in 2021.

LIV Golf 'rebels' allowed to play at British Open

PGA Tour planning to revamp its schedule with new, lucrative tournaments

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Players who have signed up to the breakthrough Saudi-backed LIV Golf series will be allowed to compete in next month's 150th British Open, organisers the R&A announced on Wednesday.

The U.S. PGA Tour has banned those involved in the rebel venture after the inaugural event in Britain earlier this month but organisers of last week's U.S. Open did not follow suit.

That stance will be followed at the year's final Ma-

ajor, which starts at St. Andrews in Scotland on July 14.

"The Open is golf's original championship and since it was first played in 1860, openness has been fundamental to its ethos and unique appeal," said R&A chief executive Martin Slumbers.

"Players who are exempt or have earned a place through qualifying for the 150th Open in accordance with the entry terms and conditions will be able to compete in the championship.

"We are focused on staging a World-class championship

in July and celebrating this historic occasion for golf."

Four-time major champion Brooks Koepka is the latest big-name player to defect to the LIV Golf circuit, along with Mexico's Abraham Ancer. Reports on Tuesday said the PGA Tour was planning to revamp its schedule with a series of lucrative new tournaments.

Three new tournaments

Plans outlined by Monahan include boosting purses to at least \$20 million in eight existing marquee tournaments

and the introduction of three new \$25 million tournaments that would feature no cuts and limited fields.

The schedule overhaul could be in place by the 2023 season.

LIV Golf has steadily been luring star names to sign with the upstart circuit that offers \$25 million in prize money for each of its 54-hole tournaments.

Other changes proposed by Monahan on Tuesday included a return to a calendar year schedule running from January to December.

Silver for Ronaldo



Ronaldo... a good ride. • AP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ronaldo Singh won the silver medal in the men's sprint event on the concluding day of the Asian cycling championship at the Indira Gandhi Velodrome on Wednesday.

Ronaldo had earlier won bronze in the 1 km time trial and the team sprint. Birjit Yumnam won bronze in the junior 15km points race, missing the silver by one point. In the 10 km women's scratch race, Chayanka Gogoi finished third.

India was seventh in the seniors section, with four silver and 13 bronze medals. Japan topped with 15 gold, seven silver and two bronze medals.

In the junior category, India came fifth with two gold, six silver and 15 bronze medals.

In the para events, India was third behind Thailand and Japan with two gold, two silver and two bronze.

Boehly is Chelsea chairman

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Todd Boehly, who fronted the recent world-record purchase of Chelsea, will assume the roles of chairman and interim sporting director following leadership changes at the English Premier League club.

Vaidehi gets the better of Ankita

Punnin recovers to beat Zeel; Vineetha too advances

ITF WOMEN'S

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
GURUGRAM

Vaidehi Chaudhari played a robust attacking game, serving strong, moving briskly and hitting strokes fluently on both flanks, to outwit the country's No. 1 player and the third seed, Ankita Raina 7-6(7), 6-3 in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at the Tennis Project, Baliawas, on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old Ankita played very well, but the 22-year-old Vaidehi survived the set points to take the first set and that turned the tide in her favour. It was the first meeting between the two in the professional circuit and proved unforgettable for Vaidehi.

Qualifier Vineetha Mummadi, recovered after losing the first set to be on level terms with second seed Peangtarn Plipuech, before the Thai retired owing to exhaustion, unable to tackle the heat and humidity. Vineetha will challenge



Job well done: Vaidehi after besting the country's No. 1 Ankita in straight sets on Wednesday. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

another Thai Punnin Kovapitukted, who recovered from being down 1-4 in the deciding to beat Zeel Desai 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(2) in a gripping battle that lasted three hours and

35 minutes.

Sowjanya Bavisetti overcame a slow start to beat qualifier Elena Pridankina 2-6, 7-6(6), 6-3. She will challenge Karman Thandi in the

second round.

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty beat fellow trainee from Hyderabad and qualifier Kundali Majgaine after a hesitant start to set up a second round against seventh seed Misaki Matsuda of Japan.

Fifth seed Luksika Kumkhum of Thailand retired early in the third set against Momoko Kobori of Japan.

The results: First round: Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) bt Akanksha Nittrute 6-0, 6-4; Mansi Vadyala (US) bt Ananya Bhargava 6-4, 6-4; Sofia Costoulas (Bel) bt Ikumi Yamazaki (Jpn) 7-5, 6-3; Ekaterina Yashina (Rus) bt Vanshika Choudhary 6-1, 6-4; Viktoria Morvayova (Svk) bt Gozal Aintindinova (Kaz) 4-3 (retired); Anna Ukolova (Rus) bt Nidhi Chilumula 6-4, 6-0; Momoko Kobori (Jpn) bt Luksika Kumkhum (Tha) 6-3, 6-7(3), 2-0 (retired); Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Elena Pridankina (Rus) 2-6, 7-6(6), 6-3; Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Ankita Raina 7-6(7), 6-3; Misaki Matsuda (Jpn) bt Priska Nugroho (Ina) 6-2, 6-4; Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Kundali Majgaine 6-2, 6-1; Punnin Kovapitukted (Tha) bt Zeel Desai 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(2); Vineetha Mummadi bt Peangtarn Plipuech (Tha) 1-6, 6-3 (retired).

Rohit wins air rifle



Top three: Champion Rohit flanked by Mohit, left, and Hriday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rohit Kumar Singh emerged the men's air rifle champion, beating Mohit Gowda 17-13 in the gold contest, at the 20th Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Wednesday.

Hriday Hazarika finished 0.1 point ahead of the qualification topper Kiran Jadhav (633.5) to take the bronze.

In the junior section, Divyansh Singh Panwar, outclassed Hriday 17-1 for the

gold medal.

In the youth event, Abhinav Shaw beat Vejennda Praneeth 17-11 for the honours.

The results: 10m air rifle: Men: 1. Rohit Kumar Singh 17 (261.3) 629.2; 2. Mohit Gowda 13 (260.7) 628.4; 3. Hriday Hazarika 260.2 (629.8). **Juniors:** 1. Divyansh Singh Panwar 17 (263.8) 629.0; 2. Hriday Hazarika 1 (262.1) 629.8; 3. Sumedh Sasane 261.9 (628.9). **Youth:** 1. Abhinav Shaw 17 (260.2) 624.1; 2. Vejennda Praneeth 11 (257.9) 623.9; 3. Pranav Jindal 256.7 (624.6). **Sub-youth:** 1. Pranav Jindal 624.6; 2. Abhinav Shaw 624.1; 3. Parth Mane 623.9.