

## DELHI PRINCIPAL SECY (REVENUE) KHIRWAR TRANSFERRED TO LADAKH; WIFE, LAND & BUILDING SECY DUGGA, TO ARUNACHAL

# VIPs get the treatment: IAS officers who got athletes out are moved to Ladakh, Arunachal

### EXPRESS IMPACT

Order after *Express* report on Delhi's Thyagraj Stadium being cleared for IAS officer-couple to walk with dog

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

HOURS AFTER *The Indian Express* reported that athletes training at the Delhi government-run Thyagraj Stadium were being asked to leave early every day so that Delhi Principal Secretary (Revenue) Sanjeev Khirwar can walk his dog on the tracks, the IAS officer was transferred to Ladakh "with immediate effect".

An order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) late Thursday stated that Khirwar's wife Rinku Dugga,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



The *Indian Express* report featured a photo and video of the officer on the track



### MINUS THE OFFICERS

Athletes at the Thyagraj Stadium at 6.48 pm on Thursday. Unlike previous days, there were no whistle-blowing guards clearing the arena for the IAS couple. *Abhinav Saha*

## Relief on track, stadium gates open as Delhi govt extends time until 10 pm

ANDREW AMSAN & MALLICA JOSHI  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

FOR THE first time in weeks, guards at the Delhi government-run Thyagraj Stadium didn't start blowing whistles at 6.30 pm for athletes to leave the arena, cutting short their training.

On Thursday, after *The Indian Express* reported on how the arena was being cleared early, by 7 pm, so that Delhi's Principal Secretary (Revenue) Sanjeev Khirwar can walk his dog on the

### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

### THE UGLY VIP PAGE 10

tracks later, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal issued an order for all sporting facilities in the city to remain open till 10 pm.

"The matter came to me today morning. Due to the heat and rising temperature, sports persons are facing problems in continuing training and the stadium

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## GST ORDER ON MAY 19 SC underlined federalism, now says 'intrigued' by feedback

Justice Chandrachud's remarks come after Opp states interpreted verdict as giving them flexibility in GST structure

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

DAYS AFTER a three-judge bench of the apex court, led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, ruled that the recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on the Centre and states, setting off a pushback from some Opposition states, the judge remarked Thursday that he was "intrigued by...articles...on the various facets of" that judgment.

The SC judgment on May 19 included observations on the federal structure and the powers of the Parliament and the state legislatures to legislate on GST.



Articles being written on facets of ruling: Justice Chandrachud

Opposition-ruled states interpreted it as according greater flexibility for states in the broader GST structure.

Justice Chandrachud made the remark Thursday when Senior Advocate Harish Salve mentioned the appeal against an order regarding GST demand by Odisha on goods mined in the state and moved to Mumbai.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Two days after police raid in Baghpat, 3 of a family dead by suicide

AMIT SHARMA  
BACHOD (BAGHPAT), MAY 26

A SARI hanging from a ceiling fan, a cup and a glass on the floor with liquid spilled around them, and half-broken chapattis lying around — in these rest the clues to what transpired on the evening of Tuesday when police entered the house of Bachod's Mehak Singh. Two days later,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



At Mehak Singh's house in Bachod village. *Amit Sharma*



### THE CITY

WILL WORK AS LOCAL GUARDIAN OF DELHI: NEW L-G P6

## Except in 2 states, school scores dip below levels from 5 yrs ago: Survey

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCES in schools across the country have slipped below levels recorded in 2017, except in Punjab and Rajasthan, according to National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021, which has captured a widening of learning gaps caused by disruptions triggered by the pandemic.

Here are some of the key patterns thrown up by the survey based on tests conducted at 1.18

### EXPLAINED Dist-level strategy

THE FINDINGS are significant as states and UTs have been directed by the Education Ministry, which carried out the survey in November among 34 lakh students in classes III, V, VIII and X, to prepare district-level strategies based on performance.

lakh schools in 720 districts (see chart on page 8):

**CLASS III:** Mathematical and language skills, and conceptual understanding of environmental science, were tested. The sum total of the scores achieved in these subjects by every state and UT, expressed in terms of percentage, was less than the national average recorded in the 2017 round of NAS — except

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

MORE REPORTS PAGE 8

## Maharashtra minister Parab in ED net, Sena says vendetta

SAGAR RAJPUT  
MUMBAI, MAY 26

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Thursday conducted raids at seven premises linked to Maharashtra Transport Minister and Shiv Sena leader Anil Parab.

Sources in the department said a fresh Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) pertaining to a resort at the coastal hill station of Dapoli was recently registered against Parab, after which four properties in Mumbai and three in Pune and

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



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 <b>Prof. (Dr) Narendra Kumar Arora</b> Executive Director, The INCLIN Trust International	 <b>Prof. (Dr) Pratima Murthy</b> Director & Senior Professor of Psychiatry at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore	 <b>Dr Vivek Nangia</b> Chief of Pulmonology and Principal Director & Head, Institute of Respiratory, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, Max Hospital, Delhi	 <b>Prof. (Dr) J V Peter</b> Intensivist and Director of Christian Medical College, Vellore	 <b>Prof. (Dr) Dorairaj Prabhakaran</b> Cardiologist & Epidemiologist and VP (Reserach & Policy), Public Health Foundation of India	 <b>Prof. (Dr) Nikhil Tandon*</b> Professor and Head Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi <small>*confirmation awaited</small>
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## E-firm employee's car robbed at gunpoint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, MAY 26

THREE MEN allegedly robbed a car at gunpoint from the area manager of an e-commerce firm in Gurgaon on Wednesday night, said police, adding that the accused are yet to be arrested.

Police said the incident took place around 12.30 am when the victim, Santosh Yadav, 29, a resident of a society at Sector 95, was returning to his house after attending an office party at Sector 29. Yadav said that after leaving the party, he dropped a colleague at his house.

"When I reached a speed-breaker near a hospital, a Santoro car rammed into my Celerio car from the rear. I stopped on the roadside, and the other car passed by. Since that stretch was isolated, I drove ahead and stopped near Hayatpur to check for damage as the car was making some noise. Suddenly, the Santoro came and three men alighted from it," said Yadav.

Yadav added that the accused asked him to pay for allegedly damaging their car. "I reasoned with them that they were at fault since they rammed into my car from behind. One of them took out a gun and held it against my head. They snatched my car keys, and fled with both cars. My phone, credit/debit cards and documents were in the car," he added.

## Approach trial court for bail in sedition case: HC to Sharjeel

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday asked JNU student Sharjeel Imam to first move the trial court for interim bail in the sedition case registered against him by the Crime Branch in connection with his speeches at Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University.

Citing the recent Supreme Court order on IPC Section 124A, Imam had filed an application for interim bail in the FIR under IPC sections, including sedition, and UAPA section 13. Allowing withdrawal of the application and granting him liberty to approach the trial court, the court said if the relief is declined by the lower court, he can approach the High Court in appeal. ENS

# Fake fire NOCs issued in my name: DFS official to police after Mundka fire

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

A DELHI Fire Services (DFS) official, who had filed complaints regarding issuance of several fake No Objection Certificates (NOCs) last year, has written to the Police Commissioner and BSES Vigilance department seeking an enquiry into the matter after the fire in a four-storey building in Mundka left 27 people dead.

No action was taken by police on his complaints filed last year, sources said, adding that the BSES had taken action against two staffers following the complaint.

The fake NOCs were allegedly sold to builders, shop owners and office spaces for Rs 50,000-1,00,000 to get a BSES connection, said sources in the DFS. The Mundka building owner too allegedly used a fake fire NOC and other documents to get licences and electricity connections, police found during their probe.

The complainant, an assistant divisional officer at the DFS, said he had first filed complaints with the Dwarka and Southwest district police last March after he found that a number of fake fire NOCs were allegedly being made in his name in Dwarka and Palam areas.

The Indian Express accessed the police complaints dated March 5, 2021, and March 22, 2021. No FIR has been registered in the case. The complaint reads: "The format and dispatch numbers of these fake fire safety certificates



Fire in the four-storey building in Mundka had left 27 people dead

(FSC) resemble the original FSC... issued by this department, and it appears to be fabricated by someone to deceive and cheat the public. These FSCs (were) issued to the owners of buildings in Southwest division with the name and designation of (complainant)... whereas he has never been posted in Southwest division... It is a matter of forgery by impersonation... Further, the impersonator seems to access the verification letter... of BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd and replied in affirmation with a fake letter on behalf of Delhi Fire Services with my name and designation, which implies that this criminal act is done by nexus of racket in furtherance of common intention..."

After the Mundka incident, the complainant said he again sent a letter to Delhi Police DCPs, Police Commissioner, BSES, L-G's Secretary and other officials by mail. He requested the police chief to hand over the matter to a central agency of Delhi Police such as the Crime Branch for a "fair investigation".

A senior DFS officer said: "We have received several fake fire NOCs being used in Dwarka last year and this year. These were being sold to shop owners and builders across Southwest and Outer Delhi. We want an investigation."

Atul Garg, DFS Chief, had earlier told The Indian Express they filed a police complaint regarding the fake NOCs.

Asked about the action in the case, a senior police officer said they have received the complaint and will investigate the matter. Police refused to comment on the delay in reference to the complaints filed in the matter last year.

Meanwhile, sources said BSES had found the involvement of two staff members, who were outsourced, in the forgery and impersonation case.

Sources confirmed that the two staffers were removed from their posts after the incident came to light. "Only a handful of connections had been provided by these methods," sources said.

However, an officer from the BSES vigilance team told The Indian Express that around 100-200 connections may have been provided using the complainant's name. "We are not sure if the same two staffers were involved in providing these connections. An enquiry revealed that many builders and shop owners used the fake NOC to get clearance and BSES connection," said the officer from the vigilance team.

## AUD applications increase nine-fold

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

UNDER THE Common University Entrance Test (CUET) umbrella, Ambedkar University has drawn more than nine times the number of applications it received last year, university authorities report.

AUD is one of 12 state government-run universities which have opted to conduct their undergraduate admissions through the CUET this year, along with 44 central universities, 11 deemed and 19 private universities.

University officials have stated that they have received 3,03,413 registrations for which payments have been made on the National Testing Agency portal. This is a massive jump from the registrations that it had received last year when applicants had to apply individually on the university's website - approximately 32,000 paid registrations in 2021-2022.

Vice-Chancellor Anu Lather said opting for the CUET has likely increased the national visibility of the university leading to the huge jump in registrations.

"It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction for us as a university. We have taken the right decision to subscribe to

CUET. The participation in CUET has increased the visibility of the university at the national level," she said. The last date to make payments against registrations for CUET was May 22. According to registration data of all universities, as of May 19, AUD had the sixth highest number of paid registrations at the time, only behind large central universities such as DU, Banaras Hindu University, Allahabad University, and Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University and the private IIMT University in Meerut. It has 17 UG programmes for which it is conducting admissions through CUET and 85% seats are reserved for candidates from Delhi.

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Registrar

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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

# CHINA WATCH

CHINA DAILY 中国日报

## Economy to stabilise on solid support

Business in China could pick up as early as May with a gradual recovery in household spending. **Ouyang Shijia** reports

China's economy is expected to stabilise and rebound in the coming months on better containment of COVID-19 outbreaks and stronger macro policy support, and it has the capability and the conditions exist for the country to meet its major economic targets this year, economists and industry experts said.

Despite mounting pressure from the pandemic and a more complicated external environment, the country has the policy tools and relatively large policy space to stabilise the overall economy, and the impact of COVID-19 outbreaks will likely be temporary, they say.

They forecast that economic activities could pick up as early as this month with a gradual recovery in household spending and strong support from investment growth.

Considering the resilience of China's economy and its strong and targeted fiscal and monetary policy support, Zhang Dawei, vice-chairman of the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges, said China is likely to meet its annual growth target of about 5.5 per cent this year.

Attributing China's weakening economic activity since March to the severe disruption caused by a resurgence in domestic COVID-19 cases, Zhang told a recent seminar in Beijing that some of the country's key economic indicators may rebound in the coming months.

His views were echoed by Sheng Laiyun, deputy head of the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics, who told Xinhua News Agency the economy is likely to rebound as a result of better control of COVID-19 and the government's strong policy support.

COVID-19 outbreaks in regions such as Jilin province and Shanghai have been effectively controlled this month, with work and production having resumed in an orderly manner, he said. Some leading economic indicators, such as electricity generation and power consumption, have already shown positive signs, Sheng said.

China's economy cooled last month with a drop in both industrial production and consumption, as COVID-19 outbreaks severely disrupted industrial, supply and



Production resumes at SAIC Motor's plant in Shanghai's Pudong New District on April 19. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

“... China will then focus on more capital and technology-intensive products and services. But this is a process that won't happen overnight. It takes time. For now, we do not expect China's export growth to fall tremendously for too long.”

**Iris Pang**  
CHIEF CHINA ECONOMIST  
AT THE DUTCH BANK ING

logistics chains. The country's value-added industrial output and retail sales fell by 2.9 per cent and 11.1 per cent year-on-year in April, the National Bureau of Statistics said.

Luo Zhiheng, chief economist at Yuekai Securities, said the disruption to industrial and supply chains affected China's consumption, services, industrial production and exports. The country is facing pressure from weaker expectations amid COVID-19 outbreaks and changes in the international environment.

He called for a strong fiscal and monetary response to shore up growth, including the issuance of special treasury bonds, a reduction in the reserve requirement ratio and an interest-rate cut.

Luo said he expects to see positive growth in industrial production this month and GDP growth of less than 4 per cent in the second quarter on better control of the epidemic and strong policy support.

The country's GDP may grow by more than 5 per cent in the second half of the year with the government's effective measures to control the pandemic and

implement supportive policies, he said.

Despite the drop in industrial production and consumption last month, fixed-asset investment rose 6.8 per cent year-on-year from January to April, the National Bureau of Statistics said. Investment in infrastructure construction rose 6.5 per cent and in manufacturing 12.2 per cent during the four months, the bureau said.

Iris Pang, chief China economist at the Dutch bank ING, said this implies infrastructure investment is progressing, and those investments will continue to be the main growth engine this year in giving extra strength to the economy, which in turn will create more jobs for people, she said.

Reports that COVID-19 outbreaks in China have led to the loss of export orders in Southeast Asia is a temporary matter since it is not easy to change the whole

production chain, she said.

“There are some goods that could eventually be produced outside China, even export orders given to Chinese companies. These would be less capital intensive. And China will then focus on more capital and technology-intensive products and services. But this is a process that won't happen overnight. It takes time. For now, we do not expect China's export growth to fall tremendously for too long.”

Zhou Maohua, an analyst at China Everbright Bank, said there is relatively large room for fiscal, monetary and other policies, and China has various policy tools in hand.

Consumer demand may recover, and economic activities may pick up as early as this month given the containment of the pandemic and the existence of strong policy support for hard-hit sectors and companies, Zhou said.

## Changes tipped to cut costs of shipping

By **ZHU WENQIAN**  
and **ZHONG NAN**

China has freed up the coastal piggyback system for shipping of foreign trade containers between ports within China, enabling foreign logistics giants such as A.P. Moller-Maersk and Orient Overseas Container Line to plan their first voyages by the end of this month, analysts say.

The move highlights China's willingness to further its opening-up policy, they said.

The administrative committee of Lin-gang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone said recently that China will introduce a container freight forward rate contract trading platform.

Despite a complex international situation and given the impact of the pandemic, the Yangshan Special Comprehensive Bonded Zone in Shanghai has encouraged companies to resume production, and business in the bonded zone operated smoothly in the first quarter, the committee said.

“The new service (for shipping of foreign trade containers between ports within China) is expected to help cut the logistics costs for both exporters and importers, improve the utilisation rates of container ships, and relieve the tightness of shipping capacity to a certain extent,” said Zhou Zhicheng, a researcher with the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing in Beijing.



Yangshan port in Shanghai. JI HAIJIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Jens Eskelund, China chief representative of the Danish shipping and logistics company A.P. Moller-Maersk, said the permission for foreign carriers to carry out international relay is very welcome news and represents a tangible step for foreign carriers in China towards achieving market access on reciprocal terms.

“International relay will allow us to improve services, giving our customers more flexibility and options for their shipments. We are preparing the first shipment in Yangshan terminal in Shanghai, together with the Lin-gang Special Area Administration and other relevant stakeholders.”

Asia Shipping Certification Services Co Ltd of Hong Kong has been officially approved to carry out statutory ship inspection work in the Lin-gang Special Area as the first inspection agency that is not incorporated in the Chinese mainland.

In March the daily average container throughput in Yangshan terminal reached 66,000 twenty-foot equivalent units, or TEUs, accounting for 90 per cent of the average level in the first quarter, and in April 59,000 TEUs, 85 per cent of the average level in the first quarter.

“The coastal piggyback system will help boost logistics capacity, improve efficiency and provide more business opportunities for global companies to further expand their market presence in China,” said Bai Ming, deputy director of international market research at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Co-operation.

## World kite capital soars with its rich heritage

By **ALEXIS HOOI**  
and **ZHAO RUIXUE**

In April, crowds in Weifang, Shandong province, looked to the skies in awe.

High above them, replica spacecraft reenacted the breakthrough docking procedure that had set a milestone in China's space programme.

The spectacle was complete with a station module and an astronaut spacewalk, all made up of a huge, complex structure of kites soaring on the wind.

The China Space Station kite, put together by more than 20 craftsmen over two months and combining traditional techniques with state-of-the-art digital modelling technology, attracted a huge deal of attention in the internet.

“From superheroes to dinosaurs, in Weifang, anything can fly in the sky,” one online user gushed.

Weifang is widely known as the world's kite capital. The city acknowledges this with kite-themed landmarks including a railway station depicting



A kite in the shape of China's Tiangong space station is flown in April in Weifang. LIU XIAOXI / FOR CHINA DAILY  
Left: Yang Hongwei, an intangible cultural heritage inheritor of Weifang kite-making in Yangjiabu village, Weifang, paints a kite in April 2021. ZHU ZHENG / XINHUA

a fluttering butterfly, public sculptures portraying the popular pastime, and streetlights along the main thoroughfare leading to the sprawling venue for an annual international kite festival.

At Weifang Kaixuan Kite Manufacturing Co, workers make kites ranging from gleaming aircraft and beautiful landscape paintings to lifelike marine creatures such as whales and octopuses.

“More than 95 per cent of these kites are exported and have been sold in more than 40 countries and regions, including Denmark, France and New Zealand,” said the company chairman, Wang Xiaoping. “When we exhibit our kites abroad we say we are from Weifang. Foreigners know it as the kite capital of the world, and our products are very popular with them.”

According to local historical records, Weifang kites were popular during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and were a major folk art in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911),

with many artists becoming widely known for their exquisite, high-flying creations.

Weifang kites took off after the China's reform and opening-up began in the late 1970s. In 1984 its kites were sent to Shanghai to take part in an exhibition, impressing officials of an international kite association who immediately suggested that the city set up a global platform for the art. This led to the first Weifang International Kite Festival that same year.

The city's kite industry has continued to grow, with the festival being held every year since 1984. There are now more than 400 kite companies in the city, and they employ more than 80,000 people. Each year more than 220 million kites are made, with the value of sales totalling more than 2 billion yuan (Rs 23 billion) a year, municipal authorities said.

“Weifang kites account for more than 75 per cent of the international kite market and nearly 85 per cent

of the domestic market,” said Zhang Jianwei, director of the comprehensive service centre at the Weifang International Kite Association.

At least 29 kite export companies are registered in the city, with markets on five continents.

Wang, chairman of Weifang Kaixuan Kite Manufacturing, said the company exports millions of kites of all makes and sizes each year. A premium kite can cost more than 7,000 yuan while simple ones with small, triangular frames cost only 10 yuan.

“All kinds of kites are exported, and most are used by children,” Wang said. They are mainly made of carbon fibre and nylon and have rigid frames.

Many kites outside China are used not just as toys but also for advertising purposes, so there is great demand, Wang said, adding that the company can fill orders from multinationals for more than 100,000 kites each.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW  
**CHINA WATCH**  
CHINA DAILY 中國日報



# GIRL POWER

Joint production packs a punch as heroine takes on the baddies.  
**Xu Fan reports**

In the film *Ladki: Enter the Girl Dragon*, actress Pooja Bhalekar stars as a martial artist who fights in the style created by Bruce Lee. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Nearly half a century after the kung fu legend Bruce Lee died, a new film inspired by his last blockbuster, *Enter the Dragon*, has brought Chinese and Indian filmmakers together to pay tribute to his legacy.

*Ladki: Enter the Girl Dragon*, due to be released in China in summer, is the first such Sino-Indian co-production to introduce a heroine's perspective.

Since the two countries signed a film agreement in 2014, two co-produced blockbusters have come about: *Kung Fu Yoga* and *Buddies in India*, both released in 2017 and recounting the exotic adventures led by predominantly male characters.

The new film has been shaped by the obsession of the Indian director Ram Gopal Varma with Lee, who died aged 32 in 1973 and is revered as a global icon for his contribution to promoting Chinese kung fu.

When Varma, born in Hyderabad, was 14, he walked more than 20 kilometres to the nearest cinema to watch *Enter the Dragon*, says Wu Jing, the Chinese chief producer of the new film.

Recalling that her studio, Big People Film, in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, held a forum to discuss cultural exchanges during the China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industry Fair in 2017, Wu says that it paved the way for her introduction to Varma, who had, at the time, been preparing the project for several years.

With the Chinese company getting on board in 2018, the crew, consisting of nearly 200 members, started shooting in early 2019, with all the scenes filmed in Mumbai and Hyderabad, and Foshan in Guangdong province, the ancestral hometown of Lee.

"The film will give the Chinese audience a fresh perspective," Wu says. "*Ladki* tries to examine how strong a woman can be in her



From top: The female protagonist attends a kung fu school. The actor Parth Suri travels to Foshan, South China's Guangdong province, in the film.

determination to protect her family and defend her dignity."

Starring Pooja Bhalekar, a Mumbai-born martial artist and actress, as the female protagonist, the tale follows her journey to learn kung fu after witnessing her elder sister being sexually assaulted and murdered.

Chinese actress Muqi Miya plays a fellow student and Shi Tianlong, a Chinese martial artist and actor, plays the master of the female protagonist, who realises her dream to study at a kung fu school in India.

Overcoming a string of difficulties, from India's rainy season to the language barrier, the film manages to blend cultural and geographical characteristics of the two countries, as well as demonstrating the distinctive architecture and scenery representing southern China, says Liu Jing, the Chinese director who co-helms the film with Varma.

Liu, also a huge fan of Lee, describes Lee as his "spiritual mentor" giving him strength and confidence while facing huge odds.

Apart from the lightning kicks, hits and punches, Lee's profound understanding of kung fu, with its roots taken from ancient Chinese philosophy, has also captivated generations of fans.

"Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless — like water," Lee once explained about the core of Jeet Kune Do (the Way of the Intercepting Fist), a martial arts style he created. "Now you put water in a cup, it becomes the cup. You put water into a bottle, it becomes the bottle. You put it in a teapot, it becomes the teapot." The words are cited from *Be Water, My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee*, a book written by his daughter, Shannon Lee.

The stunts of Jeet Kune Do, as a tribute to Bruce Lee, is one of the top draws in the film," Liu says. "It

is shown in the film how to 'be like water'."

Describing the film as "the first time a martial arts film has been made with a woman as a protagonist and fighting in the Bruce Lee style" in India, Varma recalls his vision.

"Ever since I saw *Enter the Dragon* I have always wanted to make a martial arts film based on my theoretical study of Bruce Lee's style and his philosophy. And since it's going to be almost impossible to find a male protagonist to fit the role, I decided to cast a female, which, in turn, led me to Bhalekar."

*Enter the Dragon* was released one month after Bruce Lee died, becoming one of the most profitable martial arts films in history and drawing many enthusiastic fans across the world to study kung fu.

"Lee, for me, was like a real-life Howard Roark (a character in the 1943 Ayn Rand novel *The Fountainhead*, who follows his ideals)," the director says.

"Needless to say, after a few sessions of trying to learn martial arts, I realised how impossible it is to even reach anywhere near Lee's ability; I abandoned my dream of following in his footsteps and settled for the far less painful, and much easier, art of filmmaking.

"Through Bhalekar's character, I want to convey that even she can be as powerful as someone like Lee."

Viewing habits in the two countries differ, with an average Chinese film spanning less than two hours. *Ladki: Enter the Girl Dragon* will have two versions — 105 minutes for China and 130-plus minutes for India — to cater to audiences in both countries.

"As the two neighbouring countries both boast a long history and rich culture, China and India have seen cultural exchanges since ancient times," Liu says. "Sort of like a universal language to go beyond borders, films can help us to foster cultural communication and boost more co-operation."

## Message from China, with strings attached

By HE QI

The sound of the traditional Chinese musical instrument *erhu* is becoming better known globally thanks to the effort of one college student.

Chen Yimiao, born in 2004, comes from a Beijing family steeped in musical tradition. Her grandfather Chen Yaoping and father Chen Jun are both well-known *erhu* players.

Unsurprisingly, as a child, the now 17-year-old developed a keen interest in music, and in the *erhu* in particular.

Now studying at Berklee College of Music in Massachusetts, the United States, she has also taken part in various musical events at home and abroad, in addition to combining *erhu* with contemporary music, exposing a greater number of people to the timbre of the instrument.

"Playing *erhu* is part of my daily routine, an indispensable part of my life, like eating and sleeping," says Chen, who started practising the instrument at when she was 4.

Her passion for the two-stringed, bowed musical instrument comes almost entirely from her family, she says.

"The home environment has always influenced me and helped

me to keep practicing. Now not only can I not live without it, but I also hope more people can enjoy it. It helps me to speak out."

The *erhu*, known as a key Chinese traditional bowed instrument, dates back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). However, its acceptance and recognition lags far behind popular Western instruments such as the piano and violin. Difficulty mastering its sonorous tones and learning to play it may well be some of the reasons for this.

Playing it requires a unique dexterity of hand, Chen says.

"We mostly use the thumb, index, and middle fingers in our daily life; however, playing the *erhu* requires flexible pressing of strings with the ring and little fingers."

Her most painful and unforgettable experience was in junior middle school when she continuously played the same melody for more than 20 hours to achieve an ideal recording, she says.

However, even in such moments she never thought of giving up.

Chen first performed on China Central Television with her grandfather and father when she was 5, went with her father to *erhu* concerts across China and has performed with renowned orchestras.



Chen Yimiao performs with an *erhu* during a cultural event at Bowers Museum in California earlier this year. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

She has also taken the *erhu* to countries such as Australia, Canada, France, Japan, New Zealand and the United States.

Earlier this year she gave a speech and performed at Bowers Museum in the US.

A video of her speech and performance, which was uploaded on the video-sharing platform Bilibili, has won her strong support among young people. In it, she speaks fluent English and plays the *erhu* gracefully, showing her emotions through the instrument.

One viewer of the video said:

"It turns out that playing Western music with an *erhu* is so wonderful, which really opens up a new world for me. It's our pride."

"The feeling of performing the *erhu* in various countries is never the same, because people have (various levels of) understanding of Chinese culture. ... I see the great potential of the *erhu*, but I also realise that there is still a long way to go in its development," Chen says.

As a first-year student at Berklee College of Music she considers promoting the instrument her most important goal.

In addition to influencing people around her in the ways of the *erhu*, she is learning composition and music arrangement.

"There are so many people who want to play the piano or violin because they can replicate a lot of classical music works, and I think, to promote an instrument, beautiful and catchy melodies count. I hope to create beautiful melodies and music that reflect the timbre of the *erhu*."

Online Watch the video by scanning the code.

## Ancient grottoes show influences from far

By LIN QI

Datong, in Shanxi province, North China, offers visitors a magnificent treat with special dances and music, both of which have been performed for more than 1,500 years and use some of the oldest musical instruments from East and West.

And yet the show is at times mute and still. To truly enjoy it, one needs to make full use of one's imagination.

This show to celebrate artistic diversity is staged inside the renowned Cave 12 of the Yungang Grottoes, one of the most thrilling examples of Buddhist art in China.

With creativity and originality, artisans as far back as the late 5th century sculpted richly coloured, highly decorative motifs in Yungang's dozens of grotto temples, hailing cultural exchanges in Datong, then called Pingcheng, a thriving city along the ancient Silk Road.

This vibrant musical scene is described as "the fine voices of China" by Hang Kan, dean of the Yungang Research Institute in Datong and an archaeology professor at Peking University. He says it brings together the majority of instruments that were in use in countries along the Silk Road at the time.

Yungang, stretching along a south-facing cliff, is among the country's best-preserved Buddhist grotto temple complexes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Between the mid-5th and early 6th centuries workers and artisans constructed dozens of cliffside caves and several hundred smaller niches. They then decorated those spaces with multi-coloured sculptures, patterns and architectural structures. Consequently, Yungang became an enduring legacy of history, art and culture.

Behind the construction of the Yungang Grottoes was the patronage of the ruling family of the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534). It hoped to showcase imperial superiority and to unite different ethnic clans living in its territory in northern China.

"What makes Yungang a unique case is that, you can see it as a state project, backed by Northern Wei's rulers and court elites," Hang says.

Each of the first five grotto temples houses a colossal Buddha statue, at least 13 metres high, as the central icon for worship. They were built on the suggestion and under the supervision of Tanyao, a high-ranking monk cleric, and to commemorate Northern Wei's first five emperors.

"Thereafter this massive project utilised as many resources of the dynasty as possible, in a way to produce a state prototype, or the Yungang format," Hang says. "And it trained groups of skilful



What makes Yungang a unique case is that, you can see it as a state project, backed by Northern Wei's rulers and court elites. Thereafter this massive project utilised as many resources of the dynasty as possible, in a way to produce a state prototype, or the Yungang format."

Hang Kan  
DEAN OF THE YUNGANG  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN DATONG

artisans who took with them the style of Yungang when moving to other parts of the country."

The influence of Yungang is evident in the representations of Buddhist art across China, he says, including the Longmen Grottoes in Luoyang, Henan province, built after the Northern Wei court relocated its capital city there from Pingcheng.

The model also shaped the styles of caves, statues and decorative motifs of grottoes created during the same period in Dunhuang, Gansu province, he says.

Each of the caves in Yungang sparkles with creativity as a result of encounters, exchanges and infusions of artistic styles from East and West. The introduction of Buddhist art from Central and South Asia, which also presented a strong ancient Greek and Roman influence, was merged with Chinese cultural traditions that were already well-established before Buddhism arrived, and during the process artisans developed new styles and artistic traits to express people's outlook on life and death at the time.

The variety of sculptures also increased to include Buddha in meditation or teaching doctrines. There are also *feitian* (flying deities), *jiyue* (musicians and dancers), masculine warriors, monastics and Buddhist patrons.

More recent caves exhibit lavish patterns taken from the arts of different cultures, such as the *dougong* element of the interlocking wooden brackets in traditional Chinese architecture; the Pompey's Pillar of ancient Rome; the mountain-shaped incense burners invented in China during the 3rd century BC, and the celestial *chintamani* praying stones for well-wishers from ancient India.

Online Watch the video by scanning the code.



Cave 3 of the Yungang Grottoes features typical artistic elements from the early period of the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534). PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

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VACCINATIONS IN  
LAST 24 HOURS

22,197

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 102

OXYGEN SUPPORT 32

VENTILATOR SUPPORT 3

DELHI TOTAL  
CASES

19,05,067

Total

May 25

May 26

Total

Total

HOSPITAL BEDS 9,595

Vacant 9,492

ICU BEDS 2,222

Recoveries 18,77,198

Deaths 26,208

Tests 3,84,37,373

Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA

May 25

May 26

Cases

Deaths

GURGAON

Cases

Deaths

## BRIEFLY

Central Lokpal  
Act does not  
require similar  
law in Delhi: HC

New Delhi: Dismissing a petition seeking implementation of The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 in Delhi, the High Court Thursday said the Delhi Lokayukta and Uplokayukta Act, 1995, and the central Act does not say every state legislation has to be amended to bring it in line with it. "This new Act is not applicable to Delhi because (Section) 63 (of 2013 law) very clearly contemplates that if there is an earlier state legislation and Lokayukta has been appointed, then new legislation would not apply," said the division bench of acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Datta.

Business  
Blasters TV  
event opens  
to pvt schools

New Delhi: Students from private schools in the national capital will also be eligible to participate in the televised Business Blasters programme organised by the Delhi government this year. From this academic year, the Delhi government has launched its Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum for interested private schools. The Directorate of Education has reached out to private schools, telling them that teams from their schools "which show potential and drive" will also be considered for the televised programme.

3 held for  
killing man

New Delhi: Days after a shopkeeper was found dead in Daryaganj, police have arrested three people, including the victim's wife, in connection with the crime. Police said they recovered a stolen bike and a country-made pistol allegedly used in the murder, as well as Rs 3 lakh paid to a 'contract killer' who is among those arrested. **ENS**

St Stephen's  
says will  
continue with  
interviews;  
writes to DU

New Delhi: Asserting that it will retain its 'tried and trusted' interview process during admission, St Stephen's College Thursday urged the Delhi University to abide by the 1992 Supreme Court judgment and "avoid creating an unpleasant situation" for students seeking admission in the college. In a sharp reply to the varsity, the college said all candidates who apply to St Stephen's will face the same admission procedures, without discrimination. On May 9, DU wrote to Stephen's asking it to conduct admissions to unreserved seats solely based on CUET scores. **PTI**

## HOPE TO WORK TOGETHER, SAYS KEJRIWAL

## Will work as Delhi's local guardian, says new L-G

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

VINAI KUMAR Saxena (64), who was sworn in as the 22nd Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi on Thursday, said he will work as the city's 'local guardian' and will be seen more on the streets working with residents and less at his office.

Saxena, the former chairperson of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court Vipin Sanghi at Raj Niwas, Civil Lines, earlier in the day.

"Today, I took oath as L-G of Delhi and I want to tell every resident that I will work as their local guardian... Delhi has some inherent problems and pollution is at the top - be it water, air or noise pollution. We will work together with the Centre, state and local public to address these issues."

The L-G also recited a poem on communal harmony.

"Maine Delhi mai kuch samay se dekha hai ki yahan bahut saare dange hue hain (I have seen that there have been many riots in Delhi lately). Today I want to say: 'Aapas mai lade saath mai khoon bhi bhaye, jo kuch bhi hua hai use achcha hai bhula do, Hindu hai na Muslim hai na Sikh Isayi, Shaidda hai vatan par duniya ko dikha do. Aapas mai lade khoon bhi bahaya hai bahut par jo kuch bhi hua hai yahan hai par achcha hai bhula do. Mil jul ke yahan par bhala kya nahi ho sakta bakhoo, Awaz mai har shaks ki awaz mila do.'"

"I want to tell everyone that we should work together as brothers... This is what I hope... I



L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena with CM Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi HC Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi; (left) Saxena during a field visit. Amit Mehra



will try to work together with everyone to make Delhi into a beautiful city - a city of joy and flowers," added Saxena.

Speaking to the media, he said he will also work on the un-

organised sector and provide training to unskilled labourers. "A major part of Delhi's working sector is unorganised with labourers coming from very poor financial backgrounds... and involved in work like construction, plumbing, carpentry etc... To help and empower these workers, we will plan on providing them with training, equipment and tools. 'Sabka Saath,

'Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas' will be our motto and with this mantra, we will work towards the development of Delhi."

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal; Delhi Cabinet ministers Satyendar Jain and Imran Hussain; Northeast Delhi BJP Manoj Tiwari, West Delhi MP Praveesh Verma and New Delhi MP and Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi; Minister of Rural Development Giriraj Singh as well as senior bureaucrats and officials. Fashion designer Ritu Beri, who was advisor to KVIC, was also present.

Kejriwal said, "I assure that the Delhi government will provide full support to the new L-G. We have done several good developmental works together with his predecessor, Anil Bajjal, and hope to continue the same with Saxena ji. We are looking forward to it."

Hours after he took the oath, Saxena undertook a field visit from Connaught Place to the IGI Airport. He was accompanied by Chief Secretary, NDMC Chairperson, DDA Vice-Chairperson and MCD Commissioner. He inspected S P Marg, Dhaura Kuan, Mahipalpur, Mehram Nagar and Mandi House roundabout.

He directed officials to ensure symmetry in city infrastructure including roads, footpaths, street lights and signage, and also asked officials to come up with concrete plans for cleanliness, desilting of drains, greening of roadsides and maintenance of central verges.

## Delhi lags in all subjects at primary level, class 8 scores better than national average: NAS

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

DELHI IS behind the national average in performances in all three subjects at the primary level - Languages, Maths and EVS - and has registered a dip in performances since 2017, findings of the National Achievement Survey 2021 show. However, at the class 8 level, it bucked the national trend and recorded better performances than in the pre-pandemic survey.

The survey was conducted in November 2021 with a sample size of 34 lakh students from across the country, in classes 3, 5, 8 and 10, with the objective of evaluating progress and learning competencies. It has recorded a dip in performances across subjects and grades nationally from the last survey conducted in 2017, pointing to the impact of pandemic-induced disruptions in teaching and learning.

Delhi is no exception at the primary level. In the 2017 survey, the state average score in Maths for class 3 students was 54%, which dipped to 47% in 2021. This is also 10 percentage points behind the national average for the subject at this level, which is 57. Similarly, average state score for class 3 in Language also slipped from 58% to 52%, also 10 percentage points behind the national average of 62. In fact, Delhi features in the five states with the lowest average score in both Maths and Language at this level.

There is a similar dip at the class 5 level, with a fall from 44% to 38% in Maths and from 49% to 44% in EVS. The state average score for Language has remained the same at 52%, which is a little below the national average of 55%.

But at the class 8 level, Delhi has seen a reversal from the national trend of a dip in performance between 2017 and 2019. While the national average score has shown a dip in all four subjects - Language, Science, Maths and Social Science - Delhi has

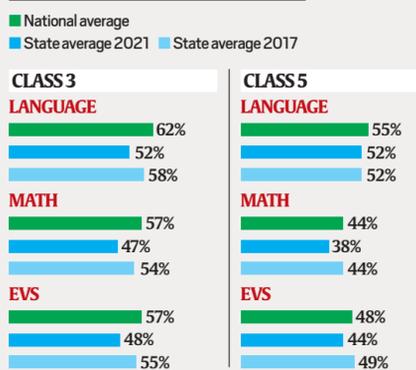
## Key takeaways

SURVEY IN DELHI WAS CONDUCTED AMONG

64,049 STUDENTS | 1,602 SCHOOLS | 51.7% BOYS | 48.3% GIRLS

■ Of these, 37% of students were from Delhi government schools, 36% from private schools, 17% from government-aided schools and 10% from central government schools

## A COMPARISON



\*2017 survey did not include this grade

seen an improvement in all.

In Math, this improvement is from 32% to 36%; in Language, from 55% to 58%; in Science, from 34% to 42%; and in Social Science, from 36% to 39%. Delhi is also slightly ahead of the national average score in Science and Language at this level, and at par with it in Maths and Social Science.

Similarly, it is ahead in all subjects at the class 10 level, for which a pre-pandemic comparison cannot be made since the 2017 survey did not include this grade. However, in case of Maths, it can be seen that performance slid as grades increased.

In class 3, the state average Maths performance is 47%; it is

38% in class 5; 36% in class 8; and 35% in class 10.

The survey in Delhi was conducted among 64,049 students in 1,602 schools, of whom 51.7% were boys and 48.3% were girls. Of these, 37% of students were from Delhi government schools, 36% from private, 17% from government-aided and 10% from central government schools.

It has also been noted that up till class 8, performance from state and local government schools in Delhi is considerably behind the national average of such schools for all subjects. For instance, in class 3, the national average of state and local government school students in



The survey was conducted in November 2021. Abhinav Saha

## CLASS 8

## LANGUAGE

53%

58%

55%

## SCIENCE

39%

42%

34%

## MATH

36%

36%

32%

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

39%

39%

36%

## CLASS 10\*

## MODERN INDIAN LANGUAGES (MIL)

41%

48%

45%

## SCIENCE

37%

45%

35%

ENGLISH

41%

43%

58%

MATH

32%

35%

math is 58%, while in Delhi it is 40%. In the same subject in class 8, the national average from state government schools is 36% while in Delhi it is 30%.

Meanwhile, Punjab was the best performer across all grades and subjects, leading to BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa taking a swipe at the AAP governments in Delhi and Punjab.

"I request @BhagwantMann ji to go through the report and compare Delhi and Punjab score. On each and every page, on every parameter and in every subject; Punjab is ahead of Delhi. In fact: Delhi is worse than national average and in bottom 5 states in many aspects. Would

you still implement Delhi model of education in Punjab?" he wrote on Twitter.

A Delhi government representative stated that in the national capital, primary schools - which cover classes 3 and 5, the two levels at which Delhi has fared most poorly - come under the BJP-run municipal corporation. "We have done better than the national average in 8 and 10, classes that come under the Delhi government," the representative said.

A section of Delhi government-run schools - around 450 - have primary sections while there are around 1,700 MCD primary schools.

used a voice modulation app to threaten them.

Police said, they received a complaint from the woman's family around 11 pm on Wednesday. The woman's brother, who works for an MNC, complained that his sister had been kidnapped and they received extortion calls and messages from her phone. Police said the complainant showed photos of his sister tied up and gagged.

Additional DCP (South)

Made to wait, BJP MP Harsh Vardhan leaves ceremony

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

BJP MP and former Union health minister Harsh Vardhan walked out of the Delhi L-G's swearing-in ceremony after he was allegedly made to wait and asked to switch seats.

After a video of the Chandni Chowk MP leaving the ceremony went viral on social media, Vardhan explained what transpired at Raj Niwas in a tweet: "Wrong reports are doing the rounds in the media on how I left the L-G's swearing-in ceremony, claiming that I did not get the desired seat. While one officer sat where I was seated, another asked me to vacate after telling me the seat was reserved. I waited for 15 minutes to see if I would be allotted another seat. I left because none was."

In the video, he is heard saying: "Arre Parliament members tak ke liye inhone ek seat nahi rakhi (They haven't even provided a seat for Parliament members)... I will write to (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena ji about

BJP MP from Chandni Chowk and former Union health minister Harsh Vardhan. Archive

this."

The MP did not respond to calls seeking a comment. In another tweet, Vardhan said he regretted not being able to attend the ceremony despite being an MP from Chandni Chowk and congratulated Saxena and the people of Delhi, saying, "Delhi will certainly emerge as the best city under your tenure."

The L-G did not comment on questions on this matter during his first briefing.

Rajinder Nagar  
bypoll: BJP to focus  
on outreach, AAP  
on public support

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

A DAY after it was announced that the Rajinder Nagar bypoll will be held on June 23, the area has become the epicentre of Delhi's politics. The seat fell vacant following the resignation of AAP leader Raghav Chadha, who is now a Rajya Sabha member from Punjab.

For the BJP, the Vidhan Sabha constituency will be the focus of its outreach programme from June 1-14 that will seek feedback on the party's eight years of governance at the Centre. The AAP also plans to hold outreach initiatives and hopes public support will propel it to victory. The Delhi Congress, meanwhile, plans to take on both the BJP and AAP on the bulldozer issue.

BJP Delhi chief Adesh Gupta said the focus of the outreach programme will be on water scarcity in the area, and the success of the Centre's schemes.

He said the interactions between PM Narendra Modi and farmers on May 31 in Himachal Pradesh, during which money to farmers in the country will be transferred under the Centre's scheme, will be telecast to residents. "In Delhi, we will place LED screens in Todapur and Naraina so people can watch the event," he said.

Co-in-charge of the constituency and former mayor Jai Prakash said the BJP will raise the issue of water scarcity in the area and how Chadha left the position.

AAP in-charge Durgesh Pathak said the message is simple: "CM Arvind Kejriwal has taken Delhi to new heights of development, and our hope rests on public support. People have seen how the BJP has targeted the poor using bulldozers, and they do not want such a model

EXPLAINED  
The area, its residents

DEVELOPED by the government to rehabilitate Punjabi refugees from Pakistan after the Partition, Rajinder Nagar is dominated by Punjabis who constitute around 35% of the population. Named after India's first President Dr Rajendra Prasad, the area has three dominant villages - Dasgarha, Todapur, and Naraina. New Rajendra Nagar and Old Rajendra Nagar are among the urban areas with a predominantly Punjabi population while the village areas have a mixed demography comprising Jats, Yadavs and Rajputs. Purvanchalis are also in large numbers in the area.

in Rajinder Nagar. The BJP is making false allegations about water scarcity."

Delhi Congress president Anil Chaudhary said the area has had water and sewer problems since the time when Chadha was the vice-chairman of the DJB, but they could not solve these problems. He added that the party will raise this issue along with how the AAP has been siding with the BJP in its demolition drive.

In the 2020 Delhi Assembly elections, Chadha won the seat by a margin of 20,000 votes against BJP's R P Singh. The Congress had fielded student leader Rocky Tueda.

2 snatching cases in Gurgaon, few km away

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, MAY 26

FOUR MEN allegedly snatched a gold chain of the country head of a private firm while he was out for a walk on Golf Course Road Thursday morning. Police said the accused are yet to be arrested.

The complainant, Bobby Joseph, company leader, LIXIL India Private Limited, told The Indian Express that the incident

took place at 5.50 am. "... I noticed that a motorcycle, with two men, came from behind and got on to the footpath. I felt they were following me and looked back. They came alongside me and said something, which I did not understand. They went ahead and stopped. It all seemed suspicious since the number on the motorcycle had been covered with a black tape. I again looked back and noticed two more men on another motorcy-

cle behind me. I thought I better turn back and run, but before I could do that they jumped on me and snatched my chain and took off," he alleged.

He said he filed a complaint with police. A police officer said, "A case of snatching has been registered against the unidentified accused under the relevant IPC section. CCTV footage of the accused has been recovered..."

In another incident at 6.10 am, four men on two motorcy-

cles allegedly snatched the chain of a 45-year-old manager of a private bank near Galleria market - a few km away - Thursday. Police said the victim, a resident of Sector 56, was on a cycle when the accused started following him.

Police said they are investigating if the same gang was behind the two incidents. "The modus operandi was similar and the areas are in the vicinity of each other," said a police officer.

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Police said they are investigating if the same gang was behind the two incidents. "The modus operandi was similar and the areas are in the vicinity of each other," said a police officer.

Woman 'stages' her kidnapping after losing money

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

A 38-YEAR-OLD woman allegedly staged her own kidnapping to extort money from her family after she lost money in the share market, said police Thursday. The woman, who works for a BPO, allegedly posed as the 'kidnapper', sent pictures of herself in which she was tied up and gagged to her family, and

used a voice modulation app to threaten them.

Police said, they received a complaint from the woman's family around 11 pm on Wednesday. The woman's brother, who works for an MNC, complained that his sister had been kidnapped and they received extortion calls and messages from her phone. Police said the complainant showed photos of his sister tied up and gagged.

Additional DCP (South)

Harsha Vardhan said, "We went through messages and calls. The caller was trying to extort them... and using WhatsApp to communicate. Police team went to the family's house and analysed CCTVs. We found the woman left around 4.15 pm on Tuesday. Technical surveillance led us to Agra, where raids were conducted at over 50 hotels and resorts." In Agra, police found the woman; she had checked into a hotel near Tajganj market.

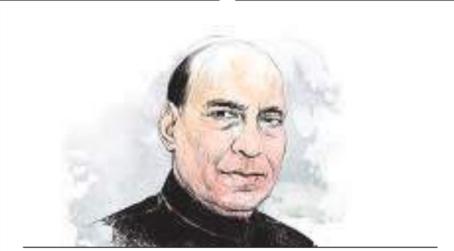
Police said when they examined her, she confessed to having staged her own kidnapping as she was in a financial crisis. "She had recently lost money in stocks and funds and owed money to many acquaintances. She had asked her brother for help, but he refused. She then hatched the 'kidnapping' plan to extort money," said an officer. Police said a case under attempt to extortion will be registered against her and legal action has been initiated.

New Delhi

# 7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## SUBMARINE SORTIE

AFTERTAKING a sortie on Navy surveillance and anti-submarine aircraft P8I last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to dive deep underwater in a submarine on Friday. Singh, who is at Karwar in Karnataka on a visit, will take a sortie in the indigenously made Navy's Kalvari class submarine. The sortie will last a few hours and Singh will witness all aspects of underwater operations. With the underwater sortie, Singh will have witnessed all three dimensions of the Navy's operational capabilities — on surface, aerial and underwater. For surface operations, he had in September 2019 gone on board the Navy's only aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya, in September 2019. For aerial operations, it was the P8I sortie last week, which will now be followed by the submarine sortie for underwater operations.

## IN SPOTLIGHT

MINISTER OF State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan keeps a low profile. Usually at I&B events, the senior I&B Minister, Anurag Thakur, takes the limelight. But as Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended events in Tamil Nadu on Thursday, Murugan's home state, the spotlight was on him. Amid cheers from the crowd, the Prime Minister said Murugan, "son of this great soil", had just returned from France, where he attended the Cannes Film Festival. He said Murugan walked the red carpet there in traditional Tamil attire, making "Tamilis all over the world very proud". Murugan stood with hands folded as the Prime Minister spoke about him.

## BJP big guns to lend hand to Himachal CM amid corruption and factionalism hurdles

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

THE BJP is leaving no stone unturned to win back Himachal Pradesh, which goes to polls later this year. Party president J P Nadda has himself taken over electioneering in his home state, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chosen the state to launch his government's eighth anniversary celebrations with a mega rally in Shimla on May 31, and the BJP made an early strike against the rising Aam Aadmi Party by taking away its leaders.

However, it may not be all smooth for the party in the hilly state.

Corruption charges against officials, including in the unravelling police recruitment paper leak scam, allegations that the Chief Minister's Office is protecting them and delaying investigation, intensified factionalism, the inability of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur to take everyone along, and simmering disillusionment among youth over joblessness are among the issues, party men fear, which are dragging down the BJP as it seeks to overcome anti-incumbency.

Outspoken former CM and party veteran Shanta Kumar earlier this week voiced this discontent, when he hailed AAP leader and Punjab CM Punjab Bhagwant Mann for taking "an extremely courageous step" against corruption, by sacking and arresting his own minister. Kumar said there should be no tolerance towards corruption and every govern-



JP Nadda and CM Jai Ram Thakur at a recent event in Himachal's Kullu. PTI

ment should adopt transparency.

Among those fending off allegations of corruption in Himachal is CM Thakur's top official, Chief Secretary Ram Subhag Singh. The Prime Minister's Office had also flagged the alleged irregularities in the construction of the Wildlife Interpretation Centre in Nagrota, when Singh had been additional chief secretary in the Forest Department, sources said. The CM is seen to be delaying the investigation against Singh.

In the constable recruitment examination held in March — the biggest such recruitment after the pandemic — question papers were allegedly sold for Rs 6-10 lakh to more than a thousand applicants. Aprobe has indicated the involvement of several officials.

As pressure mounts on Thakur, the many factions within the BJP have raised their heads. "Leaders like former chief minister P K Dhumal, his son (Union minister) Anurag Thakur, Shanta Kumar, Nadda, Rajya Sabha MP Indu Goswami, Jai Ram Thakur himself... all have groups within the state unit," a party leader said.

## NDA rule period of misery, says Cong; BJP calls it 'torn old party'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

THE PAST eight years of the BJP-led NDA rule at the Centre have been marked by high inflation, low employment and communal polarisation, the Congress said Thursday, terming it "a period of misery and misgovernance".

As it attacked the Modi government on its eighth anniversary, the Congress released a booklet in Hindi "8 saal, 8 chhal, BJP sarkar viphal" (8 years, 8 deceptions, BJP government failed) highlighting the ruling dispensation's "failures on various fronts".

The BJP shot back, calling the grand old party a "torn old party".

Addressing a joint press conference on Thursday, Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala and Ajay Maken said the BJP's promise of bringing "acheche din" to people had turned out to be "acheche din for the BJP" and a select group of "crony capitalists and industrialists".

"84 per cent Indians have seen reduced incomes, 12 crore people have lost their jobs, even as 60 lakh MSMEs have shut shop with unemployment touching 45-year records," Surjewala said.

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the Congress is moving towards a stage where its relevance and necessity is "completely lost".

## In Chennai, PM highlights Govt's infra push, raises Tamil pitch

Stalin counts TN's contribution to nation, says meet demands

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, MAY 26

INAUGURATING SEVERAL completed projects and laying the foundation stone for fresh infrastructure projects worth Rs 31,500 crore here on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi listed his government's priorities and initiatives, including those to promote Tamil language and culture.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, in his address at the same event, highlighted the state's contribution to national economy to raise a number of long-pending demands such as payment of GST dues from the Centre.

In his first visit to Chennai after the DMK government took charge last year, the Prime Minister said, "It is always wonderful to be back in Tamil Nadu. This land is special. The people, culture and language of this state are outstanding."

On the importance of infrastructure projects, he said, "History has taught us that those nations which gave topmost importance to infrastructure made the transition from developing to developed countries... The Government of India is fully focused on building infrastructure that is top quality and sustainable."

The new projects he rolled out on Thursday included the Rs 500-crore Madurai-Theni gauge conversion project, Rs 590-crore third Tambaram-Chengalpattu railway line project and the inauguration of 1,152 houses as part of the Chennai Light House project. The Prime Minister specifically mentioned the Chennai Light House project, which was executed under the PM-Awas Yojana.

He also said the Centre is committed to further popularise Tamil language and culture. Praising Tamil language as "eternal" and Tamil culture as "global", he said,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin during a ceremony for the laying of foundation stones of multiple projects, in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

"From Chennai to Canada, from Madurai to Malaysia, from Namakkal to New York, from Salem to South Africa, occasions of Pongal and Puthandu are marked with great fervour."

Quoting verses of nationalist poet Subramania Bharathi, he said the new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, which was inaugurated in Chennai last January, was funded by Centre.

In his address, Chief Minister Stalin said Tamil Nadu is a leading state in economic growth, rural health facilities, educational facilities, social justice and women's empowerment. This inclusive growth model of Tamil Nadu is called "Dravidian Model", he said.

He raised the long-pending demands of the state government, including retrieval of

Katchatheevu island from Sri Lanka and payment of GST dues worth Rs 14,006 crore as on May 15, 2022. He also asserted the state's opposition to NEET and requested the Prime Minister's intervention to clear the anti-NEET Bill passed by the Assembly and sent for Presidential assent.

Stalin listed the state's contribution to India's development — 9.22% in national GDP and 6% of overall tax income among others. "But the revenue share that we get from the Union government is just 1.23%", he said. The Centre must increase its contribution to schemes and fund allocation to do justice to the contribution lent by states such as Tamil Nadu in India's development, he said. "Only then will the true spirit of co-operative federalism be upheld."

Prime Minister Modi was in Hyderabad to attend the Indian School of Business's (ISB) 20th anniversary celebrations.

"The BJP is waging one more battle and that is the battle for the people of Telangana, their self-respect and their identity. As I came out of the airport just now, I have sensed that there is a change in the air," he said.

## PM targets KCR: Family politics is threat to democracy

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, MAY 26

IT IS time for the people of Telangana to do away with dynasty politics and elect a government that will work for the people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, hinting at the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) led by Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu.

Addressing party workers who had gathered to welcome him on his arrival at Begumpet Airport here, the Prime Minister said the BJP is poised to create history in Telangana in the elections next year.

"Family politics does not allow enthusiastic youths to enter politics. They are deprived of opportunities. This is the 21st century and we should do away with dynasty politics in Telangana too. Wherever dynasty politics has been wiped out, there has been development and growth," he said. "Family politics is a threat to democracy, and as soon as a 'parivari party' comes to power, they become corrupt. The family tries to hold on to power for as long as possible."

Prime Minister Modi was in Hyderabad to attend the Indian School of Business's (ISB) 20th anniversary celebrations.

"The BJP is waging one more battle and that is the battle for the people of Telangana, their self-respect and their identity. As I came out of the airport just now, I have sensed that there is a change in the air," he said.

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

## POINT OF CONTENTION

## Bengal readies Bill to replace Governor with CM as head of state universities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, MAY 26

THE WEST Bengal cabinet on Thursday approved a proposal to introduce a Bill to make the Chief Minister the chancellor of all state-run universities. State Education Minister Bratya Basu told the media that the Bill will be introduced in the next Assembly session.

The chancellor is titular head of a state university. In almost all states, the Governor serves as ex-officio chancellor, and in this capacity appoints vice-chancellors of state universities and presides over convocation ceremonies, among other responsibilities.

In West Bengal, the Governor is chancellor of 17 universities, including Calcutta University, Jadavpur University, Kalyani University, Rabindra Bharati University, Vidyasagar University, University of Burdwan and North Bengal University, among others.

Bengal is one of the four Opposition-ruled states where the state government has been at loggerheads with the Governor on various subjects, including education. Recently, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have tried to curtail powers of Governors in appointment of V-Cs of state universities.

However, the Trinamool Congress government in Bengal, which had taken away the Governor's authority in appointing V-Cs to state universities in 2019, has gone a step further and proposed to drop the Governor as chancellor of universities.

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was not available for a comment. Defending the decision, a senior state government official said: "This is not new. Kerala and Tamil



Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

Nadu have already taken the decision to make the CM chancellor (of state universities). We have decided this as per the Puncthi Commission's recommendation."

The Commission was constituted by the Centre to look at Centre-State relations.

In April, the Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed two Bills that seek to transfer the Governor's power in appointing V-Cs of 13 state universities to the state government, currently led by the DMK. This Bill, however, doesn't remove the Governor as chancellor of state universities.

Maharashtra, too, passed a Bill that seeks to amend the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, by primarily slicing the Governor's role in appointing V-Cs. The Governor in Maharashtra remains chancellor.

The decision announced on Thursday is likely to draw fresh battle lines between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Dhankhar, who has repeatedly been accused by TMC leaders of acting at the behest of the BJP-led Centre. Dhankhar, in turn, has often criticised the state government for disregarding his role in higher education. For instance, he had alleged that the state government appointed 25 V-Cs without his consent.

## First Budget of Yogi 2.0 puts focus on election promises

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, MAY 26

PRESENTING THE maiden budget after getting re-elected to power, the BJP government of Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday said that it has allotted Rs 54,883 crore to fulfil most of the poll promises made in the party's Assembly election manifesto. It also said that Rs 39,181.10 crore has been provided in the budget for new schemes.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath later said the budget for the current fiscal year will fulfil 97 of the 130 promises made in its election manifesto — Lok Sankalp Patra.

With Rs 6,15,518.97 crore total outlay, it is the biggest budget of Uttar Pradesh till date. The Adityanath government had presented a Rs 5,50,270.78-crore budget for the last financial year.

"The economy of Uttar Pradesh is improving rapidly. We believe that we will be successful in taking the state's economy to \$1 trillion," Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said while presenting the budget in the Assembly.

The fiscal deficit in the budget has been estimated at Rs 81,177.97 crore, which is 3.96 per

## WHO GETS WHAT

**YOUTHS:** 2 cr tablets/smartphones in 5 years; ₹40,000 cr investment target in 5 years under IT policy to generate 4 lakh jobs; skill training to 2 lakh youths in 2022-23

**WOMEN:** 3 women PAC battalions; laptops to 100 topper girl students; women safety programmes in Lucknow, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Agra, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj

**FARMERS:** Record payment of cane price to farmers; 15,000 solar pumps to be installed by next year; ₹1,000 crore to be spent under CM Minor Irrigation Scheme

cent of the estimated Gross State Domestic Product.

Among the poll promises for which provisions have been made in this year's budget in-

clude giving two free LPG cylinders to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana on Holi and Diwali. For this, Rs 3301.74 crore has been allotted in the budget.

The government also provided Rs 100 crore under Bhamashah Bav Shirts Fund to ensure minimum support price for vegetable growers, as promised in poll manifesto. Another Rs 17,500 crore was set aside in the budget "to strengthen wheat and paddy procurement at minimum support price", Khanna said.

The government also announced the launch of a cattle-based organic farming scheme in the Bundelkhand region, as promised in its manifesto, with an aim to cover the entire region in the next five years.

A big-ticket item is the Centre-initiated Jal Jeevan Mission. The UP government has earmarked Rs 19,500 crore this year to provide drinking water in water-scarce regions under the scheme.

As promised to Nishads, the boatmen and fishermen community, in the state, Finance Minister said the government will soon launch "Nishadraj Boats Subsidy Scheme" through which it will provide 40 per cent subsidy to fishermen to purchase boats.

## 2018 'MONEY LAUNDERING' CASE

## ED files charges against Cong's Shivakumar

Political agenda, did no wrong, he says

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, BENGALURU, MAY 26

ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE has filed a prosecution complaint — equivalent to a charge sheet — in a Delhi court against Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar in connection with a 2018 money laundering case against him.

Shivakumar was arrested in 2019 in connection with this case, in which the ED had also arraigned as accused an employee at Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi and others. He was subsequently granted bail.

The ED case is based on an Income-Tax department charge sheet filed against Shivakumar and others in a Bengaluru court for alleged tax evasion and hawala dealings.

The I-T had carried out searches in August 2017 at around 70 premises linked to Shivakumar, who was then the state Power Minister. The searches were carried out even as Shivakumar was protecting a flock of more than 40 Congress MLAs from Gujarat in a resort near Bengaluru in an attempt to help senior Gujarat Congress leader Ahmed Patel win the Rajya Sabha polls — amid alleged poaching attempts by BJP.



Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar

The filing of the charges by the ED comes in the run-up to the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections as well as next month's polls for four Rajya Sabha seats.

"I have heard that they have filed a charge sheet... Normally the charge sheet should have been filed within 60 days of my arrest," Shivakumar said on Thursday.

"They have now investigated the matter for 3 years and filed a charge sheet... They cannot create anything new. The I-T department created a lot of things earlier that were in contravention of Supreme Court rulings," he said. "I know I have not done anything wrong."

"This is being done with a political agenda. During the election of Ahmed Patel, they raided my home and linked the income of some of my friends to me. I wish them all success," he said.

## RS nomination in Bihar: Amid rumours of frost, R C P Singh meets Nitish

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, MAY 26

AMID REPORTS that the JD(U) leadership is in a bind over renominating Union Minister of State for Steel R C P Singh to Rajya Sabha, the senior JD(U) leader met Bihar Chief Minister and party chief Nitish Kumar on Thursday evening.

JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh, better known as Lalan Singh, was also present.

The meeting assumes significance in view of RCP Singh's reportedly frosty relationship with Nitish and Lalan ever since the bureaucrat-turned-politician had reportedly named himself for Cabinet berth last year.

Sources in the JD(U) said RCP Singh, once seen as number 2 to the Bihar CM, had sought time from Nitish for today's meeting. Rajya Sabha nomination has to be filed by May 31 — the polls for the five seats from Bihar are scheduled for May 10.

In the meeting among the party's top three leaders, Singh is said to have clarified his position.

On Wednesday, one of Singh's supporters had posted an objectionable post on Facebook, threatening that there would be political turmoil if Singh was not renominated to the Upper House.

The supporter concerned had later deleted the Facebook post.

A JD(U) leader said on Thursday: "There could be only two reasons for RCP Singh to be renominated to the Upper House — either the CM's reported displeasure with him is not correct and is scripted, or the CM is under BJP's pressure. Or else, RCP has no big political constituency to threaten Nitish by trying to break away from JD(U)."

The source said it will still be tough for Nitish to renominate Singh and a lot would depend on Lalan Singh's consent.

## COURT SEEKS GOVT VIEW ON PROPOSAL TO EXEMPT SEX WORKERS FROM CRIMINAL ACTION

## No law yet, SC asks cops to treat sex workers with dignity

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

WITH THE Centre yet to come up with a law on sex workers, the Supreme Court, in exercise of its powers under Article 142, has issued a series of directions on their "rehabilitation", including for sensitising police to treat sex workers with dignity and to avoid abusing them or subjecting them to violence.

A bench presided by Justice L Nageswara Rao also asked the Centre to spell out its stand on recommendation by a panel appointed by it in 2011 to exempt sex workers — who are adults and participates with consent — from

criminal action.

The bench, also comprising Justices BF Gavai and AS Bopanna, asked states and Union Territories to "act in strict compliance of" some of these "recommendations", which "relate only to rehabilitation measures in respect of sex workers and other connected issues". The bench said, "It need not be gainsaid that notwithstanding the profession, every individual in this country has a right to a dignified life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Constitutional protection that is given to all individuals in this country shall be kept in mind by the authorities who have a duty under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956."

In its May 19 order, the bench

asked the Centre to place its views in six weeks on recommendations on which it had reservations. This came after Additional Solicitor General Jayant Sud informed the bench that the government had "certain reservations" on some of the panel's recommendations.

On July 19, 2011, the court had ordered setting up of a panel headed by senior advocate Pradip Ghosh as chairman to suggest measures to prevent trafficking, rehabilitate sex workers who wish to leave it, and also to make conditions conducive for sex workers who wish to continue working to do that with dignity.

The committee also included senior advocate Jayant Bhushan,

Usha Multipurpose Cooperative Society through its president/secretary, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee through its president/secretary, and NGO Roshni Academy through its founder Saima Hasan. The panel submitted a series of recommendations.

Hearing the matter on May 19, the SC noted that in 2016 "the recommendations were considered by the Government of India and a draft legislation was published incorporating the recommendations". However, since the law has not yet been made, the court said it is exercising powers under Article 142 to direct implementation of some of the recommendations.

The court said: "As the legisla-

tion has not been made till date, even though the recommendations were made by the Panel in 2016 and the said recommendations have to be implemented, we are exercising our powers conferred under Article 142 of the Constitution, to issue the following directions which will hold the field till legislation is made by the Union of India." It directed that of the 10 recommendations, six of them which "relate... to the rehabilitation measures in respect of sex workers and other connected issues" be implemented and asked states and union territories "to act in strict compliance of the recommendations".

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## BRIEFLY

## UTTARAKHAND

## 74 deaths in Char Dham yatra

Dehradun: At least 74 pilgrims died while undertaking this year's Char Dham yatra, which started on May 3, due to health-related reasons, mostly cardiac arrest, according to officials in Uttarakhand. According to the Uttarakhand health department, 37 pilgrims died on their way to Kedarnath, 20 to Yamunotri, 13 to Badrinath, and four on way to Gangotri. **ENS**

## NEW DELHI

## US praises India over Afghan aid

New Delhi: US special envoy for Afghanistan, Thomas West, on Thursday commended India for providing aid to Afghanistan. West expressed the US's will to stand with India and others who are striving towards the goal of supporting the Afghan people. West tweeted, "India is providing critical humanitarian aid, has interests to protect, and brings enormous capability and experience to support the Afghan people..." **ENS**

## BIHAR

## Maoist leader found dead

Patna: A top Maoist leader and a member of CPI (Maoist)'s central committee, Sandeep or Vijay Yadav, was found dead in the Lutua forests of Gaya on Wednesday evening. Wanted by police of five states, including Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, Yadav had been in charge of the central zone of CPI (Maoist) and had been active since the 1990s. He had been absconding for 27 years in over two dozen cases. **ENS**

## EQUIPMENT PURCHASE SCAM

## CBI conducts searches at house of Jharkhand ex-minister, others

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, MAY 26

The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 16 locations, including the residence of former Jharkhand sports minister Bandhu Turkey in the then BJP-led Arjun Munda government, over alleged irregularities in multi-crore equipment purchases for 34th National Games 2011, held in Ranchi, officials said.

Besides Turkey, now the working president of Congress's state unit, CBI also searched the premises of noted lawyer and former MP R K Anand, who was the working chairman of the National Games Organising Committee, in Delhi.

Searches were conducted in Ranchi, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Godda, and areas of Bihar and Delhi. The CBI had registered a case



Former minister Bandhu Turkey

after the High Court order in April against R K Anand and others, including P C Mishra, then director (sports), Jharkhand, and S M Hashmi, then organising secretary of the Games committee, as well as Madhukant Pathak, then treasurer, Jharkhand Olympic Association.

According to the CBI, large-scale irregularities were committed in purchase of sports items, equipment and allied services. It was also alleged that irregularities were conducted in construction of a mega sports complex.

On Thursday, CBI said that "certain incriminating documents" have been recovered

## NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY-2021

## National topper: Punjab charts course correction

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL  
LUDHIANA, MAY 26

FROM SCORING 'below national average' in 11 of 15 subjects in 2017 to being the national topper in 11 subjects four years later, Punjab has scripted a turnaround in the school level education, if the results of the National Achievement Survey (NAS)-2021, released by the Union Ministry of Education Thursday, is anything to go by.

NAS, conducted by the Centre in coordination with the CBSE and NCERT to assess learning outcome levels of students of class 3, 5, 8 and 10, was held on November 12 last year. At the national level, the survey tested 34.01 lakh students from 1.18 lakh schools. In Punjab, a total of 1.17 lakh students from 3656 schools, including government and private, were tested.

While class 3 and 5 children were tested in language (Punjabi), mathematics and environmental studies (EVS), the class 8 students were tested in science too. Class 10 students were tested in English, Mathematics, science, social science and Modern India Language (MIL), which in case of Punjab was Punjabi.

As per NAS-2021, Punjab has scored highest in all subjects for classes 3, 5 and 8. For class 10, it has scored the highest in maths, second highest in science, social science and MIL and third highest in English. It scored more than the national average in all categories and emerged as the topper in 11 of 15 subjects in which students of these four classes were assessed.

This is in sharp contrast with NAS-2017 report that had placed Punjab among the worst performing states. Punjab had scored below national average in all three subjects for class 3 and 5 and in three out of four subjects for class 8. For class 10, it had scored below national av-

## PUNJAB vs DELHI DEBATE REIGNITED

Chandigarh: As per the National Achievement Survey 2021, Punjab has not only scored more than the national average in all the categories, but has also topped in 10 of the 15 subjects, leaving behind other states including Delhi.

The performance comes amid the push by CM Bhagwant Mann who wants to bring an "education revolution" in state by implementing the "Delhi model". Mann said government schools in Punjab need an overhaul as done by Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi.

In the run up to this year's Assembly polls, education had emerged as one of the core issues with the then opposition AAP and then ruling Congress indulging in pitched debates. **DIVYA GOYAL**

erage in two subjects out of five.

From training class 3 and 5 children in using OMR answer sheets to realigning entire syllabus in objective-type questions to making students familiar with NAS format — the state education department officials and teachers kept the preparation process running.

Maninder Sarkaria, who was the state nodal officer for NAS and is now the director, SCERT, said that the 2017 results were a huge setback.

"From our syllabus to books and teaching methodology, nothing was child-friendly. We introduced a complete overhaul..." he said. Pardeep Aggarwal, director general of school education, Punjab said the credit for the success goes to former state education secretary Krishan Kumar.

## The Learning Curve

34 lakh students assessed in November 2021

■ Class-wise varied indicators

■ On parameters such as reading small texts, solving simple problems, and knowledge about fundamental rights and their violations



Class in progress: Survey captures Covid disruptions. File

## REPORT CARD: HOW STATES FARED

■ 2017 national avg ■ 2021 national avg

## CLASS III

## EVS

Rajasthan 75  
Punjab 70  
Kerala 69

## LANGUAGE

Punjab 75  
Kerala 70  
Rajasthan 69

## MATHS

Punjab 70  
Rajasthan 65  
Kerala 60

## CLASS V

## EVS

Punjab 59  
Rajasthan 57  
J&K 54

## LANGUAGE

Punjab 69  
Rajasthan 63  
J&K 61

## MATHS

Punjab 57  
Rajasthan 53  
J&K 48

## CLASS VIII

## LANGUAGE

Punjab 67  
Chandigarh 64  
Rajasthan 61

## MATHS

Punjab 50  
Chandigarh 46  
Rajasthan 46

## SCIENCE

Punjab 50  
Chandigarh 50  
Rajasthan 47

## SOCIAL SC

Punjab 49  
Chandigarh 48  
Rajasthan 49

## Rajasthan scores above national average, govt says efforts bore fruit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAIPUR, MAY 26

RAJASTHAN HAS scored above the national average in several categories of learning outcome levels, reveal the results of the National Achievement Survey (NAS), 2021.

The results of the survey, which were released on Wednesday, show that for Class 3, Rajasthan's overall achievement score is 66.1 per cent against the national average of 59 per cent.

However, the survey indicates that while the scores remained higher than the national average, the learning outcome levels dropped for higher classes.

The overall achievement score for Classes 5 and 8 were 57.6 per cent and 50.5 per cent, respectively, against the national average of 49 per cent and 41.9, respectively. In Class 10, Rajasthan scored an overall score of 45.1 per cent against the national average of 37.8 per cent.

The performance of students in different subjects, too, was higher than the national average. In Class 3, students from Rajasthan scored 69, 65 and 65 in language, mathematics and EVS, respectively, with all the scores being higher than the national average. However, when compared with the results of NAS-2017, a slight dip is noticed in NAS-2021,

with the period in between also covering the pandemic.

In 2017, students of Class 3 had scored 358, 339 and 337 in language, mathematics and EVS, while the scores decreased to 339, 325 and 322 in NAS-2021. In 2021, Class 10 students scored 41, 42, 46 and 48 per cent in mathematics, science, social science and English, respectively, against the national average of 32, 35, 37 and 43 per cent, respectively.

Education Minister BD Kalla said the state's performance was better than others because of initiatives including introduction of government English medium schools and emphasis on online education during the pandemic.

## 'BRIBE FOR VISA' CASE

## Karti questioned at CBI headquarters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

KARTI CHIDAMBARAM, Congress leader and son of former Union finance and home minister P Chidambaram, appeared before the CBI on Thursday for questioning in a case of alleged corruption in the grant of visas to officials of a Chinese company.

Sources said Karti arrived at the CBI headquarters at 8 am and was questioned on the role of a company allegedly associated with him in the granting of visas. The company is alleged to have received Rs 50 lakh from Vedanta Group to facilitate the visas.

Karti had been ordered by a special court to appear before the CBI within 16 hours of his arrival in India from abroad. While Karti had been summoned to appear before the CBI on Wednesday, he had sought more time.

Speaking to the media before his appearance on Thursday,



Karti Chidambaram outside CBI office, Thursday. Abhinav Saha

Karti called all the cases against him as "bogus" and the current one as "most bogus". He denied allegations that he had facilitated visas for any Chinese national.

The CBI had on May 17 arrested alleged a chartered accountant and close aide of Karti, S Bhaskararaman, in connection with the fresh 'bribe for visas' case. The agency had last week conducted nationwide searches at various premises linked to P Chidambaram and his son Karti

in connection with the case.

The CBI case was registered on the basis of a reference sent by the Enforcement Directorate in 2018. The CBI, however, initiated a preliminary enquiry only in March this year and registered an FIR on May 14.

The CBI FIR has arraigned as accused Karti, Bhaskararaman, Talwandi Sabo Power Limited, Mansa, Vikas Makharia, a Talwandi Sabo representative, and Bell Tools Limited, Mumbai.

## Yes Bank-DHFL case: realtor Avinash Bhosale arrested by CBI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI/PUNE, MAY 26

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Thursday arrested ABIL Group Chairman and influential Pune-based builder Avinash Bhosale in connection with the Yes Bank-DHFL case.

An official in the agency said Bhosale had taken money from Yes Bank for business but diverted it for some other purposes. He is likely to be produced before the special CBI court in Mumbai on Friday.

The agency had in April conducted searches at eight locations in Mumbai and Pune at the residences and offices of suspects in connection with the Yes Bank-DHFL case.

Among the places searched were properties linked to Avinash Bhosale and ABIL.

The CBI had in 2020 arrested Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor and DHFL promoters Kapil and Dheeraj Wadhawan, claiming that they had entered into a criminal conspiracy through which financial assistance was extended to DHFL in lieu of substantial undue benefit to Kapoor and his family members.

In June last, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had seized assets worth over Rs 40 crore belonging to Bhosale and his family members as part of an ongoing investigation under the Foreign

## J&amp;K INFILTRATION BID

## Three militants, Army porter killed near LoC

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, MAY 26

THREE MILITANTS were killed in North Kashmir's Kupwara when a joint team of J&K Police and Army intercepted a group of militants infiltrating into the Valley. Police said an Army porter was also killed in the gunfight.

The police said the militants who were killed were from Pakistan and affiliated to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT).

A gunfight erupted between militants and a joint team of police and Army early on Thursday at Kupwara's Jumagund village, which is near the Line of Control (LoC). The police said the gunfight started after they received inputs about a group of militants infiltrating into the Valley.

"Based on a specific input developed by Kupwara Police regarding infiltration attempt of terrorists in village Jumagund near LoC area of Kupwara, an ambush was put in place by police and Army," the police said in a statement. "As the infiltrating terrorists were intercepted, they were challenged. But in return they opened indiscriminate fire upon the joint party which was retaliated. In the ensuing en-



Likely to be produced in the special CBI court in Mumbai on Friday. abilgroup.com

counter, all the three infiltrated terrorists were killed."

In a separate statement, the Army said the operation was launched based on "joint intelligence input from several agencies, including SSP Kupwara". In the evening, the police said an Army porter, Abdul Lateef Mir, who was injured in the gunfight, died of his injuries at hospital.

The Army blamed Pakistan for the infiltration attempt. "Exporting terrorism in J&K has been a state policy of Pakistan in the past three decades. Increased desperation of terrorist handlers in PoJK is evident as a result of effect-based operation conducted by the Indian Army and prevailing peace and tranquility evident from large number of tourists coming to the Valley," a Defence spokesman said in a statement. "Pakistan's nefarious designs to revive the dying agenda and keep the pot boiling in J&K under the garb of ceasefire understanding by Pakistan army is a new deceit."

This is the second gunfight in North Kashmir in two days. On Wednesday, three Pakistani militants and a policeman were killed in a gunfight in Kreeeri village of North Kashmir's Baramulla.

## Mundra Port: 52 kg cocaine worth Rs 500 crore seized

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, MAY 26

THE DIRECTORATE of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 52 kilogram of cocaine drugs worth around Rs 500 crore, hidden in a consignment of salt, at the Mundra Port in Kutch of Gujarat, an official said Thursday.

According to the DRI, it had launched "Operation Namkeen" after getting a tip-off that a consignment of salt shipped from Iran to Mundra port might contain narcotics. On May 24, DRI officials intercepted a consignment of around 25 mega tonnes of common salt at Mundra Port shipped from Iran.

"During the examination, some bags were found to be suspicious, as a substance in powder form having a distinct smell was found in them. Samples were drawn from those suspected bags

and testing was conducted by officials of Directorate of Forensic Sciences, the Gujarat government, who reported the presence of cocaine in these samples. Thus far, 52 kg of cocaine has been recovered by DRI. Examination and seizure proceedings under the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985 are in progress. Roles of various persons involved in the said import consignment are also being investigated by DRI," the statement said.

The seizure came a month after the DRI recovered 260 kg of heroin worth Rs 1,300 crore during a raid at a container station near the Kandla port.

In September 2021, the DRI, in the single largest heroin haul in India to date, seized around 3,000 kg of the drug, believed to have originated in Afghanistan and worth about Rs 21,000 crore in global markets, from two containers at the port.

WITH PTI INPUTS

## J&amp;K TV ARTISTE'S KILLING

## Killers posed as fellow artistes, wanted to work for shoot: father

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 26

THE KILLERS of Ambreen Bhat, a 35-year-old local TV artiste who was shot dead at her home in Hushroo village of Chadoora on Wednesday, came posing as fellow artistes who wanted her to work with them for a shoot, according to her father.

"Ambreen was sleeping when two people came to our house. Her nephew was standing outside. One of the youth asked him where is aunty (Ambreen). He said she is sleeping inside. They asked him to call her," said Khazir Mohammad Bhat, Ambreen's father.

"When Ambreen came out, the man asked her to attend their shooting in Budgam. She



Amreen Bhat worked in local TV shows

refused. As they were talking, the man took out a pistol and fired three. Two bullets hit Ambreen and third hit the child," he said, referring to her 11-year-old nephew Farhan Zubair, who was standing near her.

While Ambreen was critically injured and died on way to hospital, Farhan received a bullet in his arm. He was discharged from hospital on Thursday. "He had a soft tissue firearm injury. There was no bone fracture. We cleaned his wound and discharged him," said Dr Mian

Suhail, Medical Superintendent, Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar.

Farhan is the second minor injured in an attack in two days. On Tuesday, a nine-year-old girl, Safa Qadri, was injured when suspected militants fired at her policeman father Saifullah Qadri in Srinagar's Soura neighbourhood. While Qadri was killed in the shooting, Safa was hit in her arm.

Bhat said his daughter was like a son to him. "I don't have a son. She was a son for me," he said. "She was a bread winner for the family."

## LIFE TERM FOR YASIN MALIK

## J&amp;K: day after protests, 10 held, booked under anti-terror laws

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, MAY 26

A DAY after protests erupted in Srinagar over the sentencing of separatist leader Yasin Malik, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested 10 youths and booked them under anti-terrorism laws.

Police said they were in the process of identifying more people who were involved in the protests, which broke out after an NIA court on Wednesday sentenced Malik to life imprisonment in a case related to terrorism and secessionist activities in 2016-17. Police said some protesters would be booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA), which allows for the detention of a person without trial for up to a year.

"10 accused arrested so far in anti-national sloganeering and stone pelting outside home of Yasin Malik prior to sentencing in Maisuma yesterday (Wednesday)," J&K Police said in a tweet. "Others are being identified and will be arrested soon. Case has been registered under ULPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) and IPC (Indian Penal Code). The main instigators of this hooliganism will be booked under PSA. Such anti-national activities and provocative posture will be always dealt strictly and with full force of law."

Political leaders in the Valley have criticised the sentencing of Malik.

The Peoples Conference said, "We are pained by the sentence announced for Yasin Malik. Irrespective of his ideology, we believe that dialogue and peace should be the objectives of the future. We now hope that magnanimity, reconciliation and forgiveness will define the policy of the government of India in the future."

On Wednesday, the PAGD — an alliance comprised of National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party, the CPI(M) and the Awami National Conference — termed the sentencing a setback to peace.

MY Tarigami, spokesperson of the PAGD, said: "We are afraid that this will fuel more alienation and separatist feelings." The Hurriyat Conference has said Malik is being "punished for his political beliefs".

# Claims of petitioners contradictory: Gyanvapi mosque side in court

LALMANI VERMA  
VARANASI, MAY 26

THE CLAIMS of petitioners in the Gyanvapi mosque case is "factually contradictory" with no supporting evidence, lawyers from the mosque side told the Varanasi District Court as hearings began Thursday on the application challenging the maintainability of the plea seeking the right to worship at Maa Shringar Gauri Sthal on the outer wall of the complex.

"We presented our argument for two hours. Our argument is that their (petitioner's) claims are factually contradictory and have no evidence. Their claims are barred by various legal provisions. Our argument has not been completed. The next date of hearing is May 30, and our argument will continue on that date," said Abhay Nath Yadav, counsel for Anjuman Intezamia Masjid management committee.

The first day of the hearing began at 2 pm with only the 27 lawyers representing different



The mosque side after the hearing in Varanasi. PTI

sides, the five Hindu women petitioners and six respondents permitted inside the courtroom.

District Court judge Ajaya Krishna Vishvesha is hearing the matter following directions from the Supreme Court last week.

Incidentally, May 30 is also the date of hearing in a fast track court of a petition seeking permission to worship a "Shivling" claimed to have been found in the Gyanvapi mosque complex during a videography survey mandated by a local court.

On May 17, the Supreme Court, while declining to stay

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Senior judge picked by top court

ON MAY 20, the Supreme Court had transferred the suit from the court of the Civil Judge Senior Division to the Varanasi district court saying an experienced judge should hear the matter, given its complexities and sensitivity.

proceedings before the Varanasi court, had asked the District Magistrate to secure the area where the "Shivling" was claimed to have been found.

On Wednesday, the District Court transferred the petition to the fast-track court. In the plea, the petitioners -- three leaders of an outfit called Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh -- sought a ban on the entry of Muslims in the Gyanvapi complex and handing over of the entire area to Hindus.

# Hijab controversy back in Karnataka: Mangaluru college students protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, MAY 26

THE HIJAB controversy resurfaced in Karnataka on Thursday after a group of students from Mangaluru University College staged a protest and asked the college authorities to ban wearing of hijab inside classrooms.

According to a student, they had submitted a letter regarding this after the Karnataka High Court order -- the HC, on March 15, had dismissed petitions filed by a group of Muslim students seeking permission to wear hijab in classrooms. But the college management did not pay attention, the student said.

"If they are allowed to attend college wearing hijab, we will also wear saffron shawls and come to college," the student said.

The protesting students, who were wearing the college uniform, claimed that 44 students are wearing hijab to college and some of them are doing so in classrooms, too, PTI reports from Mangaluru.

In a counter, a hijab-clad Muslim girl student claimed the headscarf was part of the uniform for students who wear it, PTI re-

ported. "It is also mentioned in the college prospectus, and was also told to us during an interview by the principal while joining," she was quoted by the agency. "...however, we received unofficial statement in the form of a text message from the college on May 16 stating that hijab is not allowed in the classes and everyone should come in uniform."

She said that they would meet the district Deputy Commissioner on the matter and seek justice, as also fight it legally. The hijab row began in December last year when six pre-university students of Udupi government Pre-University Girl's College in Udupi district staged a protest demanding that they be allowed to attend classes in hijab.

In February, the Karnataka government issued an order mandating uniforms prescribed by it, or management of private institutions, for students in schools and pre-university colleges across the state. Dismissing petitions by a group of Muslim students, a three-judge bench of HC on March 15 noted that the prescription of school uniforms is only a reasonable restriction and constitutionally permissible, which students cannot object to.



PC George

## HATE SPEECH Kerala leader George sent to judicial custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
MAY 26

A MAGISTRATE court here on Thursday remanded senior politician P C George in 14-day judicial custody.

Police last night had arrested the former regional Christian party Kerala Congress (M) leader after a judicial first-class magistrate court in Thiruvananthapuram cancelled the bail granted to him in a case pertaining to his alleged hate speech at a Hindu mahasammelan here last month.

George did not move any bail application at the magistrate court as he had already petitioned the High Court.

On Wednesday, he was taken in police custody from a police station in Kochi, where he had turned up as part of the probe into another hate speech delivered early this month during a temple festival in Kochi.

# Two brothers wrongly held for rape get bail as joint CP steps in

MOHAMED THAYER  
MUMBAI, MAY 26

PERSONAL INTERVENTION by Mumbai Joint Commissioner of Police (Law & Order) Vishwas Nangre-Patil has led to the release of two brothers, who were wrongly arrested in a rape case registered at a police station in central suburbs.

The Bandra court on Thursday granted temporary bail to the brothers -- aged 19 and 20. This, after the police told the court that they have not found any evidence against the siblings.

Following this, Nangre-Patil on Thursday ordered an inquiry into the matter, asking the local police to submit a report.

Last week, the family members of Nilesh and Anil Chauhan had protested outside the Mumbai Police commissioner's office against the arrests. A senior officer said they had submitted a report under Section 169 of the CrPc before the local court, following which the court released the two on temporary bail.

Section 169, which relates to "release of accused when evidence deficient", states, "If, upon an investigation... it appears to the officer in charge that there is not sufficient evidence or reasonable ground of suspicion to justify the forwarding of the accused to a magistrate, such officer shall, if such person is in custody, release him on his executing a bond." The local court said it will hear the side of the story of the 19-year-old victim, who is married, on Monday.

## KERALA ACTOR ASSAULT CASE

# Victim meets CM, says he assured support of govt

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
MAY 26

AFTER ALLEGING that political leaders of the ruling front in Kerala interfered to scuttle further probe into her 2017 abduction and sexual assault case, the victim on Thursday met Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and said that he had assured her that the government is with her.

She said she had not stated anything against the government in her petition. The victim, a prominent actor in Malayalam

film industry, has petitioned the Kerala High Court, accusing the state government of having backtracked from its constitutional commitment to conducting a fair, free and complete investigation in the case, in which popular actor Dileep is one of the accused.

After meeting Vijayan, the actor said she had conveyed her concerns: "He gave me the assurance that the government would be with me in this legal fight. I believe his words." On the allegation against ruling LDF leaders, she said, "I tender an apology if my words had hurt the government. I had raised only my concerns."

## CONTROVERSY OVER BLACKMAIL COMPLAINT

# Names of Tamil magazine, others removed from FIR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, MAY 26

DAYS AFTER controversy was triggered when a prominent Tamil magazine and two media personalities were booked in an alleged blackmail and extortion case, Chennai police on Thursday issued a statement saying that their names would be removed from the FIR. Moreover, a senior police officer was shifted from his post in connection with the same issue.

Biweekly magazine *Junior Vikatan*, vigilance officer-turned-whistleblower Savukku Shankar and controversial YouTuber

Maridhass were among the names added to an FIR filed on the basis of a complaint by a real estate firm, G Square Realtors, regarding alleged threats and blackmailing it faced from January 2022.

A statement issued by the city police commissionerate said police came to know there is no evidence against the directors of *Junior Vikatan* and the others.

G Square Realtor's complaint was that the main accused, identified as one Kevin who has been arrested, demanded Rs 50 lakh to prevent the publication of an article in the magazine in January, alleging links between Stalin's son-in-law Sabareesan and the firm.

# Received threat calls, alleges MP Rana; Delhi cops lodge FIR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

THE DELHI Police registered an FIR against unidentified persons for allegedly issuing death threats

to Maharashtra Lok Sabha MP Navneet Rana. Police said Rana received over 11 such calls from the accused who threatened her for reciting Hanuman Chalisa outside Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray's house last month.

A complaint was filed by Rana's personal assistant on Wednesday, alleging that they received a total of 11 calls from 5.27 pm to 5.47 pm where the caller hurled abuses and threatened to kill the MP. Police said

the caller threatened Rana that she would not be allowed to enter Maharashtra and would be killed if she recited Hanuman Chalisa again. "Because of this (threats), the MP is scared, traumatised and worried..." reads

the FIR that has been lodged at the North Avenue police station. DCP (New Delhi) Amrutha Guguloth said: "We have registered a case under IPC Sections 506 (criminal intimidation) and 509 (insult the modesty of a woman)"

### Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran Offers e-Auction of Residential and commercial plots in Gurugram and Faridabad zones

**On 8th June, 2022**

Commercial Properties in Gurugram Zone			Residential Properties in Gurugram Zone			Residential Properties in Faridabad Zone			Commercial Properties in Faridabad Zone			
Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	
1	4, Gurugram	6	1	5, Gurugram	8	1	3, Faridabad	24	1	2, Faridabad	5	
2	5, Gurugram	5	2	7Extn, Gurugram	3	2	8, Faridabad	29	2	3, Faridabad	10	
3	9, Gurugram	6	3	9, Gurugram	11	3	9, Faridabad	1	3	7, Faridabad	1	
4	9A, Gurugram	8	4	9A, Gurugram	10	4	45, Faridabad	2	4	8, Faridabad	1	
5	10, Gurugram	6	5	10, Gurugram	7	5	82, Faridabad	6	5	9, Faridabad	9	
6	10A, Gurugram	7	6	10A, Gurugram	6	6	64, Faridabad	3	6	15, Faridabad	3	
7	12A, Gurugram	3	7	22, Gurugram	6	7	78, Faridabad	36	7	17, Faridabad	1	
8	15-I, Gurugram	3	8	23-23A, Gurugram	4	8	77, Faridabad	54	8	24, Faridabad	1	
9	16, Gurugram	2	9	1-PAT, Ptaudi	6	9	21B, Faridabad	9	9	25, Faridabad	12	
10	18, Gurugram	2	10	39, Gurugram-II	6	10	21D, Faridabad	19	10	29, Faridabad	4	
11	21, Gurugram	2	11	40, Gurugram-II	8	11	12, Palwal	14	11	18P1, Faridabad	4	
12	22, Gurugram	3	12	42, Gurugram-II	11	12	2P, Palwal	2	12	19P1, Faridabad	25	
13	23-23A, Gurugram	2	13	45, Gurugram-II	12	13	Loan Facility From Leading Banks <small>*Terms And Conditions Applicable</small>			13	21B, Faridabad	12
14	PV-1A, Gurugram	6	14	46, Gurugram-II	7	14	Registration will close one day before the scheduled date of e-Auction, at 5 pm.			14	21C, Faridabad	17
15	29, Gurugram-II	6	15	49, Gurugram-II	4	15	e-Auction Portal <a href="https://hsvphry.org.in">https://hsvphry.org.in</a> e-Auction will start at 10:00 AM			15	21D, Faridabad	3
16	33, Gurugram-II	2	16	50, Gurugram-II	15	16	In continuation of advertisement dated 25.05.2022			16	59, LOHA MANDI	121
17	34, Gurugram-II	2	17	51, Gurugram-II	5	17	Helpline Number: 8360516607 (9 AM to 5 PM), 1800-180-3030 (8AM TO 8 PM)					
18	38, Gurugram-II	1	18	52, Gurugram-II	5	18	For any queries email us at <a href="mailto:eauctionquery.hsvp@gmail.com">eauctionquery.hsvp@gmail.com</a>					
19	42, Gurugram-II	2	19	57, Gurugram-II	8	19	* The competent authority can withdraw any site from e-auction without any notice.					
20	45, Gurugram-II	6	20	4, Rewari	1	20						
21	46, Gurugram-II	3	21	18-DEF, Rewari	6	21						
22	53, Gurugram-II	6	22	MTSKOSLI	1	22						
23	56, Gurugram-II	3	23	6, Dharuhera	7	23						
24	62, Gurugram-II	1	24	10, Mahendergarh	6	24						
25	3, Rewari	3										
26	5, Rewari	3										
27	MTSKOSLI	6										
28	4A, Dharuhera	8										
29	1PART-1, Narnaul	6										

EMD is calculated on base price, the first round of bidding will start from base price. Reserve Price are fixed by HSWP above base price and same will not be disclosed.

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## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# The case of Yasin Malik

As is often the case in Kashmir, one act of closure, Malik's conviction, may open up new questions



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

## RELEARNING TO LEARN

National Assessment Survey lays out post-Covid challenges. Teacher- and student-centred approaches are needed

WITH SOCIAL AND economic activity returning to near normal after the pandemic, one of the critical challenges is to extend the post-Covid recovery to the classroom. India witnessed one of the longest school closures in the world. For the better part of the past two years, teachers struggled to cope with the pedagogical challenges posed by the switch to online classes. The country's digital divide proved to be a hurdle for a large number of underprivileged learners. Field reports by private agencies and state government bodies have indicated that this disruption resulted in an alarming regression in children's foundational skills — reading, writing, doing simple mathematics. Now a study commissioned by the Centre, the National Assessment Survey (NAS), details the magnitude of this learning crisis across the country. Conducted in November 2021 among students of more than one lakh schools in 720 districts, the NAS shows a sharp dip in the performance of students in almost all subjects during the pandemic years. Worryingly, it reveals that the breakdown affected even states that traditionally do well on educational parameters. The average scores of Delhi's Class V students in mathematics, for instance, were well below the national average.

The Union education ministry has said that the NAS data "will help states in taking remedial measures, both short-term and long-term". The first step should be to acknowledge that children are returning to schools with diminished skills as well as recognise that some learners may have experienced more setbacks than their peers. Planners and school administrators should give teachers the freedom to adopt creative approaches that turn classrooms into spaces where students can shed the anxieties of the past two years and regain skills at their own pace. This would require re-imagining pedagogical practices and a shift from syllabus-centred approaches of the past to learner-centric methods. The New Education Policy 2020, announced in the first year of the pandemic, recognises this imperative. Unfortunately, however, the public health emergency seems to have put on the backburner the implementation of school education reforms envisaged by the NEP. Funds for training teachers have been slashed by nearly 50 per cent in the current budget and the outlay for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme — whose positive impact on school enrollment, student retention and nutrition of children is well-documented — has come down by almost 10 per cent. Instead, there seems to be an over-reliance on e-learning. But as the NAS shows, these methods cannot be a substitute for the interactions in a classroom.

Several studies, including the annual ASER reports, have underlined that most of the failings of the country's educational system stem from the lack of connect between the lived experiences of most students and what is taught in classrooms. The pandemic-induced crisis — no doubt formidable — is an opportunity to apply correctives. Failure to do so will imperil the academic future of an entire generation.

## THE UGLY VIP

An IAS officer gets athletes out of a stadium to walk his dog because he can. That must change

A STATE-OF-THE-ART STADIUM serves the needs of athletes. A private airline sets a price for tickets, and customers get what they pay for. These statements are axiomatic. Yet, in the last fortnight, two incidents shine a light on the ossified sense of entitlement of India's upper bureaucracy that gives the lie to them. On the field and in the air, there appears to be an expectation of the bureaucrat's right of way, lit up by the lal batti's halo. In a country riddled with inequality, where the VIP enjoys privileges and exemptions, from the toll booth to the airport, the babu continues to be out of touch with the temper of the times.

On Thursday, this newspaper reported that the Delhi government-run Thyagraj Stadium has been closing its grounds to athletes at 7 pm, apparently to allow Principal Secretary (Revenue) Sanjeev Khirwar to walk his dog on the track. While Khirwar has denied that his canine's constitutional disrupted the athletes' routine, the evidence from the ground points the other way. In the aftermath of the report, the Delhi government has ordered that the stadium be kept open till 10 pm and the Centre has asked the LG to take action. Just days earlier, on May 14, another report in this paper detailed how Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and his wife received tickets at cheaper than market rates from Air India for a personal trip to the US. In addition, they were upgraded to first class.

The reason these incidents have a wide resonance is that they do not come across as exceptions. Rather, they are part of a pattern, a culture that has come to be associated with the "steel frame". Almost every other aspect of the Indian state has witnessed a chum — democratic impulses have deepened and entire sectors have opened up to questions and challenges. But the bureaucracy often seems to be the wing of government that has most retained its colonial character. Bureaucrats don't stand up to their political masters on matters of principle often enough. At the other end, the officer, ostensibly a public servant, maintains a distance from the people and all too often thinks nothing of what his "perks" cost them. At the stadium, for example, athletes were forced to practice during the day in the middle of a heatwave because the premises were closed early. There is much written and said about how the bureaucracy needs to reform. For a start, every officer needs to know that there is a price to be paid for being an ugly VIP.

## TEFLON LEADER

Those watching the Boris Johnson Show must prepare for late-season twists in the tale

THE PARTY ENDED two years ago, the hangover continues. In short: In 2020, when the rest of the UK was under strict Covid lockdown, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, along with senior politicians and civil servants, partied. There was cake, a cheese platter, drinks, even a photographer at taxpayers' expense, while taxpayers stayed home, many of them cut off from family, friends and even health services. The revelations about the boozy parties at 10, Downing Street would have led to the instant fall of any leader of government — but not, apparently, Teflon Johnson.

A snap opinion poll conducted by YouGov on the day the Sue Gray investigative report on "Partygate" was published showed that three out of four Britons feel that Johnson should resign. And yet, even as he promises that the "entire senior management" at Downing Street has changed and calls for accountability grow louder in the UK media, the PM himself remains safely ensconced in power. This seems par for the course for a man who, almost since the start of his premiership, has been embroiled in one controversy after another, whether it's the constitutional crisis he triggered when he tried to prorogue parliament for five weeks soon after he assumed office in 2019 to the controversy over how his Christmas holiday at a luxury villa in Mustique was funded.

When "Partygate" first made news in November last year, Johnson denied it completely. As more details started to spill into the public sphere, he continued to lie. How much longer the Boris Johnson show will go on, despite its many plot holes and inconsistencies, is anyone's guess. But if his record so far is anything to go by — remember former PM David Cameron's description of him as a "greased piglet" — those who're still watching should prepare for late-season developments. There may yet be more twists in the tale.

YASIN MALIK'S CONVICTION in a 2017 case on financing terrorism, was a foregone conclusion, especially after he pleaded guilty. There is a parallel case involving him in relation to the brutal killing of four Indian Air Force officers. That case will, in all likelihood, also come to fruition at a convenient moment. From a purely moral standpoint, it was always quite a travesty that Yasin Malik had been indulged for so long. But as is often the case in Kashmir, one act of closure may open up new and even more ominous questions.

Malik's political career exemplified the politics of bad faith all around. He was always sympathetic to secession. His radicalisation preceded the rigged election of 1987. He was accused of killing four Air Force officers. It is difficult to imagine any country indulging such a killing. But such is the depth of grievance and violence in Kashmir that he managed to convert that act into a narrative of retaliation against prior violence by the Indian state. The Indian state then arrested him, and ended up with the worst of both worlds. It never seriously sought to fairly convict him for his crimes. But it tortured him and created a political martyr. Malik then ostensibly read Mandela and Gandhi and renounced violence, though there does not appear to be any evidence from his organisational activity that he did so. This fighter for Kashmiri self-determination was also a front for Pakistan. The Indian state, then, on occasion elevated him to great political stature and sustained him as if he were a key interlocutor. If this negotiation had produced a lasting settlement, this indulgence might have been excusable.

But as it turned out, all that we produced was a protracted stalemate that collapsed every so often. The Indian government had no new framework to offer or was unable to follow up on its own commitments. The JKP's own positions were a tactical retreat more than a serious and imaginative attempt to think of a future of Kashmir, or a transition path to peace. Both sides had no compunction in using the worst forms of violence, even as they resorted to the language of human rights. With Kashmir under years of siege and

occupation-like conditions, Malik became a symbol of freedom, a cult figure with a love story to boot. But it was never clear that he could command broad-based political support. He seemed both indispensable but unable to advance the cause credibly. He was a morally disturbing figure made to look plausible by a horrible political context.

The BJP radically changed course in J&K. Its oppressive tactics had the one virtue of ending the charade of bad faith that had characterised politics in Kashmir. Securing the conviction of Malik is one more step in that agenda. It is hard to argue with the conviction on its own terms: Malik has pleaded guilty, his public statements would be enough to indict him on many counts. But as always, this moment of political triumph will turn more of the spotlight on the Indian state than it is prepared for in two respects.

On its own terms, it is difficult to impugn the court's findings in this case. But the challenge for the Indian state has not been partiality in particular cases; it is the perception of partiality of the justice system as a whole. In a context of immense legalised repression in Kashmir, where basic civil rights and democratic rights are not being protected by large sections of the judiciary, the case can easily be converted into a narrative of state partiality, rather than a victory for the rule of law. The conviction may be seen as an end of bad faith in Delhi. But we should be under no illusion that it will also be seen as an example of the Indian state's bad faith in Kashmir.

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Since the revocation of Article 370, this trend is evident. The previous governments may have engaged in a politics of bad faith, but at least there were some doors of political expression always open. Now Kashmir is politically suffocated, with mainstream

politicians discredited and freedom of expression clamped down on to an unprecedented degree. India's own democratic credentials are eroding. The net result is both a total political vacuum and an increasing sense of siege inside Kashmir.

In that context, the potential symbolic value of Malik's martyrdom through imprisonment or possible death penalty in the killing of the Air Force officers is even greater. This is not good reason to refrain from pursuing justice in this case. But it would be politically myopic if we failed to understand that repression creates its own mythologies, as it did previously with Burhan Wani and Maqbool Bhat. The state will have to do a lot of political work to ensure that does not happen in this case. But all trends suggest it will be unable to do so.

We are now at a point where we refuse to even recognise Kashmir as a political problem. The problem is being framed as one that can be managed entirely by state repression or propaganda. This will not bring peace to Kashmir any more than it has brought security to Kashmiri Pandits. Malik's case will become a reminder of the political vacuum in Kashmir, and the possibilities of greater radicalisation.

There is an aside in this case which might be of interest in the debate over the sedition law. Malik never renounced secession as an objective; he merely claimed to change tactics and become Gandhian. But the court found that his profession of Gandhism could not be taken with a straight face. But here is an interesting question. Should a sedition law cover ideologies that promote secession or only violence and conspiracy to violence? The judge seems to hint that advocacy of secessionism would be permissible, so long as it was done in a Gandhian way. But alas, politics — the activity of winning allegiance by persuasion and incentive — is the last thing we will see in Kashmir. Yasin Malik's case might be a closure of sorts, but it is not moving past the tragedy that is Kashmir.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express



DIPTI DESHPANDE

## NOTE TO THE CONSUMER

Pressure on prices of agricultural commodities will take time to soften

THE DRIVERS OF current inflation are exogenous, but their second-round effects, as domestic demand improves and feeds into inflation expectations, are becoming a source of concern. Research has shown that the frequency of purchase, rather than the share of expenditure, shapes inflation-related expectations of consumers.

Take food, for example. Not only is around 40 per cent of overall consumer spending on food, its purchase frequency is also higher. Thus rising prices have a stickier impact on inflation expectations.

Already, food inflation, at 6 per cent on average in the past three years, is significantly higher than the pre-pandemic five-year average of 3.5 per cent. It has risen in recent months, making it difficult for monetary policy to anchor inflation expectations.

So why is food inflation surging? There are three reasons: One, a surge in transportation costs; two, rising cost of production; and three, elevated global food prices. The first two are already being passed on to retail prices. The Russia-Ukraine war is affecting everything, even food prices in a nation where most of what is consumed is produced locally. In April, the consumer price index-based inflation for food had reached 8.4 per cent. While that's the headline, inflation is also broad-based within the category. Initially, it started picking up for imported commodities — global food prices have been surging since the war began, with edible oils and cereals rising the most. But

now, domestically produced items are getting caught in the price fire. Crucially, there is little monetary and fiscal policies can do to soften the primary exogenous blow in the short-term.

For instance, a sharp rise in transportation costs has pushed up retail prices of agricultural commodities. Vegetable inflation surged the most in April, led by both a high base and sequential increase in prices. Higher freight rates for transport would have a huge role to play in driving up retail prices. As per CRISIL Research's CRISFindex, freight costs for agricultural products rose more than 20 per cent on-year as of April, suggesting transporters have been passing on higher diesel prices by raising freight rates.

Similarly, other than vegetables, inflation has also been firming up in other domestically produced commodities such as wheat and products, coarse cereals, and meat. Apart from a low base, there is a sequential price rise in these components. In many of these, food production costs have risen, driven by higher diesel, fertiliser, pesticides and also animal feed prices.

Recent months have also seen a narrowing of the gap between wholesale and retail food inflation, suggesting a higher pass-through of input costs. The heat wave has only added to the woes.

Rising food inflation hurts consumers a lot more than inflation in other commodities since households do not have much discretion in altering food consumption. The

consequences are more adverse for certain consumer segments. The rural population spends a higher share (around 47 per cent) than the urban (roughly 30 per cent) on food. Similarly, the bottom 20 per cent shell out a higher share (60 per cent) on food consumption. It is these segments that are facing the brunt of high food inflation for the past three years. Hence, policy will have to relieve the pressure on food inflation wherever possible.

The process has started. Monetary policy made the first move by hiking the repo rate, the cash reserve ratio and gradually winding down the easy liquidity situation. We expect the RBI to raise repo rates by another 75-100 basis points in the rest of this fiscal.

More recently, fiscal policy, too, has stepped up efforts to alleviate the burden of consumers. This involves a reduction in excise duties on petrol and diesel, an increase in fertiliser and cooking gas subsidies, and allowing duty-free imports of edible oils. Additional steps such as an extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana beyond September may be needed.

The pressure on prices of agricultural commodities will take time to soften. This should be after the Russia-Ukraine conflict de-escalates and the impact gradually fades away. Until then, the Indian consumer will have to shell out more.

Deshpande is Principal Economist, CRISIL Ltd. Views are personal



## MAY 27, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### REDDY'S DISPLEASURE

THE PRESIDENT IS believed to have expressed his displeasure to the Prime Minister. He told Mrs Gandhi that the governor's invitation to Bhajan Lal to form the government was not proper and constitutional. According to informed sources, the prime minister was "excited" when the president made these observations. The President used these words while describing his interactions with the PM to a Haryana delegation. He suggested to the PM that an early session of the assembly should be called to test the strength of both sides. The PM has since then also expressed similar views. This was a result of his interactions with her,

the President said. He told the Opposition that he was equally unhappy with their role.

### LEFT FRONT SWORN IN

THE FIRST FIVE ministers of the Left Front government in West Bengal were administered the oath of office by Governor BD Pande. Chief Minister Jyoti Basu was the first to take the oath followed by Krishnapada Ghosh (CPM), Kannail Bhattacharya (Forward Block), Jatun Chakravarty (RSP) and Kanai Bhowmick (CPI). All but Bhowmick were ministers in the previous government. The Congress-I and Congress-S boycotted the function to protest against the alleged rigging. No member of the Janata, SUCI,

BJP or Gurkha were seen in the gathering.

### PM INVITES CPM

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has invited the CPM for talks on the communal issue. She is said to have sought the help of the party in solving the issue.

### PROGRESS ON FALKLAND

ARGENTINA AND BRITAIN accepted a UN resolution calling for Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar to negotiate a ceasefire within a week as the British navy lost two more ships in the Falkland conflict.

# THE IDEAS PAGE

## What do I tell my son?

He asked me, after the school shooting in Texas: Why did it happen in an elementary school? The inaction of elected officials on gun control continues to take lives



RAJ MOHABE

MY NINE-YEAR-OLD SON is in third grade at an elementary school in Westchester County in New York State. My daughter, who will turn five in September, will begin kindergarten in the same school as her elder brother in the fall.

Every morning, my son boards his school bus that stops in front of our house. My wife or I then drive to drop off my daughter at her nursery school about 10 minutes away. It's a routine morning ritual. But it is also a sacred morning ritual. While waiting for my son's bus, we plan things to do over the weekend or he recounts a game he and his friends played during recess in school. As his bus stops, I plant a kiss on his forehead, tell him I love him, wave goodbye and tell him to have fun at school. Little children peep out of the bus's windows, some chatting away, some looking sleepy — I often catch one or two of them yawning. Then I'm off to drop my daughter to her nursery school. We talk about Mr Potato Head — her favourite character these days — or how she loves playing with blocks with her best friend. As her teacher takes her into the school, I wave goodbye to her, telling her also to have a fun day. I shout out, "I love you" as she teeters off, trying to hold on to her Paw Patrol backpack that seems gigantic compared to her tiny frame.

Children going to school cheerful, eager and unafraid should be routine. Parents dropping their kids off at school without having an iota of worry about the safety of their sons and daughters should be routine. Routine should not be some 18- or 19-year-old walking into a school or a local supermarket or place of worship with fully-loaded assault rifles. Routine should not be gruesome murders of children. Routine should not be massacres in schools.

As details of the bone-chilling massacre at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, spread through social media and on news channels late afternoon Tuesday, my heart sank. I shuddered and grew distraught. Fourteen kids, one adult. The death toll then grew to 15 kids and two adults. Soon it was 19 children and two teachers. Children who would have been the same age as my son and daughter. Children whose parents too would have hugged them goodbye that morning and told them to study well. Children who were taken away too, too soon by a gunman whose one senseless act ruined families forever.

It angers me to see how frequent mass shootings have become in America. There is no other country in the world where this happens with such gut-wrenching frequency. Every country has challenges and shortcomings but to have the kind and scale of mass shootings as have become commonplace in the most developed and advanced country in the world fills me and many other parents and families with disgust and outrage. Not my children, not any children should pay the price of repeated inaction by elected government officials and leaders.

After the Uvalde school shooting, my wife and I got an email from the superintendent of our school district saying that after the horrific event, there are bound to be concerns among parents and children about safety in our own schools. The email listed several measures undertaken by the school district to strengthen security at all of its schools, including video sur-



CR Sasikummar

veillance, single points of entry, distress buttons and regular drills undertaken in case of emergencies — like a mass shooting.

Citing the safety of students and staff, my son's school executes a "lockdown drill" at least four times a year. In these drills, classroom doors are locked by teachers and the students and teacher then find a place in the classroom where they can be hidden from anyone who looks into the room from outside. This emergency protocol is initiated "if there was someone in the building who wanted to harm others". On the day that the children go through such drills, an email arrives in our inbox informing us that the school had undertaken such a procedure.

So, in the unthinkable event that something horrific were to happen in their schools, our children are being prepared on what to do and how to keep themselves safe. But shooting after shooting, when innocent elementary school children and high school kids and shoppers and people in places of worship and theatre-goers are gunned down in a matter of minutes, there is no action by lawmakers and elected officials or even the powerful gun lobby to ensure that such harrowing and ghastly events are never repeated. Nothing happens, nothing changes. This infuriates me.

I know that my wife's heart drops a beat whenever she gets a call from our son or daughter's school in the middle of the day. It could be the school nurse calling to inform us that my son fell off a swing while playing or, as in the last two years, about a Covid-19 exposure in his class. But the moments, between her picking up the phone and the school nurse or teacher assuring that all is well and he or she is just calling to inform us about a typical school issue, are harrowing. Because the mind begins to think the unthinkable. When I look at visuals of traumatised parents waiting outside the Uvalde elementary school — some crying inconsolably, others waiting with worry and anguish writ large on their faces — it's impossible to comprehend the extent of the pain they must be going through while they wait to learn about the fate of their dear children.

The Columbine high school massacre happened in 1999, six years before I came to America. The Uvalde shooting triggered

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memories of the 2012 Sandy Hook elementary school massacre in which 20 first-graders were killed, and then the 2012 Oak Creek Gurudwara shooting, followed by the 2018 Parkland high school mass shooting in which 17 students and faculty were murdered. The list grows.

One would imagine that after each such unspeakable tragedy, leaders and lawmakers in the US would immediately move to enact common-sense gun laws. It would be the same thing to do, the most logical action to take. But there's nothing but inaction and this inaction is costing precious lives. Congress has repeatedly failed to pass gun-control legislation. The US does not have enough baby formula to feed its infants but a teenager can walk into a gun store and buy two assault rifles on his 18th birthday.

The US may be the only country in the world that has more guns than people. There are about 400 million guns in a country which has a population of nearly 332 million. The Second Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees an individual "the right to keep and bear arms." After the Sandy Hook shooting, then President Barack Obama outlined a plan aimed at reducing gun violence that included measures such as stricter background checks for all gun sales and a stronger ban on assault weapons. The effort to pass that Bill, which would have put in place stringent background checks for gun sales, was defeated in the Senate. The Democrats have accused Republicans of blocking "meaningful, bipartisan background-check legislation".

When one becomes a parent, the sense of fear, worry, despair and agony over the safety of one's child are magnified. It's overpowering. As my wife and I watched the news of the Uvalde shooting, fighting back tears, my son looked up at the TV and read the ticker "19 children and 2 teachers dead in shooting at elementary school in Texas". "It happened in an elementary school! Why did it happen in an elementary school," he asked us, his eyes fixated on the television set.

My wife and I looked at each other, at a loss for words. We did not have an answer for him.

The writer, based in New York, is director, strategy-data cloud at an analytics firm

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Boris Johnson's claims to be taking responsibility are meaningless when he cannot show sincere contrition or empathy." — THE GUARDIAN

## Making sense of the GST bonanza

Revenue collection has been rising. Challenge for Centre and states is to ensure that it continues to do so



ISHAN BAKSHI

THERE HAS BEEN a remarkable upswing in GST collections in recent months. In fact, collections touched a record high of Rs 1.67 lakh crore in April. But the critical question is: Will GST revenues stabilise at a higher level or will the surge peter out? Equally pressing, what additional steps need to be taken to ensure that the indirect tax regime delivers upon its earlier promise of enhancing government revenues — a source of stress between the Centre and the states.

There are several possible explanations for this jump in collections. First, the sharp rise in inflation has played a significant role. After all, as output turnover increases, taxes paid per filing will automatically increase. And notwithstanding concerns over the unevenness of the economic recovery, in nominal terms, the economy grew by 19.4 per cent in 2021-22 as per the second advance estimates.

Thus there is a price effect. To tease it out there is a need to deflate GST collections. Doing so suggests that a large part of the recent increase in collections is driven by rising prices. However, even after stripping away the price effect, collections have grown at a pace faster than GDP, indicating an increase in buoyancy.

Second, part of the overall increase in collections can be traced to higher imports. But even if one is to exclude the revenue accruing from imports, the rise in GST collections has outstripped GDP growth, indicating higher buoyancy.

To what degree these drivers moderate over time is not clear. However, to the extent that these factors — high domestic and global inflation, and an increase in demand for high-end imported products — persist at current levels, their impact will continue to be visible in GST collections.

Third, in order to improve compliance levels, the GST Council has been tweaking the rules to tighten the system. This can be observed at multiple levels.

Earlier, filers could get away without submitting returns for a few months. But the screws have now been tightened. As a consequence, returns filed have gone up, while the number of non-filers and those who delay filing have fallen. Alongside, the administration has also taken steps to tackle the menace of fake invoices by placing restrictions on the quantum of input tax credit that can be used to pay of tax obligations. But going by recent reports on the continuing detection of fake input credit scams involving huge sums of money, there remains considerable scope for improvement.

The introduction of e-invoicing has also played a role. Until recently, this was being implemented for firms with a turnover of more than Rs 50 crore. There are around 91,500 such firms (or 1.1 per cent of GST registered firms) which account for around 38 per cent of all B2B invoices reported in GSTR1, 66 per cent of B2B supplies, and 72 per cent of the tax paid. From April, this

process has been extended to firms above Rs 20 crore.

While extending e-invoicing to the remaining firms will tighten the system, the incremental gains from bringing smaller firms into its ambit, while consequential, are unlikely to be of the same order. After all, firms with an annual turnover of Rs 25-50 crore account for just around 6 per cent of B2B transactions and invoices, while those with a turnover of Rs 10-25 crore account for roughly 10.1 per cent of B2B invoices and 7.1 per cent of B2B supplies. The real challenge lies in improving compliance levels across the entire spectrum of industries where inputs/raw materials are sourced largely from the informal sector.

Fourth, some part of the revenue gains are likely to have accrued due to the changing structure of the economy. The formalisation of firms, the growing concentration of economic power in the hands of a few, imply that for the same level of output, the tax paid will be higher. This explanation also sits well with data that shows a rise in GST registrations, filings and tax paid per registration. However, to the extent that the informal sector claws back its share, this effect may moderate.

Thus, considering that some of these drivers are unlikely to sustain at current levels, tax rates will need to be raised to fulfil expectations of higher collections. But this requires careful consideration.

Around two-fifths of the taxable value (or turnover) falls under the 18 per cent slab as per research by some analysts. In comparison, the share of the taxable value under the 12 per cent slab is considerably lower. This implies that simply merging the 12 per cent and the 18 per cent slab as some have been suggesting would lead to a revenue loss. If the Council does indeed merge these two tax slabs it will have to raise the other tax slabs just to protect the current level of revenues.

But, before opting for such adjustments, the GST Council must first ascertain the potential revenue (net of cess and refunds) at varying levels of compliance, tax rates and exemptions afforded. After all, these have a bearing — lower compliance levels and greater exemptions will obviously require higher rates to garner the same level of revenues.

Now, as per some estimates presented to the 15th Finance Commission, with existing exemptions in place, the current tax regime should ideally yield revenues equivalent to 8.23 per cent of GDP. If, however, only exemptions for food are kept in place, then collections should rise to 8.57 per cent of GDP. In another scenario, even if existing exemptions are kept in place, and if a single rate of 14 per cent is levied, then collections should rise to 8.93 per cent. At a 16 per cent rate, they would rise further to 10.20 per cent. Understandably, these calculations are based on certain assumptions which are debatable. However, crucially, all these scenarios assume full compliance. In reality, though, the compliance level was estimated to only 70 per cent.

Considering the current economic situation, now may not be an opportune moment to raise taxes. But there is no getting around it. Both the Centre and the states need to work towards this.

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## No one killed Meena Khalkho

Failure to secure conviction in her murder points to police impunity



SHARMILA PURKAYASTHA AND UMA CHAKRAVARTI

THE ACQUITTAL OF two policemen on May 5, 2022, by a Raipur sessions court over the murder of 16-year-old Meena Khalkho in July 2011, is a sign of the times. The court observed that "despite sufficient suspicion of the accused having committed the offence" the duo was let off because of "improper investigation" and "lack of evidence". With this, a decade-long battle for justice that Meena's family initiated after they discovered her brutal death in a government hospital in Balarampur on the morning of July 6, 2011, has ended fruitlessly. It bears remembering that the 2015 Justice Anita Jha's report had conclusively stated that Meena was shot by the police at close range in the intervening night of July 5 and 6, 2011. The report had debunked the police's claim that Meena was a Naxalite and that she had been grievously wounded in an encounter that had happened that night near the Cherha nullah, a few kilometres from her village, Karcha, in Chhattisgarh's Sarguja district. The report reiterated the family and the villagers' claim that the police was guilty, and it was hoped that the CID would conduct a fair investigation. Instead, the present judgment has demonstrated how the police deliberately botches an investigation for protecting its guilty personnel, a point also noted in an editorial ("Bring full closure", IE, May 24).

Underlying the issue of subversion of jus-

tice is an obvious question that was obfuscated: Why was Meena killed? This stark question of intent which is logically related to the fact of the killing was never at the centre of any investigation, inquiry, or trial. The question remained unimportant even after the 2015 report established that the police had killed her knowing that she was not a Naxalite. If one returns to crucial points raised by the family and by the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan through its fact-finding in 2011, then it is obvious that there were serious tell-tale signs which were never picked up. For instance, it is known that Meena went off on a cycle in the evening to meet her friend but never returned. While her cycle was never found, and it was clear that she never went to her friend's place, her post-mortem findings showed the presence of sperm and the possibility of sexual intercourse with more than one person. There were some other facts: That the police paid hush money for the funeral and Rs two lakh was given to the family even before proper investigations were undertaken. Since the villagers of Nawadih heard three gunshots in the early hours of the morning followed by threats from the police preventing them from venturing out, the discovery of a grievously wounded Meena suggests that she could have been gang raped by the police and shot at to pass her off as a

Naxalite. More importantly, the discrepancy over her clothing, as to what she left home in and what she was seen wearing in the primary health centre, strengthens the suggestion of a cover up.

The police gave itself a clean chit a few months after the incident as the forensic examination could not match the DNA samples of the policemen with the smear slides of the deceased. Importantly, the 2015 report had urged that an inconclusive finding ought not to be treated as clinching evidence (para 45, Kumari Meena Khalkho Jaanch Aayog). The failure in probing Meena Khalkho's possible gang rape and murder was not limited to the fact that the police acted as judge and jury over its own conduct; the problem was that the ghost of female conduct was raked up to divert attention from investigating a serious sexual crime. Meena's supposed "friendship" with a truck driver, or drivers, became part of a political debate in which the then state home minister, Nankiram Kanwar, had said that she "had relations" with truck drivers and that the medical examination had confirmed her "habitual" status. He had also asked why she was away from her home at 2.15 in the morning. No inquiry was instituted to examine the "habitual" conduct of the policemen.

It needs to be remembered that it is not "habitual" female conduct that obstructs fair

and impartial inquiry into sexual crimes, but "habitual" misogyny, found institutionally and socially, that routinely prevents the possibility of a level-playing field. As evident in this case, Meena's "friendship" was a digressive tactic; it was meant to divert attention from the question of impunity of the police. Given the Herculean nature of the prevailing laws of evidence, providing "proof" is almost an impossibility. Consequently, institutional inquiries inevitably exonerate the guilty, which in turn, strengthens impunity. But it need not be so if one had paid attention to what Meena's father stated in court: That his daughter had been detained by the police, that she was gangraped and when she fell unconscious, killed (*State of Chhattisgarh vs. Nikodim Khes and others*). The gang rape charges were dropped, and the Prevention of Atrocities Act was never applied even though it is known that Meena belonged to the impoverished Oraon community and that she was a Class V dropout.

Why was Meena killed and who killed her are questions we will never know the answers to, but it is imperative to ask for the truth. We owe it to the dead.

Purkayastha is an activist and academic and Chakravarti is a feminist historian and filmmaker

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE ROT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sacking a minister' (IE, May 26). When Bhagwant Mann took over as Chief Minister of Punjab, he had announced that corruption would not be tolerated at any level. People dismissed it as the usual talk of politicians. But he has proved them wrong. The sacking of Health Minister Vijay Singla is among the rare instances where the CM has acted with alacrity to dismiss his own minister accused of corruption. The intentions of the incumbent chief minister are honest.

SS Paul, Nadia

### LEVELLING THE FIELD

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Reform by persuasion' (IE, May 26). The Supreme Court ruling on GST levels the playing field somewhat, with states now being able to have a greater say in the structure and operations of GST. This is as it should be because states have made considerable sacrifices in joining this indirect tax regime, and they would be right in demanding an extension of the compensation period for recovering from the set-backs of the pandemic, besides other changes in the GST structure. The SC decision must be welcomed.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

### PRUDENT POLICY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sacking a minister' (IE, May 26). The sacking of a corrupt minister by the chief minister of Punjab leaves one nonplussed for the simple reason that it is just a drop in the ocean of corruption where the sole objective of many is simply to mint money. Such black sheep are thriving in the political ecosystem with impunity. At least the AAP has the gumption to identify such bad eggs. Despite checks and balances in the governance system, it is gamed by both political and permanent executives. The root cause may be money and muscle power which is a sine qua non for winning elections.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIS REFERS TO the article 'Export ban, dismal message', (IE, May 25). Retail inflation has surged to a high of 7.79 per cent in April, breaching the upper limit of the RBI's target band. The disruption in the global wheat supply chain in the aftermath of the Russian-Ukraine conflict and the climate-induced subdued output in the country has resulted in soaring prices of wheat in the domestic market. In the current situation, exports of wheat, and the possibility of domestic hoarding of stocks to discover premium rates, could have jeopardised not just the PDS but also domestic supplies.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi. AP

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

## China foreign minister starts Pacific tour

Wellington: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and a 20-strong delegation arrived in the Solomon Islands Thursday at the start of an eight-nation tour that comes amid growing concerns about Beijing's military and financial ambitions in the South Pacific region. China says the trip builds on a long history of friendly relations between Beijing and the island nations. But Australia scrambled to counter the move by sending its own Foreign Minister Penny Wong to Fiji to shore up support in the Pacific. According to an official, Wang told his counterpart that China would firmly support the Solomon Islands in its efforts to maintain national security and territorial integrity. AP

## AFGHANISTAN

## Taliban set up Coal exports to boost budget

Kabul: The Afghan Taliban are stepping up coal exports to Pakistan and have raised duties on sales, officials said, as the group aims to generate more revenue from its mining sector in the absence of direct foreign funding. The move comes with global coal prices near record highs after top exporter Indonesia imposed a shock ban on exports earlier in 2022 and then Russia invaded Ukraine, pushing prices up further. No country has officially recognised the Taliban government, which has meant international financial assistance has dried up even as the country faces a humanitarian and economic crisis. REUTERS

## SPAIN

## Monkeypox case tally rises to 84

Madrid: Spanish health authorities reported 25 new cases of monkeypox on Thursday, bringing the total tally of infections in one of the main hotspots of the recent outbreak to 84. Health ministry also said there were 73 suspected cases. Minister of Health Carolina Darias on Wednesday said Spain would buy monkeypox vaccines as part of the EU joint purchases and confirmed that the west African strain, which has a fatality rate in about 1% of cases, was the one detected in Spain. REUTERS

## AZADI MARCH

## Imran Khan gives 6-day ultimatum to govt to announce fresh elections

Shehbaz says dictation won't work, Parliament will decide poll dates

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, MAY 26

A DEFIANT Imran Khan on Thursday warned that he would return to the Pakistani capital with the entire nation if the "imported government" failed to announce fresh general elections within six-day deadline, prompting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to retort back that his "dictation won't work" and Parliament would decide the date for polls.

Addressing a rally of thousands of protesters of the 'Azadi March' at Jinnah Avenue on Thursday morning, Khan lashed out at the Sharif government for using "tactics" like raids and arrests to stop his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's march, even as he thanked the Supreme Court for taking notice of the matter.

"My message for the imported government is to dissolve assemblies and announce elections. Otherwise, I will come back again to Islamabad after six days,"



Imran Khan addresses a rally in Islamabad on Thursday. PTI

the 69-year-old cricketer-turned politician told his supporters.

Hours later, Sharif - who replaced Khan in April - in his address to the National Assembly

refused the demand, asserting that his coalition government would not take dictation from any one on holding the elections.

"I want to clarify to the leader of this group (Imran Khan), your dictation won't work. This House will decide when to hold elections," the prime minister said in a sharp retort to Khan's deadline.

The current National Assembly would complete its five-year term in August next year, which would be followed by the general elections. However, the prime minister can dissolve parliament any time and call fresh elections.

Sharif said since he took oath on April 22 and decided to work

for the betterment of the country, the government was threatened with protests.

"The doors were open for talks with the Opposition but I will not take any dictation," he said. "I can form a committee but dictation will not work and no group or party can be allowed to rebel against the Constitution."

Meanwhile, a five-member Supreme Court bench, headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by the Sharif government seeking contempt proceedings against Khan for violating the apex court's order of holding a peaceful march at H-9 sector. PTI

## Sri Lanka's Gotabaya hopes to get bridging funds from Japan

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, MAY 26

SRI LANKAN President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Thursday expressed hope that bridging finance from Japan would help the island nation get over its current economic crisis, as he urged "international friends" to extend support and solidarity "to his country at this 'very difficult time'".

Addressing the 27th International Conference on the Future of Asia in Tokyo, Japan, via video call, the President said he hoped for an early deal with Japan as negotiations were underway concerning bridging loans.

"Japan remains one of Sri Lanka's key development partners, and we hope that the negotiations now underway regarding bridging funds from Japan will conclude soon, and support Sri Lanka as we try to stabilise

our economy and our nation," the President said. Bridge financing is a form of temporary, intermediate funding intended to cover short-term expenses until long-term funding is secured.

Rajapaksa outlined the difficulties faced by Sri Lanka since the Covid-19 pandemic. "The virtual shutting down of the tourism industry and the sharp decline in inward remittances from expatriate workers due to Covid-19 in the past two years and increasing inflation due to other events combined with Sri Lanka's high-outstanding debt obligations to cause a severe financial crisis," he said.

In April, Sri Lanka announced a 'Debt Standstill' with the intention of restructuring this external public debt through negotiations with the country's creditors, whilst simultaneously approaching the IMF for a suitable programme.

## Mahinda questioned by CID over May 9 violence

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, MAY 26

THE SRI LANKAN police have questioned former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and recorded a 3-hour-long statement over the violent clashes between his supporters and anti-government protesters in the crisis-hit country that killed at least 10 people and injured over

200 others, according to a media report on Thursday.

Last week, CID also quizzed three members of the ruling SLPP parliamentary group over their alleged link in the clashes. Two of their colleagues who were arrested previously had been remanded in custody till May 25.

On Friday, Namal Rajapaksa, the son of Mahinda Rajapaksa also summoned and his statement was recorded.

## Israeli forces deliberately killed Al Jazeera reporter: Palestinians

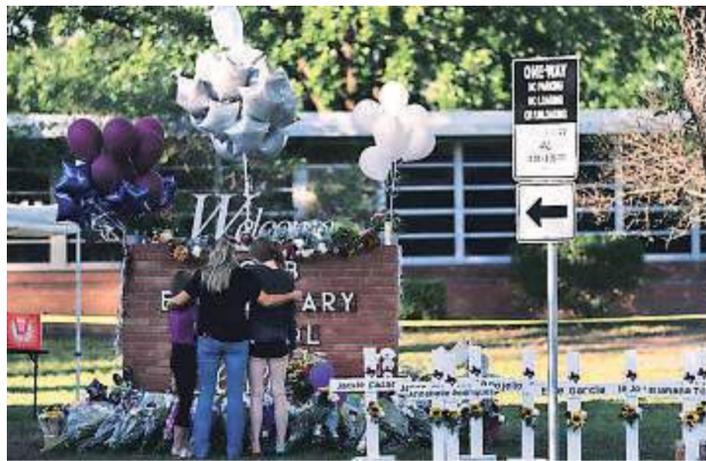
Ramallah: The Palestinian Authority on Thursday announced the results of its investigation into the shooting death of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, saying it had proven she was deliberately killed by Israeli forces as she tried to flee.

The findings echoed the results of a preliminary investigation announced nearly two weeks ago and were widely ex-

pected. Israel rejected the findings, with its military chief saying, "no soldier fired intentionally at a journalist."

Abu Akleh was shot in the head on May 11 during an Israeli military raid in the city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank.

Witnesses and Palestinian officials have said she was hit by Israeli fire. Israel says she was shot during a battle between



A family pays respect to the shooting victims at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde on Thursday. AP

## Police face questions over response to Texas shooting

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
UVALDE, MAY 26

LAW ENFORCEMENT authorities faced questions and criticism Thursday over how much time elapsed before they stormed a Texas elementary school classroom and put a stop to the rampage by a gunman who killed 19 children and two teachers.

Investigators were also unable to say with any certainty whether an armed school district security officer outside Robb Elementary in the town of Uvalde exchanged fire with the attacker, 18-year-old Salvador Ramos, when Ramos first arrived on Tuesday.

The motive for the massacre

— the nation's deadliest school shooting since Newtown, Connecticut, a decade ago — remained under investigation, with authorities saying Ramos had no known criminal or mental health history.

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw said Wednesday that 40 minutes to an hour elapsed from when Ramos opened fire on the school security officer to when the tactical team shot him. "The bottom line is law enforcement was there," McCraw said. "They did engage immediately. They did contain (Ramos) in the classroom."

But a department spokesman said Thursday that authorities

were still working to clarify the timeline of the attack, uncertain whether that period of 40 minutes to an hour began when the gunman reached the school, or earlier, when he shot his grandmother at home. "Right now we do not have an accurate or confident timeline to provide to say the gunman was in the school for this period," Lt. Christopher Olivarez told CNN.

Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz did not give a timeline but said repeatedly that the tactical officers from his agency who arrived at the school did not hesitate. He said they moved rapidly to enter the building, lining up in a "stack" behind an agent holding up a shield.

## Trump must testify in NY probe, appeals court rules

Washington: Former US President Donald Trump must testify under oath in the New York Attorney General's civil investigation into his business practices, an intermediate state appeals court ruled on Thursday.

A four-judge panel unanimously upheld a trial court decision from February enforcing subpoenas for Trump and his two eldest children, Donald Trump Jr. and Ivanka Trump, to provide

deposition testimony in Attorney General Letitia James' investigation. "Once again, the courts have ruled that Donald Trump must comply with our lawful investigation into his financial dealings," James said. "We will continue to follow the facts of this case and ensure no one can evade the law."

Alan Futteras, a lawyer for Trump, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. REUTERS



An apartment damaged by attacks in Irpin, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday. AP

## Russian forces get closer to encircling troops in the East

West will fail in isolating Moscow: Putin

REUTERS & AP  
KYIV/SVITLODARSK, MAY 26

ADVANCING RUSSIAN forces came closer to surrounding Ukrainian troops in the east, briefly seizing positions on the last highway out of a crucial pair of Ukrainian-held cities before being beaten back, a Ukrainian official said on Thursday.

Thousands of troops are attacking from three sides to try to encircle Ukrainian forces in Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk. If the two cities straddling the Siverskiy Donets river fall, nearly all of the Donbas province of Luhansk would be under Russian control.

"Russia has the advantage, but we are doing everything we can," said General Oleksiy Gromov, deputy chief of the main operations department of Ukraine's general staff.

Luhansk governor Serhiy Gaidai said around 50 Russian soldiers had reached the highway and "managed to gain a foothold", even setting up a checkpoint. "The checkpoint was broken, they were thrown back... the Russian army does not con-

trol the route now, but they are shelling it," he said in an interview posted on social media. He said it was possible Ukrainian troops would leave "one settlement, maybe two. We need to win the war, not the battle".

Russian President Vladimir Putin says the West will fail in its attempts to isolate Russia and face growing economic problems. Speaking Thursday via video link to members of the Eurasian Economic Forum, Putin said Russia wasn't going to shut itself off from international cooperation. The forum includes several ex-Soviet nations. Putin said that trying to isolate Russia is "impossible, utterly unrealistic in the modern world" and "those who try to do it primarily hurt themselves."

While German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Thursday that Russia will not win its war and Putin must not dictate the terms of any peace agreement. "Putin must not win his war, and I am convinced he will not win," Scholz said in a speech at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss resort of Davos. "A capture of the whole of Ukraine seems further away now than at the beginning of the war."

## MORE TORY MEMBERS WITHDRAW SUPPORT

## UK's Sunak touts help for energy bills; seeks to forget 'partygate'

AP & REUTERS  
LONDON, MAY 26

BRITAIN'S CONSERVATIVE government unveiled a 15 billion-pound (\$19 billion) emergency aid package Thursday to ease a severe cost-of-living squeeze, announcing the plan a day after Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed to "move on" from a months-long scandal over government parties during Covid-19 lockdowns.

Treasury chief Rishi Sunak said the government would introduce a 25% temporary windfall tax on the profits of oil and gas firms. The tax is expected to raise around 5 billion pounds (\$6.3 billion) over the next year to help fund cash payments to help millions of people cope with sharply rising energy bills, Sunak said.

He said the government help will target the most vulnerable people, including disabled people and retirees. Some 8 million of the country's lowest-income households will receive a one-time government payment of



UK Treasury chief Rishi Sunak

650 pounds (\$818). Every household will also receive a 400-pound discount on domestic energy bills in October.

The announcement of the windfall tax was a U-turn for Johnson's Conservative government, which had previously said that imposing one would deter investment in the UK's energy sector. But the government is under pressure to act as skyrocketing energy and food bills cause financial hardship for British households.

Meanwhile, two lawmakers from Britain's governing Conservative Party pulled their support for Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday over a damning report that detailed a series of alcohol-fueled lockdown-breaking parties at 10 Downing Street office.

## 32-yr-old rapper set to be Kathmandu Mayor

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE  
KATHMANDU, MAY 26

BALEN SHAH, popular for his rap music on violence against women, corruption, crime-politics nexus many public issues, has won the Kathmandu Metropolitan elections — biggest among the six in the country — to become the mayor by defeating two formidable opponents in the race.

Although, the formal announcement of his victory is yet to be made, his nearest rival Srijana Singh of the Nepali Congress, backed by the ruling coalition, has already conceded defeat and congratulated the winner. Shah's victory is being seen as a search for a credible al-

ternative voice. A second generation migrant from Mahottari district in Tarai, Shah was born in Kathmandu and has succeeded in involving youth of all sections in the campaign and securing majority with 'Cane' as his election symbol.

Sunita Dangol, a TV anchor-cum-social-activist, has established irreversible lead over her rivals in the electoral race. Although, she was contemplating contesting as an Independent, she accepted the offer made by the UML as its candidate for Deputy Mayor.

Like Shah, Harka Sampang, who contested as an Independent in eastern Nepal's Dharan Municipality with 'Cane' as the symbol also won handsomely,

## CHARGES AGAINST OSCAR-WINNING ACTOR INCLUDE ASSAULTS ON THREE MEN

## Kevin Spacey charged with 4 counts of sexual assault

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, MAY 26

BRITISH PROSECUTORS said Thursday they have charged actor Kevin Spacey with four counts of sexual assault against three men.

The Crown Prosecution Service said Spacey "has also been charged with causing a person to engage in penetrative sexual activity without consent."

The alleged incidents took place in London between March 2005 and August 2008, and one in western England in April 2013. The alleged victims are now in their 30s and 40s.

service's Special Crime Division, said the charges follow a review of evidence gathered by London's Metropolitan Police.

Spacey, a 62-year-old double Academy Award winner, was questioned by British police in 2019 about claims by several men that he had assaulted them. The former "House of Cards" star ran London's Old Vic Theatre between 2004 and 2015.

Spacey won a best supporting actor Academy Award for the 1995 film "The Usual Suspects" and a lead actor Oscar for the 1999 movie "American Beauty." His celebrated career came to an abrupt halt in 2017 when actor Anthony Rapp accused the star of assault-



Kevin Spacey has been charged with offenses which allegedly took place between March 2005 and April 2013. AP

ing him at a party in the 1980s, when Rapp was a teenager.

Spacey denies the allegations. The UK charges were an-

nounced Thursday as Spacey was testifying in a courtroom in New York City in the civil lawsuit filed by Rapp. Spacey didn't respond to reporters as he left the courthouse talking on his mobile phone.

The new criminal charges were mentioned briefly by Rapp's lawyers during the court hearing, and Spacey's lawyers were asked about it by reporters during a break in testimony. They declined to comment.

Another criminal case brought against Spacey, an indecent assault and battery charge stemming from the alleged groping of an 18-year-old man at a Nantucket resort, was dismissed by Massachusetts pros-

ecutors in 2019.

Thursday's court session in New York City dealt with a technical issue in the civil lawsuit, which dealt with whether it was better handled in a federal or state US court. Spacey was called to testify about where he lived.

Spacey testified that his main residence and domicile is in Baltimore, where he moved for the filming of "House of Cards." He said he was "beguiled by its charm, its beauty." But he also testified about his time living in London as artistic director of the Old Vic. "It was extremely important to me that I endear myself to the British public that I'm not running away," he said.



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EVERYDAY GLOBAL

## THE WAGNER GROUP OF RUSSIAN MERCENARIES, NOW IN FOCUS IN UKRAINE

UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES on Tuesday accused two soldiers from Belarus of torturing and killing civilians in Motyzhyn village near Kyiv. Allegedly belonging to the 'Wagner Group', these are the first international mercenaries to be accused of war crimes in Ukraine, according to a report by *The Guardian*.

**THE GROUP:** Since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February, news reports have indicated the presence of a mercenary group in the country. Although known popularly as the Wagner Group, there is no corporation registered under that name, no recruitment centre, and no records about where its funding comes from. According to reports in *The Washington Post*, it is a network of contractors that supply soldiers for hire.

The Wagner Group first surfaced in 2014, during Russia's annexation of Crimea. There have been reports of its presence in the Middle East and Africa as well.

There are allegations, denied by the Kremlin, that Wagner Group shares close ties with President Vladimir Putin. While the Kremlin stresses mercenary forces are illegal in Russia, observers have argued that the Wagner Group is helpful to Russia's war effort, as it can send these forces to Ukraine while simultaneously denying any relationship with them. Sorcha MacLeod, chair of the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries, told *The New York Times* that the lack of transparency allows the country to have plausible deniability

and helps form a "distance between the Russian state and the group".

The group is said to have been founded by Dmitry Utkin, a former special forces officer, member of Russia's military intelligence service and a veteran of both Chechen wars. Some claim that the Wagner Group got its name from Utkin's call sign, Vagner. According to another theory, he named his group in honour of Adolf Hitler's favourite composer, Richard Wagner.

**PUTIN'S 'CHEF':** The European Union and US Treasury Department have claimed that the Wagner Group is bankrolled by the Russian oligarch and close ally of Putin, Yevgeny Prigozhin, who has repeatedly denied these allegations.

Beginning his career as a hot dog vendor, Prigozhin rose to be a restaurateur and served the Russian elite. He earned the nickname 'Putin's Chef' after winning a number of catering contracts for state banquets. The US Treasury has also accused Prigozhin of financing the Internet Research Agency, a "troll farm" that was to have influenced the 2016 presidential elections in the US through disinformation campaigns by fake social media accounts.

In April, the European Union imposed sanctions on Prigozhin and stated that as the "founder and unofficial head of the Wagner Group", he was "responsible for the deployment of Wagner Group mercenaries in Ukraine".

RAGHU MALHOTRA

## Loss of smell, taste was almost 100% during Delta surge: study

THE LOSS of smell and taste with a Covid-19 infection during the Delta surge was a prevalent symptom and wasn't prevented by vaccination, new research suggests. The small study also found that some people with the earliest infections were continuing to experience loss of these senses months later and didn't even realise it. The study has been published in the journal *Med*.

In participants with active infections during the Delta surge, a majority (22 of 25) had been vaccinated. Screenings found that 100% were experiencing a diminished or lost sense of smell — but only 54.5% self-reported any problem with odour detection, the Ohio State University said in a press release.

The research team used an existing objective screening tool to collect sensory function data from 123 never-infected control participants and 65 people who had previous or active Covid-19 infections. The researchers found that about three-fourths of participants, whose mostly mild Covid infections had occurred before Delta's dominance, reported no ongoing smell and taste losses. However, over half of those participants were found by the objective screening, conducted between 102 and 785 days after their infection diagnosis, to have a loss of smell.

Beyond these silent smell and taste

losses, there were also people who reported that they hadn't regained taste or smell function for longer than six months.

Effects on the senses include diminished or complete loss of smell and/or taste, disordered smell and/or taste and, least common, smelling odours that are not present at all.

The sensory function screenings were conducted with a US National Institutes of Health (NIH) tool consisting of a 9-item scratch-and-sniff odour identifier and an intensity rating of bitterness in a sip of quinine. The odour-detection results were adjusted for age.

Beyond affecting the quality of life, the loss of smell and taste has health ramifications that include negative effects on nutrition intake and a reduced ability to detect danger — such as a fire or spoiled food, the release said.

"The disease's impact on smell and taste is under-reported. This is a public health concern that there may potentially be some broader impacts of Covid-19 that we don't realise are there," the release quoted the study's senior author, Dr Kai Zhao, as saying.

**PAPER:** Kym Man *et al*, 'Chemosensory losses in past and active likely Delta variant breakthrough COVID-19 cases', *Med*, 2022. [cell.com/med/pdf/doi/10.1093/med/kaab220-3.pdf](https://doi.org/10.1093/med/kaab220)

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## EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

# Falling markets: How much longer, and how to invest until they recover?



SANDEEP SINGH &amp; GEORGE MATHEW

CORRECTIONS IN the stock market over the last six weeks, volatility, and broader concerns around inflation have been unnerving for investors, who had enjoyed a bull run in the last one-and-a-half years.

### The big concern

Investors have been calling brokers, advisers and fund managers about when the good times will return. Over the last one week, at least three equity market investors have told *The Indian Express* that their portfo-

lio is down 10-20% in one month. There is a sense of despair among these investors, who have turned day traders, and also new investors who had entered the markets thinking this would help them make money daily.

The stimulus withdrawal and two rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve — 25 basis points in March followed by 50 bp in May — have led to a sharp outflow of funds from emerging markets to the US. Added to that, the off-cycle surprise rate hike of 40 bp by the Reserve Bank of India on May 4, and its commentary with regard to inflation and more rate hikes over the following days, have kept the markets under sustained pressure.

### The fall

Since the RBI announced its rate hike on May 4, the Sensex has fallen 4.8%. By comparison, the mid-cap and the small-cap indices are down 8.9% and 10.7% respectively.

Among sectors, auto is the only index that is trading over its closing on May 2, while

some other sectoral indices are down by more than 10%. The metal index at BSE has been the biggest loser (down 18.7%) while consumer durables (12.5%), power (10.8%) and IT (9.8%) have been other key losers. The decline in net asset values of mutual fund equity schemes has made even these investors worried.

### Inflation worries

In its 'State of the Economy' report released last week, the RBI stated that while the economy has consolidated its recovery, there are near-term challenges on account of weakening growth, elevated inflation, supply disruptions on account of geopolitical spillovers and financial market volatility stemming from synchronised monetary tightening.

While the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war has resulted in export restrictions by several countries and has resulted in higher food prices, especially of wheat and corn and edible oils, crude oil prices continue to remain at elevated levels.

Inflation is a concern not just for India, but has hit multi-decade highs across several economies. CPI inflation was at around 8.3% in April in the US, and surged to 7% in March in the UK, the highest in the data series. Overall, the Euro area's annual inflation reached a new peak of 7.5% in April, primarily driven by energy and followed by food, alcohol and tobacco, said the RBI report. Among BRICS economies, inflation in China rose to a five-month high of 2.1% in April as supply pressure worsened due to lockdowns.

This has resulted in a sharp sell-off across financial markets worldwide since April. The Sensex is down 10.5% since April 4, when it closed at 60,611.

### Recovery or not

There is a general sense among leading market experts that the broad indices may remain under pressure in the near term on account of inflation concerns, FPI outflows and overall domestic and global growth con-

cerns. The rise in interest rates on account of inflation is likely to raise the cost of capital and working capital requirements, and may put some pressure on the margins of companies, which may impact their profitability and share prices over the next couple of quarters.

Given that perspective, investors need to be careful while taking positions for the short term. Entry in the markets has to be with a view of three to five years, as many feel that the economy is witnessing a lot of activity on the ground and it will start reflecting in the markets over the next 2-3 years.

A major reason for the current correction is selling by FPIs and reduction in domestic buying. "A drop in FPI selling will be an important reason for the bounce. For this, the actions to be undertaken by the US Fed and the RBI in June will be an important factor. Moreover, we should note that the fiscal measures announced by the Indian government to control inflation are positive for the domestic market," said Vinod Nair, Head of

Research, Geojit Financial Services.

The market has seen several ups and downs in the last 30 years. The current downturn will also pave the way for the return of bulls once the economy revives and foreign investors return.

### No guarantee on equity

Investors worried about their portfolio value decline over the last one month should understand that equity is not a monthly guarantee return product, but a risk-bearing investment category that is subject to short-term volatility. So, only an amount that can be kept invested for at least 3-5 years should be put into equities. Also, they should keep in mind that mid-cap and small-cap companies are more vulnerable and subject to higher correction when the market conditions are adverse. So, in times of volatility, it is better to take refuge in blue chip companies, or they must invest in large cap mutual fund schemes or balanced advantage funds.

# Yasin Malik: Kashmir militancy's long arc, shadow of Pakistan

Malik picked up the gun more than 30 yrs ago; gave it up in the mid-90s. For a while, the Indian state invested in him. Malik's life and career traces the arc of militancy itself in Kashmir, a problem stoked by Pakistan.

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN  
CHENNAI, MAY 26

"THE MATTER is simple, there are cases against me pending in court, but now 11 years have passed and Government of India has not even started the trial," Yasin Malik said in 2001 in an interview to the BBC, when asked how many killings he had ordered and would take responsibility for as the leader of the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front.

A trial did take place, even if 20 years later — in a case that in 2001 was yet to come.

The life term given to Malik on Wednesday after conviction on charges of conspiracy between Kashmiri separatists and the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and its leader Hafiz Saeed, for raising and accepting funds for carrying out terrorist and secessionist acts in 2016-17 — more than three decades after he picked up the gun and 28 years after he declared he was renouncing violence — traces the long arc of militancy in Kashmir, a problem that carries Pakistan's shadow, and refuses to go away despite India employing both force and statecraft to deal with it.

The wheels have also started to turn in the earlier cases against Malik — the ones to which he was referring in the interview.

One pertains to the abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of India's then Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, in 1989; another to the killing of four IAF personnel in Srinagar in 1990. Since 2020, charges have been framed in both cases. Malik was arrested in 2019, when the J&K was banned in the wake of the Pulwama CRPF bus bombing.



But there was a time when the Indian establishment believed Malik would be more useful as a free man. He had been arrested soon after the killings of the IAF personnel and shifted to Mehrauli sub-jail — and his release a few years later was overseen by former R&AW chief A S Dulat, who was then on the Kashmir desk of the IB. In his 2015 book *Kashmir: The Vajpayee Years*, Dulat wrote about the turning of Malik from a militant who told him at their first meeting that there was nothing to talk about except *azaadi*, to a self-proclaimed believer in Gandhi's methods.

Malik, who said in interviews that he had been driven to "armed struggle" because the Indian state did not offer space for non-violent protest in J&K, "mellowed down" between 1991-94, the period he spent in Mehrauli jail. Two people Dulat cited as being important influences in this decision were Farooq Abdullah, who did some "plain talking" with him on the laws of the jail, and Dr Upendra Kaul, a cardiac surgeon then at AIIMS, who performed a heart valve surgery on Malik.

Dr Kaul told *The Indian Express* on Thursday that Dulat had approached him with a request that he examine Malik as the Government of India was planning to release him. "He (Malik) had a leaking heart valve. It needed treatment, and he was operated upon," Dr Kaul said.

The doctor and the militant conversed in Kashmiri. "He was a good and obedient patient. We never discussed politics. He had his convictions. What was the point?" Dr Kaul said. In later years, Malik would drop by at the doctor's home when he visited Delhi, and he flew down for Dr Kaul's mother's funeral in 2011. "He was a free man, he would just come and sit and talk for a while," Dr Kaul said.

Malik and another separatist leader, Shabir Shah, were released in 1994, at a time when the Indian state was casting around for a way out of the Kashmir quagmire. By 1991,

## Terror funding, unrest in Valley: the case Malik was convicted in

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

KASHMIRI SEPARATIST leader Yasin Malik, sentenced by a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Delhi, will serve two life sentences and varying jail terms, which will all run concurrently, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the IPC.

### What is the case?

Malik, head of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), was arrested in 2019 in connection with its terror-funding case of 2017. In its FIR, the NIA accused Kashmiri separatists of receiving funds from Pakistan, including from Lashkar-e-Taiba's Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen's Syed Salahuddin, to foment trouble in the Valley. It had arrested over a dozen separatists including Malik. According to NIA, Malik revealed that he was instrumental in bringing together disparate factions of Hurriyat Conference and formed the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) which spearheaded violent agitations in 2016 following the killing of Hizb militant Burhan Wani.

### How did the court appreciate evidence?

Framing charges in March, the court said that *prima facie*, it has been established that Malik, other accused and Hurriyat/JRL were direct recipients of terror funds. *Prima facie* there existed a criminal conspiracy pursuant to which large-scale protests, resulting in violence and arson at a massive scale, were orchestrated in the Valley. The court said Malik had set up



Pakistan had entered the fray with the Hizbul Mujahideen. Shah was persuaded to believe Delhi had big things in store for him. Malik, with his "achievements" as a militant, had a cult following — he was once described as Kashmir's Che Guevara — among the youth, and it was hoped he would calm them down.

According to Dulat, Malik was "great friends" with A K Doval, who is now India's National Security Adviser, and J&K cadre IAS officer Wajahat Habibullah.

New Delhi's accommodative approach of turning rebels into stakeholders had been used earlier in the Northeast, and continues to underpin its engagement in Nagaland. India even exported the model to Sri Lanka, where every Tamil militant group bar the LTTE was mainstreamed by the end of 1987.

However, neither Malik nor Shah went fully on board. Both Shah, the "headmaster" of militants, and Malik, the "head boy", turned out to be huge disappointments for Delhi. Dulat wrote, Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao announced that in talks with Kashmiris, "the sky is the limit" — but from the point of view of Malik and Shah, it wasn't quite clear exactly what Delhi was offering.

Also, Pakistan-backed Hizb-ul had by then hacked into a lot of Malik's following, and his new non-violent positioning was getting little traction in the Valley. He did make a point to Pakistan by staying out of the Hurriyat, but his



Yasin Malik outside the special court in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

an elaborate structure and mechanism across the world to raise funds for carrying out terrorist and other unlawful activities in Jammu and Kashmir in the name of the "freedom struggle". The NIA had pleaded for the death sentence, but the court rejected it, saying it did not fall in the category of "rarest of rare cases".

### What were the terror funding cases?

NIA has claimed that investigations showed Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, a Kashmiri businessman, is one of the main *hawala* conduits who generated and got funds from Pakistan, ISI, and UAE, and floated shell companies to disguise foreign remittances for transfer to separatist leaders and stone pelters.

Evidence found from searches across J&K, Delhi and Haryana, and crucial electronic and documentary evidence, pointed towards the pattern of raising, collection, transfer and use of funds for terrorist and separatist activities,

the NIA claimed. Evidence relating to funding through Pakistan- and UAE-based businessmen, ISI, and High Commission of Pakistan in Delhi was presented to the court.

### What else did the NIA find on Malik?

The NIA claimed its investigations found he not only received funds from Pakistan to foment trouble in the Valley but also amassed properties valued at over Rs 15 crore. It alleged that Malik has been in constant touch with the ISI and that his wife, a Pakistani national, is "very close to" the spy agency.

In an investigation report accessed by *The Indian Express*, the NIA claimed it had evidence to prove that he received Rs 15 lakh from Watali "to fuel secessionist and terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir". It alleged that Malik and his associates had grabbed government land and usurped properties belonging to a Kashmiri Pandit. Malik's lawyer Raja Tufail had then denied all the allegations.

The report listed 12 of Malik's *benami* properties spread across Srinagar. The NIA determined the cumulative value of seven of these properties at Rs 12 crore, and said the other five properties in key areas of Srinagar, including Lal Chowk, are expected to be valued at several crore of rupees. The properties include some landmarks such as MS Mall at Lal Chowk, Maqbool Manzil in Maisuma and the JKLF office in Bohrikadal. The report alleged that Malik also had a stake in a popular chain of schools in Kashmir, and has grabbed a government property in Gobachibag.

LONGER VERSION ON  
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demands of India too remained unchanged. He boycotted elections, and told people the government would use the turnout to tell the world that Kashmir had returned to normal. He said the "self determination" of Kashmiris had to be addressed first, and through negotiations between India, Pakistan, and Kashmiris.

In 2003, as India and Pakistan took halting steps towards a dialogue, Malik began a campaign for Kashmiris to be included in the process. In 2006-7, with speculation high that India and Pakistan had settled on Kashmir, he started a "Safar-e-Azadi" to press for the inclusion of Kashmiris in the process.

Around this time, Delhi held a series of talks with mainstream Kashmiri parties called the Kashmir Round Table Conference. The separatists stayed away, but had back channels open with the PMO. But Pervez Musharraf's long-drawn out exit, beginning in 2007, and the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks killed all prospects of Kashmiris in the process.

Malik, who met with PMs Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, President Musharraf and other Pakistani leaders, warned anyone who would listen that there was anger and impatience on the ground, and that a process was no substitute for a resolution.



After several visits to Pakistan, Malik married Mushaal Hussain, a Pakistani artist half his age. After a few visits to Kashmir in the early days, she has continued to live with her mother

**INITIATIVE-DEPARTMENT OF LAW, MAIMS**

Dept. of law, MAIMS under the aegis of Mahraja Agrasen Technical Education Society (MATES) headed by Dr. Nand Kishore has undertaken a special initiative to start a crash course for students appearing for CLAT 2022. MATES is a charitable trust comprising of a group of well known Educationists, Industrialists, Businessmen, Professionals & Philanthropists with an aim to promote quality education in the field of Technology, Management, Law, Pharmacy & Health Services to shape the human society for a better future. The CLAT Crash Course has been initiated to promote & guide students belonging to weaker sections of the society. The CLAT Crash Course aims to equip students with requisite conceptual building, problem solving, analytical, legal reasoning, comprehension skills necessary for successfully taking CLAT 2022. The course will begin from 1 June 2022 & continue till 18 June 2022. The last date for registration is 27th May 2022. A nominal fee of Rs. 10 for the entire course is being charged from SC/ST/Government school students.



**ALUMNI MEET-CPJ COLLEGE, NARELA**

CPJ College organized ALUMNI MEET "RECONNECT-2022" recently in which a total of 500 College Alumni participated. The programme began with the lighting of the lamp by Dr. Abhishek Jain, General Secy, Yugank Chaturvedi, DG, Prof. J.P. Mohla, Director (Academics) and with other Directors of the college. Interacting with the alumni Dr. Abhishek Jain, General Secretary said the objective of this meet was to interact with the alumni, know their progressive success, plan the future events, take feedback and cherish the pleasant hours of togetherness. The Meet came to an end by announcing Mr. & Miss Reconnect titles.



**COMPETITION-KR MANGALAM WORLD SCHOOL**

KR Mangalam World School, Vaishali participated in an International Skating Competition organised by Shiler Senior Secondary School recently. 175 students from 11 different schools participated in which students from K.R. Mangalam World School, Vaishali achieved 4 gold medals in 5 different fields. With this great achievement, the students bagged the rolling trophy which illuminated & made the school proud. Chairman, Abhishek Gupta appreciated & motivated the participants & Principal Sanghamitra Das congratulated all the diligent students & cheered them up for their success.



**NATIONAL CONFERENCE-IMS GHAZIABAD**

IMS Ghaziabad organized the prestigious AICTE sponsored National Conference on "Emerging Technologies in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Internet of Things (NC-ETAD-22)" recently. An audience of over 500 delegates, participants, distinguished guests, students, media representatives, faculty and staff members of various institutes benefitted from the sessions. An exclusive session was dedicated to presentation by students.



**RECOGNITION-KIET GROUP**

Assocham National Council on Education has recognised the KIET Group of Institutions, Ghz. as "Institute of the Year - North" recently in New Delhi. The award was presented by the Minister of State, Defence & Tourism, UP Ajay Bhatt. The summit based on the theme "Driving Innovation & Inspiring Minds through Industry Academia Alliance" was held at Hotel Shangri-La, New Delhi & saw special guests like The Chairman, UGC & the Chairman, AICTE along with other dignitaries.



**TRAINING PROGRAM-AMITY UNIVERSITY**

Amity University UP has been awarded with "Synergistic Training Program Utilizing the Scientific and Technological Infrastructure Programme" by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) as Project Management Unit. Under the aegis of this prestigious Project- STUTI, Amity Institute of Training and Development (AITD), Amity University UP is organizing a 7 Day Residential Training Program on the theme "Hands-on Training on Cellular & Molecular Instrumentation", fully sponsored by DST.



**FELICITATION-DPS RAJNAGAR**

DPS Rajnagar organised a classical music & dance program "TAAL: Ragini Maharaj, Shrinjini Kulkarni & Yashashwini Maharaj, grand-daughters of Padma Bhushan Pt Birju Maharaj, performed a mesmerising Kathak Dance during the occasion. The School Management felicitated the artists & students performed a cultural program to pay respect to all the artists. During the occasion, they paid tribute to Pt Birju Maharaj in presence of Sunil Agrawal (VC), Neetu Agrawal (Principal) & Suniti Agrawal.

**BOOK REVIEW** Technocrat-turned-finance professional, Swarnendu Bhushan has recently made an entry into the world of historical fiction with his debut novel Mir Qasim's Tunnel. Inspired by the rich and eventful history of our nation, the book is an exploratory thriller based on hard facts that will make you sit up with its gripping and accurate blend of history and mythology. The mystery of hidden passages and tunnels built by the rulers of India have always fascinated historians around the world. Across India's cities, secret tunnels and hidden passageways often open doors to the past. Investigating into one such peculiar premise are three individuals with unique strengths who come together to unravel the mystery of an ancient, dark, and dilapidated tunnel. Set in the present day, the story revolves around Binod, Rakesh and Shakti's obsession with Mir Qasim's tunnel lying under the ancient city of Munger. Situated along the bank of the Holy Ganges, this quaint yet mysterious city dates back to the times of Mahabharat and Ramayan. In this curious yet marvelous piece of fiction, Swarnendu takes us on the journey along with the three protagonists as they unleash disaster upon themselves trying to get answers to the most pertinent question of what lies beneath the city of Munger. As they explore this ancient burrow, chilling secrets are uncovered that blow them off their feet. Mir Qasim's Tunnel is available across online and offline stores all across India.

**CSEET** The result of Company Secretary Executive Entrance Test (CSEET) held on 7th and 9th May, 2022 has been declared today, Wednesday the 18th May, 2022 at 4:00 PM. The results have been made available on the website of the Institute - www.icai.edu and the candidates may download the e-Result-cum-Marks Statement. In the above CSEET, 67.17% of candidates have been declared successful. The next CS Executive Entrance Test will be held on 9th July, 2022 and candidates desirous of appearing in the said CSEET may register upto 15th June, 2022.

**Varthana Finance Private Limited**  
(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)  
Registered Office at: No. 5B-C-10, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043, Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office: Unit No. 3, Ground Floor, Pearls Omx Tower, Plot B 1, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034.

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgagee(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd., Delhi, (Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.), will be sold on 30-06-2022 (Thursday) between 1:00 p.m to 2:00 p.m., "As is Where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis, for recovery of dues of below mentioned Loan Account. The details of the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagee(s) Secured Assets/ Dues/ Reserve Price/ Auction date & time, EMD & Bid Increase amount are mentioned below.

**Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagees:** 1), M/s. S.V.M. International School, Rep. by its Authorised Signatory, 2), M/s. Shri Balaji Education Trust, Rep. by its Authorised Signatory, 3), Sanjay Kumar, S/o. Jai Bhagwan, 4), Reena, W/o. Sanjay Kumar.

**Loan A/c No. S19DEL-DEL-005271.**

**Details of Total Outstanding Amount in Rupees:** Rs. 58,25,703/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Three Only) as on 30-05-2022, together with future agreed contractual interest plus legal costs/ charges, till realisation of entire amount.

**Details of the Immovable Property:** All piece and parcel of property bearing Khewat No. 228 Khata No. 289, 290, Measuring 8 Kanal, Vakya Rakva, Mauja Baland Tehsil and District Rohtak. East By: Agricultural Land, West By: Katcha Beri Road, North By: S.V.M College, South By: Agri Land.

**The Reserve Price of the property will be of Rs.1,10,98,600/- and the Earnest Money Deposit will be (EMD 10% of Reserve Price) Rs.11,09,860/-.**

**Known Encumbrances, if any: Nil.**

Intending bidders should submit their EMD amount along with KYC documents (PAN Card and Aadhaar/Voters ID/Driving Licence) and Rs. 1,000/- being Non-refundable Tender fee by way of Demand Draft/Pay Order drawn on a Scheduled Bank, favouring "M/s. Varthana Finance Private Limited", payable at Delhi before 5.00 p.m. on or before 29-06-2022 (Wednesday).

**The Auction will be held at: M/s. Varthana Finance Pvt. Ltd., Unit No. 3, Ground Floor, Pearls Omx Tower, Plot B 1, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034 on 30-06-2022 (Thursday) between 1:00 p.m to 2:00 p.m.**

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in Company's website i.e.: www.varthana.com  
The prospective bidders may contact the Authorised Officer Mr. Mittin Kakkar - Phone No. 8685050505, Mr. Ram Arora - Phone No. 7827926395 and Mohd Hasan - Phone No. 8708186705 for further details/information.

**Date: 27-05-2022, Place: Bangalore** Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited

**HSIIDC PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Plot No.128, Sector-4, IMT, Manesar**

Plot No.128, Sector-4, IMT, Manesar measuring 1012.50 sq. mtrs. was originally allotted to Sh. Sonam Sapra on 21.04.2004. On request of the allottee, plot was provisionally transferred in favour of Mrs. Priti Arora vide provisional transfer letter dated 30.06.2009, subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions, one of the conditions of PTL was execution of conveyance deed in favour of the allottee and thereafter execution of sale deed in favour of the proposed transferee. On 25.02.2021, Sh. Sandeep Arora, GPA of the allottee and husband of proposed transferee requested for execution of conveyance deed in favour of the allottee. However in view of the legal notice dated 22.10.2019 received from original allottee about revocation of GPA, an opportunity of hearing was granted on 13.05.2021 to the original allottee and the PTL holder. However, original allottee did not appear and vide letter dated 24.05.2021 requested the Corporation not to transfer the plot without his consent. Further Mrs. Priti Arora, proposed transferee vide letter dated 09.06.2021 submitted the requisite documents regarding transfer of plot in her favour. The documents submitted by PTL holder in support of her contentions were sent to Sh. Sonam Sapra vide letter dated 18.10.2021 for comments and to explain why the plot may not be transferred in favour of Mrs. Priti Arora, within a period 30 days, failing which the Corporation shall go ahead for issuance of FTL. A period of five months has lapsed but no response has been given by Sh. Sonam Sapra, original allottee.

Through this public notice, it is hereby informed that both the parties i.e. Sh. Sonam Sapra, the original allottee and Mrs. Priti Arora, the proposed transferee, may furnish their comments/reply to the said transfer of plot in favour of Mrs. Priti Arora within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

In case, no response is received within the aforesaid period, it will be presumed that the transferor allottee has no objection for transfer of the plot in favour of Mrs. Priti Arora and final transfer letter will be issued by HSIIDC.

**Asstt. Gen. Manager(Estate)**

**Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited**  
(A State Government Undertaking)  
Regd. Office: C-13 & 14, Sector-6, Panchkula, Ph. 0172-2580431-83, Fax: 2580474, Website: hsiidc.org.in, E-mail: contact@hsiidc.org.in, CIN: U29199HR1987SGC034545 | | jmdhsiidc

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**MAHARASHTRA JEEVAN PRADHIKARAN, DIVISION - SOLAPUR**  
**e-Tender Notice No. 3 for 2022-23**

The Executive Engineer, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Division Solapur invites e-Tender for the following work under Jal Jeevan Mission from Empanelled contractors in Category-A by State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM)

**NAME OF WORK :**  
**Jal Jeevan Mission - Group Tender of**  
1) Yashwanth Nagar Water Supply Scheme, Tal. Malashiras, Dist. Solapur  
2) Sangram Nagar, Water Supply Scheme, Tal. Malashiras, Dist. Solapur  
3) Com. Godutai Parulekar Water Supply Scheme, Kumbhari, Tal. South Solapur, Dist. Solapur  
4) Samarth Nagar, Water Supply Scheme, Tal. Akkalkot, Dist. Solapur

**ESTIMATED COST :** Rs. 12181.64 Lakh (without GST)

Scheme details are available from 30/05/2022 on website: www.mahatender.gov.in for detailed information. Sd/-  
Date: 18/05/2022 - **U. B. MASHALE**, Executive Engineer, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Solapur Division  
(dgjpr/2022-2023/895)

**JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)  
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand  
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878; e-mail Id:- pdt.juidco@gmail.com  
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

NIT No.: 477/JUIDCO/NIT/TA/HousingBoard/PPP Date: 2022/05/26  
Tender ID: 2022\_UDD\_58556\_1  
PR No.: 269714

**Corrigendum- 1**

All bidders are hereby notified that Corrigendum- 1 is released for tender having NIT No.: 477/JUIDCO/NIT/TA/HousingBoard/PPP and Tender ID: 2022\_UDD\_58556\_1 for "Appointment of Transaction Advisor for selection of Concessionaire for Redevelopment of Housing Societies (11 Nos.) on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode at Ranchi & Adityapur, Jharkhand". The bidders are advised to consider the same before submission of their bids against the tender.  
Note: Corrigendum- 01 can be referred from the e-tender site of Govt. of Jharkhand i.e., (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) Sd/-  
PR 270328 Urban Development and Housing (22-23)\_D Project Director (Technical) JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

**कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी**  
**जिला बलौदाबाजार-भाटापारा-(छ.ग.)**  
Email id-cmhobb2012@gmail.com फोन एवं फैक्स नं. 07727223622  
क्र.स्टर/2022-23/4228 बलौदाबाजार, दिनांक 03/05/2022

**निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना**

मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी बलौदा बाजार के जारी निविदा क्रमांक/स्टर/2021-22 / 3234 दिनांक 22.03.2022 औषधीय व रसायन, भण्डार कच्चा माल, चिकित्सकीय उपकरण, मशीन, उपकरण, गैर कार्यालयीय फर्निचर तथा अन्य सामग्रियों का मोहरबंद निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।  
हस्त/-  
मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी  
जिला-बलौदाबाजार-भाटापारा (छ.ग.)

**यू. पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.**  
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपकरण)  
CIN:- U15209UP1976SGC004285

पत्र सं.- 224/पी.सी.एल./जी.एम./जीन-2/बरेली/प्रकाशन दिनांक: 26/05/2022

**अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**

इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना संख्या 04/पी.सी.एल./जीएम./जीन-2/बरेली/2022-23 दिनांक 29.04.2022 की निविदा पुनः सूचना संख्या ...पी.सी.एल./जीएम./जीन-2/बरेली/2022-23 दिनांक 26.05.2022 के माध्यम से नवीन जिला शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, रामगल के अवरक्षे निर्माण कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त ई-निविदा <http://etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 27.05.2022 से 03.06.2022 के अग्रहण 12:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण नियम एवं तर्तों कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) पर पी दिनांक 03.06.2022 से देखी जा सकती है।  
महाप्रबंधक  
जीन-2, बरेली

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**IT & COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**  
**KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDC)**  
PDD COMPLEX, BEMINA, E-Mail: ceo.rapdrp@gmail.com, Tel. No. 0194-2490821

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS** Dated: 25.05.2022

NIT No: CEO/ITC/ 02 of 2022-23

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in two cover system, Part I - Technical Commercial Bid & Part II - Price Bid) are hereby invited from paper manufacturer, their authorized dealers, registered printing press techno holders or suppliers for the supply of following items:

- 70 GSM German Standard Fanfold, 9-inch x 12-inch size, Pre Printed Bill Form suitable for form/tractor feed on Line/Dot matrix printers in Four Colour Offset Printing as per given format/sample. (Quantity: 150 Lacs)
- 60 GSM, 10-inch x 12-inch size, Continuous Computer Plain Paper with Engagement Holes suitable for form/tractor feed on Line/Dot matrix printers. (Quantity: 10 Lacs)

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2. The tender document is available on website <https://ktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder 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:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	27.05.2022: 1400 Hrs
B	Clarifications start date	27.05.2022: 1400 Hrs
C	Clarifications end date	03.06.2022: 1400 Hrs
D	e-Bid submission(start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)	06.06.2022: 1400 Hrs
E	e-Bid submission(end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)	23.06.2022: 1400 Hrs
F	Online Technical e-Bid Opening date and Time	25.06.2022: 1400 Hrs
G	Venue of opening of technical Bids	Office of the CEO IT and Communication Division, KPDC, Bemina
H	Online Financial e-Bid Opening date and Time	Will be separately communicated to the technically responsive bidders
I	Estimated Cost Inclusive of Taxes	
	No. of Bill Forms	: 150 Lacs
	No. of 60 GSM Continuous Computer Paper	: 10 lacs
J	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 3000.00 (Rupees Three Thousand only, Non-refundable)
K	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Security Declaration Form Required

**CORRIGENDUM**

Corrigendum for Development of Goods shed through Private Investment. NIT No. (1) CRNYG00DSFACILITIESBHNQ, Dated: 09-05-22 Earnest Money Now to be read as ₹2,28,900/- instead of ₹ 2,15,700/-; (2) CRNYG00DSFACILITIESNHLN Dated: 09-05-22 Earnest Money Now to be read as ₹2,50,000/- instead of ₹ 2,37,700/-; (3) CRNYG00DSFACILITIESSHMY, Dated: 09-05-22 Earnest Money Now to be read as ₹2,64,000/- instead of ₹ 2,51,000/-; For detailed please visit in website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)  
DRM(C), Rangliya  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead Platform No. 13, New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi dated 21.05.2022. In this regard DD No. 52A dated 21.05.2022 has been registered at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unkonwn, S/o:Unkonwn, R/o-Unkonwn, Age: 40-42 years, Height: 5'10", Complexion: Wheatish, Religion-Hindu, Built-Thin, ID Mark: A tattoo namely OM on right hand, Wearing-Yellow colour T-Shirt marked Puma and Multicolor lower. 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  
DP/159/Riy/2022 P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph. : 011-23744073, 8750871305

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED FEMALE**

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Manjri Khatun W/o Guddu Gop R/o Dak Khane Wali Gali, Bawana, Delhi Aged-24 years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 02.04.2022 at 7 AM from her residence vide DD No.61A Dated 03.04.2022 registered at Police Station Bawana, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-  
**Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Red, Green coloured Check suit, Red coloured salwar and Pink coloured slipper in feet.  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped female, may inform SHO, Bawana, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/-  
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Bawana, Delhi  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel. : 011-27752534  
DP/1844/ON/2022 Mob.: 7065036321

**MEGA E-AUCTION OF PROPERTIES**

RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION CIRCLE OFFICE, BAYSITE 17-18, SECTOR 12 KARNAL, 132001 HARYANA PHONE NO. 0184-4963069, 4963087, Email: rdoogar@canarabank.com

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 UNDER RULES (61), (66) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002**

**Last Date of Receipt of EMD 23.06.2022 upto 5:00 P.M.**  
**Date of E-Auction: 27.06.2022 at 12:30 P.M. to 01:30 P.M.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank of respective branches will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" E auction arranged by the service provider M/s CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED Contact: Mr. Pakhane DD (9490691777/8553643144).  
Email id: eauction@ccsl.co.in through the website [www.indianbankseuction.com](http://www.indianbankseuction.com), [www.canarabank.com](http://www.canarabank.com), [www.ibsp.in](http://www.ibsp.in)

Sr. No.	Branch Name/Name of Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Brief Description of Property/ies	Total Liabilities as on specified Date	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Details of A/c No. /EE Code /Possession by/ Authorised Officer
1.	CANARA BRANCH SURDAWAN ALWAR ROAD BRANCH SURDAWAN - 122801	All that part & parcel of property consisting of plot area measuring 1025 sq.yds. (through Prop Vinod Kumar Yadav) RIF 97, Grand Westland (105/1/2 (1-19) 5(3-1) in Lal Dora Abadi, village Green, New Rajokri Farm Pandwalan Kalan, Najafgarh, New Delhi in the name of Smt Rajbala W/o Vinod Kumar. The Society, New Delhi- 110038. 2 property is bounded as:- North: Road, South: Property of Mr Nathan, East: Property of Mr Sh. Vinod Kumar S/o Sh K.M. Jagan, West: Road. Yadav, H. No 199, VPO Pandwalan Kalan, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043. 3. Smt. Rajbala W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar, H. No. 199, VPO Pandwalan Kalan, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043.	as on 07.07.2021 Rs. 79,58,293.48 plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 225.09 Lakhs Rs. 025 Lakhs	Rs. 22.50 Lakhs	209272434 CNRB0002040 Symbolic Sh. Shashi Shastha S/o. Sh. Shashi Shastha CIN: 200402CANARABANK

**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

There are NIL encumbrances to the knowledge of bank in the above mentioned properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E Auction" provided in: M/s CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED Contact: Mr. Pakhane DD (9490691777/8553643144). Email id: eauction@ccsl.co.in through the website [www.indianbankseuction.com](http://www.indianbankseuction.com).  
Date: 28.05.2022 Place: Karnal Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**Open E-Tender Notice**  
Open Tender Notice No: SPJ-ST-S06-2022  
DRM (S&T)Samastipur invites open e-tender on behalf of President of India for following work: (01) Name of work with its location: Reliability improvement of BPACs in DBG-JYG & DBG-SMI-RXL section of SPJ Division. (02) Approx. Cost of the work: Rs. 41,12,160/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Twelve Thousand One Hundred Sixty Only). (03) Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited: Rs. 82,300/- (Rupees Eighty Two Thousand Three Hundred Only) (04) Date and time for Submission of Tender & opening of tender: 13/06/2022 Up to 16:00 Hrs., 13/06/2022 at 16:30 Hrs. (05) Details of website where full details of tender may be seen: [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)  
For further details please visit the website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)  
Divisional Rail Manager (S&T) E. C. Railway, Samastipur PR/00292/SPJ/S&T/T/22-23/28

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**Open E-Tender Notice**  
Open Tender Notice No: SPJ-ST-S07-2022  
DRM (S&T)Samastipur invites open e-tender on behalf of President of India for following work: (01) Name of work with its location: Signaling work in connection with "Shifting of LC No.53 at Km 697-B between SOU-TE station in SHC-FBG section in connection with Construction of two lane ROB and its approaches in line of existing LC (LC No. 53B-T-2) at km 194 on NH 327/E on EPC mode in the state of Bihar. (02) Approx. Cost of the work: Rs. 20,21,053/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Twenty One Thousand Fifty Three Only). (03) Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited: Rs. 40,400/- (Rupees Forty Thousand Four Hundred Only) (04) Date & time for Submission of Tender & opening of tender: 13/06/2022 Up to 16:00 Hrs., 13/06/2022 at 16:30 Hrs. (05) Details of website where full details of tender may be seen: [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) For further details please visit the website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)  
Divisional Rail Manager (S&T) E. C. Railway, Samastipur PR/00293/SPJ/S&T/T/22-23/28



GOLD

₹50,671



RUPEE

₹77.58/USD



OIL

\$110.79



SILVER

₹61,384

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of May 25

SENSEX: 54,252.53 ▲ 503.27 (0.94%) NIFTY: 16,170.15 ▲ 144.35 (0.90%) NIKKEI: 26,604.84 ▼ 72.96 HANG SENG: 20,116.20 ▼ 55.07 FTSE: 7,526.36 ▲ 3.61 DAX: 14,122.83 ▲ 114.90

International market data till 1900 IST

## EMPLOYMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS DROPPED IN 2019-20

## Year before Covid: Jobs in corporate sector, LLPs grew, proprietorships fell

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

FACTORIES IN the country increased by 1.7 per cent year-on-year to 2.46 lakh in 2019-20, employing a total of 1.3 crore workers, as per the provisional results of the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Gross fixed capital formation, an indicator of investment, grew 20.5 per cent to Rs 4.15 lakh crore in the organised manufacturing sector in 2019-20 as against a growth of 10.2 per cent at Rs 3.44 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, the data showed.

This compares with growth of 1.98 per cent in the number of factories to 2.42 lakh in 2018-19

and a 1.2 per cent growth seen in the post-demonetisation year of 2017-18. These numbers assume significance as these are the results for the normal year of 2019-20 before the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, which affected employment growth.

Detailed breakup shows that employment in the corporate sector, which includes public and private government and non-government companies, increased 5.5 per cent to 97.03 lakh in 2019-20, while that in individual proprietorship declined 3.1 per cent to 11.36 lakh. Employment in the partnership sector fell by 11.7 per cent to 18.58 lakh in 2019-20 while that for limited liability partnership grew 42 per cent to 1.22 lakh, the ASI results showed.

The ASI data relates to facto-

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** How job growth was hit

THESE NUMBERS assume significance as these are the results for the normal year of 2019-20 before the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, which affected employment growth.

ries employing 10 or more workers using power and those employing 20 or more workers without using power.

Employment in the previous fiscal of 2018-19 had shown a 5.8 per cent growth in the corporate sector, a 2.88 per cent

growth for the partnership sector. It showed a 1 per cent decline in individual proprietorship in 2018-19 after rising for two previous financial years.

In 2019-20, urban areas had 1.43 lakh factories with fixed capital of Rs 13.64 lakh crore, employing 72.79 lakh workers, while the rural sector had 1.03 lakh factories with fixed capital of Rs 22.71 lakh crore employing 57.78 lakh workers, data showed.

This compares with 1.42 lakh factories in the urban sector in 2018-19 having fixed capital of Rs 12.92 lakh crore employing 70.14 lakh workers and around 1 lakh factories in the rural sector having fixed capital of Rs 21.74 lakh crore employing 57.83 lakh workers.

Fixed capital represents the depreciated value of fixed assets

by the factory as on the closing day of the accounting year and it includes land including lease-hold land, buildings, plant & machinery, furniture and fixtures, transport equipment, water system and roadways and other fixed assets such as hospitals, schools, etc. used for factory workers.

Among states, Tamil Nadu showed the highest number of employment of workers in factories at 22.09 lakh in 2019-20, followed by Maharashtra with 14.54 lakh workers and Gujarat with 15.89 lakh workers. This compares with 21.12 lakh workers in factories in Tamil Nadu in 2018-19, followed by 14.73 lakh workers in Maharashtra.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## GST search ops: No coercive action; dues payment at any stage

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

CITING "ALLEGED use of force and coercion by officers for making recovery" during search, inspection and investigation and subsequent court cases, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) investigation wing has issued a clarification stating that taxpayers can pay tax dues at any stage during search operation.

In an instruction, it also asked chief commissioners to take "strict disciplinary action" against officers for using force or coercion for getting the tax due amount deposited during search or inspection or investigation.

"It is clarified that there may not be any circumstances necessitating 'recovery' of tax dues during the course of search or inspection or investigation proceedings. However, there is also

## GSTR-4 late fee waiver till June

New Delhi: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes said in a notification that late fee shall be waived from May 1 to June 30 for delay in filing GSTR-4, which comes under the composition scheme, for FY22. **PTI**

no bar on the taxpayers for voluntarily making the payments on the basis of ascertainment of their liability on non-payment/short payment of taxes before or at any stage of such proceedings," the probe wing said.

The tax officer should inform the taxpayers regarding the provisions of voluntary tax payments through DRC-03, it added. Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## 'EY plans global audit spinoff'

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, MAY 26

ACCOUNTING FIRM Ernst & Young is planning to split its audit and advisory operations worldwide, the *Financial Times* reported on Thursday, citing three people with knowledge of the plans.

EY did not immediately respond to a *Reuters* request for comment. Senior partners at the company have been discussing their options for a restructuring of its global operations, according to the report. EY is one of the Big Four accounting firms, which includes Deloitte, KPMG and PwC.

The exact structure of the shake-up remains under discussion, the report said, citing one of the people.

Any overhaul would require a partner vote and broad agreement from the individual national member firms that form EY's global business, it added.

SECTOR WATCH  
BIG TECH IN INDIA

## FB: Data localisation norms may make it 'difficult' for services

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

THE LOCAL storage requirements in the proposed Personal Data Protection Bill could make it "difficult" for Facebook parent Meta to provide its services in the country, a top executive said. The data Bill, which is still under consideration, requires companies to store a copy of certain sensitive personal data within India and prohibits export of undefined "critical" personal data from the country.

Speaking virtually at a select media gathering on the back of Facebook announcing a redesigned and reworded privacy policy, Meta VP and deputy chief privacy officer Rob Sherman said, "We have been very involved in the discussion of the Personal Data Protection Bill over the course of many years... depending on how they are implemented, local storage provisions can make it difficult for us to provide services (in India)".

Responding to *The Indian Express*'s queries, Sherman said the new privacy policy does not reflect the proposed local storage requirements in the data protection Bill, given that

## META VP ON BILL

Meta VP & deputy chief privacy officer Rob Sherman said, "We have been very involved in the discussion of the Personal Data Protection Bill"

it is yet to be finalised. "There are no changes in our practices reflected in the policy (with respect to local storage requirements) and it would be premature to change our policies to reflect a bill that has not yet gone through Parliament..." Sherman said.

On Thursday, Meta announced changes to its privacy policy which it says will make it easier for people to understand the language of the terms in the policy. Facebook users will soon receive a notification about the changes when they go into effect on July 26. Meta said only in India users will get the option to accept or ignore the notification. It also said the privacy policy will be made available in 12 Indian languages to raise accessibility. Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## 'Every dollar invested in social jobs to generate 2.3X returns'

A WEF report said every dollar of investment in social jobs can generate a multiplier effect of 2.3 times the initial capital

Investing in education, health and care jobs can yield a triple dividend  
■ Boosting economic activity

Expanding employment opportunities  
■ Generating social mobility



New modelling of the US economy suggests that investing one dollar in social jobs would yield a \$2.3 return

Assisting increases in productivity, increased GDP and tighter labour markets will lead to a parallel increase in real wages  
Source: World Economic Forum (WEF)/PTI

## Paper import monitoring system launched

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

THE COMMERCE and Industry Ministry on Wednesday made import registration under PIMS mandatory for inbound shipments of 201 types of paper and paper boards such as glazed newsprint, handmade paper and

tissue paper.

The Ministry has launched the Paper Import Monitoring System (PIMS), under which an importer will have to provide advance information online about the import of these papers and obtain a registration number. "Import policy of specific tariff lines under chapter 48 (paper and paper-board)... is revised from 'free' to

free subject to compulsory registration under PIMS," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification. It said that the importer can apply for registration not earlier than five days before the expected date of arrival of import consignment.

The automatic registration number will remain valid for 75 days. **WITHPTI**

## ONGC offers KG block stake to foreign cos

New Delhi: ONGC is offering a stake to foreign companies in its ultra deepsea gas discovery and a high-pressure, high-temperature block in the KG basin.

It has floated an initial tender seeking interest of global majors, inviting bids by June 16, with "requisite technical expertise and financial strength" to join as partners in development of the Deen Dayal West block as well as ultra-deep discoveries in Cluster-III of its KG-D5 area. Meanwhile, ONGC said it will invest Rs 31,000 crore over next 3 years in exploring the Indian sedimentary basin for fuel reserves. **PTI**

## BRIEFLY

## Musk, Twitter

New York: Twitter investors sued Elon Musk claiming he manipulated its stock price. Musk, meanwhile, pledged \$6.25 billion more in equity financing to fund his offer. Twitter will pay \$150 million to settle private data misuse charges. Jack Dorsey's term on Twitter's board ended Wednesday. **REUTERS**

## BPCL sell-off

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday called off the strategic divestment of BPCL and said bids received in this connection "shall stand cancelled." The plan to sell its entire 52.98% stake had hit dead-end as potential investors were worried of "lack of pricing freedom." **FE**

## Public spending

New Delhi: Public spending norms for ministries and departments were eased to use unspent sums in subsequent quarter in the same fiscal.

## CMIE report

New Delhi: CMIE said labour participation rate in rural India was 40.9 & 37.4 in urban India in Jan-Apr. **PTI**

## Piramal bid for RCap runs into regulatory wall

RAJESH KURUP  
MUMBAI, MAY 26

THE INSURANCE Regulatory Authority of India (Irdai) has raised concerns over Piramal Group's stake in competing insurance firms, a move that could derail its plans to acquire Reliance Capital. However, the group has an option to reduce its stake within 18 months, making it compliant to acquire the former Anil Ambani group firm.

A consortium, led by Piramal

Group, is one of the eight serious contenders for acquiring RCap's assets, from whom creditors are seeking Rs 23,666 crore in dues.

According to Irdai, an investor cannot individually hold more than 10 per cent and jointly more than 25 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital in an insurance firm. Piramal Enterprises (PEL) is the holding company and promoter of Pramerica Life Insurance Company and holds 50 per cent of the firm's paid-up capital through its stake in DHFL Investments. **FE**

## Infosys CEO-MD pay hiked 88% to ₹79.75 cr

New Delhi: Infosys CEO Salil Parekh has got a massive 88 per cent jump in annual remuneration to Rs 79.75 crore, making him one of the highest-paid executives in the country.

The software services firm has sought shareholders' approval for the reappointment of Parekh as chief executive officer and managing director for a second five-year term beginning July 1. As per the company's annual report released Thursday, Parekh, 58, took home a salary of

SALIL PAREKH  
CEO & MD, Infosys **PTI**

Rs 71.02 crore in the fiscal ended March 31. This included Rs 52.33 crore from exercising RSUs granted to him earlier. **PTI**

**TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.**  
E-TENDER NOTICE: TANGEDCO/SHORT/PP-23/2022  
TANGEDCO invites E-Tender for procurement of power upto 1000 MW in Evening Peak hours (18:00 to 24:00 hrs) power for the period from 06.06.2022 to 31.10.2022. Bidding will be done as per the revised guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power vide resolution dated 30.03.2016 and as per amendment dated 21.02.2022 through e-Bidding portal (DEEP) only and subsequent amendments thereof are applicable to this tender specification. The link for the e-Bidding portal is [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com), and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power ([www.powermin.nic.in](http://www.powermin.nic.in)) and PFC Consulting Ltd ([www.pfcindia.com](http://www.pfcindia.com)). Specification is available in TANGEDCO website and MSTC DEEP E-Bidding portal.  
Chief Engineer/PP/ TANGEDCO  
DIPR/2525/Tender/2022

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त चूरू**  
क्रमांक:-424-443 दिनांक:- 20.05.2022  
अल्पकालिन-ई निविदा सूचना संख्या: 02/2022-23 वृत्त चूरू  
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जिला चूरू के अधीनस्थ क्षेत्र तहसील राजगढ़ में सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त भूमि में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान एवं राज्य सरकार के अन्य विभागों तथा केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेवेन्यू इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के "ए" एवं "एए" श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निधारित प्रपत्र में प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाइट [www.dipronline.org](http://www.dipronline.org) व [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) एवं [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
हस्ता/-  
(शिपाल सिंह)  
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
सांविधि, वृत्त चूरू  
NIB No :- PWD2223A0521  
UBN No :- 1. PWD2223WSOB01805  
2. PWD2223WSOB01806  
DIPR/c/7178/2022

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा अभि विभाग, क्षेत्र, बीकानेर**  
क्रमांक : अति/बी/अके/22-23 दिनांक:.....  
ई-बोली सूचना संख्या अमुअ/बी/2022-23/08-09  
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्न हस्ताक्षरकों द्वारा जन स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रिक विभाग एवं अन्य विभागों में सखम भूमि में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नानुसार ई-बोली द्वारा बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली प्रपत्र वेबसाइट [www.pshedwater.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.pshedwater.rajasthan.gov.in), [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in), <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर निम्नानुसार उपलब्ध है। इस निविदा सूचना संख्या अमुअ/बी/2022-23/08-09 में कुल 02 कार्य हैं, जिनकी कुल अनुमानित लागत रु. 14800.00 लाख है।  
क्र.सं. निविदा संख्या ऑनलाइन बिड डाउनलोड करना ऑनलाइन बिड डाउनलोड ऑनलाइन बिड खोलना  
1. 08-09/2022-23 दिनांक 09.05.2022 प्रातः 09:30 बजे से दिनांक 09.06.2022 सायं 11:30 बजे तक  
दिनांक 09.05.2022 प्रातः 09:30 बजे से दिनांक 09.06.2022 सायं 11:30 बजे तक  
दिनांक 09.06.2022 प्रातः 09:30 बजे से दिनांक 18.00 बजे तक  
दिनांक 09.06.2022 प्रातः 09:30 बजे से दिनांक 18.00 बजे तक  
इन निविदाओं के एसपीपीयो पोर्टल पर वृद्धीपन नम्बर क्रमशः PHE2223WLCR01990 हस्ता/- (अजय कुमार शर्मा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता जन स्वा अभि विभाग क्षेत्र बीकानेर PHE2223WLCR01991  
DIPR/c/7168/2022

**URBAN IMPROVEMENT TRUST BIKANER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
क्रमांक :- 5081 दिनांक :- 18.05.2022  
UIT invites Expression of interest (EOI) on online e-procure in the interested Agencies for DESIGN, BUILT, FINANCE, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (DBOT) FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WITH PARKING at Shiv bari mine, BIKANER.  
Bidding Procedure : The complete set of EOI document for work can be download from [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) and [urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uit](http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uit) Bikaner. Demand draft (wards EOD) document fee) for an amount of INR 5,000/- drawn in favor of Secretary UIT Bikaner shall be furnished with EOI in separate cover. Last date for online submission of Biodata/Company Profile, Document for DESIGN, BUILT, FINANCE, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (DBOT) FOR DEVELOPMENT OF Commercial Complex with parking at BIKANER on 18.05.2022 Hard copy should reach at the address mentioned below on or before 17.06.2022, TIME 11:00 AM hrs by RPAD/Speed Post only. To, Secretary Urban Improvement Trust Bikaner.  
UBN No. ITB2223WSOB00040 अधिशापी अभियन्ता नगर विकास सत्य बीकानेर  
Raj./Samwad/C/2173/2022-23

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED							
VIDYUT BHAWAN, JANPATH, JYOTI NAGAR, JAIPUR - 302005							
E-mail: <a href="mailto:accountsrvnl@yahoo.com">accountsrvnl@yahoo.com</a> , Website: <a href="http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl">energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl</a>							
Extract of Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended (Standalone and Consolidated) 31st March, 2022							
(₹ in Lakhs)							
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated			
		For the Quarter ended 31.03.2022	For the Quarter ended 31.12.2021	For the year ended 31.03.2022	For the year ended 31.03.2021*	For the year ended 31.03.2022	For the year ended 31.03.2021*
		Un-audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	
1	Total Income From Operations	460,930.69	378,683.21	1,423,020.57	1,263,418.23	1,684,707.14	1,530,704.49
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(53,705.98)	(51,411.25)	(163,020.00)	(7,220.59)	(197,022.37)	(40,120.32)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(63,656.83)	(60,566.99)	(199,322.11)	(127,403.30)	(197,567.71)	(129,921.19)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(63,656.83)	(60,566.99)	(199,322.11)	(127,403.30)	(197,567.71)	(129,921.19)
5	Total comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(59,519.00)	(64,414.50)	(206,726.80)	(142,793.31)	(205,316.32)	(145,235.40)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value ₹10/- per share)	1,060,523.00	1,060,523.00	1,060,523.00	1,044,430.00	1,060,523.00	1,044,430.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(781,711.27)	(722,192.27)	(781,711.27)	(574,984.47)	(777,439.74)	(572,123.42)
8	Net Worth (Share Capital + Reserves and Surplus (excluding fly ash utilization fund) - Miscellaneous Expenditure not written off)	276,926.57	336,071.17	276,926.57	467,528.17	281,211.09	470,402.21
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt**	276,926.57	336,071.17	4,648,799.91	5,016,679.93	4,666,154.91	5,039,411.29
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio (Paid-up debt capital / Shareholder's Equity)	16.79	14.59	16.79	10.73	16.59	10.71
12	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations -basic & diluted)(IN ₹)	(0.60)	(0.57)	(1.89)	(1.24)	(1.88)	(1.27)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve**	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Debt Service Coverage Ratio [(Profit for the period + Interest + Depreciation + Exceptional items) / (Interest net of transfer to expenditure during construction + lease payments + Scheduled principal repayments of long term borrowings)]	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.70	0.44	0.67
15	Interest Service Coverage Ratio [(Profit for the period + Interest + Exceptional items) / Interest net of transfer to expenditure during construction]	0.61	0.55	0.65	0.95	0.61	0.88
16	Current ratio (Current assets / Current liabilities)	1.64	1.51	1.64	1.84	1.59	1.79
17	Long term debt to working capital ratio (Long term borrowings including current maturity of long term borrowings / working capital excluding current maturities of long term borrowings)	2.73	2.48	2.73	2.38	2.83	2.47
18	Bad debts to accounts receivable ratio (Bad debts / Average Trade receivables)	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Current liability ratio (Current liabilities / Total liabilities)	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.28
20	Total debts to Total assets ratio (Paid up debt capital / Total Assets)	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.79	0.80	0.78
21	Debtor turnover ratio (Revenue from operations / Average trade receivables) - Annualised	0.70	0.70	0.67	0.59	0.67	0.59
22	Inventory turnover ratio (Revenue from operations / Average Inventory) - Annualised	22.16	7.61	17.85	12.24	17.34	11.97
23	Operating Margin ratio (Earnings before interest, tax and exceptional items / Revenue from operations)	16.15%	18.72%	23.25%	34.58%	22.64%	33.88%
24	Net Profit Margin (%) (Profit for the period / Revenue from operations)	-13.81%	-15.99%	-14.01%	-10.08%	-13.91%	-10.28%

\* Restated  
\*\* Comprises Long Term Debt and short term debt.  
\*\*\* Debenture Redemption Reserve could not be created due to accumulated losses.

Notes:  
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Quarterly and yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and yearly financial results of the Company is available under investors section of our website [energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl/](http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl/).  
2. The figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2022 are the balancing figures between the audited figures in respect of full financial years and the reviewed figures up to the end of the third quarter of the current financial year.  
3. Figures for the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
(R.K. Sharma)  
Chairman & Managing Director  
DIN: 08970593

Date: 25.05.2022  
Place: Jaipur  
Raj./Samwad/C/22/2471 RVUN NIT PR - 3673





RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION CIRCLE OFFICE, BAYSITE 17-18, SECTOR 12 KARNAL- 132001 HARYANA PHONE NO. 0184-4063589, 4063587, Email: rlcoakar@canarabank.com

MEGA E-AUCTION OF PROPERTIES

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 UNDER RULES 6(2), 8(6) & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank of respective branches will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" E auction arranged by the service provider Mis CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED

Contact: Mr. Pakhare DD (9480691777/8553643144). Email id: eauction@csl.co.in through the website www.indianbankseuction.com, www.canarabank.com, www.ibapi.in

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Branch Name/Address of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s), Brief Description of Property/ies, Total Liabilities in Rs., Reserve Price, EMD Bid increase amount, Name of Authorised Officer & Contact Details, Earnest Money Collection A/c details along with IFSC Code of Branch, Date of E-Auction Date of EMD. Contains 14 auction entries with detailed property descriptions and contact information.

STATUTORY 15/30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

There are NIL encumbrances to the knowledge of bank in the above mentioned properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Mis CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED Contact: Mr. Pakhare DD (9480691777/8553643144), Email id: eauction@csl.co.in through the website www.indianbankseuction.com

## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**PRIVYANKA AGGARWAL** Wife of Shri HIMANSHU AGGARWAL, resident of House No-53,UGF,Vaishali Enclave Pitam Pura New Delhi-110034, declare that I have changed my name from PRIVYANKA GUPTA to PRIVYANKA AGGARWAL for all Purposes . 0040615578-1

**Mukesh Kumar & Mukesh Rajput** both name are mine. For all future purposes I shall be known as Mukesh Rajput, S/o Gulab Rajput, R/o E-440, Gamma-1, Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar. 0070787301-1

It is for general information that I,Dropti,W/o-Jai Prakash,residing at,173,Ward-18,Shyam-Nagar,Badkhall Lake,Faridabad,Haryana-121001,declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Jyoti in my minor son Ayush (Age-15Years) Birth-Certificate issued by District-Command Hospital,Ghaziabad,U.P.The actual-name of mine is Dropti,which may be amended accordingly 0040615635-11

**I,hitherto** known as SATYAJIT SINGH,S/O,JASWANT WALIA H.NO.113,,POLICE-STATION,TILAK-NAGAR,WEST-DELHI 110018,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SATYAJIT SINGH AHLUWALIA. 0040615635-5

**I,Yuvraj** Anand alias Yuvraj R Anand S/o,Rajeev Anand R/O-H.No.3-33,2nd-Floor, Gujranwala Town-1, Model-Town-II, Delhi-110009,have changed my-name to Yuvraaj R Anand. 0040615679-8

**I,Yaseen** S/O Mohd Yusuf,House.No-91,Pocket-8,DDA-Flat,Durga Park,Nasirpur,Delhi-110045,Have Changed my Name to Mohd Yaseen,for all Purposes. 0040615662-2

**I,Vikram** Singh S/o Prahlad Prasad Singh,R/O House No-22,Street No-1,Shakti kunj,Kuan Chowk,Dallupura,Delhi-110096 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written in Document. The actual name of mine is Vikram Prasad Singh, which may be amended accordingly. 0040614650-2

**I,Surinder** Singh Parmar, S/O,Piar Singh Parmar,R/O Flat.No.565,2nd-Floor,Orchid-Island Sector-51,South City-2,Gurugram (Haryana)-122018,have changed my name to Surinder Singh Parmar. 0040615674-7

**I,Seema** Chowdhary,D/o-Sham Sunder Choudhary,W/o-Surender Singh Parmar R/O Flat.No.565,2nd-Floor,Orchid Island Sector-51,South City-2,Gurugram (Haryana)-122018,have changed my name to Seema Parmar. 0040615674-8

**I,Sashi** Kathuria W/o,No.14353819N HAV Gulshan Kumar R/O H.No.103\_B,DDA Flats Shahpur Jat, Andrewsganj,Delhi-49,have changed my name to Shashi Kathuria vide affidavit,dt.26.5.22 0040615679-3

**I,Shiella** Kakkar W/o Vijay Kakkar R/O House No.219, 2nd-Floor, Sainik,Vihar, Pitampura Delhi-110034,changed my name to Shiella Kakkar. 0040615674-5

**I,Sanjay** Kumar,S/o-Sohan Ram,R/O-VIII, Hiran Kudna, New Delhi-41, declare that my minor Daughter Nansi Kumari & Nansi both are the same/one person.Actual name is Nansi Kumari for all future purpose. 0040615670-3

**I,Sandeep** Kumar,S/oSandeep Kumar,S/o- Sikandra Lal,R/O-F-69,Third floor,Naraina Vihar,Delhi-110028,have changed my name to Sandeep Kukreja. 0040615646-1

**I,SONIA**, W/O.SATYAJIT SINGH AHLUWALIA, H.NO.113,POLICE-STATION,TILAK-NAGAR, WEST-DELHI-110018, changed my name to SONIA WALIA, Permanently. 0040615635-3

**I,SHABNAM,W/O MERAJ** ANSARI,R/O CM4/104, SUPERTECH-CAPETOWN SECTOR-74,NOIDA, GAGTAUMBUH NAGAR,U.P.201304,changed my name to SHABNAM PERVEEN. 0040615635-9

**I,SANDEEP KUMAR,S/O NARESH KUMAR MEENA,R/O-A-800,50,LAL PYAU K PAS TEELA,SHASTRI NAGAR,DELHI-52,have** changed my name to SANDEEP KUMAR MEENA. 0040615664-1

**I,Rajni** W/o-Naresh Sharma,R/O-A-56Plot No.22,Overseas Apartment,Sector-9Rohini Delhi-110085,changed my name to Shalini Sharma. 0040615674-6

**I,RIITKA,D/O-Vinod** Kumar Garg,R/O-RZ-87,Third-Floor,Gali.No.7,New-Uttam-Nagar,Uttam-Nagar,New Delhi-110059,inform that in my 10th-marksheet my mother's name is incorrectly-mentioned SEEMA,while his correct name is SEEMA GARG. 0040615635-8

**I,Meenu Jain** D/o Late Sh. Dharam Chand Jain W/o Sh. Durgesh Gupta R/O House No.883, Sector-31, Faridabad, Haryana-121003,have changed my name after marriage to Jyoti Gupta for all purposes. 0040615478-4

**I,RIITKA D/O-Vinod** Kumar Garg,R/O-RZ-87,Third-Floor,Gali.No.7,New Uttam-Nagar, Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Change My Name RITIKA GARG. 0040615635-7

**I,Prajinder** Monga,S/o-Kishan Lal Monga R/O-802/6,Orange Court,Ahinsa Khand-1, Indirapuram,Ghaziabad,Uttar-Pradesh-201014,have changed my name Parjinder Kumar Monga,for all purposes. 0040615646-10

**I,Pradeep BS,S/O Bhuvana** Chandran Nair R/O-B-140, G-1,Ext-II,Shalimar-Garden, Ghaziabad,UP,have changed my name from Pradeep BS to Pradeep Bhuvanachandran Sicily,for all purposes. 0040615683-7

**I,Prabjot** Kaur W/o Jitish Arora,R/O A-44 Guru Nanak Enclave Nilothi Extn Nangloi-110041, have changed my name to Prabjot Arora. 0040615679-2

**I,Parvinder** Kaur W/o Surender Mehral R/O-2942,Gali.No.42, Beadon Pura Karol Bagh Central Delhi-110005,changed my name to Parvinder Mehral. 0040615674-4

**I,PAYAL** BADHWAR,W/o Sandeep Kumar badhwar, H.no.E-34 SARASWATI GARDEN,NEW DELHI-110015, have changed my name to PAYAL KHANNA BADHWAR, Permanently. 0040615646-5

**I,Om** Parkash S/o,Karam Chand Sadhra R/o-32A, DDA-Flats, RPS Mayakunj, Mayapuri, N.Delhi-64 have changed my name to Om Parkash Sadhra. 0040615679-5

**I,No.22001025A SEP(GNR)** Tinku Kumar,S/O Rajdev Yadav R/O Village-Chhotpur P.O.Jiyan P-3,Siwan Muffasil Dist.-Siwan Bihar and presently serving with Army Avn Corps,Indian Army inform that the Pinku kumar,S/O-Rajdev Yadav is my real brother and I forgot to add my younger brother Pinku kumar name at the time of recruitment. 0040615674-9

**I,Nirmal** W/o Karambir R/O-315 Bank Wali Gali Auchandi Delhi-110039 changed my name to Nirmala for all purposes. 0040615674-3

**I,Nikita** Singh,D/o,173314-Yank POELP Narendran Singh,R/O-C-302,Phillips Towers,Plot-3, Sector-23,Dwarka,Delhi-79, have changed my name, to Nikkita Singh,vide affidavit, dt.25.5.22. 0040615646-2

**I,Nanika** Rajpal D/o Sh.Surinder Rajpal,H.No.B-57,3rd-Floor,B-Block, Gujranwala-Town Phase-I,Delhi-110009,have changed my name to Nanika Rajpal,permanently. 0040615683-1

**I,NAVYA** MILJITH,W/O-MILJITH P, RESIDING-AT,SNEHA NIVAS, UMMENCHIRA(PO),THALASSER Y, KANNUR, KERALA,PIN-670649,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM NAVYA MILJITH TO NAVYA RAJAN,VIDE AFFIDAVIT, DATED-26-MAY-22. 0040615664-10

**I,Mohammed** Sajid Shamim,R/O,H.No.-134 Second-Floor,Gali.No.-17,Zakir-Nagar Okhla,New-Delhi-25,have been changed my Minor Son's name Sivran Sajid to Mohd Shibran Sajid. 0040615646-9

**I,Mohammad** Ziyaur Rehman alias Zayaur Rehman,S/O-Mohammad Abbas R/O-Plot at Kh.No 73/13/G/F,Samsan Ghat Road,Tikri Kalan Extn. Nangloi, Delhi-110041,have changed my name to Zyaur Rehman. 0040615670-2

**I,Manju** Rani W/o.Sh.Sushil Kumar R/O,Rz-830, Gali.No.5, Main Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046 do hereby declare that in my Son Nishant Kumar's 10th & 12th class CBSE-Marksheet & in BBA-Certificate & Marksheet my name is wrongly-mentioned as Manju Devi. The Correct Name is Manju Rani for all Purposes. 0040615582-1

**I,Lovepriti** Bhalla S/o Sh.Rakesh Bhalla,R/O-H.No.1417, Sector-19, Faridabad-121002,have changed my name from Lovepreet Bhalla to Lovepriti Bhalla,for all future purposes. 0040615544-2

**I,LALIRAM ALIES LALIT KUMAR,S/O SH.LACHI** RAM R/O,H.N.227, GALLI.NO.2, GURURAMDAS-NAGAR LAXMI-NAGAR DELHI-110092,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME LALIRAM TO LALIT KUMAR,FOR FUTURE, ALL PURPOSES. 0040615646-4

**I,Komal** Mehra D/o Madan Lal Mehra R/O-M-28 Old Gopundpura,Krishna Nagar,Delhi-110051,Have changed My Name To Usha Rani,For All Purposes. 0040615635-10

**I,Kartik** Tewathia,S/O-Parveen Kumar,R/O House.No.F-8,Saidulajab,Delhi-110030,declare that my father-name has been wrongly-written as Praveen Tewathia in my Passport-bearing No.T5602949,and my 10th-School certificate.The Correct-name of my father is Parveen Kumar. 0040615635-6

**I,Kamal** Dhiman,S/o-Dev Raj,R/O-M-57, Gali No.3,Shastri Nagar,Delhi-110052,have changed my name from Kamal to Kamal Dhiman,for all purposes. 0040615674-1

**I,Durgesh** Shanker S/O Late Sh. Purshottam Dass Gupta R/O House No.883, Sector-31, Faridabad, Haryana-121003 have changed my name to Durgesh Gupta for all purposes. 0040615478-5

**I,Ishit** Hareshkumar Dhada S/O-Harshad Laxmidas Dhada R/O-Flat-801,Tower-15,Lotus Zing,Sector-168, Noida,Gautam Buddha Nagar,Uttar Pradesh-201031, have changed my name to Ishit Haresh Dhada for all,future purpose. 0040615656-3

**I,HARMEET SINGH** KHRBANDA,S/O-GURJIT SINGH KHRBANDA,R/O-B-124,BLOCK-B,PART-1,GUJRANWALA TOWN,GT KARNAL-ROAD,DELHI-110009.CHANGED MY NAME TO HARMEET SINGH. 0040615646-3

**I,Ruchi** Kumari, W/O Abhishek Kumar Jha, R/O K-217, First Floor, Gali No.8, Behind Arpan Public School, Arpan Vihar, Jaitpur Extension, Jaitpur, South Delhi-110044, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ruchi Jha. 0070787252-1

**I,Geeta** choudhary W/O-Chunchun Choudhary,R/O-2137,ground-floor gali.No.-1,Prem-Nagar Patel-Nagar,New Delhi-110008.State that my 10th-class Documents-My Name-Mentioned Geeta Kumari & Some-Documents is Geeta Choudhary that Geeta Choudhary & Geeta Kumari both name are same person. 0040615569-1

**I,Chunhun** Choudhary,S/O-Ram Chand Choudhary,R/O-2137,ground-floor gali.No.-1,Prem-Nagar Patel-Nagar,New Delhi-110008.State that my 10th-class Documents-My Name-Mentioned Chunchun Kumar & Some-Documents is Chunchun Choudhary.That Chunchun Choudhary & Chunchun Kumar both name are same person. 0040615646-6

**I,Chinky** Jasuja W/O Hitesh Khanna, R/O Y-809, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, Delhi- Changed Name To Hemakshi Khanna. 0040615662-1

**I,Baljit** Kaur Kochhar W/o Randhir Singh R/o H.No.5 Kingsway,Road,Radio Colony Delhi-110009,have changed my name to Baljit Kaur for all,purposes. 0040615683-8

**I,Ashna** Gupta,W/o-Akash Goyal,R/O-60/30, Ramjas Road,Karol Bagh,New Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Ashna Gupta for all future purposes. 0040615670-1

**I,Amarjeet** S/O Upendra R/O-95, Pratap Vihar,Part-1, Gali No.3,4,Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Amarjeet Thakur 0070787304-1

**I,Gurpreet** Singh Luthar, S/o Jaspal Singh Luthar, R/O E-88/89, J1 Colony, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden, S.O West Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh. 0070787285-1

**I,GEETA** W/O Ramesh Kumar R/O 4/87, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to GITA RANI, for all purposes. Both are one and same person. 0040615492-1

**I, D S S Sastry, S/o D** Satyanarayanan Murthy, R/o 17-25/10/B, Plot No.10, Sri Sai Ram Nagar, Opposite Survey of India Uppal Hyderabad, Rangareddi, Telangana-500039, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Satya Sai Subrahmanya Sastry. 0070787284-1

**I,Charu** Lata W/o Nishant Sharma R/O 68/1-C/2 Chanakya Marg,Chhajipur, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name from Charu Lata to Charu Sharma for all purposes. vide -Affidavit Dated-21/05/2022 sworn before notary Rahul K.R. Verma, Delhi. 0040615551-1

**I, Baby** Komal D/o Rakesh Kumar R/O 23/276, D/5 Flats, P.K.Road, Mandir Marg, New Delhi-110001, have changed my name to HIMANSHI, for all future purposes. 0040615477-1

**I,Aryan** S/O Satish kumar born on 30/3/2003 R/O OH235, pallavpuram-2, Meerut, have changed my name as Aryan Duhoon S/o Satish kumar Duhoon for all purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23/5/22 at Meerut. 0050197619-1

**I,Subhash** Mehta alias Subhash Chander alias Subhash Juneja alias Subha Subhash alias Mehta Juneja Juneja, S/O Chandt Ram, R/O House No-176, Street No-1, Near Shiv Mandir, Fateh Nagar, Bhattu Road, Fatahabad, Haryana-125050, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Subhash Chander Mehta. 0070787250-1

**I,Shailendera** Purreja S/O Shri Chela Ram, R/O B-72, Block-B, Shivalki, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 Have Changed My Name to Shailendra Purreja for all future purpose. 0040615577-1

**I,Santosh** Kr., S/o Vishwanath Thakur, R/O HNo-233/9, Block-N, Jaitpur, Delhi-110044, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Santosh Kumar. 0070787266-1

**I,Shivani** D/O Balsamy lanchelyani R/O C-2-C-2/163, Ground Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, have Changed my name to Shivani. 0040615679-1

**I,Sangeeta** Agarwal W/o Akhil Aggarwal R/O 258A, NaiBasti, Shyama Prasad Mukherji Marg, Delhi-6 have changed my name to Sangeeta Aggarwal for all purposes. 0040615635-7

**I,Santosh** Kr., S/o Vishwanath Thakur, R/O HNo-233/9, Block-N, Jaitpur, Delhi-110044, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Santosh Kumar. 0070787266-1

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**I,Rajanikant** Harihabh Sakariya, S/O Harihabh Samjibhai Sakariya, R/O Flat-712, Block A1, Amrutha Heights, Nallurhalli Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560066. I have changed the name of my minor Daughter Purvaja Rajanikant Sakariya, aged about 4 years and she shall hereafter be known as Purva Sakariya. 0070787267-1

**I,Pratap** Bhagat, S/o Joga Ram, R/O Flat No-477, Pocket-7, DDA Flat, Durga Park, Nasirpur, Delhi-110045, that name of my Father has been wrongly written as Joga Bhagat in my Passport No ZA730293. The actual name of my Father is Joga Ram. 0070787288-1

**I,Perminder** Kaur w/o Anil Kumar R/O 190/1, III Floor, Gautam Nagar, Delhi-110049 have changed my name to PERMINDER KAUR PATYAL. 0040615569-1

**I,Mukesh** Kumar Ajmani S/O Rukmi Ram Ajmani R/O 4016, Shaffi Building, Roshanara Road, Subzi Mundi, Delhi-7 have changed my name to Mukesh Ajmani for all purposes. 0040615493-1

**I,Mukesh** Bhasin son of A L Bhasin resident of-C5D/46B, Janakpuri,New Delhi-110058,have changed my name from Mukesh Bhasin to Mukesh Kumar Bhasin. 0040615544-3

**I,Kundan** Kumar R/O C-417, sector 36, Greater Noida, U.P 201310 Have changed my minor son's name Ajitesh kumar to Rishi Anand for all future purposes. 0040615581-1

**I,KM KAVITA RANI** W/O PRADEEP KUMAR MAKKAR R/O H.NO 1607 2ND FLOOR GREEN FIELD COLONY FARIDABAD HARYANA 121003, have changed my name to KAVITA MAKKAR for all purposes 0040615604-1

**I,Jay** Pal Singh S/O Babu Lal R/O G-378, Nyay Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Jai Pal Singh for all purposes. 0040615592-1

**I,Isha** Bharti, W/o Sumit Sharma, R/O Flat No-105, Tower-5, Adore Grand Khari Kalan (113), Faridabad, Haryana- 121002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Isha Sharma. 0070787265-1

**I,Himanshi** Chopra, D/O Rajeev Chopra, R/O WZ-36, Gali no-10, Krishna Puri, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Ishani Chopra. 0070787304-1

**I,Gurpreet** Singh Luthar, S/o Jaspal Singh Luthar, R/O E-88/89, J1 Colony, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden, S.O West Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh. 0070787285-1

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**I, D S S Sastry, S/o D** Satyanarayanan Murthy, R/o 17-25/10/B, Plot No.10, Sri Sai Ram Nagar, Opposite Survey of India Uppal Hyderabad, Rangareddi, Telangana-500039, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Satya Sai Subrahmanya Sastry. 0070787284-1

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**I,Dhramveer** Verma S/O Late Markandi R/O Villiage Ufarauli, Mau, UP do hereby declare that my name has been mentioned as Dharambir S/O Late Markandi in LIC policy 117133578 and my

# Speedy Swiatek decimates Riske

Wins 6-0, 6-2 to enter third round at Roland Garros and registers her 30th consecutive victory there

REUTERS  
PARIS, MAY 26

IGAS SWIATEK demolished American Alison Riske 6-0, 6-2 as she raced into the third round of the French Open on Thursday with her 30th consecutive victory.

The world number one wasted no time on court Suzanne Lenglen, showing no mercy as she went close to dishing out the first 'double bagel' of this year's tournament.

The Polish player, the hot favourite to claim a second title in three years, was virtually unchallenged by the world number 43 who could only manage seven points in the opening set.

Riske put up something of a fight in the second, letting out a big scream and raising her hand in celebration when she won her first game to reduce the arrears to 3-1.

Swiatek did not ease the pressure and wrapped it up in just over an hour when Riske's backhand sailed long.

She is on the longest winning run since Serena Williams bagged 34 consecutive victories in 2013 - still a far cry, however, from Martina Navratilova's all-time record of 74 from 1984.

Swiatek has also now won 44 of the last 45 sets she has played and is undefeated since losing to former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko in Dubai in February, having won a set 6-0 on 15 occasions this year.

"I'm pretty happy. Happy to play solid tennis. It's my first singles match on Lenglen and it was a pleasure," Swiatek said.

"Just being focused and to put pressure on my opponent so I have the initiative at the start of the rallies. I'm getting better and better at it but I'm still not an expert."

Next up for Swiatek is Danka Kovinic of Montenegro with the draw looking increasingly favourable for the Pole, following the early eliminations of defending champion Barbora Krejckikova, Tunisian sixth seed Ons Jabeur and Greek world number three Maria Sakkari.

## Nadal registers 300th win

Rafa Nadal produced an imperious show on Wednesday to secure his 300th Grand Slam match victory, dismantling local hope Corentin Moutet 6-3 6-1 6-4 to book his spot in the French Open third round.

Nadal counts 13 Roland Garros titles among his overall 21 majors -- the highest among men -- and despite his injury-blighted buildup to the claycourt tournament he has looked at his usual best in the first two rounds.



Iga Swiatek beats Alison Riske on Thursday. (Right) Nadal after registering his 300th Grand Slam win. AP



## The Spaniard, who turns 36 next week, will next meet Dutch 26th seed Botic van de Zandschulp with a potential quarter-final looming against World No. 1 Novak Djokovic who defeated him in last year's semi-finals.

The Spaniard, whose preparations were hampered by a rib injury and a foot problem, was not keen to talk about his physical condition.

"I can't try to go very deep in a tournament if I'm worried about my physical issues every single day," he told reporters. "So if something happens, I am gonna accept it. But for the moment I am focused on the tennis."

The Spaniard, who turns 36 next week, will next meet Dutch 26th seed Botic van de Zandschulp with a potential quarter-final looming against world number one Novak Djokovic who defeated him in last year's semi-finals.

Playing under the lights at Court Philippe Chatrier, Nadal peppered the red clay with winners from both his forehand and backhand in the first two sets to leave Moutet stranded. In his first career meeting with the 23-year-old French wildcard, Nadal broke Moutet's serve four times in the first two sets but uncharacteristic errors at the start of the third allowed his opponent to take a 2-0 lead.

Nadal immediately broke back, however, to get the set back on serve and after another exchange of breaks, the Spaniard broke Moutet again to seal victory on his first match point. Preparation hasn't been perfect so I didn't expect a perfect start to the tournament," Nadal said.

"But it has been going quite well. I am positive about the things that I did out there tonight. Of course, there is room to improve and I need to improve if I want to keep having chances to go deeper."

## Bopanna-Sania start with wins

PTI adds: India's Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza notched up contrasting wins along with their respective partners in the men's and women's doubles competitions at the

French Open here on Thursday.

While Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwe Middelkoop marched into the pre-quarterfinals with a straight set win over Andrey Golubev and Fabrice Martin, Sania combined with Czech Republic's Lucie Hradecka to prevail in three sets over Italian duo of Jasmine Paolini and Martina Trevisan in their opening round.

Bopanna and Middelkoop won the second round match 6-3 6-4 in one hour and six minutes. Later in the day, Sania and Lucie beat Jasmine and Martina 4-6 6-2 6-1 in an hour and 58 minute clash.

Ramkumar Ramanathan and his American partner Hunter Reese, however, suffered a 3-6 2-6 loss to sixth seeded pair of Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Great Britain's Neal Skupski in another second round men's doubles match.

Earlier, the Indo-Dutch combo of Bopanna and Middelkoop, seeded 16th, broke the from Kazakhstan-French pair at 4-4 in the second set and then Middelkoop served out the match at love.

Bopanna's best performance at the clay court major is last-eight stage appearance in 2011, 2016, 2018 and 2021.

# Olympians demand radical changes after Pakistan fail to qualify for hockey WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KARACHI, MAY 26

ERSTWHILE powerhouse of the game, Pakistan's failure to qualify for the men's hockey World Cup has created a furore in the nation with former players finding it "hard to digest" and calling for heads to roll in the national federation.

Pakistan hockey suffered a crushing blow on Thursday when it lost to Japan 2-3 in its final Pool A match of the ongoing Asia Cup.

With India winning 16-0 against hosts Indonesia, Pakistan crashed out of the tournament and also failed to qualify for next year's FIH World Cup to be held in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

Once the undisputed champions of world hockey, Pakistan has reeled from one crisis to another and from one disappointment to another and Thursday's blow has led to renewed calls for the sacking of the long-serving president of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Brigadier (ret'd) Khalid Sajjad Khokar and coach Khawaja Junaid.

Junaid, a former Olympian has been associated with the national senior and junior teams on a regular basis since his retirement. "This is very hard to digest that for the second time now we have failed to qualify for the World Cup. Where is our hockey headed now?" former captain and Olympian Samiullah questioned.

Another former captain and Olympian, Islahuddin said it was heartbreaking that Pakistan has not qualified for the last two Olympics and now its second successive World Cup.

"There was a time when such big events were incomplete without Pakistan," he said. Islahuddin's concerns are understandable considering that Pakistan, which is a proud hockey nation with three Olympic gold medals, four World Cup titles and numerous Asian level wins, has now gone without a major title since 2010 when they won the Asian Games gold.

Pakistan had high hopes of qualifying for the World Cup after drubbing Indonesia 13-0 in the Asia Cup but arch-rivals, India who needed 15 goals to qualify for the Super 4 stage, crushed their hopes.

Before the ongoing Asia Cup, the PHF even sent the team on a training tour of Europe besides appointing Dutchman Siefred Aikman as head coach.

## Pakistan left behind

Former celebrated centre forward Hasan Sardar said other Asian countries had forged ahead while Pakistan had been

## India through after win over Indonesia

JAKARTA: Rising to the occasion, a young India men's hockey thrashed hosts Indonesia 16-0 to qualify for the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup in Jakarta on Thursday.

The massive win not only secured India's passage into the knockout stage of the tournament but also shut the door on Pakistan.

India and Pakistan finished on four points each behind Japan but the holders qualified for the Super 4s on the basis of a better goal difference of 1.

India needed to beat Indonesia by a 15-0 margin or more to make it to the next round and the defending champions rode on splendid show from Dipsan Turkey, who hammered five goals, and Sudev Belimagga, who sounded the board thrice. Veteran SV Sunil, Pawan Rajbhar and Karthi Selvam scored a brace each while Uttam Singh and Nilam Sanjeep Xess scored a goal each. Pakistan had lost 2-3 to Japan earlier in the day.

—PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

left behind because of a poor domestic structure. "One could never even imagine that Japan could beat us," he said.

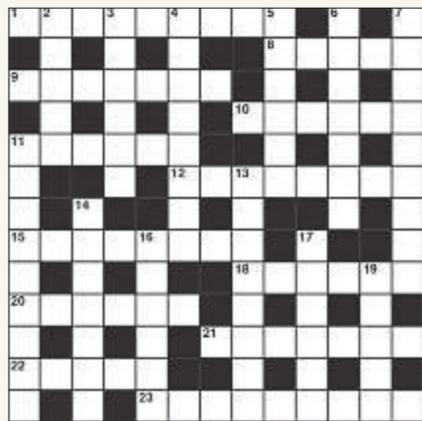
The present situation does not augur well for the sport's future in the country at all with former stalwarts wondering what is next for Pakistan hockey.

"We really need people to run hockey who have no self interest. We need coaches who are willing to work selflessly and are not there for the daily allowances and foreign rides," Samiullah said.

Olympian Rasheed ul Hasan pointed out that the two common factors for Pakistan hockey's dismal showings in recent years have been the PHF president and Khawaja Junaid.

"What have these two achieved as yet despite being around for so many years now. Khokar has been president for seven years now," he said. "We have always measured our hockey strength with India and it hurts to see the Indian team now surging ahead of us in all departments. I think radical steps are required from the government to stop this decline," Pakistan's most successful captain and coach, Islahuddin said.

## CROSSWORD 4751



- ACROSS**  
1 Highly dangerous kind of walk (9)  
8 Very quiet perhaps (5)  
9 Russian ballerina is sweet (7)  
10 Good opening with scope for clever move on board (6)  
11 A household word in France (6)  
12 Presumably he was happy while painting (8)  
15 Predator moved to show sign of distress (8)  
18 Boring chap perhaps but he keeps us going (6)  
20 Out of debt on the surface (6)  
21 Notices faulty part (7)  
22 Contents of many an ancient vessel (5)  
23 Stone fruit aren't nice cut up (9)
- DOWN**  
2 Angry I reckon (5)  
3 Suffering as manifested in Greece (6)  
4 He gives notice (8)  
5 Peers squeal when excited (6)  
6 No-good Mussolini's successor reformed game (7)  
7 A leading Roman? (9)  
11 Quaintly cute man is often accompanying a little lamb (4,5)  
13 I'm powerful but helpless (8)  
14 Part of a theatre largely reconstructed (7)  
16 George's rival appears to be tedious (6)  
17 Result in changes for an overcoat (6)  
19 Decorate a pole up north (5)

Solutions Crossword 4750: Across: 1 Capsule, 4 Bolts, 7 Bees, 8 Allowing, 10 Abstracted, 12 Drowsy, 13 Ideals, 15 Underwrite, 18 Firm date, 19 Enid, 20 Dusty, 21 Coinage. Down: 1 Cobra, 2 Press box, 3 Enlace, 4 Broken down, 5 Lois, 6 Signals, 9 Present day, 11 Hacienda, 12 Dwarfed, 14 Celtic, 16 Endure, 17 Iris.

## JUMBLD WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

To love for the sake of being loved is \_\_\_ but to love for the sake of loving is \_\_\_\_ - Alphonse de Lamartine (5, 7)

**BMAAE**      **HKYCNU**

**TYILN**      **AARGHM**

ANSWER: To love for the sake of being loved is human, but to love for the sake of loving is selfless. - Alphonse de Lamartine

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## Difficulty Level 2s

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4846



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The Moon's entry into a lively region of your chart should come as a welcome relief. You could feel more in control of home and family affairs than may have been the case in the recent past, although financial matters remain dodgy. But I am sure you can live with a little uncertainty.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

This is very much a time to behave like a true Taurus — resolute, responsible and keen to retain all that is best from the past. However, please be very aware that at particular moments you will be obliged to compromise. Don't worry, it shouldn't hurt.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There does seem to be a real chance that the emotional strain of the current times will have an adverse effect on your health. Bearing in mind that astrology deals with prevention rather than cure, don't let this week's stress get to you. Why not take some time off to pamper yourself.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Your lunar alignments remind you of the importance of professional activities and ambitions. In some strange manner, work may be a way for you to provide yourself with emotional security, or a real feeling that you have a genuine role in the world.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

A number of long-term commitments may have come under increased scrutiny, but that's no reason to walk out on a responsibility. It may be more useful to you to stick around for a while and see what can be worked out. Stay with it and you'll come up trumps.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Mercury is still exerting a powerful pull over your sign, and will do so for another eight weeks. This is an indication of celestial protection which should see you recover from current battles and pass unscathed through the next two months' worth of ups and downs.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Although the celestial challenge from Mars to the Sun is placing you under personal pressure, others are barking up the wrong tree if they imagine they can out-manoeuvre you. Conciliation is the key, and that's no trouble for someone like you.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

A family or domestic matter may be settling down, but professional Scorpions are not out of the woods just yet. Remember one piece of vital advice: a good general never starts a battle that can't be won. Pick your ground, choose your time and don't make a move until you're ready.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Personally and emotionally, things are likely to remain uncertain, partly because others are vacillating and unwilling to make a decent commitment. Even those who do make arrangements are liable to break them. You'll have to make allowances for unreliable friends.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

If you use finances as a bait, you could be taking a big risk. Either other people may accept you at face value, or you may let yourself in for commitments you can't keep. As far as I can see, you will put home and family first, and build your life on firm foundations.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Venus, lady of love, is approaching a single degree of your solar chart which denotes your relationships. You should therefore feel only optimism for the future, no matter what current events suggest. You're probably more popular than you imagine.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Self-knowledge is a Piscean speciality, and you have a rare understanding of what must be done. Deep down you know that the time has come to sever one particular tie or association and concentrate on another which seems to have more meaning. You're operating on your instincts at the moment, so some caution is required.

# Hard life of the ever-smiling Rinku

How winning a two-wheeler at a school T20 championship changed the fortunes of this Aligarh family

NIHAL KOSHI  
ALIGARH, MAY 26

THE TROPHY shelf in Rinku Singh's room is out of space. The latest addition to the collection is his Man of the Match award for an enterprising cameo against Rajasthan Royals. "It was my first Man of the Match award, so it is special," the Kolkata Knight Riders' all-rounder says. There's another trophy that dates back a decade and is very dear to him. He took home a figurine of a cricketer for being Man of the Series during a 'School T20 World Cup' held in his hometown Aligarh.

Rinku was also given the keys to a motorcycle by the organisers of the tournament. The two-wheeler was a blessing for Rinku.

"That was the day my father stopped coming me for playing cricket. I used to get whacked everytime I returned from a match because my father thought I was wasting time. The motorbike brought about a change of heart because he realised that I could actually play the game. Also we couldn't even think of buying a motorbike back then because we could not afford it. So it was a big day for me and the family," Rinku recalled.

The motorbike made life easier for his father Khanchand Singh, a gas cylinder delivery man. He hauled cylinders onto it and his older sons would help him meet delivery targets.

Khanchand, followed his third son's breakthrough 2022 season on an old tube TV. Though his son has moved up in life, Khanchand and his wife Vina still stay in the two-room ramshackle shack on the premises of a gas cylinder stockyard. Rinku, on a short break between the IPL and the start of the Ranji Trophy has moved to a newly-constructed three-storey house in Rambagh colony. He drops by everyday for family time and for a meal before practice in the evening.

"I told Papa to stay in the new house. But papa wants to stay here in the stockyard. He has been working here for 35 years so he is comfortable here," Rinku said. The stockyard is full of childhood memories.

Khanchand points to a gate where he used to wait for his cricket-crazy sons to return home. "I didn't want them to end up like me. I wanted them to study and get proper jobs. That is why I was against them play-



Though Rinku has moved up in life and got himself a new home after getting the IPL break, his parents still stay at a two-room ramshackle shack on the premises of a gas cylinder stockyard. *Gajendra Yadav*

ing cricket. Rinku will always remember this as he used to get most of the whacks because he was the most enthusiastic cricketer," Khanchand says.

He watched the live telecast of each of the seven games Rinku played for KKR, his longest run of matches in a season. Since his 2018 debut for KKR, Rinku made a name for himself as a sharp fielder with a safe pair of hands and as a reliable 12th man. His batting hadn't clicked still though.

This season, batting at No.6 and No.7, the 24-year-old grabbed the opportunity of being a finisher. He scored 174 runs at a strike rate of 148.71. Rinku's smart shot selection, six-hitting and faster than a run-a-ball knocks has made him a contender for the 'emerging player' award. "I am proud of Rinku. He has worked really hard and been so patient to get to where he is. He has done a lot for the family too and has been so responsible. He has seen some tough times but he didn't give up," Khanchand said.

Rinku's career almost derailed in his early teens. He doesn't remember exactly how old he was when he accompanied his brother to a coaching class centre to look for a job to help the family make ends meet. "I think

this was in 2010. I had just started playing but mummy asked me to look for a job because we had to earn money. At the coaching centre they asked me to sweep and clean. I was told to do it early in the morning so nobody would see me. I decided not to take it up. I came home and told mummy that I would help the family by playing cricket," Rinku said.

## Overcoming mental barriers

Abhishek Nayar, the assistant coach of KKR, had informed Rinku about being part of the Playing XI for the game against Gujarat Titans. Rinku pinched himself. "Was I hearing it right? That was my first reaction," Rinku said. Then he quickly went through names of bowlers he could face the next day. Three of them were express pace, Mohammed Shami, Alzarri Joseph and Lockie Ferguson. Rinku experienced butterflies in the stomach and was also apprehensive because he was wary of 145kmph-plus bowlers.

"It wasn't fear but at the back of my mind I always had this complex about facing international fast bowlers. There are no bowlers who are really fast in Aligarh. Even in domestic cricket it is rare for someone to bowl 145. I got hit a few times too and

once even fractured my jaw. So that was at the back of my mind. Somehow before this season I was not confident about batting. Dab dab ke khelta tha," Rinku said. He would be restrained when facing the quacks.

Once the nerves settled and after facing a few balls in the middle, Rinku dispatched Joseph over fine-leg for a six. He struck four fours, two of them against Ferguson and finished with 35 off 28. "After this innings I felt like I could score runs against these fast bowlers. It was just a question of confidence." Two games later, Rinku won the man of the match award for an unbeaten 42 not out against Royals. A paddle scoop for a six over fine leg against fast bowler Kuldeep Sen after he cut Trent Boult for a four, set the tone for the innings.

Nayar says Rinku's batting has been work in progress for the past four years and this season everything fell into place. A three-month stay in Mumbai also made a world of difference, Nayar believes.

Mumbai would be Rinku's second home after he underwent a knee surgery (meniscus tear). While going for a second run during a Vijay Hazare Trophy match last year, Rinku had heard a cracking noise. "I faced another five to six balls but felt that there

was something wrong. I knew that I would miss the IPL. I was out for seven months as I had to get a surgery done and also recover," Rinku said.

He recalls his father going into depression and not eating for two days when told about the injury.

During his recovery period, Rinku spent a lot of time with Nayar at the KKR Academy.

"Over the past three-four years we have been working on technique and skill. When you make changes it takes time to evolve. I feel that he had a lot of time in the off season to work on technique. What normally used to happen is that in First-Class cricket he could perform, but under pressure he kind of lost what we worked on. This year, he felt the technical improvements were in place and that kind of gave him the confidence during the IPL," Nayar said.

A change of attitude also contributed to Rinku making an impact with the bat.

"He has grown up in a small town with a mindset of being a follower rather than a leader. I think this whole period in Mumbai when he was alone and not having anyone around and just practicing, it made him evolve a lot as an individual. I saw a lot of changes. Small things like

how he made friends with a rickshawala who used to pick him up from the hotel and then to my home everyday and then we used to go for practice. He tried to enjoy life in Mumbai, where it is fast-paced and that made a difference."

In what was to be KKR's final game of the season, Rinku came close to taking the side to an unlikely victory against Lucknow Super Giants. He made 40 off just 15 balls with KKR chasing 211 for victory. With 21 needed off the last 6 balls, Rinku scored 4, 6, 6 off a Marcus Stoinis over before a one-handed catch by Evin Lewis in the deep cut short his innings. "I almost pulled that off. Another day that shot could have gone for a four or a six. But that is the nature of T20. You have to back your skill set even if it does not work all the time," Rinku said.

He hopes to be a regular in the KKR team after having to bid his time for a few years. He had played 10 games before this season with just 77 runs to show for it. A string of seven games in a single season helped boost his confidence. In addition to being consistent, Rinku also wants to pick up more English words. "Sometimes communication with foreign players can be an issue. I talk a lot but English is an issue. Whatever I know, I say, they understand I think. If there is something important (Brendon) McCullum wanted to tell me, I would get someone to translate."

Away from the spotlight of the IPL, Rinku is taking time to talk to age-group cricketers at the Aligarh Cricket School where he trains. Coach Masooduz-Zafar Amini says there has been an uptick in enrollments.

"He is the first player from Aligarh to play in the IPL so he has become a role model. Parents of children want his advice. Young cricketers are eager to talk to him. The good thing about Rinku is that he is still down to earth. He gives time to everyone who wants to talk about cricket," Amini said.

Rinku tells budding cricketers about the importance of being patient and working hard. "These words sound like simple things but they work. Look at how long it took for me to make an impact in the IPL. But even when I didn't get games my attitude was the same, I was always cheerful. I wanted people to be happy when they were around me. Ask anyone, they will say Rinku was always smiling."

# GT have been formidable, passionate, cool — like Hardik

ABHISHEK PUROHIT  
MUMBAI, MAY 26

IN THE last over of Gujarat Titans' innings against Royal Challengers Bangalore at Wankhede Stadium, after Rashid Khan had swung Josh Hazlewood for a massive six, skipper Hardik Pandya walked up to his vice-captain and enveloped him in a warm hug. Rashid then slammed his right glove into Pandya's with a broad grin. The duo has spoken admiringly of each other and their bonding seems to have played its part in Gujarat Titans' run to the final in their debut Indian Premier League season.

Rashid has called Pandya a 'diler' (fearless) captain. "He is someone who always makes brave decisions, is confident and clear in his mind. That is important as a captain, ki diler ho [that he is fearless]," Rashid had said. "As a player, you need freedom and support from the captain. And that is something he has given to every player. He gives you positive energy."

That is some endorsement from arguably the world's finest T20 bowler, who has excelled in franchise leagues around the world under all sorts of captains.

"It is very important that within a new group, the senior players strike up relationships quickly, and Hardik and Rashid share a mutual respect which is very evident," Vikram Solanki, the GT director of cricket, told The Indian Express.

In a media interaction ahead of the IPL auction in February, Pandya had spoken about how he had the chance to create their own legacy.

"From Virat, I will pick his aggression and passion, his energy which is tremendous to be honest. From Mahi bhai I will pick the composure, the calmness, remaining the same in every situation. From Rohit, I would pick that he lets the player decide what he wants to do," Pandya had said then.

After 10 wins in 14 league games, the results have spoken for themselves.

In the consistently calm finishing exploits of David Miller, Rahul Tewatia and Rashid, this fresh franchise appears to have almost been moulded in the way



Pandya has led by example.

Pandya has himself played the game all his life: fearless and still focussed.

"Any leader shapes the team he is leading in an impression of himself. And that has happened to some extent with Hardik and this group, and we are very proud of that fact," Solanki said. "I will also add that in order for that to happen, you must have the group that is being led also prepared to walk that journey with the captain. And both the leader and the group need to be commended for that. I want to be careful in not diluting the influence Hardik has had. He has had a huge influence on this team. But he will also acknowledge the contribution of the teams."

Perhaps familiarity with the fickleness and difficulty of the finisher's role has helped him invest the required belief in the likes of Miller and Tewatia.

"For this difficult batting position, you need the ability with your technique to find boundaries, you need to be smart, but just as much you need a character that is prepared to get into the fight at that stage. And Rahul [Tewatia] has certainly displayed fight in abundance. And so has Miller," Solanki said.

Ahead of the season, there was also another variable: the captain and coach combination. Solanki feels Pandya and Ashish Nehra have got along very well.

"Hardik and Ashish have a very good understanding. They come from a very similar mindset as far as what is required to be successful in this format in particular," Solanki said. "More often than not, you could ask one a question and the other will be able to tell you how they can respond. And that is a brilliant place to be in."

## BRIEFLY

### Jyothi smashes hurdles NR again

**New Delhi:** Jyothi Yarraji smashed the women's 100m hurdle national record for the third time in two weeks at the De Harry Schulting Games 2022 in Vught, the Netherlands. The 22-year-old Jyothi clocked 13.04 seconds under a headwind speed of +1.4m/s in the heats to better her own earlier national record of 13.11 that she had clocked while winning the event at the Loughborough International Athletics Meet in the UK on Sunday. The Andhra athlete, who trains under James Hillier at Reliance Foundation Odisha Athletics High Performance Centre in Bhubaneswar, had bettered Anuradha Biswal's national mark of 13.38 which had stood since 2002. That happened a month after her national record effort was not counted due to wind assistance beyond legal limit.

### Gold for Sreeshankar

**New Delhi:** India's premier long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won the gold medal at the 12th International Jumping Meeting in Kallithea, Greece with an effort of 8.31m. The Tokyo Olympian is the current national record holder with a jump of 8.36m, which he had achieved last month. Sreeshankar was followed by Thobias Montler, who claimed silver with an 8.27m jump, and Jules Pommery, who bagged bronze with an 8.17m effort in the 10-man field. Only the top three jumpers crossed the 8m-mark Jeswin Aldrin, meanwhile, finished fifth after he hit the 7.69m mark at the 17th Iberoamerican Meeting in Huelva, Spain. Filip Pravdiva of Croatia (7.91m), Uruguay's Emiliano Lasa (7.82m) and Peruvian José Luis Mandros (7.77m) completed the top three of the seven-man field. "Sreeshankar consistently jumping far.

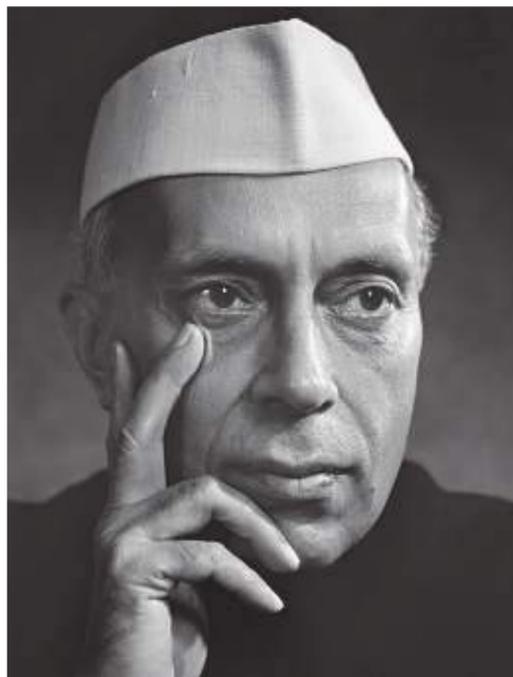
### Advantage Ding

**Chennai:** Chinese world No.2 Ding Liren seized the advantage against India's Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa in the final of Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Chessable Masters online tournament, taking a 2.5-1.5 lead after the opening day of the match early on Thursday. The 16-year old Praggnanandhaa, who lost the opening game of the final, bounced back to level the first match when he won Game 2. Liren then showed why he is rated so highly by taking the lead, outwitting his young Indian opponent.

AGENCIES



सत्यमेव जयते  
Government of Rajasthan



## Remembering The Architect of Modern India

First Prime Minister of the Country  
Bharat Ratna

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

(14<sup>th</sup> November, 1889 - 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1964)

on his Death Anniversary

"In the annals of history, inscribed in golden letters is the name of our country's first Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, as the architect of a strong democratic India, builder of country's most premier institutions and as the preceptor of social justice and equality. The nation will remain indebted to his unprecedented contributions. The citizens solemnly remember him on his death anniversary."



Ashok Gehlot  
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Department of Information & Public Relations, Rajasthan