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Security personnel disperse protesters in Prayagraj. Ritesh Shukla

### ELECTIONS FOR 16 SEATS IN RAJYA SABHA

## BJP wins Karnataka, Cong Rajasthan; disputes delay Maharashtra and Haryana

Claims, counter claims stall counting, rivals approach EC

MANOJ CG & LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

UNION FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and party spokesperson Randeep Surjewala were among eight candidates elected to Rajya Sabha Friday from Karnataka and Rajasthan, while counting of votes in Maharashtra and Haryana was delayed with rival parties trading charges.

Although the BJP faced an embarrassment in Rajasthan with one of its MLAs switching sides, its gamble in Karnataka paid off as its third candidate won because of cross-voting by a JD(S) MLA and an independent legislator. The BJP won three of the four seats in Karnataka while the Congress heaved a sigh of relief in party-ruled Rajasthan where all three of its candidates won, overcoming fears of cross-



WON  
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

WON  
JAIRAM RAMESH

LOST  
SUBHASH CHANDRA

voting and horse trading.

The high-stake battle for 16 seats — 6 in Maharashtra, 4 each in Karnataka and Rajasthan and 2 in Haryana — turned out to be a nail-biting affair with the Congress and BJP trading charges, even approaching the Election Commission.

In Maharashtra, the victory of two of the BJP candidates — Union minister Piyush Goyal and former state minister Anil Bonde — is certain. The same is the case with Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut,

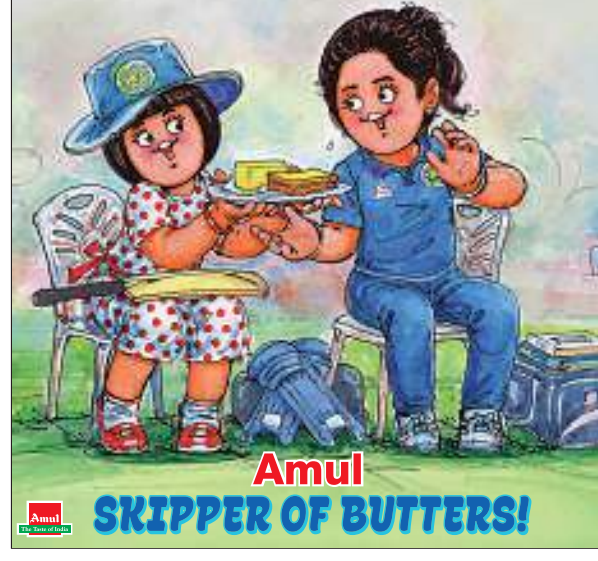
NCP's Pratul Patel and Congress's Imran Pratapgarhi. The contest is for the sixth seat — the BJP has fielded former MP Dhananjay Mahadik and the Shiv Sena candidate is Sanjay Pawar.

For the ruling BJP and the Opposition, every seat in Rajya Sabha counts. The tally of the ruling BJP, which crossed the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**MORE REPORTS**  
PAGE 5

### MITALI DO CAREER PE!



## In new policy, UP removes 60-year age bar for release of life-term prisoners

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 10

MAKING AN amendment to its prison policy, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to consider the premature release of life-term prisoners even below 60 years of age.

Under the new policy, the state government would consider the release of an inmate

sentenced to life imprisonment for an offence like murder only after he has completed a jail term of 16 years without remission or 20 years with remission. The UP Director General, Prison, Anand Kumar, said the new policy would benefit a large number of convicts facing life term and that it would help decongest crowded jails across the state.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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### REMARKS AGAINST THE PROPHET

## 1 killed in Ranchi as protests erupt across country

Violence in Prayagraj, 136 arrested in UP; police station attacked in Howrah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

ONE PERSON died of a bullet injury in Jharkhand's Ranchi, where the police fired in the air to disperse a crowd pelting stones, as protests erupted in several towns and cities across the country on Friday against derogatory references to the Prophet made by former BJP spokespersons Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal.

The protests also turned violent in UP's Prayagraj and West Bengal's Howrah. The protests in Delhi and parts of Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Bihar and Maharashtra were peaceful even as a shutdown was observed in Srinagar.

Internet services were suspended till 6 am on Saturday in Ranchi and 6 am on Monday in Howrah.

### CURBS ON INTERNET

- Internet suspended in parts of West Bengal, Jharkhand
- Don't go for TV debates which seek to ridicule Islam: AIMPLB
- We should stop demonstrating: Delhi Shahi Imam

REPORTS, PAGES 4, 6

In Delhi, the Shahi Imam distanced himself from the protest and called for reconciliation. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), meanwhile, appealed to Islamic scholars and intellectuals to not participate in "those television debates in which the sole intention is to... insult Islam and Muslims". Sharma's comments were made

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

### WORLD



GEN MUSHARRAF CRITICAL IN UAE: EX-MINISTER PAGE 12

### BUSINESS AS USUAL



## Industrial production growth at 8-month high of 7.1% in April

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

FACTORY OUTPUT grew to an eight-month high of 7.1 per cent in April, despite a high base, powered mainly by higher electricity and mining output, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

On a sequential basis, industrial production recorded a decline of 9.2 per cent, with a contraction of 8.8 per cent in manufacturing output and 19.7 per cent contraction in mining output, the data showed.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown 2.2 per cent in March 2022. Compared with pre-Covid levels of April 2019, industrial output recorded a growth of 6.8 per cent and compared with February 2020 level, it grew by just 0.7 per cent.

While there are continuing question marks over the durability of the industrial sector recovery amidst festering inflation and an inclement external situation, the year-on-year growth in the IIP is projected to surge further next month on the back of a favourable base linked to the second wave of Covid-19.

In absolute terms, the IIP stood at 135.1 in April 2022, up from 126.1 in April 2021, but lower than 148.8 in March 2022.

### But concerns persist

THERE ARE concerns over the durability of the industrial sector recovery, amidst surging inflation and an inclement external situation. The IIP is projected to surge further in May on the back of a favourable base linked to the second Covid wave.

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FROM PAGE ONE

RS Polls

100 mark in Rajya Sabha in April for the first time, is expected to come down to 92. The BJP is expected to win two seats in Maharashtra and at least one in Haryana. The party's strength can go up again when the President nominates fresh members as seven seats are vacant and nominated members can join any party in the Rajya Sabha within six months.

In Rajasthan, despite fears of cross-voting which prompted the Congress to sequester its MLAs in a resort in Udaipur, the party managed to get all its three candidates — Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik and Pramod Tiwari — elected. While BJP candidate Ghanshyam Tiwari won, media baron Subhash Chandra, the independent candidate it had backed for the fourth seat, lost.

In Karnataka, the results came as a boost for the BJP. Sitharaman and the BJP's second candidate, actor-politician Jaggesh, won. But the party's third candidate, outgo-

ing MLC Lehar Singh Siroya, also won because of cross-voting by a JD(S) MLA and an independent MLA. While Singh got 33 votes, JD(S)'s D Kupendra Reddy, a former MP, got 30 votes. Although it did not have the numbers, the Congress too had fielded a candidate for the third seat. Its candidate Mansoor Ali Khan got 25 votes.

The JD(S) admitted that two of its MLAs did not vote in favour of its candidate. JD(S)'s Kolar M LAK Srinivas Gowda cast his vote for the Congress candidate, while Gubbi MLA S R Srinivas put a blank ballot paper into the box, which would be counted as invalid. JD(S) legislature party leader H D Kumaraswamy said.

While Gowda accepted he voted for the Congress candidate, Srinivas rejected Kumaraswamy's claim and insisted he voted for his party's pick. Gowda, who had been maintaining distance from the JD(S), said, "I voted for Congress because I love it... my future politics is with Congress. I was earlier a minister from Congress."

In Rajasthan, BJP MLA Shobharani Kushwah voted for Congress candidate Tiwari, prompting the party to issue a notice to her.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot managed to break the BJP ranks and ensured that the two BJP MLAs, Rajkumar Roat and Ramprasad Dindor, defied their party whip and voted for the Congress candidates. By ensuring the victory of the party's three candidates, Gehlot managed to send a message to the leadership that he is firmly in command.

Earlier, senior leaders of the Congress in Delhi had indicated that the party leadership would take a call on the simmering leadership issue in Rajasthan after the Rajya Sabha elections. "We cannot let the issue linger and make Rajasthan go the Punjab way. We have to take a decision either way and announce it," a senior leader had said — the "either way" was whether to continue with Gehlot as Chief Minister or replace him with Sachin Pilot.

Gehlot called the win of the

Congress candidates a victory for democracy. "It was clear from the beginning that the Congress has the numbers to get its three candidates elected. But the BJP, by fielding an independent, tried to indulge in horse-trading. The unity of our MLAs is a strong answer. The BJP will have to face a similar defeat in the 2023 Assembly elections," he said in a Twitter post.

Sources said the MLAs were brought to the Assembly in three buses with one of the candidates in each bus. The MLAs had to vote for the candidate who was with them in the bus.

In Haryana, all MLAs barring independent legislator Balraj Kundu cast their votes for the two seats — for which three candidates are in the fray. The ruling BJP has the numbers to get its candidate, former minister Krishan Lal Panwar, elected but the entry of media baron Kartikeya Sharma for the second seat against Congress's Ajay Maken injected an element of uncertainty. The high-stakes battle got mired in controversy after Sharma demanded that the votes of two of the Congress MLAs be declared invalid.

Sharma, who was backed by the BJP and Congress — B B Batra and Kiran Choudhry — violated secrecy of the voting process. In his complaint to the EC, he claimed both "showed their ballot papers, apart from their authorized agent, to many others present in the Hall." The Congress hit back with Maken writing to the EC, saying the objection was "frivolous." He argued Sharma's complaint was an "unwarranted and illegal interference."

A BJP delegation comprising Union ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Jitendra Singh and Arjun Ram Meghwal met the Election Commission and demanded that the votes of Batra and Choudhry be declared invalid. Carrying Maken's letter, a Congress delegation led by AICC treasurer Pawan Kumar Bansal too approached the EC minutes later, saying the objection raised by Sharma and the BJP be rejected as it was "nothing but a weak and desperate attempt without any basis to disturb the pious election process."

The BJP delegation demanded the cancellation of the votes of three MVA MLAs in Maharashtra as well for "compromising and vitiating" the Rajya Sabha poll process by openly displaying ballot papers.

The BJP claimed that state cabinet ministers Jitendra Awhad, Yashomati Thakur and Shiv Sena MLA Suhas Kande violated the model code for voting. It alleged that Awhad and Thakur handed over their ballot papers to their respective party agents instead of only showing them the ballots, while Kande showed his ballot to two different agents.

"Norms were thrown to the wind in Maharashtra and Haryana. We have appealed to EC to disqualify the votes that were not polled as per the norms. EC has told us that it will examine the facts," said Naqvi after meeting the EC.

60-year age bar

The state government's previous prison policy had stipulated that prisoners facing life term must attain the age of 60 years before they could be considered for premature release. This was changed by the government last month.

The convicted prisoners in UP are kept in central jails located in Prayagraj, Varanasi, Fatehgarh, Etawah, Bareilly and Agra. The district jails in the state, numbering 63, are also used to house convicted prisoners, said a senior jail official. The inmates with good records inside the prisons are sent to Model Jail in Lucknow. A woman central jail has also been opened in Bareilly.

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**EXPRESS AUDIO**

The art and science of recovery with **Shayamal Vallabhjee**

Nandagopal Rajan speaks to sports scientist Shayamal Vallabhjee about how technological solutions can be used to help the body recover, the historical importance and roots of recovery, and how technology and human knowledge go hand-in-hand

Currently, there are around 1.14 lakh inmates in UP prisons against their collective capacity of 70,000, the jail official said. There are nearly 30,000 convicted prisoners, of whom about 12,000 have been facing life term.

In the first week of June, the UP Prisons Administration and Reform Services Department sent a letter to all the district and central jails, asking them to provide the details of inmates who would fall under the category of the new policy. Some jail authorities have sent such details to the Prison headquarters in Lucknow.

The state government had prepared a premature release policy for life-term prisoners in 2018, which did not set any age bar for them. In 2021, the government amended it to stipulate that a life-term convict would be eligible for premature release only after he attains the age of 60 years. This age bar has now been removed.

Like its 2018 and 2021 prison policies, the UP government's amended policy will also be applicable to those life-term murder convicts who have completed a jail term of 16 years without remission or 20 years with remission. Similarly, the new policy also makes it mandatory that the cases against such prisoners should not fall under the category of heinous crimes like terror and waging war against the state. The investigation of these cases should not be done by central agencies and the convicts should not have been booked under a central law. The inmates convicted for life term by a court of other state will also not be covered by the new policy.

Like the earlier policies, in the new policy too the government has decided to consider the release of inmates sentenced to life for offences such as kidnapping for murder, kidnapping in order to subject person to grievous hurt and slavery, selling and purchase of minor for purpose of prostitution, rape and others only after convicts have served the jail term for 20 years without remission and 25 years with remission. The convicts, sentenced to life for mass murder charge, would be released after he has served the jail term for 25 years without remission and 30 years with remission.

In the amended policy, the state government has also put a clause that the Release Proposal Committee, which will decide on the premature release of life-term convicts, may cancel the release of an inmate if it is found to cause any law and order problem.

Earlier, life-term convicts could be prematurely released on Republic Day, Women's Day, World Health Day, Labour Day, World Yoga Day, Independence Day and Gandhi Jayanti. In the new policy, besides these seven days, the government has also added three more occasions — Teachers Day, International Human Rights Day and International Day for Tolerance.

8-month high

Manufacturing output, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP, grew 6.3 per cent in April, even as mining and electricity grew 7.8 per cent and 11.8 per cent, respectively.

In absolute terms, the index for electricity output was at an all-time high (2012 series) of 194.5, primarily driven by the sharp in-

crease in electricity generation in the wake of shortages triggered by the heat wave that intensified across the country since late March. Experts said the base effect helped IIP reach an eight-month high, but the growth in consumer goods and capital goods output remained tepid relative to the pre-Covid levels.

"Although it is still too early to rejoice the April 2022 performance as the resilience of the industrial sector amidst raging inflation and adverse global geopolitical situation, the start to the fiscal 2023 has certainly been on a positive note. A comparison of the latest data with the pre-Covid production level (February 2020) indicates that the aggregate industrial output is higher than the pre-Covid level albeit by just 0.7%. However, the output levels of three use-based segments — capital goods, consumer durables and consumer non-durables — are still below the pre-Covid level," India Ratings Principal Economist Sunil Kumar Sinha said.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said, "Consumption remains tentative on the whole, with underlying unevenness. Led by pent-up demand, we expect services to outperform the demand for goods in the near term, with the latter further constrained by elevated prices. The weak showing of capital goods output relative to the pre-Covid level confirms our view that the uptick in capacity utilisation in Q4 FY2022 will not trigger a rapid private sector capacity expansion in light of the uncertainties generated by geo-political developments."

Among the use-based components of industrial output, all the six segments recorded growth after a gap of eight months, with consumer durables — indicator of consumption demand — recording growth after six months of being in negative territory. Despite the high base, four segments — capital goods (14.7%), primary goods (10.1%), consumer durables (8.5%) and intermediate goods (7.6%) — recorded growth in April, with the double-digit growth in the capital goods segment likely to have benefitted from the capex push of the government.

"The two segments namely consumer non-durables (0.3%) and infrastructure/construction goods (3.8%) appears to have suffered due to high base and recorded a tepid YoY growth. The paltry YoY growth in the consumer non-durables also alludes to the K-shaped recovery whereby households falling in the lower end of the pyramid are finding their real income being eroded disproportionately by the high inflation," Sinha said.

1 killed in Ranchi

during a TV debate.

The protests came days after the remarks of Sharma and Jindal were criticised by over a dozen countries, including the Gulf nations, with India responding that they "do not reflect the views of the Government". Sharma has since been suspended and Jindal expelled from the BJP.

In Ranchi, the police fired in the air to disperse a gathering that pelted stones, injuring Ranchi SSP Surendra Jha, another officer, and a policeman. Jha suffered a concussion after a stone hit the hel-

met he was wearing. The district administration later imposed prohibitory orders in the Main Road area.

Speaking to The Indian Express, SP Ranchi (Rural) Naushad Alam said: "One of the protesters died of a bullet injury. Twelve others, who have been admitted to the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, have injuries caused due to stone-pelting as well as pellets." The condition of at least one of those undergoing treatment is said to be critical.

Police sources said the situation escalated after a vehicle ploughed into a group of protesters. Police are also investigating how the bullet injury was caused, the sources said.

The protests also spun out of control in Prayagraj, where heavy stone-pelting resulted in minor injuries to several police personnel. Late in the evening, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a meeting with senior officials and directed them to take the "strictest action against those involved in incidents of violence and unlawful protests in the state".

"He has also asked officials to initiate recovery proceedings where damage was done to public property," said a state government spokesperson. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi, UP DGP Devendra Singh Chauhan and other senior officials.

The UP Police said that a total of 136 people were arrested over the protests, including 45 in Saharanpur, 37 in Prayagraj, 23 in Ambedkarnagar, 20 in Hathras, seven in Moradabad and four in Firozabad.

Prayagraj SSP Ajay Kumar said violence broke out within the Khuldaabad police station limits when youths gathered on the streets long after the afternoon prayers were over. "There were many minors among them. We used light force to disperse them. Even after this, people kept coming out in lanes and raising slogans. Some minor injuries have been sustained by the forces. The situation is under control," Kumar said.

"The Rapid Action Force and four companies of PAC have been deployed. More force is going to come here from other districts. One rickshaw's tyre was set on fire but it was doused. There was also an attempt to set a PAC vehicle on fire. Further action will be taken as per investigation," said the SSP.

Saharanpur District Magistrate Akhilesh Singh, and the police in Moradabad and Firozabad, issued statements to say that the protests were peaceful and the situation was under control.

In Ambedkarnagar, the police blamed an incident of stone-pelting in the Tanda area on "nine youths in the age group of 15-20 years". "We used light force and dispersed them. We have identified the accused," they said.

In Hathras, the police said "some people tried to hold a protest without permission" within the Sikandra Rau station limits. "The police spoke to them and sent them back... Further action is underway," said the police.

In West Bengal's Howrah, prohibitory orders were imposed in several areas after protesters attacked a police station and also set

fire to a few kiosks, and several two-wheelers and vehicles. Officials said at least 12 policemen were injured.

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar summoned the state's chief secretary HK Dwivedi even as the opposition BJP alleged that its offices were targeted in the Uluberia and Panchla areas.

Dhankhar also referred to a call from Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and "other inputs to this office" and tweeted that a "view has to be taken" on the deployment of central forces "in this grim situation".

In Dhulagarh, the police used batons and fired tear gas shells to disperse a mob that had blocked a national highway. The protesters attacked and vandalised a police station in Domjur. "There was damage to property but no serious injuries were reported. The situation is being brought back to normal," a senior police officer said.

In Kolkata, protesters blocked the Park Circus seven-point crossing for over two hours demanding the arrest of Nupur Sharma. "Expect CM Smt. Mamata Banerjee to sternly warn law violators — they will not be spared," Dhankhar said in a tweet.

State Transport Minister and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim said: "What Nupur Sharma said is highly condemnable. But that does not mean you come out on the roads and agitate. There is no place for hooliganism."

In J&K, all business establishments remained shut in Srinagar while authorities snapped mobile internet services for most of the day before restoring them late in the evening. The protests came a day after an indefinite curfew was imposed in Kishtwar district and Baderwah town in Doda district while prohibitory orders were imposed in the rest of the Chenab Valley.

In Delhi, the police said almost 1,500 people had gathered at Jama Masjid for Friday prayers after which nearly 300 staged a protest. In Maharashtra, peaceful protests were held in 14 districts, with large gatherings reported from Solapur, Navi Mumbai, Nandurbar, Aurangabad, Parbhani and Jalna.

In MP's Chhindwara district, protesters marched to the Additional District Magistrate's office where they handed over a memorandum demanding the arrest of Nupur Sharma. A similar memorandum was submitted in Vidisha, too.

In Gujarat, protests were reported from Vadodra and Ahmedabad where shops remained shut in several areas. Protests were also reported in Bhojpur, Muzaffarpur and Nawada districts of Bihar.

And in Hyderabad, tension prevailed outside the Mecca mosque briefly as several protesters raised anti-BJP slogans.

(WITH ASAD REHMAN/LUCKNOW, SANTANU CHOWDHURY/KOLKATA, ABHISHEK ANGAD/RANCHI, NAVEDIQAB/SRINAGAR, ARUN SHARMA/JAMMU, ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR/NEW DELHI, VALLABH OZARKAR/MUMBAI, IRAM SIDDIQUE/BHOPAL, VAIBHAV JHA/AHMEDABAD, SREENIVAS JANAYALA/HYDERABAD & AGENCIES)

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**Past decade saw increase in number of women voters: Book**

EXRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE FOCUS of India's electoral politics over the past decade has shifted towards women's participation, corresponding with a rise in the number of women voters, according to a new book released Friday.

The book, Women Voters in Indian Elections — Changing Trends and Emerging Patterns, has been edited by Prof Sanjay Kumar of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

"People have been talking about how women's vote has now become decisive in the victory of a political party. However, this is being stated without evidence. One of the reasons why it has become decisive is because participation of women in electoral politics has been on the rise," Prof Kumar said.

Prof Kumar added the gender gap in electoral politics in the country has been declining steadily over the past 70 years. He said till 2010 the number of women voters was less than men, while in the 2019 general elections, men and women voted in nearly equal numbers.

"There is now a clear indication of more women voting than men in various state elections," Prof Kumar said.

He further pointed out that in Uttar Pradesh, in both 2017 as well as 2022 state elections, women voters outstripped men.

Other states like Bihar and Uttarakhand have shown similar trends in recent elections, while in Punjab and Delhi, the number of men and women voting have been "near equal", Prof Kumar said, adding the only exception to this trend is Maharashtra, where the number of men voters is higher.

Speaking during a discussion on "Have Women Arrived in Indian Politics?", Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said while there has not been a drastic increase in the number of women standing for elections, political parties have definitely taken cognisance of the increase in the number of women voters.

While RJD national spokesperson Nawal Kishore said his party has always focused on women, especially those from the poor and the marginalised communities, Congress leader Alka Lamba said that the party, in its recently held chintan shivir in Udaipur, decided to ensure 33% women participation in the organisation — from the block level to the CWC.

SP's Ghanshyam Tiwari stressed that the foundation of women's participation has to be education, social empowerment and employment.

AAP's Sanjeev Jha said: "Till the time a political party does not fear a loss, you will never be able to receive representation."



VACCINATIONS IN  
LAST 24 HOURS  
**24,300**

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **90**

OXYGEN SUPPORT **21**

VENTILATOR SUPPORT **3**

DELHI TOTAL CASES <b>19,11,268</b>	Total		Vacant	
	HOSPITAL BEDS	<b>9,615</b>	<b>9,523</b>	
	ICU BEDS	<b>2,215</b>	<b>2,187</b>	
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
June 9	622	537	2	19,619
June 10	655	419	2	21,044
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,008*</b>	<b>18,83,042</b>	<b>26,218</b>	<b>3,87,14,946</b>

\*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	June 9		June 10	
	Cases	N/A	N/A	N/A
GURGAON	June 9		June 10	
	Cases	<b>259</b>	<b>222</b>	
Deaths	0		0	

## For newborn girls, initiative to get all key certificates at hospital itself

SUKRITABARUAH  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

BABY HIPZA was born in the afternoon of June 8. When she turned three days old on Friday, the authorities at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital handed her parents her birth certificate and Aadhaar enrolment slip with her name printed on them.

Hipza is one of the first beneficiaries of the 'Nani Pari' programme launched on Friday by the Northwest Delhi district administration. The programme aims to complete essential services such as provision of a birth certificate, Aadhaar card registra-

tion, and opening a bank account for girls delivered in government hospitals in the district before mother and baby are discharged.

Additionally, it also aims to get registration for schemes for girl children and mothers such as the Sukanya Samridhi Account scheme, the Ladli scheme, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana done at the hospital itself.

"We want to make processes for schemes as simple as possible for all children and mothers. The idea is providing a one-stop solution so that parents won't have to go from here to there, trying to avail of essential schemes... We want that schemes should reach

the people for whom they are designed... This is also an occasion to celebrate the girl child," said District Magistrate (Northwest) Cheshta Yadav.

The administration has partnered with Punjab National Bank to ensure an easy process to open a bank account for the child where transfers under the schemes can be made.

Apart from ensuring that schemes reach target beneficiaries and protecting the interests of girl children, the programme also aims to promote institutional deliveries.

"The basic aim of most of these schemes is to protect the birth of the girl child, and to facilitate a safe



Rihana (25) with her baby, Hipza. Sukrita Baruah

and secure environment and education for her. The schemes involved are all old, but this ensures that enrolment for many of these is done under one roof... Since this programme starts from the hospital, people will know that with a hospital delivery, they get such and such benefits. It will motivate and promote institutional delivery; that is our main target. That will reduce our maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate," said hospital medical superintendent Dr SK Arora.

Apart from Sanjay Gandhi hospital where it was launched on Friday, the programme will also be started in other government hospitals in the district —

Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital, Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital — from Monday.

Yadav emphasised that parents can also return to the hospital and avail of these services after the mother and child are discharged.

Among the other first beneficiaries of the programme is Suhana, who was born on the evening of June 8. She is visually impaired. Her mother Ruby (20) has already received her birth certificate and Aadhaar enrolment slip but she said she will also need support to learn about and avail schemes for disabled children. Ruby had delivered her

first child, her two-year-old son, at home.

"I don't have any of his documents yet, not even his birth certificate. My husband, who works as a labourer, and I did not know how to get these done but we'll do it. I came to the hospital this time because I had been really weak and unwell," she said.

On the other hand, Hipza is a first child. "Main isse bahut padhaaongi (I will educate her a lot)," said her mother Rihana (25). Along with their documents, the mothers will also take a souvenir back home with them — a framed photo of her with her newborn along with an imprint of the baby's little foot.

### BRIEFLY

#### Delhi govt to collaborate with Denmark

New Delhi: The Delhi government has planned to join hands with Denmark to address the ongoing water scarcity and provide better road infrastructure in Delhi. A detailed plan in this regard will be prepared, said CM Arvind Kejriwal Friday. He held a meeting with Denmark's Ambassador to India H E Freddy Svane to discuss air pollution, groundwater recharge, and development of world-class road infrastructure.

#### Govt to revamp Gandhi Nagar Market in two phases

New Delhi: The government will redevelop the Gandhi Nagar market in two phases so that businesses are not impacted. A meeting to discuss the project was held Friday by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia. "Redevelopment of Gandhi Nagar market is one of the most ambitious projects of the Delhi government, which will be a milestone in boosting the economy and generating thousands of jobs. The revamp will not only give it a new identity but will also increase business for merchants," he said.

#### Rs 1L stolen from archer Abhishek Verma's car, cops file case

New Delhi: Police have registered a case after archer Abhishek Verma complained that over Rs 1 lakh in cash and other valuables were stolen from his car in Rohini. In his complaint, Verma told police that the incident took place on Thursday at 7 pm. "His wife was returning home from office in their Audi Q3. Near Rohini Sector 7, she parked the car and went to pick a parcel. When she returned, she saw that the rear window was broken and her laptop bag, documents, cash and other valuables were missing. She immediately called police and her husband," a senior police officer said.

#### Parents oppose his relationship, man fakes kidnapping

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man allegedly faked his kidnapping as his parents were against his relationship, said police. DCP (central) Shweta Chauhan said: "As he had given false information to parents and police and misused government machinery, appropriate legal action is being taken against him." ENS

### NO PERMISSION SOUGHT, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN: DCP

## At Jama Masjid, a brief protest after Friday prayers, dispersed by police

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

A BRIEF protest was held at Jama Masjid after Friday prayers against remarks about the Prophet made by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma. The demonstration ended in around 15 minutes.

DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said: "About 1,500 people had gathered for Friday namaz of which 150 began protesting with placards later. The number then grew to 300. Police peacefully controlled the crowd in 10-15 minutes. Since the protest took place without permission, we will take action against some who were identified." Police said they were in the process of lodging an FIR against the protesters under IPC section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) for holding the protest without permission.

Sources said that late Thursday night, the special branch received inputs that a committee would hold protests at Jama Masjid's gate 1 against Sharma and expelled Delhi BJP's media unit head Naveen Kumar Jindal. Following this, sources said, central district police made security arrangements.

Some of those who protested were carrying placards and chanting slogans against Sharma, demanding her arrest. As protesters were dispersed, a policeman at the spot said: "Most of the people (who had gathered for



Security forces at Jama Masjid after Friday prayers. PTI

Friday prayers) left after namaz. Now it is just a small gathering."

Protesters insisted they were not affiliated to any political party. One of them, Tajuddin, said: "We are not political; we just want to protest against the insult to the Prophet and demand that the guilty be arrested."

Another protester, Ahmed, said, "We are here to protest peacefully."

Local shopkeepers said the protest was largely peaceful. According to a bookseller, Aijaz, "People came, vented their frustration and left. It was all peaceful. Now just a few people are left since if you speak, some people will stand and listen."

Another shopkeeper, Aziz, agreed: "Police worked calmly and the protesters were also peaceful."

## Bukhari: We should stop demonstrating

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

DISTANCING THE mosque committee from the protest held in front of the Jama Masjid Friday afternoon, Shahi Imam Ahmed Bukhari appealed for restraint and argued against demonstrations.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Imam Bukhari said he had been counselling people against demonstrations and that he could not identify those seen in photos and videos of the protest: "For around the last two days, there have been discussions on closing shops in markets but I had spoken to the people from the market saying the time is not right, the *mahaul* is not right and they had cancelled that programme. Apart from that, people from outside Delhi had also called me, and I had explained this to them as well. Police also had no information about any protest. On Fridays, the Jama Masjid has huge numbers of people coming for prayers and some 50-100 people must have come along for this. Who knows where they came from? They started the protest after prayers, they had papers and banners with them. Till now, we don't know who organised the protest."

He said that "to the best of my knowledge", the protesters are not from the vicinity. "Consider the *mahaul* in the country, circumstances. There should always be permission from the administration before a demonstration. If permission is denied, present the case before some other authority like the district magistrate. If there's a large gathering, there might be just 4-5 people who might start a fire or pelt stones. So before we start anything, we have to consider everything and be careful," he said.

"I think we should stop demonstrating. If there's something that needs to be addressed, talk to the government, form a delegation and talk to the home minister. But what is happening right now — with one issue after another — is harmful to the country and the community," he said.

At the same time, he said that the statements on the Prophet were unwarranted. "There was no need for that. There is no Muslim leader to my knowledge who has made derogatory remarks about a Hindu deity or leader. For this, they have also suffered, the country has also suffered and the community has also suffered. It is the government's responsibility to bring these people under control," he said.

## Einstein vs Newton Box: HC restrains Flipkart from selling educational product

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

IN A trademark fight over products named after two world-renowned physicists — Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton — the Delhi High Court restrained Flipkart and those associated with it from advertising or offering any goods or services bearing the trade name 'Newton Box' or any mark deceptively similar to 'Einstein Box'. Justice Jyoti Singh further restrained the e-commerce platform and others from "copying, reproducing, adapting, altering, rearranging" 'Einstein Box' products. The court also asked the company to take down listings of 'Newton Box' products.

The order was passed in a suit filed by Metis Learning Solutions Private Limited, which accused Flipkart and others of selling lookalikes of 'Einstein Box' products under the name 'Newton Box'. The suit accuses Flipkart and other defendants of "blatant and brazen infringement of trademark, trade dress and copyright of the Plaintiff".

It was submitted before court that after extensive research, Metis Learning developed learning activities and games in the form of kits for children up to the age of 14 under the brand 'Einstein Box' and introduced it in 2016.

In the ongoing year, the company had sales in excess of Rs 15

crore, the court was told. 'Einstein Box' as a trademark was registered in 2019. "Over six years between 2016 and 2022, Plaintiff has launched more than 28 kits and to ensure that it reaches its target market, it has been selling the Einstein Box products only on large e-commerce sites like Amazon and Flipkart and on its own brand website," Metis Learning's counsel told the court.

Given the product's success, the court was told Flipkart approached Metis Learning in April 2021 with a proposal to directly purchase Einstein Box products from it. A wholesale supply agreement was signed in June 2021, as per the suit. However, Metis Learning told the court it was later shocked to see a product under the name of 'Newton Box - Ultimate Science Kit', using the photo of the company's CEO's daughter, on Flipkart.com. The photo had been taken as part of a photoshoot done for Einstein Box and was later removed in April 2022 from the listings after a complaint from Metis Learning CEO.

The court said Metis Learning has made out a prima facie case for grant of ex parte ad-interim injunction and balance of convenience lies in its favour. The company is likely to suffer irreparable harm in case the injunction is not granted, it said further. Issuing summons to Flipkart India Pvt Ltd and others, it asked them to file a written statement in 30 days.

## Appeal to Haryana for water on humanitarian grounds: Kejriwal



DJB said water supply will be available at low pressure on June 10 in some areas. Praveen Khanna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

DELHI'S WATER production has fallen by around 100 MGD (million gallons per day), according to Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vice-chairman Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Visiting the Wazirabad barrage on Friday, he said the level of water at Wazirabad pond has dropped from the normal of 674.5 ft to 667.7 ft. "There is only about 6 inches of water in the river. The depth of water in the river at the Wazirabad barrage is usually around 8 ft. Our pumps have not been able to lift water from the river and production has been hit. There is a shortage of nearly 100 MGD. This indicates water from Haryana is not being released into the Yamuna at all," he said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that they would request Haryana to give them

more water on humanitarian grounds. After a meeting with the L-G, Kejriwal told the media, "We will request Haryana if they can give us a little more water. Whether they are giving all the water... there is no need to go into the law. There is a shortage of water in Delhi at this time. So, if they give us a little more water, on humanitarian grounds, it will be good, since the level of water in the Yamuna has fallen. Let's not go into how much is being given or not. Just that Delhi is facing a shortage and needs water."

Temporary arrangements have been made to try and draw water from the nearly dry river. These include a dredging system and new pumps set up at the Wazirabad barrage. "Water at the barrage, which covers an area of 700-800 metres, will be collected at one place and then lifted using new pumps installed temporarily," said a communication from

the DJB. Sand is removed with the help of the dredger to create a cavity where water can collect at a depth sufficient for pumps to draw water from it.

Bharadwaj told *The Indian Express* that the Upper Yamuna River Board has also been approached. "We have written to the Upper Yamuna River Board asking them to direct Haryana to release water," he said, adding that dredging machines and pumps are only temporary measures, and that the situation is "extraordinary".

"We have never used such measures before. This is historic," he said.

Kejriwal also requested L-G governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to take up water problem with Haryana to improve supply in Delhi. Saxena assured the CM he would take up the issue at appropriate levels, said a statement from the L-G House.

## Worker who died at under-construction building complained of safety, says father

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, JUNE 10

A DAY after two workers died and another was injured after an iron beam allegedly broke and fell during shuttering work on the 19th floor of an under-construction commercial building in Sector 65, the family of one of the deceased workers alleged that he and his cousin, who was injured, had complained about lack of proper safety equipment several times.

Krishan Kumar Saini (21) and Manoj Saini (24) were placing tiles on the second floor at AIPL Joy Central, when a worker, Saddam Hossen, fell on top of them from the 19th floor. Saddam died on the spot. Krishan was declared dead at hospital while Manoj suffered serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

Krishan's father Kamlesh alleged: "The safety net was quite old and shabby. The lift at the site was overloaded. Adequate safety equipment was not available, and workers had informed the management and supervisors several times, yet no action was taken. My son would have been with me if safety equipment was in place."

The cousins hailed from Indok village, Malakhera, in Alwar.

Police said they received a complaint, but a case was yet to be registered. An officer said, "We have initiated a probe. Facts of the case are being verified."

Meanwhile, the labour department issued a notice to the developer of the project, AIPL, regarding non-compliance with safety norms. Officials said an inspection was conducted Friday.

Vijay Vir Dhariwal, assistant director, industrial occupational safety and health, department of labour, Haryana, said, "During the inspection, several lapses regarding compliance with safety norms were found. There was neither a proper safety net nor first-aid. The builder had not submitted reports of lift testing norms. Accordingly, a notice has been issued to AIPL." Dhariwal said a notice has also been issued to the developer to release compensation to the kin of the deceased. "The families will be given financial assistance by the government under the Haryana Building and Other Construction Workers welfare board provisions," he added.

Manoj Kumar, manager, legal, AIPL, said, "We have committed to compensate the families of the victims. We ensure that all safety equipment is available. We have all the safety related certificates."

## 54% of transplanted trees have survived, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

AFTER INSPECTING transplanted trees at Mayur Vihar's Gharoli Dairy Park, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday said Delhi is the first and only state in the country to implement a 'Tree Transplantation Policy' which mandates that 80% trees affected by a project are to be transplanted rather than cut down.

The policy was launched in October 2020 and so far, 54% of transplanted trees have survived, said Kejriwal.

The government also set up a tree transplantation cell to monitor transplantation of trees. Of 220 transplanted trees in Gharoli Park, 190 survived and only around 30 did not.

The CM said that the policy has brought a radical shift in tree plantation and in making space for construction: "Earlier, 10



'Approach to involve scientific methods has given good results'

trees were planted to compensate one tree to make up for environmental damage. But this technique was ineffective as the saplings are small and couldn't perfectly replace a fully grown tree. But the Delhi government's approach to involve scientific methods has given good results."

He added that Delhi's tree cover has increased from 19.97% to 23% since the AAP came to power. The government has further roped in Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, to carry out a third-party audit and determine the survival rates of transplanted trees.

## Woman alleges rape by man she met on app

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

A 28-YEAR-OLD woman has alleged she was raped by a man in a five-star hotel in Dwarka, police said, adding that an FIR has been registered and efforts are on to arrest the accused.

DCP (Dwarka) M Harsha Vardhan said, "A case of rape was registered after we received a complaint from a woman. She alleged that she met the accused on (a dating app) and they went to a hotel in Dwarka where she was sexually assaulted. He is a resident of Hyderabad and efforts are on to arrest him."

In her complaint, the woman said she met the accused on the

app on May 27. After messaging each other for a while, they exchanged their numbers and decided to meet. On May 30, they went to a hotel where he offered her a drink laced with sedatives, the woman alleged in her complaint. After consuming the drink, the complainant said she fell unconscious and he allegedly raped her.

"On May 31, he dropped her off at a Metro station and later switched off his phone. Based on her complaint, an FIR has been registered under IPC sections 376 (rape) and 328 (poisoning)," a senior police officer said.

The investigation officer has approached the administration department of the hotel to scan CCTV footage, said police.

# 5 GOVT & POLITICS

## RAJYA SABHA ELECTIONS

### Counting on hold in Haryana, Maharashtra

VARINDER BHATIA  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 10

BJP CANDIDATE Krishan Lal Panwar looked all set to enter the Rajya Sabha from Haryana even as uncertainty prevailed over the second seat as the counting of votes was put on hold Friday after the saffron party nominee and the Independent candidate backed by the JJP urged the Election Commission to cancel the votes of two Congress MLAs.

Panwar and Independent candidate Kartikeya Sharma shot off a missile to the EC, alleging Congress MLAs Kiran Choudhary and B B Batra showed their ballot papers to unauthorised persons after marking them and that the episodes were "duly captured" by the camera installed for the purpose of election. The charge was denied by Returning Officer RK Nandal who said that he did not find any "breach of privacy/secretary of ballot paper" by the two MLAs.

Congress candidate Ajay Maken, however, urged the chief election commissioner to declare the results, terming the allegations levelled by the BJP and the Independent candidate as "false and frivolous". Maken claimed

there was no breach of secrecy or privacy by the two legislators of his party. He accused the BJP of trying to defeat the process of free and fair election and demanded that the Election Commission declare the poll results immediately.

A BJP and a Congress delegation separately met EC officials in the evening in Delhi.

Earlier, of the total 90 members of the Assembly, 89 cast their votes, at the end of the polling, which began at 9 am. Independent legislator Balraj Kundu abstained from voting. Objections against the votes Batra and Choudhry were raised in the first hour itself.

While the BJP fielded former minister Krishan Lal Panwar, former Union minister Ajay Maken is the Congress nominee. Media baron Kartikeya Sharma entered the fray as an Independent backed by the JJP and BJP.

While the BJP with 40 MLAs in the 90-member Haryana Assembly has nine more than the 31 first preference votes required for a straight win, the fight is for the second seat. The Congress has 31 members in the state Assembly, just enough to help its candidate win a seat.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

### Code of conduct violated: BJP, MVA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JUNE 10

THE COUNTING for the six Rajya Sabha seats in Maharashtra was abruptly stopped on Friday after both the BJP and the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) objected to votes cast by each other, alleging violation of code of conduct rules.

The BJP urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to declare the votes cast by Jitendra Awadh (NCP), Yashomati Thakur (Congress) and Suhask Kande (Shiv Sena) as invalid. The MVA, on the other hand, also moved the poll body seeking that the votes cast by BJP's Sudhir Mungantiwar and Independent MLA Ravi Rana be declared invalid.

The BJP claimed that Awadh, Thakur and Kande had shown their ballot paper to party leaders instead of polling agents, which was against the poll procedure. It also pointed that these candidates had tried to hand over their ballot paper to their party leaders present at the venue, violating rules.

Following this, the MVA made similar charges against



Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray arrives at the Legislative Assembly on Friday. ANI

Mungantiwar and Ravi Rana for allegedly displaying their ballot papers to non-polling agents.

Seven candidates are in the fray for six seats — Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut and Sanjay Pawar, NCP's Praful Patel, Congress' Imran Pratapgadi and BJP's Piyush Goyal, Anil Bonde and Dhananjay Mahadik. The BJP, single largest party with 106 seats in the Assembly, had forced an election after it decided to field Mahadik from Kolhapur as its third candidate. A BJP leader said, "When Awadh, Thakur and Kande violated rules, we raised an alarm and

brought it to the notice of the election observer... But Congress and Sena's objections to Mungantiwar and Rana was an afterthought to settle political scores."

However, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, tweeted, "The BJP tried to intimidate members with ED threat. When they failed to do so and realigned members voted for MVA, they are using this new tactic to get three members' votes invalid."

An officer said, "We have provided the video recording on the entire election process to the EC. After receiving its nod, counting will start."

### In Karnataka, BJP bags three seats, Cong one amid cross-voting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, JUNE 10

THE RULING BJP in Karnataka bagged three of four Rajya Sabha seats for which elections were held on Friday after the Opposition, the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular), failed to forge an alliance and on account of cross-voting by two JDS legislators.

While the BJP's primary candidates — Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and film star S Jaggesh — were elected comfortably, along with the Congress party's sitting Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh, the BJP's third candidate Lahar Singh Siroya, a BJP treasurer, won the fourth seat after winning the highest number of votes among three candidates.

Congress' Mansoor Ali Khan, son of former Congress Rajya Sabha member K Rahman Khan, and the JDS party's Kupendra Reddy, a former Rajya Sabha MP and a real estate businessman, couldn't make it through. In a field where a candidate required a minimum of 45 votes to win, the

Congress with 70 MLAs fielded two candidates. Sitting MP Jairam Ramesh got 46 first preference votes and Mansoor Ali Khan 25.

The one additional vote in the Congress kitty is reported to have come due to a cross-vote by the JDS MLA Srinivasa Gowda from Kolar in favour of the second Congress candidate.

The BJP which has 121 MLAs assigned 46 first preference votes for Nirmala Sitharaman and 44 votes for the Kannada film actor Jaggesh. The remaining 31 votes were allocated to Lahar Singh, a close associate of former CM Yediyurappa, the third BJP candidate in the fray.

While the Sitharaman and Jaggesh garnered their assigned, Lahar Singh got 33 first preference votes reportedly on account of an Independent MLA H Nagesh and a JDS MLA Srinivas SR from Gubbi in Tumkur voting in favour of the third BJP candidate.

The cross-voting by the JDS candidates left party candidate Kupendra Reddy with only 30 votes leading to the victory of Lahar Singh.

### In Rajasthan, BJP suspends MLA for cross-voting

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, JUNE 10

DHOLPUR BJP MLA Shobharani Kushwah was on Friday suspended from the party's primary membership for cross voting in favour of a Congress candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls.

She has been issued a notice seeking a response within seven days, asking why she shouldn't be expelled for indiscipline.

Meanwhile, the Congress successfully elected all three of its candidates to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan — Randeep Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik and Pramod Tiwari — while staving off a competition from BJP-backed media baron Subhash Chandra, who contested as an independent. BJP veteran Ghanshyam Tiwari was also elected to the Upper House from Rajasthan.

While Kushwah faces the risk of being expelled from the BJP, over five years ago, it was her husband whose Assembly membership was terminated and he was jailed, leading to Shobharani's election. Now, her cross voting is being linked to her husband's imprisonment.

## With focus on kids, govt curbs misleading ads; prohibits surrogate advertisements

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

AN ADVERTISEMENT for junk foods, including chips, carbonated beverages and such other snacks and drinks shall not be advertised during a programme meant for children or on a channel meant exclusively for children, say new guidelines notified by the Centre to curb misleading advertisements.

The guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022, had been notified by the Department of Consumer Affairs on Thursday and have come into effect.

While the guidelines provide for regulation of bait, free claims and children-targeted advertisements, it prohibits surrogate advertisements.

The guidelines state: "An advertisement of any goods, product or service that addresses or targets children shall not — (a) be

### EXPLAINED E Constitutes unfair trade practice

UNDER SECTION 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, "misleading advertisement falsely describes a product or service; or gives a false guarantee to, or is likely to mislead the consumers as to the nature, substance, quantity or quality of a product or service; or conveys an express or implied representation, which, if made by the manufacturer or seller or service provider thereof, would constitute an unfair trade practice; or deliberately conceals important information".

such as to develop negative body image in children; (b) give any impression that such goods, products or services are better than the natural or traditional food that children may be consuming."

The guidelines, which have been finalised in consultation with the central ministries concerned, say: "Any advertisement that offers promotional gifts to persuade children to buy goods, product or service without ne-

cessity or promotes illogical consumerism shall be discouraged."

The guidelines, issued under Consumer Protection Act, 2019, also bars Indian citizens living abroad from endorsing such advertisements that have been barred for Indian professionals living in the country.

Endorsers are required to disclose their material connection with the endorsed product or service, the guidelines say, be-

sides specifying "duties" of manufacturer, service provider, advertiser and advertising agency.

"No surrogate advertisement or indirect advertisement shall be made for goods or services whose advertising is otherwise prohibited or restricted by law, by circumventing such prohibition or restriction and portraying it to be an advertisement for other goods or services, the advertising of which is not prohibited or restricted by law," states para 6(1) of the guidelines.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said: "Advertising is an important paradigm for consumer protection. The Consumer Protection Act has provision to handle misleading advertisements... But to make it more dear to the industry... the government has come out with very clear guidelines for fair advertising."

Nidhi Khare, additional secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, said the guidelines would apply to "all ads regardless of form, format or medium".

## Should present history in true form... who can stop us: Shah

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

URGING AUTHORS to focus on the stories of Indian kings who kept out foreign invaders, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday that "history cannot be created by the government" but "is built on actual incidents that took place" — and called for initiatives to present history in its "true form".

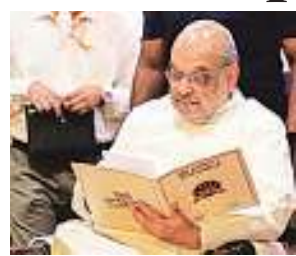
Lamenting that many battles fought by Indian kings against invaders have been forgotten, Shah said that those battles, such as the ones waged by Ahom kings in Assam and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Marathas, ensured that India reached where it has now.

Shah said that now, no one can stop the process of writing about these battles for the next generation. "It's a fact that some have distorted history. They have written whatever they had to. But who can stop us... nobody can stop us. History is not created by governments but built on true events," the senior BJP leader said while releasing the book, "Maharajas: A Thousand Year War for Dharma", authored by Omendra Ratnu, an ENT surgeon from Jaipur.

According to Shah, efforts to bring out facts through new history books should be "bigger and more intense than those that spread lies" so that they "can be effective".

The RSS and BJP have always maintained that history books in India were crafted by Left-oriented authors who, according to them, ignored the contributions of Hindu kings and kingdoms.

Shah had earlier urged filmmakers to focus on unsung heroes. In April, he was present at an event to mark the screening of "Vidroh", a TV serial based on



Amit Shah at the book launch on Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

the life of Odia freedom fighter Buxi Jagabandhu. Last week, he attended a special screening of Samrat Prithviraj, a movie on Prithviraj Chauhan.

On Friday, Shah warned that while books like "Maharajas", which is about "the resistance of Mewar kings for 1,000 uninterrupted years to Islamic invaders", will trigger debates through which youngsters will know about India's "glorious past", it will take a long time for them to get established.

"If we begin researching and writing history, it will start debates, and the younger generation will start discussions. But it's a long journey... Many significant events got forgotten as the dust of time has fallen on them. We have to unearth them and bring them before the people to awaken society," he said.

Shah urged authors to write on dynasties like Pandyas, Ahoms, Chalukyas, Mauryas, Guptas, etc, because those who wrote history "overlooked" and "did not bother" to write about them.

"There are no reference books, either. I want to say, one should give up making comments on it but write on them to bring out the real history before people. This will gradually make the history, which we consider as false, dis-

appear on its own," he said, adding that a number of authors are working in this direction now.

Shah said that although the Government has started initiatives to document "actual history", the exercise will be successful only when society takes it up as a mission.

"Had Veer Savarkar not been there, I can tell you, the truth about 1857 would not have come out... revolutions, which might have been defeated at that time, have the potential to awaken the society and the people. Padmavati's sacrifice had given energy to women and men to live their lives, keeping their heads high... Documenting history is important because the outcome of events or revolts is immaterial... it should be weighed on the impact it has on people," he said.

"The invaders finished the language, culture and traditions of the regions they attacked, but they had to stop here in India... I can say with pride that whoever had fought for India and sacrificed for India would be resting in peace now because we are making them proud after so many years," he said.

## ED issues fresh summons to Sonia Gandhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Congress president Sonia Gandhi to appear before the agency on June 23 in connection with a money laundering case related to the National Herald newspaper.

Sources said she was supposed to appear on June 8 but she asked for more time on account of Covid and now she has been asked to appear on June 23. A few days ago, ED issued fresh summons to Congress Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi, asking him to appear before the agency on June 13.

The Congress had earlier said the ED summoned its president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to appear before it on June 8. The Congress said the summons were received "just a few days ago" and Sonia would "100 per cent" appear before the ED. "If Rahul Gandhi is here... then he will also go. Otherwise, we will seek some time," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi had said.

Before summoning Sonia and Rahul, the ED had questioned Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal.

**AIR FORCE NURSERY SCHOOL**  
AIR FORCE STATION NEW DELHI  
(An English Medium Co-Education School)

**RECRUITMENT OF NTT (REGULAR)**

- Air Force Nursery School, Marut Camp, Raoc College invites applications against the regular post of NTT (initial appointment on probation).
- Eligibility for the post and other relevant details are available on the website of AF Schools [www.raocoursesschools.in](http://www.raocoursesschools.in)
- Decision of Chairman, School Management Committee for selection will be final and binding.

School Management

**ENROLLMENT FOR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING IN DESIGNATED TRADES (IT-24), AT DOCKYARD APPRENTICE SCHOOL, NAVAL DOCKYARD MUMBAI-23**

1. Naval Dockyard, Mumbai invites online applications on <https://dasapprenticembi.rectindia.in> from ITI qualified/fresher (Rigger) candidates (Male / Female) in various designated trades for enrollment into Apprenticeship training at Dockyard Apprentice School under Apprentice Act-1961 read in conjunction with Apprenticeship Rules 1992. A total of 338 vacancies as per distribution shown below are to be filled up:-

**ONE YEAR TRAINING**

Sl. No.	Apprenticeship Training Trade	Eligible ITI Trade	Vacancies	SC	ST	OBC	UR	PWBD	ARMED	Total
1	Electrician	Electrician	49	5	4	9	29	1	1	49
2	Electroplater	Electroplater	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
3	Marine Engine Fitter	Marine Engine Fitter	36	3	3	7	21	1	1	36
4	Foundry man	Foundry man	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
5	Pattern Maker	Carpenter/Pattern Maker	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
6	Mechanic Diesel	Mechanic Diesel	39	4	3	7	23	1	1	39
7	Instrument Mechanic	Instrument Mechanic	8	1	1	1	5	0	0	8
8	Machinist	Machinist	15	2	1	3	9	0	0	15
9	Mechanic Machine Tool Maintenance	Mechanic Machine Tool Maintenance	15	2	1	3	9	0	0	15
10	Painter (Gen)	Painter (Gen)	11	1	1	2	7	0	0	11
11	Sheet Metal Worker	Sheet Metal Worker	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
12	Pipe Fitter	Plumber	22	2	1	4	13	1	1	22
13	Mechanic Ref & AC	Mechanic Ref & AC	8	1	1	1	5	0	0	8
14	Tailor (General)	Dress making/Sewing Technology	4	0	0	1	2	0	1	4
15	Welder (Gas and Electric)	Welder	23	2	2	4	13	1	1	23
16	Electronics Mechanic	Electronics Mechanic	28	3	2	5	16	1	1	28
17	Shipwright wood	Carpenter	21	2	2	3	12	1	1	21
18	Fitter	Fitter	5	1	0	1	3	0	0	5
19	Mason Building Constructor	Mason (Building Constructor)	8	1	1	1	5	0	0	8
20	I&CTSM	I&CTSM/ITESM	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>			<b>303</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>303</b>

**TWO YEAR TRAINING**

Sl. No.	Apprenticeship Training Trade	Eligible ITI Trade	Vacancies	SC	ST	OBC	UR	PWBD	ARMED	TOTAL
1	Shipwright steel	Fitter	20	2	2	4	12	0	0	20
2	Rigger	Fresher ( 8 th Pass)	14	1	1	3	9	0	0	14
3	Forger and Heat Treater	Fresher ( 10 th Pass)	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>

The essential/ desirable educational qualifications for the one and two year training above would be as per extant policies in vogue for Apprentice training.

2. **Eligibility Conditions**

(a) **Qualifications.** Minimum educational qualification for a person to undergo apprenticeship training in Designated Trades shall be Std 10 passed (in accordance with Apprentice Act 1961) with a minimum of 50% marks in Std 10 examination along with ITI examination passed (Provisional National Trade Certificate acceptable) in relevant trade with aggregate of 65% marks. Further, the candidate should have passed relevant ITI/ trade test from any institute recognized by NCVT and should possess the qualification as on the closing date of application. Minimum qualification for candidates who are to be enrolled for Rigger as 'Fresher' shall be Std 8 pass (without ITI) and for forger & heat treater should be Std 10 pass (without ITI).

(b) **Age.** Born between **01 Aug 2001 to 31 Oct 2008**. Age relaxation for SC/ST as per extant rules and wards of Defence employees as per MoD letter FM/0442/NHQ/1278 D(N-II) dated 14 Nov 1996.

(c) **Minimum Physical Standards.** Height 150 cm, Weight not less than 45 Kg, Chest expansion not less than 5 cm, Eye sight 6/6 to 6/9 (6/9 corrected with glasses), external & internal organs to be normal. Physical fitness standards are as per MoD letter FM/0442/NHQ/1278 D(N-II) dated 14 Nov 1996.

(d) **Previous Training.** Candidates who have already undergone or are currently undergoing Apprenticeship under Apprentice Act – 1961 in any Govt/ Public Sector/ Private Industrial organisation are not eligible to apply for the current enrollment.

4. **Scheme of Examination.** Candidates meeting the eligibility conditions as indicated at Para 3 above would be called for written examination scheduled to be held at Mumbai in Aug 22. The written examination of 2 hrs duration would comprise of 100 Multiple Choice Questions on General Science, General Knowledge and Mathematics.

5. **Centre of Examination.** The Centre of examination will be Mumbai only. The exact date, time and venue of written examination would be intimated to candidates through online call letters on their registered email IDs only. Candidates are advised to check their email regularly.

6. **Travel/ Expenses.** No travel expenses are admissible for candidates called for Written/ Interview/ Skill Test.

7. **Boarding/ Lodging.** Candidates called for Written/ Interview/ Skill Test are to arrange their own boarding and lodging. No accommodation will be provided to candidate by the Naval Dockyard during the entire selection Process.

8. Candidates are advised to login <https://dasapprenticembi.rectindia.in>, which will be opened on 21 Jun 22 for submission of online application and closed on 08 Jul 22 or go through employment news being published on 18 Jun 22 for detailed advertisement. ASD Mbi reserves the right to make change vacancies (increase or decrease) or cancel or postpone the recruitment without assigning any reason

**FOR ANY CLARIFICATION/ ASSISTANCE, CANDIDATE MAY E-MAIL/ CONTACT AT**  
E-mail: [navaldockmumbai2@gmail.com](mailto:navaldockmumbai2@gmail.com)  
Helpdesk Number – 033-24140047

Davy-10702/11/0034/2223



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



STAND AGAINST INTEREST

AN ATTEMPT to change in the way MPLADS funds are utilised by the MPs has been opposed vehemently by the committee on MPLADS in the Rajya Sabha with the members unanimously deciding to seek a response from the Finance ministry. The committee, which met earlier this week, has taken a letter written by CPI-M MP John Brittas, agreed that the proposal that any interest accrued on the Rs 5 crore annual funds allotted to MPs of both the Houses would go back to the Centre was a bid to bypass Parliament. Brittas had written to the Finance Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman, who directed the committee to take up the matter. In the letter the MP had pointed out that the Finance ministry cannot amend the guidelines without taking the committees into confidence.

COOL CONCLAVE

CHIEF SECRETARIES of all states and Union Territories, along with senior officials of key Central ministries, are headed to the colder climes of Dharamshala next week to participate in a conclave. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to participate in the deliberations to be held between June 15-17, it is learnt. The ministries participating in the annual conference of the chief secretaries include Education, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Top bureaucrats in Delhi are busy holding preparatory meetings to firm up the agenda of the conclave.

LIGHT FIGHT

AT A panel discussion of women's participation in electoral politics held in New Delhi on Friday, BJP spokesperson Anila Singh and Aam Aadmi Party MLA Sanjeev Jha came to blows several times. Singh first accused AAP of not including a single woman minister in its cabinet, Jha then ribbed Singh for greeting the audience by saying "Ram Ram" and not "Siyā Ram", in a debate that centred around women's empowerment. As the light-hearted bickering continued through the discussion, Jha finally quipped, "This is because we are engaged in TV debates all the time - so we have become used to bickering with each other!"

AMID FURORE OVER HYDERABAD GANGRAPE

Telangana Governor conducts 'mahila darbar', TRS fumes

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 10

MORE THAN 100 women turned up at the "mahila darbar" held on Friday by Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan. The Governor had announced that the event would be held to "hear the unheard voices of women" as part of the public engagement programme "praja darbar" at Raj Bhavan. Most of the women who turned up for the mahila darbar raised grievances related to jobs, transfers, police cases, or the lackadaisical attitude of government officials towards addressing their problems.



Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan during the mahila darbar. Express

claims that the "mahila darbar" she held was unconstitutional.

Among the women who raised issues at the event was a teacher from Nagarkurnool, who requested that the Governor suggest to the government that measures be taken to prevent girls from dropping out of school. A representative of a women's NGO submitted an application complaining that police had unnecessarily filed a case against one of its members. Another woman, a government employee, wanted a transfer to her home town. Speaking to the women, the Governor said, "If women are in distress and feel unsafe, I cannot just sit and watch. I will stand up for them."

U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd.  
(ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)  
Visheshwaraiya Bhawan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Notice No. 421/P.M./ (रायबरेली इकाई)/E-Tender/RNN/2022  
Dated: 06.06.2022

E-Tender Notice

On behalf of U.P.R.N.N., E-Tenders are invited for Construction of Auditorium in Herbal Garden of Govt. Homeopathic Medical College, District Lucknow.

The tender should be submitted online up to 2:00 PM on or before 27.06.2022.

The technical bid shall be opened on 27.06.2022 at 3:00 PM.

Project Manager  
Raebareli Unit, Raebareli

UTTAR PRADESH SHASAN  
PARIVAHAN ANUBHAG-4  
In pursuance of the provisions of clause (3) of Article 348 of the Constitution of India, the Governor is pleased to order the publication of the following English translation of notification no.13/2022/698/XXX-4-2022, dated 09 June, 2022  
Notification  
No. 13/2022/698/XXX-4-2022  
Lucknow: Dated 09 June, 2022  
In exercise of the powers under sub-section (1) of section 67 of The Motor Vehicle Act 1988 (Act No. 59 of 1988), the Governor is pleased to issue direction both to the State Transport Authority and Regional Transport Authority and the officers authorized by concerned State Transport Authority or Regional Transport Authority for auto approval of short term special permit for maximum one week having regard to ease of doing business.  
By order,  
L.Venkateshwar Lu  
Pramukh Sachiv

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय भण्डार, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान  
जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून।  
ई-निविदा सूचना  
दिनांक : 10.06.2022

निविदा सं.	कार्य विवरण	घरोंहर घनराशि रु.	ई-निविदा प्रपत्र जलनवीकृत करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा अगलौड करने की प्रारंभ एवं अंतिम तिथि व समय	ई-निविदा सूचना क्र. 7 अनुसार मूल बोडो जाने प्रपत्र विषय में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बिड की तिथि व समय	निविदा की वेबसाइट	प्रि-बिड-निविदा से सम्बन्धित सुझाव/संशोधन ई-मेल से send करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
4/22-23	वार्षिक दर अनुबंध पर Sodium Hypochlorite solution Grade-II with minimum available chlorine (Cl) 12.5% to 15% mass by volume conforming to specification as per I.S.: 11673/1992 with latest amendments for Drinking Water Purpose की आपूर्ति।	10,58,000.00	13.06.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 24.06.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	24.06.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 24.06.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	25.06.2022 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	www.uptd.gov.in	uptd@uptd.gov.in

अधिसूचना: Only manufacturers of Sodium Hypochlorite solution Grade-II conforming to specification as per I.S.: 11673/1992 are allowed to take part in this tender.  
ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयां व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uptd.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट http://ujls.uk.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

PROTESTS OVER REMARKS AGAINST THE PROPHET  
Internet shut in Ranchi following violence



Carts set on fire during a protest in Ranchi on Friday. PTI

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, JUNE 10

INTERNET SERVICES were suspended indefinitely on Friday in Ranchi district following violence during protests to condemn the recent remarks against the Prophet. One protester died of bullet wounds and another was on ventilator, while two police personnel were among about a dozen people injured in the violence.

The protesters were demanding the arrest of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma for her remarks against the Prophet, police said.

SP Ranchi (rural) Naushad Alam said, "One of the protesters died of bullet injury. Twelve others who are admitted to the Rajender Institute of Medical Sciences and Hospital have injuries caused due to stone pelting as well as pellets."

According to police officials, the protest was continuing since

morning and picked up tempo after Friday prayers. Many shops and establishments kept their shutters down in protest against the remarks.

Sources in the district administration said the protesters were marching on the 'Main Road' area of Ranchi between 2.30 pm and 3 pm when it became violent and the police were unable to control them. Police resorted to firing in the air to disperse the crowd.

Ranchi SSP Surender Jha suffered a concussion on the skull after a stone hit the helmet he was wearing. Ranchi City SP and another policeman were hospitalised with injuries on their legs.

A press release issued by the Information and Public Relations Department said: "The district administration has invoked Section 144 (CrP) on both sides of the Main Road starting from Sujata Chowk to Firyal Chowk."

A source in the district administration said: "What triggered the entire sequence of

events is a matter of investigation. Right now our priority is to check any kind of violence and the police are there at the spot. Both police and the protesters have been injured and we are trying to figure out the number of injured. Some vehicles have also been damaged in the area."

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said: "I suddenly got to know and it is worrisome. In fact, the entire topic is worrisome as we are becoming targets of some force in a planned manner. I want to tell via the media that people of Jharkhand have tolerance. We all are passing through testing times, and we should lose our patience. Even the constitution says the same thing that the oppressors should be punished. I will appeal to the public that no one should be part of any crime."

Ranchi DC Chhavi Ranjan said: "I appeal to the people of Ranchi to maintain calm and not to believe in any kind of rumours and refrain from spreading one."



Protesters in Kolkata. Partha Paul

Unrest in Howrah as protesters block roads, clash with police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

UNREST ERUPTED at several places in West Bengal's Howrah district for the second consecutive day on Friday with protesters clashing with police personnel, setting kiosks, two-wheelers and several vehicles on fire. In Uleberia and Panchla areas, local BJP party offices were also set on fire allegedly by protesters who demanded action against former BJP spokespersons Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal.

The state government has temporarily suspended Internet services in rural areas of the Howrah district.

The government order came into force with immediate effect and will remain valid till 6 am on



During a protest in Howrah on Friday. PTI

June 13 (Monday). "However, no restriction is being imposed on voice calls and SMS and on newspapers, hence communication and dissemination of knowledge and information is not stopped in any way," the order said.

In Dhulagarh, protesters pelted stones at police on Friday. Police used batons and fired tear-

gas shells to disperse the crowd. In Uleberia, protesters set fire on police kiosks and several vehicles. They also blocked a highway for a few hours. RAF and Combat Force personnel were deployed to control the situation.

A police station in Domjur was allegedly attacked by the protesters while several vehicles were destroyed after police tried to stop them from agitating. Sources said 12 police personnel were injured in the attack. Police have imposed section 144 of the CrP in several areas in Howrah district.

Similar protests were also reported in Panchla. The BJP claimed that two of its party offices were burnt down by protesters in Panchla and Uleberia areas.

In Kolkata, protesters blocked Park Circus seven-point crossing for over two hours.

AIMPLB to Muslim scholars: Avoid TV debates meant only to insult Islam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE ALL India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) issued an appeal on Friday to all Islamic scholars and intellectuals to "not participate in television debates whose sole intention is to mock and insult Islam and Muslims". The appeal came amid protests in different parts of the country over remarks made against the

Prophet by now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma during a TV debate.

The AIMPLB statement said that instead of being in service to Islam, by participation in such debates, Muslims "become the reason for their own direct insult by involving Islam and Muslims".

"The intention of these programmes is not to reach any conclusion through constructive discourse, but to ridicule and

defame Islam and Muslims. To gather some legitimacy, these TV channels need Muslim faces in their debates... If we boycott such programmes and TV channels, not only will it affect their TRP negatively, but they will also fail in achieving their desired outcome through these debates," the statement said.

AIMPLB spokesperson Dr S Q R Ilyas said, "There are some TV channels that are not carrying out such debates to truly

understand an issue or reach some conclusion. They are simply being conducted for polarising society on communal lines. They, more often than not, defame a particular community, religion and particular personalities - like in the Nupur Sharma debate. By insulting the Prophet, she had not only targeted Indian Muslims, but Muslims around the world. The backlash from the international community was, there-

fore, inevitable and has tarnished India's image internationally. Our view is that by participating in such discussions, they (the TV channels and these debates) are being given legitimacy, which we will no longer do."

Ilyas said the board had already commented on the Nupur Sharma controversy and had said that a mere suspension was not "sufficient action" taken by the BJP.

"There should be legal action taken against those party persons who have been responsible. Legal action is being taken against protesters who are protesting their remarks, but no legal action against those who have made these objectionable remarks. We have also raised the question as to why there has been no statement or response from the Prime Minister or Home Minister about this issue. Why are they silent?" Ilyas asked.

MODI IN GUJARAT'S NAVSARI

Development not for polls but for people: PM

KAMAAL SAIYED  
NAVSARI, JUNE 10

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said his government's development projects were "not to win elections" but for the "good of the people". It is the "people who make us win elections", he said during the Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan event at Khudvel village of Chikhli taluka in Navsari district Friday.

"When we do work, some people taunt, saying (we are doing this) because of the upcoming elections. In our tenure, find one week, when we have not done one work of development... I am compelled to say this because in 2018, when I announced this project, some people said—the Lok Sabha elections are coming in 2019. So Modi saheb has come to show us aamba-aamli (dreams)... but today, I am proud that we have proved them false and we have taken water to homes. If we had to do this to win elections, then we wouldn't do this magajmaari (take the trouble) for 200-300 votes... we don't

do this to win elections; we have come to do good for the people. It is the people who make us win elections," the PM said. Modi laid foundation stones, inaugurated and dedicated projects worth Rs 3,050 crore during his day-long visit to Gujarat.

The projects that Modi inaugurated included a GMERS Medical College at Navsari, Astol water supply project for different villages in Kaprada and Dharampur taluka of Valsad district that covers nearly 4.5 lakh people.

He emphasised that members from the Adivasi community also have a right to clean drinking water. "It is for them that I have taken up these campaigns; not to win elections," Modi stated.

The Prime Minister said the entire world was hit by Covid-19, but it was only India that provided such a large vaccine coverage of 200 crore doses. "It is in our culture to care for those living in the faraway jungles," Modi said.

Without naming former chief minister of Gujarat, Amarsinh Chaudhary, who was a tribal, he said, "There was a time in Gujarat when there was a chief minister from this very region, this Adivasi region, and his own village had no water tank. They would install hand pumps that would dry up in a year and a half. When I took the responsibility of Gujarat, I built a water tank in his village."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his school teacher Jagdish Naik in Navsari on Friday. PTI

Modi meets his primary school teacher in Navsari

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NAVSARI, JUNE 10

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi met his primary school teacher Jagdish Naik at the inaugural event of a Multispecialty and Cancer hospital complex at Navsari on Friday afternoon.

Sources said that Naik was accompanied by his daughter and son-in-law who had VIP invitations.

Naik had sent a word to PM Narendra Modi identifying himself as his primary school teacher when he was studying in a school at Vadnagar, said the

source. PM Modi invited him to a private room, where the two met.

Confirming the meeting, Gujarat BJP president CR Paatil, who was also present, said, "The meeting was excellent, and the teacher felt proud of his student who had become prime minister of India. Naik had put his hand on the head of PM Modi and blessed him. It was a pleasant and memorable moment for us and for them, as after a long time, they met each other," Paatil added.

Sources said that Naik stays with his daughter, who works in the irrigation department and is posted in Tapi district.

# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

President Kovind reaches Himachal on a two-day visit

ENS & PTI  
SHIMLA/NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind on Friday arrived at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh on a two-day visit to the state.

Security has been tightened in view of the President's visit with paragliding, flying of drones and hot air balloons being prohibited in Lahaul-Spiti and Kullu districts on June 11 when he is scheduled to visit Atal Tunnel Rohtang.

The President will preside over the sixth convocation of the central university in Dharamshala in Kangra district in the evening. He will visit Atal Tunnel Rohtang, which connects Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti districts, on Saturday. The prestigious tunnel was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020.

Army Chief Gen Pande in HP, Uttarakhand

Army Chief General Manoj Pande reviewed the operational preparedness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on Friday. This is his maiden visit to the central sector of the India-China border.

The Army said in a statement that Pande is on a three-day visit to the forward areas on the LAC in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. "This is the maiden visit of the Army Chief to this sector," since he took over in May.

During his visits to the posts, Pande was briefed by the local commanders about the prevailing situation along the borders, and he held a "first-hand assessment of the operational preparedness in forward areas". The Army said that Pande "emphasised the need for vigil and alertness along the borders" and expressed satisfaction "on the rapid improvement of defensive posture and operational readiness of formation". He also appreciated the absorption of "modern technology in undertaking persistent surveillance."

CHHATTISGARH

## 10-yr-old boy falls into borewell; rescue ops on

GARGI VERMA  
RAIPUR, JUNE 9

RESCUE ATTEMPTS were on in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir after a 10-year-old boy fell into a borewell allegedly while playing behind his house.

According to sources, Lala Sahu, a resident of Piharid village in Janjgir-Champa district, had got a borewell dug behind his house. On Friday afternoon, his son Rahul allegedly fell into it.

The district collector and Superintendent of Police, along with other officials, were pres-

## Bishnoi gang hired Maharashtra shooters to kill Moosewala: police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE DELHI Police said on Friday that Siddhesh Hiran Kamble alias Saurav alias Mahakal, who was arrested in Pune earlier this week, had introduced two Maharashtra-based shooters to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which police say carried out the murder of Punjab singer-politician Sidhu Moosewala.

According to police, Kamble told them that he introduced the shooters to Bishnoi's aide, Vikram Brar, after which they were hired for Rs 3 lakh each, and that he also got Rs 50,000 for the introduction.

Special CP (Special Cell) H S Dhaliwal told the media in Delhi that police gathered vital information against four of the eight men who allegedly shot Moosewala. "Mahakal was interrogated and he told police that he had introduced two Maharashtra-based shooters, Santosh Jadhav and Navnath Suryavanshi, to Brar," he said. "Brar is currently in Canada. He was earlier working with the gangster Anandpal of Rajasthan, but after Anandpal was killed in

## SC rejects pleas seeking another round of counselling for NEET-PG

Says govt decision not arbitrary, but in interest of medical education, public health

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE SUPREME Court on Friday dismissed petitions seeking another round of counselling for vacant seats in the NEET-PG All India Quota, pointing out that eight to nine rounds had already been held and the Centre's decision to not hold another round of counselling is not arbitrary, but in the interest of medical education and public health.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Aniruddha Bose said most of the 1,456 vacant seats are in non-clinical courses and that

"students cannot still pray for admissions for those seats remaining vacant after approximately one year of the academic session and remaining vacant after 8 or 9 rounds of counselling".

Referring to the decisions of the apex court in two earlier matters that raised similar prayers, the bench said applying the law laid down by the court in those decisions to the facts of this case, the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) and the Union of India "have to adhere to the time schedule for completing the admission process".

It added that "the current ad-

mission of NEET-2021 is already behind schedule and even after conducting 8-9 rounds of counselling, some seats of mainly non-technical courses remain vacant. Thereafter, when a conscious decision is taken by the Centre and the medical council not to conduct a further special stray round of counselling, it cannot be said that the same is arbitrary".

"The decision is in the interest of medical education and public health. There cannot be any compromise with the merit and the quality of medical education that will ultimately affect public health," the bench said, dismissing the petitions.

Oposing the prayer for another round of counselling, the Centre had on Thursday told the Supreme Court that nine rounds of counselling had already taken place and that a large chunk of vacancies was a consequence of candidates not taking up non-clinical seats.

Additional Solicitor General Balbir Singh, appearing for the Centre and the MCC, said seats remaining vacant was a "structural issue" as many candidates who opted for non-clinical, paramedical or teaching seats ended up not taking admission. "There are some seats in private medical colleges too where fee is very high," he added.



## HEAVY RAINS WREAK HAVOC IN PUNE

Heavy rains led to traffic snarls, uprooting of trees, wall collapse and water-logging in Maharashtra's Pune on Friday. Ashish Kale

Cop shoots self dead after killing woman in Bengal

Kolkata: A police constable allegedly went on a shooting spree, killing a woman and injuring two others before shooting himself dead in central Kolkata's crowded Park Circus area on Friday, said police.

"Two persons, a woman and the policeman, died and two others sustained bullet injuries in the incident," confirmed ACP Praveen Tripathi. The constable was identified as Chodup Lepcha, said police. Police identified the woman as Rima Singh (28) from Dasnagar in Howrah.

"We will investigate every aspect of the incident..." said Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal. **ENS & PTI**

## NHRC issues notices to Ministry, SAI over woman cyclist's charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE NATIONAL Human Rights Commission has sought a "detailed report" from the Union Sports Ministry and Sports Authority of India on allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" levelled by a woman cyclist against the national sprint team chief coach during a camp in Slovenia.

The Commission which took suo motu cognisance of media reports dated June 7, 8, and 9 of the developments said that if what has been reported is true, it amounts to violation of the victim sportsperson's human rights.

Issuing notice to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Director General, SAI, the Commission sought their responses in four weeks.

The "detailed report", it said, should include the status of phys-

ical and mental health of the victim, action, if any, taken against the responsible officer including the coach concerned.

An NHRC release on Friday said: "It is strange to know that instead of reining in the coach, the Sports Authority of India reportedly chose to bring the victim back to India thereby depriving her of training overseas for which she had been selected. The Right to Dignity of the victim has purported to have been violated..."

The Commission said "if the allegations mentioned in the news reports are true and no action is taken by the authorities with regard to such incidents, other female sports persons will not only feel unsafe but will be reluctant to complain against perpetrators..."

"The subject also falls under ambit of the Sexual Harassment of Women at work place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013...", the release said.

## Fear in Karnataka town after 4 die due to contaminated water

KIRAN PARASHAR  
BENGALURU, JUNE 10

"EVERY TIME we pick up a tumbler to drink water, we feel scared. We fear whether we are really drinking water or poison," says Mohammed Hafizullah, a resident of Raichur, a town in Karnataka where four people have died and hundreds have undergone treatment since last week due to consumption of contaminated water.

Raichur town, with a population of about 2.5 lakh people, is situated in a border district of north Karnataka. Since last week, the town has been facing a water contamination problem, with many still in hospital after suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting.

According to the locals, all 35 wards of Raichur town get drinking water from Rampuru reservoir. Locals allege that unfiltered water was supplied to the city, leading to health problems.

Raichur District Deputy Commissioner Chandrashekhar Nayaka L told *The Indian Express* that the filtration units were not cleaned for some time and it had

led to the water contamination. "Now, we are supplying water by chlorinating it from overhead tank (OHT) and we are also checking pipelines to see if there are any problems," he added.

Sixteen-year-old Rajeshwari's mother Mallamma, 40, was one of the four people who died. "My mother died last week after drinking contaminated water. She used to work in the Roti Kendra and my father is a coolie worker. A lot of residents here fell sick and suffered from diarrhoea and vomiting," says Rajeshwari, an Indiranagar resident. "She passed away due to complications. The doctors indicated that it could have been due to the polluted water."

Samreena, 22, who works in a private firm in Raichur, fell ill when she returned to her hometown. "I came home on Sunday and the next morning, I started vomiting and had diarrhoea. I got admitted as my grandmother was already admitted for the same reason," she said.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Director Dr Basavaraj V Peerapur said that 33 patients were under treat-

ment there, including nine children. "Patients came to us complaining of diarrhoea, vomiting, dehydration and acute renal infection. We are giving them high fluids and in severe cases, some of them have undergone dialysis. This might be due to a bacteria or viral infection," he said.

Asked about the water supply for the hospital, Basavaraj said, "We have a reverse osmosis plant in the hospital and all the patients here use the same. There are filters on every floor and we have instructed the patients to use the same."

Raichur District Deputy Commissioner Chandrashekhar Nayaka L told *The Indian Express* that the filtration unit was not cleaned for some time and it had led to the water contamination. "There are three sources for bulk water supply and we are looking at all the levels," he said. "The automated water filtration unit which was unveiled a couple of years ago is yet to be handed over to the town municipality as there are some technical issues but the old filtration units are being used. As it was not cleaned for some time, it led to an incident like this."

## Protest grows in Kerala against SC directive on ESZs

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JUNE 10

PROTEST IS mounting in the hilly regions of Kerala against the Supreme Court direction last week that every protected forest tract and wildlife sanctuary must have an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of one kilometre from its boundaries.

Idukki district observed a dusk-to-dusk hartal on Friday, called by the ruling CPI(M), seeking the Union government's intervention on the Supreme Court directive. The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) has also called for a hartal on June 16 in the district, which had witnessed a series of protests in 2013-14 against the recommendations of the Kasturirangan committee report on the Western Ghats.

In Wayanad district, various political parties, farmers' outfits and trade bodies have charted out protests in the coming weeks. The CPI(M) and Congress are conducting separate protest marches in Wayanad on Friday.

Political parties and farmers' outfits in Kerala have been demanding that all human settlements be exempted from the ESZ. The new directive has come at a time when hilly regions in the state have been witnessing an unprecedented spurt in wildlife attacks.

Last Friday, a three-judge bench of the apex court directed all states to leave a mandatory eco-sensitive zone of one kilometre from the boundaries of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and other protected forest land. The court was considering a public interest litigation for the protection of forest lands in the

Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. Later, the scope of the petition was enlarged to protect such natural resources throughout the country.

Kerala forest minister A K Saseendran said the state wanted all human settlements to be excluded from the purview of the ESZ.

"In Kerala, there are 24 wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court order came at a time when we have already submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change our proposals on the ESZ of 20 sanctuaries, completely excluding the human habitats from the buffer zone. If the court directive is implemented, it would impact farmers in the state's hilly regions. Besides, we have to start the process of demarcating the ESZ once again," he said.

After a high-level meeting, Saseendran said the state government would move a review petition in the Supreme Court. The state would explore a suggestion in the apex court order, which said "the minimum width of the ESZ may be diluted in overwhelming public interest but for that purpose the State or Union Territory concerned shall approach the Central Empowered Committee and Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change".

Kerala Independent Farmers' Association (KIFA) chairman Alex Ozhukayil said the court verdict would have far-reaching consequences. "The total extent of the wildlife sanctuaries in Kerala is eight lakh acres. If one km of ESZs is demarcated from their boundaries, around 4 lakh acres of human settlements, including farmlands, would come within that purview. This would be a matter of sheer survival of lakhs of people," he said.

## Protests after lawyer kills self in Rajasthan; SDM, SHO booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAIPUR, JUNE 10

PROTESTS WERE held in several districts in Rajasthan on Friday by advocates' organisations following the alleged suicide of a 40-year-old lawyer in Sikar district's Khandela on Thursday.

According to the police, a sub-divisional officer (SDO), along with the SHO of the local police station have been booked for abetment to suicide.

"Advocate Hansraj Mawaliya poured petrol on himself on Thursday before he self-immolated. After setting himself on fire Mawaliya entered the chamber of Khandela SDO Rakesh Kumar and tried to touch him. The SDO somehow managed to free himself but sustained burn injuries in the process. Mawaliya was taken to Jaipur but was subsequently declared dead. He had sustained around 70 per cent burn injuries," said Ratan Lal Bhargava, additional superintendent of police, Nim Ka Thana, Sikar.

According to the police, in a detailed suicide note, Mawaliya accused SDO Kumar of demanding bribes in revenue-related case hearing matters and accused Ghansi Ram, the SHO of Khandela police station of harassment.

"Based on complaints submitted by lawyers, we have registered an FIR against SDO Kumar and SHO Ram under section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC. An FIR was also registered on the complaint of the SDO against Mawaliya for offences including those under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC. Mawaliya, while himself on fire, had tried to drag the SDO too," said Additional SP Bhargava.

The death of Mawaliya resulted in massive protests by lawyers in several districts. In Jaipur, angry lawyers blocked roads and boycotted work.

## Mumbai logs 1,956 new Covid cases, highest since Jan

Maharashtra records 3,081 fresh infections on Friday; capital's test positivity rate stood at 12.74%

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY  
MUMBAI, JUNE 10

OF THE 3,081 new Covid-19 cases witnessed across Maharashtra on Friday, 1,956 infections were from Mumbai alone.

For the first time since January 23, Mumbai recorded Covid-19 cases as high as 1,956 on Friday. This is a 15 per cent surge, as the city had reported 1,702 cases a day before. The test positivity rate (TPR) – the number of positive cases out of the total tests conducted – reached 12.74 per cent in the city on Friday.

As the BMC had increased testing numbers to 17,145 on Tuesday, TPR had dropped to 7.2 per cent with 1,242 new cases being recorded. The next day,



A vaccination camp in Navi Mumbai on Friday. Narendra Vaskar

19,185 tests were conducted and 1,765 new infections were de-

tected. The TPR was then 9.1 per cent and the daily caseload had

surged by 42 per cent. On Thursday, testing numbers dipped to 17,648, with Mumbai recording 1,702 new cases with a TPR of 9.64 per cent.

The TPR climbed to 12.74 per cent on Friday, as testing figures further dipped to 15,346.

Between December 21-27, 2021 – the week before the third wave started in Mumbai – a whopping 2,45,538 tests were conducted in the city. An average of over 35,000 tests were conducted daily. Of these, 4,263 cases were detected with a TPR of 1.7 per cent. In a sharp contrast, the current TPR is hovering between 9-13 per cent.

Health experts are concerned that low testing can lead to under-reporting of Covid-19 cases in Mumbai. Soumitra Ghosh from School of Health Systems Studies, TISS, said, "In any pan-

dem, testing holds the priority in surveillance and containment measures. Low testing can later overwhelm the health infrastructure."

Despite repeated attempts, Sanjeev Kumar, BMC additional commissioner, was not available for comments.

However, as the severity of the infection is less, health experts overruled as blip the speculation about the advent of a fourth wave. Dr Ishwar Gilada, an expert in infectious diseases, said, "The only noticeable change has been the possibility of BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants of Omicron driving the surge, coupled with low vaccination. So long as the demand for oxygen and hospital beds do not increase and deaths are not reported, there is no cause for concern."

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH  
O-455  
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020. E-mail address-serw\_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online- RWCCESNG-12 of 2022-23, Letter No. 1591/Dtd. 10.06.2022  
**e-Procurement NOTICE**

- Type of the Work : Bridge (BSY)
- Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
- Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
- Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
- Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
- Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender	Date & Time of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-12 of 2022-23	20.06.2022 11:00 AM	11.07.2022 5:00 PM	08.07.2022 5:00 PM 12.07.2022 11:00 AM

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer  
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh  
OIPR- 25133/11/0017/2223

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Shakina D/o Rafik R/o D-37, Shiv Vihar, J.J. Colony, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi** has been missing since 15.03.2022 from the area of P.S. Uttam Nagar, New Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 32A dated 16.03.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Uttam Nagar, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Shakina**  
Age: 20 Years, Height: 5'2". Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Hair: Black, Wearing: White Colour Suit & Salwar and Slipper in feet.  
Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi at E-mail [ldcic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:ldcic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Phone: SHO 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Uttam Nagar, New Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639 Dwarka Distt., Delhi  
DP/182/DW/2022 Ph. No. 011-25377600, 25377425

**लद्दाख केंद्र शासन / THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH**  
लद्दाख स्वायत्त पहल्लि विकास परिषद, लेह/  
LADAKH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LEH  
सचिव का कार्यालय/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
लेह स्वायत्त पहल्लि विकास-अधीनस्थ सेवा भती बॉर्ड/LEH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT-SUBORDINATE SERVICE RECRUITMENT BOARD  
F.No.DE&CCL/SSRB/Tender/1714-17

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
NIT NO.: 01-LAHD-SSRB-2022 DATED: 11.06.2022

For and on behalf of U. Governor, UT Ladakh tenders are invited from eligible, reputed and qualified IT Firms with sound Technical and financial capabilities for Implementation and maintenance of Computer Based System for conducting Recruitment/Examination of LAHD-SSRB.

Name of Item	Specification	Period of contract
Online examination (Computer Based Test): Conduct and Processing of Examinations of LAHD-SSRB	As per RFP	Three Years (can be extended)

The RFP document can be downloaded from the website of Leh District at <https://leh.nic.in/> and LAHD-SSRB at <https://www.lahdsrb.in/> as per schedule of dates given below:

Sl.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11.06.2022
ii) <th>Date of publishing of Tender</th> <td>13.06.2022 (04.00 PM)</td>	Date of publishing of Tender	13.06.2022 (04.00 PM)
iii) <th>Last date for pre Bid Queries</th> <td>18.06.2022 (04.00 PM)</td>	Last date for pre Bid Queries	18.06.2022 (04.00 PM)
iv) <th>Pre-Bid Meeting (link will be provided to the interested bidders)</th> <td>24.06.2022</td>	Pre-Bid Meeting (link will be provided to the interested bidders)	24.06.2022
v) <th>Last date and time for bid submission</th> <td>08.07.2022 (04.00 PM)</td>	Last date and time for bid submission	08.07.2022 (04.00 PM)
vi) <th>Date of opening of Technical bid</th> <td>11.07.2022</td>	Date of opening of Technical bid	11.07.2022
vii) <th>Date of opening of Financial bid</th> <td>To be communicated later, to the technically qualified bidders.</td>	Date of opening of Financial bid	To be communicated later, to the technically qualified bidders.

Sd/-  
सचिव, लेह स्वायत्त पहल्लि विकास-अधीनस्थ सेवा भती बॉर्ड/Secretary, LAHD-SSRB/  
उप निदेशक/Deputy Director,  
जिला रोजगार एवं परामर्श केंद्र, लेह/District Employment & Counselling Center Leh

**कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)**  
ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट निविदा सूचना

क्र./2022 दिनांक 06.06.2022

एकोकृत पंचायत प्रणाली अंतर्गत सखम श्रेणी में पंचायत विकास योजना के अंतर्गत से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु (Online) अनलॉन्ड निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि
1	इन्क्यूटी.पी. कोरडिया के पीछे आर.सी.सी. नाला निर्माण कार्य (14वें वित्त आवेग) (प्रथम निविदा)	124.94	27.06.2022 (T.No. 101848)
2	टी.पी. नगर अंतर्गत इन्क्यूटी.पी. नाला का निर्माण कार्य (14वें वित्त आवेग) (प्रथम निविदा)	119.85	27.06.2022 (T.No. 101849)
3	सोपा भवन (गृह) के सामने आर.सी.सी. नाला का निर्माण (पुराने कोर्ट भवन पुल क्रमांक 01 डिग्रायू रोड से पुल क्रमांक 02 तक) (14वें वित्त आवेग) (प्रथम निविदा)	152.00	27.06.2022 (T.No. 101850)
4	वार्ड क्र. 21 के सी.सी. कॉलेज के रास्ते घाटघर से चौड़ा चौक तक आर.सी.सी. नाला का निर्माण कार्य (14वें वित्त आवेग) (प्रथम निविदा)	110.09	27.06.2022 (T.No. 101873)
5	कोरबा जेल अंतर्गत वैष्णव दरवार मंदिर से मेन नाला तक आर.सी.सी. नाला का निर्माण (15वें वित्त आवेग) (प्रथम निविदा)	199.74	27.06.2022 (T.No. 101863)
6	कोरबा जेल वार्ड क्र. 12 अंतर्गत एस.ई.सी.एल. मेन गेट से मुंडारन तालाब होते हुये शारदा विहार नाला तक आर.सी.सी. नाला निर्माण कार्य (15वें वित्त आवेग) (प्रथम निविदा)	142.28	27.06.2022 (T.No. 101865)

उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा को जानकारी ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है, साथ ही निगम के वेब साइट [www.korbanunicipal.in](http://www.korbanunicipal.in) एवं [www.korba.urbancng.gov.in](http://www.korba.urbancng.gov.in) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

॥ स्वच्छ भारत निर्माण में योगदान दे ॥

कार्यालय अभियंता  
नगर पालिक निगम  
कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

39761

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**

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

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

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

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**

Sr.DEN/II/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No 49-DRM-MB-22-23 closing date 05.07.2022 16:00 hrs. Name of work: Hiring of Multi Utility Vehicle for SSE/P Way & SSE/W for two years under Sr. DEN/II/MB. Tender closing date/time- 05.07.2022 16:00, Cost of work Rs.- 5947646.99, Earnest Money Rs. 119000.00, Tender Cost Rs. 5000.00, Bidding start date - 21.06.2022 and Period of Completion 24 Months. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For detail information please log into [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No. 49-DRM-MB-22-23 Dated : 09.06.2022 1423/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**

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

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

Tender No. TS225081 Due on 07.07.2022

Description of Item: Manufacturing & Supply of Silicon Carbide as per Northern Railway Thermit Portion Plant Lucknow's standard specification TPP/SIC/2021 (as amended up to date)

Tender Value: Rs. 12,43,594.40  
Tender Document Cost: Rs. Nil  
Earnest Money: Rs. 24,880/-  
Completion period: 12 Months  
Time of submission of Tender: Up to 07.07.2022 at 14:30 IST  
Date & Time of Opening of Tender: On 07.07.2022 at 14:30 IST  
Validity of Offer: 180 days

Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement tender is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and [www.northernrailway.gov.in](http://www.northernrailway.gov.in)

1420/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**World Skill Center**  
Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751007  
Website: [www.skillodisha.gov.in](http://www.skillodisha.gov.in) & [www.worldskillcenter.org](http://www.worldskillcenter.org)  
E-mail: [tenders@worldskillcenter.org](mailto:tenders@worldskillcenter.org)

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ARCHITECTURE**

Sealed quotation are invited from renowned architects for construction of hostel and other facilities in Bhubaneswar, for WSC. Details regarding eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and the formats for submission of tender can be downloaded from the website [www.skillodisha.gov.in](http://www.skillodisha.gov.in) & [www.worldskillcenter.org](http://www.worldskillcenter.org) Interested bidders shall submit the bids complete in all respects in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, First Floor, World Skill Center, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar-751007.

Last date & Time for Submission of RFP: 3.00 PM of 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2022  
Date & Time of Opening of Bids: 4.00 PM of 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2022  
Contact Number: 0674-2580079

Sd/-  
Chief Executive Officer  
OIPR- 44009/11/0009/2223

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL**

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Nibha Kumari D/o Sh. Ramji Manjhi R/o H.No.54/19, A-Block, Vidya Vihar, Hastsal, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi Aged-20 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 15.04.2022 vide DD No.151-A Dated 16.04.2022 registered at Police Station Uttam Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



**Nibha Kumari**  
Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'2", Face: Long, Built: Thin, Hair: Black, Clothing: Orange coloured suit, Black coloured salwar and sandal in feet.  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Uttam Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Sd/-  
Teke No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Uttam Nagar, Delhi  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel: 011-25377425  
DP/194/DW/2022 Mob.: 8750871026

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person Namely **Sonu Dass S/o Madan Dass R/o 129, Ground Floor, Adhyapak Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi-41** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No. 508/2014 U/s 452/324/506/34 IPC registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Sonu Dass** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Sonu Dass** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant), Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sonu Dass** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 14.07.2022.

By Order  
Sh. Milan Goel,  
Metropolitan Magistrate-03  
Room No. 292, 2nd Floor,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1919/OD/2022 (Court Notice)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**

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

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

Tender No. TS225023 Due on 07.07.2022

Description of Item: Manufacture and Supply of: Prestressed Monoblock Concrete Sleeper sets (Prestensioned type) of M-60 concrete grade for BG Alt up to date (for general layout) and part drawing thereof to suit 60Kg. Raals as amended up to date as per specification T-39-2021 (6th Revision March 2021) as amended up to date duly loaded into Wagons/Road vehicles.

(i) Wider Gauge PRC Sleeper on Curve as per RDSO Drg. No. T-8622 (Latest Alteration up to date)

(ii) Wider Gauge PRC Sleeper on Curve as per RDSO Drg. No. T-8623 (Latest Alteration up to date)

(iii) Wider Gauge PRC Sleeper on Curve as per RDSO Drg. No. T-8624 (Latest Alteration up to date)

Tender Value: Rs. 74,44,325/-  
Tender Document Cost: Rs. Nil  
Earnest Money: Rs. 1,48,890/-  
Completion Period: 12 Months  
Time of Submission of Tender: Upto 07.07.2022 at 14:30 IST  
Date & Time of Opening of Tender: On 07.07.2022 at 14:30 IST  
Validity of Offer: 180 days

Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement tender is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and [www.northernrailway.gov.in](http://www.northernrailway.gov.in)

1419/2022

**Serving Customers with a Smile**

**TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD**  
INVITATION OF BIDS- TWO COVER -ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission)

IFB No.	06 & 07 /F.CWSS to 43 habs./SDO II/ CW/2022/Dt. 10.06.2022
Fund	JJM Fund 2022-23
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai - 625007
Sale of Bid	16.06.2022 to 15.07.2022 upto 17.45 hours
EMD Payable at	1.Executive Engineer, Urban Division, Tirunelveli 2.Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division, Tirunelveli
Pre Bid meeting	04.07.2022 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	18.07.2022 before 15.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website <a href="http://www.tntenders.gov.in">www.tntenders.gov.in</a>
Bid opening	19.07.2022 at 15.30 hours at the office of Tender Invitee through E-Tender Portal

Sl. No.	Name of work	Appx. Value (Rs.in Crore including GST)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
<b>New Multi Village Scheme under JJM</b>			
1	Providing CWSS to 41 habitations in Palayamkottai union in Tirunelveli District - (Construction Period : 12 months and paid Maintenance: 24 months)	26.00	19.50
2	Providing CWSS to Vagakkulam and 12 Other rural Habitations in Ambasamudram union in Tirunelveli District (Construction Period : 12 months and paid Maintenance: 12 months)	8.00	6.00

DIPR/ 2751 / TENDER / 2022

SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

Chief Engineer,  
TWAD Board, Madurai

**Mango Festival Committee Uttar Pradesh (Department of horticulture & food processing UP)**  
2-Sapru Marg, Udyan Bhawan, Lucknow-226001

Bid Ref. No.: 75 /IT Cell/Mango Festival/ 2022-23/  
Dated: 10 June 2022

**Subject: Submission of Bid proposal for Selection of event management agency for Mango Festival at Awadh Shilp Gram Lucknow.**

Honorary secretary of Mango Festival Committee (Department of Horticulture & Food Processing, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow) on behalf of precedent of Mango Festival Committee Uttar Pradesh invites Bid Proposal for selection of reputed event management agency, who meet the minimum eligibility criteria as specified in this Bid documents for engaging for Turnkey Planning, Branding, Designing, Fabrication, Management of our all tourism, harvest festival and conducting events an activation for Mango Festival Committee (Department of Horticulture & Food Processing, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow) at Awadh shilp gram Lucknow as per the scope of work. Prospective applicant may apply for the selection of agency and fulfill the eligibility criteria mentioned in Bid document.

Name of the work	Engaging for Turnkey Planning, Branding, Designing, Fabrication, Management of our all tourism, harvest festival and conducting events an activation for Mango Festival Committee (Department of horticulture & food processing, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow) at Awadh shilp gram Lucknow from 29th June 2022 to 1st July 2022.
Estimated Value	Rs. 60.00 Lakh
Bid Processing fee (Non-Refundable)	Rs. 2,500 (Rs. two Thousand five Hundred only) including GST DD in favor of Honorary secretary of Mango Festival Committee U.P. Lucknow
EMD for Bid (Refundable)	Rs. 1,00,000 (Rs. One lakh only) DD or FDR in favor of Honorary secretary of Mango Festival Committee U.P. Lucknow
Performance guarantee	The Performance guarantee should be 5% of the awarded cost of work. (Bank Guarantee only Nationalized bank should be valid for period of 90 days from date of opening Bid)
Bid Document Download start date	13/06/2022 (Time- 11:00 AM. onwards)
Bid Document Download end date	19/06/2022
Deadline for submission of Technical and Financial bid	20/06/2022 (At 11:00 AM)
Date of Bid opening date/time	20/06/2022 at 03:00 PM.
Presentation by technically eligible Bidders	21/06/2022 at 11: AM
Financial Bid Opening	21/06/2022 at 04:00 PM
Bid validity period date	90 days from the opening of price Bid
Bid Publish and download & Upload website	<a href="http://www.uphorticulture.gov.in">www.uphorticulture.gov.in</a>

(R.K. Tomar)  
Honorary secretary/Director  
Mango Festival Committee  
(Department of Horticulture & Food Processing, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow)

UPID No. 177158 DATE-10/06/2022  
[www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in)

**I.K. GUJRAL PUNJAB TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY JALANDHAR**  
(Punjab State Govt. University)  
Jalandhar-Kapurthala Highway, Kapurthala.

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited through e-procurement process from eligible bidders for the following (separate) works at IKGPTU Main Campus, Kapurthala:-

Two Years Operation & Comprehensive Maintenance of Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) Indoor and Outdoor Units of Air Conditioning System in Academic Block-I, Academic Block-II, Knowledge Resource Center & Seminar Hall-II	Two Years Operation & Comprehensive Maintenance of Three Nos. Sewage Treatment Plants (two of 50 Kld Capacity And One of 50 Kld Capacity)	Two Years Operation And Comprehensive Maintenance of Air Conditioning System And Hot Water Generator (feeding G + 3 And G + 7 Building)
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AND  
Comprehensive Maintenance of Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) Indoor and Outdoor Units of Air Conditioning System in Sri Gurm Nanak Dev Ji Auditorium

E-Tender documents and other details can be downloaded and uploaded by the bidders through the portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and can also be seen on <http://ptu.ac.in/Tenders.aspx>.

Sl. No.	Description	Date & Time
1.	Last Date for E-Tender Submission	29-06-2022 (Wednesday) at 17:00 PM
	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	30-06-2022 (Thursday) at 14:00 PM

Note: Any Complaint/Addendum/Notice etc. with regard to this advertisement will be made available on the website [www.ptu.ac.in](http://www.ptu.ac.in)  
Adv/2022/06/03 Registrar

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

# 49, 4th & 5th Floors, 'East Wing', Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001  
Phone: 080-2265383, Fax: 080-22627901, e-mail: [ceomkiadb@gmail.com](mailto:ceomkiadb@gmail.com) Website: [www.kiadb.in](http://www.kiadb.in)  
No.: KIADB/HO/Allot/C.No. 35940/4092/2022-23 Date: 10.06.2022

**NOTIFICATION**

**INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR ALLOTMENT OF AMENITY PLOTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPED BY THE BOARD**

A Notification was issued inviting applications for allotment of amenity plots in the Industrial Areas Developed by the Board in Dharwad, Hubballi, Gadag, Belagavi, Raichur, Kalaburgi & Yadgir Districts vide No. KIADB/HO/Allot/C.No. 35940/17382/2021-22 dtd. 22.03.2022 by fixing the last date for submission of applications on or before 21.04.2022 and further extended the time up to 10.05.2022 vide No. KIADB/HO/Allot/C.No.35940/953/2022-23 dtd. 21.04.2022. Among the amenity plots and nature of activity for which the application were invited, following amenity plots of Bagalakote District are included:

Sl. No.	District	Industrial Area	Plot No.	Extent in Acres	Nature of Activity	Category
1.	Bagalakote	Navanagar Agrotech Park	CA-1/Plot No. 109	6.00	Education/Skill Development Centre	General
2.	Bagalakote	Navanagar Agrotech Park	CA-3/Plot No. 113-A	0.50	Hotel/Canteen	SC/ST

With the above insertion, the last date for submission of application only for the above said amenity plots is up to 09-07-2022.

All other terms and conditions indicated in the earlier Notification No. KIADB/HO/Allot/C.No.35940/17382/2021-22 dtd. 22.03.2022 remains unaltered and applications shall be submitted as per the same norms.

For further details you may contact KIADB Offices mentioned below:

KIADB Office	Phone No:
Bengaluru Head Office	080-22265383
Executive Engineer, Belagavi, KIADB Zonal Office, Belagavi	0831-2475963/2457243

Applications which are either incomplete or not accompanied by Application fee shall not be considered and the Board has right to reject any application without assigning any reasons and decision of the Board in this matter shall be final and binding on every applicant.

Place: Bengaluru  
Date: 10.06.2022

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer & Executive Member  
New Delhi

## Tripura Minister's car 'attacked', he escapes unhurt

DEBRAJ DEB  
AGARTALA, JUNE 10

TRIPURA TRIBAL Affairs Minister Rampada Jamatia came under attack from a group of protesters at Simna in Mohanpur sub-division West Tripura on Friday. The attack came a day after the minister's motorcade was attacked in Jampujala, where he had gone with state BJP vice-president Patal Kanya Jamatia.

A senior officer of the state police said on Friday that the minister was on his way to an administrative camp at Darogamuria High School in Mohanpur sub-division, when a group of protesters tried to halt his car.

"The minister managed to evade the protest and reach the venue of the public event. However, a section of protesters reached his event venue as well and started a ruckus. Since most of them were women, the police personnel on duty showed restraint and dispersed the mob by firing two rounds of teargas shells. No one was injured in the incident. The minister went on to Agartala unhurt," the officer said.

Nabendu Bhattacharjee, the spokesperson of the ruling BJP in the state, said that activists of the TIPRA Motha were at the forefront of the attacks on the minister and other BJP leaders in different parts of Tripura, and added that the Left was also behind these incidents.

## GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

## Cong protests across Kerala demanding Pinarayi resignation

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 10

THE CONGRESS-LED opposition in Kerala held protest marches to various district headquarters across the state demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan following allegations by a woman accused in the gold smuggling case that he had carried a bag of currency to the UAE in 2016.

The protest marches turned violent in Kottayam, Kollam, Kannur and Kochi where agitators clashed with the police. The marches were taken out to the offices of the district collectors in various districts.

Addressing the march in Kochi, Opposition leader V D Satheesan said Vijayan is in a panic over the allegation by Swappa Suresh, one of the accused in the case, that the Chief Minister had taken currency to Dubai with the help of a diplomat. "If the allegation is baseless, why can't Vijayan take legal action against Suresh?... Instead, the government is threatening the woman who had given a statement in court. Her allegations are very serious...," said Satheesan.

On Thursday, Suresh had alleged that she was under immense pressure to retract her statement and that her life was under threat.

## Rape case: Delhi cops question son of Rajasthan minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE DELHI Police on Friday questioned Rajasthan Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Minister Mahesh Joshi's son Rohit Joshi, who has been accused of raping a 23-year-old woman in Jaipur and Delhi last year.

This comes a day after a Delhi court granted him anticipatory bail. The police had registered an FIR against Rohit after the woman brought forth the charges. "When I called him, he said he is the son of a minister and nobody can harm him... He brags about his money and power and in the end, says people won't even know where I have disappeared. The Bharwari Devi case will be repeated," the woman stated in the FIR.

The woman said that she registered the case in Delhi because she feared she would not get justice in Congress-ruled Rajasthan, and added that associates of the accused have been "defaming" her. Last month, a team of 15-20 police personnel, headed by an ACP-rank officer, reached Joshi's residence in Jaipur, but they found that the house was demolished. They later searched another house in the Civil Lines area, but Rohit was absconding. "Police had informed his family members about the case and asked them to inform them of his whereabouts," police sources said. He was absconding and applied for anticipatory bail before a Delhi court.

A day after the court granted anticipatory bail to him, Rohit joined the investigation on Friday morning at the Sadar Bazar police station where the investigation officer questioned him for three hours.

In her FIR, the woman has accused Rohit of raping her on multiple occasions between January 8, 2021, and April 17 this year. The FIR stated that the woman had a miscarriage and was abducted to force her into marrying Rohit. The charges against him include drug use, criminal intimidation, molestation, and use of unnatural offences.



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## EVERYDAY HEALTH

## INDIA'S FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ANIMALS: WHY THE NEED WAS FELT

ANONNA DUTT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE AGRICULTURE Ministry on Thursday unveiled India's first Covid-19 vaccine for animals. Developed by the Hisar-based National Research Centre on Equines, the vaccine, called Ancovax, can protect animals against the Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.

**HOW IT WORKS:** Ancovax can be used in dogs, lions, leopards, mice, and rabbits. It is an inactivated vaccine developed using an infectious part of the Delta variant. In addition, it uses Alhydrogel as an adjuvant to boost the immune response.

This is the first Covid-19 vaccine for animals developed in India. There were reports from Russia last year that that country, too, had developed a vaccine against animals such as dogs, cats, minks, and foxes.

**THE NEED:** There have been reports of Covid-19 infection in several animals, including dogs and cats. "The vaccine can protect animals in the zoo. It can also prevent transmission from companion animals to the humans," said Dr Jyoti Misri, senior scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The risk of animals spreading the infection to humans is considered low, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The aim of the vaccine is to protect endangered animals such as lions and tigers. India reported at least nine Covid infections

in Asiatic lions in Chennai zoo last year, with one of the lionesses likely to have died of it. This prompted closure of tiger reserves for tourism. Other than that, a study by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute found at least three natural Covid infections in wild Asiatic lions, and a dead leopard cub was found dead and then tested positive for Covid-19.

"There have been a few cases reported in wildlife across the world, some from the zoo, and some in pets. However, percentage-wise, it is very low. The animals develop similar symptoms to humans – cough, cold, fever, and lung lesions. However, since the disease is zoonotic [it can be transmitted from animals to humans], a vaccine would help. However, which vaccine we use has to be carefully decided," said Dr AB Shrivastav, former director, School of Wildlife Forensic and Health, Jabalpur.

**WHY TYPE MATTERS:** While declining to comment on this vaccine specifically, Dr Shrivastav said a killed vaccine for wild animals is always better than a live-attenuated vaccine (where a weakened live virus is used).

"We avoid live vaccine in wild animals. This is because a live vaccine might have been attenuated for one particular species, but it can still cause disease in another. Some 15 or 20 years back, a rabies vaccine developed for dogs was given to wolves in Africa and unfortunately the entire pack died. A killed virus vaccine will not harm the animals," he said.

## THIS WORD MEANS

## CHELONOIDIS PHANTASTICUS

A giant tortoise species believed extinct for more than a century. Now, a surviving member has been identified.

A GIANT tortoise, found alive in 2019, has been confirmed to belong to a Galápagos species long believed extinct. Named Fernanda after her Fernandina Island home, the tortoise is the first of her species, *Chelonoidis phantasticus*, to be identified in more than a century. Researchers have reported the confirmation in a paper in *Nature Communications Biology*.



Fernanda at the Galápagos National Park's Giant Tortoise Breeding Center. Galápagos Conservancy via Princeton University

evolutionary biology at Princeton.

To determine Fernanda's species definitively, Gaughran sequenced her complete genome and compared it to the genome he was able to recover from the specimen collected in 1906. He also compared those two genomes to samples from the other 13 species of Galápagos tortoises – 12 living, one extinct. He showed that the two known Fernandina tortoises are indeed members of the same species.

"We saw – honestly, to my surprise – that Fernanda was very similar to the one that they found on that island more than 100 years ago, and both of those were very different from all of the other islands' tortoises," Gaughran was quoted as saying.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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# The battle for IPL media rights: Reliance vs Disney-Star, no Amazon

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

AHEAD OF Sunday's e-auction for the Indian Premier League (IPL) media rights – linear and digital – Amazon has pulled out of the race. BCCI sources said Google didn't submit its technical bid either, choosing to opt out.

Amazon's departure nips in the bud a straight fight between the world's two richest persons – its owner Jeff Bezos and Mukesh Ambani representing Viacom 18/Reliance. But the auction, likely to fetch the BCCI over Rs 45,000 crore, will be intense. Disney-Star, the incumbent media rights holder, will be there, and according to sources, its battle with Viacom 18/Reliance could be the highlight of the auction. Former Star India executive Uday Shankar is on Viacom 18's side this time.

**Why has Amazon pulled out?**

Amazon, which livestreams the English

Premier League, initially showed keen interest for the IPL digital media rights too. Gaining an edge over its rival Netflix Inc was an incentive. Amazon hasn't officially commented on the pullout, but it is learnt that following internal deliberations it decided not to pay over the odds for just online streaming rights. "Amazon has a great balance sheet but as a standalone, digital-only bidder, it would've had a challenge recouping such a big investment on streaming," Mihir Shah, vice-president and India head at Media Partners Asia, was quoted as saying by *Bloomberg*.

**What is the base price?**

For the 2023-2027 cycle, the BCCI has set the base price at Rs 32,890 crore. According to a top BCCI official, expectations are that the highest bid would go past Rs 45,000 crore. A BCCI insider said auction dynamics don't follow the simple profit-and-loss logic. It's about market share dominance and how much the companies are willing to fork out.

It is learnt that 11 companies had purchased the invitation to tender (ITT) documents but only seven, including Disney-Star, Viacom 18/Reliance, Sony and Zee have submitted the technical bids. The deadline for technical evaluation was 6 pm on Friday.

Some of the bidders, however, have expressed their displeasure over a sharp increase in the base price.

**What explains the BCCI's confidence?**

According to a BCCI official, the IPL as a product is "unrivaled": No other content attracts as many eyeballs. Chennai Super Kings chief executive Kasi Viswanathan agreed. "This year, maybe, was an aberration in the sense that you still didn't have home and away games. This was a reason for a dip in viewership. But if you look at the competitive cricket that is played in the IPL, everybody knows that this is the best T20 league in the world. And that probably is the reason why its media rights are so much in demand,"

Viswanathan told *The Indian Express*.

**What's at stake in bagging digital rights?**

Unlike last term, composite bids have been done away with. A company can separately put in bids for all three buckets. These include one for linear rights and two separate ones of digital rights, divided this way for the first time. The two digital rights buckets include one for all matches, and one for non-exclusive rights for 18 games every season, including the tournament opener and play-offs. This can attract companies that are willing to get a small share of the pie, fetching the Board big money in the process.

The addition of two new teams has raised the number of matches to 74, and contributed to the base price reaching almost twice the winning bid of 2017. The new teams have brought in new fans. For example, Gujarat Titans, the defending champions, can play in front of 100,000 fans. This is expected to rapidly increase TV/online viewership also. Two

years ago, Forbes listed the IPL as the world's sixth biggest sports league. The global Indian diaspora following cricket adds to its appeal.

**Has it drawn foreign investors earlier?**

Last year, Manchester United's American owners, the Glazers, took part in the IPL franchise auction, as two new teams were brought to the fold. Not that the Glazers are big cricket fans, but they found the IPL's model attractive, and akin to the NBA and Major League Baseball – a closed-shop league without promotion and relegation and revenue guaranteed from certain quarters. NFL legend Larry Fitzgerald and double Olympic gold medalist basketball star Chris Paul have invested in Rajasthan Royals.

**How intense is the competition between Reliance-Viacom 18 and Disney-Star?**

In 2017, as Star's chairman-cum-CEO, Shankar had secured the media rights for IPL 2018-22 for his erstwhile company for Rs

16,347 crore. Five years down the line, he is in the opposition camp, planning strategies for Viacom 18/Reliance, which has launched a sports channel, Sports 18.

Reliance and Viacom 18 have entered into a strategic partnership with Bodhi Tree, with the latter investing \$1.78 billion. This is an investment platform, run by media tycoon James Murdoch's Lupa Systems and Shankar. "James and Uday's track record is unmatched," Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, had said following the tie-up. With 400 million-plus customers, Reliance's Jio is the country's largest telecommunications company.

At the same time, there's a feeling that Disney-Star could go for aggressive bidding to retain the media rights. Hotstar, the company's digital platform, reportedly gets 30% of its global revenue from India, with the IPL being the determining factor. For Amazon and Netflix, on the other hand, only 5-10% of their global revenue comes from India.

## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION &amp; ANSWER

# Environment index and India

India has questioned its bottom ranking among 180 nations on the Environmental Performance Index. Who calculates this index, and how? What issues has India flagged? How real are the environmental concerns?

ESHA ROY  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

The newly released Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022, measured by Yale and Columbia universities, ranks India at the bottom position among 180 countries. The Environment Ministry has issued a rebuttal saying the indicators used in the assessment are based on "unfounded assumptions".

**So, what is this index?**

The EPI is an international ranking system of countries based on their environmental health. It is a biennial index, first started in 2002 as the Environment Sustainability Index by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and Columbia University Center for International Earth Information Network.

EPI 2022 uses 40 performance indicators to assess and rank 180 countries. The report says it uses the most recent data, and the indicators "measure how close countries are to meeting internationally established sustainability targets for specific environmental issues". The 40 indicators are under the broad categories of climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality. The 2022 EPI has included new parameters to its earlier assessments, with projections of progress towards net-zero emissions in 2050, as well as new air quality indicators, and sustainable pesticide use.

**How poor is the EPI assessment of India?**

With a rank of 180 and a score of 18.9, India has fallen from rank 168 and a score of 27.6 in 2020. India comes after Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Myanmar, the poorest performers. Denmark tops the list with a score of 77.9.

India ranks close to the bottom on a number of indicators including ecosystem vitality (178th), biodiversity (179th), biodiversity habitat index (170th), species protection index (175th), wetland loss, air quality (179th), PM 2.5 (174th), heavy metals such as lead in water (174th), waste management (151st) and climate policy (165th) including projected greenhouse gas emissions (171st).

India has also scored low on rule of law, control of corruption and government effectiveness, according to the report.

**What objections has India raised?**

In a statement on Wednesday, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: "Some of these indicators used for assessing performance are extrapolated and based on surmises and unscientific methods."

Ministry officials cited two major concerns – that baseline data does not seem to have been used, and that there has been no explanation for the weightages assigned to certain indicators.

# The Sant Tukaram temple and its significance

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS  
PUNE, JUNE 10

ON TUESDAY, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Sant Tukaram Shila Mandir in the temple town of Dehu in Pune district. *Shila* refers to a rock that is currently on the Dehu Sansthan temple premises, and that for centuries has been the starting point of Wari, the annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur.

**The Shila Mandir**

The Bhakti saint Sant Tukaram had sat on this piece of rock for 13 continuous days when challenged about the authenticity of the *Abhyanus* he had written. Nitin Maharaj More, president of the Jagatguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Sansthan Dehu, said that prior to this, the saint had immersed his entire work in the Indrayani river; the work miraculously reappeared after 13 days, proving their authentic-

ity. "The very rock where Sant Tukaram Maharaj sat for 13 days is pious and a place of pilgrimage for the Warkari sect," More said.

On the Dehu Sansthan temple premises, the rock used to be covered by a silver cast with an image of Sant Tukaram, and devotees would pay obeisance. In 2008, the silver mask was stolen, and found on the banks of the Indrayani after a few days. The Sansthan decided to replace the silver covering with an image of Sant Tukaram Maharaj on the Shila, with a temple housing both. "This is the temple the Prime Minister will inaugurate on Tuesday," he said.

**The Warkari sect**

Sant Tukaram and his work are central to the Warkari sect spread across Maharashtra. His message about a casteless society and his denial of rituals had led to a social movement. Sant Tukaram is credited with starting the Wari pilgrimage.

The Wari sees lakhs of devotees congregat-

## HOW INDIA IS RANKED vs OTHERS, AND ON WHICH COUNTS



India ranks 151 on waste (and 121 on solid waste) management. *File*

## TOP 8

Country	Rank	Score	10-yr change
Denmark	1	77.90	14.90
UK	2	77.70	23.00
Finland	3	76.50	21.00
Malta	4	75.20	25.40
Sweden	5	72.70	15.80
Luxembourg	6	72.30	13.50
Slovenia	7	67.30	8.60
Austria	8	66.50	7.20

## BOTTOM 8

Country	Rank	Score	10-yr change
Haiti	173	26.10	2.40
Liberia	174	24.90	-4.00
Papua New Guinea	175	24.80	0.20
Pakistan	176	24.60	1.40
Bangladesh	177	23.10	-1.90
Vietnam	178	20.10	-0.60
Myanmar	179	19.40	-3.80
India	180	18.90	-0.60

Source: Environmental Performance Index 2022

## INDIA: KEY INDICATORS

Country	Rank	Score	10-yr change
Ecosystem vitality	178	19.30	-2.10
Biodiversity	179	5.80	-0.50
Species protection	175	0.30	NA
Tree cover loss	75	17.20	-7.80
Wetland loss	60	62.00	-38.00
Pesticide management	47	45.30	NA
Health	178	12.50	2.90
Air Quality	179	7.80	NA
PM2.5	174	NA	-5.10
Household solid fuels	129	18.60	7.10
Sanitation & drinking water	139	19.50	9.6
Lead	174	20.6	4.3
Waste management	151	12.90	0.60
Climate policy	165	21.70	-0.90
Carbon dioxide growth rate	136	17.60	-5.70
Black carbon growth rate	1	100.0	44.7
Projected GHG emissions, 2050	171	0.00	NA
GHG per capita	53	66.80	-6.20

crucial carbon sinks, energy efficiency etc. It said carbon sinks that mitigate GHG, such as forests and wetlands, have not been taken into account. India's low emissions trajectory, unlike high historical trajectories of developed countries, has been ignored, it said.

The government has objected to the low weightage given to per-capita GHG emissions (2.6%). "No indicator talks about the renewable energy, energy efficiency and process optimization," it said.

Among other objections raised: the index emphasises the extent of protected areas rather than the quality of protection that they afford; the computation of biodiversity indices does not factor in management effectiveness evaluation of protected areas the index computes the extent of ecosystems but not their condition or productivity; indicators such as agro biodiversity, soil health, food loss and waste are not included even though they are important for developing countries with large



The newly built temple in Dehu, Maharashtra. *Rajesh Stephen*

agrarian populations.

**Do environmental scientists agree with the report?**

Dr Navroz Dubash of the Centre for Policy Research, among the authors of the latest report of the International Report on Climate Change (IPCC), said the climate change parameter of the EPI report is "highly problematic".

"Of course weightages are the agency's discretion, but giving climate change such a high weightage is problematic. The EPI 2022 makes an assumption that every country has to reach net-zero by 2050 – whereas the understanding is that developing countries will need more time. GHG emissions will continue to grow in poorer countries for a time, unlike many developed countries which have peaked. We can't be expected to forgo energy for development. The EPI 2022 is neither ethically correct nor reflects the political reality. Moreover, the methodology that EPI has used for its 2050 projections, using last decade's emissions, is extremely crude," Dubash said.

In developing countries, which many like India have low emissions trajectories, the contribution is not that emissions reduce but to "avoid locking into higher emissions trajectories". "That is what is expected of developing countries, but this methodology doesn't allow for that and the government is correct in pointing this out," he said. He said the EPI assumes every country is in the same position economically, developmentally and environmentally.

IT Delhi professor and air pollution expert Dr Sagnik Dey said the low weightage given to per-capita GHG emissions automatically reduces the ranks of countries like India and China. "Even if air pollution declines steadily, in countries like India and China, by virtue of their large populations the overall figure of the health burden or DALY for instance, will always be high and therefore will always fall in the bottom of the pile, if per-capita GHG emissions are given lower weightage."

**So, how seriously should the findings be taken?**

Dr Dey cautioned that despite the inconsistencies, the government should not ignore the fact that India was at 168th rank in 2020 and has never been in the top 150 countries since the index was started.

Dr Dubash said that despite issues with the EPI, India does have severe local environmental issues, which have been highlighted in the report and need to be addressed.

Dr Ravi Chellam, Coordinator, Biodiversity Collective, said: "Much smaller and poorer countries have done better. I don't think we should get carried away by only the rank. If other countries perform poorer, India's rank will improve. It is vital to focus on sustainable developmental pathways we need to immediately adopt."

Chief Minister performing the *mahapuja*.

The pilgrimage is being resumed after a gap of two years.

**Significance of visit**

This will be Modi's first visit to the temple. Traditionally, the Warkari sect has been courted by all political parties. Various influential leaders of the sect had taken a stance on various issues but steered away from politics directly. Former President Prathibha Patil had visited the temple in 2009, and Modi would be the first PM to visit the temple in the current years.

Modi's visit comes ahead of elections to various local bodies this year. Ever since the NCP-Shiv-Sena-BJP came to power, the BJP has been trying to get back. Of the three bypolls held since 2019, BJP has won just one while the ruling alliance have won two.

The newly created Dehu Nagar Panchayat is ruled by the NCP.



## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Guru against shishya

Young women enter sports with hope, sense of fun — those destroying that must be held to account



APARNA POPAT

## CORNERING A FRIEND

Nupur Sharma episode is also putting pressure on and shrinking room for India's allies abroad. Delhi must be mindful of this

INDIA LEARNT THIS week that its domestic politics does not exist in a silo separate and disconnected from its relations with the international community. On visits abroad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has talked up this country as a plural, diverse and democratic nation, as if the open minority-baiting by his party men and women did not exist. Not only have the remarks against the Prophet by two BJP leaders — one has been expelled and the other suspended by the party subsequently — made it difficult to sweep under the carpet the incivilities in the politics of the ruling party at the Centre, the fallout is also bringing home to Delhi that they can create problems for some of its best friends in the world, to the detriment of those friendships. What someone says in a television studio in India can fast turn into a political hot potato in another country, putting governments well disposed towards India on the defensive in their home turfs. Pakistan, of course, may need no excuse to have a go at India. But it was hoped that the United Arab Emirates, with whom India has excellent ties, would not follow its brother Islamic nations in upping the ante on the issue. That it did, one day after several other countries had expressed their condemnation, says a lot about how this incident has put pressure on governments around the world. Only in 2018, the UAE rulers had granted permission for the building of a Hindu temple in Sharjah, and its construction is proceeding apace. Iran, among the earliest to condemn the controversial remarks, did not cancel the visit by its foreign minister, Amir Abdollahian, but the differing readouts from both sides showed how important it was for the visiting functionary to signal to constituencies back home that the issue had come up in discussions, as much as Delhi tried to play it down.

If looking the other way as outrage swept the Gulf countries was not an option for authoritarian regimes in the UAE, Oman and other friendly nations, the political pressures in a democracy, even a small one like Maldives, can well be imagined. Indeed, Maldives, where protests against India are banned by presidential decree, tried at first to stave off the Opposition's attempts to force the issue. Like the UAE, the pro-India Solih government issued a statement much after many other countries, after it became clear that not doing so would carry significant political risk. Former president Abdulla Yameen, whose pronounced tilt towards Beijing had given India cause for worry during his term in office, hopes to make a comeback in the presidential election next year on the back of an anti-India campaign.

The more headline sections of the BJP are making a case for standing up to the censure coming in from India's allies and friends abroad. Meanwhile, at home, the protests that erupted in several cities on Friday run the risk of leading domestic politics into the polarisation trap. After this episode, the responsibility of sobriety and restraint and course correction rests on the BJP government, of course. India is going to be watched by other countries, even and especially by its friends. But the larger imperative of keeping the calm also devolves on non-BJP groups and parties.

WE USUALLY ASSUME the sporting arena to be a safe space. We ask our kids to go out and play. For me, that's about enjoyment, as much as winning. But when young athletes are sexually harassed, basic safety becomes a big concern. It's just not fair that a person with experience can take the fun out of sport for them.

What happened in US gymnastics with Simone Biles and other top gymnasts shook me to the core. That it had been so obvious, and was reported but ignored, and that the US gymnasts are now suing the FBI is so unreal. They took on the US gymnastics establishment and went to the Senate. In other cases in America, athletes have taken on the bigwigs as well. That's possible in systems such as the one in America. But in the final analysis, what gets affected is women's sport. On the one hand, we are encouraging more girls to go out and become sportswomen. On the other hand, instances like the one involving the alleged harassment of a young cyclist by a national coach can make parents reconsider their daughters' participation in sport.

What has changed now is that athletes have more of a voice. They are more aware and there's greater conversation about women in sport. Avenues are now available — even if these are anonymous — to voice their concerns. Earlier, the process itself was a deterrent. But the underlying set of conditions that make harassment possible have not gone away: Trainees shift out of their homes when still young, there's homesickness and performance pressure, extensive travel for training and competitions — all of this makes them vulnerable.

While we encourage girls to participate in sport, we must remember that their dignity is more important than everything

else. We must educate them about what is okay and what isn't. The next step is to empower them to speak out when they feel uncomfortable about anyone during training or on the field. Finally, they must be provided with adequate redressal mechanisms. Even then, a young woman might win the battle but lose the war. The offenders might have some level of action taken against them but it is our duty to ensure that in the long term, complaining does not affect the sportsperson's career, and she can go on to fulfil her potential.

What is unique to sport is the age group of the victims — they are dependent on those in the system and around them. They are almost always very young. How will they even know what is to be done? The power differential between them and those around them is key.

Those dealing with these young athletes need to be sensitised against casual body-shaming or saying inappropriate things. I understand that at times such gestures can be unintentional but that does not make them acceptable. Hence, those who are around the athletes too should be provided with adequate guidance and there should be a forum to resolve such issues when they arise. India is culturally different because we take pride in the relationship of reverence between the "guru" and "shishya". We celebrate Guru Purnima, and are taught to be obedient. But that doesn't give anyone the license to do as they feel. Research shows that the best coach-athlete combinations work when there's mutual respect. Trust is all-important in creating champions. Once trust is taken away, and the bond based on mutual respect is broken, it harms performance. The dos and don'ts have to be strictly fol-

lowed. You just can't cross the line.

In my time as an athlete, we just heard stories, nothing was verified or validated. But after hearing about the recent cases, I would encourage all parents of athletes to have a conversation with their daughters and encourage them to speak up if they feel uncomfortable. My constant dilemma is whether this means drawing the child's attention to something that's not there right now. Should we let it be? Will we be taking the fun out of the game for her by sowing this seed of possible doubt in her head and colouring her perception, when all we want is for her to enjoy sports? It's a hard conversation to have and a tough call to make.

Most of these instances happen during travel or at hostels or in camps where a parent isn't even at hand to gauge what's happening with the child. It breaks my heart that it's our beloved sport that exposes girls to this danger. Of course, sexual harassment is a larger crisis. #MeToo, casting couch revelations at the highest levels of administration and among corporates — women (and men) today face this scourge everywhere.

Sport is, by and large, an unorganised sector. The punishment for such offenders needs to be discussed. Dismissal of the offending coach, physiotherapist or official is what the institutions usually do, even where more legal action is necessary. But legal costs can be debilitating in case the latter course of action is adopted. A speedy resolution of such cases is imperative.

What is most important is to remember that the victims are often minors. There must be clear repercussions for the guilty.

The writer is a former national badminton champion

## SCORING POINTS

TDP vs YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh over Class 10 results is a good face-off. It has pointers for other states, other parties

THE CLASS 10 examination results have triggered a war of words in Andhra Pradesh (AP) with the Opposition blaming the government for over two lakh students failing in the boards: The pass percentage of 67.26, coming in the wake of the pandemic, is the lowest in the last 20 years. On Thursday, TDP general secretary and son of former chief minister Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh Naidu, upped the ante and reached out to students and parents over Zoom, but was interrupted by ruling party (YSRCP) leaders, who accused the TDP of politicising school examinations and students. The TDP shut out the YSRCP voices and continued with the video conference. But the TDP initiative as well as the YSRCP challenge mark a good moment in public political discussion, in which issues such as school education usually take a backseat, if they figure at all. School education is far too serious a matter to be left to the bureaucracy; it ought to feature more in the agenda of political parties.

That the YSRCP, which has been sweeping elections at all levels in AP since the state was bifurcated in 2014, felt it necessary to intervene in the discussion over exam results, however, could also point to the traction the issue of education has traditionally had in Andhra society. In fact, education has been something of a possible gamechanger in elections in some of the southern states for some years now. If the socialisation of educational institutions polarised Kerala in the late 1950s, leading to a mass movement and the undemocratic dismissal of the CPI government in 1959, the AIADMK under MGR enhanced its pro-poor image and cemented its electoral appeal by introducing a mid-day meal scheme in Tamil Nadu in the early 1980s. In recent months, the DMK in Tamil Nadu has found in NEET, the entrance exam for medical and pre-medical courses, an issue to corner both the BJP and AIADMK. Elsewhere, Nitish Kumar in Bihar and Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi have cultivated constituencies by focusing on school students and their parents. Free schooling and bicycles for girl students have allowed Nitish Kumar to carve a niche in a polity defined primarily by caste whereas Kejriwal has made the work done by his government in schools a calling card as AAP seeks to expand beyond Delhi.

Hopefully, other political parties will take a cue from TDP, YSRCP, DMK, JD(U), AAP, and bring education to the forefront of political debate. It would be a necessary departure from the polarising talk on identity and religion that mostly dominates it.

## THE SWEATY FINGER

Japanese scientists have invented a robotic digit with living skin. The dystopias of science fiction writers are set to come home

IT IS, IN essence, just a set of mechanical joints, wrapped in collagen, human dermal fibroblasts and epidermal keratinocytes. Yet, the "slightly sweaty" finger developed by Japanese scientists — the first robotic digit with living skin — is a breakthrough that makes the utopias and dystopias of speculative fiction straddle the edge of prophecy. The small pink digit is a likely precursor to humanoid androids. Coupled with advances in AI and machine learning, it points to the question: What does the future hold for humanity's relationship with the machine-people it is on the path to creating?

Advocates for the machine-people argue that the more human-like they are, the more easily they can be useful as nurses, crossing guards, and for dangerous jobs. Making machines seem sentient is particularly important to traverse the "uncanny valley", especially to have them perform tasks that require human interaction. Simply put, the uncanny valley is the odd, unsettling feeling when machines and audio-visual simulations closely resemble humans. But there's a reason that tools that look like us make humans uneasy.

Imagine an almost-sentient nurse. Just because its mind works through a code, does it not have personhood? Making it work without rights or payment will amount to slavery. Then there's the justifiable fear that futurists have raised for the better part of a century — the machines, as they become more human-like (in their behaviour as much as their look) are likely to take over. When it comes to the ruthless exercise of power, they will learn from the best — their creators. Finally, those who believe this pessimism in based on the unfounded suspicion of technology would do well to remember that social media began with the promise of "connecting people" in the ether, and is now, sometimes, a threat to democracy. A sweaty finger could be much more dangerous than an algorithm.



ABBAS MOMIN

## A SUPERHERO LIKE US

'Ms Marvel' is a break from South Asian representation in western films and TV shows

IN THE 2008 blockbuster *Iron Man* — the movie that kickstarted the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) — there is a scene where Robert Downey Jr's character, Tony Stark, is abducted by a vaguely middle eastern-looking terrorist group and they're making a hostage video. In the scene, lead terrorist Raza played by Pakistani-American actor Faran Tahir is giving threats to the camera in Urdu. While he's doing so, the English subtitles at the bottom of the screen are completely at odds with what he is saying and to top it all, the movie refers to the language spoken as "Arabic". I distinctly remember bursting into laughter during this scene with a packed multiplex audience in Bangalore, most of whom, of course, understood Urdu due to its closeness to Hindi. Clearly, linguistic accuracy and representation were not the highest priority for the studio back then.

Fourteen years later, as I sat down with a huge grin on my face to watch the first episode of *Ms Marvel*, the same studio's web series with a Pakistani Muslim teenager as the lead, I couldn't help but marvel (pun fully intended) at how much things had changed.

For me, this show is critic-proof. I have been unabashedly in love with the character of Kamala Khan (who later becomes the feisty superhero Ms Marvel) since she was created by writer G Willow Wilson and artists Adrian Alphona and Jamie McKelvie in the pages of a comic book back in 2013. A huge part in seeing Kamala come to life was also played by comic book editor Sana Amanat, herself a Pakistani-American. Amanat also serves as an executive pro-

ducer on the show.

Representation matters only when it is authentic. Though there have been sporadic bursts of South Asian representation in Hollywood films and TV shows in the past, a huge chunk of them suffered from being seen through the lens of western, most often white, filmmakers and creative teams. These stories and characterisations rarely went beyond the "exotic" tag associated with Indian/Pakistani costumes and jewellery and collapsed under a muddle of clichés.

And then of course there's the sour topic of the portrayal of Muslims and Islam in Hollywood and pop culture at large. One only needs to dial back the clock a little over a decade to see examples of TV shows like *24* and *Homeland* and films like *American Sniper* that almost built their identity around the harmful "cold-blooded Islamic terrorist" stereotype, sometimes going as far as to insinuate that even common, everyday Muslims with families had been brainwashed into believing an extremist ideology.

This is why it filled my heart with joy to see how colourful, ebullient, funny and positive *Ms Marvel* is. Iman Vellani, who plays the titular character of Kamala is a star in the making. Her face and personality light up a room. The first episode deals with a simple storyline of Kamala trying to convince her parents to let her attend "Avenger Con", a superhero convention, dressed as her favourite superhero Captain Marvel. Her mother thinks the superhero costumes are too skimpy and will lead her to do "haram" activities. Throw in a mysterious amulet inherited from Kamala's

nani, some high-school shenanigans and you have yourself a spectacular adventure in the making. In an era where superheroes are getting darker and grittier, the show does not shy away from its comic book roots. The New Jersey graffiti comes alive, as do the drawings and sketches in the students' notebooks. The soundtrack is peppy and the emotions are heartfelt. The internal world of Kamala's house and family feels "lived in".

A show as mainstream as this also gives us the chance to see some glowing performances by desi talent. Zenobia Shroff is the perfect lovable yet stern mother, Mohan Kapur (where are my fellow '90s Saamp Seedhi fans?) gets to break the "angry desi dad" stereotype by playing an affable father and stand-up comedian Azhar Usman also makes an appearance. Occupying the director's chair are Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy and Meera Menon and, if message boards and rumours are to be believed, South Asian stars like Fawad Khan and Farhan Akhtar might show up soon.

In 1962, Marvel Comics writer Stan Lee and artist Steve Ditko created a teenage superhero who got bitten by a radioactive spider and struggled to balance the life of being a superhero while trying to satisfy his aunt and be a high schooler. That character was, of course, Spider-man and it brought Marvel Comics into the limelight. In 2022, I sincerely hope the youthful Kamala Khan does the same for the representation of South Asians in cinemas and on TV.

The writer is a podcast producer and stand-up comedian



## JUNE 11, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### ANTULAY LOSES CASE

AN APPEAL FILED by the former Chief Minister, A.R. Antulay, and the state of Maharashtra against the judgement of Justice B. Lentin in the cement case was dismissed by a division bench of the Bombay High Court comprising Justice S.K. Desai and Justice B.J. Rele. Justice Rele's indictment was even stronger than Justice Lentin's judgement last January. Justice Desai was no less strong. He said that "the manner of allocating cement revealed, indicated and illustrated an assorted spectacle of unreasoned arbitrariness and capricious discretion resulting in unprincipled favouritism which remains unexplained and appears to be unjustified." The bench upheld that nexus and quid pro quo had been established between allotments of cement to

certain big builders and the donations made by them to the trust floated by Antulay, and ruled that both the former chief minister and the state had acted in an illegal, arbitrary and capricious manner "while distributing cement from the Mantralaya".

### FALKLANDS WAR

BRITISH PLANS FOR an assault on the main Argentine garrison at Port Stanley, the Falklands capital, received a setback when Argentine planes crippled two British landing ships in the first low-level air strike for 10 days. Two bombs hit the 4,470 tonne fleet auxiliary, Sir Galahad. One exploded astern, rocking the vessel as thick black smoke billowed high above Fitzroy settlement, about

23 km south-west of Port Stanley, British reporters in the Falklands said.

### ISRAEL PERSISTS

CONTINUOUS WAVES OF Israeli fighter-bombers pounded Palestinian and Syrian positions in Beirut and scattered leaflets warning that Israeli troops planned to seize the Lebanese capital within hours. Israeli land, sea and air forces continued to hammer at targets in and around Beirut long after the US President Ronald Reagan had called on Prime Minister Menachem Begin to order an immediate cease-fire in the five-day-old offensive. The state-run Lebanese television said Palestinians stopped the Israeli tanks at Khalid, 1.2 km south of Beirut international airport.

# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE

## My grandmother's house

Summer vacations in Hyderabad connected me to my beloved grandmother, my family's journey, my roots. Those memories continue to shape who I am



OPENING ARGUMENT

BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY

AMMAMMA, MY MATERNAL grandmother, had a row of jasmine plants in her home in Hyderabad. One of my earliest memories is of sleeping outdoors with Ammamma in the summer. I would wake up in the early morning to the scent of jasmine flowers, "malle puvvu" as we call them in Telugu. The monsoon rains would arrive by early June, bringing down the temperature and leaving the jasmine flowers flecked with tiny water droplets. The beds would now be shifted back into the house and I would wake up and run outside to watch the aftereffects of the rain on the grass and plants outside, while Ammamma would be in her pantry warming up milk for me.

My grandmother lived by herself in this large old home, where she and my grandfather had raised their three children. All three eventually flew away to live in other towns and countries. But I would head back every year from a sizzling Delhi to spend the summer in Hyderabad. As an only child, with few cousins of my age in the city, my summer playmate was the old house itself. I spent my days making up games, cycling all over, and reading Tarzan comics. I would play tennis against the side of the house — I was Martina Navratilova winning Wimbledon, or John McEnroe throwing a tantrum with the referee. I always beat the wall and developed a good forehand in the process. In the evenings, we would sit on the veranda where she would make me do exercises to improve my handwriting. Eat neatly and write neatly, she insisted.

My grandfather, a well-known criminal lawyer, built this large rambling home in the heart of the city, close to the high court. He had set up his office in one part and his home in the other — as many lawyers do. I never met him, for he passed away before I was born. My grandmother maintained her independence by living in her own home even after he passed away, refusing all requests from her loving children to move in with them.

At 1:00 pm exactly, I was expected to be at the table for lunch, where Ammamma and I sat at the same dining table that my mother ate at as a child. Black-and-white pictures of stern-looking ancestors watched over us. Over the summer, I would be fed a series of Hyderabad delicacies: Shikampur — little kebabs made of keema, channa dal, coriander and dahi. Ammamma also made a fine yakhini pulao and that quintessential Hyderabad dish, muttilla kebab. Everything was served along with the ubiquitous rasam that went with all foods. Life couldn't get better than this!

One summer evening, her best friend Kamar Ahmed sent over a tray of badam ki jaali for me. Named for the old-style jaali architecture, badam ki jaali is an iconic Hyderabad delicacy. Ammamma and Kamar aunty had been best friends since primary school at Mehbubia Girls School on Abids Road. Kamar called Ammamma "Sharu", short for Sharada. Their long friendship spanned girlhood, marriage, the birth of children and grandchildren. They watched as



C R Sasikumaran

India became independent, Operation Polo brought Hyderabad into the Republic and the city eventually became the capital of the newly-reorganised State of Andhra Pradesh.

Ammamma knew that those we love come with their own surprises. She adored me — her granddaughter who preferred t-shirts and shorts to dresses. She took me for my preferred short haircuts and indulged my love for the Bruce Lee films that played at Amravati, the local theatre. Those summer vacations connected me to my beloved grandmother, my family's history, my hometown, and my roots. Their teachings contributed to who I am.

My summers eventually changed. Ammamma's home is now a commercial building on a busy street. Andhra Pradesh was divided into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and the high court where my grandfather practised law is now the Telangana High

Ammamma's passing represented the end of one phase of my life. A life which children have with their grandparents, where we learn of the journeys that they have made — of migration, of their friendships and the evolution of our country across generations.

Court. In the summer of 1992, I went away to college to study law in Bangalore. Ammamma came to drop me off at the college hostel. She would die battling leukaemia in my second year of law school.

Ammamma's passing represented the end of one phase of my life. A life which children have with their grandparents, where we learn of the journeys that they have made — of migration, of their friendships and the evolution of our country across generations. Those summer breaks of my childhood today have been replaced by the summer breaks of the courts, when we lawyers reflect on the year that passed and the court term ahead. We rest and recuperate. Importantly, today's summers always remind me of those of my childhood — for we are our memories.

The writer is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The normal cooperation project between China and Cambodia, which aims to 'strengthen Cambodia's naval capacity...' has been discredited, blocked and sabotaged by the US, becoming another typical case of Washington's 'coercive diplomacy'."

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

## Building on common ground

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework presents opportunities, and also tough policy choices, like on data and taxation



KARTHIK NACHIAPPAN

The official launch of the Biden Administration's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), the US's de facto foreign economic policy for Asia, has been lauded and welcomed. Countries like India that have close to the United States have ostensibly breathed a sigh of relief after months of waiting for the administration to deliver a regional economic strategy to accompany its security focus. IPEF proponents, which now include the US and a dozen Asian countries, extol its purpose and potential, particularly given some doubts over whether the US administration could sustain its focus in Asia as war broke out in Europe. Besides Ukraine, the IPEF's importance also owes to China's patent economic footprint across Asia that could be checked by an alternative economic paradigm that emphasises openness, flexibility, and integration. Can the IPEF deliver on its promise? What drives its logic? And can the framework yield gains for the United States, India, and other signatories?

The IPEF is not a trade or investment agreement between 13 signatories. It's a framework or a starting point for these Indo-Pacific countries to regulate trade and commerce across four key pillars: Digital economy, supply chains, clean energy, and governance. The IPEF's focus on these pillars reflects the Biden administration's desire to address constraints left by Covid-19 globally, namely inflation and supply chain shocks, and devise new standards to advance Biden's domestic economic agenda, specifically climate change, tax evasion, worker rights, and retaining America's technological primacy.

Globally, the IPEF signifies the first multilateral attempt to boost supply chain resilience to ease global inflationary pressures and mitigate effects of future disruptions, particularly key raw materials, critical minerals, and semiconductors. The IPEF also represents an effort to negotiate "high-standard" rules between like-minded countries to govern the digital economy, particularly data flows, propel climate mitigation through carbon removal purchasing commitments, and tilting power in the global economy toward workers through equitable global tax, anti-money laundering and anti-bribery provisions.

The IPEF, in a nutshell, internationalises Biden's economic agenda to protect and prolong America's economic leadership across Asia while chipping away at China's ascendance through compelling signatories to negotiate domestic standards that comport with Washington's vision. Biden wants to play the long game — introduce a 21st century economic arrangement that reinforces a domestic growth agenda embracing labour rights, productivity, and using market incentives and fiscal spending to reduce inequal-

ity, deter environmental damage, foster digital openness and connectivity, and expand tax compliance.

Yet, the merits of Biden's economic agenda to uphold American primacy could dent how other signatories regulate their domestic economies. IPEF commitments and standards that other signatories like India have to accede to, while negotiating broad commitments and internalising them domestically as standards, will likely facilitate US MNCs' access to Asian economies at the expense of domestic preferences. The IPEF's pillars — climate, digital, supply chains, and governance reforms — could clash with and supersede these countries' policy preferences on such issues.

For instance, the US' preference to allow free and open data flows under the digital economy pillar will constrict India's ability to regulate data for domestic purposes. India's long delayed data protection legislation favours government regulation and handling of data despite recent concessions made to share this burden with foreign and domestic firms. Should US officials push for a liberal data flows standard, it will create a difficult choice for Indian officials given their inability to settle prevailing data governance quandaries. Nor are Indian officials generally open to syncing their tax policies to mesh with the Biden push for a global tax standard amongst US partners to mitigate tax avoidance and evasion despite calls that the measure would generate additional financial resources for developing countries. Qualms aside, the IPEF remains attractive for India given its flexibility and open nature, allowing Delhi to demonstrate its political commitment to the United States to jointly shape the rules governing the Indo-Pacific's economic future even as competitors lurk.

That said, tough policy choices, like the one on data and taxation, must be made by Indian officials while negotiating the terms of the IPEF accession without sufficient carrots from the US to draw in and sustain countries like India. The IPEF does not grant market access to the United States or include tariff reduction provisions, ostensibly due to the perils of trade politics in Washington. Instead, the IPEF empowers the Biden administration to shape rules across several critical pillars that will condition America's economic engagement in the Indo-Pacific amid competing economic paradigms, notably the Chinese through the BRI and Europe through a bevy of digital policies and standards.

What's clear is that the IPEF represents both a mirage and aspiration. Collectively, it represents a leap into an unknown that has to be negotiated amongst partners that share interests and some values. And individually, it will generate fierce regulatory battles amongst bureaucrats and regulators in each country to ascertain which commitments advance and which hurt domestic interests. Washington should hope that the conditions for the former trump the latter when the negotiations begin.

The writer is Research Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore



K M SEETHI

## Beyond damage control

India must do everything to protect its ties with nations in Islamic world

INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC DILEMMA over the outrage from the Muslim countries — in the wake of remarks on the Prophet by two BJP leaders, one of whom has been expelled and the other suspended — is unprecedented, but not quite unexpected. This is the culmination of a series of incidents in the country in the last decade when Muslims were targeted and accused of fomenting violence and fanaticism — in the name of love jihad or food and dress. Hate speeches and mob lynching were other traits of this communal frenzy. Yet, the country has not witnessed widespread communal violence or anti-Muslim outrage in the recent past, save a few cases during the anti-CAA agitation.

What apparently infuriated the regimes in the Muslim world, this time, was the text and context of the anti-Islamic slur. Representatives of the BJP made disgraceful references to the Prophet, which the regimes in these Muslim countries, irrespective of the sects in Islam (as the Saudi and Iranian responses clearly indicated), could not cope with. The context was equally important: The comments came from two responsible ruling party officials in the country's capital. That's why they attracted attention. Yet, the agencies to monitor such sensitive issues remained calm until Qatar and Kuwait stepped in by summoning the Indian envoys to protest. In re-

sponse to the outrage, the BJP acted swiftly by suspending Nupur Sharma and expelling Naveen Jindal, both Delhi-based party functionaries. Later, the party also issued a notification reminding its rank and file to be cautious in public remarks on religious issues.

Meanwhile, social media platforms in India and the Gulf are abuzz with disparaging trolls and there are sickening calls for the boycott of Indian goods. There are also calls on social media for the boycott of Arab goods and services in India. But everyone knows that these are impulsive responses. We have seen such responses in the context of tensions with China. There was never any "exodus" of Chinese goods from India though there was a high-voltage campaign for several months against these goods and some Chinese apps were banned.

Campaigners (including a few GCC regimes) demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should tender an apology for all that happened. But New Delhi's stance is categorical and legitimate insofar as the Union government has nothing to do with such unsolicited comments. More importantly, the ruling party did what it was expected to do. Though belatedly, a case was also registered for hurting the sentiments of Muslims. The Gulf regimes have apparently understood the message behind these measures.

Even as the South Block's engagements with the Muslim countries continue — with damage-control exercises at different levels — there are countermoves to browbeat the Islamic world. Obviously, the ruling party is aware of the implications of this move for the upcoming elections in some states, besides the 2024 general elections. Hence, the party is likely to follow a carrot and stick policy on crucial political issues.

The Modi government knows that its foreign policy strategy — which includes strategic bargaining with regional and international actors — would fetch reasonable dividends. The response to its Ukraine war strategy has convinced South Block that it has adequate manoeuvrability in global affairs. Countries in West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region do not have a fixed position vis-à-vis India. Delhi has vibrant economic and strategic ties with almost all regimes in the region, irrespective of the brand of Islam or their relative ideological depth. That's precisely the reason these countries are unwilling to join the Islamabad-led chorus or go beyond passing resolutions. India's signing of a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UAE and the ongoing negotiations for a wider FTA with the GCC could be an eye-opener for the country's detractors.

Much has been said and written about India's energy dependence and trade inter-

dependence across the countries in WANA. As much as 40 per cent of oil and an equal share of gas requirements are met through India's strategic cooperation with the Gulf regimes. India and the WANA regimes know that there is a mutuality of interests in these transactions which cannot be substituted by any other segments of the world system. Equally important is the role of the more than eight million-strong Indian diaspora in the WANA region. The "Gulf remittance" is an important part of the Indian economy, as important as the Indian investment in the GCC and GCC investment in India.

India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, has said that the Indian diaspora is "a unique living bridge between India and the world and should be valued accordingly". He also said that "from time to time, their interests and well-being are a subject of our conversation." New Delhi should not stop engaging the countries, especially the ones in the WANA region, that host a significant number of them. Therefore, South Block must go beyond a mere damage-control exercise.

The writer, an ICSSR Senior Fellow in Diaspora Studies, is the Director, Inter University Centre for Social Science Research and Extension (IUCSSRE), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SAFETY FIRST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Foul play' (IE, June 10). If we truly want to address the issue of abuse of young athletes by their coaches, we need to look critically and realistically at the different risks young athletes face in different sporting contexts. I believe two things are needed: parents should be provided tools and resources to educate themselves and their children about grooming and assault by predatory coaches; and simple and expedient mechanisms. The Sports Authority of India has rightly initiated firm steps aimed at protecting female athletes from falling prey to sexual harassment at the hands of their coaches.

SS Paul, Nadia

### TEAM WORK

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Two missions for change' (IE, June 10). The Supreme Court in its landmark judgment *Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India* ruled that "life" under Article 21 meant more than a mere "animal existence". It would include the right to live with human dignity and all other aspects which made life meaningful and complete, covering within its ambit, the right to good health, clean environment and water. The Jal Jeevan and Swachh Bharat mission through collective efforts have made the realisation of the aforementioned rights and ideals possible.

Aditi Pangarkar, Kothrud

### PATH BREAKER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Mithali,

superstar' (IE, June 9). A big difference between Mithali Raj and Sachin Tendulkar with whom she is generally compared with respect to a long tenure studied with record-breaking performances, is that she began, struggled and flourished in her career when women's cricket was at its lowest ebb and lacked mass appeal in India. Her sterling batting and proactive captaincy helped attract public attention when she and her team started registering wins and breaking records in world cricket. Her self-belief was remarkable. When once asked who her favourite male cricketer was, she retorted, "Why don't you ask Virat Kohli which female cricketer is his favourite?" She is leaving a legacy of which she should be proud. The nation is.

Y G Chouksey, Pune

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Mithali, superstar' (IE, June 9). Women's cricket has come of age, and Indian Women's cricket has gone miles ahead of International teams as they are trying hard to emulate their men counterparts in achieving records. Just like Sachin Tendulkar, Mithali Raj became the highest run-scorer. It is a great victory. This record follows after Jhulan Goswami became the world's highest ODI wicket-taker. Shantha Rangaswamy and Diana Edulji also made a break in women's cricket as batswoman and bowler respectively. Indian women's cricket is coming under the BCCI and we can expect more laurels coming our way in the days to come. She is an icon of Indian cricket.

Krishnan Ramanathan, Ghaziabad

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Anthony Albanese and Jacinda Ardern in Sydney, Friday. Reuters

## SYDNEY

## New Zealand, Aus 'in lockstep' on Pacific

AUSTRALIA AND New Zealand vowed on Friday to take their ties to "a new level" through greater collaboration on climate and regional security. Australian PM Anthony Albanese said the two countries shared concerns about the Pacific as China pushes to expand its influence in the region. "We're in lockstep on the Pacific," Albanese told reporters in Sydney. Ardern, the first foreign leader to visit Australia since its election, said: "... we are very eager to work alongside our Pacific partners on this significant threat." **REUTERS**

## PAKISTAN

## Pak announces Rs 1,523 bn for defence

PAKISTAN ON Friday announced to allocate Rs 1,523 billion for defence, an increase of over 11 per cent than last year, as Finance Minister Miftah Ismail presented a Rs 9,502 billion annual budget in Parliament for the 2022-23 fiscal. The total current expenditure for the next year would be Rs 8,694 billion, which is 15.5 per cent higher than last year's budgeted figure. The powerful Pakistan Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its nearly 75 years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy. **PTI**

## SYRIA

## Israel strikes halt flights to Damascus

SYRIA HALTED flights to and from Damascus International Airport on Friday, the transport ministry said, a few hours after Israeli air strikes hit south of the capital. A Syrian military official quoted by the state news agency said Syrian air defences intercepted the Israeli missiles, downing most of them, but that the early morning attack caused one civilian injury and some material damage. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Friday the Israeli bombing had damaged the runway after targeting "warehouses of Iranian militias" near the airport. **REUTERS**

## Russia defends death sentences in Donetsk, Ukraine says attempt to force talks on West

**AGENCIES**  
BAKH MUT (UKRAINE),  
LONDON, JUNE 10

UKRAINE AND the West denounced a pro-Moscow court that sentenced two British citizens and a Moroccan to death for fighting for Ukraine, calling the proceedings a sham and a violation of the rules of war.

The court in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic in Ukraine found the three fighters guilty of seeking the violent overthrow of power, an offense punishable by death in the unrecognized eastern republic. The men were also convicted of mercenary activities and terrorism.

## SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE

## China warns US on Taiwan: Ready to pay any price, even war

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
SINGAPORE, JUNE 10

CHINA'S DEFENSE minister complained to his American counterpart on Friday about the latest US arms package for Taiwan and warned of a possible conflict over the self-governing island that China claims as its own territory.

Chinese Defense Minister, General Wei Fenghe told US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in a meeting in Singapore the sale "seriously undermined China's sovereignty and security interests," according to state broadcaster CCTV's military channel. The Chinese government and military will "resolutely smash any Taiwan independence plot and resolutely safeguard the reunification of the motherland," Wei said.

In a further readout of the meeting, Defense Ministry spokesperson Col. Wu Qian quoted Wei as saying China would respond to any move toward formal Taiwan independence by "smashing it even at any price, including war."

Austin, according to the US Department of Defense, said the US remains committed to its policy on Taiwan and "reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the (Taiwan) Strait, opposition to unilateral changes to status quo, and called on (China) to refrain from destabilising actions toward Taiwan."

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported that the defendants — Aiden Aslin, Shaun Pinner and Brahim Saadoun — will face a firing squad. They have a month to appeal.

Ukraine has alleged Russia wants to use the three foreigners as "hostages" to put pressure on the West over peace negotiations. The separatist side argued that the three were "mercenaries" not entitled to the usual protections accorded prisoners of war. They are the first foreign fighters sentenced by Ukraine's Russian-backed rebels.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the three men had committed crimes on the territory of the self-proclaimed state trying to break away from Ukraine.



Britons Aiden Aslin, Shaun Pinner and Moroccan Brahim Saadoun in a courtroom cage in Donetsk. Reuters File

Lavrov said: "At the moment, the trials you mentioned are being held on the basis of the legislation of the Donetsk People's

Republic, because the crimes in question were committed on the DPR's territory." **Ukrainian Foreign Ministry**

spokesman Oleh Nikolenko, however, condemned the proceedings as legally invalid. He said all foreign citizens fighting as part of Ukraine's armed forces should be considered Ukrainian military personnel and protected as such.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said on Twitter: "They are prisoners of war. This is a sham judgment with absolutely no legitimacy."

Saadoun's father, Taher Saadoun, told the Moroccan online Arab-language newspaper Madar21 that his son is not a mercenary and that he holds Ukrainian citizenship. Aslin's and Pinner's families have said the two men were long-serving members of the Ukrainian military.



A video of President Trump speaking during a rally on January 6, 2021, being played at the hearing. Reuters

## 2021 U.S. CAPITOL RIOTS

## Democracy in danger: Panel blames Trump for 'coup bid'

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 10

THE HOUSE panel investigating the January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol laid the blame firmly on Donald Trump Thursday night, saying the assault was hardly spontaneous but an "attempted coup" and a direct result of the defeated president's effort to overturn the 2020 election.

With a never-before-seen 12-minute video of extremist groups leading the deadly siege and startling testimony from Trump's most inner circle, the 1/6 committee provided gripping detail in contending that Trump's repeated lies about election fraud and his public effort to stop Joe Biden's victory led to the attack and imperiled American democracy.

"Democracy remains in danger," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., chairman of the panel, during the hearing, timed for prime time to reach as many Americans as possible.

"Jan. 6 was the culmination of an attempted coup, a brazen attempt, as one rioter put it shortly after Jan. 6, to overthrow the government," Thompson said. "The violence was no accident."

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

The former president's daughter, Ivanka Trump, testified to the committee that she

## EXPLAINED

## A damning indictment

THE INDICTMENT outlined against Trump is perhaps the most damning in the US's 246-year history. Many see it portraying Trump as a would-be autocrat willing to do anything to hang onto power. Analysts say the panel's investigation will, however, be just for public record ahead of the midterm elections as Trump seeks another White House run.

respected Barr's view that there was no election fraud. "I accepted what he said."

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

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



General Wei Fenghe after the meeting with Lloyd Austin in Singapore. Reuters

## Let's see: China on UN action over N Korea

**United Nations:** China's UN envoy has said Beijing does not want to see North Korea carry out a new nuclear test, which is partly why China vetoed a US-led bid to impose new UN sanctions on Pyongyang over renewed ballistic missile launches.

But Ambassador Zhang Jun warned against making presumptions on how Beijing might react at the UN if North Korea goes ahead with its nuclear test.

"Let's see what will happen, but I think we should not prejudge what will happen with a nuclear test," Zhang said Thursday. **REUTERS**



## JAPAN OPENS FOR TOURISM

A Geisha woman in traditional Japanese 'kimono' walks along a shopping street in Tokyo on Friday. Easing travel restrictions amid waning Covid, Japan has begun accepting applications from tourists, but only those on guided package tours and willing to follow Covid norms. **AP**

## At Americas summit, Biden rolls out plan to tackle migration crisis

**Los Angeles:** The United States on Friday unveiled a long list of measures to confront the migration crisis as President Joe Biden and fellow leaders prepared to issue a joint declaration thrashed out at a fractious Summit of the Americas.

The White House touted a series of actions, including programs to take in more guest workers and to provide legal pathways for people from poorer countries to work in richer ones. The Biden administration, faced with a record flow of ille-



Joe Biden at a dinner for visiting leaders. Reuters

gal migrants at its southern border, pledged hundreds of millions of dollars in aid for

Venezuelan migrants across the region, renewed processing of family-based visas for Cubans and Haitians and eased the hiring of Central American workers.

The plan caps a summit hosted by Biden that was designed to reassert US leadership and counter China's growing economic footprint in the region.

However, that message was clouded by a partial boycott by leaders, including Mexico's president, to protest exclusion of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua from the event. **REUTERS**

## India provides Lanka \$55 mn credit for fertilisers

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
COLOMBO, JUNE 10

INDIA HAS provided a USD 55 million Line of Credit to crisis-hit Sri Lanka for the import of fertiliser, in a bid to help the island nation tide over its worst economic hardships, the Indian High Commission said on Friday.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had recently warned of a food crisis in the island nation due to the ongoing economic crisis.

Sri Lanka had requested a credit facility from India for the importation of urea fertiliser of



The island nation is facing a food crisis. Reuters file

65,000 metric tonnes (MT) in order to cater the immediate requirement of during the Yala cultivation season, the Indian mission said in a statement

Secretary to the Ministry of Finance M Siriwardena signed an agreement with the EXIM Bank of India to obtain a Dollar Credit Line.

## NEW MINISTRIES TO HANDLE CRISIS

**Colombo:** President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has created two new ministries to handle the economic crisis, officials said. The ministry of "Technology and Investment Promotion" will promote FDI and private sector investment, and promote economic potential. The other one is "Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment". **PTI**

## UK to introduce Bill next week to breach Brexit deal

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
LONDON, JUNE 10

THE BRITISH government said Friday it will introduce a bill next week to override parts of the Brexit trade treaty it signed with the European Union before the UK quit the bloc in 2020. The move will be a major escalation in a festering UK-EU dispute over trade rules for Northern Ireland.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, Jamie Davies, said "the bill has been agreed by the relevant cabinet committees and will be intro-

duced to Parliament on Monday."

The legislation, if approved by lawmakers, would scrap parts of a trade treaty with the EU that Johnson signed less than two years ago, by removing checks on goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK.

The EU has threatened to retaliate, raising the spectre of a trade war between the two major economic partners.

Some legal experts say the move is unlawful but the UK government says it will "publish a summary of the legal advice" it has received about the legislation.

## Pak ex-dictator Gen Musharraf critical in UAE: Ex-minister

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
LAHORE, DUBAI, JUNE 10

PAKISTAN'S FORMER military dictator General Pervez Musharraf is critical and on a ventilator support at a hospital in the UAE, his close aide and former information minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Friday.

Gen. Musharraf, 78, ruled Pakistan from 1999 to 2008.

"Musharraf is critical as he is on a ventilator," Chaudhry said.

Chaudhry, who was the information minister in the Imran Khan government, was once a media spokesperson for Musharraf. He said that he spoke to Musharraf's son who confirmed his illness. "I have just spoken to Gen Musharraf's son Bilal in Dubai who confirmed that he (Musharraf) is on ventilator," Chaudhry said.

Reacting to reports, Ifzaal Siddique, the President of the All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) Overseas — founded by Musharraf — said that the former president is little bit ill but fully alert.

"General Pervez Musharraf is at home (a little) bit ill though, but fully alert as usual, please don't listen to fake news. Just pray for his good health, Ameen," Siddique said.

Musharraf, a fugitive in former PM Benazir Bhutto murder case, has been living in Dubai since 2016. **NYT**

## CHANGE ON THE WAY?

## Australia's baby steps toward severing ties with the Queen

**YAN ZHUANG**  
MELBOURNE, JUNE 10

FOR DECADES, many Australians have found it a curious thing that the country's head of state is a queen sitting on a distant English throne. Occasionally, in times of controversy, they have even batted about the idea of cutting Australia's final monarchical ties. But more pressing issues have inevitably prevailed.

Now, change is on the way. Kind of.

Anthony Albanese, the newly elected prime minister, is an

avowed republican. He has appointed the country's first ever "minister for the republic" — a position intended to begin the transition to an Australian head of state. Polling shows that a slim majority of Australians would support a republic if they had to choose yes or no.

But that does not mean that constitutional change on the republican front is anywhere near the top of Albanese's agenda. The new ministerial position — an assistant minister — is a comparatively minor one, and its role will be limited, at least for the near term, mostly to conversa-

tion starter and weather vane.

"I think the republican sentiment," said Ben Wellings, a senior lecturer in international relations at Monash University in Melbourne, "has settled on this passive republicanism — they're pleased that we don't have all those trimmings of monarchy, but at the same time, not motivated enough to really change the current setup, which is like a pale imitation of that."

The new assistant minister position is "a way of testing the waters," he said. "He's got three years" — the time until the next federal election — "to see what



Queen Elizabeth, the longest-ruling British monarch, has been on the throne for more than 70 years. AP

sort of enthusiasm there would be for such a change."

In one small corner, at least — the Australian republican movement — enthusiasm is already high.

The appointment of Matt Thistlethwaite, a longtime Labor politician, as the new assistant minister of the republic "is the biggest breakthrough for the republican movement in 30 years," said Peter FitzSimons, chairman of the main republican organization.

The movement has been waiting years for a spark. It suffered a heavy blow in 1999, with

the failure of a referendum on whether Australia should elect its own head of state. The proposal was defeated in part because of disagreement over whether an Australian head of state should be appointed or elected.

Now, he said, "let the record show we now have a 'minister of the Crown' devoted to removing the Crown."

Thistlethwaite, for his part, describes his role in less stirring terms. It is, he said, "initially one of educating the Australians about our current constitutional arrangement..." **NYT**



GOLD

₹50,793



RUPEE

₹77.83/USD



OIL

\$121.28



SILVER

₹60,914

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of June 9

SENSEX: 54,303.44 ▼ 1,016.84 (-1.84%) NIFTY: 16,201.80 ▼ 276.30 (-1.68%) NIKKEI: 27,824.29 ▼ 422.24 HANG SENG: 21,806.18 ▼ 62.87 FTSE: 7,383.18 ▼ 93.03 DAX: 14,029.28 ▼ 169.52

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH  
INTERNATIONAL TRAVELUS, Germany ease  
Covid test norms  
for flyers but some  
caveats stay put

Logan Airport, Boston. The US will lift its requirement that international air travellers take a Covid test within a day before boarding their flights. AP

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

EVEN AS Covid caseload is once again on a rise in India, countries are easing requirements for international travel into their jurisdictions. Friday, the German Embassy in New Delhi updated its travel advisory to say that all Covid-19 restrictions for entry into Germany will be lifted effective June 11, 12pm CET. "From that date, travel from India to Germany will be permitted for all travel purposes (including tourism and visits). For entry into Germany no proof of vaccination, recovery or testing is required any longer," the advisory noted.

However, it added that "some venues in Germany may require proof of vaccination for access". Last month, the country had announced acceptance of its recognition of Covaxin for travel to Germany starting June 1.

Separately, as per a report by Associated Press, the Biden administration is lifting its requirement that international air travellers to the US take a Covid test within a day before boarding their flights, easing one of the last remaining government mandates meant to

contain the spread of the coronavirus. The report said, citing a senior administration official, that the mandate will expire Sunday at 12:01am EDT, adding that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined it is no longer necessary.

These decisions have come at a time when the number of Covid-19 positive cases are rising. India reported a total of 7,584 new Covid infections in the 24 hours preceding Friday evening, taking the total number of cases in the country to 4,32,05,106, according to the Union Health Ministry. Delhi alone on Friday recorded 655 fresh Covid cases and two more deaths, making it the second consecutive day when daily cases were in excess of 600.

Over the last few months, several other countries have also eased requirements for travel into their jurisdictions. Effective May 2, Switzerland lifted nearly all its entry restrictions that it had introduced to curb Covid spread. Similarly, effective May 1, Thailand had removed RT-PCR testing requirements for international travellers, while introducing two different entry schemes for vaccinated and unvaccinated travellers.

## SENSEX DIVES 1.8% AS FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS EXIT

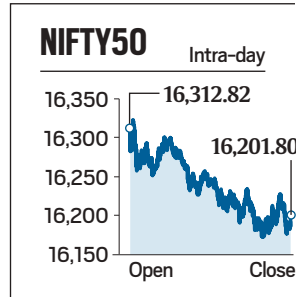
Inflation, rate hike worries pull down  
markets; Rupee dives to record lowENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JUNE 10

THE RUPEE on Friday tumbled 11 paise to close at a lifetime low of 77.83 against the US dollar as rising crude oil prices earlier in the day and unabated foreign capital outflows soured sentiment.

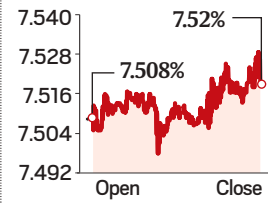
A sell-off in equity markets, rising US bond yields and stronger greenback overseas also weighed on the domestic unit which fell to a low of 77.87 in intra-day trading, forex traders said.

Domestic stock markets plunged by 1.84 per cent as rising inflation worries and Covid cases hit sentiment. The SENSEX lost 1,017 points to 54,303.44 and the NSE Nifty Index fell 276 points to 16,201.80 in the bear rally, led by foreign investors. Foreign investors pulled out Rs 3,973 crore from the market on Friday. On the other hand, benchmark 10-year government bonds rose by 2 basis points to 7.52 per cent.

The rise in crude prices towards three-month highs owing to supply tightness is further ac-



10-YEAR BOND YIELD



centuating inflation concerns and inflicting damage on the global economy, already strained by the monetary policy tightening path of the major central banks and the Russia-Ukraine crisis, said Sugandha Sachdeva, vice president, Religare Broking Ltd.

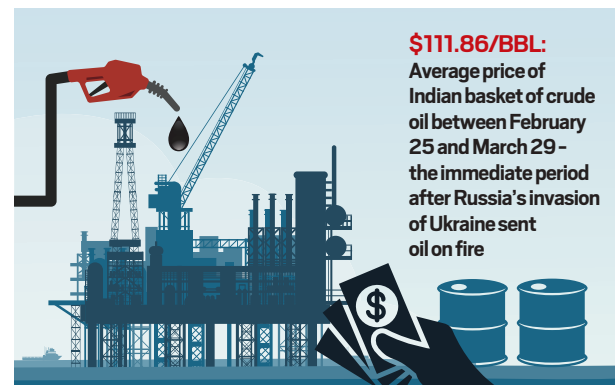
Besides, the World Bank has slashed its global growth forecast to 2.9 per cent against its previous estimate of 4.1 per cent in January. Meanwhile, rising inflation fears gripped the domestic stock market leading to heavy sell-off ahead of the release of US inflation data and Federal Reserve policy meet next week. The inflation data will be crucial to sense

the quantum of a rate hike. European Central Bank in its policy meeting signalled to start rate hike from next month and a large change in September.

Moreover, the number of Covid cases rapidly rising in India may prove to be a dampener. The RBI policy announced this week put the focus on normalisation of liquidity and withdrawal of accommodative policy, which may have a negative impact on the markets, Thomas said. Meanwhile, Fitch Ratings revised up its outlook on India to stable from negative while affirming BBB- rating. Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## 'Indian crude oil basket hits 10-yr high; petrol, diesel unchanged'

The Indian crude hit a decade high of \$121 a barrel, but retail prices of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen, as per Oil Ministry data



State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are supposed to adjust petrol and diesel prices daily in line with the cost, but they have been since November 2021 moderating pump rates

85% SHARE OF INDIA'S DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS TO MEET ITS OIL NEEDS, DUE TO WHICH LOCAL PUMP RATES ARE BENCHMARKED AGAINST INTERNATIONAL PRICES

\$103.44/bbl: Average price between March 30 and April 27

International oil prices held near a 13-week high on Thursday, underpinned by robust demand from key buyers like the US

Inflation control: Sources said local pump rates are benchmarked to around \$85 crude price but oil firms haven't changed rates as they aid the government in trying to control inflation, which already is ruling at an almost 8-year high of 7.8%

Source: Oil Ministry/PTI

## At 8.6%, US price rise hits 40-yr high in May

Wall St tumbles 2% intra-day

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 10

US CONSUMER prices accelerated in May as gasoline prices hit a record high and the cost of food soared, leading to the largest annual increase in nearly 40-1/2 years, suggesting that the Federal Reserve could continue with its 50 basis points interest rate hikes through September to combat inflation.

In the 12 months through May, the CPI increased 8.6 per cent. That was the largest year-on-year increase since December 1981 and followed a 8.3 per cent advance in April.

The inflation report was published ahead of an anticipated

second 50 basis points rate hike from the US Federal Reserve next Wednesday.

US stock indices slid on Friday as consumer prices rose more than expected in May, dashing hopes that inflation is peaking and fanning worries about more aggressive steps by the Federal Reserve to tame it.

At 2:53 pm ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 677.90 points, or 2.1 per cent, at 31,594.89, the S&P 500 was down 94.88 points, or 2.36 per cent, at 3,922.94, and the Nasdaq Composite was down 347.03 points, or 2.95 per cent, at 11,407.20. Benchmark 10-year yields reached 3.152 per cent, the highest since May 9.

Meanwhile, Brent fell \$1.1, or 0.9 per cent, to \$121.95 a barrel at 2:29 pm EDT. US West Texas Intermediate crude fell \$0.9, or 0.7 per cent, to \$120.61 a barrel.

## CERT-In may float portal for cybersecurity incidents

SOUAMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE COUNTRY'S cybersecurity agency is expected to soon come out with a fresh set of clarification on its recent cybersecurity directive, people in the know said. During a meeting with a select group of stakeholders Friday, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is learnt to have assured clarifications on the six-hour timeline to report cybersecurity incidents, know-your-customer norms, and storage of customer logs, among others.

The rules will kick in from June 27. The meeting took place after CERT-In's cybersecurity norms were met with widespread pushback by a range of industry stakeholders. It was attended by Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrashekar, CERT-In chief Sanjay Bahl, and representatives from industry bodies like Internet and Mobile Association of India, Confederation of Indian Industry, US-India Business Council, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, American Chamber of Commerce, FICCI, BSA|The Software Alliance, ITI Council, and Cellular Operators Association of India. Digital rights groups like Access Now also participated.

One of the most contentious issues between the government and stakeholders was the requirement to report cybersecurity incidents within six hours, which the industry believes is too short

## MEETING HELD

The meeting took place after CERT-In's cybersecurity norms were met with pushback by stakeholders

and stringent. During Friday's meeting, stakeholders, it is learnt, were told that MeitY or CERT-In will not offer any relaxations in terms of the required reporting timelines. Instead, the agency may come up with a prescribed format for reporting cybersecurity incidents.

"CERT-In may also come up with a specific portal for reporting such incidents so that entities have clarity on how much information they have to share with the agency," a source said.

In a clarification on the six-hour reporting timeline to make it seem less burdensome, Bahl told stakeholders that they are only required to intimate the agency within six hours after discovering such an incident. "CERT-In only expects you to drop in an email within six hours alerting us about a cybersecurity incident," he is learnt to have said. A formal clarification is expected soon on this, sources said.

While a large part of the meeting was centred around reporting timelines, which also led to CERT-In's assurance to issue clarifications, the topic of some virtual private network (VPN) pulling out of India did not draw such assurances, sources said. The rules re-

quire VPNs to save an extensive amount of user information for five years. "We want VPNs to store data for five years because sometimes it takes a very long time for cyber incidents to be investigated," Bahl is learnt to have clarified at the meeting. VPN providers like Surfshark and ExpressVPN have shut down their India servers in response to the norms. Queries sent to the IT Ministry remained unanswered until the time of going to press.

CERT-In, it is learnt, may also soon issue a clarification on how entities can come up with an effective KYC process. The rules require that crypto exchanges and wallets must maintain KYC details and records of financial transactions for five years. Industry stakeholders at the meeting pointed out that it was difficult to validate identity of users under current processes, sources said. "A discussion on Aadhaar as a KYC document came up during the meeting and the ministry will mull on some KYC models that can be effective," a person said.

During the meeting, which lasted over an hour, the agency also tried to assuage privacy concerns and told stakeholders that it will not ask for user logs that contain personal identifiable information of individuals, instead it will only need incident-specific logs. Small companies and startups could be given a leeway as they may need more time than bigger corporations to adjust to the rules, it is learnt. Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## BRIEFLY

## RBI, SFBs

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday advised small finance banks (SFBs) to continue to evolve in tune with the differentiated banking licence given to them with proportionate growth in their capital base. It said, "In the meeting held today, the emphasis on according due importance to these themes for sustainable growth of SFBs, particularly their business model and governance, was reiterated after taking stock of the developments in the sector." ENS

## Forex kitty falls

Mumbai: After rising the last two weeks, forex reserves fell \$306 million to \$601.057 billion in the week ended June 3, as per RBI data. PTI

## UK, tech cos

London: UK's Competition and Markets Authority plans to probe market dominance of Apple and Google's mobile browsers, and Apple's curbs on cloud gaming via its app store. It will also act against Google's app store payment practices. REUTERS

## CIDCO project

New Delhi: Maharashtra's City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) said all 3,070 structures in the Navi Mumbai International Airport project area have been evicted, with rehabilitation of over 5,000 families from these villages near completion, and that the 1,160 hectare site has been handed over to the concessionaire. ENS

## REGULATOR IRDAI EXTENDS PROCEDURE TO LIFE INSURERS

## 'Use &amp; file': New life insurance products sans nod

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JUNE 10

INSURANCE WATCHDOG Irdai on Friday extended the 'use and file' procedure for most life insurance products, thereby allowing insurers to launch new products without the regulator's prior approval.

However, the 'use and file' system will not be allowed in individual savings, individual pensions and annuity schemes.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) had earlier extended similar relaxations to health insurance products as well as general insurance covers.

Irdai said it has extended the

**E** Tailor-made insurance products

THE 'USE and file' method is expected to help insurers design customised insurance products for the embedded insurance space much faster, thereby manufacturing niche products for various customer segments.

'use and file' procedure for most of the life insurance products in its continuous endeavour towards the reform agenda taken

up towards having a fully insured India.

"This means now the life insurance companies can also launch these products without prior approval of Irdai," the regulator added.

Earlier when the industry was in its nascent stage, it was mandatory for insurance companies to take prior approval of Irdai before launching any life insurance product.

However, with the maturity attained by the industry, it is envisaged that necessary relaxations may be allowed, Irdai said. "This move will enable life insurers to launch most of the products (except individual savings, individual pensions and annuity) in a timely manner ac-

ording to the dynamic needs of the market," it said.

According to Irdai, the relaxation will result in improving ease of doing business for insurance companies as well as lead to expansion of the choices available to policyholders.

"The life insurance industry is expected to use this opportunity to respond faster to the emerging market needs, in terms of designing and pricing of insurance products resulting in more choices for the policyholders, which will further help in increasing the insurance penetration in India," it said.

The life insurers are expected to have a board-approved product management and pricing policy, Irdai added.

## FM: Divestment for CPSE efficiency

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the principle of the government's divestment programme is not to shut down any unit or company but to make them more efficient and professionally driven.

Highlighting that public sector enterprises which were privatised between 1994 and 2004 are being driven by professionally run boards, the Minister said these companies have only improved. Addressing the iconic week celebrations of DIPAM as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Sitharaman said privatisation of CPSEs is intended at ensuring that these companies are run efficiently and cost effectively. WITHPTI



Nirmala Sitharaman PTI file

## LIC fall: Govt 'concerned'

New Delhi: The government on Friday said it was "very concerned" about the sharp decline in the LIC stock after the insurer's listing, and said its management will look into all aspects of the fall, said DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey. FE

## 'Meta probing Sandberg's use of company resources'

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, JUNE 10

LAWYERS ARE investigating Meta Platforms Inc's outgoing operations chief Sheryl Sandberg's use of company resources over several years, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Several employees have been interviewed in connection with the investigation by Facebook-parent Meta, the WSJ reported, adding that the probe has been underway since at least last fall.

Meta and Sandberg did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment. Among the activities being



Sheryl Sandberg Reuters file

scrutinised is the work of Meta employees to support Sandberg's foundation, Lean In, and towards writing and promotion of her second book, "Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy", the report added.

GEETA NAIR  
PUNE, JUNE 10

CALLING STARTUPS manufacturing electric two-wheelers "upstarts", Bajaj Auto managing director Rajiv Bajaj blamed them for the recent fire incidents and said they had no business to be in the space.

Speaking at the inauguration of an electric two-wheeler plant of Chetak Technology, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Auto, at Akurdi in Pune, Bajaj said there are at the most 10 large ICE (internal combustion engine) manufacturers in India, but in electric vehicles (EVs), there is one new company every day.

"You call them startups. I call them upstarts. I am amazed that people with no R&D, no engineering, no real purchase function in the engineering sense, nothing more than just half an assembly facility, are importing stuff that has not been really validated for the marketplace and are putting it out," he said on Friday, the birth anniversary of Bajaj Auto's late chairman Rahul Bajaj, who cre-



RAJIV BAJAJ MD, Bajaj Auto File

ated the Chetak brand 50 years ago. He blamed the current environment for promoting the rush of new players, and said there are only two types of EVs in the market — those which have caught fire and those which are going to catch fire.

Bajaj also said relevant authorities have deliberately diluted the norms for EVs. He said under the guise of low-speed vehicles, one could bring any junk from anywhere and put it on the roads so such incidents were to be expected and so the people concerned should reflect on it, he said. FE

## May PV wholesales slow, under 2018 levels

New Delhi: With the semiconductor shortage easing a bit, the wholesale despatches of passenger vehicles (PVs) in May improved over the same month in 2019, which was a non-Covid year. However, sales were still lower than the level achieved in 2018 when the segment was witnessing a handsome growth.

The two-wheeler wholesales despatches last month were not only far off from the volumes achieved three years ago, they were even below the figures attained nine years back. Wholesale despatches of PVs rose 10.61 per cent to 2,51,052 units in May from 2,26,975 in the same month in 2019, data from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Friday showed. FE

# 14 REVIEWS

## CINEMA & MUSIC

### In The News Today



TWO RIVAL TV channels, one which chases TRPs to the exclusion of all else, the other that veers towards credibility and caution. Intrepid reporters who work hard and party harder. Me Too scandals in Bollywood. Electoral bonds. Power-hungry politicians. And a dark organisation mining big data, which threatens to invade the privacy of billions of ordinary Indians. *The Broken News*, directed by Vinay Waikul, seems to have been cobbled together from headlines we have been living with for a while.

But just in case the web series is deemed 'too real', lots of highly-dramatised elements are bunged in, which keep the series sliding into *filmi* territory. *The Broken News* comes off more like a crime thriller than what it promises at the outset — an exploration of how TV news is shaping everyday discourse in the country, and how news is not just broken on TV, news TV itself is broken.

Josh 24/7 is headed by Dipankar Sanyal (Jaideep Ahlawat), a supremely arrogant editor-anchor who is convinced that he runs the country; does his character remind you of someone? At the helm of Awaaz Bharati is Amina Qureshi (Sonali Bendre Behl), who is capable of making tough choices. Star reporter Radha Bhargava (Shriya Pilgaonkar) is after the truth all the time, even when she is conflicted personally and professionally. And then there is newbie Anuj Sharma (Taaruk Raina), who shuns integrity on the path to progress. Ahlawat is wholly convincing, managing

to leap over writing glitches with ease. And it is good to see Bendre back. Pilgaonkar's conscientious reporter is too similar to her lawyer in *Guilty Minds*: how about building in difference? Back-stabbing, stealing stories, stormy edit meetings where prima donnas throw tantrums, sycophantic yes-men, are all part of the game, as we see how news is constructed. Some of it has a bit of a sting to it, especially the segment which features a sleazy Bollywood star (Sharad Kapoor) who has been a serial abuser of young aspirants, and who does feel the burn when faced by accusations from victims who have kept quiet for years.

#### THE BROKEN NEWS

**Director:** Vinay Waikul  
**Cast:** Jaideep Ahlawat, Sonali Bendre Behl, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Taaruk Raina  
**Streaming on:** Zee5

But much of it is a stretch, especially for those who know the news business. Colourful informants at the beck and call of reporters, brave employees calling out their bosses, owners of channels declaring to their staff: I own this channel, so you will do as I say. Really? And this line, from one character to another: 'tum team ki moral compass ho'. Who says stuff like this? Others are made to talk about ethics and morality as if those things have never been said before. Maybe the team needs to spend time on a news floor to see how much drudge work goes into a 24-hour cycle: it's not all thundering anchors and their cowering guests, and 'breaking news'.

And, of course, none of it touches upon the real hot button subjects of bigotry and polarisation. It's fiction, isn't it?

SG

### Point Taken

PRETTY MANOKAMNA Tripathi is a perfect candidate for a 'good match'. She also markets condoms. Straight away, that is a problem. How can a good Indian girl do such a 'ganda kaam' (dirty work)? By making a 'parivarik' (family) comedy out of it, that's what. Calling a condom a 'chhatra' (umbrella) is an old joke, but it is turned into a perky element in *Janhit Mein Jaari*, which uses humour well enough up to a point, to make its point — that it's no sin to talk up protection during sex.

To that end, we have a solid ensemble. Manokamna (Bharuccha) desires a paying job. The one she gets offered, by a good-natured distributor (Kala) of said condoms, has no strings attached, except a loyal love/lover best friend (Tripathi). Along the way she acquires, at some speed, a boyfriend-who-turns-into-a-husband (Dhaka), a domineering father-in-law (Raaz), a grandpa-in-law (Anand), and a companionable clutch of sisters-in-law. There's the usual righteous uproar, and the fallout thereof, which we know in advance.

What makes this film, at least its first half, such good fun is the writing. It's light and funny, and the characters do their job well, as we see the Bollywood small town (clearly, Chanderi in MP is the new 'It' town) in the throes of a 'sasur-bahu' saga. Manokamna's parents' home is dubbed Condom Niwas, the father-in-law goes blue in the face when he discovers the true nature of his *kamaau bahu's* (earning daughter-in-law) job, the husband is more a dutiful son than a supportive husband, and barbs fly thick and fast.



#### JANHIT MEIN JAARI ★★★

**Director:** Jai Basantu Singh  
**Cast:** Nushratt Bharuccha, Anud Singh Dhaka, Paritosh Tripathi, Vijay Raaz, Brijendra Kala, Tinnu Anand, Ishitjyak Khan, Sapna Sand

Post-interval, the film becomes preachy. Condoms are not just for pleasure, says Manokamna to the groups of ladies she goes about addressing, they are also instruments that keep women from unwanted abortions, which in turn prevent untimely tragic deaths. That's not to say that this is not a valid argument, but it takes a brave-for-Bollywood, let-us-have-some-fun-with-sex flick, and turns it into a lecture.

If only we could get more of that fun, still condemned taboo: the most hilarious part of the film is two women chatting about having it on. Films grown up enough to feature condoms also mean that they need to be grown up enough to talk about the act, right? *Darr ke agee jeet hai*.

SG

### Where Every Street Has a Story to Tell

#### SHUBHRA GUPTA

LIKE MANY experimental films, *Ghode Ko Jalebi Khilane Le Ja Riya Hoon* is hard to reduce to a single descriptive. Anamika Haksar's nearly two-hour tour of Shahjahanabad is a mix of documentary, ethnography, magical realism, surrealism, fantasy, folk tale, animation, with a bit of burlesque thrown in.

The film takes you deep inside old Delhi, and lets you wander, sometimes leading you by the hand down its crazily crowded *gallis*, sometimes pausing, leaving you to observe. And sometimes you feel the characters want to turn around and look at you looking at them.

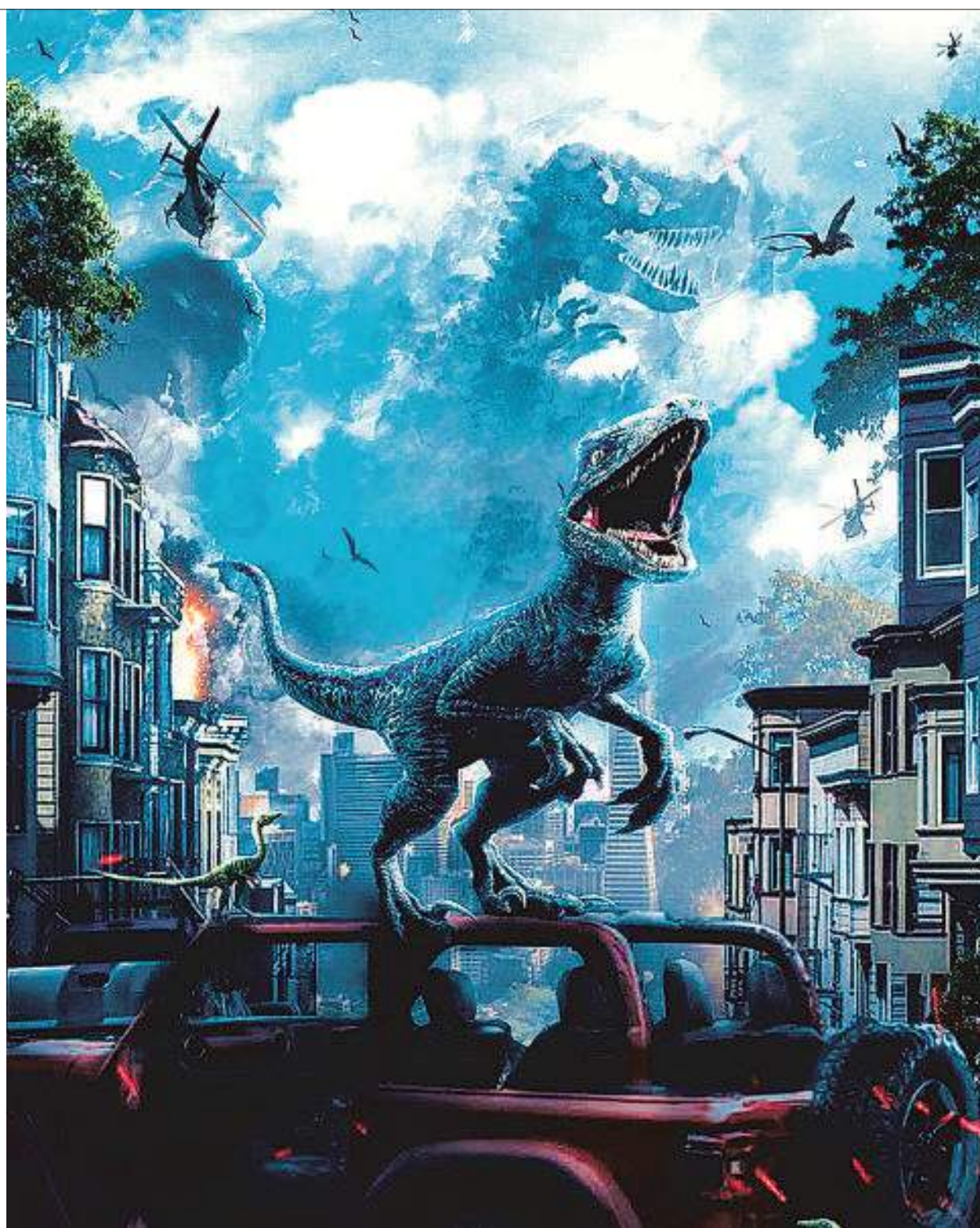
It comes off as an interesting choice, designed to expand our vision. But I wasn't riveted all the way, simply because not all the film's moving parts exert equal power. *Ghode Ko Jalebi...* stretches and flattens its conceits as it goes along, and the wandering turns into meandering.

Meet the quartet, the minstrels of 'Dilli Chhe' — a pickpocket (Ravindra Sahu) who doubles up as a trumpeter in a local band, a

sweetmeat seller (Raghubir Yadav), a labour leader (K Gopalan), and a tourist guide (Lokesh Jain), who organises heritage walks. Of the four, we may have conceivably met or bumped into the spotless-white-chikan-kurta-clad walk organiser, who can lead you down the sanitised parts of Chandni Chowk, Parathe Wali Gali, and tourist-friendly eateries.

The 'jeb-katra', in stark contrast, can show you parts of the same place which you do not want to see, or find hard to handle — a hole in the wall *thali* place that gives you a plate for ten rupees, people who share shattering personal stories with such matter-of-factness that

leaves your average white tourist uncomfortable (and that includes us, the average Indian city dweller, as deracinated and as unaware of these histories as that foreigner), dead bodies lying by the side of the road — the living sniff glue to get by, the dead wait for the municipal cart to take their bodies away. These sights of squalor and sadness do not feel designed, and that is where the film has weight. You can smell and see the film. In these parts, the film is coking a snook at those who romanticise the grunge, or try to get an 'expe-



### This is The Way it Ends

#### SHUBHRA GUPTA

SO, AFTER nearly thirty years, here comes the last installment of a world we had never seen before. In 1993, Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* introduced us to the different sizes and shapes of the dinosaurs we would become familiar with. It was a film perfectly tailored for wide-eyed wonderment. It staggered our imagination. The adventures that followed, with their increasing levels of sophisticated computer graphics, never really matched up to that shock and awe we felt when we first set eyes on those unbelievably gigantic creatures which once roamed the earth.

In the new film, which will wrap one of the most lucrative franchises Hollywood has fashioned, dinosaurs are no longer confined to an island. They live alongside humans. But not everything, as they say, is hunky-dory. Just like not all humans are alike, dinosaurs also come with built-in characteristics. Cruel carnivores, gentle long-necked herbivores, chirpy infants, and, the *Dominion* specials, the ones built as targeted missiles: once they lock on to you, you are as good as dead.

No effort has been spared in making this one's canvas bigger, but that doesn't make the film necessarily better. We are reunited with the OG trio, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, all looking remarkably in good nick, and even more capable of managing stuff when the *sxxt* hits the fan. The bright-eyed Dern takes the amiable Neill into joining her

search of a new kind of predatory locust which destroys everything except crops grown by an evil corporation. On a secret plant in which nestles the corporation's headquarters, far far away from prying eyes, is the very sleek Goldblum: is he enemy or ally?

There's also *Jurassic World* couple Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard as guardians of a very special little girl (Isabella Sermon). The bad guys want her, as well as a young dinosaur, who lives with its watchful mother in the forest nearby. Will this bunch, which includes a feisty pilot (DeWanda Wise) be able to save the girl and the young creature, and in so doing, the planet? Of course, dum-dum: of what use is a story spilling over with the fearsome Giganotosaurus if it's not about humanity itself?

Sadly, except for the occasional flash, *Dominion* is a stodgy, too-constructed affair. And it is not even madly original. Some parts remind you of Spielberg's *Raiders Of The Lost Ark*. A sequence in which dinosaurs are being auctioned to the highest bidder feels like a *Star Wars* film clone, with all kinds of squiggly-squaggy critters and humans scattered about. There's also a very Bond/Bourne vibe when Pratt goes careering through the lanes of a warm-toned Mediterranean town, with killer dinosaurs on his trail. These dinos are new, or at least that murderous trait of theirs is, but

the chase is so generic it makes your teeth ache.

The raptors try and make up for it. A climactic dino-on-dino fight, featuring the 'two largest predators in existence', has some moments, especially when the humans on the run are frozen with fear as the rapacious snout-and-teeth hover inches off their faces. We stop breathing too. But how long can the braying beasts hold our attention? Even when it comes to facing down the blank-faced villain (Campbell Scott), busy inserting his fingers into precious animal and human genomes for pelf and profit, it feels like we've seen similar stuff before.

The film leaves us with the same message as its 2018 edition, that the only way out of our troubles is to co-exist. Which is all

well and good. Seeing a little girl pet a baby dino in a pastoral, urban, sanitised park-type setting, you can't help wonder: once this dino grows up, will he devour humans? You can't change the nature of the beast, can you? And if you do, aren't you interfering with the natural order of things? If 'Dominion' had been less scattershot, it may have seen this final messaging as a contradiction. And what would Michael Crichton, the author of the futuristic thrillers on which the franchise is based, think about this enterprise? Like us, not very much, I'd wager.

### STREAMING WATCH LIST



#### IRMA VEP

DISNEY+HOTSTAR Olivier Assayas and actor Alicia Vikander have come together for a television adaptation of the French filmmaker's 1996 movie *Irma Vep*. Mira (Alicia Vikander) is an American movie star disillusioned by her career and a recent breakup. She comes to France to star as 'Irma Vep' in a remake of the French silent film classic, *Les Vampires*. Set against the backdrop of a lurid crime thriller, Mira struggles as the distinctions between herself and the character she plays begin to blur and merge. *Irma Vep* reveals to us the uncertain ground that lies at the border of fiction and reality, artifice and authenticity, art and life. A new episode of the show drops every Tuesday at 7.30 am.



#### MONEYBOYS

MUBI Taiwanese-Austrian director CB Yi's debut feature *Moneyboys* is a drama about male prostitution that was screened in the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival last year. The movie explores a gay Chinese hustler's struggle to cope with the disapproval of his family in South China. The film follows the story of Fei (Kai Ko), who moves from a rural area to the city to support his family as a hustler. While the family takes his earnings, they can't come to terms with his sexuality.



#### HUSTLE

NETFLIX When a down-on-his-luck basketball scout finds a potential superstar in Spain, he sets out to prove they both have what it takes to make it in the NBA. In this Jeremiah Zagat-directed sports drama, Adam Sandler delivers an impressive performance as an NBA scout. It is a typical underdog movie that's engaging, especially for the basketball lovers.



#### SHINING VALE

LIONSGATE PLAY LIONS GATE has its demons, but for this particular family, it may just be real. Pat Phelps (Courteney Cox) moves from a cramped Brooklyn apartment to an old mansion in Connecticut with her husband Terry (Greg Kinnear), in a last-ditch effort to save her marriage after her affair. The 'Phelps' try to save their marriage even as they deal with their disconnected teenage kids and live in a house haunted by spirits. — COMPILED BY ALAKA SAHANI



rience' out of the miseries of the people who live and work in this part of the national capital, which seems sometimes to exist only in memory. I'd rather save polar bears, says one of the group being shown the sights. I don't want to hear these stories, says the foreign tourist. Haksar wants us to both see and hear, and bear witness. These are actual subaltern histories, and they are not put up for a show: the character who tosses off the term 'subaltern' in the movie is also one of us, deaf and

blind to reality. You wait for the line to land, but it dissipates, just like the character.

It took Haksar seven years of documenting conversations with pickpockets, beggars, street vendors, daily wage labourers, sanitation workers, folk singers, to be able to capture old Delhi from the inside. There is occasional use of animation — a flag flapping against the face of a goddess, snakes crawling across a landscape, an abusive employer reduced to a midget, captured in a glass jar. At

one point, the screen splits laterally into two, reminding you of that other experimentalist Kamal Swaroop's films.

The most intriguing thing about the film is its title. If you smile with pleasure at the very specific wry, dry humour that used to be prevalent in the Hindustani-Urdu speaking North, not just Purani Dilli, it will immediately brand you as someone who either belongs to, or understands the many religious and cultural identities jostling amongst the residents who share their *chhats* (terraces) and walls, the fruits of their kitchens, their comings and goings. '*Kahaan mini Pakistan mein ghoomte rehte ho*', asks a bystander of the walking tour guide nastily, and you know how far we have left that syncretic India behind.

A *ghoda* (horse) eats *ghaas* (grass), not *jalebi*, and anyone who says that they are taking their horse to feed it *jalebis* is having you on, basically telling you he doesn't have the time of day for you. Maybe, on the way back, once the horse and his master are done with their business, they may stop off, listen to your *qissa*, give you a ride, share a moment. The title is droll, celebrating a *tehzeeb* which has nearly vanished. You wish there was more of it in the film — the sort of sharp drollery that doesn't mask or hide anything the filmmaker wishes to show, but buttresses it.

संचालनालय खेल एवं युवा कल्याण छत्तीसगढ़ सरदार बल्लभ भाई पटेल अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हॉकी स्टेडियम, रायपुर...

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि. (उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम) CIN: U15209UP1976SGC004285

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006

DR. RAM MANOHAR LALU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES Vihituli Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010

Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd Shankarseth Road, Swargate, Pune-411 037

मध्यप्रदेश पाठ्यपुस्तक निगम "पुस्तक भवन" अररय हिल्स, भोपाल-462011

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely Dhurw Aggarwal S/o Surender Aggarwal R/o H.No. E-53, Gali No.03, Shastri Park, Delhi has been kidnapped since 27.08.2018

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Nitesh S/o Raju Shahni R/o B-40, Hari Nagar Rampura, Near Ram Gadiya Gurudwara, Delhi Aged-26 Years has been reported missing since 25.05.2022

UCO BANK ZONAL OFFICE Patna - 800001 CORRIGENDUM Please refer our published Sale Notice, dated 07.03.2021 in The Indian Express, Patna auction of Sr. No. 07, Branch: Bettiah, Mr. Akhtar Imam, S/o Late Fida Hussain, Please read A/c: 18170500000030 & Land Area 10 dhur. Rest all the contents in the Newspaper regarding this will remain unchanged.

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD (SURVEY & CONSTRUCTION) CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE No. Dy.CE(C)/III/ADI/MSH-PNU/EPC/03

उपग्रह जल विद्युत निगम लि. ई-निविदा सूचना इस खण्ड के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अनुभवी/प्रतिष्ठित ठेकेदारों, जो सम्बन्धित कार्य का अनुभव रखते हों, से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा दोगे भाग में आमंत्रित की जाती है।

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (Bharat Sarkar) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (Rail Mantralaya) RAILWAY BOARD

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-TENDER NOTICE Tender No: 15/SE/PHCK/2022-2023 JMM 2021-22 WSS TO ATHIRAMPUZHA PANCHAYATH- SUPPLYING AND LAYING DISTRIBUTION LINES AND PROVIDING FHTCS Phase 2-EAST SIDE OF RAILWAY LINE. EMD: ₹ 1,00,000/-

PUBLIC NOTICE The Public at large is hereby notified that (1) Tanukumar Surinderkumar and (2) Seemakumari Surinderkumar, Wife of Anil Malhotra are the joint owners and in actual physical possession of All that pieces and parcels of Non-Agricultural land for Godown purpose bearing Revenue Survey No. 96/3/2 admeasuring 6491 sq.mtrs situated at Village Sanathal, Taluka: Sanand within the Registration Sub-District: Sanand and District: Ahmedabad and there is no charge/encumbrance in any manner whatsoever over the Said Land and hence, I have been approached to give Title Clearance Certificate by my client with respect to the above mentioned land.

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (Bharat Sarkar) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (Rail Mantralaya) RAILWAY BOARD

DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE Addl. Chief Engineer (C)-06 THROUGH DEPUTY SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (PR) SR-1

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED (Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking) JUJICO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.

Government of Jharkhand Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-Operative Directorate of Soil Conservation

JAPIT Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology (An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology & e-Governance, Govt of Jharkhand)

NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM Tender Notice No. 20/2022-2023 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 04-S&T/MYS/2022-01 Dated: 07.06.2022 The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST-22-23-07. Dated: 09.06.2022. DRM/ENGG/CKP acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE ई-निविदा सूचना-कॉन्-उत्तर-ई-निविदा/उत्तर-11-22-23 दि. 06.2022 E-Tender Notice No. ECR-CAO-CON-NORTH-ETN-11-22-23. E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.

DR. RAM MANOHAR LALU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES Vihituli Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED (Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking) JUJICO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.

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Classifieds PERSONAL

It is for General information that Akanksha Bhasin D/o Jagmohan Girdhar, Ex. W/o Deepak Bhasin residing at 479/3, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur-208005, declare that I got Divorce from my husband vide Court Decree NO.1069/2017 Dated 09-12-2017 Further I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Akanksha Girdhar.

I,VIJAY KUMAR SRIVASTAVA, S/O SURENDRA MOHAN SRIVASTAVA, R/O-1 430 DELTA-2, GREATER NOIDA, U.P HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIJAI KUMAR SRIVASTAVA.

I,Urmila W/O,Kamal Deep,R/O,H.No-303-B, Barwala Delhi-110039, have changed my minor Daughter name to Bhavya Dabas to Bhavya permanently.

I,Urmila W/O,Kamal Deep R/O,H.No-303-B,Barwala, Delhi-110039,have changed my minor son's name to Veer Dabas to Veer,permanently.

I,Tawinkle D/o,No.2685072H Ex HAV Rajesh Kumar R/o,Plot.No.174,Mangal Bazar,Gali Nanak Pao,2nd,Gopal Nagar Extn.,Najafgarh,ND-43,have changed my name to Twinkle Dagar,affidavit dt.30.5.22 before,Delhi.

I,Tanish Kumar Sakhuja,S/o Surinder Pall Sakhuja,R/o,WZ-25,FF,Right-Side,Asalpur Village, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058,have changed my name to Tanish Sakhuja.

I,Surabhi Khera,W/o Rohit Khera,R/O 216, Ground Floor, Tagore-Park, G.T.B Nagar Delhi-110009, Have Changed My Name to Surbhi Sachdev Khera,for all future Purposes.

I,Sunil S/O,Nand Lal R/O.No-398, Baprola Village Bapraula,Delhi-110043,have changed my name to Sunil Kumar,all future purpose.

I,KANIKA VIJ W/O KANISHK ANAND R/O,H.No.M-70, SOUTH CITY 1 GURGAON HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KANIKA ANAND.

I,Subhash Kumar,s/o Navneet Ram,R/o 1006,Tower CV-7,Supertech Capetown, Sec-74,Noida,have changed my name of Subhash Kumar Wadhwa for all, future purposes.

I,Simran Kaur Sethi,W/o Parmeet Singh R/o-256 Kalyan-Vihar Dr.Mukherjee Nagar,Delhi-110009,Have Changed My Name to Simran Kaur,for all,future Purposes.

I,SUREETI ADVANI,W/O Sujhav Khatri,R/O,F-172 Floor-2,Omaxe-Executive Floors,Sushant-Lok-2, Sector-56,Gurgaon,Haryana-122011,inform that in my passport my father's name is incorrectly-mentioned GHANSYAM DASS ADWANI while his correct-name is GHANSHYAM DASS ADVANI.

I,SUREETI ADVANI,W/O Sujhav Khatri,R/O F-172 Floor-2,Omaxe Executive-Floors,Sushant Lok-2, Sector-56,Gurgaon,Haryana-122011,inform that in my passport my mother's name is incorrectly-mentioned VIDHYA ADVANI while his correct-name is VIDHYA ADVANI.

I,SANJU CHHABRA,S/O RAJENDER CHHABRA,RESIDENT 10/11,KHANNA COLONY,DELHI ROAD,SONIPAT,HARYANA,HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON NAME, FROM SARTHAK TO SAARTHAK CHHABRA.

I,Razi Javed,S/o-Late Abdul Wahab Javed,R/o-Plot No.9,Third-Floor, Right Side Nizamuddin,West New Delhi-110013, have changed my name, from Razi Javed, to Abdul Razi Javed, for all purposes.

I,Rajani Garg,W/O-Krishan Kumar Garg, Add:Plot.No.169, flat.No.26,2nd-floor, savitri-apartment,savitri-nagar, New-Delhi-110017, changed my name to Rajni Garg, for all, future Purposes.

I,Rahul Sharma S/o,Ram Parshad Sharma R/o,House.No.29-A, Gali-No.6, Safiabadd-Road, Gautam Colony, Narela,Delhi-110040 do hereby declares that in my 10th class-marksheet my Father's & Mother's name is wrongly-mentioned as Ram Prashad & Anita Kumari instead of the Correct Names are Ram Parshad Sharma & Neeta Devi.

I,Praveen Tewathia,S/o Jaswant Singh R/o F-8,Saidulajab,New Delhi-110030 have changed my name to Parveen Kumar for all purposes.

I,Pinky Sehrawat D/o Sh. Rambr Singh R/o-27/57, Satyam Vihar, Chanchal Park, Tilangpur Kotla,West Delhi,Delhi-110043, have changed my name, from Pinky Sehrawat to Bhawna Sehrawat, for all future purposes.

I,Pallavi Kumari D/o-Jogender Prasad Gupta R/o:F-38A, Second Floor, Jeevan Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59 Have Changed My Name to Pallavi for All Purposes.

I,NAZMINA BI,W/O MATEEN ULLA, address,House.No.F-152/A6,Khasra.No- 567/1,LGF Back-side, Chhatrapur Extension, South delhi,New delhi-110074,have changed my name,from SABIHA NAZ TO NAZMINA BI,For all,future purposes.

I,Mohd Salman Sajid,S/o-Sajid Rashid,R/O J-192, J-Exten., Part-1,Laxmi Nagar,Delhi-110092,that my father name,mistakenly written,in my 10th-certificate as Mohammad Sajid Rashid,instead of Sajid Rashid.

I,Shaji Ramakrishnan,R/o 69-E, Pocket A-2,Mayur Vihar Phase-3,Delhi-110096,have changed my Son's name Rishit Krishna S to Rishit Krishna, for all future purposes.

I,Mohammed Saleem Siddiqui, S/O Mohammed Sardaruddin, R/O-1760,Gali Ghante wali phari bhojila truckman gate, Delhi-110006,have changed my Name to Mohammad Saleem.

I,Mohammed Anas Siddiqui,S/O Mohammed Saleem Siddiqui, R/O 1760, Gali-Ghante wali phari-bhojila truckman-gate, Delhi-110006,have changed my Name to Mohammad Anas.

I,Kritika D/o Pankaj Gupta R/O, AC-1/156-B Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088,changed my name to Kritika Goel.

I,Krishan Kumar,S/O-Suresh Chand garg, Add: Plot.No.169,flat.No.26,2nd-floor savitri apartment, savitri-nagar,New Delhi-110017, Changed my name to Krishan Kumar Garg,for all, future Purposes.

I,Krishan Kumar S/O-Goverdhan Dass R/O-8404 New Cosmopolitan CGHS, Plot-33 Sector-10 Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 have changed my name to Krishan Kumar Dua.

I,Komal Mathur W/O,Vaaron A Anand R/O,X-42, First-Floor, Green-Park Main, Delhi-110016 have changed my name to Komal Bhatnagar for all Purposes.

I,Kaivalya Gulati S/O,Sampda Gulati R/O-C4F-256, Janakpuri, N.Delhi-58,that name-of mine has been wrongly-written as Kaivalya in my Educational Documents.The actual-name-of mine is Kaivalya Gulati.

I,Ishaan S/O Pankaj Gupta,R/O AC-1/156-B Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088,changed my name to Ishaan Goel.

I,Divya Pangasa W/O Atul Gupta R/O C1-602, Neelpadam Kunj, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-201010 have changed my name to Divya Pangasa Gupta for all future purposes.

I,Bhawana Sharma W/O,Bharat Kumar R/O,E1/51,Near Radhika Mandir Budh Vihar Phase-1,Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Bhawna Sharma.

I,Ashish Kumar Agrawal,S/o Sh.Sushil Kumar Agrawal, resident of,2268/172, Upper ground-Floor,Ganesh Pura,Tri Nagar,Delhi-110035,have changed my name to Ashish Agrawal, permanently.

I,Aparna Shukla,W/o Vikram Bhalra,R/o C-6/1,Vasant Vihar,Delhi-110057,have changed my name to Aparna Shukla Bhalra,for all purposes.

I,ANJALI W/O DHAN SINGH R/O A-10,GALINO.11,VIKAS VIHAR,VIKAS-NAGAR,UTTAM-NAGAR,DELHI-110059.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANJALI DEVI, FOR ALL, PURPOSES.

I,ANIL KUMAR SHERE, S/O,RAMESH ANNA SHERE, Add:A-3/D-4-A-TYPE, IIT DELHI-CAMPUS, IIT-DELHI,HAUZKHAZ, SOUTH-DELHI,NEW-DELHI,changed my name to ANILKUMAR RAMESH SHERE, Permanently.

I,AK PANDEY,S/O RAM JI PANDEY,R/O PLOT.No.176, GANGAPURAM DEVARAKAHA, ALLAHABAD, U.P.211008, changed my name to AKHILESHWAR PANDEY.

I,KANIKA ANAND M/O ANAISHA KHURANA R/O-H.No.M-70 SOUTH CITY 1 GURGAON HARYANA-122001,HAVE CHANGED MY DAUGHTER NAME TO ANAISHA ANAND.

I,Saty Narain/ Sat Narayan Singhal S/O, Panna Lal R/O 212-213, 2nd Floor, Pocket-5, Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Sat Narain for all purposes.

I,Vyom S/O, Vijay Kumar Gupta R/O V33 Green Park (main), New Delhi 110016 have changed my name to Vyom Gupta for all purposes.

I, Vikram Kumar S/o Prahlad Prasad Singh, R/O House No-224, Street No-1, Shakti Kunj, Kuan Chowk, Dallipura, Delhi -110096, Have Changed my Name to Vikram Prasad Singh, for All Purposes.

I,Shalini Bhatnagar W/o Shekar Bhatnagar R/O A/204, Sansad Vihar CGHS Plot 2 Sector 3, Dwarka New Delhi -75 have changed my name to Shalini Bir for all future purposes.

I, Sanjoy Kumar Roy S/o Gurupada Roy R/O-385 Rajiv Garden Loni No.2 GZB have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar Roy.

I, Rohatash S/O Sabu Ram, R/O-H.No-218, Gali.No-4, Adarsh Nagar, Modi Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar-Pradesh, Pin-201204, my name and my date of birth has been wrongly as Rohatash Yadav and date of birth-01/01/1955 in service records,(No-4194474 Rank HAV) of my Son namely Ajay Yadav, that my Correct name is Rohatash and date of birth-01/01/1960

I, Rina Roy W/o Sanjay Kumar Roy R/O-385 Rajiv Garden Loni No.2 Gzb have changed my name to Archana Ray.

I, RAMANDEEP KAUR D/O BIANI SINGH R/O 49-A, Ward no.8, Theri Mohar Singh, Sirsa, Haryana-125055 have changed my name to RAMANDEEP.

I, Mohd. Javed S/O Mohd. Yousuf R/O 941, Haveli Azam Khan, Chitli Qabar, Jama Masjid, Delhi-110006 have declare that my son's name wrongly mention as Mohammad Izaan instead of Mohammad Izzaan in his birth Certificate. In future he will be known-as Mohammad Izzaan for all purposes.

I, Meenakshi D/o Mukesh Dutt Kaushik R/O,FF-2, Plot. No. 111, Near Shopprix Mall, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201104, have changed my name to MEENAKSHI KAUSHIK for all future purposes.

I, Mausam Rastogi, W/O Late. Shri RAKESH RASTOGI, D/O SURESH CHANDRA RASTOGI, R/O A-204, Sector-2, 2nd floor, pocket-00, Rohini, Avantika New Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Mohini Rastogi for all future purposes.

I, Mariyam Khan D/o Gulzar R/O 79/6, Double Street, Govindpuri, Modinagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh -201204, that name of my father has been wrongly written as Gulzar Ahmed in my 10th and 12th School Certificate & Mark Sheet. The actual name of my father is Gulzar

I, Manoj Kumar S/O, Jai Bhagwan R/O. RZ E-36, Dabir Extension East Delhi-110045 have changed my name Manoj Kumar to Manoj Kumar Verma all future purposes

I, Manika Tripathy Pandey D/O Dr. M.P.Tripathy R/O 7-C, Block-B, Green View Apartments, Sector-99, Noida-201304 have changed my name to Manika Tripathy.

I, MD. Meraj S/O Noor Muhammad R/O H.No. RC-80, Nehru Garden, GZB, U.P.-201101 have changed my name from MAU Meraj to MD. Meraj for all future purposes.

I, Kamal Singh S/o Purnan Lal R/O DB-1489 Kailash Nagar Ward No.2, Palwal, Haryana do hereby inform that my name in ILC policy No. 117137525 written as Kamal. I hereby declare that Kamal Singh and Kamal is same person.

I, Jayant Vikram S/o Bhagawati Prasad Singh, R/O-A-43 Plot.17 Sector-18A,Vijay cghs,Dwarka Delhi,have changed my son Name Vinayak singh Gautam to Vinayak singh

I, Harinder Singh s/o Amarjeet R/O D-194, Lajpat Nagar-1st, Delhi-110024 have changed my name HARMINDER AUBI permanently.

I, HANS KUMAR S/O RAJENDER SINGH R/O Quarter no 26, Ashoka Police line, Chanakya Puri, NDMC South West Delhi-110021 have changed my name to HANS KUMAR MANN

I, Bala W/o Rohatash, R/O-H.No.218, Gali.No-4, Adarsh Nagar, Modi Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar-Pradesh, Pin-201204, my name and my date of birth has been wrongly as Bala Devi, and date of birth-01/01/1960 in service records,(No-4194474 Rank HAV) of my Son namely Ajay Yadav, that my Correct-name is Bala and date of birth-01/01/1964

I, Ashok Kumar Ranchal S/o Gurbux Rai R/O,H.-155, Ashok-Vihar Part-I, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Ashok Kumar for-all-purposes.

I, Anuj Arya residing at 81, Block-5, Charmwood Village, Faridabad, have changed my daughter's name from Reet to Reet Arya vide affidavit dated 28/04/2022 at Faridabad

I Radha Nischal W/o Mr. Mukesh Nischal R/o A-8,9,DDA Colony, Khyala, Phase-1, Delhi-110018. Declare that my name Radha Nischal and my father name Sawaran Singh wrongly in my Passport. But my actual name is Radha Nischal and my father actual name is Swaran Singh for all purpose.

I, PUMMY PRANNATH KAPUR, S/O PRANNATH KAPUR, R/O-H.No-4001, 1st Floor, DLF Phase-4, Galleria, DLF-IV, Gurgaon, Haryana-122009 Have Changed my name to PUMMY KAPUR for all purposes.

I, MANOJ BAKSHI, S/O RABINDRA NATH BAKSHI, R/O-H NO D-3-314, GALI NO 5, TISRAPUSTA, SONIA VIHAR, BADAR PURKHADAR, North East Delhi, 110094 inform that MANOJ BAKSHI and MANOJ KUMAR BAKSHI both are same and one person.

I, BLESSY ANSANDANIEL, W/O SURESH LUKASE, R/O-A1, B-233, STREET NO. 05, BLOCK-B, PHASE-02, CHHATRAPUR ENCLAVE, SOUTH DELHI-110074 inform that BLESSY ANSANDANIEL and BLESSY JOSE both are same and one person.

I,hitherto known as Nikita D/O, Prahlad Ray R/O A-858, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Nikita Ray for all future purposes.

I,hitherto known as KULDIP SINGH KATOCH alias KULDEEP SINGH KATOCH S/O N S KATOCH residing at H.No.227, Laxmi Bal Nagar, New Delhi-110023, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KULDEEP SINGH KATOCH.

I,Rajeev Kumar Gaba S/O Rajesh Gaba R/O New Sharda Nagar, Navada Road, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh -247001, have changed my name to Yash Gaba.

I,Nishant Joshi s/o Vikas Joshi r/o 347 goyal vihar near khajriana temple, indore, Madhya Pradesh (342016) have changed my name for all legal purposes to Nishant Kumar, vide affidavit.

I,Neelam Kumar S/O, Bansil Lal Rajput R/O Flat No.3, Pandara Road Market, New Delhi-110003 have changed my name to Neelam Kumar Rajput for all purposes

I,Deepa Rana D/o Satendra Rana R/O House No-217, Street No-8, Phase-4, Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Deepika Rana.

I,Babita Agarwal W/o Satish Kumar Agarwal Resided at 5/77, Plot No.4, Jarar Enclave, Madia Katra, Agra declare that my name has been wrongly printed as Babeeta Agarwal in my passport. The correct Spelling of my name is Babita Agarwal. Hence the spelling of my name should be read as Babita Agarwal in all documents.

I,Nishant goel son of krishan kant goyal,resident of 96,UGF,pocket-b,sector-26,rohini,delhi-110085, have changed my name from Nishant goel to Nishant goyal for all further purposes.

I,Krishan kant goel son of Rameshwar dass goyal,resident of 96,UGF,pocket-b,sector-26,rohini,delhi-110085,have changed my name from krishan kant goel to krishan kant goyal for all further purposes.

I,GUNEET KOCHHAR,W/O PARIKSHIT KOCHHAR,R/O-D-60, 1ST-FLOOR SECTOR-40,NOIDA,U.P.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GUNEET KAUR KOCHHAR.

I,AAHANA GARG,D/O AMIT GARG, ADD-1800,KATRA BANSI DHAR,KHARI BAOLI-NORTH WEST,DELHI-110006,Changed my name to LONIKA AGGARWAL,for all, future Purposes.

I,Ravi S/o-Rich Pal Singh R/O-C-20, Azad Colony, Phase-2,Budh Vihar,Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Ravi Singh for all purposes.

I, Jayant Vikram S/o Bhagawati Prasad Singh, R/O-A-43 Plot.17 Sector-18A,Vijay cghs,Dwarka Delhi,have changed my son Name Vinayak singh Gautam to Vinayak singh

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I, Anuj Arya residing at 81, Block-5, Charmwood Village, Faridabad, have changed my daughter's name from Reet to Reet Arya vide affidavit dated 28/04/2022 at Faridabad

I Radha Nischal W/o Mr. Mukesh Nischal R/o A-8,9,DDA Colony, Khyala, Phase-1, Delhi-110018. Declare that my name Radha Nischal and my father name Sawaran Singh wrongly in my Passport. But my actual name is Radha Nischal and my father actual name is Swaran Singh for all purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE Note: It hereby given to public at large that Mr. RAKESH KUMAR SON OF SHRI SULTAN SINGH AND SURESH KUMAR SON OF SHRI BANSHI MOHAN BOTH RESIDENTS OF HOUSE NO.84-A, NEAR POST OFFICE MIDHOLA, Distt. Haryana, have abandoned and disowned our son DHRUV LAKRA, daughter-in-law Pooja & grand daughter DEVIKRA for ever from all our movable and immovable properties and do not cooperating well and showing selfish attitude, with negative behavior towards us and they have no claim or title in any of the properties possessed or belonging to us as the said properties are all our self acquired properties. Our said son, daughter-in-law & belonging to us as the said properties are all our self acquired properties. Our said son, daughter-in-law & belonging to us as the said properties are all our self acquired properties. Our said son, daughter-in-law & belonging to us as the said properties are all our self acquired properties. Our said son, daughter-in-law & belonging to us as the said properties are all our self acquired properties.

सुचना मुकेश कुमार पुत्र स्व गुणप्रसाद अ उनकी लक्ष्मी देवी दोनों निवासी नकाच नं 455, गली नं 13, लुधियाना मार्ग, डेय कृष् अंबल नगर, लखनौ नगर, दिल्ली-82, ने अपने पुत्र राजिव कुमार व पुत्रवधु संगीता, को उनके बुद्धिबल के कारण, अपनी वत-जवत सम्पत्ति से बंद करने कर, वत-जवत कर देते हैं। उनके विरुद्ध भी कानून बंधन हैं। ये मुकेश कुमार व उनकी परिवार जिम्मेदार नहीं होते। नवीन नवीन (इकोमो) En. No. D1565006 Mob. 9868562563, 9717220225

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that Sh. S. Sheshagiri Rao S/o Sh. S. Srinikethaiah R/o Flat No. 002, Ground Floor, Block-L, Kaveri CGHS Ltd., Plot No. 4, Sector-6, Dwarka, Ph-I, New Delhi-75 has lost Original Share Certificate, Allotment Letter & Possession Letter, of Flat No. 002, Ground Floor, Block-L, Kaveri CGHS Ltd., Plot No. 4, Sector-6, Dwarka, Ph-I, New Delhi-75, Police Lost Report no. is 28913/2022. Finder may contact at 7815959138

COURT NOTICE In the court of Principal Judge, Family court, Bokaro Jharkhand Original Maintenance case No. 311/2021 Dipi Mishra & others vs. Positioner. Vikash Mishra vs. Opp. Party.

COURT NOTICE In the court of Principal Judge, Family court, Bokaro Jharkhand Original Maintenance case No. 313/2021 Khusbu Kumari @ Khusbu Mishra @ Devi Positioner. Rakesh Mishra vs. Opp. Party.

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RECRUITMENT SITUATION VACANT OTHERS

MKM COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT FOR GIRLS (Approved by AICTE & MDU, ROHTAK) Hodal, Distt. Palwal (Haryana)-121106 Phone Nos. 9416636535, 9416513454 E-mail: mkmcomhodal@gmail.com (Female candidates will be given preference) Applications are invited for the following posts on regular basis:- Director-(01) & Asstt. Prof. in Management-(5) & Computer Science-(5) NON-TEACHING STAFF: Librarian-(01), Administrative Officer-(01), Placement Officer-(01), Clerk-cum-typist-(03), Technical Assistant-(1), Lab Attendant-(02), Library Attendant-(01), Peon-(02), Safai Karamchari-(2), Chowkidar-(02) And Mail-(02) Qualifications and Pay Scale as per AICTE/UGC/State Govt./M.D.U. Rohtak norms. Interested candidates may download Application Form from the www.mkmcom.in or obtain from the office of the college on any working day and send Application Form to the President of the Society, duly completed alongwith visible copy of all testimonials (DMCC), experience, certificate etc. Within 21 Days from the date of advertisement through regd. post by hand. A copy of the Application Form must be sent to the Dean College Development Council, M.D. University, Rohtak within due date. Note: Only eligible candidates/applicants whose application form is/are received in the college as well as in the office of the C.D.C., M.D.U in due date will be called for the interview. President MKMKM Edu. Society Hodal

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of President of India, Chief Commercial Manager/Catering, Northern Railway invites E-Tender on www.ireps.gov.in for the supply of following items to Catering Units of MPs Canteen North Avenue. PMO & VIP Canteen Railway Board, New Delhi.

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar -751 001 Tel. : (0674) 2380950, Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in

Delhi Jal Board : GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (WATER) PROJECT-I EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROJECT) W-VIII A-BUCHEVING, JHANEDEWALAN, NEW DELHI-110005 E-mail: aeprojectw8@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORT Paribahan Bhawan, Jawahar Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 Email: report.ctassam@gmail.com Website: www.comtransport.assam.gov.in

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division No-I Kasumpti Shimla -9 (HP) on behalf of Governor Himachal Pradesh in electronic system in two covers for the under motioned work from contractors/Firms of appropriate class enlisted with HP Jal Shakti Vibhag.

ASSAM TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE Paribahan Bhawan, Jawahar Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 Email: report.ctassam@gmail.com Website: www.comtransport.assam.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

## Sindhu, Lakshya bow out of Indonesia Open Super Series



**Jakarta:** Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and rising star Lakshya Sen made quarterfinal exits in their respective singles events, ending India's challenge in the Indonesia Open Super Series 500 tournament here on Friday. Sen was first to be eliminated as the 20-year-old went down fighting and forced a decider against his higher-seeded Chinese Taipei rival Chou Tien Chen 21-16 12-21 21-14. India's last hope then rested on Sindhu but the former world champion went down without a fight to her old foe Ratchanok Intanon 12-21, 10-21 in a match lasting a little over half an

hour. The 27-year-old was at her dominating best and looked at ease with both in attacks and defence and the Indian was never able to fightback and suffered her fifth straight loss against her Thai rival. After pocketing the first game easily, Intanon looked even more furious in the second and raced to a 10-point lead before sealing the issue in 33 minutes to improve her head-to-head against Sindhu to 9-4. Sindhu, who made a semifinal exit in the Thailand Open last month, had earned a hard-fought victory over Gregoria Mariska Tunjung to enter the quarterfinals. **PTI**

### Sable aims at next record mark

**New Delhi:** Buoyed by the success in his maiden Diamond League appearance in Morocco, where he smashed the national record in men's 3000m steeplechase yet again, Avinash Sable is now aiming for a sub-eight minute time. "When I first started competing in steeplechase way back in 2018, I regularly used to clock somewhere around 8.29-30. I never thought I would reach a stage where I could rise to the margin of 8.12 at any point. "That said, I think a sub-eight minute mark is definitely possible, Sable said. **PTI**

### Rosberg barred from paddock

**Baku:** Former world champion Nico Rosberg has not been allowed to enter the Formula One paddock this season because he isn't vaccinated against COVID-19. Rosberg has been working as a commentator and pundit on TV after he won the F1 title in 2016 with Mercedes and retired from racing shortly thereafter. Rules for this season issued by F1's governing body, the FIA, require anyone entering the paddock, where the teams are based, to be fully vaccinated or hold a medical exemption. **PTI**

### Anand loses to Mamedyarov

**Stavanger (Norway):** Indian maestro Viswanathan Anand's campaign at the Norway Chess tournament suffered a setback after losing to Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in the ninth round even as Norwegian star Magnus Carlsen shot into sole lead with a win over Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. Anand showed impressive form with a victory over Carlsen to lead the standings after the fifth round but was outgunned by Mamedyarov in 22 moves in the Classical match. **PTI**

### India aim consistency

**Antwerp:** Consistency will be high on Indian men's and women's hockey teams' agenda as they resume their respective FIH Pro League campaigns against Belgium on Saturday as pre-cursor to Commonwealth Games. While the Indian men's team is scheduled to play Belgium (June 11 and June 12), followed by games against the Netherlands (June 18 and June 19), the women will play Belgium (June 11 and June 12), Argentina (June 18 and June 19) and the United States (June 21 and June 22). **PTI**

# Javelin's Next Gen: Yashvir eyes elusive 85m mark

Haryana youngster recorded his personal best of 82.13m last month

**ANDREW AMSAN**  
CHENNAI, JUNE 10

INDIA'S LATEST entrant in the 80m club, javelin thrower Yashvir Singh's father Rai initially didn't want his son to pursue athletics. When Yashvir was around 12, the family moved from Bhiwani to Delhi so that he could be admitted to a private school and progress academically.

"Someone told me that the school produced a lot of CBSE toppers so we sent him there," says Rai. But Yashvir not only failed to make progress but barely cleared his exams. Both Yashvir and his father were convinced it was time to return to what he was good at - sports. "Padai hui nahi, aur sports toh khun mein heen hai. (He couldn't do much in academics but he's got sports in his genes)," says Rai, a former national-level athlete who is now a coach. Yashvir, who breached the 80m mark at the Indian Grand Prix last month, belongs to the new crop of talent. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, who is now 24, is at a different level altogether. He breached the 80m-mark when he was just 17 back in 2015.

With Shivpal Singh (his personal best 86.23m) and Davinder Singh (84.57m) having their run-ins with dope suspensions, the focus has shifted to the younger crop - Sahil Silwal, Rohit Yadav, DP Manu and Yashvir. "It is really a great thing for javelin throw in India. You really need good competition to bring out the best in you. Off the field, we all are really good friends but on it, we are fierce competitors," says Yashvir who recorded his personal best of 82.13m just a fortnight ago in Bhubaneswar. Yashvir first came into limelight when he rewrote Neeraj's U-20 Fed Cup meet record last year with a 78.68m throw. He was distraught at missing the 80m back then.

"Breaching the 80m mark was very important to me," Yashvir says as his father shakes his head in disapproval. Coach Rai, who has higher expectations from his son, dismisses 80m as "just a number". "I recently got a call from someone congratulating me for Yashvir's entry into the 80m club. But it's no big deal," says the hard taskmaster. When Yashvir realised that academics weren't his cup of tea, he returned to Jaipur where his Railways employee father is now settled. "I initially played basketball just to get fit and then started off with a bamboo javelin. Once I picked up the technique, I switched to a standard javelin," he says.

### 'Nothing special'

Yashvir and his father don't like to complicate things. The duo believes in a simple



Yashvir Singh has already made the cut for 2022 Commonwealth Games.

### 80 M-PLUS & COUNTING

**DP MANU (82.43M):** The 22-year-old trains under coach Kashinath Naik who has worked with a lot of top throwers like Neeraj, Shivpal and Annu Rani. The Karnataka athlete has challenged the notion that Southern India doesn't produce top throwers.

**YASHVIR SINGH (82.13):** The confident Haryana athlete, 21, took a while to breach the 80m mark after knocking on its doors a couple of times in his career. His next target is the elusive 85m mark.

**ROHIT YADAV (81.83M):** He is the most consistent of the lot, producing three 80m-plus throws so far. The once skinny 21-year-old has spent a lot of time in the gym strengthening his upper body.

**SAHIL SILWAL (80.65M):** Sahil, 22, currently trains under Neeraj Chopra's first coach Jaiveer. Sahil is not a bulky athlete but relies on his natural elasticity to wind up for the big throws.

motto: "hard work yields results".

"There is nothing special in our training. We spend a lot of time training, and eat right. When I was an athlete, I made a lot of mistakes and I just ensure that my son doesn't go down the same road," says Rai.

Yashvir says his father is a touch "harsh" during training and doesn't hold back in giving him an earful when he errs. "Bahut gali padti hai. (He scolds me a lot). But that's only during training and only for practice. Otherwise, he never yells at me for anything. He's a very nice person," he says while exchanging a quick glance with his father sitting next to him.

Rai admits he's a tough taskmaster but feels his son needs a dose from time to time. "I have to do it. I have to correct my son. He couldn't do well in academics and now sports is the only option he has and we can't be lax in any way," Yashvir feels his arm strength and explosive release set him apart from other throwers. "I also have a good run-up, good release angle," he adds. Any weak areas? "None," he replies with a cheeky smile.

"He needs to improve his throwing speed," his father adds quickly.

Having already made the cut for the Commonwealth Games, Yashvir is now targeting a throw close to 85 metres (qualification mark for the World Championships) at the Interstate Meet. "It (85m) isn't a huge thing. We have been training well and I am pretty confident. Maybe I will land that mark here in Chennai itself," he says.

## Chhetri in focus again as India face Afghanistan

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

THE INSPIRATIONAL Sunil Chhetri would look to continue from where he left against Cambodia as India face Afghanistan in their second match of the Asian Cup Qualifiers here on Saturday.

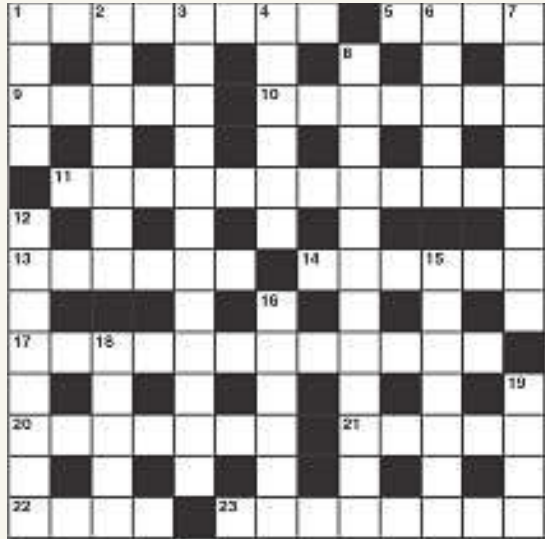
On an evening of missed opportunities, the 37-year-old veteran struck a goal in each half to give Igor Stimac's side all three points, ensuring the group hosts keep ahead of Hong Kong on goal difference after Jom Andersen's team won 2-1 over Afghanistan in the first match on Wednesday. Seeking to make a second successive Asian Cup Finals, the Chhetri-led India would look to bring out their best, especially up front with the likes of Liston Colaco, Manvir Singh, Udanta Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan and Roshan Singh hoping to improve their finishing abilities.

All of them got ample opportunities but failed to make an impact as far as scoring was concerned and it was once again left to the veteran to settle the nerves with his brace that took his international tally to 82 goals, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (117) and Lionel Messi (86). "I'm tired of answering this question, 'Stimac said when asked about life after Chhetri. 'When he's (Sunil) with us, I don't care if others are not scoring. If he's not here, then others will start scoring. Why look for someone else when he's scoring two goals every day?'" he asked. From Afghan's point of view it will be a do-or-die match and the physically stronger team would look to make it count against the Indian backbone of Roshan Singh, Sandesh Jhingan, Anwar Ali and Akash Mishra, who impressed the most in their outing against Cambodia. In such a scenario, the onus would be on the attacking line-up to "kill the contest" by scoring early goals, something that buried Afghanistan against Hong Kong.

The fitness of Roshan has been a concern after their outing against Cambodia and Stimac said they would assess his niggles on the sidelines of their training. "Of course this match will be much more difficult. There's a lot of quality movements against Hong Kong. They kept changing positions and made many crosses into the box.

"We have to be clever and very good at attacking. We have to win more aerial duels. We have to concentrate well, remain composed. I've full confidence of a win," Stimac added. India, who enjoy a 6-1 record on head-to-head from 10 meetings against the 'Lions of Khorasan', however, have not won against them since January 3, 2016 in the SAFF Championships. Since then the Blue Tigers have endured two 1-1 draws in the World Cup Qualifiers, something that was highlighted by Afghanistan coach Anoush Dastgir, who said they are in search of 'revenge' at the Qualifier in India.

### CROSSWORD 4765



- ACROSS**
- Turn out a lunatic marine (8)
  - Highlight of the Cresta Run (4)
  - Returning United Kingdom party's prestige (5)
  - Winding up very rich (7)
  - They clear some of the main hazards (12)
  - One is privileged to have them (6)
  - Rare dismay shown about Conservative leader (6)
  - Ice cap? (5,7)
  - A festive drink for the nymph (7)
  - Sea air adds a little weight to one (5)
  - Founder of a place of iniquity (4)
  - Counters chaos to put it into plain English (8)
- DOWN**
- Eastern relatives turn up to see victory (4)
  - Ruin the opening? (7)
  - Examination panel look first and speak later (12)
  - New wars or old weapons (6)
  - Twist in wet coils (5)
  - Sign in and make an impression (8)
  - Rows about a hundred changes (12)
  - Cunningly see and grasp warnings (8)
  - Sounds like a private bitterness (7)
  - Starchy food dad is about to turn to (6)
  - New angle on an ancient physician (5)
  - Apportion food say? (4)

**Solutions Crossword 4764:** Across: 1 Dreamboat, 8 Affix, 9 Intense, 10 Stream, 11 Chili, 12 Lion's den, 15 Gadarene, 18 Roosts, 20 Realms, 21 Bulldog, 22 Excel, 23 Exonerate. Down: 2 Ranch, 3 Age-old, 4 Bastille, 5 Tartan, 6 Effendi, 7 Examiners, 11 Congreuler, 13 Overture, 14 Advance, 16 Rumble, 17 Collar, 19 Trout.

### OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



### CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



### DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The Moon is about to pose one or two interesting questions, such as what is the best thing to do about a family or domestic dilemma. It's a day to think your problems through rather than resorting to raw emotion or Arien impatience. You don't want to upset anyone, do you?

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Money matters occupy your mind today. Splash out, but also get all your papers in order, whether insurance claims, investment plans or fancy profit-making schemes. Traditional entertainments suit the mood best, so resist attempts to persuade you to do something out-of-character.

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The Moon is raising the prospects of a busy, though happy, home-based weekend. The choice is yours as to whether you spend a restful time with family members or busy yourself on tasks. The guiding principle seems to be that whatever you do benefits others.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

When Mercury and Venus speak to each other, they create poetic conditions. Such delicate influences obviously appeal strongly to the subtle Cancerian personality, and may lead you to dream of exotic places or future wealth. Partners may not make much sense, though.

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

There is every opportunity for you to make the most of yourself socially this weekend. The stars are urging you to take the initiative and get out as much as possible. A little play would be a good thing after a hard-working week. After all, you occasionally do have to look after yourself.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Listen carefully to what other people say, and admit they have the best ideas. This is not to say that you are wrong, only that there are aspects of the current situation that you have failed to consider. And, that's a failure you'll have to remedy as soon as possible.

#### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The Sun is soon to form a very delicate and inspired relationship with Neptune, which means that dreams and thoughts of romance are prominent this weekend. Yet a money muddle may intervene along the way. And, when it does, you'd better take the cautious way out.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

There is every sense in which it is right for you to argue your case. It does seem now as if you have the edge over other people when it comes to a sound reason for what it is necessary to do. At least lunar alignments are still supporting you emotionally.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Mercury and Venus both make significant adjustments in their positions over the current period, the result being that your mood should become much lighter, frivolous and frothy, even. Certain problems will soon be pushed into the background, so don't waste your time.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You are now entering a financial cycle in which partnerships will hold the key. Relationships with women seem to be potentially the most profitable, while luxuries are more desirable than necessities. It's a day to indulge your day-dreams.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The weekend is here at last, bringing all its abundant opportunities for peace and relaxation. With the Moon determined to bring out the lighter side of your character, there is plenty of scope for putting pain and problems to one side. And take advantage of an offer of help.

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Mercury adjusts its position, inaugurating a period during which your mind will be on peak form. You will have no trouble persuading others that your plans, arrangements and ideas are by far and away the best. But, next week it may look very different.

### JUMBLED 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 clue.

I have an existential map. It has '...' written all over it - Steven Wright (3,3,4)

RVEEE



HYARR



CDJNOU



ACTTHY



**SOLUTION:** REVEE, HARRY, JOUND, CHARTY - Steven Wright  
Answer: I have an existential map. It has 'You are here' written all over it.

### SUDOKU 4862

**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 4861



# Not eye-catching, but effective

Van der Dussen's batting may not be attractive, but his grit and determination has taken him a long way

SANDIPG  
JUNE 10

AT ONE juncture of South Africa's chase, Rishabh Pant was heard yelling playfully at Avesh Khan: "Isko strike par rakh, Miller ko mat dena (keep him on strike, no Miller)." The Indian 'keeper-captain was referring to Rassie van der Dussen, who at that precise moment was in the middle of an ordeal, frozen like a man who had stepped onto Alaska in beachwear. His timing was awry, the placement off-kilter, and as the required run rate got steeper, Pant's playful instruction to Khan rang true. At the other end, though, there was Miller, in crushing touch.

Van der Dussen had just crawled to 29 off 30; a rate that even in the 50-over game is considered unsatisfactory. But Pant's quip/banter/genuine tactic didn't age well; in the next 15 balls, he plundered 45 runs. As if, in the twitch of a second, he transformed from an Everyman to a Superman, though sweating incessantly in the Kotla heat, each stroke leaving its strain on his face and limbs. No stroke of his stood out, no frame of his celebration would endure, and as the memory of the game wears on, he would be relegated into the role of an accomplice of Miller on a scorching Delhi summer night.

But that perception of anonymity sums up van der Dussen's career. He's the fastest to 1,000 runs in ODIs, boasts an average of 71 in the 50-overs version, has rattled out his 1,008 T20I runs at an average of 42 and a strike rate of 132. Yet, the name van der Dussen strikes no fear in the mind of bowlers or captains, or awe in the eyes of spectators or commentators. To the extent that when he openly introduces himself back home, he's promptly asked if he indeed was the former Springbok rugby coach and player Rassie Erasmus.

But he relishes the absence of fanfare. In his teenage years, he was supposed to be the least talented of the four brothers of the Dussen household in Pretoria. His brother Adrian was the boy with the blue chip, but ended up as a



Van der Dussen scored an unbeaten 74 off 46 balls in South Africa's run chase. PTI

journalist before switching to digital marketing. The two other brothers could not progress beyond club level.

But in backyard games, he was the most obdurate of all four to dislodge. The deal among the brothers was that those who got out early were assigned household chores. "I don't think Rassie once made coffee for us because he would just bat forever," brother Nico told *The Stumped*. After matriculation, which he finished a year earlier, he told his father that he wanted to do a post-matriculation, so that he could get some proper cricket coaching. He joined Affies, the alma mater of Faf du Plessis and AB de Villiers, among others, even though he had to take classes. There, Affies coach Deon Cotes told him that his game was not polished enough to play at a professional level. "But he took the advice in the right direction and worked really hard to reach a higher level," the coach had once told this paper.

Then on, he began to train like a maniac. "I tried to live my life in a way that I thought could improve me in terms of my training, in terms of my diet and all the aspects that went into it.

I started reading up on previous players and how they dealt with being professional sportspeople and tried to learn lessons that way. I sort of tried to work it out for myself as I went on," he told *The Stumped* in an interview. To improve his concentration, he strung an obstacle path around his house and tried to trace that path balancing three balls, looking not to drop the ball as long as he could.

Van der Dussen kept tracking up runs in the school circuit and caught the attention of the Titans, his home team. But a profusion of talented top-order batsmen meant they refused a contract and he switched to North West. From there, he was snapped up by Lions. A life-changing moment, as he met coach Geoff Toyana, who repurposed him from an opener to a middle-order batsman.

Of all the attributes, Toyana was most impressed with van der Dussen's calmness in dealing with setbacks. "His mental strength is one of his best attributes. When he got runs a couple of years ago, the national selectors ignored him, but he kept working hard because he knew his opportunity would come. It's all

about what he does behind the scenes. He hits a lot of balls, understands his strengths and weaknesses, and works on those weaknesses. His hunger and work ethic are incredible," Toyana told *The City Press*.

Journeyman cricketer  
During the years of snub, he packed off to distant shores to experience different cultures and get exposure to different conditions. This wanderlust took him to Canada and the Netherlands, apart from the Caribbean and the UK. "He does all these without any complaints or fuss. Someone else could have quit, but he is a fighter," Cotes told this paper after his unbeaten 41 in the series-winning chase in the Cape Town Test against India at the start of this year.

The fighting spirit has embodied most of his outings, not least during the Kotla heist on Thursday. In that sense, van der Dussen symbolises the spirit of Temba Bavuma's team. His is a team without superstar batsmen, no one with the towering persona of de Villiers or du Plessis, or Graeme Smith or Dale Steyn. This is a South Africa team sans the machismo that has been the tragic flaw of more gifted Proteas sides, according to coach Paddy Upton. "I think macho is a problem in non-Asian countries. Trying to pretend you are too tough. I do think that South Africans generally tend to act more macho than what they actually are and that bites them in pressure moments. As opposed to being real, authentic and having the correct level of acceptance of vulnerability."

It's a bunch that has waddled through failures and copped criticism. Quinton de Kock, whatever he does, feels he is grossly underappreciated as well as misunderstood. Aiden Markram was once considered a T20 misfit; Miller, out of depression, had once thought of quitting the game; Bavuma has eternally worn the flattered-to-deceive millstone around his neck. But this band of the snubbed and rejected can win matches and have a knack of throwing up unseemly matchwinners. Like van der Dussen—in many ways the pin-up hero of this South African side. Under-rated and unassuming, until he starts to sting.

# Amazon withdraw from IPL media rights auction

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
JUNE 10

AMAZON HAS pulled out of the Indian Premier League media rights auction race, leaving the field to its rivals - Walt Disney Co, that owns Disney-Star, and Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. through Viacom18/Reliance. A top BCCI official confirmed the development, as it is learnt that Jeff Bezos' Amazon communicated with the Indian cricket board in this regard early on Friday (India time), ahead of the evaluation of the technical bids. The e-auction is going to be held on Sunday.

Over the last few days, India's cricket and commercial circles were abuzz with a straight fight between the world's two richest men - Bezos and Ambani - for the IPL media rights for the 2023-2027 cycle. Amazon's pull-out nips this in the bud and now it could be a three-way race between Disney-Star, Viacom18/Reliance and Sony. Amazon's investment in India is in excess of \$6 billion. Initially, they showed keen interest in having the digital media rights of the world's most popular cricket league. From that perspective, their eleventh-hour withdrawal came as a surprise. Some reports claim that Amazon's chief executive officer Andy Jassy decided to pull the plug after internal deliberations, but the e-retail & content giant hasn't officially commented on it. Amazon livestreams the English Premier League. Recently, it inked a deal to broadcast Thursday Night Football in the United States at \$1 billion-a-season until 2033. Securing the IPL's digital streaming rights would have made them a big player in cricket broadcasting as well.

No official comment from the company has given rise to speculation, with some sources claiming that they read the writing on the wall, an impending defeat against Ambani's Reliance, while there's another school of thought that Amazon decided against paying over the odds. The BCCI has set the base price for the IPL media rights at Rs 32,890 crore, irking some of the bidders. Sony Pictures Networks India's managing director and CEO NP Singh called the base price "very aggressive". Still, by a conservative estimate, the BCCI expects the media rights to fetch north of Rs 45,000 crore to its coffers, while some are predicting it to reach even Rs 60,000 crore.

## EXPLAINED A race between Viacom & Disney?

IN 2017, Uday Shankar, as Star's chairman-cum-CEO, had secured the IPL media rights for his erstwhile company for Rs 16,347 crore. Five years down the line, he is in the opposition camp, masterminding strategies for Viacom18/Reliance, which has launched a sports channel, Sports 18. Indian conglomerate Reliance and Viacom18 have entered into a strategic partnership with Bodhi Tree, an investment platform, run by media tycoon James Murdoch's Lupa Systems and Shankar. At the same time, there's a feeling that Disney-Star could go for aggressive bidding to retain the media rights. Hotstar reportedly gets 30 per cent of its global revenue from India, with the IPL being the determining factor. **ENS**

Recouping the money only through digital streaming rights could have been a problem for Amazon. Unlike Disney-Star, Viacom18/Reliance or Sony, the company doesn't have a dedicated sports/TV channel. "Amazon has a great balance sheet but as a standalone, digital-only bidder, it would've had a challenge recouping such a big investment on streaming," Mihir Shah, vice-president and India head at Media Partners Asia, was quoted as saying by *Bloomberg*.

The pull-out, though, is unlikely to be set-back for the BCCI. The IPL's valuation, according to Duff & Phelps, was \$5.9 billion two years ago. Now, with the inclusion of two new teams and more matches, its valuation has risen considerably. Little wonder then that the BCCI is eyeing an unprecedented windfall.

# Mitchell makes a splash with a six into fan's beer glass on Day 1

REUTERS  
NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 10

DARYL MITCHELL scored an unbeaten 81, and splashed a six into a spectator's pint of beer, as New Zealand cruised to 318-4 from 87 overs at the end of the opening day of the second test against England at Trent Bridge on Friday. Needing a win to level the three-match series after a stinging five wicket defeat at Lord's last weekend, and without captain and leading batsman Kane Williamson, the Black Caps started by losing the toss and being put in to bat.

The absence of Williamson, in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 on the eve of the match, proved less of a setback than expected as the visitors reached 108-2 at lunch and 195-4 at tea. They were helped on a day of entertaining cricket by England's fielders missing plenty of chances.

## Dropped chances

Joe Root dropped one catch and Zak Crawley let slip another chance after England, unchanged from the first test, had grabbed back-to-back wickets just before lunch. New Zealand's opening stand was the highest in a test at the ground since 2005 but both openers departed in the space of two balls.

England captain Ben Stokes provided the breakthrough, taking the ball and having Will Young caught for 47 by a diving Crawley at second slip. New Zealand had been 84-0 and it was 84-2 when stand-in captain Tom Latham fell to Matthew Potts off James Anderson at midwicket.

The visitors morning score was still a vast improvement on the 39-6 at lunch on the opening day of the first test at Lord's.

Anderson and Stokes each took a pair of wickets, with the captain's two for 40 coming from 12 overs.

New Zealand were 161-3 when Ben Foakes caught Henry Nicholls (30) behind off Stokes and the Black Caps slipped to 169-4 after the wicket keeper repeated the feat with Devon Conway (46) from an Anderson delivery. Crawley dived across Root in a failed bid to catch Nicholls and Root missed an easier offering from Mitchell when the batsman was on one.

Mitchell, who provided a light-hearted moment when he smashed a six clear into the stands with the ball landing with a splash in someone's beer, ended the day on an unbeaten 149 partnership with Tom Blundell. England's Barmy Army supporters' club said on Twitter the Black Caps had bought the female fan a replacement pint.

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 318/4 (D Mitchell 81\*, T Blundell 67\*, W Young 47, D Conway 46; B Stokes 2/40, J Anderson 2/42) vs England

# Knee injury scuppers Mary Kom's CWG farewell plans

NIHAL KOSHIE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE COMMONWEALTH Games in Birmingham was to be a celebratory farewell parade for six-time world champion Mary Kom. Now the 39-year-old, five months short of her 40th birthday, which is the cut-off age for amateur boxing at major events, could walk into the sunset without a final testimonial tournament podium photo.

Fate had a cruel twist in store for the boxing legend.

At the trials for the CWG, the London Olympics bronze medalist lost her footing early as she swayed away in the first round of the semifinals (48 kg) against two-time Youth Olympics champion Nitu Ghanghas. Mary shrieked as she fell and slowly got back on her feet. But she struggled to move freely, was in pain again and clutched her knee. Had she continued, it would have been foolhardy.

Nitu was declared the winner via referee-steps-contest. The anticipated bout between the 21-year-old upcoming star and a veteran nearly double her age came to a premature end.

Soon Mary limped out of the IG Stadium with support, got into her SUV and left. Mary doesn't need a second CWG medal — she won gold at Gold Coast in 2018 — at the end of her career. But once she overcame the disappointment of a pre-quarterfinal exit at the Tokyo Olympics, her competitive spirit had been rekindled. She had trained, first in Manipur and then in Delhi, like she had everything to prove. The CWG was a clear target in her mind.

Over a two-decade long career, Mary had always overcome the odds, made comebacks after motherhood and bounced back from injury to win medals at the highest level. She had skipped the World Championship trials to make way for younger boxers. But at nearly 40, her knee let her down when she wanted one final shot at glory in the ring.

Just two days ago Mary had posted a weight training video of her on Twitter with the caption: If you want a good result, TRAIN HARDER.

Chhote Lal Yadav, her long-time coach, says there was no hype in her social media post. She had sparred against boxers in higher-weight categories ahead of the trials.

"She would train and spar against those who were in the 54 kg and 57 kg category. She had been working really hard to prepare for the Commonwealth Games trials. She didn't have any injury issues currently. In training, she had shown the hunger to give her best. She trained smartly because she had to be mindful of her age. Mentally too she was positive," Chhote Lal said.

To keep an unwavering focus on training, Mary, a mother of three, took the difficult decision to cut down on family time.

Once her term as Rajya Sabha MP ended recently, she moved to the hostel at the IG Stadium as her training intensified and the



Mary Kom got injured in the first round of the semifinals on Friday. BFI

**Nitu will fight Manju Rani in the final on Saturday for a place in the Commonwealth Games squad (in 48kg category)**

CWG trails got closer. "She took the decision to stay away from her children. It was not easy for her," Chhote Lal added.

## Best possible preparations

Among those who were keeping a close eye on the trial bouts was chief national coach Bhaskar Bhatt. Mary, according to Bhatt, was looking good till the injury occurred.

"For the past month and a half, her intensity during training was as high as I have ever seen. But one can't plan for something like an injury. It can happen to anyone. But in Mary's case, age is also a factor. I don't think she has ever had a major knee injury. But at 40, such things can happen even if you train as hard as you want and prepare well," Bhatt said.

It was too early in the bout to make a judgement on who the better boxer was on the day — Mary or Nitu? "Mary has all the experience and she is very smart in the ring. She would have only expended as much energy as was needed. Nitu is a very good boxer too and is the future. It would have been a good bout. But it is unfortunate how it ended" the chief national coach said.

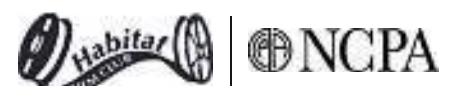
Nitu will fight Manju Rani in the final on Saturday for a place in the Commonwealth Games squad.

As for Mary, there was no official communication on the nature of the injury.

Chhote Lal said a clearer picture would emerge once Mary's injury assessment is complete in a day. "Hopefully, it is not as bad as it looks. I don't know what Mary has in mind (future competition), but this can't be the way she leaves a ring for the last time. Her story deserves a good ending." A final waltz around the ring where she danced all her life on quick feet, not a plume of smoke left behind by a retreating SUV.

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In association with



A discussion on



Reema Kagti, Filmmaker

in conversation with

Shubhra Gupta, Film Critic, The Indian Express

Webinar Discussion

Date: 20 June 2022 | Time: 5:30 PM

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