



WORLD

**UK GOVT APPROVES EXTRADITION OF ASSANGE TO U.S.; HE PLANS TO APPEAL**
PAGE 16

There's strong possibility of J&K polls by the end of this year: Rajnath

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JUNE 17

IN THE first indication of a timeline for Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Friday that there is a "strong possibility" of starting the electoral process by "the end of this year".

In August 2019, the State of J&K lost its special status following the abrogation of Article 370 and was downgraded to a Union Territory — the State's bifurcation led to the creation of a separate UT of Ladakh.

Speaking at a function organised to mark 200 years of the coronation of Maharaja Gulab Singh, the first Dogra ruler of the princely State of J&K, Singh said, "Mujhe lagta hai ki is saal ke ant tak ho sakta hai ki chunavi prakariya bhi parambh ho. Iski prabal sambhavna hai (I think the electoral exercise may also commence by the end of this year. There is a strong possibility)."

Referring to the recently concluded delimitation exercise, he

NOTIFICATION WITHIN TWO DAYS: ARMY CHIEF

As protests rage, Services ready to start Agnipath recruitment

Age relaxation shows Govt cares for youth: Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

AS AUTHORITIES grappled with protests against the short-term Agnipath recruitment scheme for the armed forces, the three services announced Friday that they were all set to start the recruitment process.

The Indian Army said a notification will be issued in the next two days while the Indian Air Force said the recruitment process will start June 24. The Indian Navy too said the process will begin very soon.

The announcements came a day after the government announced a one-time age relaxation for candidates this year, raising the upper age limit from 21 to 23 years.

On Friday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the "relaxation of age indicates that the government cares for our youth". He said the Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the services "are committed to commence the recruitment process at the earliest" and "we invite the youth of our country to join the Indian Armed Forces and serve the nation through Agnipath."

Welcoming the age relaxation decision, Army chief General Manoj Pande said the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 6

A train set on fire during protests at Danapur railway station near Patna on Friday. PTI

Secunderabad protester killed in police firing, more trains torched in Bihar, UP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

AS VIOLENT protests against the Agnipath recruitment scheme continued across the country for the second day on Friday, a youth

from Telangana became the first casualty, killed in police firing in Secunderabad.

Besides Telangana, the protests were most violent in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, where protesters set ablaze a train, buses and a police outpost, and

NDA-ruled Bihar, where the houses of state BJP president Dr Sanjay Jaiswal and Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi were targeted and several coaches of at least 14 trains were set on fire.

Protests were also reported

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNNY
Lessons from Kisan to address J&K

Why age relaxation can also become a problem

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

MOVING TO allay concerns and dial down anger on the streets over the short-term Agnipath recruitment scheme for the armed forces, the government announced a one-time relaxation

EXPLAINED

in the upper age limit for entrants this year, raising it from 21 to 23 years, saying there had been no recruitment in the last two years.

But this one-time waiver can also become a problem.

Recruitment data shows that the intake of 46,000 recruits this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION - PART 1

From Emergency to Gujarat riots, lessons of past deleted from textbooks of future

Express matched NCERT's revisions with content in 21 history, political science and sociology textbooks for Classes 6 to 12 — found sweeping changes

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

DELETING REFERENCES to the 2002 Gujarat riots, dropping passages that dealt with Emergency's draconian impact on people and institutions, removing chapters on protests and social movements, including those spearheaded by the Narmada Bachao Andolan, Dalit Panthers and Bharatiya Kisan Union. These are some of the most sweeping changes in social science school textbooks since the NDA government came to power in 2014.

These changes result from a textbook "rationalisation" exercise undertaken by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) six months ago for all subjects. It



GUJARAT RIOTS: References dropped from Class 12 textbooks



EMERGENCY: Chapter slashed, references removed in Class 12

comes ahead of the proposed revamp of the national school curriculum (National Curriculum Framework or NCF), which will see a further revision in NCERT textbooks.

The Indian Express scrutinised 21 current history, political science and sociology textbooks for Classes 6 to 12 and matched their content with tables circulated

**TOMORROW:
SPACE CUT FOR DALIT
DISCRIMINATION**

within NCERT on the proposed changes. While the textbooks will not be reprinted due to shortage of time, the changes will be communicated to schools formally.

This is the third textbook review since 2014. The first one took place in 2017, in which the NCERT made 1,334 changes, including additions, corrections and data updates, in 182 textbooks. The second review was initiated in 2019 at the then Education Minister Prakash Javadekar's behest to reduce the burden on students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Green Campus, Ganderbal – 191201 (J&K)

CORRIGENDUM
Partial modification to the employment notification No. 03 of 2022 dated 07-05-2022, regarding the eligibility criteria for appointment to the various teaching posts is available on the University website: www.cukashmir.ac.in.
Dated: 16.06.2022 **Sd/- (Registrar)**



GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
2nd Floor, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan,
Race Course, Vadodara - 390 007
Phone:0265 2334751, Fax:0265 2344543 www.guvnl.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
GUVNL, a Govt. of Gujarat undertaking hereby invites e-tender for purchase of 500 MW RTC power for the period from 11.07.2022 to 31.12.2022 at GETCO Periphery (interconnection point of Gujarat STU with CTU) as per Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt. of India Guidelines dated 30.03.2016 read with amendment to the guideline notified on 21.02.2022. RFP is available at www.mstcecommerce.com from 17.06.2022. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP Portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.
Date: 18-06-2022 **General Manager (Commerce)**

झारखण्ड सरकार
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सूचना
ई-निविदा प्रसंग सं० :- RCD/HAZARIBAG/530/2022-23
दिनांक :- 17.06.2022

1.	कार्य का नाम	Consultancy Services for Carrying out Road Safety Audit of existing roads as per Road Safety Manual i.e. IRC-SP-88-2010 or any other latest revision of this document under Road Circle, Hazaribag (Total Length 643.279 Km) for the Year 2021-22
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	रु. 1073308900 (एक करोड़ सात लाख तैसीस हजार नवसौ) रुपया मात्र।
3.	बीड रिक्युरिटी (राशि)	रु. 215000000 (दो लाख पन्द्रह हजार) रुपया मात्र।
4.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	04 (चार) माह
5.	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	23062022 10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
6.	पि-बीड लिमिट की तिथि	04072022 11:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
7.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	15072022 12:00 बजे दिन तक
8.	निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं समय	19072022 12 : 30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
9.	निविदा खुलने का स्थान	Chief Engineer (Comm)- Cum-Nodal Officer, e-Procurement Cell,RCD,Jharkhand, 1 st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No. 2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
10.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले का नाम पता	एवं कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग।
11.	प्रोक्वोरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क नं०	9431326172
12.	ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल का हेल्ललाईन नं०	0651-2448007

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PR271791 (Road)22-23*D पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग



PANCHAYAT RAJ & DRINKING WATER DEPARTMENT
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
RWS&S DIVISION, NABARANGPUR
Tel:(06858)222643, E-Mail: eerwss.ngp@rediffmail.com
eerwssngp@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS
No: RWSS_NGP_ONLINE_07/2022-23 DATED: - 08/06/2022
The Superintending Engineer RWS&S Division Nabarangpur on behalf of Additional Chief Engineer, RWSS Circle, Koraput invites percentage rate bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement system in on-line mode.

1.	Name of Works	As mentioned in Table "A" which includes Construction of different capacity ESR/OGR, laying of pipe line, FHTC and its ancillary work in commissioned Pipe water supply scheme of different Block in the Nabarangpur District (Clubbed up projects)				
2.	No. of Works	8 (EIGHT) Nos (Detailed in Tender Call Notice available in the website)				
3.	Estimated Cost	As mentioned in Table "A"				
4.	Tender Paper	As mentioned in Table "A"				
5.	Class of Contractor	As mentioned in Table "A"				
6.	Period of Completion	As mentioned in Table "A"				
7.	Critical Dates	* Further details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in the e-procurement Portal https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in * publication of this tender can be seen in the web portal https://odisha.gov.in/state-tenders-advertisement * Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the web site. * Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.				

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for Bidding From To	Last Date of seeking tender Clarification	Last date of receipt of confirmation letter & other documents.	Date of opening of Bid
Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Nabarangpur	RWSS_NGP_ONLINE_05 of 2022-23	08.07.2022 at 05.00 PM	19.07.2022 at 05.00 PM	18.07.2022 up to 5.30 P.M.	19.07.2022 up to 11.00 A.M.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Nabarangpur
OIPR-25028/11/0010/2223



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner, 7th Floor, KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

No. WDD/DDA/REWARD/Proc.(R,T)/GWME/2022-23 **Date: 17.06.2022**

TENDER INVITING NOTICE
PROCUREMENT OF GROUND WATER MONITORING EQUIPMENTS UNDER WORLD BANK ASSISTED REWARD PROGRAM
Watershed Development Department proposes to procure Ground Water Monitoring Equipments mentioned below under the World Bank assisted REWARD program through Karnataka e-procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Name of the Equipments	Qty.	EMD in Rs.
Ground Water Monitoring Equipments with two years warranty and CMC for 25% of the equipments for three years		
Schedule-I: Manual water level indicator (MWLI) - Handheld Ground water level/logger	78	3,60,475/-

The Tender documents and detailed information for tenderers are available in the e-procurement portal from **17.06.2022**. Interested suppliers or their authorized agents may please go through the details and offer their bids. The last date for submission of bids is **01.07.2022 within 5.00 PM** and the pre-bid meeting is scheduled on **24.06.2022 at 11.00 AM**.
Sd/-
Director, Watershed Development Department, Bangalore

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EXPECTED TO EASE TRAFFIC FOR 1 LAKH COMMUTERS

Modi to inaugurate Pragati Maidan corridor on Sunday

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-awaited tunnel and six underpasses that are part of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor project at 10.30 am on Sunday, said officials. It is expected to ease traffic for 1 lakh commuters.

The corridor has been built at a cost of more than Rs 920 crore and is funded entirely by the central government, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement. It is aimed at providing hassle-free and smooth access to the new world-class exhibition and convention centre being developed at Pragati Maidan, thereby facilitating easy participation of exhibitors and visitors in the programmes being held at Pragati Maidan, it said.

The 1.36-km-long tunnel will have six lanes, with a three-lane carriageway on both sides. It connects Ring Road with India Gate via Purana Qila Road passing through Pragati Maidan. It will also provide direct connectivity to the huge basement parking of Pragati Maidan.

It is expected to provide a hassle-free commute for people travelling between East, Southeast and Central Delhi. Officials said that it will de-congest the road at Pragati Maidan, ITO junction, India Gate and the Supreme Court.

Officials closely associated with the project said the tunnel



THE PROJECT
The Pragati Maidan Corridor comprises a

- **1.36-KM-long tunnel** from NSIC to Ring Road
- **Six underpasses:** 5 on Mathura Road at Sher Shah Suri Road, DPS near Sundar Nagar, Supreme Court, Science Centre, Pragati Maidan; and one on Bhairon Marg
- Project began in 2017
- Estimated date of completion: 2019, six deadlines missed since then

The 1.36-km-long tunnel connects Ring Road with India Gate via Purana Qila Road, passing through Pragati Maidan. **Amit Mehra**

The underpasses will ease the commute on Mathura Road from Pragati Maidan to Ashram, Nizamuddin, Sarai Kale Khan, Central and Southeast Delhi and Badarpur.
According to officials, work on the tunnel and underpasses started in 2017. It was estimated to be ready by 2019 but the project was delayed due to the pandemic and a ban on construction activities.
Officials said murals showcasing Indian culture, birds and six seasons from the country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari will adorn the tunnel.

away any vehicle that breaks down.
The six underpasses, of which five are on the Mathura Road, will create a signal-free stretch between Pragati Maidan and Sunder Nursery.
The sixth underpass on the Ring Road will go beneath the railway line and connect to Bhairon Marg.



NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
DIAMOND MINING PROJECT, PANNA PO: MAJHGAWAN, PIN - 488001
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Regd. Office: Khanji Bhavan, 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500 028, CIN- L13100TG1958GOI001674


DMP/Majh/Civil/2021/12 **Date : 18.06.2022**
Diamond Mining Project Majhgawan, Panna NMDC Ltd. invites e-bids for the following works. Intending tenderers may visit and download Tender Documents from CPP Portal or www.nmdc.co.in or <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/home/nmdc/>. The offer has to be submitted online at the given MSTC portal only till 03:00 PM and will be opened on 03:30 PM on respective last dates.

MSTC Ref. No. NMDC/PANNA/ 1/22-23/ET/	NMDC Tender. No. DMP/Majh/ Civil/OTE/ 2022-23/	Short Description of Work	EMD (in ₹)	Last Date of Sub'n
1	158	01 Setting up of Core Library at Panna Diamond RP Works Office, DIAMOND MINING PROJECT, PANNA	₹ 45,000.00	15/07/2022

HOD (Civil)
DMP Majhgawan, Panna NMDC Ltd.

हर एक काम देश के नाम इस्पाती इरावा

BEFORE THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;
And
In the matter of Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013;
And
In the matter of Company Application No. 24/1/2021-CL-III filed by Nabnagar Power Generating Company Limited, Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited and NTPC Limited
And
In the matter of the Company Petition dated 28th April, 2022 filed before the Learned Ministry of Corporate Affairs, seeking approval of Scheme of Amalgamation between Nabnagar Power Generating Company Limited, Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited and NTPC Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors.
Nabnagar Power Generating Company Limited
CIN - U40104DL2008GOI183024
...**Petitioner No. 1/ Transferor Company No.1**
AND
Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited
CIN - U40102DL2006GOI153167
... **Petitioner No. 2/ Transferor Company No.2**
AND
NTPC Limited,
CIN - L40101DL1975GOI007966
... **Petitioner No. 3/ Transferee Company**
Both, the Transferor Company Nos. 1 and 2 as well as the Transferee Company are collectively referred to as "**Petitioner Companies**" and have their registered office at NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003.
NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF HEARING OF COMPANY PETITION BEFORE THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI ON 29th JUNE, 2022 FOR APPROVAL OF SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION BETWEEN NABINAGAR POWER GENERATING COMPANY LIMITED, KANTI BIJLEE UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED AND NTPC LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that by Order dated 15th June, 2022 ("**Order**") the Government of India, through the Learned Ministry of Corporate Affairs has fixed 29th June, 2022 as the date of hearing for Company Petition dated 28th April, 2022 ("**Petition**") connected with Company Application No. 24/1/2021-CL-III under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013, both filed by the Petitioner Companies. The Petition has been filed jointly by all three Petitioner Companies, for approval of the Scheme of Amalgamation between Transferor Company No. 1 and Transferor Company No. 2 with the Transferee Company and their respective shareholders and creditors ("**Scheme**").
Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send notice of his/her intention signed by him/her or his/her Advocate with his/her name and address to the Advocate for the Petitioner Companies so as to reach the Petitioners' Advocate not later than 2 days before the date fixed for hearing of the Petition. If the said person seeks to oppose the Petition, the grounds of opposition and an affidavit shall be furnished with such Notice. A copy of the Petition i.e. seeking approval of the Scheme and the Order can be obtained from the office of the Advocate of the Petitioner Companies during the working hours or by sending an email to Mr. Pranav Vyas (pranav.vyas@dslegal.com).
Dated: 17th day of June 2022.
Address:
DSK Legal
Advocates for the Petitioner Companies
Max House, Level 5,
Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-3,
New Delhi- 110020
Pranav Vyas
Partner
DSK Legal



कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर
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क्रमांक :-एफ 46/नीलामी/2022/1266 **दिनांक :- 15.06.2022**

भूखण्डों की भव्य ई-नीलामी दिनांक 27.06.2022 से 02.08.2022 तक

106

आवासीय भूखण्ड एवं व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड

गंगा विहार आवासीय योजना में कुल भूखण्ड

05

राज्य कर्मचारी आवासीय योजना मोगड़ा कला में कुल भूखण्ड

05

पण्डित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय बिहार आवास योजना ग्राम आंगणवा में कुल भूखण्ड

15

विवेक विहार आवासीय योजना सेक्टर-एल में कुल भूखण्ड

02

विवेक विहार आवासीय योजना सेक्टर-एम में कुल भूखण्ड

11

मण्डलनाथ आवासीय योजना सेक्टर-बी में कुल भूखण्ड

12

विवेक विहार आवासीय योजना सेक्टर-ओ में कुल भूखण्ड

04

मण्डलनाथ आवासीय योजना सेक्टर-सी में कुल भूखण्ड

08

विवेक विहार आवासीय योजना सेक्टर-एन में कुल भूखण्ड

03

दन्तोपंत टेगड़ी नगर आवासीय योजना में कुल भूखण्ड

03

विजयेराजे नगर आवासीय योजना में कुल भूखण्ड

03

सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी नगर आवासीय योजना में कुल भूखण्ड

15

व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड ब्लॉक-ए ग्राम चौखा, 1480.68

01

सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी नगर शिफ्टिंग योजना में कुल भूखण्ड

07

व्यावसायिक परिवहन नगर आंगणवा ट्रांसपोर्ट/ऑटोमोबाइल योजना में कुल भूखण्ड

12

ईएमडी जमा दिनांक

27 जून 2022

ऑनलाइन बिड

प्रारम्भ तिथि: 27 जून 2022

अंतिम तिथि: 02 अगस्त 2022

निदेशक वित्त

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण

जोधपुर

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण

जोधपुर

फोन :- 0291-2656355, 2656356

मोबाइल नं.-96723-54150,97990,42125,94148,73715

96364-12457,94144-98246,94131-11696-89470-71718

नीलामी के समस्त भूखण्डों की विस्तृत जानकारी एवं नीलामी की शर्तें जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट : urban.rajasthan.gov.in/joda देखें या सम्पर्क करें।

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022

EXPECTED TO EASE TRAFFIC FOR 1 LAKH COMMUTERS

Modi to inaugurate Pragati Maidan corridor on Sunday

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-awaited tunnel and six underpasses that are part of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor project at 10.30 am on Sunday, said officials. It is expected to ease traffic for 1 lakh commuters.

The corridor has been built at a cost of more than Rs 920 crore and is funded entirely by the central government, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement. It is aimed at providing hassle-free and smooth access to the new world-class exhibition and convention centre being developed at Pragati Maidan, thereby facilitating easy participation of exhibitors and visitors in the programmes being held at Pragati Maidan, it said.

The 1.36-km-long tunnel will have six lanes, with a three-lane carriageway on both sides. It connects Ring Road with India Gate via Purana Qila Road passing through Pragati Maidan. It will also provide direct connectivity to the huge basement parking of Pragati Maidan.

It is expected to provide a hassle-free commute for people travelling between East, Southeast and Central Delhi. Officials said that it will de-congest the road at Pragati Maidan, ITO junction, India Gate and the Supreme Court.

Officials closely associated with the project said the tunnel

THE PROJECT
The Pragati Maidan Corridor comprises a

- **1.36-KM-long tunnel** from NSIC to Ring Road
- **Six underpasses:** 5 on Mathura Road at Sher Shah Suri Road, DPS near Sundar Nagar, Supreme Court, Science Centre, Pragati Maidan; and one on Bhairon Marg
- Project began in 2017
- Estimated date of completion: 2019, six deadlines missed since then

The 1.36-km-long tunnel connects Ring Road with India Gate via Purana Qila Road, passing through Pragati Maidan. **Amit Mehra**

The underpasses will ease the commute on Mathura Road from Pragati Maidan to Ashram, Nizamuddin, Sarai Kale Khan, Central and Southeast Delhi and Badarpur.
According to officials, work on the tunnel and underpasses started in 2017. It was estimated to be ready by 2019 but the project was delayed due to the pandemic and a ban on construction activities.
Officials said murals showcasing Indian culture, birds and six seasons from the country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari will adorn the tunnel.

away any vehicle that breaks down.
The six underpasses, of which five are on the Mathura Road, will create a signal-free stretch between Pragati Maidan and Sunder Nursery.
The sixth underpass on the Ring Road will go beneath the railway line and connect to Bhairon Marg.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
9409812F RfN BIR BAHADUR LIMBU
9409812F Rfn Bir Bahadur Limbu of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) made the supreme sacrifice in 1971 at WEST BENGAL (RADHIKAPUR) on 18 Jun 1971 in a true act of valour. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his raw courage and indomitable team spirit. To this braveheart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.
CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES & SIKKIM SCOUTS (BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE) (BATALIK)



भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(एक नवेली कंपनी) (एक नवेली कंपनी का उद्घाटन)
A Navratna Company (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NSIC New MDPP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi - 110 020

TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)
Online E-Bids are invited for HANDLING OF CONTAINERS & CARGO AND INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION at MMPL BALLI for 04 (Four) years through e-tendering mode.

Tender No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Period of the contract	Earnest Money Deposit*	Cost of Document*	Tender Processing Fee*	Date of Sale (On Line)	Last Date & Time of submission	Date & Time of Opening
	CON/AREA-III/BALLI/HT01/2022 HANDLING OF CONTAINERS & CARGO AND INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION at MMPL BALLI	Rs.14,62,56,044/- (Inclusive of GST)	Four (4) years	Rs.5,00,000/- (Inclusive of GST)	Rs.1,000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment	Rs.4,720/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment.	From 18/06/2022 at 15:00 hrs. to 02/07/2022 (upto 16:00 hrs.)	On 04/07/2022 upto 15:00 hrs.	On 04/07/2022 at 15:30 hrs.

* Through e-Payment
For eligibility criteria and other details please log on to www.concorindia.com or procure.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details logon to www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL.
Executive Director /Area-II

Tender Notice No.26 of 2022-2023
Tender was invited and NIT earlier published in rnb.nprocure.com by Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Dr.Rajendraprasad Road, Kashivishwanath Plot, Rajkot, Ph.No.0281 2446605 as under. The Original NIT is here by submitting for published in News Paper. The Tender Documents and time schedule of e-tendering will be available on website rnb.nprocure.com from on or after **17-06-2022**. Tender can be filled by online only.
Email address ofthis office: ee-nh-rjkt@gujarat.gov.in.

Sr. No.	Name of work
1.	Collection of Toll from Toll Plaza near Bamanbore Junction (By using computerised Toll collection System / Manual System), and near Bagodara on Ahmedabad-Kandla road on NH-47 (Old NH-8A)

Estimated Cost, EMD, Tender Fees and period of completion will be shown in Tender documents on online Tender. Any modification / correction will be displayed on website only and it remains final. **INF/Raj/Corri-431/22**

KORBA DISTRICT URBAN PUBLIC SERVICE SOCIETY, KORBA
F.No./2022/77 **Korba Dated- 14.061022**
RFP NOTICE
For
Selection of Operators for Operation, Maintenance and Management of City Bus Services and Ancillary Infrastructure in Korba Urban Agglomeration in Chhattisgarh
Through this notice Korba District Urban Public Service Society, Korba (KDUSS) invites proposal as given below online Electronic Chhattisgarh Government Procurement System (eGPS) <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> as per RFP for for Operation, Maintenance and Management of City Bus Services and Ancillary Infrastructure in Korba Urban Agglomeration in Chhattisgarh. Interested Bidders should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the relevant tasks. Amendments/ Corrigendum in RFP, if any, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper.

S. No.	System Tender No.	FDR Amount	Last Date of Bid Submission	Last Date of Physical Submission
1	102457	Rs. 4,00,000.00 (Rs. Four Lakhs in favour of Secretary, KDUSS & bidder jointly valid for 8 Years)	5.07.2022 5.30 PM	07.07.2022 5.30 PM

Sd/-
Nodal Officer
Korba District Urban Public Services Society, Korba (C.G.)

1753

New Delhi



VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
26,806



PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **222**
OXYGEN SUPPORT **63**
VENTILATOR SUPPORT **9**

DELHI TOTAL
CASES
19,19,025

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
June 16	1,323	1,016	2	19,776
June 17	1,797	901	1	21,978
Total	4,843*	18,87,956	26,226	3,88,38,436

*Total active cases in Delhi

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,515	9,292
ICU BEDS	2,130	2,064

	June 16	June 17
Cases	71	83
Deaths	0	0

	Cases	Deaths
GURGAON	416	480
	0	0

AMID PROTESTS, 'TERROR THREATS'

To test alertness of staff, police will 'plant' dummy IEDs in areas that see high footfall

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

TO CHECK alertness of district police and ensure vigilance, the Delhi Police Special Cell will "infiltrate and plant" dummy improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in places that see high footfall. The decision was taken in the light of the Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) warning of suicide bombings in Delhi, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat over comments on the Prophet made by suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma.

A letter issued on June 16 by DCP (Special Cell) Ingit Pratap Singh stated: "Keeping in view the controversy and recent violent protests over the Prophet Muhammad issue, and Al-Qaeda's threat of suicide attacks in India over this, police staff should be instructed to develop intelligence inputs to thwart any militant attack/plan."

Singh further states in the let-

ter, "Staff of Special Cell will randomly infiltrate and plant dummy IEDs at any of the places of high footfall in each district to check alertness of local police staff. As soon as district police detect the dummy IED, regular protocol of handling such device — cordoning (off) the area, using sandbags for buttressing, calling bomb disposal team — must be followed. After completing the exercise, Special Cell staff carrying out the infiltration attempt will be informed by district police. Lower staff should be briefed about the (IED) angle to remain extra vigilant and cautious accordingly."

He added, "It is also reiterated that places of high footfall should be monitored, patrolled, and CCTV systems may be checked and monitored regularly. Moreover, an extensive checking to be carried out from 6 pm to 9 pm daily in crowded markets, shopping malls, and mass transportation systems. Special attention must be paid to tenant verification and hotels,



Police personnel were present at all gates of the Jama Masjid on Friday. Shivam Kumar Jha

guest house checking,"

Security increased outside mosques

Meanwhile, security was increased outside mosques ahead

of Friday namaz and DCPs in all 15 districts were asked to make elaborate security arrangements. Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana visited the Central district in the morning to

review security arrangements at Jama Masjid, where a brief protest was seen last week.

On Thursday, Special CP (northern zone) Dependra Pathak held a meeting with all DCPs regarding security arrangements. The protest by Congress workers against Rahul Gandhi's questioning by the ED, recent protests against Nupur Sharma's remarks about the Prophet, and the agitation against the Agnipath scheme in parts of the country were discussed.

"All DCPs have been asked to take precautionary measures, keeping in view the sensitivity of the issues. Adequate police arrangements by local police, including women staff, PCR and traffic have been suggested, especially in mixed population areas to handle the situation tactfully. There is a possibility that some people will try to create ruckus and it cannot be ruled out that even a minor incident may create communal tension and affect the law-and-order situation," a

senior police officer said. DCPs have also been asked to deploy videographers to record any incident.

At Jama Masjid during the day, there was brief sloganeering by a group of people after namaz ended. Announcements were made over loudspeakers to stop sloganeering immediately and that it would not be tolerated within the masjid. People were told that the namaz had ended and they must leave immediately.

Shahzad Khan, member of the Aman Committee, who was present outside the masjid, said members of the committee had appealed to the people to pray peacefully and return: "If they want to protest and have an issue, they should raise it at a proper platform. The Imam is making all efforts to ensure that there is peace. The sloganeering that happened inside was by a few people who are not from here."

Delhi Police personnel were present inside the masjid and deployed at all gates as well.

Conclude investigation into plagiarism allegations against 2 profs: HC to IIT-D

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

OBSERVING THAT facts of the case are quite unsettling, the Delhi High Court has directed IIT-Delhi's Institute Level Plagiarism Committee to conclude an investigation into allegations of plagiarism against two professors and submit a report before the court. The teachers are accused of using a student's research proposals for obtaining a Lok Sabha-sponsored fellowship.

"Further, the report prepared by the Student Grievance Redressal Committee be also filed with this Court before the next date of hearing, with a copy to the Petitioner," said Justice Sanjeev Narula in the order.

Harshal Dilip Kate, a PhD scholar at IIT's Department of Management Studies since 2018, has approached the court against the termination of his registration by the institute. His registration was terminated on account of "unsatisfactory performance" in two consecutive semesters, as per the plea before court.

Kate told the court that the termination is a result of complaints made by him against his co-guide as well as chairperson of the Student Research Committee (SRC). He further told the court that he attended several e-conferences at international universities and institutes but was questioned by his co-guide for not seeking their prior approval.

"Petitioner also asserts that his co-guide used two of his research proposals for obtaining a Lok Sabha sponsored fellowship for herself worth Rs 10.80 lakh. The name of the Chairperson of SRC, who was his research supervisor, was mentioned as the Co-Principal Investigator on research proposals for the Lok Sabha fellowship," the court recorded in the order.

Kate told the court that ever since he confronted his co-guide and SRC Chairperson about the issue of plagiarism, they adopted an adversarial attitude towards him which led him to file complaints with the Student Grievance Redressal Committee and Institute Level Plagiarism Committee. On April 12, he also complained to the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances against the co-guide and Chairperson, SRC.

The counsel representing IIT-Delhi told the court that allegations of the sorts made by Kate are viewed with seriousness by the institute. Action on his complaint would depend upon the report of the committee, the court was told.

Seeking response on Kate's petition from IIT-Delhi and other respondents, the court listed the case for further hearing on July 19.

If you want MLAs who pick fights, vote for BJP: Kejriwal at bypoll roadshow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

IN THE run-up to Rajinder Nagar bypoll, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), intensifying its campaigning, held a roadshow helmed by party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. "Don't vote for BJP. Wherever the party and its MLAs have won, they have indulged in rowdiness, vandalism and brawls. They don't know anything apart from spreading hate and violence. If you want progressive policies, vote for AAP," Kejriwal said, hitting out at the party.

Expressing his excitement at the sight of thousands gathered at the event, he said, "I am thankful for all your support and participation. Last time, you believed in AAP and helped us win by a huge margin. Today, I come here again to request you to vote for us, help us win with double the margin."

He added, "There is no use voting for the BJP. They cannot get any work done. They keep fighting with us throughout the day, so if you want a fighting MLA who doesn't do any work, then vote for BJP. But if you want an MLA who works for you and



The CM at a roadshow in Rajinder Nagar on Friday. He will hold roadshows again on June 18 and 19. Prem Nath Pandey

resolves problems of the public, then press the *jhadu* (broom) button (on EVM). Over the past seven years, a lot of good work has been done in Delhi."

Stating that, unlike the BJP, he does not know how to quarrel, but only to work, Kejriwal said, "I can assure you that AAP and I will work for the welfare of the people and development of the society." He added, "*Jhadu ka button itni baar dabana ki button hi kharab ho jaye.*"

The CM will hold road shows again on June 18 and 19.

Though the residents of the constituency were split over politics, there was widespread agreement that water supply was a pressing concern.

"Water is the biggest issue in this area. Over the last two years, AAP's MLA (Raghav Chadha) was in power and despite being the chairman of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), he was unable to provide regular water supply," said Mukundan, a resident of

Rajinder Nagar, Block 7.

Another resident, Sanyogita Varma, said, "Water is an issue but AAP has done some work. A water pipe connection has been provided to some blocks and work is in progress in other sections also. The party has done a lot for the people, especially for women and weaker sections."

A student from Andhra Pradesh who has been staying in Karol Bagh for the last two years said, "The area is a hub for coaching centres and students, but there is lack of a support system like a helpline for students to address their grievances. The PGs are expensive and students' living condition is below par."

A total of 14 candidates, including from the BJP and Congress, are contesting the bypoll scheduled to be held on June 23. The AAP has fielded Durgesh Pathak, while the BJP has fielded Rajesh Bhatia and Congress announced its former councillor Prem Lata as its candidate. The seat fell vacant after erstwhile MLA Chadha was nominated by the AAP to the Rajya Sabha from Punjab.

Pathak and Chadha participated in the roadshow as well.

Man beaten to death on suspicion of theft

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

A 28-YEAR-OLD man was beaten to death on suspicion of theft at an under-construction building in Rohini Thursday. Police arrested five men in connection with the case — landlord Shamsheer Singh (57), his son Raman Sahib (29), his brother Kulvinder Singh (52), his nephew Rayman Singh (24), and security guard Tausif Khan. The victim, Sanjay, lived in Mangolpuri.

Police received information at 7:17 am. Sanjay was found dead in front of the building when they reached the spot. He had sustained several blunt injuries and lacerations. Police conducted door-to-door surveys and found bloodstains on the roof of the building. Police sources said when they questioned the owner and guard, they alleged Sanjay had entered the building to commit theft. Police said the accused allegedly beat him up with bamboo sticks.

Pranav Tayal, DCP (Rohini), said: "Videos and photos were recovered from the accused which show them beating him up." Police recovered CCTV footage, photos and two videos taken by the accused, bamboo sticks, and clothes worn by the accused at the time.

Waterlogging at Ring Road-IP Estate, Sisodia takes stock



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

TO PREVENT waterlogging at IP Estate opposite the WHO building during the monsoon, the Public Works Department (PWD) is installing nine pumps and is constructing a stormwater drain along with a sump of 5 lakh litres capacity, said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

The stormwater drain is coming up under IPGCL's plant. A PWD official said it will be ready in 6-7 days.

Inspecting the site on Friday, Sisodia, who also holds the PWD portfolio, said, "Minto Bridge was considered a hotspot for waterlogging during the rain. In the last two years, the Arvind Kejriwal government worked on



Sisodia inspected the IP Estate site on Friday. Express

The PWD has also increased the height of the road for easy flow of rainwater.

Besides, the department has set up a 24x7 Central Control Room from where 10 severe waterlogging sites will be monitored through CCTVs. The other critical locations are Pul Prahaladpur, Jahangirpuri, Zakhira flyover among others.

The government has also made preparations to avoid waterlogging at these critical locations. This includes desilting and construction of drains, sumps, raising levels of roads, installation of new motors, pumps, CCTV cameras at waterlogging hotspots, and alarm systems.

BRIEFLY

Police file 19 FIRs for spreading 'hate' online

New Delhi: Police have so far registered 19 FIRs over hate being spread on social media. One of the FIRs is against Bhim Sena chief Nawab Satpal Tanwar, who was arrested on Thursday for allegedly issuing derogatory remarks and calling for violence against suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma for her remarks on the Prophet. Delhi Police Spokesperson Suman Nalwa said, "... On social media, various Twitter and other... handles were posting material which was spreading hate and was against maintenance of public tranquility. On the basis of complaints and suo moto social media analysis, we registered 19 FIRs under various sections including 153A (promoting enmity), 295A (acts intended to outrage religious feelings), 509 (outraging the modesty of a woman), 506 (threatening) and 505 (whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report)."

DSEU begins second batch of admissions

New Delhi: Admissions to the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University for the academic year 2022-2023 opened on Friday, with the new university expanding its programmes and capacity. This is the second batch of admissions. This time, the number of seats across programmes has increased to 7,573 from last year's 6,000. Four new UG courses have been introduced: BSc in Optometry, bachelor's in Library Sciences, BBA programme in Automotive Retail Management and BSc in Hospital Management.

Elderly couple found dead

New Delhi: An elderly couple was found dead at their first-floor home in East Delhi's Nirman Vihar Friday, said police. The deceased were identified as Vijay Kumar Talwar (80) and Savita Talwar (75). DCP (East) Priyanka Kashyap said, "The deceased had been living at the house for the past 14 years, and their children live in the US. No foul play is suspected." **ENS**

Demolition along Yamuna floodplain: Allahabad HC calls for temporary halt



Noida Authority has been carrying out anti-encroachment drives to demolish illegal farmhouses/ structures built on the floodplains. Praveen Khanna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

ISSUING A temporary halt on the demolition drive being carried out by the Noida Authority along the Yamuna floodplains, the Allahabad High Court has given 10 days' time to property owners to file objections.

Responding to a petition by Harit Kisan Kalyan Samiti, the court in its order issued on Tuesday stated that the petitioners and the respondents, the Noida Authority, will maintain status quo till June 24.

The organisation contended that a majority of the construction along the floodplains was carried out without any impact assessment as mentioned in the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016. The petitioners further stated that no individual notices were served to owners and only a public notice with regard to the demolition had been issued.

The Authority maintained that the notice that deemed construction along floodplains as illegal was issued in accordance with the law. It, however, admitted that there were no individual notices since it was difficult to identify or contact the actual owner of the plot.

The court has given individual owners time to file objections if their property comes within the ambit of the public notice. If individual owners do not issue an objection within 10 days, the respondent can pursue its actions, the court said.

In 2013, an NGT order banned construction on the ecologically sensitive floodplains. Experts of

EXPLAINED Against norms

A floodplain is the area situated next to a river or stream stretching from the bank till a land formation. As per authorities, any construction on a floodplain, including along the Yamuna, is illegal and in violation of NGT norms. The Yamuna Monitoring Committee is of the view that floodplains are essential for enhanced biodiversity and, hence, should be free from construction. Land worth crores has been reclaimed by the Noida Authority in the last few months by carrying out demolitions in the area.

the Yamuna Monitoring Committee set up by the NGT had also recommended that floodplains needed to be reclaimed for enhanced biodiversity.

The Noida Authority has been carrying out surveys to identify structures that are in violation of the norms and issued appeals to locals that they should divest themselves from any form of construction in the riverbed area since it has been deemed illegal. The colonies on the riverbed have been built through illegal plotting and incomplete registry, officials said. The Authority further stated that encroachment drives will be carried out using police force in the future against those found to be engaged in illegal construction despite warnings.

Rain brings down max temp to 36.7°C, lowest in 20 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

RAINFALL IN Delhi on Friday brought the maximum temperature down to 36.7 degrees Celsius, three degrees below the long period average for this time of the year, and the lowest maximum temperature recorded in around 20 days.

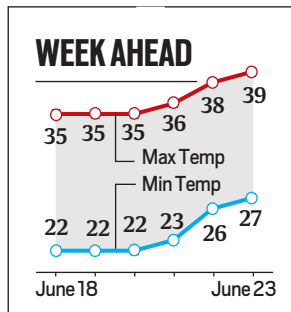
The maximum temperature has remained above 40 degrees Celsius on 15 days of June this year at the Safdarjung weather observatory, which provides representative figures for the city. It was 40.2 degrees Celsius on Thursday. The maximum temperature at all weather stations in the city settled below 40 degrees Celsius on Friday, with the lowest being 34.3 degrees Celsius at Mayur Vihar.

Rainfall in the early hours of Friday also meant that the minimum temperature was five degrees below normal, settling at 22.8 degrees Celsius.

The Safdarjung weather station recorded 19.1 mm of rainfall from the early hours of Friday to 5.30 pm. The weather station at Lodhi Road recorded 18.4 mm, while the Ridge in North Delhi recorded 5.6 mm. The normal amount of rainfall for Delhi till June 17 is 23.6 mm.

The temperature at 5.30 pm on Friday dropped to 27.4 degrees Celsius, but humidity remained high at 78%.

Western disturbances and southwesterly winds carrying moisture from the Arabian Sea to



Northwest India are likely to bring scattered to fairly widespread rainfall over Delhi, Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana and UP over the next five days, as per an IMD bulletin issued on Friday evening.

Cloudy skies and light to moderate rainfall are on the forecast for Delhi on Saturday as well. Rainfall between 15.6 mm and 64.4 mm is categorised as 'moderate'. Rainfall remains on the forecast for Delhi till June 21.

The maximum temperature is likely to remain below 40 degrees over the next six days, while the minimum temperature is likely to be around 22 or 23 degrees Celsius till June 21.

While March and April recorded deficit rainfall in Delhi this year, two thunderstorms towards the end of May turned rainfall for the month into an excess of 142%. With the rainfall, the air quality also improved to be in the 'satisfactory' category on Friday, with an AQI of 88, which is the best it has been so far this month. June has already witnessed three days when the AQI was in the 'very poor' category.

6 Govt & Politics

AGNIPATH RECRUITMENT SCHEME: AUTHORITIES GRAPPLE WITH PROTESTS, TRAIN SERVICES HIT

234 trains cancelled, many more impacted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

MORE THAN 300 trains have been impacted so far with 234 trains cancelled due to the protests against the Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces, the Railways Ministry said on Friday.

Apart from the 234 trains that were cancelled, 95 trains were partially cancelled and 11 trains were diverted due to the protests.

Coaches of three running trains in the East Central Railways and one empty rake in Kulharia (also in the ECR) were damaged by the protesters. In Balia, slogan-shouting protesters set an empty stationary train on fire and vandalised a few other trains, prompting the police to lathicharge them.

The worst-hit East Central Railways — which covers Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh, which have witnessed widespread protests — has also decided to “monitor” the operations of eight trains due to the agitation.

These trains include: 12303 Howrah-New Delhi Poorva Express, 12353 Howrah-Lalkuan Express, 18622 Ranchi-Patna Patliputra Express, 18182 Danapur-Tata Express, 22387 Howrah-Dhanbad Black Diamond Express, 13512 Asansol-Tata Express, 13032 Jaynagar-Howrah Express and the 13409 Malda Town-Kiul Express. Two ECR trains that have been cancelled are 12335 Malda Town-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express and the 12273 Howrah-New Delhi Duronto Express.

Several trains run by the North Frontier Railways also pass through the ECR jurisdiction and three of them were also affected, the railways said.

Every Agniveer from Assam will be absorbed in police force: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, JUNE 17

AMID PROTESTS across the country against the Centre’s Agnipath scheme, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday that every ‘Agniveer’ in the state would be absorbed in the police force.

“Every Agniveer who is a resident of Assam will get a job in the state police force,” Sarma told reporters, adding that it was a “win-win” situation for the state. “So, you will have the experience from the Army, and with the training, you will join the police force.”

He said there was “no violence” in Assam following the scheme. While protests have marked different states in the country in the last two days, Assam has not witnessed any major protest, barring one in Jorhat on Friday morning. However, police said the situation did not get “out of control”.

“About 100-150 youths had gathered at a stadium at Jorhat in the morning,” said Jorhat SP Mohan Meena, adding that the protestors were sloganeering for a few hours.

Under fire over Agnipath, BJP’s youth, unemployment headache

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

AS VIOLENT protests against Agnipath, the Centre’s new short-term recruitment policy for the armed forces, spread to more states, with train coaches being set on fire and BJP offices and leaders being singled out for attack, there’s growing realisation in the ruling party that the problems of unemployment and the economy could snowball into a major challenge for the party and its government.

While the protests forced the government on Thursday to announce a two-year relaxation in the upper age limit this year, a sec-



Vikramshila Express train was set on fire by a mob in Lakhisarai, Bihar, on Friday. PTI

DAY 2: Anti-Agnipath protests

Protests continued for the second day Friday against the short-term Agnipath scheme for the armed forces, with violence spreading to Telangana, West Bengal and Assam. VIDHATRI RAO tracks the unrest on the streets.

DELHI NCR

Delhi Gate, Jama Masjid, and ITO metro stations closed briefly

Members of the Chatr-Yuva Sangharsh Samiti (CYSS), AAP’s student wing activists detained

Agra-Lucknow Expressway: Protesters erect barriers, hurl stones

Yamuna Expressway near Noida: Protesters stop buses and pelt stones, traffic comes to a standstill

HARYANA

Haryana govt suspends mobile internet and SMS services for 24 hours in some places

1. Loharu
2. Narwana
3. Gurugram: Section 144 imposed
4. Narnaul
5. Ballabgarh

MADHYA PRADESH

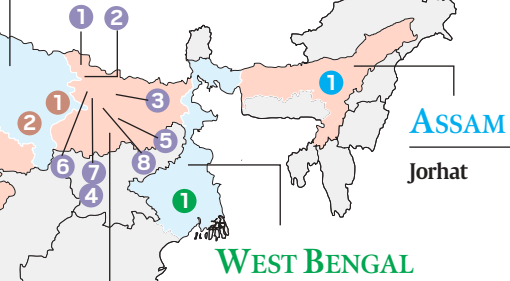
INDORE: Protesters hurl stones near a railway station; trains cancelled

TELANGANA

1. Secunderabad: A youth dies and several are injured in Telangana as police open fire on a mob at Secunderabad railway station

UTTAR PRADESH

1. Balia: Train coach set on fire
2. Varanasi: Buses damaged
3. Mathura: Protesters pelt stones, police resort to lathi charge
4. Aligarh: Police vehicle set ablaze



WEST BENGAL

Train services on the Sealdah-Bangaon route in West Bengal’s North 24 Parganas district are disrupted for a while

BIHAR

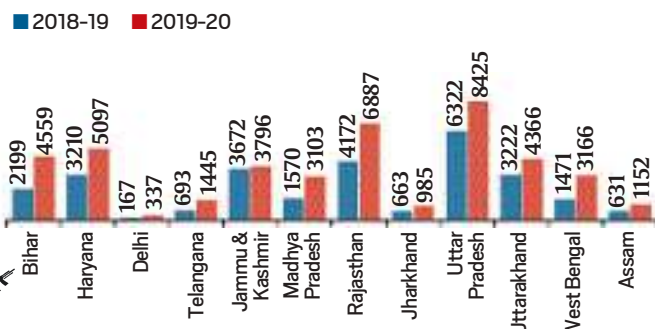
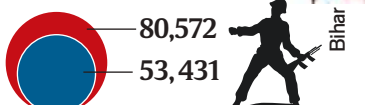
Internet services suspended in 12 districts of the state till June 19

1. Bettiah: Deputy CM Renu Devi’s house, MP Sanjay Jaiswal’s house attacked
2. Motihari: The car of BJP MLA Vinay Bihari vandalised
3. Lakhisarai and Samastipur: A mob sets fire to coaches of two trains at the stations
4. Deedarganj: A toll plaza is set ablaze
5. Nawada: A police vehicle is set ablaze
6. Hajipur
7. Patna: Trains are torched in Danapur railway station
8. Nalanda: Train coaches torched in Islampur

ARMY RECRUITMENT IN STATES HIT BY PROTESTS

Haryana, Bihar, Rajasthan, which are among the major contributors to the Army, have been rocked by protests. A look at Army recruitment, using data that the Ministry of Defence shared with Parliament in February and March this year, reveal high recruitment in some of the areas now hit by violence. The recruitment process for 2020-21 and 2021-22 was put on hold due to the Covid pandemic.

RECRUITMENT IN 2018-19 AND 2019-20



Coaches of 10 trains, buses torched in Bihar; houses of top BJP leaders targeted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, JUNE 17

MORE THAN 20 people, including policemen, were injured during the protests amid widespread violence against Agnipath recruitment scheme in at least 15 of 38 Bihar districts on Friday. As a precautionary measure, the state government suspended Internet services in 12 districts — Bhojpur, Kaimur, Buxar, Saran, Nawada, Samastipur, Aurangabad, Lakhisarai,



Outside the railway station in Danapur, near Patna. PTI

Vaishali, West Champaran, Aurangabad and Rohtas — ADGP (law and order) Sanjay Singh

said. Also, prohibitory orders were issued in Samastipur till further orders.

The protesters also attacked houses of Bihar BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal and Bihar deputy CM Renu Devi in Bettiah. BJP offices at Madhepura, Lambert Sarai, Bagaha (West Champaran) and Saran were ransacked or attacked. RJD-led Grand Alliance has called for Bihar bandh on Saturday.

Targeting railways properties for the second consecutive day, protesters torched several compartments of 10 trains stationed

at Samastipur, Lakhisarai, Danapur (Patna), Islampur (Nalanda), Kulharia (Ara), Fatuah (Patna) and Supaul. About 75 private vehicles, including four school buses in Aurangabad, were damaged.

Bihar Additional Director of Police (law and order) Sanjay Singh said: “We are now trying to identify protesters to know if there is any involvement of anti-social elements.” In last two days, the state police have arrested over 300 people, including 40 for torching two trains at Danapur.

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, JUNE 17

PEOPLE PROTESTING against the Centre’s Agnipath scheme set on fire an empty train in Ballia district and a police outpost in Aligarh on Friday, police said. Several incidents of protesters indulging in violence on the highways were reported from districts in Uttar Pradesh, where travellers were stuck in traffic jams and violence due to the protests.

On the incident reported from Ballia railway station, police said the protesters were dispersed, the fire was doused and further action is underway. Videos of protesters vandalising trains and a bogey on fire surfaced on social media on Friday morning. The students also vandalised stalls at the railway station and indulged in stone-pelting in some parts of the district.

Ballia Superintendent of Police Raj Karan Nayyar said in a statement, “There was information that some students gathered at the railway station and stadium. Senior police officers and magistrates



Passengers wait at Charbagh railway station in Lucknow after train services were affected on Friday. Vishal Srivastav

started a conversation with them. The students were dispersed from there. While being dispersed from the railway station, they tried to break windows of an empty train. They also tried to set on fire a bogey of a train stationed in an isolated area. The fire is being doused. All have been dispersed from the spot, patrolling is underway and further action is being taken.”

“Around 100 people have been sent to jail after they were booked under CrPC section 151...,” he said later.

In Varanasi, a protest against

the Centre’s scheme was reported on Friday, with two roadways buses being vandalised by protesters. A police officer said that they were spoken to and dispersed. “The situation is now under control,” the officer said.

In Aligarh, a part of the Jattari police outpost and a vehicle inside the outpost premises were set ablaze by protesters. They blocked a highway and vandalised buses. Some buses were also set on fire. After that, police tried to disperse them and they went and set the Jattari police outpost on fire.

Lathicharge amid protest in Nainital

Dehradun: Police lathicharged protesters in Nainital of Uttarakhand and detained 47 persons who were later released.

According to police officials in the district, the protesters blocked the Nainital-Haldwani road near Tikoniya. After the local Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and City Magistrate failed to convince them to clear the road, police used force to disperse them.

“We detained 47 protesters. We did not find any need to impose Section 144 CrPC. In the scuffle City Magistrate, two SHOs and a police outpost-in-charge suffered some injuries. None of the protesters received any injuries,” said Nainital SSP Pankaj Bhatt. **ENS**

Secunderabad attack was planned, mob had WhatsApp group: Police

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD JUNE 17

ONE PERSON died and several others were injured when police opened fire on a mob that went on a rampage at Secunderabad railway station Friday morning. The protesters, claiming to be army recruitment aspirants opposed to the Centre’s Agnipath scheme, went on a two-hour spree of mindless destruction and arson not only damaging railway property but also motorcycles and household goods kept at the parcel office on Platform 1.

Additional Director General of Police (Railways, Telangana) Sandeep Shandilya said it was a very well-planned and organised attack on the railway station. “These youths had formed a WhatsApp group called ‘Chalo Secunderabad’ in which they planned everything. The youths started assembling at various places near Secunderabad railway station last night and launched the attack Friday morning. We had about 50 security personnel guarding the station but they were no match for the 500-1,000 strong mob who came in through all the seven entrances to the station. They went on a rampage smashing everything in sight and setting property on fire,” Shandilya said.

He said the mob set on fire several coaches of three trains, burnt down the Accident Relief Train, and two brake vans. Apart from that, windowpanes of dozens of railway coaches and train engines were smashed. Shandilya said that the mob tried to attack the Route Relay Interlocking (RRI) the nerve centre of South Central Railway (SCR) but a small force of Hyderabad City North Zone policemen and RPF personnel managed to hold off the attack and protected the RRI. The protesters also set fire to an engine which had 3,000 litres of diesel in it.



Police personnel deployed in Secunderabad, during the protest on Friday. Reuters

Protester who was killed awaited Army recruitment for 3 yrs

RAHUL V PISHARODY
HYDERABAD, JUNE 17

DAMODAR RAKESH, 23, aspired to don the military uniform following the footsteps of his elder sister who is serving in the Border Security Force (BSF) in West Bengal. On Friday morning, he was declared “brought dead” by doctors at Gandhi General Hospital in Hyderabad after protests by army aspirants turned violent. According to fellow protesters, Rakesh died suffering a bullet injury after the police opened fire at the protesters. Doctors, however, refused to confirm bullet wounds till a postmortem examination of the body was completed.

Rakesh hailed from the Dabeerpet village in Khanapur Mandal of Warangal district.

Son of Damira Kumaraswamy, a farmer, and Phulamma, Rakesh had completed his graduation from Narsampet. He had cleared the physical test and medical test

for army recruitment and was awaiting the announcement of dates for the written exam for the Common Entrance Exam. On Thursday night, along with a few friends, he travelled to Hyderabad to partake in the protest at the Secunderabad Railway Station the next morning.

He was the youngest of two daughters and two sons of the farmer couple. “The parents are in shock. Along with their daughter and other relatives, they are trying to go to Hyderabad. They were prevented from going past Hanamkonda and sent back to Dabeerpet by evening. They should be given financial assistance and a government job,” ex-Sarpanch of Khanapur told *The Indian Express* over the phone. According to the neighbours in the village, Rakesh has been eagerly awaiting Army recruitment for the last three years. Especially after his elder brother suffered an accident and was left physically challenged, the family pinned their hopes on Rakesh to do well.

Protests spread across UP, train coach, police outpost set on fire



Passengers wait at Charbagh railway station in Lucknow after train services were affected on Friday. Vishal Srivastav

CBI searches premises of Gehlot’s brother

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & HAMZA KHAN
NEW DELHI, JAIPUR, JUNE 17

THE CBI on Friday conducted searches at 15 locations across Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal in connection with a case in which Agrasain Gehlot, the brother of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, is one of the accused. Sources said Agrasain was booked along with 14 other individuals and companies on charges of corruption related to the alleged diversion of fertilisers meant for farmers.

Agrasain, who runs the company Anupam Krishi, is already facing a money laundering investigation by the Enforcement

Directorate (ED) in connection with the alleged diversion of fertilisers between 2007 and 2009.

Sources said that the CBI team, including officials from Delhi and Jodhpur, conducted searches at Agrasain’s properties for over 12 hours, after which they moved to the Gehlots’ paternal home in Jodhpur.

A source close to the family questioned why the CBI was investigating the same allegations as the ED. “CBI had summoned him earlier, too, over the allegations, and we told them that the original documents and all the details were already with the ED and you coordinate with them. We don’t even have photocopies of some documents,” the source said.

Last year, the Jodhpur High Court had stayed any coercive action against Agrasain in the case.

Ashok Gehlot, and other Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi, said the searches were the result of political vendetta.

The CM, who returned to Jaipur on Friday after having been in New Delhi for protests related to the ED’s questioning of Rahul Gandhi in connection with the National Herald case, said: “No one knows or knew Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s brother. In the same way, no one knew my brother. And now, it is running in the media that CBI raids have been conducted. So, what is the fault of the family member? If someone is participating in politics and then his family is attacked, that too by

the government, I believe it is not proper. Issey koi hum ghabrane waale nahi hain. (We will not be scared by this).” “If I am active in Delhi or if I participated in this movement of Rahul Gandhi ji, why is vendetta being exacted from brother?” he asked.

The CBI said the alleged corruption led to the loss of approximately Rs 52.8 crore to the exchequer. The scam concerns the alleged illegal export of muriate of potash (MoP), a restricted item that can only be exported with prior permission from the government. Indian Potash Limited (IPL) imports MoP and distributes it to farmers through authorised dealers at subsidised rates.

Reacting to the CBI searches, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a

China blocks India, US bid to designate LeT dy chief as global terrorist

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

CHINA HAS put a “technical hold” on a joint proposal by India and the US to list Lashkar-e-Taiba’s (LeT) Pakistan-based deputy chief Abdul Rehman Makki as a global terrorist under the UN Security Council’s ISIL (Da’esh) and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee, which is also known as the UNSC 1267 Committee.

Makki is the deputy amir/ chief and head of the political affairs wing of the LeT/ Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), banned as terror outfits by the UN. He also headed the LeT’s foreign relations department, and is a member of the shura (governing body) as well as the JuD’s central and proselytizing team.

Both India and the US have already listed Makki — brother-in-law of LeT/ JuD chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, who is a UN-proscribed terrorist — as a terrorist under their domestic laws. On June 1, the two countries had jointly proposed to list Makki under the UNSC sanctions regime.

The proposal was circulated to all members of the council’s 1267 Committee. “Regrettably, on June

16, China placed a ‘technical hold’ on the proposal to list Makki. This measure (which can last for up to six months at a time) blocks the adoption of the listing proposal till the hold is withdrawn,” said an Indian government source.

“This decision by China is extremely unfortunate given the overwhelming evidence against Makki. Moreover, it runs counter to China’s claims of combating terrorism,” said the source.

Sources said Makki has been involved in raising funds, radicalising and recruiting youths to plan attacks in India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. While he was holding leadership positions in the LeT, the outfit was involved in major terror attacks in India, including the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack in 2008, Red Fort attack on December 22, 2000, Rampur CRPF camp attack on January 1, 2008, Karan Nagar (Srinagar) attack on February 12-13, 2018, Khanpora (Baramulla) attack on May 30, 2018, Srinagar attack on June 14, 2018 and Gurez/ Bandipora attack on August 7, 2018.

Makki was reportedly arrested by the Pakistan government on May 15, 2019 and kept under house arrest in Lahore. In

2020, he was convicted of terror financing and sentenced to prison by a Pakistani court.

This is not the first time that China has blocked the listing of known terrorists. In the past, it repeatedly blocked proposals to designate Maulana Masood Azhar, chief of Pakistan-based and UN-proscribed terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

“China should reflect on its response which signals double standards on combating terrorism. Protecting well-known terrorists from sanctioning in this manner will only undermine its credibility and risk exposing itself more to the growing threat of terrorism,” said the source.

PTI adds: In Beijing, the Chinese foreign ministry defended its move, saying that its actions were in accordance with the relevant procedures and rules. “I would like to say that China opposes terrorism in all its manifestation and the actions we take in the 1267 Committee in the UNSC always abide by relevant procedures and rules,” said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin. “China will continue to carry out its work in a constructive and responsible attitude,” he said.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



MANGO DIPLOMACY

BANGLADESH PRIME Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday sent one metric ton of ‘Amrapali’ variety of mango to President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Last year, the chief ministers of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam were also recipients of Hasina’s goodwill gesture. The Bangladesh government said in a statement that such gestures will take bilateral ties to new heights. During her past visits to India, Hasina had reportedly brought Hilsa for the hosts, giving birth to the “Mango & Hilsa diplomacy” coinage.

SOME RELIEF

THE PROTESTS against Agnipath may have upset some of the senior BJP leaders as the party wanted to project the recruitment scheme as a magic formula moved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the issue of joblessness. The BJP had planned a number of programmes to “sell the idea” but the protests have dampened them. It became worse when ally JD(U) also joined the bandwagon, seeking a review of the scheme. JD(U) leaders say the BJP should have discussed the scheme with them before announcing it. However, the BJP is now relieved as its ideological parent RSS has decided to back the government on this move. Sources say the RSS likes the idea as it thinks it would remove the colonial shadow over the armed forces. But it wants the BJP to improve its communication channels to sell the idea.

YOGA DAY SPECIAL

TO MARK the international Yoga Day, Doordarshan is planning a marathon programme – from 3 am to 10 pm – on June 21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had mentioned the concept of ‘One Sun, One Earth’ during one of his Mann Ki Baat addresses. The programme, The Guardian Ring, will show images of people doing yoga when the sun rises in their countries. Around 80 Indian missions and embassies around the world will be organising yoga events in those countries on that day.

NMC may allow students from Ukraine, China to sit for screening test

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

THE COUNTRY’S apex medical education regulator has proposed that final year medical students from China and Ukraine who were not able to complete their practical training due to the pandemic or the war be allowed to sit for the Foreign Medical Graduate Exam (FMGE) – a screening test which foreign medical students have to clear to practice in the country.

The students who pass the examination will then have to complete a two-year internship to be eligible for permanent registration to practice medicine in the country. This will be a one-time relaxation granted due to unforeseen circumstances, according to the proposal of the National Medical Commission (NMC).

Currently, foreign medical graduates have to complete their training and a one-year internship at the university they are enrolled in order to appear for the FMGE. They also have to do a one-year long internship in India in order to get permanent registration.

“The relaxation will be applicable only for a year, so students should refrain from taking admission to courses in these countries this year... Some of the students from China were given an internship completion certificate online, how can that be accepted. The two-year internship will help in plugging the gaps in clinical training,” said a senior official.

The relaxation is unlikely to help many students as the FMGE is known for low pass percentages. Only 16.5% of the students who appeared in 2020 passed the exam, according to official data.

The proposal was submitted by the undergraduate medical board of the National Medical Commission (NMC) on orders of Supreme Court. The proposal states that the first and second year medical students, who joined their college after November 2021, can appear again for NEET to seek admission in Indian colleges. These students, unlike the third and fourth year students, cannot take a transfer to universities in other European countries.

The new guidelines for foreign medical graduates that came into force November 2021 states that the students have to complete their entire training and internship from the same university.

Around 18,000 medical students returned from Ukraine after the war started in February. There are almost 65,000 students in India – from China and Ukraine, but also from the Philippines – whose education was halted because of the new norms.

Another official said, “There is no way we can accommodate so many medical students in India. We have a total of 90,000 MBBS seats and there are so many people higher up in the merit list who might not have gotten admission, so how can we give the seats to them?”.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

NORTHEAST FLOOD TOLL RISES TO 22

Army personnel evacuate flood-affected people from Baksa district, Assam, on Friday. As heavy rainfall continued in the Northeast for the fourth day on Friday, at least 22 people – 13 in Meghalaya and 9 in Assam – were killed in related incidents. According to official data, over 18 lakh people have been affected across 28 districts of Assam. *Dasarath Deka*

PM to launch 2 schemes for pregnant, lactating women today in Gujarat

ESHA ROY
KEVADIA, JUNE 17

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will on Saturday launch in Vadodara two flagship programmes of the Gujarat government under its Integrated Child Development Services, Poshan Abhiyan, which will be focused on rolling out additional nutrition to pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana, which will cover 7 lakh women, is Gujarat government’s first scheme aimed at dealing with dietary deficiency within the first 1,000 days of the conception of a child (from pregnancy to 2 years), considered the crucial first window to check malnutrition. The scheme will entail distribution of 2 kg chickpeas, 1 kg toor daal and 1 litre fortified ground nut oil.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

“The entire scheme will be electronically monitored. Packets will have bar codes which will be scanned and the scheme is OTP based. This means the beneficiary will receive OTPs confirming that they have received these packages, so that we know that the intended beneficiary is actually receiving the ration,” said Avantika Darji, Joint Director, ICDS.

Apart from this, the Prime Minister will also relaunch the Poshan Sudha Yojana, under which hot cooked meals will be provided to tribal women once a day at Anganwadi centres. The pilot has been carried out in 10 districts in the state and is now being extended to all 14 tribal-domi-

nated districts.

Under this scheme, pregnant women and lactating mothers registered at Anganwadi are provided a full nutritious meal. In addition, iron and calcium tablets as well as education on health and nutrition are also offered.

The announcement of the roll-out comes ahead of the Assembly elections in Gujarat, and less than a month after the latest National Family Health Survey 5 data showed that 89% children across the country in the 6-23 month age group do not receive minimum acceptable diet.

Incidentally, Gujarat features at the bottom of the pile in NFHS 5 with the lowest adequate diets for children between 6-23 months at 5.9% each.

Ministry officials, however, said that the NFHS may not reflect the true picture on the ground.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Jammu councillor, husband held for graft

Jammu: A BJP councillor of Jammu Municipal Corporation was on Friday arrested along with her husband for demanding a bribe of Rs 10,000 for issuing “malba clearance certificate” to a private contractor. The arrest were made by the Jammu and Kashmir’s Anti-Corruption Bureau. The accused was identified as Jyoti Devi, who represents Ward 53, and her husband Sham Lal.

Sources said that the ACB had received a complaint from the contractor, saying that he was allotted contract for upgradation of an open area along the main road by laying pre-cast paver tiles in Trikuta Nagar area. Though he completed the work, his payment was pending. When he approached the councillor, she allegedly demanded Rs 10,000 for issuance of certificate and asked him to contact her husband. The ACB laid a trap and allegedly caught the accused.

ENS

IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
(ORIGINAL COMPANY JURISDICTION)
IN
C.P. NO. 505/2016
IN THE MATTER OF DHIR INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED
(IN PROV. LIQN.)

ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE INVITING CLAIMS FROM SECURED CREDITORS, WORKMEN, UNSECURED CREDITORS, PREFERENTIAL CREDITORS OF THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANY TO PROVE THEIR CLAIM

Notice is hereby given to all the creditors of the above named company (in liqn.) that they are required to submit their claim to the Official Liquidator, Delhi attached to the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to prove their respective debts or claims against the above said company (in prov. Liqn.) by delivering the same at the Office of Official Liquidator on or before 08.07.2022 or sending by post to the Official Liquidator so as to reach at the Office of Official Liquidator, Delhi not later than the aforesaid date along with an affidavit in support of their debts or claims and any title to priority.

Any creditors of the above named Company (in Liqn.) who fail to submit his/her affidavit of proof of his/her debt within the aforesaid time limit, to the office of the Official Liquidator, Delhi, will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution of dividend before his debt is proved, or as the case may be, from objecting to such distribution.

Any Creditors of the above said company who has sent his/her proof, if so, required by notice in writing from the Official Liquidator, Delhi shall either in person or by his/her advocate attend the investigation of such debt/claim at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and shall produce such further evidence of his/her debt or claim as may be required.

Visit website www.delhiol.com or www.mca.gov.in for downloading form no. 66 of the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959.

Sd/-
(VINOD SHARMA)
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR
HIGH COURT OF DELHI
8TH FLOOR, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN
KHAN MARKET, NEW DELHI - 110003
davn 07104/11/0002/2223

PLACE: NEW DELHI
DATE:

SIEMENS

Before the Sole Arbitrator
Hormaz C Daruwalla
In The Matter of Arbitration Between

Siemens Financial Services Private Limited .. Claimant
And

1 Vishnoo Mittal 136, Deepak Vihar, Naya Bazar Nazafgarh, New Delhi- 110043	5 Homi 7140, Sector D, Pocket 7 Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070
2 Heavant Sudhir Malhotra D770L8, Vasant Kunj New Delhi- 110070	6 Pooja Malhotra VHV Beverages Private Limited 7018, Sector D, Pocket 7 Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070
3 DhirajSharma 136, Deepak Vihar, Naya Bazar Nazafgarh, New Delhi- 110043	7 SkyBird Infrastructure Private Limited RZ 47, R Block, New Roshanpura Shiv Mandir Road, Najafgarh Delhi- 110043...

Respondents

I have been appointed as Sole Arbitrator by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court, by its order dated 2nd May 2022, in Commercial Arbitration Application No. 465 of 2019, to adjudicate upon disputes between the above referred Parties.

The Parties are hereby informed that a Preliminary Meeting in respect of the subject Arbitration shall be held on **28th June 2022, from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm**, at the following address to, *inter alia*, give certain important directions.

Chamber of the Sole Arbitrator, Hormaz C Daruwalla Behramji Mansion, 3rd Floor, Sir P M Road, Fort, Mumbai 400001

Parties may also appear through their Advocates provided the necessary Vakalatnama in favour of the Advocate is filed in the office of the Arbitrator before 5.00 pm on Friday 27th June 2022.

The said meeting shall be held physically as well as virtually i.e., Parties and their Advocates may physically attend and may also attend through video conference. The link for joining the said meeting is <https://meet.google.com/anp-veie-mjj>

Dated this 7th Day of June 2022

Hormaz C Daruwalla
Sole Arbitrator
Behramji Mansion
3rd Floor, Sir P M Road
Fort, Mumbai 400001
E-mail : hormaz@gmail.com
Tel: +91 9820004743 / 02222662506 / 22661582

Siemens Financial Services Private Limited
CIN: U65990MH2010FTC208099
Regd. Office: Plot No. 2, Sector 2, Kharghar Node,
Navi Mumbai - 410210.
Tel.: +91 22 62517000 / +91 2262512191 / Fax: +91 22 24362404
Website: <http://finance.siemens.com/financialservices/in>

GUJARAT CLASS 10 EXAMS

Centres with huge variation in results under scanner

RITU SHARMA
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 17

THE GUJARAT Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSHSEB) will analyse CCTV footage and results across centres to detect irregularities in those that reported an unusual spike in the Class 10 board results.

“GSHSEB will initiate the process of shortlisting those examination centres that have reported high results as compared to the previous year. Also, those with too low results will be identified along with their previous years’ results,” board chairman A J Shah told *The Indian Express*.

For instance, according to the results declared on June 6, Banaskantha’s Kotda—a comparatively newly designated exam centre that started in 2016—recorded a huge jump in its pass

percentage from 21 per cent in the last academic year to 74 per cent. Of the total 329 students who appeared for the Class 10 exams, 244 secured at least the minimum marks. In contrast, the district posted an overall result of 67 per cent this year, compared to 64 per cent in 2020 and 68 per cent in 2019.

While the CCTV footage is being monitored for mass copying by the state education board, Kotda is only one among multiple examination centres that have reported a huge variation in Class 10 state board results this year.

Despite nearly 100 per cent surveillance coverage through CCTV cameras, a total of 907 copying cases were reported across the state during Class 10 exams.

The board will also contemplate strict action at centres if irregularities such as mass copying is detected, said sources.

ICAR-INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
IZATNAGAR, BAREILLY-243122 (UP)

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

A walk-in-interview is proposed on 01/07/2022 to engage one Senior Research Fellow at Animal Genetics Division, ICAR-IVRI, Izatnagar, Bareilly, under NASF-SUTRA project entitled “**Identification of unique signatures of selective sweeps in indigenous dairy cattle breeds**”. For qualifications and other details, candidates may visit the website www.ivri.nic.in. Qualified candidates may send their biodata up to 25.06.22 through email to manjit707@gmail.com.

IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
(ORIGINAL COMPANY JURISDICTION)
IN C.P. NO. 306/2012
IN THE MATTER OF PRESIDIUM BREWERIES PRIVATE LIMITED (IN PROV. LIQN.)

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Visit website www.delhiol.com or www.mca.gov.in for downloading form no. 66 of the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959.

Sd/-
(VINOD SHARMA)
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR
HIGH COURT OF DELHI
8TH FLOOR, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN
KHAN MARKET, NEW DELHI- 110 003
davn 07104/11/0003/2223

PLACE: NEW DELHI
DATE:

Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines			Date: -17.06.2022	
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:-				
S.N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	82224201A	Inj. Ferric Carboxymaltose 500mg per 10mL	2405 Nos.	11.07.2022
2.	82223501	Medium (17*15*3.2cm) Polyurethane Ester Foam Dressing Kit Which Has (Hydrophobic Foam For Fast Granulation) Polyurethane Ester Foam In Spiral Cut Sheet For Suction Unit With Pressure Of -25mm Hg To -200 mm Hg For Instillation (Not Irrigation), 2 Pieces Of Foam Along 6 Drapes And Two Canister of 500 mL Each (Containing Sodium Polyacrylate To Covert Exude In To Gel, So No Cross Contamination) With At Least 5 Or More Lumens Tube To Prevent Leakage And Blockage, One Cassette For Solution Distribution And Two Alcohol-Free Liquid Barrier Film That Protects Peri Wound Skin And At Least 5 Or More Lumens In Trac Pad Which Will Be Used For Instillation Therapy Unit . Dgci & BIS /US FDA Approved/ European CE Approved By An Agency With 4 Digit Notification Approved Quality. Measurements +/- 10%	100 Nos.	15.07.2022

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single package system for the under noted work:		
1	Name of work with its location	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & commissioning of 25Kv ac OHE modification work in connection with construction of 6.10m wide FOB at HNZM Railway Station.
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs.6114270.12
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.122300 (payment mode available on IREPS website)
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	30.06.2022
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	14.07.2022 (15.00 hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	29536203
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
E-Tender No.: 09-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Dated : 16.06.2022		
Serving Customers With A Smile		1471/2022

S.R. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE TIME	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE BALLABGARH COOP MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD	EMPANELMENT OF ARCHITECT	18.06.2022 27.06.2022	10000/-	www.vitaindia.org.in	9988604725 vitabib@gmail.com
10409/HRY	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in					

(Authorised Officer under SARFAESI Act, 2002)

Open Tender Notice No. ETrU-07-2022-23 & ETrU-08-2022-23								
Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing Contractors for following work on railway website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.								
S. N.	Open Tender No.	Name of work	Date of Closing/ Opening	Approx. Cost	Earnest Money	Completion period	Validity period	Cost of tender form
1	ETrU-T-07-2022-23	Pre Monsoon Tree branches trimming over UMB Division	11.07.2022	₹ 20,00,137.04/-	₹ 40,000/-	12 Months	45 Days	NIL for downloading from IREPS portal, Rs. 3,000/- For obtaining hard copy from Sr.DEE/TRD/UMB office.
2	ETrU-T-08-2022-23	AMC of 36 months for SCADA System over AMBALA Division	11.07.2022	₹ 1,55,24,222.04/-	₹ 2,27,600/-	36 Months	45 Days	NIL for downloading from IREPS portal, Rs. 5,000/- For obtaining hard copy from Sr.DEE/TRD/UMB office.
1. Tenderer (s) are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/GSTIN as per conditions. 2. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders. 3. All Taxes i.e. GST, BCOWW, Income tax etc. are applicable as per extant rule. 4. In the work, the condition of Similar Nature Work is applicable in sr. no. 2 and is as, "The firm should have done the work according to Railway Board/RDSO Guidelines for eligibility criteria" OR "The firm should have done the work of Interfacing of Numerical relays to SCADA system through serial communication port based on IEC protocol". 5. For details please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in .								
No. ETrU-07-2022-23 & ETrU-08-2022-23 Dated: 16.06.2022								

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

1473/2022

eligible contractors / Firms enlisted in the appropriate class with HP IPH Department for the following work through online tendering process:-

1. A/R & M/O WSS Rasanisidhwari in Tehsil Dharamshala Distt Kangra H.P (Sub Head:- C/O Over Head Tank 80,000 liters capacity 6 meters staging height at Baghni for drought prone habitation.) **Estimated costRs.1419691.00,EMDRs.28400.00Cost of tender formRs.400Time limit3 months.**
2. A/R & M/O WSS Dharmsahala Town in Tehsil Dharmsahala Distt. Kangra (HP),Sub Head:- C/O Underground water storage tank 60,000 Liters capacity in place of old existing defund tank at Darnu MC ward No.14 for Drought Prone Habitation**Estimated costRs.704635.00,Rs.14100.00,Cost of tender formRs.400Time limit3 months**
3. Provision for WSS under D/sahala constituency (Providing LWSS to SCSP habitation in GP Sarah and Sakoh in Tehsil Dharmsahala, Distt. Kangra H.P.)(Sub Head:- Providing, Laying, Jointing & Testing of Rising Main 100mm Dia for stage 2nd).**Estimated costRs.556459.00,Rs.11130.00,Cost of tender formRs.250Time limit3 months**
4. A/R & M/O WSS Dharmsahala Town in Tehsil Dharmsahala Distt. Kangra (HP),(Sub Head:C/o Underground water storage tank 100000 Ltr capacity at Gamru, ward no 5 under Smarty city Dharmsahala**Estimated costRs.813539.00,Rs.16280.00,Cost of tender formRs250Time limit3 months**
5. CAD work to Flow Irrigation Scheme Machul Kuhl in GP Tang in Tehsil Dharmsahala and District Kangra (H.P) (Sub Head:- Laying, Jointing and Testing of HDPE pipe 16180 Rmts. of various dia and C/O Outlets Chamber = 144 Nos.).**Estimated costRs.13051737.00,Rs.163000.00,Cost of tender formRs.2500Time limit6 months**
6. CAD Work for Flow Irrigation Scheme Charan Ki Kuhl from CharanKhad in Tehsil Dharmsahala and District Kangra (H.P) Sub Head:- Laying, Jointing and Testing of HDPE pipe 1795 Rmt. of various dia and C/O Outlets Chamber = 27 Nos.).**Estimated costRs.1525992.00,Rs.30390.00,Cost of tender formRs.400Time limit3 months**

Last date for the submission of e-tender through online mode 29.06.2022 at 11:00 A.M.Others terms and conditions, tender documents of tenders please refer website: <http://hptenders.gov.in>.

**Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division,
Dharamshala**

1783/HP

1790/HP

Sd/-

Director of Medical Education, Assam

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD., SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,68							
Notice Inviting e Tender							
www.verka.coop							
e Tenders for the following work, are hereby invited from the eligible Co-operative Labour & Construction Societies only having valid GST and Pan Registration Number in view of Punjab Govt. Notification for Civil works upto Rs. 60.00 Lacs:-							
Sr. No	Name of the Work	Contract Period	Consigner/ Place of Tender Opening	E.M.D (Rs.)	Date & Time for Sale/ downloading of e-tender	Last Date & Time. of Submission of e-tender	Date & Time for opening of e-tender
1	Execution of Civil works relating to installation of Fully Automatic double circuit CIP Unit for road milk tankers and other allied jobs at Verka Paraisa Dairy.	4 months	Verka Head Office, SCO No. 153-155, Sector 34A, Chandigarh Ph No. 0172-5041818, 21	33,980/-	20.06.2022 from 11:00 AM	11.07.2022 Up to 05:00 PM	Technical Bid 12.07.2022 at 3:00 PM Financial Bid 18.07.2022 at 11:00 AM
Approx Cost [Rs] 33.98 Lacs							

Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in and get USER ID and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970264 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website eproc.punjab.gov.in. Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable.

Incharge (Purchase)

No space for protest movements in political science



On the other hand, a review will also enable the ASI to take certain other monuments of 'national importance' under its wings.

The IDEAS PAGE

Demolition of House No 39C/2A/1

Prayagraj demolition is a flagrant challenge to due process, Supreme Court has taken cognisance of the matter. It is too late for the aggrieved family, but better late than never



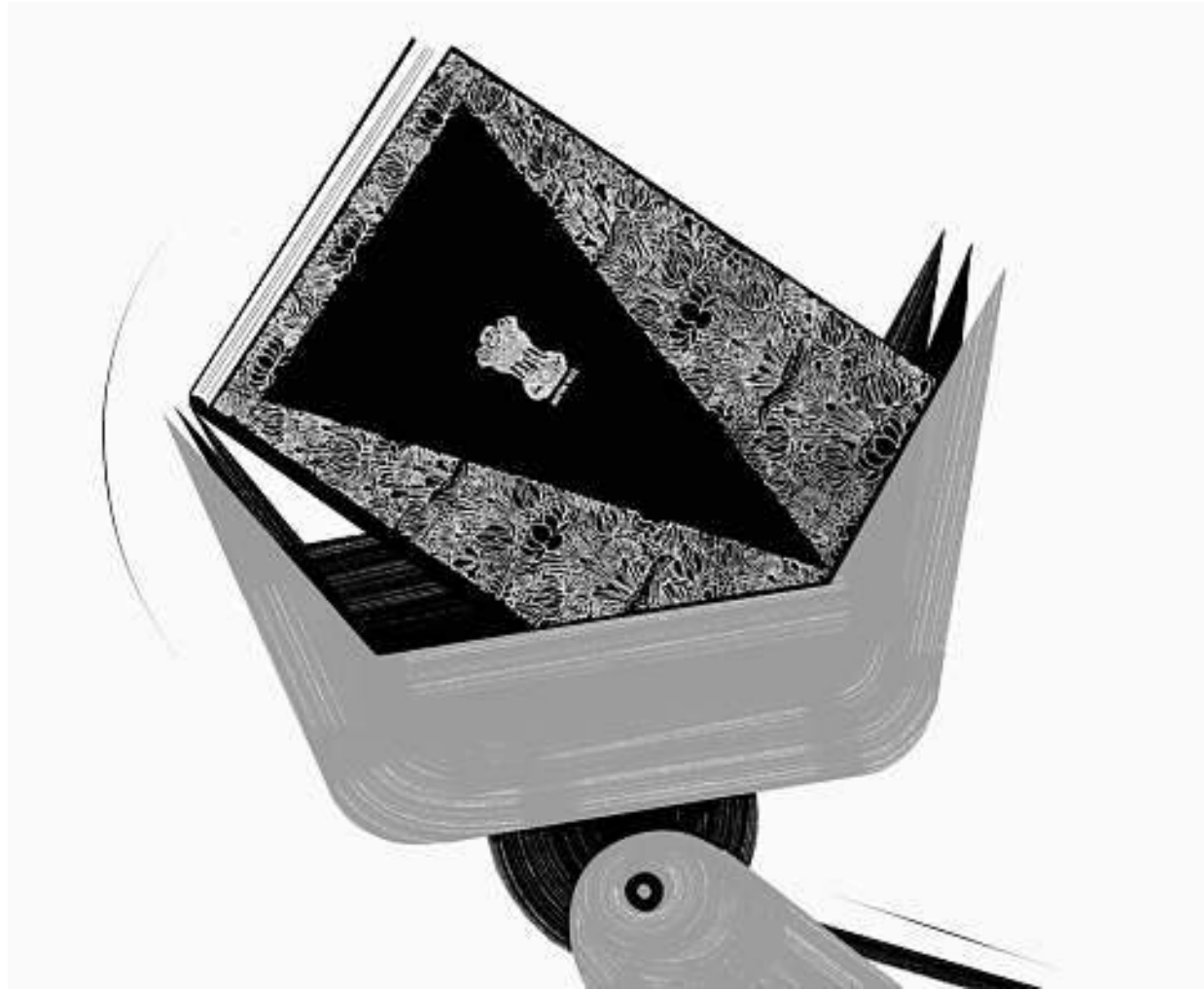
REKHA SHARMA

WHAT HAPPENED ON June 12 in Prayagraj can be best described as a violation of the Constitution and the laws. That day, a two-storey house (39C/2A/1) that stood in the Karala area of Prayagraj, and in which Mohammad Javed lived with his family, was bulldozed by the Prayagraj Municipal Authority (PMA). The house was reduced to rubble on the ground that it was constructed without obtaining necessary sanctions and clearances from the concerned authorities.

However, the matter is not as simple as it is made out. Apparently, the demolition was carried out to teach Javed the lesson of a lifetime, who, according to the UP police, was the mastermind behind the violence on June 10, that erupted after the Friday protests against now-suspended BJP national spokesperson Nupur Sharma's remarks on Prophet Mohammad. The whole episode, it seems, was scripted to send a message not only to Javed but also to his community that anyone running foul of the state administration, whether by way of a tweet on social media or by staging *dharnas* or by leading protest marches, will meet the same fate.

A day before the aforesaid house was bulldozed, Javed was taken into custody for his alleged involvement in the June 10 violence. The same day PMA pasted a notice on the gate of the house, which stated that the construction of 25x60 feet was done on the ground and first floors without taking permission of the concerned authorities. According to the younger daughter of Javed, Sumaiya, the house in question was owned by her mother, Parveen Fatima. It was gifted to Fatima by her father two decades ago. She disclosed that the "notice" that was pasted on the gate of the house was in the name of her father, and not in her mother's name. The said "notice" asked the residents to vacate the property by 11:00 am on June 12. According to Sumaiya, no government agency had ever told them that it was built illegally, and that the house tax, water tax, and electricity bills were being paid on time.

The authorities have not rebutted Sumaiya's claims but they have stated that on May 5, a show cause notice was sent to Mohammad Javed and that he did not respond to the same. The family denies having received any such notice. Be that as it may, the question still remains how a notice sent to Javed who was not the owner of the property authorised the authorities to demolish the house which belonged to his wife. She has her own independent identity, and was thus entitled to the protection of law and the procedure prescribed which ought to have been followed before any action was taken in relation to her property. For instance, giving due notice to the rightful owner of the property, providing sufficient time to respond to the same, a personal hearing if asked by the noticee, and even if there is no response from the noticee, a further and final notice informing the noticee of the proposed action. These are principles of natural justice which are at the core of the rule of law, and a democratically elected government is under an obligation to follow them. But unfortunately, these principles were thrown to the winds by the



C R Sasikumar

UP government, which now appears to be acting as judge, jury and executioner.

Let us for a moment accept that what is being stated by the UP government is the truth. But the government still needs to do a lot of explaining. For instance, it must disclose when the construction of the building commenced; whether any notice was issued at that stage to the owner informing him/her that the construction was unauthorised, and needed to be stopped; if any action was taken at that stage; if so, what and if not, why; when was the construction completed, and after how much time after its completion was the alleged notice to Javed sent, which he allegedly failed to respond; how many buildings in the locality have been constructed without legal sanction and if they are unauthorised, what action has been taken against those buildings. If no such steps were taken during the course of construction, should not the government functionaries who allowed such illegal construction to come up be identified? Since the UP government appears to believe in demolishing the houses of alleged criminals, even if such punishment is outside the purview of the law, and even though the offence is yet to be proved in a court of law, why should then the houses of all such errant officials be also not demolished? Should not the government of the day and its officials who allowed unauthorised construction be made answerable, and the owner suitably compensated?

What has happened to Mohammad Javed is not a stand-alone case. We are being told that the district police is sending the names of 85 key accused who participated in the incident of June 10 to the civic officials for similar action. Nobody knows on whom the axe may fall next. The next of kin of those

What has happened to Mohammad Javed is not a stand-alone case. We are being told that the district police is sending the names of 85 key accused who participated in the incident of June 10 to the civic officials for similar action. Nobody knows on whom the axe may fall next. The next of kin of those in custody are in panic. They are collecting whatever documents they can lay their hands on to stave off the demolition of their houses. Is it not an irony that Nupur Sharma who is in the eye of a storm, and because of whose utterances the country had to face huge embarrassment at the international level, and whom the BJP itself has dropped like a hot potato, is roaming free, while those who are hurt by her remarks are in custody, and in addition, are also facing the threat of demolition? It is nobody's case that those who indulged in violence on June 10 should be let off or not be dealt with under the laws of the land, but they cannot be punished unless proven guilty by a court of law. In any case, their houses cannot be demolished in the garb of unauthorised construction while the real motive is to teach them a lesson. In this situation, the aggrieved persons have nowhere else to go but to look towards the higher courts, particularly the Supreme Court, which is the custodian of the fundamental rights and civil liberties of the people, to stop this.

It is heartening that the Supreme Court has taken cognisance of the matter. It is, perhaps, too late in the day as far as the aggrieved family is concerned, but then, better late than never. Now that the matter is before the Supreme Court, let us hope and pray that nobody has to join Faiz Ahmed Faiz, a great poet of the Subcontinent, in saying *Bane haiñ ahl-e-havas mudda, i bhi munsif bhi/kise vakil karen kis se munsifi chahen* (The power hungry have become both prosecutor and judge/ who will advocate for me, from whom shall I expect justice?).

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Unless the government can find new streams of revenue to create fiscal space for subsidies, the public will bear the brunt of the inflation." —DAWN

The end of childhood

We live in times when insecurity and fear of being harmed is endemic to childhood



KRISHNA KUMAR

IT IS SAFE to assume that every American child knows that life at school is precarious. Their parents know that nothing much can be done about this fear. Teachers also know it. Those who want to believe that matters can be changed, return to reality after each mass shooting. A bi-polar public ethos cannot permit a change. We Indians know this, having watched TV debates where no one steps out of their assigned role. The anchor too knows her role: Keep trying to get an honest answer. In the recent Texas killings, the police added a fresh layer to earlier stories of school shootings. A group of policemen stood around for over an hour outside the classroom where children were dying. The school corridor sound proofing must be of the highest quality. Presumably, there was CCTV coverage as well. Reports say that several children had dialed the police. They were whispering into their mobile phones. The killer had streamed his action live.

Childhood, as a concept, has a short history. Cultural historians and demographers have demonstrated that as a social category, childhood has been around for no more than 300 years. Over this period, the recognition of childhood as a distinct stage of human life has gradually gained universal acceptance. The recent social history of humanity is enmeshed with the ascent of public health and universal schooling that aimed at protecting children from early death and the precipitous onslaught of adult life. The use of children as cheap labour, induction into exploitative trade and violent conflicts have proved hard to stop, but considerable progress did take place in many parts of the world.

This period of modern cultural history may already be closing. The change occurring in conditions surrounding children is pervasive and deep. It points towards a *Yuganta: The End of an Epoch* — the title of Iravati Karve's monumental work on the Mahabharata. She argues that the great war marked the end of an era or *yuga*. Deep economic and cultural changes followed the great war depicted in the epic. People's outlook on life and the values underpinning that outlook changed. Something of that scale is occurring in children's life today.

A long period that influenced parenthood and education is approaching its end. The consensus — shared by the state, industry and parents — that children need protection is dissolving. That they are a social or collective responsibility had become a common concern. The idea that childhood is not merely a biological stage of life was central to this sense of collective responsibility. The growth of knowledge in disciplines such as psychology, linguistics and anthropology enhanced the breakthrough that had already occurred in social philosophy, pointing towards the importance of childhood as a distinct and prolonged stage of life in human society. This new perspective gradually created a global consensus

for child survival and welfare.

No country was immune to these pressures. The changes they brought in state policies and economics were radical. The formal recognition of children's rights is an outcome of these historical shifts. They are based on the argument that children need protection throughout childhood extending from infancy to adolescence and early youth. As children can't be expected to assert their rights, the state and society must guarantee that these rights are not violated. This assurance has proved hard to deliver, but now it is now facing a dire crisis. Protecting children from physical and psychological harm required a consensus that the family and the school would form an inviolable boundary around children. This consensus is no longer effective.

To begin with, the state's role as the custodian of children's rights has weakened. Shifts in public policy indicate a voluntary withdrawal of the state in order to create room for commercial interests directly addressing children. The state as well as the family is unable to maintain the protective ring they were empowered to maintain in some measure around childhood. The new consortium of market forces has penetrated that ring. Children can now participate in the new communication industry as consumers and also as objects or commodities of consumption. Their presence on a globally connected market of images and goods implies the availability of a massive amount of raw material for exploitation and trade. The family, the school and all other protective devices of the state have been rendered weak and vulnerable to attack in the war against childhood.

Digital communication has created an unprecedented social reality in which children can be approached without the knowledge of the adults who look after them. The sight of children playing on the street or in park-like spaces had already become a rarity as sexual crimes became more common. As children receded from public view, they became subject to oppression through the so-called social media. Their exposure to violent videos, pornography and terrorising messages is common. Tech giants remove millions of such material as part of their content moderation exercise. It is a strange ritual, for these very companies actively encourage children to participate in digital activity.

The Texas shooter live-streamed his visit to the Uvalde school. His reality show was dutifully removed. That hardly matters. As always happens, the event becomes a part of children's awareness. No matter how tightly schools are fortified, the child's view of the world has changed irrevocably. The propaganda of their right to be protected will, of course, continue. Insecurity and the fear of being harmed, oppressed and killed is now endemic to childhood. A social consensus against this insecurity will prove hard to build. The list of 21st century skills that schools are told to cultivate is long and ambitious. It covers thinking out of context, management of negative emotions and early induction into digital livelihood.

The writer, professor of education at University of Delhi, was director of NCERT from 2004 to 2010



SRIRAM VEERA

OF ALL THE mind-boggling figures that have popped up during the current conversations on broadcasting rights of Indian cricket, one stat stands out: Television viewership is dropping, and digital streaming rights are increasing. It's a story of our times — the disappearance of the communal experience of watching sports with family and friends. Watching sports has become a solo pursuit, a monastic experience. It's rare now to react to a moment in a game by going beyond one's own heart and head and peeping into the emotional — occasionally dark — hearts of others.

TV IPL ratings have been dropping significantly while the streaming digital rights are escalating. Not just in sports, television viewership is falling in general. TV revenue is estimated to grow by just 6 per cent over the next five years while digital rights are expected to leap by 30 per cent. DTH operators such as Tata Sky, Airtel have lost viewership. DTH signals the death of the communal experience of TV viewing. Media rights fetched the BCCIRs 48,390 crore, with Disney-Star bagging TV rights for the Indian Subcontinent and Viacom 18/ Reliance sweeping the digital segment.

The mind goes back to childhood — to a living room in the maternal grandparents' home where uncles, cousins, neighbours, friends would congregate for a cricket game. It was a household in which the choicest

The way we watched the game

Watching sports is becoming a solitary experience. It wasn't always so

abuses flowed freely during matches and viewers, more than the cricketers, were its targets. Like the bearded Kaccha, a distant relative whose real name never really registered in my mind. Kaccha was the singularly most abused man in that home.

Quite early in our cricket-watching lives, it was clear that the jovial lungi-clad Kaccha, who had the ability to talk to kids in a genuinely friendly way, was a jinx who had to be avoided at all costs. The door and three windows had jaalis running across, and, a piece of towel or saree would be spread across them, so that Kaccha's "evil eye" didn't cast its effect on the game. Sealed out, he might have been, but he was either amused or masochistic: Kaccha would always turn up, and linger outside the front door to gather cricket tidings from our shouts of joy or disappointment.

There was another middle-aged man, simply called "Mookan" ("the nose" for obvious Nasser Hussain-ish anatomical reasons) who lived down the road. A more parochially ferocious supporter of the Indian team one hasn't seen — the kind who would believe that Balvinder Singh Sandhu could hit out against Imran Khan or Malcolm Marshall with healthy doses of French cuts, and win the game. The grandfather would needle him by talking up the opposition and face Mookan's abuses, who, in the same breath, would smile shyly at the grand-

mother and ask for a hot cup of filter coffee with "sakkarai konjam thookala" (extra helpings of sugar) — he was a borderline diabetic and not allowed such cubed luxury at home. And of course, Mookan hated the guts of Kaccha. Fun times. The stadium-like experience in a living room with people with a great sense of humour, and the occasional invective thrown in, was something worth cycling for a few kilometres. It's something the young generation may never experience.

But such experiences have been lost for a while now. The latest broadcasting rights have only sealed the loss. It's been a while since smartphones have taken over. Even at night, with their kid listening to a podcast, husbands and wives are either glued to Netflix or Insta. Cricket was already trapped in the small rectangular screens of our palms.

In cities, in high-rises, not many of us know our neighbours anyway. Parents might not like cricket. Friends might not share our interest in sports. The intrusion of others is probably not welcomed by all. Especially, for this generation which has grown up in bubbles for most things — entertainment, online studies, social media — even if, paradoxically, the surfeit of lonely pursuits has reduced the quality of solitude.

One has also to move beyond the cities and big towns to understand the importance of smartphones, even for entertain-

ment. Some years ago, a few of us were in Nimgavhan village in Maharashtra, which faced the threat of being submerged in the waters of the Narmada after the height of the Sardar Sarovar dam was raised. A boy swam under the setting sun across the river-turned reservoir to join us under a mahua tree in a small school. Cricket surfaced in our conversation and we showed him the latest score of a game on our phones. His broad-eyed reaction to technology has stayed in the mind. His father had a normal phone, he said, but no internet; perhaps one day he will get it and follow the scores like us, he said. It wasn't a surprise that the internet was making its presence felt in the hamlet. First, they gave us cheap internet, then they took over our headspace. That isn't a lament because it has changed lives.

The current generation might not even feel as if something has been lost as this is the only experience they know. And not everyone wants a Mookan in their lives or wants to be a Kaccha waiting for the breeze to lift the thin cloth that stood between him and cricket on the telly. But it had felt gloriously good, while it lasted. Sorry, Kaccha, I never knew your name and only smiled at you slyly lest the elders saw it, but can you please buzz off. India is in a good position now — don't jinx it.

sriram.veera@expressindia.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BILATERAL TIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Drawing closer' (IE, June 16). Better connectivity between India and its island neighbour is sine qua non for cooperation in a comprehensive manner. South India is better placed to fulfill the connectivity needs considering their proximity to Sri Lanka. The current economic crisis in Sri Lanka had provided an opportunity for India to improve bilateral relations by providing aid to Colombo. India, true to its doctrine of "neighborhood first", helped Sri Lanka, despite the fact that New Delhi itself is under pressure at home due to the situation created by the Ukraine war. This will definitely help improve bilateral ties. The SAGAR doctrine given by Prime Minister Modi is also significant in this context. The aspects of security and growth are crucial for any country, especially for an island nation. SAGAR fulfills both these criteria. Having said that, better connectivity has no alternative. The new ferry service and air route from Jaffna to Trichy are welcome steps. At the same time, it is important to note that Colombo has to show reciprocity to New Delhi in terms of strategic priorities.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

FALL FROM GLORY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Congress in its labyrinth' (IE, June 17). Congress, in recent years, has entirely de-linked itself

from grassroot realities. Shirking its responsibilities of being the sole national opposition party and showing no response for the bigger problems of the day like unemployment, price rise, communal discord and shaky diplomatic relations, Congress has lost the confidence of even its own primary cadres. Instead of assembling support from like-minded parties and making it a common issue of political vendetta, Congress just wanted to play one-upmanship that fell completely flat.

Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

ALL-ROUNDER

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Batting for Bengal: Ranji team star by day, minister and TMC MLA at night' (IE, June 17). Manoj Tiwary is commitment personified. He has scored a century with a swollen knee, and represented his state in the Ranji trophy, while being fully aware that his Indian and IPL dream is long over. In addition to that, he also works as an MLA. All this speaks volumes to his passion and commitment. There is no precedent of a politician playing active professional cricket in the past. Not many cricketers would so desperately want to win the Ranji trophy knowing they're well past their prime. He is a true inspiration for not only Bengali cricketers but other budding cricketers who want to play for India.

Bal Govind, Noida



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

THIS WORD MEANS

INTER-STATE COUNCIL

A platform for engagement among states and the Centre, which Stalin wants to meet more frequently

ON THURSDAY, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking that at least three meetings of the Inter-State Council should be held every year to “strengthen the spirit of cooperative federalism”, and that Bills of national importance be placed before the Council before being tabled in Parliament. **THE COUNCIL:** The Inter-State Council is a mechanism constituted “to support Centre-State and Inter-State coordination and cooperation in India”. It was established under Article 263 of the Constitution, which empowers the President to constitute such a body if the need is felt. In 1988, the Sarkaria Commission suggested the Council should exist as a permanent body, and in 1990 it came into existence through a Presidential Order.

Its main functions are inquiring into and advising on disputes between states, investigating and discussing subjects in which two states or states and the Union have a common interest, and making recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action.

The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Council, whose members include the Chief Ministers of all states and UTs with Legislative Assemblies, and Administrators of other UTs. Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Centre’s Council of Ministers, nominated by the Prime Minister, are also its members.

Following a reconstitution last month, the Inter-State Council will now have 10 Union Ministers as permanent invitees. Its

standing committee has been reconstituted with Home Minister Amit Shah as Chairman. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, UP, and Gujarat as some of the other committee members.

STALIN’S LETTER: Stalin has flagged the lack of regular meetings, saying the Council has met only once in the last six years — and that there has been no meeting since July 2016. Since its constitution in 1990, the body has met only 11 times, although its procedure states it should meet at least three times every year. Stalin appreciated the recent reconstitution of the Council. Stalin has frequently disagreed with the Centre’s policies on matters of taxation, and on the medical entrance examination NEET. Highlighting the need for the Council to meet regularly, he said, “What could be settled amicably among the executive branches is often taken to the doorsteps of the judicial branch.”

THE LAST MEETING: In 2016, the Inter-State Council meeting included consideration of the Punchhi Commission’s recommendations on Centre-state Relations that were published in 2010. States asked for maintaining the federal structure amid growing “centralisation”. Article 356 of the Constitution, which deals with the imposition of President’s Rule in states, was also discussed. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who was then with the Opposition, demanded that the post of Governor should be abolished.

RISHIKA SINGH

EVERYDAY TECHNOLOGY

The case against Apple for allegedly throttling older devices

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

JUSTIN GUTTMAN, a consumer rights campaigner in the UK, is launching a class action suit against Apple seeking damages of around \$935 million. The representative action is being filed against Apple for throttling performance of some of the older versions of its iPhone.

THE SUIT: The class action suit being filed at the Competition Appeal Tribunal in London is to represent 25 million iPhone users in the UK who used any of the 10 iPhone models from the 2014 iPhone 6 till 2017 iPhone X, including the iPhone SE. The suit claims that Apple abused its market dominance to engage in exploitative and unfair commercial practices. In case of this lawsuit, Apple has said, as quoted by the BBC: “We have never, and would never, do anything to intentionally shorten the life of any Apple product, or degrade the user experience to drive customer upgrades.” Guttman’s suit is an opt-out claim, which means that any affected customers will not need to actively join the case to seek damages.

THE ACCUSATION: The Cupertino, a California-based company, is said to have misled iPhone users by applying a power management software update, released in January 2017 in iOS 10.2.1, that throttled the performance of these devices. In case of some of the older iPhones, this update reduced the processor’s peak performance by up to 58%. Apple had said this was introduced to cut the load on the phone’s battery. In 2018, after this move was called out, Apple apologised for its handling of the episode, and launched a battery replacement program for the affected iPhone models.

PREVIOUS LAWSUIT: In 2020, Apple settled a class action suit in the US, where it was accused that Apple intentionally slowed down the performance of older iPhones to push consumers into buying new models. The company, then, paid around \$500 million to settle the litigation without accepting any wrongdoing. The French antitrust regulator in the same year penalised Apple around \$27 million for throttling devices without informing the customers. However, this time, Apple also agreed to display a statement on its website about the sanction for a month.

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Monsoon so far: heavy rainfall in parts of N-E, hardly any elsewhere

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, JUNE 17

THE SOUTHWEST monsoon has started inconsistently in different parts of the country, with rain eluding many states but lashing parts of other states. The all-India rainfall was 18% short of normal until Friday. But while a majority of India awaits rain, Assam and Meghalaya have been submerged in record rainfall of 1,000mm in the last 24 hours.

Monsoon so far

Despite the monsoon’s early arrival on May 29 over Kerala, rainfall has been abysmally poor over most regions where the onset has been declared. The rainfall deficiency for the season until June 17 is as high as 60% in Kerala and Maharashtra.

Experts at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the wind circulation pattern is yet to fully get established. This, along with absence of favourable systems, have kept the monsoon inactive so far. Senior Met officials noted that the monsoon onset has largely been driven by convective activities — thunder,

lightning and localised rainfall, mainly realised during afternoon hours.

On Friday, the Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM) — or the imaginary line indicating the areas covered by the Southwest monsoon — passed through Porbandar, Bhavnagar, Khandwa, Gondia, Durg, Bhawanipura, Kalingapatnam, Malda and Motihari. On Friday, the monsoon advanced into a very small geographical area over north Bihar and sub-Himalayan West Bengal. The southwest monsoon has covered the entire Southern Peninsular and Northeast India, southern Chhattisgarh and Odisha, and some parts of Gujarat and Bihar.

Region-wise, the rainfall departures were –24% in Southern Peninsular India and +39% in East and Northeast India. Over other regions, where the monsoon is yet to arrive, the departures were –63% in Northwest India and –57% in Central India.

World’s wettest places

Cherrapunji in Meghalaya, among the world’s wettest locations, has received unprecedented rainfall this week. In just three days between June 15 and 17, the total rainfall recorded was 2,456 mm — more than

DEEPTIMANTIWARY
& SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, JUNE 17

THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED) has interrogated Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for three consecutive days this week in connection with a money laundering investigation concerning the affairs of the National Herald newspaper.

Rahul has been called for questioning again on Monday, while his mother Sonia Gandhi will be questioned on June 23. Earlier, the ED had questioned Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal.

What is the case?

It is based on a trial court order that allowed the Income Tax Department to probe the affairs of National Herald and conduct a tax assessment of Sonia and Rahul. The order was the result of a petition filed by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Swamy’s complaint had alleged cheating and misappropriation of funds on the part of the Gandhis in acquiring the newspaper. Swami had alleged that the Gandhis acquired properties owned by *National Herald* by buying its erstwhile publishers, The Associated Journals Limited (AJL), through an organisation called Young Indian (YI) in which they have 76% stake. He alleged Sonia, Rahul and others had misappropriated funds by paying Rs 50 lakh through YI to obtain the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that AJL owed to the Congress.

Sonia and Rahul were granted bail on December 19, 2015.

What happened with National Herald?

Jawaharlal Nehru established *National Herald* in 1938. It was published by AJL, a Section 25 company, which is generally a not-for-profit entity. AJL also published the *Qaumi Awaz* in Urdu, and *Navjeevan* in Hindi. The company owns prime real estate in various cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Patna, and Panchkula. Plagued by overstaffing and lack of revenue, AJL ran into losses and stopped publishing in April 2008. After that, AJL’s income came mainly from exploitation of its various properties. One of these was at 5A Herald House, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi. Meanwhile, the All

RISHIKA SINGH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

ON FRIDAY, UK Home Secretary Priti Patel approved the extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the United States, where he faces criminal charges. The extradition had been ordered in April by a London court, but it was pending as it needed Patel to sign it.

What happens to Assange now?

Assange still has the right to appeal to the English High Court. If refused, Assange must be extradited within 28 days. He is currently being held at Belmarsh prison in London.

Assange’s wife Stella, as well as Wikileaks, has said she would appeal the decision to extradite him.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has previously supported the demand for Assange’s release, the BBC reported. Assange is an Australian national.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that Assange’s Australian human rights lawyer, Jennifer Robinson, said that the Australian



Rahul Gandhi outside the Enforcement Directorate office in New Delhi on Wednesday. He will be questioned again on Monday. Amit Mehra

India Congress Committee (AICC) gave the company unsecured, interest-free loans for a few years up to 2010.

What happened thereafter?

By the end of 2010, AJL’s unsecured debt had risen to Rs 90.21 crore. Its management appears to have made no effort to repay the AICC, although its properties had a fair market value (FMV) of over Rs 413 crore according to investigations by the Income Tax Department.

On November 23, 2010, Young Indian Pvt Ltd was incorporated as a Section 25 company, with Suman Dubey and Satyan Gangaram (Sam) Pitroda as directors. Its object was stated to be: “To inculcate in the mind of India’s youth commitment to the ideal of a democratic and secular society...”

Immediately after its incorporation, both directors transferred their shares to Congress leaders Oscar Fernandes, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Moti Lal Vora (now deceased). On December 13, 2010, Rahul Gandhi was appointed as director and, on January 22, 2011, Sonia Gandhi joined the board as a director.

As of March 2017, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi had shareholdings of 38% each in the company. Vora and Fernandes held the remaining 24% in equal parts.

YI then registered itself under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act as a charitable organisation, making it eligible for 100% tax exemption.

government needed to ask the Biden administration to drop the charges. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, however, issued a statement saying the Australian government was not a party to the Assange case, nor was it able to intervene in the legal matters of another country, the newspaper added.

Why is Assange wanted in the US?

Assange shot into global prominence in the late 2000s when Wikileaks, which he founded in 2006, began publishing classified and confidential government and corporate documents for public consumption. Some of the most notable of the “leaks” were documents from the US government that said the US military had killed hundreds of civilians in unreported incidents during the war in Afghanistan.

The US government wants him in connection with 18 charges for violating the Espionage Act and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. It alleges the information was obtained by Wikileaks illegally and endangered the lives of its officials.

What was the AJL-YI-AICC deal?

The AICC decided to assign AJL’s nearly Rs 90 crore debt to the newly formed YI, which paid just Rs 50 lakh for this acquisition. The loan assigned was converted into shares of AJL, and AJL allotted 9,02,16,899 equity shares to YI in lieu of the loan amount. In this manner, almost 99.99% shares of AJL were transferred to YI.

The IT Department has alleged that in order to achieve the objective of holding 100% share of AJL by YI’s majority shareholders, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have purchased an additional 47,513 and 2,62,411 shares through Rattan Deep Trust and Janhit Nidhi Trust respectively.

At the time of AJL’s acquisition, YI, incorporated with a paid-up capital of Rs 5 lakh, did not have the Rs 50 lakh to acquire AJL. It decided to take a loan of Rs 1 crore from M/s Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd, Kolkata. Dotex, alleged by the I-T Department to be a company that allowed accommodation entries for a commission, is now owned by the RPG Group. This loan of Rs 1 crore was also flagged as “suspicious transaction” by the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Finance Ministry. The IT Department has even raised doubts about the purported loan forwarded by the Congress to AJL saying there is no evidence of it except in the books of AJL.

What were the questions raised around the deal?

The AICC transferred its loan to YI for just

The Government of Sweden too declared Assange wanted in relation to a sexual assault case against him, which was dropped after the time limit or statute of limitations expired in 2019.

How has he escaped extradition so far?

Assange’s troubles began in 2010, when Sweden asked for his extradition over the charges of sexual assault levelled by two Swedish women. He denied the charges and claimed they were made in a bid to eventually extradite him to the US for trial.

The Swedish Prosecution Authority said: “Every extradition case is to be judged on its own individual merits. For that reason the Swedish government cannot provide a guarantee in advance that Julian Assange would not be subject to further extradition to the USA.”

Assange sought asylum in 2012 in the Ecuadorian embassy. The same year, when the British Supreme Court rejected Assange’s appeal against extradition to Sweden, he violated his bail conditions to get to the Ecuadorian embassy and was granted refuge.

Rs 50 lakh, claiming that it was not sure if AJL would be in position to repay. The IT probe has held that AJL, with properties worth hundreds of crores, was in a good position to repay.

Other key questions raised were of conflict of interest, with Vora holding positions as AICC treasurer (formerly), AJL CMD, and shareholder and director at Young Indian. Also, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, does not allow a political party to give a loan.

What is the status of the IT case now?

The IT Department had earlier issued a notice to Rahul for allegedly concealing information on his status as a director of YI. It has said Rahul’s shares resulted in an income of Rs 154 crore, whereas earlier only Rs 68 lakh was assessed. It issued similar notices to Sonia and Fernandes, even as it sought to reopen the assessment to compute the “fair market value” of these shares.

Rahul, Sonia and Fernandes challenged this, contending that no income had escaped assessment, and that they had disclosed all facts. One key argument against the reassessment was that YI, as a Section 25 company, had applied for exemption under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, which was granted on May 9, 2011.

On October 26, 2017, the Commissioner of Income Tax (E) cancelled the registration granted to YI under Section 12A on the ground that no genuine activities were carried out by YI either in furtherance of its objects or otherwise, which can be held to be charitable. The cancellation was upheld by the IT Tribunal.

What is the Congress’s defence?

The Congress has accused the BJP government of vendetta politics to divert attention from issues like inflation, GDP, and social unrest. Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi has said that AJL had come under financial stress over the decades, after which the Congress stepped in, and over a period of time gave Rs 90-odd crore as financial support to it.

According to Singhvi, AJL did what any company under debt would do, i.e., to convert its debt into equity which was eventually acquired by Young Indian. He said since Young Indian is a non-profit organisation, “by law... no dividend can be given to its shareholders or directors... So you cannot take a penny.”

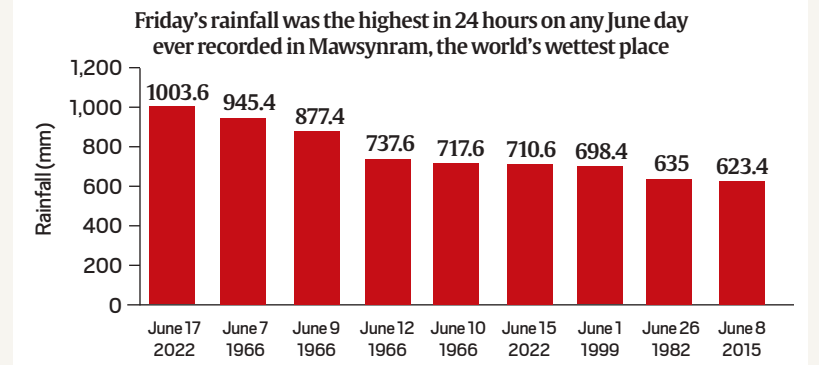
But in 2019, the Australian national was removed from the embassy and arrested by UK authorities, after Ecuador withdrew protections for Assange for his alleged attempts at “destabilising” Ecuador’s government and flouting the conditions of his stay.

Since then, Assange has been in jail while the extradition hearings have continued. His lawyers have also argued for him to be released given his deteriorating physical and mental health. A district judge ruled in January 2021 that there was a possibility of him dying by suicide in a US prison if extradited. He was still not allowed to leave the UK.

In December last year, the London High Court ruled in favour of the US government after the Joe Biden administration assured it would not hold him at the highest security prison facility. And, if convicted, he could serve his sentence in Australia if requested.

Assange tried appealing against this in the British Supreme Court, but on March 14 the court refused his permission to appeal. Finally, a London court ordered the extradition in April, which has now been signed.

RECORD IN WORLD’S WETTEST PLACE



the annual rainfall of many places in central India and Mumbai’s seasonal (June to September) average rainfall. Friday (972 mm) was Cherrapunji’s third wettest June day since 1901, and Wednesday (811.6 mm) was the eighth wettest.

Mawsynram in Meghalaya, the world’s wettest place, broke an 83-year record for June. The 24-hour rainfall on Friday at Mawsynram was 1003.6mm. The previous

highest rainfall in June here was 954.4mm in June 1966.

The IMD has attributed such extreme rainfall consistently over three days to the strong and moisture-loaded southerly winds blowing from the Bay of Bengal straight towards parts of Assam and Meghalaya. Since June 1, Meghalaya and Assam have recorded 194% and 96% surplus rainfall, respectively. Other northeastern

states remain in deficit: Mizoram (–46%), Manipur (–45%) and Tripura (–39%).

Implications for agriculture

Many southern states have started kharif sowing. At present, nursery sowing or transplantation of rice, finger millet, maize, soyabean, pigeon pea, groundnut are ongoing in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, coastal Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana and Punjab.

The agricultural meteorology division of the IMD has advised farmers to take up nursery of rice and vegetables and prepare land ahead of sowing.

Forecast

After remaining subdued for nearly three weeks, both the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal branches of the southwest monsoon will make further progress starting June 19. The IMD has forecast enhanced rainfall activity along the west coast, especially Konkarn, Kerala and coastal Karnataka during June 19-22.

“The monsoon winds from the Arabian Sea are set to strengthen, and there are chances of development of an off-shore trough parallel to the west coast, resulting

in heavy rains along the west coast,” a senior IMD, Pune official said on Friday.

An “intense and very heavy rainfall” warning and a “yellow” alert have been issued for southern Konkarn during these days.

The extremely heavy rainfall over the Northeast, especially Assam and Meghalaya, will continue until Monday. Thereafter, a reduction in rainfall is likely owing to the change in wind direction from southerly to westerlies from the Bay of Bengal.

Due to likely instability caused by interaction between westerly winds from higher altitudes and most winds from the Arabian Sea, Northwest India, parts of Jammu & Kashmir will receive heavy rain during the next three days, the IMD said.

With the monsoon still keeping with the normal onset dates and the current yet to be established, the upcoming spell starting June 19 still carries hope. According to officials, widespread and heavy rainfall can make up for the prevailing large deficits, and officials said conditions are favourable for further advance of the monsoon over Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar by early next week.

Secret Ties



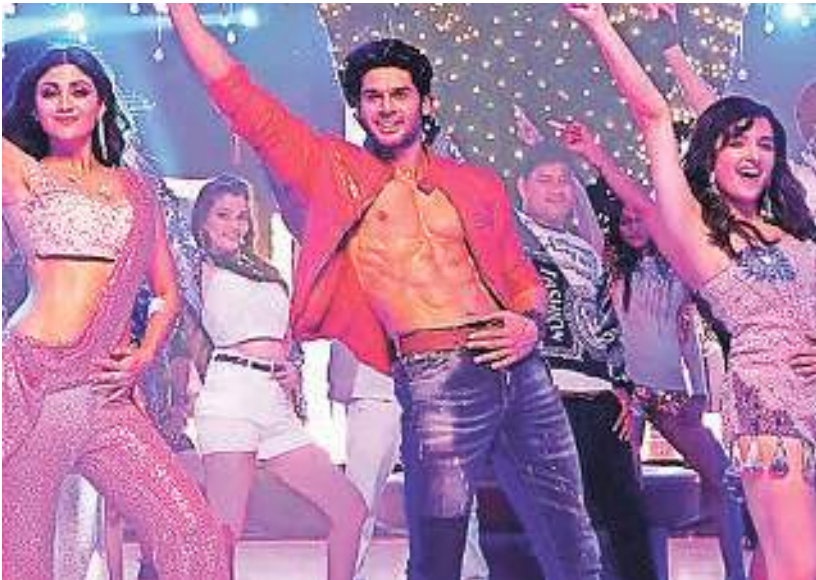
FAMILIES CAN be the most complex human unit, and it is not always love that binds its members: it can also be secrets. The six-part web-series *Masoom*, directed by Mihir Desai and helmed by showrunner Gurmmeet Singh, the duo behind *Mirzapur*, gives us the Kapoor family in Punjab, which reacts in different ways to the passing of the one who was its fulcrum. The loving husband (Boman Irani) seems strangely matter-of-fact, the elder daughter (Manjari Fadnis) is hard put to keep herself together, the son (Veer Rajwant Singh) struggles to hide a crucial part of himself, and the younger daughter (Samara Tijori) feels that the death was not caused by a fall, but that it was a murder.

MASOOM
Director: Mihir Desai
Cast: Boman Irani, Samara Tijori, Upasana Singh, Manjari Fadnis, Veer Rajwant Singh, Manu Rishi Chadha, Akashdeep Arora, Sarika Singh, Sukhpal Singh, Nikhil Nair
Streaming on: Disney+ Hotstar

Based on *Blood*, a 2018 Irish TV serial, *Masoom* begins with quick introductions to the main characters in the village of Falauli: the Delhi-based younger daughter sobs as she drives towards her home, devastated by the loss of her mother, the local cop (Manu Rishi Chadha) who keeps on eye on the populace, the father, a much-respected figure, who is standing for elections, and the two siblings, who were

around and about when their mother passed. Or were they?
A large stash of cash goes missing on the same day of the death. Are the two things connected? The plot includes a few other characters who have been old friends and compatriots of the Kapoor family. A comely colleague of Kapoor Sr who seems too close to him. A friend of the son who is clearly up to no good. And a friend of the younger daughter who has never been able to recover from the death of his father.
All of this should have been parlayed into a taut thriller, but the result is only intermittently effective and comes off, overall, strangely bloodless.
Tijori, whose character sets much of the action in play, is so morose as to be single-note. Of the other performers, Singh strikes a chord, as does, as always, Chadha. And it is good to see Boman Irani play something other than the kind of supporting roles he gets to do in Bollywood, but you wish his part had been written with more heft. You know that he knows more than he is letting on, but he only gets in a substantial chunk right towards the end, when we get to know everything he does. **SG**

Time to Go Home



NIKAMMA ★
Director: Sabbir Khan
Cast: Abhimanyu Dassani, Shilpa Shetty, Shirley Setia, Abhimanyu Singh, Sameer Soni, Vikram Gokhale

WHO AMONG us thinks we are in 2022? Not the makers responsible for *Nikamma*, a remake of Telugu hit *Middle Class Abbayi* (2017), because they have come up with a film so mothballed that it would have been roundly rejected even in the '80s.
Jobless Adi (Dassani) is just another version of your standard-procedure Bollywood hero. A brat, made much of by his affectionate family, which includes a big brother (Soni), and seemingly strict sister-in-law (Shetty). But we all know that Adi is just biding his time, waiting for a chance to reveal his true colours.
Meanwhile, there's the mandatory meet-cute with a college girl (Setia), who is never to be seen inside a classroom. Back in the day, the heroine would have been seen carrying at least one book. Here, there is evidence of hair and make-up and nothing else.
This is also a film which is meant to be

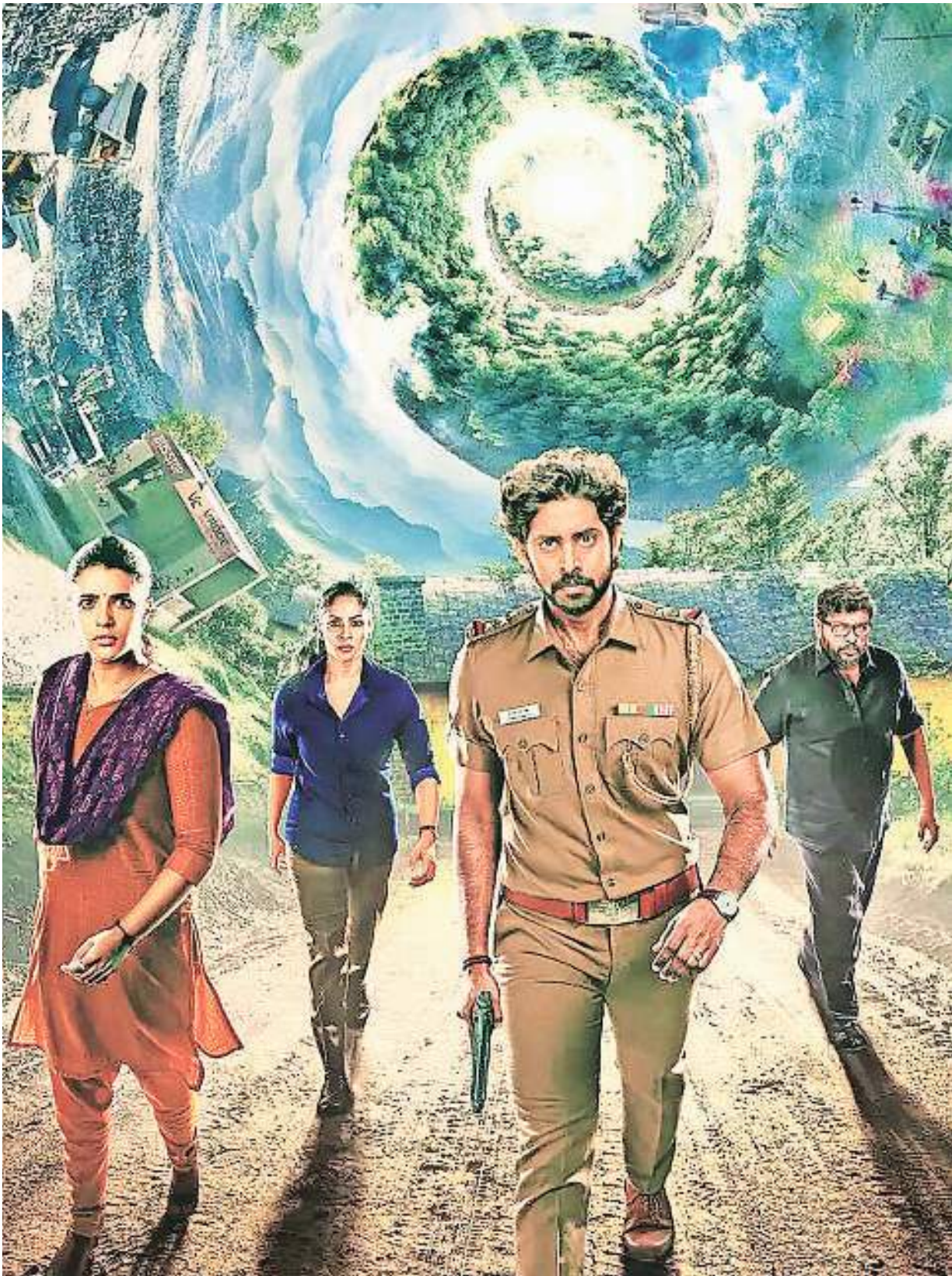
Shilpa Shetty's comeback, so for the price of one, we get two heroes. Shetty plays a government officer in a small town, going up against the local baddie (Singh), who lives in a palace and is always surrounded by a posse of scowling goons.
So that's your film: Adi and his "maasamaan" Bhabhi up against the Very Bad Guy. Set pieces featuring bike chases, fight scenes, bloody limbs, and one guy taking on all comers. And just so you know they haven't been forgotten, a couple of songs and dances.
There's not one thing in this film that we haven't seen a zillion times before. Unless you think Ms Shetty trying to be badass counts. Or maybe that's what the filmmakers think. Abhimanyu Dassani does a fair job of playing yet another version of Salman Khan, who was a similar brattish hero in his mother's 1989 debut *Maine Pyar Kiya*. The only thing missing is a shirtless scene.
Nikamma is nothing but a torturous 2.5 hours of wondering about the future of Bollywood. If this is what we are getting in the name of a new film with a new hero, who has shown signs of promise in his first two outings, then, well, it's time to go home. **SG**

Little Soul, Low Spark

IN A blink-and-bliss introductory scene, we are informed that back in 1995, when young Andy got his toys, Space Ranger Buzz Lightyear was a figurine from Andy's favourite film. And this, the film that we are about to watch, is that film. Ooh, meta.
Did we know back then that Buzz, one of Andy's many beloved toys, would have his own spin-off? Given Pixar's penchant for sequels and prequels with familiar figures, it's only surprising that it took the studio so long to get down to it. It's even more surprising how

LIGHTYEAR ★★
Director: Angus MacLane
Cast: Voiced by Chris Evans, Keke Palmer, Peter Sohn, James Brolin, Taika Waititi, Uzo Aduba, Dale Soules

little soul and spark *Lightyear* has, those Pixar hallmarks that are sure to make you chuckle, and cry at least once.
Upon encountering hostile elements on a planet, Buzz (Chris Evans) and his commanding officer Alisha (Uzo Aduba) scramble back to the safety of their ship, and manage to set up a safe space for the people on the ship. The doughty Buzz keeps trying to come up with a super fuel which will take them back to earth. But every time he takes off, the four minutes he spends in space become four years back



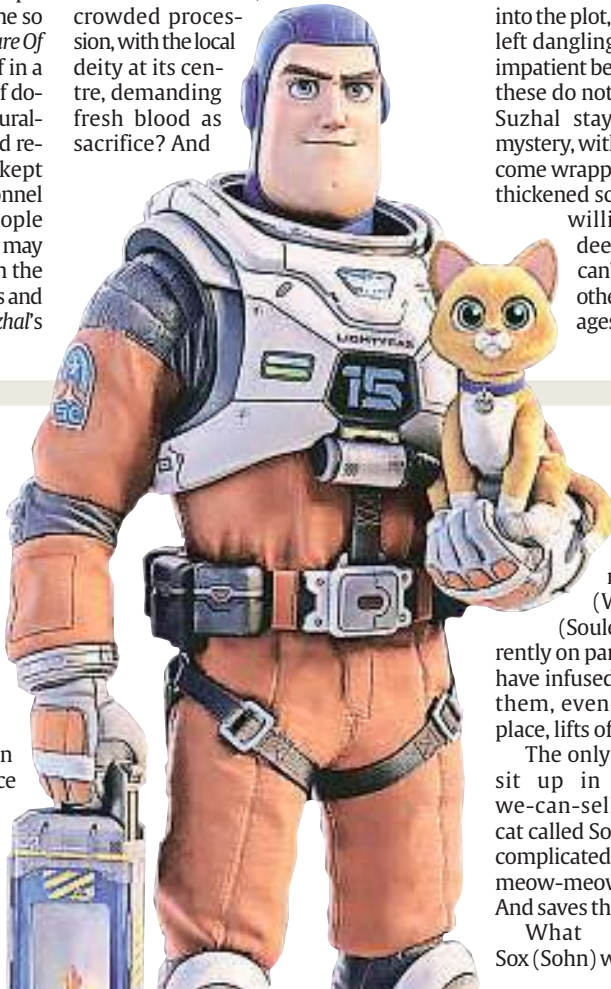
Vortex of Lies and Betrayal

SUZHAL: THE VORTEX ★★★
Director: Brama G, Anucharan Murugaiyan **Cast:** Aishwarya Rajesh, Kathir, R Parthiban and Sriya Reddy **Streaming on:** Amazon Prime

SHUBHRA GUPTA
SEVERAL COILED strands present themselves in *Suzhal: The Vortex*, the eight-part Tamil original web-series created and written by Pushkar and Gayathri and co-directed by Brama and Anucharan. A teenage girl goes missing. An old factory goes up in flames. A week-long religious festival, high on fervour, is under way. Old enmities resurface, laying bare a collective unease: Nothing is as it seems in this small town, somewhere in south India.
The thick ripples that emanate from undetected crimes and putative punishments in atmospheric small towns is an old trope. The last time it all came together for me so well was in the Kate Winslet-starrer *Mare Of Easttown*, which *Suzhal* reminds me of in a broad sense. Many familiar elements of domesticated crime thrillers set in deep rural-urban outposts are here — complicated relationships between young people kept hidden from prying eyes, police personnel who think they know their townspeople from the inside, unhappy residents who may or may not have something to do with the disappearances, a bunch of red herrings and an air made rancid by predators. But *Suzhal's*

vivid sense of place and people, and the infusion of local myth-making, makes it its own very specific, very gripping creature.
Troubled factory union leader Shanmugan (Parthiban Radhakrishnan), already upset at the heavy damage caused by the fire, returns home to find his 15-year-old daughter Nila (Gopika Ramesh) missing. As senior cop Regina (Sriya Reddy) and able colleague Sakkarai (Kathir) start digging deeper, they keep peeling back layers, which lead them from one suspect to another. Is it Trilok Vadde (Harish Uthaman), the owner of the factory, who seems a bit too keen to prove that it was arson, and who has a connection with the missing girl? Is it someone involved with the colourful, crowded procession, with the local deity at its centre, demanding fresh blood as sacrifice? And

whose bodies are those that are dredged up from the lake that abuts the town's cliffs?
The characters have a nice degree of depth. No one is black or white; they are your garden variety flawed humans. Regina's hands are not quite clean, even if her reasons to dirty them are understandable. Sakkarai professes love for one woman, but has another on his mind, and heart. The women of *Suzhal*, in fact, are its bedrock: When the missing girl's mother (Indumathy Manikandan) returns from a self-imposed exile, and her older sister Nandini (Aishwarya Rajesh) shows up after a gap of several years, you are left asking, why did they leave in the first place?
At times, some twists and turns appear a tad forced. Some things feel shoehorned into the plot, and a couple of plot points are left dangling. And at other times, you get impatient because it gets too stretched. But these do not deflect from the big picture: *Suzhal* stays focussed on advancing the mystery, with its murders most foul, which come wrapped in lies and betrayal and the thickened scars of childhood trauma. You willingly let yourself be drawn deeper and deeper because you can't wait to know what lies on the other side, and the big reveal manages to be a surprise.



Nolan/*Interstellar* feel. Buzz's new team: Alisha's granddaughter Izzy Hawthorne (Palmer), accident-prone new recruit Mo Morrison (Waititi) and Darby Steel (Soules), an old criminal hand, currently on parole, sliding into place, should have infused more interest but not one of them, even with their quirks firmly in place, lifts off.
The only character which makes you sit up in this only-made-because-we-can-sell-more-toys enterprise is a cat called Sox, who is super-smart, can do complicated calculations, and goes meow-meow-whenever he gets a chance. And saves the gang from doom and gloom.
What are the chances that Sox (Sohn) will get his own spin-off soon? **SG**

STREAMING WATCH LIST



AND THEN WE DANCED
MUBI
This Levan Akin-directed powerful coming-of-age story challenges set notions of masculinity and rigidity as it follows the dreams and desires of a young traditional Georgian dancer. Merab (Levan Gelbakhiani), a dedicated dancer aspiring for a spot in the National Georgian Ensemble, feels threatened by the arrival of another male dancer. As Merab finds himself drawn to him, he finds himself questioning the traditional ideas and attitude.

GET OUT
AMAZON PRIME VIDEO
This much-talked about political horror movie from 2017, directed by Jordan Peele, is now available for streaming. When a young African-American (Daniel Kaluuya) pays a weekend visit to his white girlfriend's parents, his simmering dissatisfaction with their treatment of him eventually boils over. The movie, nominated for multiple Oscars, won the award for Best Original Screenplay.

LOVE & ANARCHY: S2
NETFLIX



Its first season started with a flirtatious game between a married consultant Sofie and a young IT technician Max at a Stockholm-based publishing house. As they navigate the complexities of their secret relationship, this season shifts its focus to serious subjects such as guilt, grief, trauma and mental health. It is also about learning to understand and accept oneself.

SHE: S2
NETFLIX



Bhumi, a naive female constable, goes undercover as a prostitute to bust a drug cartel leader. The dangers in her assignment scare her and, eventually, provide her the thrill and a sense of power. In the new season, Bhumi (Aaditi Pohankar) continues to play the dangerous game of leading a double life of being close to a drug lord while operating as an undercover cop.

THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY
AMAZON PRIME VIDEO



The series is based on a bestselling book by Jenny Han that follows the summer adventures of Belly. Every summer, Belly and her family head to the Fishers' beach house. The year Belly turns 16, the summer vacation has something interesting in store for her. She finds herself caught in a love triangle with two brothers.

COMPILED BY ALAKA SAHANI



TURKEY

MBS To VIST ANKARA ON WEDNESDAY

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will visit Ankara on Wednesday. The visit comes amid a thaw of relations between the two countries following the 2018 killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

TOPOF THE WORLD



Trintignant had won an Oscar for *A Man and a Woman*. AP File

FRANCE

Jean-Louis Trintignant, film titan, dies at 91

FRENCH FILM legend and amateur race car driver Jean-Louis Trintignant, who earned acclaim for his starring role in the Oscar-winning film "A Man and a Woman" and went on to portray the brutality of aging in his later years, has died at 91. Trintignant died in his home in southwest France, said Bertrand Cortellini, who operated a vineyard with the actor and visited him Thursday before his death. He did not divulge details. French news reports said Trintignant had prostate cancer. In a career that started when he was 19, Trintignant acted in more than 100 films. He was one of France's premier actors in the post-war era — and one of the last remaining performers of his generation. AP

BELGIUM

Bishop declines cardinal honour over clergy abuse

ONE OF Pope Francis' proposed new cardinals, the retired bishop of Ghent, Belgium, has bowed out of accepting the honour over his insufficient response to cases of clergy sexual abuse, the Belgian bishops conference said. Ghent Bishop Luc Van Looy had asked Francis for permission to decline the honour in order "to not harm victims again," and Francis accepted the request, the bishops said in a statement. Francis had named Van Looy as one of 21 prelates to become a new "prince of the church" during a consistory August 27. AP

THE UNITED STATES

Musk sued for \$258 bn over crypto scheme

ELON MUSK has been sued for \$258 billion by a Dogecoin investor who accused him of running a pyramid scheme to support the cryptocurrency. In a complaint filed in court in Manhattan, plaintiff Keith Johnson accused Musk of racketeering for touting Dogecoin and driving up its price, only to then let the price tumble. "Defendants were aware since 2019 that Dogecoin had no value yet promoted it to profit from its trading," he said. "Musk used his pedestal as World's Richest man to manipulate the Dogecoin Pyramid Scheme..." Reuters

FATF retains Pakistan on 'grey list', hints at removal after October visit

MUNIR AHMED
ISLAMABAD, JUNE 17

THE FINANCIAL Action Task Force, an international watchdog, Friday said it will keep Pakistan on a so-called "grey list" of countries that do not take full measures to combat money-laundering and terror financing but raised hopes that its removal would follow an upcoming visit to the country to determine its progress.

The announcement by FATF president Marcus Pleyer is a blow to Pakistan's newly formed government, which believes it has mostly complied with the organisation's tasks set for Islamabad.

Pleyer said an onsite inspection by FATF in Pakistan would be done before October, and that a formal announcement on Pakistan's removal would follow.

He said FATF is praising Pakistan for implementing the or-



The country's new government, led by PM Shehbaz Sharif, believes it has complied with the watchdog's tasks. Reuters File

ganisation's action plans, a clear indication that Pakistan is moving closer to getting off the "grey list".

The Paris-based group added Pakistan to the list in 2018. The "grey list" is composed of countries with a high risk of money laundering and terrorism financ-

ing but which have formally committed to working with the task force to make changes.

At the time, the south Asian country avoided being put on the organisation's "black list" of countries that do not take adequate measures to halt money-

laundering and terror financing but also have not committed to working with the FATF. The designation severely restricts a country's international borrowing capabilities.

Still, being on the Paris-based international watchdog's "grey list" can scare away investors and creditors, hurting exports, output and consumption. It also can make global banks wary of doing business with a country.

Pakistan has said it continues to detain suspects involved in terror financing to comply with tasks set by the watchdog.

A Pakistani-based independent think tank, Tabadlab, has estimated that it has cost the country's economy \$38 billion since it was put on the grey list in 2018. The FATF is made up of 37 member countries, including the United States, and two regional groups, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission. AP

Ukraine secures EU blessing to 'live the European dream'

REUTERS
BRUSSELS, KYIV, JUNE 17

THE EUROPEAN UNION gave its blessing on Friday for Ukraine and its neighbour Moldova to become candidates to join, in the most dramatic geopolitical shift to result from Russia's invasion.

"Ukrainians are ready to die for the European perspective," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told a news conference, wearing Ukrainian colours — a yellow blazer over a blue blouse. "We want them to live with us the European dream."

It was only the start of a process that could take many years, but it puts Kyiv on course to realise a goal that would have been far beyond its reach just months ago.

"It's the first step on the EU membership path that'll certainly bring our victory closer," tweeted President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, thanking von der Leyen and EU members for the decision.

Leaders of EU countries are expected to endorse the decision at a summit next week. The leaders of the three biggest — Germany, France and Italy — had signalled their solidarity on Thursday by visiting Kyiv.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the EU headquarters in Brussels on Friday. AP

Russian journalist puts Nobel medal up for sale over Ukraine

RUSSIAN JOURNALIST and Nobel Peace laureate Dmitry Muratov is auctioning his Nobel medal for Ukrainian refugees, distraught at the eradication of independent media in his country, where he says fewer and fewer people support Moscow's military campaign.

Muratov is the co-founder and long-time editor-in-chief of Novaya Gazeta, a newspaper critical of the Kremlin.



"My country invaded another state, Ukraine... We thought for a long time about what we could do ... and we thought that everyone should give away something dear to them, important to them," Muratov has said. REUTERS

China launches hi-tech carrier in naval milestone

Beijing: China on Friday launched its third aircraft carrier, the country's most advanced, as an aggressive Beijing sought to extend the range of its navy in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

The Fujian is China's first domestically designed and built catapult aircraft carrier, Xinhua news agency reported.

The next aircraft carrier China plans to build is expected to be nuclear-powered.

The Fujian is equipped with an electromagnetic aircraft launch system or EMALS and has a flat, straight flight deck, and arresting device.

The EMALS is regarded by Indian naval experts as a major leap forward by the Chinese navy as currently only the United States has such an advanced one. PTI



A sealed area in Shanghai on Friday. Reuters

when customers found they could not access banking services. They tried multiple times to report the banks and get their money back, but didn't get an answer.

In one since-deleted account

China: Anger, fear as residents find Covid tracker used for crowd control

HUIZHONG WU
TAIPEI, JUNE 17

ANGRY BANK customers who travelled to a city in central China attempting to retrieve their savings from troubled rural banks were stopped in their tracks by a common technology: a QR code.

The QR code, which residents are required to have, is supposed to display one's health status, such as if they have Covid or have been a close contact. In central Henan province, some Chinese people found that the health code was used to enforce crowd control.

The incident has started a national debate on how a tool designed for public health has been appropriated by political forces to tamp down controversy.

The issue started in April,

TO PROMOTE OPEN EMBRACE OF REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS

Little Amal, refugee puppet who travelled Europe, to visit New York

JULIA JACOBS
JUNE 17

LITTLE AMAL, a 12-foot-tall puppet depicting a 10-year-old Syrian refugee, has seen about a dozen countries, visited London's Royal Opera House and other sightseeing destinations, and even met the Pope.

But this fall, Amal will embark on an entirely new adventure, crossing the Atlantic for the first time in a trip to New York intended to promote an open embrace of refugees and immigrants.

Amal is scheduled to arrive at John F Kennedy International Airport on September 14, with plans to travel to all five boroughs, visiting with children, artists, politicians and community leaders along the way, according to an announcement on Thursday from the Walk Productions, which is co-producing the visit with St. Ann's Warehouse.

Her original 5,000-mile journey from Turkey to England last year — which included visits to migrant camps — was designed to highlight the plight of millions

of Syrian refugees in Europe who traveled long distances across the continent to flee the country's civil war. The project was supposed to end there, said its artistic director, Amir Nizar Zuabi, but about two-thirds of the way through the journey, the creative team realized that Amal could have a future beyond those specific geopolitical circumstances.

"She became an excuse for communities to come together and be kind to a foreigner," Zuabi said, "and by doing that, understand something about themselves — understand what there is



Amal with locals in Calais, France, last year. NYT

WIKILEAKS FOUNDER TO APPEAL

UK approves extradition of Julian Assange to US

Move a chilling message to journalists: Amnesty International

MICHAEL HOLDEN
LONDON, JUNE 17

THE WIFE of Julian Assange vowed to fight using every possible legal avenue after British Home Secretary Priti Patel on Friday approved the WikiLeaks' founder's extradition to the US to face criminal charges.

Assange is wanted by US authorities on 18 counts, including a spying charge, relating to WikiLeaks' release of vast troves of confidential US military records and diplomatic cables which Washington said had put lives in danger.

His supporters say he is an anti-establishment hero who has been victimised because he exposed US wrongdoing in conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and that his prosecution is a politically motivated assault on journalism and free speech.

His wife Stella said Assange would appeal after the Home Office said his extradition had been approved as British courts had concluded it would not be unjust or an abuse of process.

"We're going to fight this. We're going to use every appeal avenue," Stella Assange told reporters, calling the decision a "travesty".

"I'm going to spend every waking hour fighting for Julian until he is free, until justice is served."

Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International's secretary general, said: "Allowing Julian Assange to be extradited to the US would put him at great risk and sends a chilling message to journalists the world over. REUTERS



Julian Assange after he was arrested by British police, in London, in 2019. Reuters File

The Assange saga: Key events

2010 - WikiLeaks releases damning video of a US air strike that killed civilians in Baghdad. ■ Over 91,000 secret documents about Afghanistan war. ■ And 400,000 classified military files chronicling Iraq war.

NOV 2010 - A Swedish court orders Assange's arrest over rape allegations. ■ Arrested in UK in December, gets bail.

JUNE 2012 - Takes refuge in Ecuador's embassy in London. ■ Ecuador grants Assange asylum in August.

APRIL 2019 - Carried out of Ecuadorian Embassy and arrested by British police after Ecuador revokes political asylum.

JAN 2021 - A British judge rules Assange should not be extradited to the US, citing his mental health.

New battle ahead

THE DECISION does not mean the end of Assange's legal fight which has been going on for more than a decade. Experts say he has 14 days to appeal at London's High

EXPLAINED Court which must approve a challenge. He can ultimately seek to take his case to the UK Supreme Court. But if an appeal is refused, he must be extradited in 28 days.

SRI LANKA



A queue to buy kerosene in Colombo Friday. Reuters

Crisis a lesson, Army to till barren land for food

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, JUNE 17

SRI LANKA Army will cultivate over 1,500 acres of barren or abandoned state land by taking part in the government's cultivation drive aimed at multiplying food production and averting any shortage in the future, a media report said Friday.

The army established its Green Agriculture Steering Committee (GASC) on Thursday to supplement and promote the food security programme amid the country's economic crisis.

The emergency project to be kicked off by early July as a supportive mechanism to the government's cultivation drive is spearheaded by Lieutenant General Vikum Liyanage, Commander of the Army. Major

Govt tells Staff to work from home

SRI LANKA on Friday ordered public sector employees to work from home for two weeks due to severe fuel shortages. Earlier this week, the government also approved a four-day work week for public sector workers to help them cope with a chronic fuel shortage and encourage them to grow food. REUTERS

General Jagath Kodithuwakku, the Chief of Staff, will supervise.

The troops will first prepare the ground by weeding, tilling and preparing beds for the cultivation of selected seed varieties in consultation with agricultural experts, newfirst.lk reported.

Somalia security forces, residents kill 70 militants in attack: official

REUTERS
MOGADISHU, JUNE 17

ARMED RESIDENTS and local security forces in Somalia's Galmudug state killed 70 Al Shabaab fighters as they repulsed a raid by militants on Bahdo town on Friday, a local official said.

The state broadcaster posted images on Twitter of at least 20 bodies in military fatigues that it said were among the attackers who were slain. Al Shabaab's Radio Andalus said in a broadcast that the al Qaeda-linked group lost nine fighters and said its fighters had killed 27 soldiers during a fierce battle after morning prayers.

Reuters could not independently verify the claims.

"Armed residents and clerics shot dead fighters from every window of every house..." Ahmed Shire, information minister of Galmudug state, said.

He said two children and a cleric from the town were killed in the fighting, while four car bombs were defused after the insurgents had fled.

Al Jazeera releases image of bullet it says killed reporter

Jerusalem: The Al Jazeera news network has published an image of the bullet that it says killed its veteran reporter Shireen Abu Akleh while she was covering an Israeli military operation in the occupied West Bank last month.

It identified the bullet as a US-made 5.56mm round fired from an M4 rifle, commonly used by Israeli forces. The Israeli military says Palestinian militants use the same ammunition.

The military released its own image of sacks of bullets it says were confiscated in a raid last month.

The bullets in the two images appear identical, with green marking on the tips.

Al Jazeera and the Palestinian Authority have accused Israel of targeting her, something Israel adamantly denies. The Israeli military says she was killed during a complex military operation in which troops traded fire with Palestinian militants. AP

BRIEFLY

Neeraj eyes 90m mark in Kuortane

New Delhi: Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will be primed to breach the 90m mark during the Kuortane Games in Finland on Saturday after his spectacular return to action in Turku where he had sent his spear to 89.30m for a new national record. The 24-year-old Indian superstar's spear landed 70cm short of the 90m mark, the gold standard of the javelin world at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, on Tuesday in his first competition after winning gold in Tokyo in August last year. He was second in a star-studded field behind local athlete Oliver Helander, who was the surprise gold winner with a personal best of 89.83m. Chopra will be competing for the second time this week at the Kuortane Games, which is a silver-level event in the World Athletics Continental Tour. He is currently based at the Kuortane Olympic Training Centre, around 300km from Turku, ahead of the all-important World Championships (July 15-24) in Eugene in USA.

Triple crown for Shiva Narwal

Bhopal: Haryana's Shiva Narwal won a golden treble, clinching both the senior and youth men's 10m air pistol titles as well as the team crown at the 20th Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial (KSSM) Shooting competition here on Friday. Shiva overcame Army's Dharmendra Singh Gaharwar 17-5 in the men's final and then blew away Sahil of Uttar Pradesh 16-0 in the Youth final to win two individual golds. He also claimed the team title in the event along with Naveen and Anmol Jain, as the Haryana trio beat Punjab for gold.

Kothari bags rare double in snooker

Melbourne: It was double delight for former world billiards champion Sourav Kothari, who clinched the Pacific International Billiards Championship title on Friday, just days after bagging the Snooker crown in the same event. The 37-year-old Kothari edged past multiple-time English champion Rob Hall of England 1500-1321 in the finals of the Level 5 highest World Billiards ranking event to win the title. The 2018 World Billiards champion thus became only the second cueist after Mathew Bolton of Australia to achieve a double title in the Pacific International. —Agencies

Wiser, sharper Prannoy inches towards first title in five years

SHIVANI NAIK
JUNE 17

HE'S CALLED the Backhand Beast for his attack when the forearm goes high across the face and the shuttle is thwacked down with force. But HS Prannoy has in his arsenal some of the most exquisite defensive variations on the backhand. These backhand beauties, often counter-tricks to negotiate both the opponent and more so the tricky drift, are helping the 29-year-old resurrect a fantastic 2022 from the ashes of the last five years.

Prannoy is searching for his first title since the US Open in July of 2017. But that magical season - when he took out opponents like Lee Chong Wei and Chen Long in back-to-back matches offering Kidambi Srikanth a springboard to surge to the Indonesia title - remains a whirlwind blur. He has continued scalping big names - including Viktor Axelsen at Bali last autumn, and made the final at the Swiss Open, but the title at a Super Series event remains on the to-do list. The Super 1000 semis at Istora, shuttle's grandest coliseum, beckons after he ousted Danish Rasmus Gemke 21-14, 21-12 in the quarters.

His game, visened from all the stand-alone upsets but not standout title wins, is reaping the benefits of all the delectable nuances he added to his original backhand all-out attack. In the early 20s, one goes bombastic. In the late 20s, the blues and rhapsodies of the struggle are taken in the stride, and ballads are composed. Tempering the attack isn't just about maturity sobering the bones. For the deep thinker and cerebral player, adding variations to his once-beastly bazooka strokes has been about making peace with the conditions.

Of Indonesia, he said, "The conditions are very tricky with a lot of drift and the shuttle is tough to control." The breathing, heaving crowds at Istora - and even the emptying in the late session - makes conditions unpredictable. "But I've really been able to control the shuttle well from Day 1. I'm playing a much better and patient game now."

Prannoy has a defanged nothing-to-pounce-on serve. In contrast with Gemke, who thrives - and sinks - on his restless unstable energy, Prannoy is a monk with a mace on court. Through the two games, he kept a steady length and orchestrated action around the two mid-courts, relying on the cross-reflex strokes to tame the wild shuttle and keep it within bounds.

The tall shuttler is aware of his capabilities at in-rally acceleration, where he can lull Gemke on a lateral yo-yo with his crosses, and in a sudden burst of energy, send the kill shot deep to the back corner, down the line.



Prannoy beat Rasmus Gemke 21-14, 21-12 to enter semis.

So, he took the hapless Dane along before dashing his hopes.

"Thomas Cup was more pressure and emotional with mind games. Here I was in much better shape and relaxed," he said of the Dane whom he beat to clinch the semi-final tie for India last month in the historic triumph. Gemke had a wobbly knee, Prannoy had a plan to keep it wobbled.

Adding new tricks

Prannoy leads 6-4 in the head-to-head against him, but there was a period from 2019-21, when Gemke enjoyed a stranglehold over the Indian. It was that strange phase when Daren Liew built himself bragging biceps boasting of continuous wins against the Indian. In short, a torrid time for Prannoy struggling with health issues and a convoluted over-thinking game on court. His backhand needed to snap out of the big power trap, as dazzling as the jump cross smash was.

Prannoy's underrated defence now came to the fore. "It's not easy to attack or get points off opponents in these conditions. Getting angles, connecting shuttles, it's been tough to get the kills," he said later.

So, he began developing a wide variety of

deceptions: wrist, elbow, forearm, all of them jamming along to build a bag of tricks. It took him years to get them down to not just the muscle memory but the bone - humerus, radius, ulna perfectly following instructions of his ticking brain, intuiting in nano seconds how to wrong-foot opponents.

Perhaps the cleverest trick was reserved for the last point. Playing from pretty close to the net where the shuttle dipped, Prannoy took a stride and scoped it on the backhand inches off the ground, sending it just right to fall, like the Fosbury Flop, across the net but well short of Gemke. The Dane, who looks boggled at best of times when he's stolen a point off Prannoy, didn't complete his grimace even after that dipping backhand scoop, taken like a half volley, but sent shooting vertical. "I've been practising it for 4-5 years. It's very tough to execute, so I kept it for the last point," Prannoy chortled.

He plays Chinese Zhao Jun Peng in the semis - matching his best showing here - on Saturday. The Indian has beaten Li Shifeng and Huang yu Xiang, the other two young Chinese previously, but Zhao stays steady and throws posers in long rallies. The beautiful tricks might need some support from the beastly attack.

The ultimate Warriors

SHASHANK NAIR
JUNE 17

A WEEPING Stephen Curry was mobbed by his teammates as he led the Golden State Warriors to their fourth NBA Championship in eight years, defeating the Boston Celtics 103-90 in Game 6 of the NBA Finals at the TD Garden on Friday. Curry finished the series averaging 31.2 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists and 5.2 three-pointers per game and was handed the 2022 Bill Russell NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award. He now stands side-by-side with LeBron James and Shaquille O'Neal with four rings to his name.

Barring a dry Game 5 where he went 0-9 from the three-point line, these NBA Finals have been about Curry's offense. The Warriors offensive rating is a league-high 115.8 with Curry on the floor and dead last at 88.6 without him. One of the toughest arenas to play in, with a generous heaping of the most raucous crowds possible - Boston can be a nightmare to contend with. Against the Celtics in Game 6, Curry once again rose to the occasion. "This one hits different for sure knowing what the last three years meant, what it's been like," Curry said. "Injuries, the changing of the guard, rosters, the young guys. ... Now, we got four championships. Me, Dray, Klay and Andre."

"Finally got that bad boy," Curry added, referring to the MVP trophy. "It's special. ... Everybody mattered in that process."

Weathering the storm

With their season on the line, Celtics raced to a 14-2 lead four minutes into the first quarter. But the Warriors have championship DNA and rode that initial Celtic wave out and then went on a tear of their own to finish the first quarter in a 11-0 run. That run continued in the second as the Warriors went 10-0 ahead and Celtics head coach Ime Udoka took two time-outs in the first two minutes itself to stop the bleeding. It didn't work. The difference was between the Warriors and Celtics bench. Grant Williams, Derrick White and Payton Pritchard played for a combined 40 minutes and were - 64 in that period. Jordan Poole and Gary Payton II on the other hand played 38 minutes combined for the Warriors and were a combined +29. The result - the Warriors won the second quarter 27-17 and went into the second half with a 15-point lead.

In the first two quarters, there were many instances when the Celtics had a matchup advantage but didn't use it. On the offensive end, there would be many an opportunity to pit Al Horford, the Celtics' centre, against Steph Curry in the paint. But for reasons unknown, Jaylen Brown, who finished the game on 34 points, would either drive to the basket, and when closed down, would rarely be able to pass to an open teammate. Brown's 34 points might have been a Celtic high, but so were his five turnovers.

Tatum goes missing

There have been two leading criticisms of



Stephen Curry on Thursday.

Boston's NBA Finals run - their high turnover rate and Jayson Tatum not closing games out in the fourth quarter. In terms of turnovers, the Celtics gave away 22 in a game that they had to win. "This is tough, getting to this point and not accomplishing what we wanted to," said Tatum. "It hurts. I feel like I could have done a lot of things better. But, you know, like we said, we competed, we tried all season, all playoffs."

14 June, 2019: Steph Curry sat alone at the far end of the Oracle Arena, watching his teammate Klay Thompson, go down to a brutal knee injury - in Game 6 of the NBA Finals.

Four days earlier, the Warriors had lost Kevin Durant to an Achilles injury in Game 5. With two-and-a-half minutes remaining in the third quarter and leading by three points, the 2018 champions had lost two of the three greatest shooters to ever play basketball to long-term injuries in the space of five days. They went on to lose Game 6 and saw the Toronto Raptors win an NBA Championship on their floor. A basketball dynasty was brought to its knees in the space of two NBA Finals games.

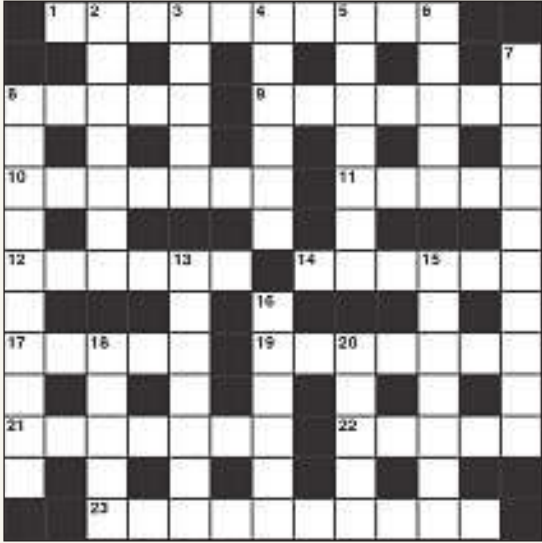
Out in the wilderness

The following year, the Warriors finished the season dead last in the Western Conference, with an underwhelming record of 15-50. In 2020-21, the Warriors returned hoping to prove that the previous season was a one-off. But Klay Thompson suffered another injury setback - with his right Achilles tendon giving out. Two years can be a long time in the NBA. The Milwaukee Bucks became unlikely champions. LeBron James won an NBA ring while the entire league was in a bio-bubble in Disneyland. A pandemic happened.

But then, after years of struggling to get back to the playoffs, Thompson returned. Curry was fit and Wiggins was integrated better into the Warrior setup. The Warriors overcame the odds yet again to reach the top of the mountain - beating a Celtics team that had taken down a Kevin Durant-led Brooklyn Nets, a Giannis Antetokounmpo-led Milwaukee Bucks and a Jimmy Butler-led Miami Heat.

"This one is definitely different because of the three years of baggage we carried coming out of that Game 6 in 2019," Curry said after the title was handed to them.

CROSSWORD 4771



ACROSS

- 1 Direct opposite of a scholarly exercise? (10)
- 8 I am taken in by a fat Scottish landowner (5)
- 9 Drama writer barred for the very young (7)
- 10 Type of hymn or carol he arranged? (7)
- 11 Hide a broken heart (5)
- 12 Frenzied woman made an error (6)
- 14 Infected for a month with nervous disorder (6)
- 17 Man's highest state? (5)
- 19 Alfresco opera in translation (4-3)
- 21 Not evil maybe; just lacking restraint? (7)
- 22 A bad shot for a musketeer (5)
- 23 Support for a player (5,5)

DOWN

- 2 No one takes part - it's most offensive (7)
- 3 Country providing aid in trouble (5)
- 4 It carries food for a flea perhaps (6)
- 5 Such twins were once inseparable (7)
- 6 Extra capital (5)
- 7 Likely to be a short dance arrangement (2,3,5)
- 8 Moving example of crazy reasoning (10)
- 13 A female impersonator (7)
- 15 Informal conference about the Inca (5-2)
- 16 There should be rhyme if not reason in such justice (6)
- 18 It sweeps right inside the harbour bar (5)
- 20 Make Bill work in the house (5)

Solutions Crossword 4770: Across: 1 Comedy, 4 Alaska, 9 Coracle, 10 Odour, 11 Opera, 12 Payslip, 13 Firm friends, 18 Lord Jim, 20 Caste, 22 Emily, 23 Nursing, 24 Tasted, 25 Tsetse. Down: 1 Cocoon, 2 Merge, 3 Declaim, 5 Loony, 6 Spoiled, 7 Abrupt, 8 Temperament, 14 Ruins, 15 Escorts, 16 Albeit, 17 Beagle, 19 Joyce, 21 Shift.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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 quip.

There is no subject so ___ that something ___ cannot be ___ about it. - Fyodor Dostoyevsky (3,...,3,...,4)

SSAEO



WILLS



IKNUDN



EHRSDW



SOLUTION: OASES, SWILL, UNIND, SHREWD
Answer: There is no subject so old that something new cannot be said about it. - Fyodor Dostoyevsky

SUDOKU 4869

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 4868



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You could soon be ready to make your move, at last. Your stars are adopting a position which is frankly more favourable than for some weeks, and the best thing you can do is to be young-at-heart, spontaneous and ready to take off at a moment's notice.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The Sun and the Moon have both recently come to your aid, and you should be set up for a very positive future. Today's stars put the accent on domestic affairs, so family relationships should come first, and people you live with will be hogging the limelight.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Short journeys beckon, so you may accept any invitations that take you away from home. Mind you, they are as likely to be for business as for pleasure. If you are waiting for someone to get in touch, wait no longer. Take the initiative, make the first move and never doubt yourself.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You may feel the need to be a little more secretive than usual, yet without being deceptive or manipulative. Your romantic stars are at a height, and even the slightest change will find you feeling much more sensitive. Still, it's good to be in touch with your emotions.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

This is certain to be a time of emotional ups and downs, with an emphasis on the ups. However, only determined action will shift a log-jam to do with work, or resolve deep-rooted irritations at home. First of all, though, you need to work out what partners really want.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Dream on. Your imagination should be at its peak, which means that there could be extra worries, but that you should also emphasise all the positive angles in your life at the moment. Concentrate on the ethical issues, and raise moral standards all round.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Some sort of financial crisis is looming, so fancy footwork will be necessary if you want to avoid bad feeling and save yourself some of your hard-earned cash. If you're in the housing market, or otherwise contemplating large domestic purchases, follow a hunch.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Watch out for emotional squalls and be aware of the extent to which you may be responsible for any ructions. This doesn't mean that you've done anything wrong, but there may be things which you have left undone which, in their turn, have left someone else high and dry.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Your imagination may lead you a merry old dance, and feelings like resentment, jealousy, anger and the desire for revenge are lurking. However, first you should make a fair and reasonable assessment of the situation. Let the facts speak for themselves.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Seldom have your stars looked more passionate, at least not for a month or so. Such feelings will of course have intense repercussions for your romantic affairs, but will also influence other areas of your life. Adopt a bold and colourful approach.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You are much stronger than you think, and even apparently disastrous developments will turn out in your favour. You must pay special attention to partners who are swept away by feelings they can't understand, and don't tangle with authority, either.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You are likely to get very wound up about questions, but you're also liable to jump to conclusions and misunderstand what is really going on. Say your piece, but be a good listener. If partners know that you're giving them your attention, they'll respond in kind.

As pain subsides, Nadal hopes to find firm footing on grass at SW19

NAMIT KUMAR
JUNE 17

RAFAEL NADAL announced on Friday that he intends to play Wimbledon this year despite concerns regarding his chronic foot injury. The Spaniard said that he will travel to London after positive training sessions this past week following the treatment he underwent on his foot in Barcelona.

“My intention is to play Wimbledon, but it will all depend on what happens with my body this next week,” the 36-year-old said at a press conference in Mallorca per Reuters. “I’m without pain for a week and have been practising, so it tells me there may be a chance to play in the tournament.”

Following the conclusion of the French Open – where he won a record-extending 14th French Open and 22nd Grand Slam title – Nadal revealed that he was forced to use pain-killing injections to numb the pain in his left foot. The step he took was dangerous, considering the lack of sensation in his left foot might have numbed him to an extent that it prevented him from noticing an injury that could have worsened the already weakened area.

The injury and the treatment

Nadal suffers from the Mueller-Weiss syndrome, a complex and rare degenerative condition in the foot, which causes blood to be cut off from the navicular bone. As a result of the condition, which Nadal has suffered since 2005, the Spaniard suffers chronic pain. While he was able to play pain free during his triumph at the Australian Open in February, the problem flared up during the clay season again. Nadal said after Roland Garros that the anesthetic injections he was taking was applied on the nerves and that he will be undergoing a “radio frequency” treatment to be able to burn part of the same nerves and numb them.

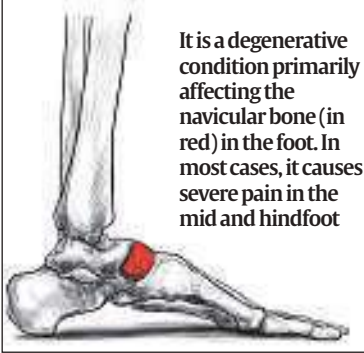
On Friday, Nadal revealed that although it may be too early to claim the treatment is successful, the pain in his foot has eased and allowed him to practice at full tilt on the grass courts of the Mallorca Country Club this week.

The Spaniard announced that he will assess his condition after a week of training on grass in the British capital, where he also plans to play an exhibition event in the lead-up to SW19. Nadal plans to play the Masters 1000 event in Canada, and the US Open next.

What's at stake at Wimbledon?

Nadal's remarkable comeback season this year has allowed him to take a commanding lead in the age-old Grand Slam race with Djokovic and Roger Federer. The trio were tied at 20 Majors apiece at the start of the year, before Nadal's triumphs in Melbourne and Paris allowed him to reach a men's record of 22 titles. A win at Wimbledon will not only allow him to go 3 ahead of his big rivals, but it will also mean that Nadal will join Serena Williams as joint-second in the all-time Major title winners' list. The Spaniard is also in the running to become the first man since Rod Laver to complete the Calendar Slam – winning all four Majors in a calendar year.

MULLER-WEISS SYNDROME



Mumbai young guns Jaiswal, Jaffer make hay before Ranji Trophy final

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JUNE 17

YASHASVI JAISWAL continued his superb run of form as he slammed back-to-back hundreds in the ongoing Ranji Trophy semi-final against Uttar Pradesh. The left-hander had scored 100 in the first innings and followed it with 181 on Friday. It was his third hundred in the past three innings.

It was not only Jaiswal who reached the three-figure mark. Mumbai middle-order batsman Armaan Jaffer too slammed 127 as the domestic heavyweights continued to punish the UP bowlers on Day Four of the clash in Bengaluru, reaching 449 for 4 at stumps.

From 0 off 54 balls to scoring 181 off 372, Jaiswal passed the transition phase successfully.

“They were bowling well and I just couldn't get off the mark yesterday. It took me some 54 balls to get my first run. But I had told myself that I will bat for as long as possible, and not throw my wicket. I want to score big hundreds because they matter more. At the same time, I wanted to prove a point that I can bat in red-ball cricket as well,” Jaiswal told The Indian Express.



498/4: ENGLAND SET ODI WORLD RECORD

Jos Buttler scored a 47-ball ton to help England post the mammoth total against the Netherlands. His crowd-pleasing knock contained 14 of the team's 26 sixes, Reuters

- England have the three highest scores in ODIs. Before Friday's world record score, their previous bests were 481/6 against Australia in June 2018 and 444/3 vs Pakistan in August 2016.
- Buttler completed his ton in 47 balls, the second-fastest hundred for England. Buttler now has the three quickest ODI centuries for England - off 46 balls (vs Pak), 47 balls (vs Ned) and 50 balls (vs Pak).
- Livingstone could've taken the total to 500. With two balls left, and England on 488, his slog toward midwicket landed just short of the rope for four. He smashed a six in the same area off the next ball.
- The Netherlands were playing an ODI against England for the first time outside a Cricket World Cup. At the same venue – VRA Ground in Amstelveen – they had conceded 443 runs vs Sri Lanka in 2006.

Karthik leads comeback

'Keeper-batsman's big hitting followed by Avesh Khan's four-wicket haul helps India level the series 2-2

SANDIP G
JUNE 17

FROM TEETERING on the edge of the cliff, India have crawled back to breathe again and take the series to the final game in Bangalore. Sizeable credit for the series-levelling 82-run victory in Rajkot goes to the unflustered big-hitting brilliance of Dinesh Karthik and Hardik Pandya, whose 65 runs in 5.3 overs propelled India to 169 runs on a tacky surface, as well as the synchronised utility of its bowling firm.

Give these set of bowlers conditions that remotely abet their craft, they they make life impossibly difficult for overseas batsmen to live, let alone prosper. The surface was not as conducive to stroke-play as the other venues in this series. Some balls stopped, some skidded along, some just leapt off good-length areas. The bounce was spongy rather than a trampoline. Both seamers and spinners mixed their pace shrewdly, hammering out even a foothold of the advantage South Africa were trying to gain. The Indian bowlers just tied them in knots.

No hero emerged for South Africa. Quinton de Kock laboured on before he ran out, Temba Bavuma sustained a shoulder injury and retired hurt; Harshal Patel jetted out David Miller with a slippery ball; Yuzvendra Chahal exacted revenge on his tormenter, Heinrich Klaasen, with a straighter ball; Avesh Khan enjoyed his best night in international cricket with a four-wicket haul. They were bundled out for 87, just half as India had put on (169/7). For India, there were several heroes. Foremost among them was Dinesh Karthik, whose 27-ball 55 conveyed an impression that he alone batted on a different pitch. He certainly batted on a different plane, batting fluently on a surface where most batters consistently struggled to time the ball and find the boundary.

The background was perfect for him to flourish – team reeling, series at stake, last of the specialist batsmen, it was the time to not only play a winning hand but also make him



Dinesh Karthik became the oldest Indian to score a T20I fifty on Friday. PTI

an indispensable player in the side. In his prime, he had let golden opportunities slip through, but at 36, probably at the last stretch of his career, he is desperately making even half an opportunity count.

Count he did, with a knock of inscrutable coolness and sparkling stroke-play. Amidst the reverse pulls and sweeps, the sheer wattage of destruction Karthik ratcheted up, a straight drive stood out. South Africa's left-handed spinner Keshav Maharaj, after he was fiercely swept through midwicket, seared one onto his pads. Karthik could have bent low and swirled his wrists over the ball and whirled it over long-on. His design seemed just that, before at the last moment, he changed his mind, as if suddenly seized bound by classical batsmanship. He just pressed his front-foot forth and drove the ball between the bowler and the long-on fielder, aerial but a stroke of pure, pristine timing. For this stroke alone, he kept the pose, the front-elbow winking at the inky sky, the bat-maker's name proudly staring at the au-

dience after tracing a delightful arc.

Classy DK

He struck eight other boundaries and a brace of sixes to complete his maiden T20 international half-century and propel India to a competent score, but a photograph of this stroke is the likeliest to adorn the walls of his drawing-room. This stroke held the breath; most others rushed the blood. Karthik was in full flow, the currents lashing furiously like a river in monsoon. There was a swept-six of Dwaine Pretorius, wherein he simply walked outside the off-stump and whacked the ball over deep midwicket. Fast feet, faster hands and even faster brains.

The ball was not too full for the slog, but he hyperextended his bat, got under the ball and heaved it over the drops.

In such a mood for carnage, he could be unstoppable. His range of strokes – and as importantly his eye for boundaries – is astounding. Anything even marginally shot, he moves back with the rapidness of an electric

For India, there were several heroes. Foremost among them was Dinesh Karthik, whose 27-ball 55 conveyed an impression that he alone batted on a different pitch

wave, and cuts, often in front of square. Anything full, he has the whole canvas to find a boundary. The ball could vanish into any corner of the field. Length balls could disappear over deep square leg; he could reverse pull, reverse sweep, and if need be, ramp and scoop (there was no need for such improvisation). He manufactures the lengths that suit him, like sashaying down the track and pummeling Andre Nortje down the ground. The shot, his second boundary, rattled the strapping South African seamer. Perhaps the entire team too, as they suddenly looked deflated, and let the game drift away from them in the next 30 minutes or so.

That was the precise moment South Africa would rue, after the penetration and planning they showed in the early exchanges. Until then, they had bottlenecked the hosts and chipped away with wickets, the last being Rishabh Pant. India were, at this juncture, 81 for 4 in 13 overs, having already lost Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shreyas Iyer. Escalating their woes, Hardik Pandya too had hit the straps with a few lusty blows, the trademark back-cuts and flick-slogs, where he whists the ball at the final moment of contact, making the crowd erupt in joy. This burst of boundaries made all the difference – from teetering on the edge of the cliff to taking the series to the last match in Bangalore.

BRIEF SCORES: India 169 for 6 in 20 overs (Dinesh Karthik 55, Hardik Pandya 46; Lungi Ngidi 2/20) bt South Africa 87 all-out in 16.5 overs (Rassie van der Dussen 20, Avesh Khan 4/12) by 82 runs

England rewrite world record to beat Netherlands by 232 runs

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AMSTELVEEN, JUNE 17

ENGLAND BROKE its own world record for the highest total in one-day international cricket by smashing 498-4 to set up a 232-run win over the Netherlands on Friday. Jos Buttler led the barrage with a typically extravagant 162 not out off only 70 balls.

The total achieved in Amstelveen, outside Amsterdam, surpassed the 481-6 made by England against Australia at Trent Bridge in June 2018.

While Dawid Malan (125) and Phil Salt (122) also compiled centuries for England, it was Buttler's that took the breath away. He reached three figures in 47 balls for the second-fastest hundred for England, and his brutal, crowd-pleasing knock under a blue sky contained 14 of the team's 26 sixes along with seven fours.

Buttler has the three quickest ODI centuries for the national team - off 46 balls, 47 balls and 50 balls.

Liam Livingstone weighed in with a 22-ball 66 not out after joining Buttler for the final 5.2 overs. He brought up England's fastest ODI fifty, from 17 balls, to beat the one in 21 deliveries set in a partnership between Eoin Morgan and Jonny Bairstow, and struck six fours and six sixes.

Livingstone had the chance to take England to 500 - an almost mythical figure in limited-overs cricket that would have seemed unfeasible only 20 years ago - by taking strike with two balls left, with his team on 488.

Off the next-to-last ball of the innings, his slog toward the midwicket boundary landed a couple of meters short of the rope and bounced for four. He smashed a six in the same area off the next ball.

The Netherlands - playing an ODI against England for the first time outside of a Cricket World Cup - had only a few moments to savor amid a flurry of big-hitting from the tourists, which led to balls being lost in bushes and getting damaged after striking the branches of trees outside the stadium.

Shane Snater bowled his cousin, Jason Roy, to leave England 1-1 and Pieter Seelaar took two wickets off successive balls - including Morgan for a golden duck.

In their reply, the Dutch at least put up a decent score of 266 all out in 49.4 overs, led by Max O'Dowd's 55 and Scott Edwards, 72 not out. Malan's century was his first in ODIs and came off 90 balls. He has hundreds in all three formats - the second England player to achieve that feat after Buttler.

England - the defending 50-over world champion - has the top three ODI scores of all time, all of them being recorded since 2016. Dropping to No. 3 in the all-time list was its 444-3 against Pakistan in August 2016, also made at the traditionally fast track at Trent Bridge in Nottingham.

England's latest huge total was the highest made in either internationals or at first-class level. The previous best was 496-4 by English county side Surrey against Gloucestershire at The Oval in 2007.

BRIEF SCORES: England 498 for 4 (Buttler 162*, Malan 125, Salt 122, Livingstone 66*) beat Netherlands 266 (O'Dowd 55, Edwards 72*; Moeen 3/57) by 232 runs

It's great learning, this will make us better cricketers in the future, but the intimidation was there, the Barmy Army was loud, we have to pull ourselves together and come back on Sunday. It's hard to take now, but if we become better cricketers, it's good learning."

PIETER SEELAAR
CAPTAIN, THE NETHERLANDS

MP in control despite Bengal fightback

Bengaluru: Skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran's unbeaten 52 after Shahbaz Ahmed's superb all-round show gave Bengal a glimmer of hope even as Madhya Pradesh firmly held the upper-hand on the penultimate day of the Ranji Trophy semi-final here on Friday.

On a difficult fourth day pitch, the India A batter looked flawless and milked the field at ease, slamming six fours in his 104-ball knock as Bengal were precariously placed at 96 for 4, needing another 254 runs to reach the stiff winning target of 350.

Madhya Pradesh, on the other hand, need six wickets in pursuit of their first Ranji final after 23 years as the match is headed for a thrilling final day finish here on Saturday. Mumbai Indians' left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya did the maximum damage for Madhya Pradesh.

He held on to his end, bowling 19 overs non-stop to end the day with figures of 3/35 to jump to joint-second in the top wicket-takers' list this season with Jharkhand's Shabaz Nadeem (25).

Mumbai left-arm spinner Shams Mulani leads the list with 37 wickets.

Giving Abhimanyu company at the other end was the old warhorse Anustup Majumdar, unbeaten on 8 from 25 balls after he was dropped down to No 6 in a tactical move. Bengal also have a capable batter in Shahbaz waiting in the dressing room but it would be an onerous task on a fifth day pitch as the odd ball has started staying low and some deliveries turning square.

Sloppy umpiring and lack of DRS also let down Bengal as they lost the wicket of an in-form Sudip Gharami (19) given lbw by umpire Ravikant Reddy who failed to notice the ball hitting his glove to a Saransh Jain delivery which was also out of the line.

BRIEF SCORES: Madhya Pradesh 341 and 281; 114.2 overs (Aditya Shrivastava 82, Rajat Patidar 79; Shahbaz Ahmed 5/79, Pradipta Pramanik 4/65) vs Bengal 273 and 96/4; 37 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 52 batting; Kumar Kartikeya 3/35)

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