

**EXPRESS INVESTIGATION**  
**PART 4**

## At table reworking school curriculum: 24 with RSS links

Most of them say their politics delinked from their academic inputs

**SOURAV ROY BARMAN**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

WHEN THE National Education Policy (NEP) was launched in 2020, it didn't elicit much partisan attack. Largely insulated from ideological pull and push, it set the roadmap for reforms, some of which were rolled out recently: from a common entrance for admissions to universities to four-year undergraduate programmes.

In one area, though, a place for politics has been marked at the table: restructuring of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for schools — the first such exercise since the Modi Government came to power in 2014 and the fifth since Independence.



Focus groups will guide school curriculum. Amit Mehra

From a national co-convenor of Swadeshi Jagran Manch to the chief of Vidya Bharati, 24 members with RSS links, some of them serving as functionaries, figure in at least 17 of 25 NCF national focus groups working on curriculum changes, an investigation by *The Indian Express* has found.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8****ARMY ISSUES NOTIFICATION FOR RECRUITMENT**

## Armed Forces chiefs will brief PM today on Agnipath scheme

Many reforms may not seem right in short term, benefits with time: Modi

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE CHIEFS of the three services are to brief Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday on the Agnipath short-term recruitment scheme for the armed forces, official sources said Monday after the Army issued a notification for compulsory online registration by aspirants.

The Agnipath scheme has led to protests in several parts of the country.

Speaking in Bengaluru where he dedicated a slew of connectivity, education, health-care and research projects Monday, the Prime Minister said sometimes decisions may not seem right at the first instance

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2****BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNY

**EXPRESS NETWORK****U.P. COPS: WILL SEND RECOVERY NOTICES TO PROTESTERS FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE****MORE REPORTS, PAGE 5**

## Agnipath a pilot, tweaks if needed after 4-5 yrs, says Army Vice Chief

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

LIEUTENANT GENERAL B S Raju, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, said Monday that the Agnipath recruitment scheme has been "well thought out", and if any tweaks are required, they will be carried out at the end of four or five years.

In an interview to *The Indian Express* on the day the Army issued a notification for compulsory online registration of all Agnipath job aspirants, Lt Gen Raju said the scheme, as being rolled out now, is a "pilot project". He said Agnipath marks a "fundamental change" in re-



Lieutenant General B S Raju

cruitment into the armed forces and there is "a need" for all to "absorb the change".

The VCOAS's remarks come in the wake of violent protests against the Agnipath scheme in different parts of the country. Youth who have been waiting since 2020 to join the forces — a freeze on recruitment was imposed that year — have been on the rampage against the new

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

daCunha/AB/815

## Joint drug controller held by CBI in bribery case, Biocon Biologics executive also booked

Mazumdar-Shaw, firm reject charge: Meeting minutes in public domain

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE CBI Monday detained a Joint Drug Controller of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Director of a Delhi-based private company while they were allegedly exchanging bribe money of Rs 4 lakh.

The agency also booked three others including an Associate Vice President of Biocon Biologics Ltd, a company founded by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, claiming that bribe money was being paid to get regulatory

clearance for an insulin injection manufactured by the company — a charge Mazumdar-Shaw and Biocon Biologics rejected.

Officers of the CBI identified the detained men as S Eswara Reddy, Joint Drug Controller posted at the CDSCO headquarters in New Delhi, and Dinesh Dua, Director of Synergy Network India Pvt Ltd.

The others booked in the case are L Praveen Kumar, Associate Vice President and Head-National Regulatory Affairs of Biocon Biologics Ltd; Guljit Sethi alias Guljit Chaudhary, Director of Bioinnovat Research Services

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Main shooter held in Moosewala case, was in touch with Goldy Brar: Police

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

FOLLOWING THE arrest of two men described as "shooters" and an associate from Gujarat by the Delhi Police's Special Cell for allegedly killing Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, officers said on Monday that one of the accused was in touch with Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar at the



Moosewala was killed on May 29

time of the incident last month.

Among those arrested from Kutch on Sunday, Special Commissioner of Police H G S Dhaliwal identified Priyavrat (26)

as the alleged "main shooter and head of the module" that gunned down Moosewala. Sources told *The Indian Express* that after the incident, Priyavrat sent a message to Brar saying "work is done".

They said Priyavrat's associate, Kashish (24), was allegedly

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2****RELATED REPORT**  
**PAGE 4**

## To end illegal mining, MP plans to make it legal in parts of Chambal sanctuary

**JAY MAZOOMDAAR**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

TO FREE its forest department from devoting too much time, resources, and efforts in fighting illegal mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary, the Madhya Pradesh government has proposed to open 292 hectares for mining in five stretches on Chambal and its tributary Parvati

**EXPLAINED**  
**Strict watch needed**

THE STATE government's proposal is a tacit acceptance of its inability to curb or stop illegal mining. Even with this, protection of Chambal's wild habitat would require effective enforcement.

rivers. Sand mining has been banned in the sanctuary since 2006.

In a December 2021 proposal submitted to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF-CC), the state said opening up the five stretches would minimise the conflict with illegal miners, gain local support, and fetch revenue from royalty, one-fourth of

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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## Dr Manmohan Singh to be conferred 'TIOL Fiscal Heritage Award' at 3<sup>rd</sup> TIOL National Taxation Awards 2022



Photo credit: Reuters

**TIOL Fiscal Heritage Award**

'TIOL Fiscal Heritage Award' for Lifetime Contribution to Economic & Fiscal space to be conferred on  
**Dr Manmohan Singh**  
...an epitome of **enviable simplicity** embedded in **scholarly genius!**

**Nominations** to close on **30<sup>th</sup> June**, **Voting** to remain open

**DIGNITARIES TO SPEAK ABOUT DR MANMOHAN SINGH**

**MR LARRY SUMMERS**  
Former US Secretary of Treasury



**SHRI N K SINGH**  
Chairman of 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission



**DR SHASHI THAROOR**  
Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha



**DR MONTEK SINGH AHLUWALIA**  
Former Deputy Chairman Planning Commission



**MR MARTIN WOLF**  
Chief Economics Commentator, Financial Times, London

**3<sup>RD</sup> TIOL TAX CONGRESS, 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 TO BE ADDRESSED BY**

**MR MICHAEL LENNARD**  
Secretary, UN Tax Committee



**MR BIBEK DEBROY**  
Chairman of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council



**MR D P NAGENDRA KUMAR**  
Member (GST), CBIC



**MR V K GARG**  
Ex-IRS Subject Matter Expert



**MS KENDRA HANN**  
Deloitte Global Indirect Tax Leader

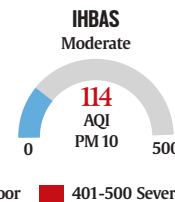
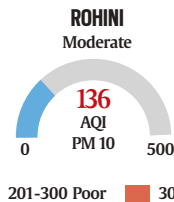
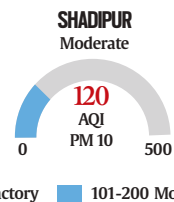
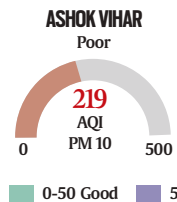


**MR KAMLESH VARSHNEY**  
JS, TPL, CBDT









**SKYWATCH**  
**FORECAST: June 21**  
Partly cloudy sky. Very light rain/drizzle

**MAX: 33** 5.6°C below normal  
**MIN: 24** 4.2°C below normal

## DELHI OFFICIAL SAYS NOT ALLOWED

# Modern School asks EWS children to pay Rs 67,000 in fees

**SUKRITABARUAH**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

STUDENTS WHO had been admitted to Modern School Barakhamba Road against the economically weaker section (EWS) quota and are in class XI now have been asked to pay over Rs 67,000 in fees for the first term of this academic year, prompting the parents to get a legal notice issued to the school authorities.

According to the provisions of the Right to Education Act 2009, all private schools in Delhi are required to reserve 25% of seats for EWS and disadvantaged group (DG) students during admissions at the entry level, and compulsorily provide them free education till the completion of class VIII.

Modern School is one of the 400 schools in the city which are built on land given to them by public land-owning agencies such as the Delhi Development Authority. These schools had been allotted land at concessional rates on the condition that they would provide free education to EWS children. The Delhi Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, states that these schools "shall continue to fulfil their obligation for providing free elementary education and till completion of secondary/ senior secondary education, as the case may be..."

A legal notice has been issued to the school by advocate Ashok Agarwal on behalf of 14 class XI



A legal notice has been issued to Modern School Barakhamba Road by advocate Ashok Agarwal on behalf of 14 class XI students who were admitted to the school against EWS seats

### EXPLAINED What rules say

SCHOOLS built on land given to them by public land-owning agencies at concessional rates must provide free education to EWS children. According to the Delhi Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, these schools "shall continue to fulfil their obligation for providing free elementary education and till completion of secondary/ senior secondary education, as the case may be..."

students who were admitted to the school against EWS seats. The parents of these children

received messages from the school earlier this month asking them to clear pending fees amounting to Rs 67,385 for the first term of the 2022-2023 academic session, from April to July.

Principal Vijay Datta did not respond to repeated calls and messages seeking a comment.

When contacted, a Delhi government official from the education department said: "This is not allowed. We will take cognizance of this and the school will be issued a notice. Schools set up on public land have an obligation."

The parent of one of the students said this is the first time they have received a request for fees from the school. "My child has been studying in the school since nursery, and even in classes IX and X there was no such request, but we received this message around 10 days ago. The fee is not affordable for me, I work as a tailor," said the parent.

## Retd Armymen, cops clarify doubts on Agnipath scheme

New Delhi: A press conference was held on Monday with police personnel and retired soldiers, in order to "clarify various doubts regarding the Agnipath scheme".

In attendance were ADCP Gautam Buddh Nagar Ranvijay

Singh, and retired veterans Colonel R K Bhushan, Colonel S K Bohra, Colonel Shailendra Singh, Colonel I P Singh, and Colonel S K Shrivastava. They also condemned violent protests in several states by those dissatisfied with the scheme. **ENS**

**Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority**  
(A Statutory body created by an Act of Parliament)  
(Ministry of Agri. & Farmers Welfare Govt. of India)  
NASA Complex, DPS Marg, Opp. Todapur, New Delhi-12

**Notice for the Extension of Last Date**

In continuation to the advertisement for Plant Genome Saviour Award, Reward and Recognitions for the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 which was published in different leading news papers of the country in March, 27, 2022 for inviting applications for Reward and Recognition from the Community and Individual Farmers. The last date for receiving the applications was 27th June, 2022. The Competent Authority of PPVFRA is pleased to extend the last date of receiving applications on or before 31st August, 2022.

(Umakant Dubey)  
Deputy Registrar

davp 01146/12/0004/2223

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**APPENDIX IV [See rule 8 (1)]**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Vistaar Financial Services Private Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 17-03-2022 calling upon the Borrower(s) Mr. Pratap Singh, RamSanehi, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. Anusiya & Ramroop Notice being Rs. 5105687/- (Fifty one Lakhs Five Thousand Six hundred Eighty seven rupees only) against Loan Account No.0216SBML01302 as on 16-03-2022 along with future interest and other charges etc till actual payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 17th day of June of the year 2022.

The Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Vistaar Financial Services Private Limited for an amount Rs. 51,05,687/- (Fifty one Lakhs Five Thousand Six hundred Eighty seven rupees only) as on 16-03-2022 along with future interest and other charges etc till actual payment.

The Borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

**Description of the Secured Asset:** All that piece and parcel of part of Land & Building on Khasra No. 150, Khata no. 29 Situated at Village Sarfabad, Pargana & Tehsil - Dadri, Gautam Buddh Nagar Uttarpradesh, Plot Measuring Area 100 Sq. Yards. East: Plot of Virendra, West: Rasta 10 feet wide, North: Plot of Nirdesh yadav, South: Plot of Bangali. Registration Details- Book No-1, Volume No -4095, pages no. 341-370 Doc/Serail No-1564, Dated-03/04/2014 with Sub Registrar- Noida 1st, Registered in the name of Ramsanehi & Pratap Singh.

Date: 17/06/2022  
Place: Noida, Uttarpradesh

Authorized Officer  
Vistaar Financial Services Private Limited

On the occasion of  
**World Music Day**  
Sangeet Natak Akademi  
National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama  
an Autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India

presents  
**ज्योतिर्गमय**  
**प्रतिगद्गलवापुः**  
A festival showcasing the talent of unsung performers

Inauguration  
**Shri G. Kishan Reddy**  
Hon'ble Union Minister For Culture, Tourism And Development Of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India

Closing Ceremony  
**Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal**  
Hon'ble Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Government of India

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- Exhibition & Workshop of Musical Instruments Making

From 21-25 June 2022 | 11 A.M. onwards

**You are cordially invited**

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## General Studies Foundation Course 2023

### DELHI : OFFLINE BATCHES

**Morning Batch**

**20<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**  
(11:30 AM - 2:30 PM)

**Morning Batch**

**22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2022**  
(8:00 AM - 11:00 AM)

**Evening Batch**

**27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**  
(6:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

### BHOPAL : OFFLINE BATCH

**27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022** (5:30 PM - 8:30 PM)

### LIVE-ONLINE BATCHES

**Evening Batch**

**30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022** (6:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

## Optional Foundation Course

### ▪ SOCIOLOGY

by Rajkumar Rai Sir

### ▪ MATHEMATICS

by Maneesh Singh Sir

### ▪ GEOGRAPHY

by Alok Ranjan Sir

### ▪ ANTHROPOLOGY

by Sudhir Kumar Sir

### Live-Online/Offline Batches

from **15<sup>th</sup> June, 2022** (2:30 PM - 5:30 PM)

### ▪ ECONOMICS by Vibhas Jha Sir

#### • Online Classes

(Recorded Sessions)  
from **15<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

#### • Offline/Live-Online Batch

Commencing from **10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2022**  
**Timing : 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

## Mains Advance Course (MAC) 2022

### • CURRENT ISSUES

by Vibhas Jha Sir, A.P. Singh Sir, Ruchika Ma'am, Ayaz Khan Sir, Ashish Kumar Sir and Niraj Kumar Sir

### • ESSAY SESSIONS by Ruchika Ma'am

### • ANSWER WRITING SESSIONS by a team of experts

Total 25 sessions of 3 hours each

• Duration : 1 Month • Mode : Offline/Live-Online

• Fee: ₹ 10,000 + GST

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**Batches from 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022** (6:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

## Mains Test Series (MTS) 2022

### MODE : OFFLINE/ONLINE

#### ➕ GENERAL STUDIES

(8 Tests) from **19<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

#### ➕ ESSAY

(5 Tests) from **20<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

#### ➕ OPTIONALS

(8 Tests) from **19<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

- Economics
- Geography
- Sociology
- Mathematics
- Anthropology
- Civil Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Engineering

## Optional Advance Course for CSE 2022

### ➕ ANTHROPOLOGY

by Sudhir Kumar Sir

(80 Hrs. Classes)

**Offline/Live-Online Batch**

from **16<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

### ➕ ECONOMICS

by Vibhas Jha Sir

(30 Hrs. Classes)

**Live-Online Batch**

from **16<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

## CSAT for CSE 2023

By **Manjul Tiwari Sir & Puneet Singh Sir**

**Regular offline batches commencing from 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

**Morning : 8:00 AM-11:00 AM**

**Noon : 11:30 AM-2:30 PM**

Classes 5-6 days in a week

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(Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday)

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**2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022** (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM)

**Fee : Rs. 25,000 + GST**

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M.P. Nagar, Bhopal - 462011 | **Ph :** 8827664612



## 4 THE CITY


**VACCINATIONS IN  
LAST 24 HOURS**  
**14,533**
**PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:** 241  
**OXYGEN SUPPORT** 62  
**VENTILATOR SUPPORT** 10

**DELHI TOTAL  
CASES**  
**19,23,149**

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
June 19	1,530	1,104	3	18,183
June 20	1,060	1,221	6	10,506
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,375*</b>	<b>18,91,536</b>	<b>26,238</b>	<b>3,88,87,014</b>

*\*Total active cases in Delhi*

	Total	Vacant
<b>HOSPITAL BEDS</b>	<b>9,491</b>	<b>9,291</b>
<b>ICU BEDS</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>2,066</b>

	June 19	June 20
<b>Cases</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

	Cases	Deaths
<b>GURGAON</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## BRIEFLY

**Satyendar Jain admitted to Lok Nayak**

**New Delhi:** Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain, currently being investigated in an alleged money laundering case by the ED, was rushed to Lok Nayak hospital at 11 am with low oxygen saturation. He is stable, according to sources.

**IIT-D station to be developed as multi-modal hub by PWD**

**New Delhi:** The PWD is planning to develop the space outside the IIT-Delhi Metro station into a multi-modal hub, said officials. "The IIT road sees heavy traffic during peak and non-peak hours. Several auto rickshaws and shared autos on the stretch also add to the congestion. So, the PWD has decided to use the vacant land under its jurisdiction, and develop it into a multi-modal hub with separate facilities for pedestrians, vehicles, and cyclists," said an official.

**Youth Cong workers held for 'obstructing train': Police**

**New Delhi:** 16 Youth Congress workers were arrested Monday for allegedly obstructing a train at Shivaji Bridge railway station during a protest against the Agniphath scheme and the interrogation of Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate.

**Man detained in JNU prof's abduction & assault case**

**New Delhi:** Days after an assistant professor of JNU was allegedly abducted, physically assaulted and robbed by a group of unknown men, police detained a man. "We are questioning him and looking for two more suspects," said a police officer.

**Man held for stealing 1,206 pairs of jeans**

**New Delhi:** A man has been arrested for allegedly stealing 1,206 pairs of jeans from a laundry workshop in Outer district's Baprola on June 13. Police said the accused, Sanjeev (22), allegedly committed the theft along with his brother who is absconding. **ENS**

**AMONG 3 ARRESTED FROM KUTCH**

# Key Moosewala shooter got weapons consignment from Pak, probe finds

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

PRIYAVRAT ALIAS Fauzi, the alleged main shooter in the murder of singer Sidhu Moosewala, received a consignment of weapons sent from Pakistan via drone, initial probe by the police has revealed. The consignment included eight grenades, an under-barrel grenade launcher, nine electric detonators and an AK-47. The weapons were a contingency plan in case they failed to shoot Moosewala.

Police said Priyavrat was hired by Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar in April and got Rs 4 lakh from him.

Sources in the Special Cell said the quality of all the recovered weapons suggests they were made abroad. The grenades are designed for use with grenade launchers that can be mounted on AK-47 assault rifles.

"Priyavrat, during questioning, said he was evading arrest in a murder case from Sonapat when one of his old associates, Monu Dagar, approached him. Dagar had been approached by Goldy after another contract killer supposed to target Moosewala, Sharukh, was arrested by the Delhi Police. Goldy spoke with Priyavrat via an app and offered a hefty amount to kill Moosewala. He assured him support in the form of other shooters, logistics and accommodation," a senior police officer said.

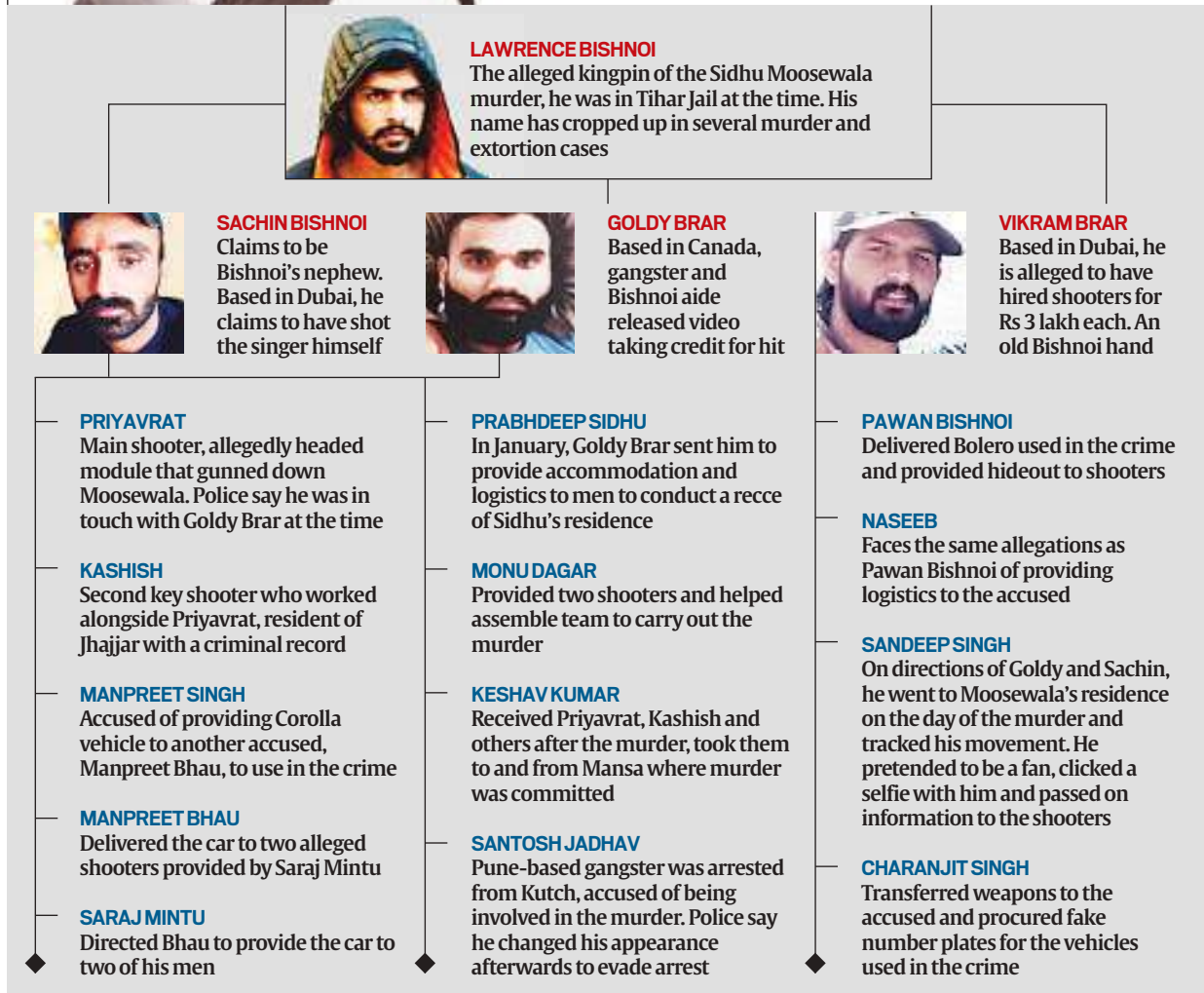
Police said Priyavrat attended an Army school in Pune, but eventually got addicted to drugs and got into the life of crime in Sonapat. He also told the police that he went to Punjab in the last week of April and stayed in a rented accommodation in a village for Rs 5,000 a month.

"He disclosed that they had deployed men outside Moosewala's house and were tracking his movements. His men



## THE MOOSEWALA MURDER WEB

Three key aides of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, working from Dubai and Canada, planned and orchestrated singer Sidhu Moosewala's murder, recruiting men from India who conducted recce for months. A look at the intricate network of gang leaders and members who carried out the hit



also interacted with the singer's security guards. He claimed that on May 27, Moosewala came out from his house in his SUV with-

out his security personnel, but the accused weren't prepared when the opportunity presented itself. His associate, Kashish, along with

his two others even followed the SUV, but Moosewala then headed to a courtroom and left in a different car," an officer said.

Moosewala was shot dead near Mansa on May 29. Since then, police in several states have made a spate of arrests.

## Capital set to get a new prison in Narela

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

LONG-PENDING plans to build a new prison in Narela have finally gained momentum with a 40-acre parcel of land being handed over to the prisons department.

There are three prisons in Delhi at present, Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini. Officials said the total capacity of the three complexes is 10,026 persons but 19,669 convicted and undertrial prisoners are housed in these at present.

Sources said Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, who is also the chairperson of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), ordered the authority to handover the land allotted for the jail on June 8 and report compliance in a week's time. The land parcel was

handed over on June 15.

The prisons department first paid the DDA Rs 7.79 crore in 2003, with a request to allot land to build another prison complex, officials said. Sources said the matter was pending since 2018 because of unsettled payments issues between the two departments.

"In 2018, DDA raised a revised demand for Rs 128 crore for land identified in Narela. The payment was made by prisons department in 2020. Subsequently, DDA raised the demand of Rs 29.88 crore as interest on delayed payment from July 2018 to March 2020. Meanwhile, DDA moved a proposal for relocation of already allotted land for the District Jail apart from District Court, Police Line and Police Training Institute. The L-G overruled this proposal for reallocation..." an official said.



## CRAWLING

At the Noida border, Monday. In view of the Bharat Bandh called against the Centre's Agniphath scheme, Delhi Police made special traffic arrangements in and around the city in anticipation of heavy traffic jams. Traffic congestion was reported on the Delhi-Noida Direct flyway (DND) side, Ashram and Badarpur border as well. On the Gurgaon side, commuters were stuck near Vasant Kunj and Vasant Vihar due to heavy traffic. *Gajendra Yadav*

# Rs 5,000 fine on vehicles plying without high security plate

**GAYATHRI MANI**  
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

VEHICLES IN Delhi found plying without High-Security Number Plates (HSRP) or with stickers pasted on number plates will be slapped with a fine of Rs 5,000, said officials from the transport department.

The department will start a special drive on Tuesday, as part of which enforcement officers will be deployed to check violations. Action will also be taken against dealers who supply unregistered vehicles, officials said.

According to officials, the HSRP was introduced in 2012-13 and was made mandatory for all new vehicles. In April 2019, the government made it mandatory for old vehicles in Delhi as well.

"The HSRP is very important as it helps in identifying stolen cars. Police have also cracked several criminal cases with just the plate. But the transport department has observed that several unregistered vehicles are plying without HSRP. To escape from police, they even paste stickers saying 'IND' on their number plate which is illegal. Also, there are many vehicles which have fancy numbers inscribed in regional languages. From tomorrow, if any unregistered vehicle is found plying on roads, we will issue a challan of Rs 5,000 under the drive," said a senior transport department official.

Similar action and fines will be imposed on vehicles not displaying registration marks, officials added.

## NCPCR seeks action on Pathak for 'using minors in bypoll campaign'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE NATIONAL Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked Delhi Police to take legal action against AAP's Rajinder Nagar bypoll candidate Durgesh Pathak over allegations that minors were roped in during campaigning.

In a letter from NCPCR registrar Anu Chaudhary to police, she said the commission has received a complaint from Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta. "A viral video... shows minor children being used for paid labour for distributing pamphlets, pasting posters, hanging banners and... participating in campaign rallies," it states. "... The Commission thereby requests you to investigate the matter urgently by lodging an FIR against accused person(s), at once. An ATR along with copy of FIR be shared with the Commission within 3 days of receipt of this letter," it adds.

NCPCR chairperson Priyanka Kanoongo has also written to the

Chief Election Commissioner saying that such an act is prima facie in contravention of the Model Code of Conduct and in violation of Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Child & Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Article 21 (Right to Life) & Article 23 (Right to protection from forced labour) of the Constitution of India, relevant Sections of Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Police said an FIR has been filed against unknown persons under section 75 of JJ Act and section 14 of the Child Labour Act.

Gupta, on Saturday, had demanded that the child rights body and the Election Commission take action against the "Aam Aadmi Party, which is using innocent children to campaign" for its candidate.

Pathak responded: "Who cares about future of children will be visible after seeing the condition of Delhi government schools and BJP-ruled MCD's schools. As far as the notice is concerned, we will reply to it..."

## Man accused of rape with intent to 'spread HIV'

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

DAYS AFTER a 25-year-old man was arrested for allegedly assaulting and raping an eight-year-old at her home in Southeast Delhi, police have found that the accused is HIV-positive and had deliberately tried to "spread" the disease.

The accused, a labourer, recently shifted to a rented accommodation where the minor lives with her mother. On June 14, the girl was alone at home when he targeted her. When her mother returned from work, she found bite marks on her body. They reported the matter to police and were sent to AIIMS for medical help.

DCP (Southeast) Esha Pandey had earlier said, "We were told the man shifted to the house 2-4 days before the incident. Using

technical surveillance, his location was traced to a relative's house in Palwal and he was arrested."

Medical tests showed he is HIV positive and police sources said he told them he was aware of this. Speaking to The Indian Express on Monday, the girl's mother said she might have to quit her job as she is worried about her daughter. "We don't know a lot, but the police said my daughter might be infected with AIDS... She doesn't step out anymore and cries all night. She doesn't want to stay alone anymore but I need to go out and earn. Nobody else will support us," she said.

The mother and daughter hail from Bihar and shifted to Delhi after the victim's father left a few years ago and married someone else. The woman said she plans to send her daughter back to Bihar.

**TO SCOUT, TRAIN TALENT FROM EARLY AGES**

# Admissions set to begin at Delhi govt's sports school

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE DELHI government is set to commence admissions to its fully co-educational residential 'sports school', equipped with training infrastructure and facilities for 10 Olympic sports, with the aim to "identify and nurture exemplary sports talent" from across the country.

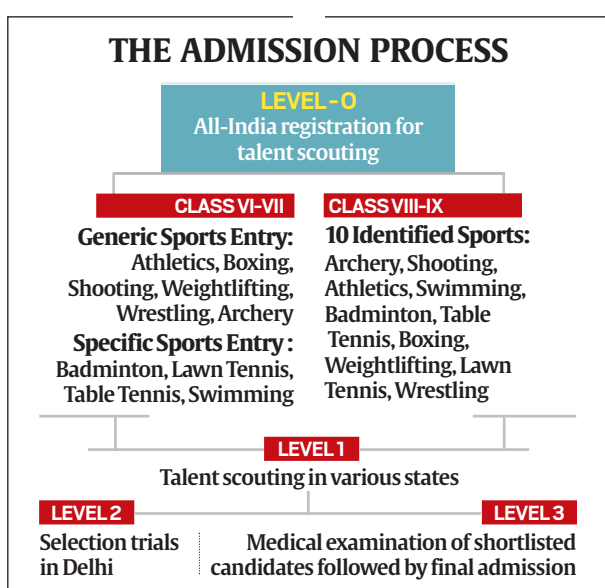
This Delhi Sports School will operate for classes VI to XII. It will be managed by the Delhi Sports University, which was established by a Bill passed in the state assembly in 2019, and will be affiliated with Delhi government's Delhi Board of Secondary Education.

There are 10 sports for which training will be provided in the

school: archery, athletics (track and field), badminton, boxing, lawn tennis, shooting, swimming, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. The school has been envisioned as a feeder school for the sports university to "scout and groom sporting talent from early ages to create a talent pool for the Delhi Sports University".

"Delhi Sports School will accept students from all over the country. Through this unique sports school, our government aims to identify exemplary sports talent... and nurture them. We will train students to become international sports champions and Olympians in future," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Admissions will begin with talent scouting in various states. According to officials, candidates



will first have to register on the school's online portal, after which a pre-screened list of students will be prepared based on 'merit'. These students will be called for talent scouting camps in their states where they will have to undergo tests for motor ability, speed, endurance and agility along with tests for their chosen sports. The next step in the admission process will be selection trials in Delhi, which will be followed by medical examinations of the shortlisted candidates.

Candidates for admission in classes VIII and IX will have to select their primary sport based on their professional performance records. However, candidates for classes VI and VII who have not performed professionally but have 'potential' can opt for any of

the remaining sports.

"Students will be trained under the guidance of specialised coaches and will be assessed continuously on sports training and performance... Apart from world-class sports coaching and facilities, the school will have a sports science centre and athlete monitoring system to enhance sports performance through scientific means... This holistic approach of creating an end-to-end sports ecosystem through sports science, world-class infrastructure, training and curriculum will also address mental health issues that sportspersons face while balancing their sporting careers and academic requirements in formal education systems," said Delhi Sports University Vice-Chancellor Kamam Malleshwari.



AGNIPATH SCHEME: REGISTRATION STARTS IN JULY

Army sets ball rolling, issues notification

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

EVEN AS protests against the government's Agnipath policy for recruitment in the armed forces are yet to die down completely, the Army took the lead among the services and issued its notification Monday for induction of soldiers under the recruitment scheme.

The mandatory online registration begins in July, according to the notification.

It said the service of soldiers, or Agniveers, "commence from the date of enrolment", and they will "form a distinct rank in the IA [Indian Army], different from any other existing ranks".

"With introduction of this Scheme, the enrolment of Soldiers in the regular cadre of [Indian Army], except technical cadres of Medical Branch, will be available only to those personnel who have completed their engagement period as Agniveer," the notification stated.

The basic eligibility criteria includes clearing class X with minimum 45 per cent aggregate marks for general duty; clearing class XII in Science with Physics, Chemistry, Maths and English with aggregate 50 per cent for technical units; and class VIII with aggregate 33 per cent to become eligible for Agniveer Tradesmen.

While the age limit will be 17-and-a-half years to 21 years, as announced last week, there will be a two-year relaxation in the upper age limit for this year, raising it to 23 year.

The notification said that "Leave, Uniform, Pay & Allowances during the service period of four years will be governed by orders and instructions in respect of such individuals issued" by the government. Agniveers will be "liable to be assigned any duty in organisational interest, as decided from time to time", and they can be "posted to any regiment/unit and can be further transferred in organisational interest", it stated.

After their four-year tenure, a "detailed" skill-set certificate

EXPLAINED  
Going full steam ahead

THE ARMY'S move to issue the notification for induction of soldiers under Agnipath signals that the government has no plans to roll back the short-service recruitment scheme and is keen to see that the first batch of Agniveers will be in training by the end of this year.

will be provided to the Agniveers, highlighting the skills and level of competence achieved "during their engagement period", the notification mentioned. It said a Class XII certificate or its equivalent will be given to those who had joined the Army after clearing Class X, "based on skills attained".

"Detailed instructions shall be issued separately," it added.

The Agniveers will be discharged after four years but based on organisational requirements, the notification said, those "completing their engagement period in each batch will be offered an opportunity to apply for enrolment in the regular cadre" of the Army, which will be "considered in a centralised manner by the Army based on an objective criteria, including performance during their engagement period".

It stated that "not more than 25% of each specific batch of Agniveers" will be enrolled in regular cadre of the Army after their four-year engagement period.

Those enrolled as regular cadres will serve for another 15 years. They will be paid between Rs 30,000 and Rs 40,000 — 30 per cent of this amount will be deposited under the Seva Nidhi package; the government will contribute the same amount each month. Agniveers will get this money, income tax-free, after completing their four-year tenure. Each Agniveer will also have a Rs 48 lakh insurance cover.



Army aspirants and farmers protest against the Agnipath recruitment scheme at Makroli toll plaza in Rohtak on Monday. Manoj Dhaka

State will recover damages from protesters: UP police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

UTTAR PRADESH Police on Monday said the state government will recover damages for the destruction caused to public and private properties by the protesters during the violent protest against the Centre's new military recruitment scheme — Agnipath.

"Recovery will be made from people who will be found involved in the violence," Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said here.

During the protests in 14 districts since Friday after the Centre unveiled the new recruitment scheme, youth protesters damaged trains, buses and vehicles and set them on fire at several places.

Several private and government properties were also damaged in stone-pelting, police said. Police have so far registered

49 FIRs, and arrested 525 people, with 145 booked for breach of peace.

Sources in the police said that they initially adopted a "lenient" approach towards the Agnipath protesters.

"The strategy was changed after anti-social and political elements got involved in the protests... We had to then take strict steps by registering FIRs and arresting the culprits," said a senior police officer.

Goa to reserve posts

Panaji: Goa CM Pramod Sawant on Monday said his government will reserve posts for Agniveers in its administration.

In a social media post, Sawant said he had informed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh "that Government of Goa has decided to provide reservation to 'Agniveers' in recruitment of state police, forest, fire & emergency services, prisons, health and electricity department."

Scheme illegal, must be quashed: PIL in top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

A PUBLIC Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in the Supreme Court Monday has challenged the 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment to armed forces.

The plea by Advocate M L Sharma sought quashing of the Jun 14, 2022 notification issued by the Defence Ministry claiming it is "illegal, unconstitutional and ultra vires to the Constitution of India, being also void in the interest of justice".

The plea said that by issuing the notification the government "contra to the constitutional provisions, without having approval in the Parliament and without any gazette notification... quashed century-old army selection process and imposed" the scheme. It also referred to protests against the scheme in different parts of the country.

Over 600 trains cancelled so far due to protests, says Railways

ANISHA DUTTA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE ONGOING protests against the Agneepath scheme has so far impacted 612 trains, with 602 of them cancelled and 10 partially cancelled, according to the Railways Ministry.

Among cancelled trains, 223 are mail and express trains and 379 are passengers trains. Four mail/express trains and six passenger trains were partially cancelled, it was informed.

The worst-affected zone has been the East Central Railways — headquartered at Hajipur, Bihar; it comprises Sonpur, Samastipur, Danapur, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, and Dhanbad railway divisions. Around 350 trains in this zone remain cancelled, including those that pass through it.

Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) cancelled at least 26 trains due to violent protests and floods at several places in Assam, an NFR official said. Many trains have been short-terminated, short-originated, diverted or rescheduled, the official added.

Besides the trains cancelled on Monday, another five have been cancelled for Tuesday, NFR chief public relations officer Sabyasachi De said.

Cong leaders meet President Kovind

Meanwhile, a delegation of senior Congress leaders Monday approached President Ram Nath Kovind and demanded the rollback of what they called a "poorly conceived" Agnipath scheme.

The Congress leaders also sought initiation of "breach of privilege" proceedings over the "vicious attack" of the Delhi Police on party MPs who were protesting against the EP's questioning of Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case.

Over 50% govt depts fail to report hiring of ex-Servicemen

Officials skipped top-level meet on job policy held by DG-Resettlement

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

MORE THAN half the Central government departments have not submitted details of ex-Servicemen (ESM) recruited by them, as also the reasons for the shortfall in filling these vacancies, according to records.

Neither did more than half the departments attend a top-level meeting called to monitor implementation of the Reservation Policy of ESM in Central civil services & posts (CCS&P), banks, Central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), scrutiny of official records reveal.

The records show that officials of 48 of 77 Central government departments (62 per cent) did not attend the June 2 meeting, chaired by Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare (ESW), to discuss "means to enhance the representation of ESM in Central Civil Services & Posts (CCS&P)".

The meeting called by the reservation monitoring cell of the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), under the Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare (ESW), of the Defence Ministry, was supposed to be attended by liaison officers appointed by various ministries/departments. The main aim of the meeting was monitoring the implementation of reservation policy of ESM in CCS&P, banks, CPSEs and CAPFs. The meeting, which took place at the South Block, was attended by ItSecy (ESW) Pudi Hari Prasad; Maj Gen Sharad Kapur; D-G (R); Cmde Atul Dewan, Principal Director (DGR); as well as liaison officers of various ministries.

Among those which did not attend the meeting are the departments of Commerce, Agricultural Research and Education, Atomic Energy, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Civil Aviation, Corporate Affairs,

Defence Civil, Public Enterprises, Road Transport and Highways, Law and Justice, Ports Shipping and Waterways, UPSC, etc.

During the meeting, the Secretary, Department of ESW, even drew participants' attention towards the absence of officials from several ministries/departments. He said the next meeting will be held with CCS&Ps that have "not nominated liaison officers till date, and liaison officers who have not attended any meeting" — whether virtual or physical.

The date of the next meeting was not specified.

While officials of nearly 60 per cent Central government departments did not attend the meeting, almost an equal number did not share information about vacancies for ex-Servicemen, and the number of ESMs recruited by them.

The record shows the reservation monitoring cell at DGR had circulated a 'format for half-yearly report' to all ministries and departments, seeking details about their total strength of personnel (both total and ESM); total number of direct recruitment vacancies in this period; total direct recruitment vacancies authorised for ESM; direct recruitment vacancies reserved for ESM; number of direct recruitment vacancies filled during the period—total and the ESM both; shortfall in filling vacancies of the ESM; overall strength and percentage (total and ESM); and reasons for shortfall in filling the vacancies of ESM.

Records show 45 of 77 departments did not share the information on hiring of ex-servicemen until May 15. These include departments of Atomic Energy, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Agriculture Research and Education, Food and Public Distribution and Corporate Affairs, and Ex-servicemen Welfare.

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www.indianexpress.com



ADVERTORIAL

Yoga for wellbeing

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, practising yoga from the comfort of our home will help us be optimistic, maintain a healthy lifestyle and strike a balance between our mental and physical health

NOT many of us are aware that mental and physical wellness are very closely related. Maintaining a balance between the two is the key to being holistically healthy. To achieve this, you need to adopt yoga as your mantra for life.

Yoga, an ancient Indian practice, has many interesting facets to it. One, it's a sport in itself. This is the reason behind the Union Government's decision to promote yoga as a competitive sport within the country to spread awareness about its benefits and spiritual background among the youth.

In fact, the National Yogasana Sports Federation of India (NYSFI) was recently established with the intention of preserving and developing yoga as a competitive sport.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country and the ensuing months of lockdown became a way of life for most of us, people began practising yoga at home, realising its many benefits to their overall well-being. With sports clubs, stadiums and gymnasiums closed, even athletes and sports icons turned to yoga to maintain their physical and mental health in these times of great distress.

A regular yoga practice can help in improving flexibility and reducing performance anxiety among sportspersons. Most athletes practise yoga on a regular basis to improve their performance. Practising yoga before a sports event helps the players achieve a mind-body connection and reduces their anxiety.

With deep faith in the power of yoga to restore the body's lost equilibrium, Prime Minister Narendra Modi first proposed the idea of an International Day of Yoga at the United Nations General



Assembly, on September 27 2014.

Recognising its universal appeal, the United Nations, on December 11, 2014, proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga by a 69/131 resolution. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise global awareness of the many benefits of practising yoga. International Yoga Day celebrations is celebrated in India, the USA, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, China, Australia, and Pakistan.

The theme for this year's International Yoga Day celebrations is "Yoga for Humanity". The theme was selected with the aim to activate and inspire the yoga community for sustainability and global development. In India, Mysore in Karnataka is all set to host the main event on June 21.

It is very important to practise yoga to maintain flexibility, inner strength and mind-body coordination to stay stress-free and healthy in these trying times.

Along with practising yoga, it is important to care for the body's nourishment. Consuming milk, one of the many superfoods, can provide many health benefits. It is also a very tasty drink. Therefore, our motto is "Swaad Bhi - Sehat Bhi".



A GLASS of milk is the beginning of a healthy day and we want to turn that good start into a healthy lifestyle. While milk lays a strong foundation for your fitness, yoga will build on it and make you stand strong all day, every day. Today, we are celebrating the 8th edition of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) with the theme "Yoga for Humanity". Ministry of AYUSH has chosen this theme to be organised in India and across the globe. Yoga is the best fitness regime for your body, heart and mind. It is the best therapy to keep your mind and body calm. Yoga will help you get through when you are suffering stress and anxiety. It is the practice for a healthy body, mind, soul and heart. So let's celebrate Yoga Day together with Param Dairy

"Swaad Bhi - Sehat Bhi".

NAMITA KUMAR  
Director, Param Dairy

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## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### WARM AND SWEET

POLITICAL SCENE may be volatile and acrimonious, but some still try to keep the relationship warm with the opponents. On Monday, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children Youth and Sports witnessed some emotional moments. With Monday being the last meeting under the chairmanship of BJP MP and senior leader Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, whose term as RS member ends on July 4, almost all members spoke appreciating the way he ran the committee and bid him a fond farewell. Sahasrabuddhe, who was for two consecutive years the Chairman of the committee, also was overwhelmed by the words of appreciation he received from the members, including those from the Opposition. BJP's Chandreshwar Prasad and Congress's T N Prathapan gave their appreciation in writing to Sahasrabuddhe. From the Congress's Akhilesh Prasad Singh to Communist member Bokash Ranjan Bhattacharya, YSRCP's Lavu Sri Krishna to BJD's Anubhav Mohanti, all spoke affectionately about their outgoing Chairman. To make the last day even more memorable, Sahasrabuddhe's wife Nayana served the Maharashtra delicacy of sweet Modaks as a token of thanksgiving for the members.

### EASTERN YOGA

UNION MINISTER for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju will lead the International Yoga Day programme on Tuesday at Dong in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district. From his home state, Rijiju chose Dong, the easternmost village in India close to the point where India, China and Myanmar meet. Dong experiences the first sunrise in India and is dubbed 'India's Land of the Rising Sun'.

### LEAD, MISS

AFTER TAKING lead in convening a joint meeting of the Opposition to pick a consensus Presidential candidate, West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee will skip the second round of discussions on Tuesday. TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee will represent TMC in the meeting, which has been convened by NCP chief Sharad Pawar. Over the last few days, Abhishek has been busy campaigning in Tripura, where bypolls will be held to four Assembly seats on June 23. The TMC officially maintains that Mamata will give Tuesday's meeting a miss due to prior engagements.

## Poll panel to delete 111 unrecognised political parties for flouting norms

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE ELECTION Commission on Monday decided to delete 111 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) from the register, as part of the poll panel's "graded action" against parties that flouted its rules.

The EC had deleted 87 RUPPs in May after announcing a clean-up drive against more than 2,100 such parties that it said had violated a string of rules by failing to furnish contribution reports or communicating changes to party-related information.

The poll panel has also sent a reference to the revenue department for necessary legal and

criminal action against three RUPPs that it said were involved in "serious financial impropriety".

There are 2,796 RUPPs, according to EC's data till September 2021, an increase of more than 300% since 2001.

According to the EC, during verification the RUPPs against whom action has been taken were found existing only on paper or letters sent to their addresses returned undelivered.

The EC has for long been seeking powers to deregister political parties. The poll panel has also been seeking modification to Form 24A to mandate disclosure of all donations above Rs 2,000 instead of the current Rs 20,000.

## Top Maoist, 2 other operatives killed in MP gunbattle: police

**IRAM SIDDIQUE**  
BHOPAL, JUNE 20

THREE MAOIST operatives, collectively carrying a reward of over Rs 57 lakh on their heads, were killed by Madhya Pradesh police in an encounter in Balaghat district on Monday morning, the police said.

The three were identified as Nagesh, alias Raju Tulavi (40), who carried a bounty of Rs 29 lakh on him, Manoj (25) and Rama (23). The latter carried a bounty of 14 lakh each on them.

The police said Nagesh was commander of Tanda area committee of Mafalling, under Gondia-Rajnangaon-Balaghat (GRB) area of Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh (MMC) corridor. Manoj and Rama were members of the area committee, they said.

The encounter comes months after Maharashtra police killed 26 Maoist operatives in MMC zone, where police say Maoists are trying to expand their base.

There are at least 13 cases registered against Nagesh in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. Rama, a resident of Sukma in Chhattisgarh, had 12 cases against her, while Manoj had three cases against him, according to the police.

According to police, they received information about presence of a few Maoist operatives on the hills of Kharadi village, about 70 km from district headquarters Balaghat. At around 5 am, a team of 50 personnel of Hawk Force — MP's elite combat unit — left for the village.

"The terrain is tough and as the team was searching, they spotted a training camp of Maoists. Suddenly, the security personnel were fired upon," a senior officer said.

The Hawk Force personnel responded with retaliatory fire, police said. Firing continued for about 45 minutes. Officers said at least 16 Maoists were present at the training camp, of whom three were killed.

According to police, during

### PRESIDENTIAL POLL: OPPOSITION STRUGGLES TO FIELD CANDIDATE

## Gopalkrishna Gandhi opts out, TMC may pitch Yashwant Sinha's name

**SOURAV ROY BARMAN**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE OPPOSITION'S elusive search for a "true custodian of the Constitution" ahead of the election for the next President has landed in troubled waters, with all three candidates proposed so far opting out.

On Monday, former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi became the third proposed face, besides NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, to decline the request of the joint Opposition.

By quitting the race just a day before the second round of discussions, convened by Pawar at Parliament Annexe, Gandhi made the task all the more difficult for the leaders. "Having considered the matter deeply, I see that the Opposition's candidate should be one who will generate a national consensus and a national atmosphere, besides



Gopalkrishna Gandhi



Yashwant Sinha

Opposition unity. I feel there will be others who will do this far better than I. And, so, I have requested the leaders to give the opportunity to such a person," Gandhi said in a written statement released to the media.

There were signs of a consensus developing around Gandhi's name, with even parties such as AAP hinting that it might be acceptable to them due to his illustrious career straddling the world of diplomacy and academia.

"The idea was also to focus on the fact that he is the Mahatma's grandson," one Opposition leader involved in the talks said. "In 75th year of Independence,

that would have sent out a powerful message, especially when the forces behind the murder of the Father of the Nation are more emboldened than ever before."

Even in 2017, the Opposition camp wanted to field Gandhi, but the NDA's decision to pick Ram Nath Kovind as its face had forced a rethink. Eventually former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar, also a Dalit like Kovind, was fielded by the Opposition. Gandhi fought unsuccessfully for the post of Vice President.

While TMC sources are now pitching the name of former Union minister Yashwant Sinha (84), as an alternative, the possi-

bility of any unanimity on the former BJP leader's name appears thin.

Sinha had served as Finance minister and External Affairs minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee cabinet. Initially seen as an L K Advani loyalist, Sinha fell out of the BJP patriarch's good books in the later years. He remained in BJP till 2018 when he quit, alleging that the country's democracy was facing a "threat" under the Narendra Modi government.

While Sinha's political past may come in the way of any Opposition consensus around his name, the overall poll maths, which is heavily stacked against the Opposition, is also emerging as an obstacle, with leaders refusing to enter a race headed for a seemingly predictable end — the victory of NDA's yet-to-be-declared candidate.

The NDA already has over 48 per cent of the vote share in the electoral college.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

### MAHARASHTRA

## Family of nine found dead, note suggests suicide pact due to debt

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
PUNE, JUNE 20

IN A suspected case of suicide pact, nine persons from a family — two brothers, their wives and children and their mother — were found dead in separate houses of the brothers in Mhaikal town of Sangli district on Monday afternoon. Police suspect the family members to have taken extreme step because of debt and a case for abetment of suicide was being registered against those to whom they owed money.

According to the police, the nine bodies were found around 1 pm on Monday at the residences of Manik Vanmore (49), a veterinarian, and his brother Popat Vanmore (52), a teacher. While six of the bodies were found in Manik's house, the other three were in Popat's house located nearly a kilometre away, officers said. Senior police officers in Sangli district rushed to the spot and a preliminary probe was launched.

Special Inspector General of Police (Kolhapur Range) Manojkumar Lohiya said, "Primary probe showed that there were no external injuries on any of the bodies. Poisoning due to consumption of some substance seems to have led to the death of all the nine persons."

DSP (Miraj division) Ashok Virkar said: "We have found what appears to be a suicide note. All the initial clues point to the deaths being the result of a suicide pact. The note mentions the names of the persons they owed money to. We are filing a case of abetment of suicide against these persons."

### HIMACHAL PRADESH



NDRF personnel rescue people stuck inside the cable cars in Parwanoo on Monday. Jaipal Singh

## 11 stranded mid-air in Himachal cable car rescued after six hours

**SAURABH PARASHAR**  
PARWANOO, JUNE 20

At least 16 people — 14 tourists and two attendants — were stuck midair when two cable cars developed a snag at Parwanoo Timber Trail in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district on Monday.

Eleven of them were rescued in an operation that lasted more than six hours. The others reached down safely on their own, officials said.

While one cable car carrying five couples from Delhi, a tourist and an attendant got jammed while coming down, another car stopped near the destination uphill. The latter had on board three youths and an attendant, who managed to use the winch to clamber down to safety.

Later in the day, the state police lodged an FIR against the management of Timber Trail resort management for rashly and negligently endangering human life or personal safety of others. The FIR was registered on the statement of Anand Goyal, one of the rescued tourists, under IPC Sections 336 and 283.

State Disaster Management director Sudesh Mokhta said the cable cars got stuck due to a technical snag, which was noticed around 10.30 am.

A similar scene was witnessed at the Timber Trail on October 13, 1992, when the haulage cable broke near the docking station and the cable car carrying 11 passengers slid backwards. In panic, the operator jumped off the car just as it began its slide and died.

On Monday's incident, Solan

SP Varinder Sharma said another cable trolley was used to rescue the people, and the operation was successful.

A team of National Disaster Response Force and the resort conducted the rescue operation. They brought the passengers to safety with the help of local residents.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who reached the spot to oversee the rescue operation, told the media that the incident would be probed to determine if there was any negligence on part of the firm running the trail.

The passengers claimed assistance arrived only when their video clips went viral. "We were stunned when the attendants told us that the only way to go down is the rope," Anita Garg, a rescued tourist from Delhi, said.

### LUCKNOW

## FIR registered after Dalit food delivery partner 'thrashed'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

A 25-YEAR-OLD Dalit delivery executive, who is employed by food aggregator app Zomato, was allegedly thrashed by a group while he was delivering an order at a house in Lucknow's Aashiana area on Saturday evening. The man, Vineet Kumar Rawat, alleged that the customer refused to take food from him after coming to know that he belonged to the Dalit community and also made casteist remarks against him, police said.

An FIR has been lodged against the customer — Ajay Singh — one Abhay Singh and 12 other unidentified persons at Aashiana police station. No arrests have been made in the case so far. The accused have been charged under various sections of the IPC. The police have also invoked the SC/ST Act against the accused.

## Cybersecurity linked to national security, India upgrading to take on threat: Shah

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

CYBERSECURITY is linked to national security, and with many countries having created their own "cyber armies", India is upgrading itself to deal with this threat, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday.

Shah also said many new dimensions of cyber fraud will be seen in the coming days and India will have to make many preparations to gear up to fully secure cyberspace.

Addressing the National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security at Vigyan Bhavan here, Shah said: "Cybersecurity is also linked with national security in a way. Those who do not want to see our country safe attempt various types of cyber-attacks — some nations have even created cyber armies. But the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is fully alert to deal with this and is upgrading itself to prevent such threats."



Amit Shah receives a memento from Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla in New Delhi on Monday. Prem Nath Pandey

Stating that "questions of privacy of citizens are already there", the Home Minister said: "We have to be more careful in the context of critical information security. Both data and information are going to become a huge economic force in the coming days, so we have to prepare ourselves for security of data and information."

According to the MHA, Shah informed the gathering that the



Rahul Gandhi, accompanied by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, arrives at the ED office in New Delhi on Monday. Abhinav Saha

## ED questions Rahul for 4th time, asks him to appear again today

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi was on Monday questioned for the fourth day by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the National Herald case. He had earlier been called on Friday but had sought exemption following which he was called on Monday.

Officials said the agency has summoned the Congress leader for questioning again on Tuesday.

Sources said Rahul arrived at the ED office around 11 am and was questioned till late in the evening. Sources said while the agency believes it may need to summon Rahul again on Tuesday, the Congress MP has been requesting the agency to finish the interrogations as early as possible as he needs to take care of his mother Sonia, who is suffering from Covid-19 infection. Sonia, too, has been called for questioning by the agency on June 23.

The ED had summoned Rahul last Monday and questioned him for three straight days. Sources said Rahul is being questioned about the ownership

of Young Indian (YI) by the Gandhi family and its shareholding in Associate Journals Limited (AJL), the company that runs the National Herald newspaper. He is being questioned about the circumstances under which AJL was acquired by Young Indian in 2010 for a "pittance" making it in turn the owner of all assets owned by the National Herald newspaper.

The ED case is based on a trial court order that allowed the Income Tax Department to probe the affairs of the National Herald newspaper 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 part of the Gandhis in acquiring the newspaper.

Swami had alleged that the Gandhis acquired properties owned by National Herald by buying the newspaper's erstwhile publishers, AJL, through an organisation called Young Indian in which they have 76 per cent stake. Sonia and Rahul were granted bail in the case by the trial court on December 19, 2015.

## 'Conman' Chandrasekhar's plea seeking transfer from Tihar Jail opposed by ED

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate has opposed alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar's plea to transfer him from the Tihar Jail due to threat to life and said he "is only making up an excuse to repeat his modus operandi in some other prison where officials would not be familiar with his antics".

In an application filed in the Supreme Court, which is set to hear his plea Tuesday, the ED narrated how he had been running his operations even while inside the Tihar Jail.

It pointed out: "The Tihar Jail has ensured that it would thwart any future possibility of misuse of jail facilities. For any new prison to put in place similar measures or even to come to terms with the sophisticated

means of con-manship by Chandrasekhar will take time and transferring the petitioners to any other prison would be hazardous as he is likely to repeat the same mischief and offences."

Denying his claim that there was a threat to his life, the ED said Chandrasekhar has "repeatedly committed offences, including that of money laundering, during his incarceration in the jail by subverting the legal system and prison rules with the help of his knowledge of technology and his abilities to con people".

During ED custody, Chandrasekhar "admitted that he impersonated as Law Secretary Anup Kumar... and Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla" and "admitted to collecting cash from Aditi Singh", wife of Shivinder Singh, former owner of Ranbaxy through co-accused Deepak Ramnani.

digital world. He said there has been a 231-per cent increase in internet connections in the last eight years and India's data cost per GB has come down by about 96 per cent, which is expected to come down further since data becomes cheaper as the number of users increases.

Shah emphasised that public awareness is of utmost importance to ensure cyber safety. "We should try to take cybersecurity to every part of the country," he said.

Pointing out that cyber crimes have increased over the years, Shah said that 3,377 such cases were reported in 2012, and the corresponding figure was 50,000 in 2020. While an average 136 cyber crime cases were registered every day in 2020, the number of cyber crimes per 1 lakh population also increased by 270 per cent in four years from 2016, when the figure was 1 — in 2020, it was 3.7 per 1 lakh population.

"This shows how big a challenge this is going to be in the coming times," Shah said.



Ensure adequate supply of fuel to Chhattisgarh: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
RAIPUR, JUNE 20

CHHATTISGARH CM Bhupesh Baghel wrote to the union ministry Sunday regarding shortage of petrol and diesel in the state and its impact on the agrarian economy. He requested the minister to provide a regular supply of the fuel to all petroleum company depots in Chhattisgarh.

Baghel wrote to Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri, apprising him of depleting buffer stock. He alerted the minister about ambulance services and agricultural activities getting affected due to shortage of fuel for the past couple of months.

"Since Chhattisgarh is an agrarian state and with the onset of monsoon, farming activities start here. But due to the unavailability of diesel in sufficient quantity, farmers are facing trouble. Even necessary services are getting affected," Baghel wrote.

The Chhattisgarh Petroleum Dealer Welfare Association informed the CM that there are 750 retail outlets of Messrs. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in Chhattisgarh is getting closed due to the fuel shortage. The review of petroleum companies has revealed that earlier, the buffer stock would last for 4-5 days, while for the past months it only lasted for one day, drying up the petrol pumps.

17,880 DIED IN FIRST HALF OF 2021: BMC DATA  
Mumbai sees 6-fold rise in monthly heart attacks

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY  
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

MUMBAI WITNESSED an over six-fold rise in monthly deaths related to heart attack in the first six months of 2021 compared to previous years. Between January and June 2021, as many as 3,000 people lost their lives to heart attacks every month in the city, compared to 500 in 2020.

According to data provided by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), a total of 5,849 patients lost their lives to heart attacks in Mumbai in 2019. This dropped by 3.6 per cent when 5,633 patients succumbed to the disease in 2020. But between January and June 2021, a total of 17,880 succumbed to heart attacks in the city — a surge of 217 per cent over the previous year, according to a reply to an RTI request filed by activist Chetan Kothari.

"Pre-pandemic, cancer was the biggest killer. But last year, although deaths due to cancer subsided, heart attacks surged significantly," said a civic official.

Dr Avinash Supe, in-charge of Covid-19 death committee, said there are three major reasons for the surge in deaths related to

HIGHEST MORTALITY				
DISEASE	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Heart attack	8,601	5,849	5,633	17,880
Cancer	10,073	9,958	8,576	6,861
Kidney failure	1,396	1,516	1,634	1,182
Covid-19	0	0	11,105	10,289
Tuberculosis	4,940	4,899	3,719	2,921
Head injury	1,021	1,000	760	545

Source: RTI response from BMC

\*(Jan-June)

heart attack — possibility of development of thrombosis among recovered Covid-19 patients, delay in diagnosis of patients during and better recording of data.

"Globally it has been witnessed that heart attack-related deaths increased during the pandemic, so it is not a new phenomenon that has only been observed in Mumbai. Secondly, since the start of the pandemic, medical practitioners are more conscious of segregation and bifurcation of types of deaths, so it has possibly helped maintain better data pertaining to heart attacks," said Supe.

It has been observed that SARS-Cov-2 injures the heart and blood vessels in infected patients, which leads to development of clots, heart inflammation, arrhythmias and heart failure. In August 2021, The Lancet reported that the risk of a first heart attack increased by three to eight times in week after a Covid-19 diagnosis.

Dr Kedar Todaskar, director of critical care at Wockhardt Hospital, said the data suggests that Covid-19 was a risk factor for thrombosis, not only arterial but venous thrombosis, which included deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary thromboembolism, too, apart from acute coronary syndromes.

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MAHARASHTRA MLC POLLS: SAFFRON PARTY WINS ALL 5 SEATS IT CONTESTED  
BJP sails through, MVA hit by cross-voting

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE  
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

INA major blow to the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance, the BJP Monday swept the state Legislative Council polls by getting all its five candidates — Pravin Darekar, Ram Shinde, Shrikant Bharatiya, Uma Khapre and Prasad Lad elected. On the other hand, the ruling alliance was left red-faced as Congress' Dalit face, Chandrakant Handore, lost out following cross-voting by around three MLAs each from Shiv Sena and Congress, and further more from its smaller alliance partners. This is the second consecutive loss for the ruling MVA in a matter of two weeks as the BJP

had, on June 10, managed to trump MVA in Rajya Sabha polls. The BJP, which had 106 votes in the Assembly, polled 133 votes. The additional 27 votes from other parties and Independents paved the way forward for its victory against MVA, which was more certain of achieving the numbers. The elections for the 10 Council seats had 11 candidates in fray. While BJP fielded five candidates, Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena fielded two candidates each. Within the MVA, the two NCP candidates won comfortably. Eknath Khadse (29 votes) and Ramraje Nimbaikar (27 votes) emerged victorious. The NCP, which has 51 MLAs, polled 56 votes. While Shiv Sena's two can-

didates — Amashya Padavi and Sachin Ahir — won the elections by polling the required quota of 26 votes each, the party was left fuming as they saw at least three of their MLAs indulging in cross-voting. Against its total strength of 55 votes, Shiv Sena managed to get only 52 votes, leaving three votes unaccounted for. The scenario in Congress was worse as none of its two candidates — Bhaji Jagtap and Chandrakant Handore — could get through in the first round despite having 44 MLAs. Against 44 votes, their two candidates polled 19 and 22 votes respectively in the first round — making a total of 41 votes. Though Jagtap finally managed to attain the requisite quota

during the counting in successive rounds, Handore managed to get only 22 votes. Opposition leader Devendra Fadnis, who had planned the BJP's strategy, said, "The electoral outcome has exposed the in-built conflict within the MVA. The cross-voting within Sena and Congress has shown their members no longer trust the party and government." "The BJP had only 106 votes but it got 133 votes. We got 27 additional votes," he emphasised, adding, "In Rajya Sabha polls, as against 106 votes, we got 123 votes. Now, our tally has been enhanced to 133 votes." Shortly after the results, Shiv Sena's celebrations were marred as their political managers learnt about their members' cross voting.

STATEMENT PART OF CBI'S CHARGESHEET AGAINST ANIL DESHMUKH  
CM, Aaditya pressured me to reinstate Waze: Param Bir

SADAF MODAK & MOHAMED THAYER  
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

FORMER MUMBAI police commissioner Param Bir Singh has alleged that it was Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aaditya, also a state cabinet minister, who 'pressured' him to reinstate suspended cop Sachin Waze. Singh's allegations are part of the 'corruption' chargesheet filed by the CBI against former state home minister Anil Deshmukh. Waze was later arrested by

the National Investigation Agency for being the alleged mastermind of the Antilia terror scare case, and subsequently dismissed from the force. In the CBI case, the central agency gave its no-objection to Waze being pardoned, following which he was made a witness for the CBI and dropped as an accused. The CBI filed a chargesheet earlier this month against Deshmukh and two of his staffers. Singh's statement is part of the chargesheet provided to the defence lawyers on Monday. The CBI, while questioning

Singh, asked him about the circumstances under which Waze had been reinstated by the Suspension Review Committee headed by him in June 2020. "The HM (Deshmukh) praised Waze after a press briefing pursuant to the recovery of masks and told me that Sachin Waze should be reinstated. This was around March 22-23, 2020. A few days later, Shri Suraj Chauhan, PA to Shri Aaditya Thackeray, came to meet me and he also pressured me to reinstate Shri Sachin Waze, saying that Shri Aaditya Thackeray wanted

it," Singh said in his statement. He claimed that he spoke on the phone to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who told him to reinstate Waze. "He (Chauhan) also asked me to call Shri Aaditya Thackeray and I called him on WhatsApp. Shri Aaditya Thackeray asked me to speak to the Chief Minister in this regard. I called on the phone of Shri Rajput, PSO of Shri Uddhav Thackeray, CM, again on WhatsApp. The PSO gave the phone to the CM and he (Thackeray) also asked me to reinstate Sachin Waze," said Singh.

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**

**(CO-ORDINATION BRANCH)**

**DELHI SECRETARIAT, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110 002**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Bye-election to 39-Rajinder Nagar Assembly Constituency, NCT of Delhi, on 23.06.2022 (Thursday) -Grant of paid to holiday to employees on the day of poll.**

It is notified for information of the General Public that as per the provision of Section 135 B(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1951, every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment and entitled to vote, shall be granted a holiday on **23.06.2022 (Thursday)**, the day of Poll for the bye-election to **39-Rajinder Nagar** Assembly Constituency in NCT of Delhi, so that he/she can cast his/her vote in the election.

As per sub-section (2) of section 135 B of the Representation of the People Act 1951, no deduction or abatement of the wages shall be made on account of above holiday and if any person is employed on the basis that he/she would not ordinarily receive wages for such a day, he/she shall nonetheless be paid wages he/ she would have drawn had not a holiday been granted to him/ her on that day.

Any contravention of the above provision by an employer is punishable as per the Provision of section 135 B (3) of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

However, as per sub-section (4) of section 135 B of the Representation of the People Act 1951, this section shall not apply to any elector whose absence may cause danger or substantial loss in respect of the employment in which he is engaged.

It is further brought to the notice of all concerned that Election Commission of India vide letter No. 78/EPS/2022 dated 07.06.2022 has clarified that above provisions required that all the electors who are employees of **establishments and shops** including those which work on shift basis shall be granted a paid holiday on the day of poll in the Constituency where the bye-election is to be held. Further, there may be cases where a person is ordinarily resident of the constituency and registered as an elector, may be serving/ employed in an industrial undertaking or an establishment located outside the constituency having a bye-election, in such a situation even those electors including casual worker working outside the constituency concerned would be entitled to the benefit of a paid holiday extended under section 135 B (1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The daily wage/casual workers are also entitled for a holiday and wages on poll day as provided in section 135 B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Sd/-


**(PRADEEP TAYAL)**

**DY. SECRETARY (GAD)**

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**Modi Govt and the Arab World**



**Navdeep Suri**  
Former Ambassador of India to UAE & Egypt

In conversation with



**Shubhajit Roy**  
Associate Editor  
The Indian Express

The Narendra Modi government has showcased India's excellent relations with the Arab world as one of the highlights of its foreign policy.

The Prime Minister has invested personally in relationships across the Arab world, visiting mosques and posting selfies with regional leaders.

It was, therefore, a blow to India as over a dozen Arab and Muslim countries protested the offensive remarks against the Prophet by BJP spokespersons.

Why is India's relationship with the Arab world so important? What are the business, strategic, and people-to-people links between India and the Arab world? How can stress in this relationship create problems for New Delhi?

Listen to Navdeep Singh Suri, former Ambassador to the UAE and Egypt, and one of the leading voices on India's diplomacy in the Middle East, answer some of these and related questions.

Ambassador Suri will be in conversation with Shubhajit Roy of The Indian Express

**24 June 2022 07:00 PM**

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Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India

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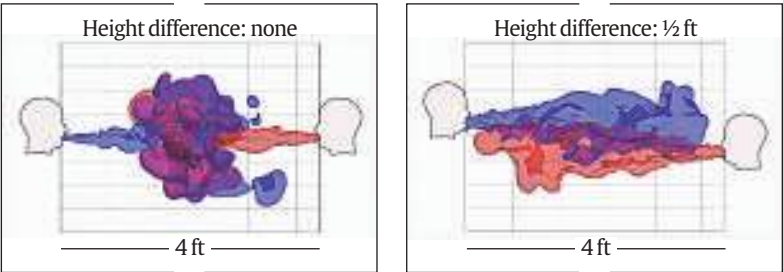


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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## The risk of Covid transmission when two people are talking



Interactions of speech jets during short conversations between two people separated by a distance of 4 feet. Rohit Singhal, Indian Institute of Science

WHEN A person infected with Covid talks to an uninfected person, what is the risk of the first person transmitting the virus to the second? Researchers have examined this question by carrying out computer simulations to analyse the movement of speech aerosols, and published their findings in the journal *Flow*.

The team included researchers from the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and collaborators from the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics in Stockholm, and the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences in Bengaluru.

For the simulations, the team visualised scenarios in which two maskless people are standing 2ft, 4t or 6 ft apart and talking to each other for about a minute, and then estimated the rate and extent of spread of speech aerosols. The simulations showed that the risk of getting infected was higher when one person acted as a passive listener and didn't engage in a two-way conversation. Factors like the height difference between the two people, and the quantity of aerosols released from their mouths, also appear to play an important role in viral

transmission, IISc said in a press release. For the analysis, the team modified a computer code (called Megha-5) they had originally developed to study the movement and behaviour of cumulus clouds. The analysis incorporated the possibility of viral entry through the eyes and mouth in determining the risk of infection, the release said, noting that most previous studies had only considered the nose as the point of entry.

When the speakers were either of the same height, or of drastically different heights (one tall and another short), the risk of infection was found to be much lower than when the height difference was moderate. Based on the results, the team suggests just turning their heads away by about 9° from each other while still maintaining eye contact can reduce the risk considerably.

Moving forward, the team plans to focus on simulating differences in the loudness of the speakers' voices and the presence of ventilation sources in their vicinity to see what effect they can have on viral transmission, the release said.

SOURCE: IISc



## THIS WORD MEANS BLACK SWAN EVENT

A rare, unpredictable event with a significant impact on society or the world; RBI has flagged the possibility of one.

A STUDY by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has spoken about the possibility of capital outflows to the tune of \$100 billion (around Rs 7,80,000 crore) from India in case of a major global risk scenario or a "black swan" event.

A black swan is a rare, unpredictable event that comes as a surprise and has a significant impact on society or the world. These events are said to have three distinguishing characteristics – they are extremely rare and outside the realm of regular expectations; they have a severe impact after they hit; and they seem probable in hindsight when plausible explanations appear.

**ORIGINS:** The black swan theory was put forward by author and investor Nassim Nicholas Taleb in 2001, and later popularised in his 2007 book – *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*. The *Sunday Times* described his work as one of the 12 most influential books since World War II.

Taleb does not try to lay out a method to predict such events, but instead stresses building "robustness" in systems and

strategies to deal with black swan occurrences and withstand their impact.

The term itself is linked to the discovery of black swans. Europeans believed all swans to be white until 1697, when a Dutch explorer spotted the first black swan in Australia. The metaphor 'black swan event' is derived from this unprecedented spotting from the 17th century, and how it upended the West's understanding of swans.

**PRECEDENTS:** Taleb's book predated the 2008 global financial crisis – a black swan event triggered by a sudden crash in the booming housing market in the US. The fall of the Soviet Union, the terrorist attack in the US on September 11, 2001, also fall in the same category.

Taleb does not agree with those who believe the Covid-19 pandemic to be a black swan event. In an interview to Bloomberg in 2020, he called it a "white swan", arguing that it was predictable, and there was no excuse for companies and governments not to be prepared for something like this.

SAURABH KAPOOR

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## Banning single-use plastic

The Centre has defined a list of single-use plastic items that will be banned from July 1. How much such plastic is released into the environment, what are the items chosen, and how will the ban be enforced?

ESHA ROY

NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE CENTRE has banned the use of 'single-use plastic' from July 1. The Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change had issued a gazette notification last year announcing the ban, and has now defined a list of items that will be banned from next month.

"The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022," says the Ministry notification.

### What is single-use plastic?

As the name suggests, it refers to plastic items that are used once and discarded. Single-use plastic has among the highest shares of plastic manufactured and used – from packaging of items, to bottles (shampoo, detergents, cosmetics), polythene bags, face masks, coffee cups, cling film, trash bags, food packaging etc.

A 2021 report by one of the Australian philanthropic organisations the Minderoo Foundation said single-use plastics account for a third of all plastic produced globally, with 98% manufactured from fossil fuels. Single-use plastic also accounts for the majority of plastic discarded – 130 million metric tonnes globally in 2019 – "all of which is burned, buried in landfills or discarded directly into the environment", the report said.

On the current trajectory of production, it has been projected that single-use plastic could account for 5-10% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The report found that India features in the top 100 countries of single-use plastic waste generation – at rank 94 (the top three being Singapore, Australia and Oman. With domestic production of 11.8 million metric tonnes annually, and import of 2.9 MMT, India's net generation of single-use plastic waste is 5.6 MMT, and per capita generation is 4 kg.

### What are the items being banned?

The items on which the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have announced a ban are earbuds; balloon sticks; candy and ice-cream sticks; cutlery items including plates,



Activists in Chandigarh clear a forest area of single-use plastic in May. Express

cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, trays; sweet boxes; invitation cards; cigarette packs; PVC banners measuring under 100 microns; and polystyrene for decoration.

The Ministry had already banned polythene bags under 75 microns in September 2021, expanding the limit from the earlier 50 microns. From December, the ban will be extended to polythene bags under 120 microns. Ministry officials have explained that the ban is being introduced in phases to give manufacturers time to shift to thicker polythene bags that are easier to recycle. While manufacturers can use the same machine for 50- and 75-micron bags, the machinery will need to be upgraded for 120 microns.

According to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, there is also a complete ban on sachets using plastic material for storing, packing or selling *guthka*, tobacco and *pan masala*.

### Why these items?

Ministry officials have said that the choice for the first set of single-use plastic items for the ban was based on "difficulty of collection, and therefore recycling".

"The enemy is not that plastic exists *per se*, but that plastic exists in the environment. When plastic remains in the environment for long periods of time and does not decay, it turns into microplastics – first entering our food sources and then the human body, and

this is extremely harmful. We have chosen these items as they are difficult to collect, especially since most are either small, or discarded directly into the environment – like ice-cream sticks. It then becomes difficult to collect for recycling, unlike the much larger items," said a Ministry official.

Satish Sinha of the environmental group Toxic Links described the items chosen as "low-hanging fruit". "Of the single-use plastic industry – the production and sale of these items is miniscule. The largest share of single-use plastic is that of packaging – with as much as 95% of single use belong to this category – from toothpaste to shaving cream to frozen foods. The items chosen are of low value and of low turnover and are unlikely to have a big economic impact, which could be a contributing reason. Having said that, we do need to start with something, and it is a beginning," said Sinha.

### How will the ban be enforced?

The ban will be monitored by the CPCB from the Centre, and by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) that will report to the Centre regularly. Directions have been issued at national, state and local levels – for example, to all petrochemical industries – to not supply raw materials to industries engaged in the banned items.

Directions have also been issued to SPCBs and Pollution Control Committees to modify

## How bird hits happen, why they are a concern

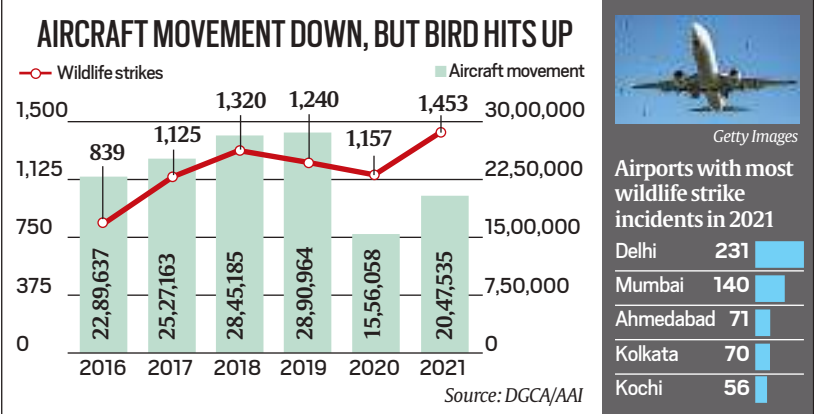
PRANAV MUKUL

NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

AT LEAST two bird strike incidents happened on Sunday. Both aircraft returned to their origin airports and were grounded for maintenance. An IndiGo A320neo aircraft, which took off from Guwahati towards Delhi, suffered damage to its left engine following a bird hit at 1,600 feet. The pilots returned to Guwahati. The other strike happened on a Spicejet flight from Patna to Delhi. The pilots of the Boeing 737-800 suspected a bird strike during the take-off roll but continued to climb. Following the take-off rotation, they were informed by the cabin crew of sparks emanating from the left engine. Subsequently, the pilots were also informed by air traffic control of smoke coming out of one of the engines. The pilots declared an emergency and returned to Patna.

### Why are bird strikes a concern?

Bird strikes are among the most common threats to aircraft safety, and they typically occur during take-off or landing. Dozens of bird strikes happen each day but some can be more dangerous than others. Typically, when birds collide with an aircraft's airframe, it is unlikely to cause significant problems for the pilots flying. But there are instances – like those on



Sunday – where the aircraft engine ingests the birds. This can lead to a loss of thrust for the engine and cause manoeuvrability problems for the crew. In these cases, where a jet engine ingests a bird, procedures would generally call for pilots to get the plane on the ground at the closest airport. While most airframe bird strikes are not considered critical to air safety, if a collision cracks a window or a windscreen, pilots will look to land as early as possible.

### How critical are bird strikes to air safety?

Smaller planes would generally be more

susceptible to the dangers of bird strikes than larger ones. Also, modern jetliners are built with a number of redundancies, and common passenger aircraft like Boeing 737 or Airbus A320 are designed to safely land with even a single engine.

However, given that bird strikes mostly happen during take-off and landing, these incidents could distract the pilots during what are highly critical phases of a flight that demand the complete attention of the crew.

### What causes bird strikes, and what are the

### ways to prevent these?

In the simplest of terms, the presence of birds around an airfield increases the chances of a bird strike. In the monsoon, as water puddles emerge on open grounds attracting insects to breed, these also increase the presence of birds. In some cases, bird hits also happen at higher altitudes when a plane is cruising. These are more dangerous than the low-altitude hits given that they can cause rapid depressurisation of cabins. Other reasons for bird activity around an airfield could be the presence of landfills or waste disposal sites that attract a large number of birds.

For example, in 2019, the Ahmedabad airport saw 11 wildlife strike events every 10,000 flights. One of the key reasons behind this was the dismantling of a large garbage dump that was located almost directly in the trajectory of flights approaching the airport, a move that has caused the birds circling the landfill to disperse.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the DGCA have recognised wildlife strikes, including bird and animal hits, to aircraft as one of the "State Safety Priority", and the aviation regulator regularly carries out aerodrome inspections that are considered critical with regard to wildlife strikes. Aviation authorities, along with local agencies, work on reducing wildlife presence around airports from time to time.

## How lightning kills, and which areas are the most prone to strikes

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS & AMITABH SINHA  
PUNE, JUNE 20

SEVENTEEN PEOPLE have been killed by lightning over the last two days in various parts of Bihar. Six deaths have been reported from Bhagalpur district, while three people were killed in Vaishali, and two each in Banka and Khagaria. Other deaths happened in Madhepura, Saharsa, Munger and Katihar.

Of all the atmospheric phenomena, lightning perhaps is the most dangerous and mysterious. In India, lightning kills about 2,000-2,500 people every year. Bihar is just one of the several hotspots for lightning in India, as a new atlas of lightning shows.

### What is lightning?

Scientifically, lightning is a rapid and massive discharge of electricity in the atmosphere some of which is directed towards earth. The discharges are generated

in giant moisture-bearing clouds that are 10-12 km tall. The base of these clouds typically lie within 1-2 km of the Earth's surface, while the top is 12-13 km away. Temperatures in the top of these clouds are in the range of -35° to -45° C.

As water vapour moves upward in the cloud, the falling temperature causes it to condense. As they move to temperatures below 0°C, the water droplets change into small ice crystals. They continue to move up, gathering mass until they are so heavy that they start to fall to Earth. This leads to a system in which, simultaneously, smaller ice crystals are moving up and bigger crystals are coming down.

Collisions follow and trigger the release of electrons, a process that is very similar to the generation of sparks of electricity. As the moving free electrons cause more collisions and more electrons, a chain reaction ensues. This process results in a situation in which the top layer of the cloud gets positively charged, while the middle layer is nega-

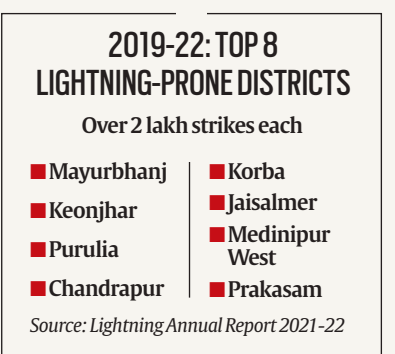
tively charged. The electrical potential difference between the two layers is huge, of the order of a billion to 10 billion volts. In very little time, a massive current, of the order of 100,000 to a million amperes, starts to flow between the layers.

While the Earth is a good conductor of electricity, it is electrically neutral. However, in comparison to the middle layer of the cloud, it becomes positively charged. As a result, about 15%-20% of the current gets directed towards the Earth as well. It is this flow of current that results in damage to life and property on Earth.

Direct lightning strikes are rare but even indirect strikes are fatal given the immense amount of charge involved.

### Which areas are lightning-prone?

A recently released annual report on lightning by the Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROPC), which works closely with government agencies like the India Meteorological Department,



includes a lightning atlas which maps vulnerability at the district level.

According to the report, Madhya Pradesh has reported the largest number of cloud to ground lightning strikes, followed by Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal. Other states with high strike rate include Bihar, UP, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.

Lightning is fairly common, though it is not often realised in the urban centres. In India, well over one crore lightning strikes have been recorded in recent years. It is only over the last few years that lightning records have begun to be maintained, thanks to the efforts of CROPC and India Meteorological Department.

In 2019-20, about 1.4 crore lightning strikes were recorded, which increased to 1.85 crore in 2020-21.

In 2021-22, about 1.49 crore strikes were recorded across the country. The reduction, in line with the trend observed globally, has been attributed to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The reason attributed to reduction in lightning is due to Covid-19 pandemic induced reduction in aerosol level, pollution, environmental upgradation and relatively stable weather system in Indian subcontinent," the annual lightning report said.

But most of this reduction was seen in the cloud-to-cloud lightning. Of the strikes

that reach the Earth, only a 2.5% reduction was observed.

### How can the effects of lightning strikes be mitigated?

Lightning is not classified as a natural disaster in India. But recent efforts have resulted in the setting up of an early warning system, that is already saving many lives. More than 96% of lightning deaths happen in rural areas. As such, most of the mitigation and public awareness programmes need to focus on these communities.

Lightning protection devices are fairly unsophisticated and low-cost. Yet, their deployment in the rural areas, as of now, is extremely low.

States are being encouraged to prepare and implement lightning action plans, on the lines of heat action plans. An international centre for excellence on lightning research to boost detection and early warning systems is also in the process of being set up.







# THE IDEAS PAGE



C R Sasikumar

## On jobs, the big picture

Data on employment paints a complex landscape. Government’s intent to add over a million jobs in the next 18 months is laudable, but the task is audacious and challenging



MADAN SABNAVIS

LET US LOOK at three reports that have appeared recently on the issue of jobs. The first pertains to start-ups that have begun issuing pink slips to their employees. The number given for this year so far is above 10,000 and more could be in the offing. The second pertains to the NSO survey which says that the unemployment rate in 2020-21 (July to June) was at 4.2 per cent, down from 4.8 per cent in 2019-20. This sounds good because it seems that even though start-ups are retrenching staff, somewhere in the country, opportunities are being created. And the third is the determination shown by the government in creating opportunities — it has assured the creation of one million jobs over the next one-and-a-half years. This may be optimistic, but if it does materialise, the employment landscape will change dramatically.

So what is the employment situation today in India? Ex-post, one can say that if jobs are being created on a progressive basis, there will be an increase in income generation, which in turn, should spur consumption. Therefore, if consumption picks up — this can be indicated by the growth in the consumer goods segments — then one can be confident of jobs being created. Here the picture may not be too assuring. Consumer durable goods have been registering negative or slightly positive growth for the last five years or so — this is a reflection of the purchasing power of the people that ultimately can be linked to job creation.

There has also been a lot of talk about start-ups with several companies having witnessed impressive listings, despite their profit and loss accounts being weak. It is one thing to say that these firms were able to ride the stock market boom post-Covid and have garnered resources. But those that are still dependent on funding from venture capital-

ists or PE funds have suffered a setback, with this channel drying up.

Interestingly, it is a well-known fact that, globally, 80-85 per cent of start-ups fold up in the first couple of years mainly due to non-viable models that fail the scaling-up challenge — when an enterprise that works at the micro-level does not survive as it expands. For this deep pockets are required and if funds are not forthcoming, it adds to the pressures on the firm. A fallout of this is retrenchment. Start-ups have been the flavour with several qualified engineering and management graduates who prefer to start their own ventures, especially in the fintech space. Therefore, while start-ups sound exciting, job creation at scale cannot be part of these experiments, unless there is an assured flow of funds.

The NSO data which talks of the unemployment rate coming down to 4.2 per cent in 2020-21 sounds like good news because it says that during the height of the pandemic there was a decline in the unemployment rate. But this does not seem in sync with those times when several people had lost their jobs and when migrants were forced to go back home with their workplaces closing down. In fact, the PLFS data does throw up some anomalies. From 2018-19 onwards, the unemployment rate has been coming down — from 6.1 per cent in 2017-18 to 5.8 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.8 per cent in 2019-20 and then to 4.2 per cent in 2020-21. But, during this phase, the GDP growth rate declined from 6.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 6.5 per cent and 3.7 per cent in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively, contracting thereafter by 6.6 per cent in 2020-21. Therefore, there does seem to be something amiss here as lower GDP growth is being associated with a decline in the unemployment rate which should be the other way. This is something that requires further examination given that CME’s unemployment rates have been between 7-10 per cent during the Covid period.

The government’s intention to hire one million employees is laudable. It will be a really big task given that presently the central government offices house around 3.45 million personnel as per the budget for 2022-23. Employing a million more will mean an addition of around 30 per cent to this num-

The NSO data which talks of the unemployment rate coming down to 4.2 per cent in 2020-21 may sound like good news because it says that during the height of the pandemic there was a decline in the unemployment rate. But this does not seem in sync with the times when several people had lost their jobs and the migrants were forced to go back home with their workplaces closing down. In fact, the PLFS data does throw up some anomalies.

ber. The questions that arise are the following: First, can this number be accomplished in this short period of time considering that there are fairly lengthy processes involved in hiring people to government departments? Second, hiring such a number is good for the country, but finding meaningful roles for them in various departments needs to be seriously examined. Interestingly, in 2012-13, the total employee strength was 3.41 million which came down to 3.18 million by 2020-21 as the government worked on reducing its flab significantly. It has increased in the last two years to 3.46 million. Quite clearly, plans need to be in place to provide work to this set of new employees. It is possible that the opportunities may go beyond the central government departments, perhaps in the realm of education, health and social welfare. But that would be outside the system.

The third issue that would have to be kept in mind is the increase in cost for the government. As per the budget for 2022-23, the average outgo per employee was around Rs 12.20 lakh. Assuming the new set earns half of the existing average, the additional cost would be at least Rs 60,000 crore. The salary outlay for the year was Rs 4.22 lakh crore. These provisions would have to be made in subsequent budgets. The other associated cost that has to be kept in mind relates to pension funds — this necessity builds up every year as employees retire periodically.

Therefore, the overall unemployment picture looks complex today. While officially, the rate is coming down, our experience during the pandemic doesn’t support such optimism. While the government’s intent to add over a million jobs in the next 18 months is laudable, the task is audacious and challenging from both an administrative and financial point of view. Lastly, the high hopes placed on startups to propel India have proved to be a dampener from the point of view of the stock market performance as well as employment. It has led to job destruction rather than creation. We may have to wait for the traditional route of economic growth to gradually create spaces for more jobs.

The writer is Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda and author of Lockdown or economic destruction. Views are personal



SARBANANDA SONOWAL

THE POST-COVID world faces several dilemmas. The rising tide of parochialism threatens to engulf humanity while depression, anxiety and innumerable physical and mental diseases have affected the well-being of people around the world. The World Health Organisation estimates that nearly 280 million people are suffering from depression.

In such a restive milieu, yoga can bring us together, help us to learn from each other’s experiences and address our shortcomings. In 2020, when the world was in the grip of the pandemic, researchers from the Harvard Medical School published an article, “Coping with coronavirus anxiety”. It highlighted how yoga and meditation can help one stay calm in an increasingly tense environment. Yoga helps in elevating the levels of a chemical called gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) which is associated with better mood and decreased anxiety. Researchers around the world agree that yoga therapies play a key role in improving the quality of life by significantly reducing symptoms linked to depression, boosting im-

## Yoga, post Covid

The ancient practice has a renewed relevance in present times

munity, improving cardiovascular functioning, and enhancing sleep patterns.

Ancient texts also elucidate the importance of yoga. In the second chapter of the *Bhagwat Gita*, Lord Krishna asks Arjuna to perform his duties without flinching as if he was in a state of yoga. Krishna seems to see yoga as a state of mindfulness under all circumstances. Yoga fundamentally means letting the virtues of godliness and spirituality permeate one’s mind — it’s about self-realisation and the ability to merge one’s mind with the soul. Buddhist Dhamma also talks about qualities such as patience, self-control, tolerance, and understanding — these, according to Dhamma, are qualities that make virtuous rulers. Yoga can help people constantly improve themselves.

A healthy mind forms the nucleus of a harmonious community. Yoga can not only help us improve our mental health but also help us become karma yogis; a community of karma yogis is one where every member performs his or her duty while maintaining equanimity

under all circumstances. Yoga can also spark creativity, which can, in turn, enhance one’s self-esteem and improve focus. A community of karma yogis could, therefore, help the world become a more peaceful place. In a sense, therefore, yoga has the potential to spark a revolution that lifts us out of our miseries.

Apart from healing the mind, yoga also heals the body. It helps in relieving back pain and easing the symptoms of arthritis. Yoga also helps in improving strength, balance, and flexibility.

India has already taken the first step in sowing the seeds for a peaceful community. The recently inaugurated Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat, is a collaboration between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Government of India. It seeks to deepen research in the field of traditional medicines and practices, including yoga. A Yoga Certification Board (YCB) has been established with the objectives of bringing synergy, quality, and uniformity in the knowledge and skills of yoga pro-

fessionals across the world. This dovetails with the vision and mission of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, under the Ministry of Ayush: “Health, harmony and happiness for all through yoga”.

Through the celebration of the International Day of Yoga 2022, the Ministry of Ayush aims to make the traditional practice of yoga go global. Such initiatives promote the sacredness of yoga cutting across the barriers of race, caste, religion, gender, and class. The promotion of yoga is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal number 3 of ensuring healthy lives.

Today, a peaceful self and a harmonious world appear to be difficult goals. However, by making conscious efforts toward self-improvement, we can contribute towards the collective good. Using yoga as a tool for self-improvement would be a step towards a calmer, more compassionate world.

The writer is Union minister for Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Last month, leaks by US officials revealed that the US helped Ukraine kill Russian generals, and Mr. Biden signed a \$40 billion aid package for Ukraine. At the very least, what the US is doing in Ukraine is not not war.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Rebuilding school, children first

Post-pandemic learning assessments must differ from those before it. They should be sensitive to children’s experiences during the crisis



DISHA NAWANI AND VIVEK KUMAR

A DEEP learning crisis has set in during the Covid pandemic. The National Achievement Survey (NAS) has captured a fall of nine percentage points between 2017 and 2021 in the performance of students in subjects ranging from maths to social science (IE, May 25). Since the absence of a formal, structured learning environment is being identified as the primary cause of this crisis, the learning loss seems to be more applicable to those children who do not have educational support at home and are constrained in other ways as well.

It is natural to expect any tool that assesses and quantifies the acquisition of formal learning skills among children will show gaps between what they should know and what they actually know. What is a bit perplexing, however, is that while the meanings of learning, pedagogy, and peer interaction have changed with the shift to the online mode, the assessment tools continue to be centred on the offline mode of instruction. Typically, curriculum, pedagogy and assessment go hand-in-hand and a change in any of these necessitates a change in the other two as well. That is not the case here.

The NAS is the first nationwide survey of quality education after the lockdown and extended closure of schools. Therefore, its results assume greater significance. School teachers have also been asked to assess students on a regular basis.

Now that the learning loss has been estimated, children with learning gaps have been identified and appropriate strategies framed for them, it is important to recognise the implications of labelling a section of children as “weak”. We also need to examine the impact of this kind of assessment on the meaning of learning. Labelling a child as “kamzor bachcha” impacts her self-worth and dignity. In the Kotra village in Rajasthan, for instance, where one of us works, it’s common to see a few children playing early morning while most others make their way to their support classes — a sense of shame on their downcast faces is obvious.

One has also seen children running in the opposite direction on seeing their teacher: “Maasahab aa rahein hain, bhaag. Mobile se kuch sawal pochenge aur phir ka-henge tum log ko kuch nahin aata hai” (The teacher is coming, let us run. He will ask a few questions from his mobile and say that you don’t know anything). Incidents such as these reflect how children have begun to view their teachers and what assessment means to them.

The more fundamental impact of such assessments is on the meaning they give to learning. Remedial programmes like bridge courses are based on an understanding of learning as an additive process, one that can be recovered by increasing either the con-

tent intake or the instruction time. Second, it also assumes that learning manifests itself easily irrespective of who is evaluating and under what circumstances, without bothering to understand how children relate to the assessment exercise. Third, it validates certain kinds of learning which takes place in the classroom and excludes all other experiences outside it. Without downplaying the importance of foundational skills of literacy and numeracy, one must admit that there is a risk of them being given disproportionate importance to the neglect of all other kinds of learning that seldom gets measured. Related to this is the narrative of poor children lacking basic foundational skills.

While the assessment survey focuses on what children do not know, it is also important to know what they may have experienced/acquired in this period. While the experience of each child may differ, one may not be wrong in generalising that each child may have gone through some amount of grief, uncertainty, fear of death, the pain of losing someone close, alienation from one’s friends and classmates. Some would have even faced poverty, hunger, dislocation and the resultant frustration. This also means that children may have also matured more, their needs would have changed and so would their expectations from school. It is also important to acknowledge the fact that just because children did not come to school, they did not stop learning. In Kotra, we observed that the last two years have also meant a little more time for children to be with friends, support their parents and learn from them, and explore local forests and areas in their village. All these experiences should be integral to the learning process. It becomes critical for schools to integrate elements of these into classrooms.

Rather than asking how to make children ready for school, a more valid question to ask perhaps would be how to make schools more responsive to children and their needs. Although the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) has been continuously lamenting the falling learning levels of school children since 2005, we will confine our discussion around the pandemic. Schools need to be prepared to offer and invite students to process grief through cultivating safe spaces to express and share their feelings and needs. Providing such spaces would be very critical in processing grief. This should be ingrained in school culture, and not be a one-off event and its effect on the overall growth of children should be observed. This will allow children to reclaim their spaces in the classroom. This practice is rooted in the child first approach.

Opportunities to build confidence in children must be created and students should be enabled to work in groups so that they can share their experiences with their peers. The well-being of teachers should be considered absolutely essential to the process. Thrusting them with responsibility unilaterally mandated by their seniors will not take us far. These measures will have a positive influence on the teacher-student relationship and help bridge the trust deficit that has been created by long school closures.

Nawani is with the School of Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Kumar is the CEO and Co-founder of Kshamtalaya in Kotra, Rajasthan

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WAY FORWARD

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Grim reminder’ (IE, June 20). Saturday’s incident is the latest targeted attack on a place of worship of a minority community in Afghanistan. This shows that the Taliban is not in full control. The Afghan economy has gone into a tailspin, hunger is acute, and women’s rights are disappearing. The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the deadly terror attack. Delhi must raise its voice in shaping the international debate on Afghanistan as well as revisit its Afghan policy.

SS Paul, Chalkdaha, Nadia

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Grim reminder’ (IE, June 20). The attack on a Gurdwara in Kabul will have long-term consequences. First of all, the global community will have to keep asking the Taliban regime to respect minority rights and provide them security. Secondly, threat of terrorism, which was an expected fallout after US’ withdrawal, looms large in the region. The complex nature of terrorism in Afghanistan is a grim reminder to stay vigilant. Presence of the Haqqani Network, Al-Qaeda, and Taliban has been complicated further by the prominent presence of ISIL-K. Finally, for New Delhi, this is a setback. Because we have started the process of reopening the Indian embassy in Kabul recently, and those efforts could be derailed by this attack. Having said that, along with

the global community, India should keep asking for accountability from the Taliban regime for the larger interest of the region. At the same time, we need to keep diplomatic channels open.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

### BOTTOM UP

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘In Arunachal district, women lead fight for drug-free community’ (IE, June 20). Kudos to all the women of this village who showed the courage to convince their husbands to enroll in a drug de-addiction centre. Former District Commissioner, Devansh Yadav, also needs to be applauded for his innovative solution to this age-old issue. A bottom up approach in a de-addiction programme is a good idea because it can be adopted on a larger scale progressively. We don’t become a drug-free society overnight. It requires a huge amount of will power and sustained efforts.

Bal Govind, Noida

### DOUBLE SPEAK

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The vishwaguru fantasy’ (IE, June 20). Bhagwat’s parallel narrative of “manavta” and “Hindutva” appears to be noble, but is simultaneously overlooking its denigration by bigotry from certain factions of the Sangh Parivar.

L R Murmu, New Delhi.



## TOP OF THE WORLD



Paul Haggis is under house arrest. AP

## ITALY

## Director Haggis held on sexual abuse charges

Rome: Oscar-winning Canadian screenwriter and director Paul Haggis is under house arrest in southern Italy on charges of sexual assault and aggravated personal injury, accusations that Haggis denies, his lawyers said on Monday. "Mr Paul Haggis was detained on Sunday with an emergency measure issued by the Brindisi prosecutors and is now under house arrest in Ostuni. He will be questioned by Thursday," his Italian lawyer Michele Laforgia said. Haggis was charged with forcing a young non-Italian woman to have sex against her will the course of two days in Ostuni, public prosecutors in Brindisi said on Sunday. **REUTERS**

## JAPAN

## Same-sex marriage ban not illegal: Court

Tokyo: A Japanese court ruled on Monday that a ban on same-sex marriage was not unconstitutional, dealing a setback to rights activists in the only Group of Seven nation that does not allow people of the same sex to marry. The ruling dashes activists' hopes of raising pressure on the central government to address the issue after a court in the city of Sapporo in March 2021 decided in favour of a claim that not allowing same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. **REUTERS**

## CHINA

## Intercepted a missile in flight, says Beijing

Beijing: China says it has successfully intercepted a missile in flight, in a test of an anti-ballistic missile system that could improve its defenses as it presses its territorial claims. A statement from the Defence Ministry late Sunday gave no details, but said the test was purely defensive and not aimed at any foreign nations. **AP**

## BELGIUM

## Congo national hero's tooth returned to kin

Brussels: Belgian authorities on Monday returned a gold-capped tooth belonging to the slain Congolese independence hero Patrice Lumumba. The restitution of the relic took place after Belgium's King Philippe this month expressed his "deepest regrets" for his nation's abuses in its African former colony, Congo. **AP**

## SAUDI ARABIA

## Travel curbs lifted for India

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia lifted coronavirus travel restrictions on Monday on its citizens travelling to Turkey, India, Ethiopia and Vietnam, state news agency SPA reported. Earlier this month, the kingdom lifted measures imposed to prevent the spread of the virus, including a requirement to wear face masks indoors. **REUTERS**

## PRIME MINISTER MEETS IMF TEAM

## 21st Amendment cleared by Lanka cabinet to trim President's power

Crisis-hit nation scrambling to get fuel shipments in next 3 days: Minister

PTI & REUTERS  
COLOMBO, JUNE 20

SRI LANKAN Cabinet on Monday approved the 21st Amendment to the Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president and it will now be tabled in Parliament soon, two senior ministers have said.

The 21st Amendment is expected to annul the 20A to the Constitution, which gives unfettered powers to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment that will strengthen Parliament.

"The 21 amendment was tabled and passed in cabinet today and will be tabled in @ParliamentLK soon. Like to thank @RW\_UNP and @wijerajapaksa for pushing it through," Minister of Tourism and Lands Harin Fernando tweeted.

The 21A aims, among other reforms, at barring dual citizens from contesting elections to hold public office. "Today the cabinet approved the 21A - this was the draft that I had discussed with all political parties and other organisations. This will now be sent to the legal draftsman,"



Demonstrators demand immediate release of protesters who were taken into police custody for obstructing an entrance to Presidential Secretariat. Reuters

Constitutional Affairs Minister Wijedasa Rajapaksa told PTI.

He said he was keen to make sure that the draft would not incorporate any provision which would be deemed as required to be approved at a national referendum by the Supreme Court.

The island nation of 22 million people is scrambling to get fuel shipments in the next three days, the energy minister told Reuters, as public disaffection grows because of a persistent shortage of diesel and petrol.

A nine-member IMF team, which arrived in the commercial

capital Colombo on Monday, held talks with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on how to structure what will be Sri Lanka's 17th loan programme with the global lender. "The prime minister commenced discussions with the IMF team," Wickremesinghe's office.

## Taliban release several British citizens held in Afghanistan

Islamabad: The Taliban have released several British citizens who were detained in Afghanistan after an agreement was reached between the two countries, Taliban and UK officials said Monday. The detainees were released Sunday following a series of meetings between Afghan and British officials, said Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Taliban government.

"A number of British nationals were released, who were arrested about six months ago for violating the laws and traditions of the Afghan people," he said.

Mujahid didn't say what laws the UK citizens had broken or elaborate on why they had been detained. The statement said all of them pledged to respect the laws of Afghanistan, the traditions and culture of the Afghan people and not to violate them again. **AP**



President Emmanuel Macron voting on Sunday in Le Touquet, France. NYT

promised to hound Macron and his administration relentlessly in parliament. Marine Le Pen said on Monday that her party's extraordinary surge in the country's parliamentary election is a "historic victory" and a "seismic event" in French politics.

Le Pen's National Rally got 89 seats in the 577-member parliament, up from a previous total of eight. On the other side, the leftist Nupes coalition, led by hardliner Jean-Luc Melenchon, won 131 seats to become the main opposition force. "Macron is a minority president now. (...) His retirement reform plan is buried," a beaming Le Pen declared on Monday in Hénin-Beaumont, her stronghold in northern France, where she was reelected for another five-year term in the parliament. "It's a historic victory (...) a seismic event."

## LE PEN CALLS IT HISTORIC VICTORY

## Macron camp seeks allies, says going to be complicated after losing majority

Both Right and Left gain in France election

REUTERS & AP  
PARIS, JUNE 20

PRESIDENT EMMANUEL Macron faced calls for his prime minister to resign on Monday and doubt hung over his ability to rule decisively after his camp lost parliamentary majority.

Macron's centrist camp is under pressure to secure support from rivals to salvage Macron's reform agenda after weekend elections delivered a hung parliament. If it fails, France could face a long spell of political paralysis.

The loss of his Ensemble alliance's absolute majority is a painful setback for Macron who won a second term just two months ago. "It's going to be complicated," government spokeswoman Olivia Gregoire told France Inter radio. "We're going to have to be creative."

Macron now needs either to form a wider coalition or accept leading a minority government that negotiates with opponents on a bill-by-bill basis. His only consolation: the opposition groups are themselves bitter rivals and in some cases riven by internal rifts. "Such a fragmented parliament will likely result in political deadlock, with a much slower reform agenda," said Philippe Gudin of Barclays.

The broad leftwing Nupes alliance of Jean-Luc Melenchon and Marine Le Pen's far-right

## Port of Odesa comes under attack as Russians advance in eastern Ukraine

REUTERS  
KYIV, JUNE 20

RUSSIAN FORCES captured territory along a frontline river in eastern Ukraine on Monday and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy predicted Moscow would escalate attacks ahead of a summit of European leaders expected to welcome Kyiv's bid to join the EU.

Moscow's separatist proxies claimed to have captured Toshkivka, a town on the mostly Ukrainian-held western bank of the Siverskyi Donets river, south of Sievierodonetsk, which has become the main battlefield city.



## COLOMBIA PICKS FIRST LEFT PRESIDENT

■ Leftist Gustavo Petro won Colombia's presidency, the first progressive to do so in the country's history. He beat Rodolfo Hernandez with a margin of 700,000 votes

■ Francia Marquez (right), a single mother and former housekeeper, will be Colombia's first Black woman vice-president after a historic vote on Sunday. AP

## 15-yr-old killed, 3 shot at in gunfire at US music fest

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy was killed and three adults, including a police officer, were shot when gunfire erupted Sunday night at an unauthorised music event in a Washington, neighbourhood, the authorities said.

Police had shut down the event, known as Moechella, a free street festival near the city's culturally storied corner of 14th and U Streets Northwest, after violence earlier in the evening. Chief Robert J Contee III of Metropolitan Police Department said late Sunday he wanted to ensure people would be held accountable for holding events without a permit. **NYT**

Gantz, head of a centrist party in the coalition. "But we will continue to function as a temporary government as much as possible," he said. A date for the snap parliamentary election was not announced, but Israeli media reported it was likely to take place in October. **REUTERS**

## As incidents of rape rise, Pak Punjab to impose 'emergency'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAHORE, JUNE 20

AUTHORITIES IN Pakistan's Punjab province have decided to declare an "emergency" following a spike in cases of sexual abuse against women and children, the media reported on Monday.

Punjab Home Minister Atta Tarar on Sunday said the administration was forced to "declare an emergency to deal with rape cases". The minister said the rapid increase in cases of sexual abuse against women and children in the province was a serious issue for the society and government officials.

"Four to five cases of rape are being reported daily in Punjab due to which the government is considering special measures to deal with cases of sexual harassment, abuse and coercion," the Dawn quoted the provincial minister as saying at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz headquarters.

The minister, in the presence of Law Minister Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, stressed that all cases will be reviewed by the Cabinet Committee on Rape and Law and Order, and that civil society.

Tarar also urged parents to teach their children about the importance of safety and that youngsters should not be left alone at home without supervision. The home minister also said the role of Punjab Forensic Science Agency would be improved for sampling of DNA on a fast track basis and a meeting with the lab authorities was scheduled for later Monday.

## EDITORS AT AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DICTIONARY CENTRE WORK TO DOCUMENT IT

## Buzz words: 'Hard yakka' of defining Australian English's many quirks

DAMIEN CAVE  
CANBERRA, JUNE 20

AMANDA LAUGESSEN scrolled through the spreadsheet of 7,000 words and idioms being considered for the next edition of the Australian National Dictionary, but no matter how hard she looked, she just could not find the phrase.

"Few bricks short of a pallet" was there. So was "face like a bucket of smashed crabs." But where was "face like a half-sucked mango"? Spinning quickly from the screen, she got up and walked down the hall to ask Mark Gwynn. They had been working together at the

Australian National Dictionary Centre in Canberra for more than a decade, and they had both seen phrases go missing in drafts of what a colleague had called their "herbarium of words."

Gwynn, a former poetry student, was also stumped by the disappearance. "Well, we know we've got 'face like a twisted sand shoe,'" he said, recalling similar entries in their database. "It's not under 'mango' or 'sucked'?"

Laugesen shook her head. The author of a book about Australia's penchant for off-colour language, with a doctorate in US history, she looked almost as mad as a cut snake. "This is the problem," she said, lamenting the lost mango insult.



An index card regarding 'mad as a cut snake' phrase in the archive room in Canberra, Australia. NYT

"Sometimes you get stuck."

Clearly, updating a dictionary of Australian English on a shoe-string budget is a special kind of hard work — or "hard yakka," for

those who speak the local language. The Australian National Dictionary includes only words and phrases that have originated in Australia, that have a greater cur-

rency in the country or that have a special significance in Australian history. And the process is a bit like panning for gold.

Sometimes the job requires sifting through the muck of politics, collecting Australianised phrases like "loose unit," which is how PM Scott Morrison described Anthony Albanese after Albanese made an economic proposal. Sometimes it means scanning Twitter or reading memoir after memoir, looking for phrases that have become valuable among Indigenous Australians, like "story custodian," or new communities of Australians — like "ABC," for Australian-born Chinese.

It can also mean paying close attention to how words change.

Australians have a long history of turning some abbreviations or seemingly innocuous phrases into slurs, based on race, gender or country of origin. And they also tend to shine up, or "ameliorate," others, taking "bloody" or "bastard" and making them part of the more commonly accepted vernacular, often long before Britain.

All of this work, the forensics of national dictionary research, is relatively new in Australia. The Oxford English Dictionary emerged gradually from 1884 to 1928. Noah Webster published "An American Dictionary of the English Language" in 1828. But the first serious look at the Australian language, by Sidney Baker, a New Zealander, came out in 1945. And

the first edition of the Australian National Dictionary hit libraries only in 1988.

Bruce Moore, a former medieval English scholar who was the director of the National Dictionary Centre from 1994 to 2011, noted that a lot of words and sayings that captured "Australian qualities" were looked down upon among educated elites.

Words like "battler" (a person who works doggedly and with little reward) or the admonition to never "dob in your mates" (inform on your friends) or "rot the system" (cheat or engage in fraud) were all there in Australian English, "but they were not recognised in the traditional 'public square,'" Moore said. **NYT**

## CAMBODIA

## WORLD'S LARGEST FRESHWATER FISH IN NET

The world's largest recorded freshwater fish, a giant stingray, has been caught in the Mekong River in Cambodia, as per scientists from the Southeast Asian nation and the US. The stingray, captured on June 13, measured almost four metres from snout to tail and weighed slightly under 300 kgs, said Wonders of the Mekong, a joint Cambodian-US research project.



## Change of guard in Israel: Bennett will make way for Lapid

ARI RABINOVITCH  
JERUSALEM, JUNE 20

ISRAELI LAWMAKERS will vote to dissolve Parliament, opening the way for the country's fifth election in three years, following weeks of pressure on Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's fragile ruling coalition.

Bennett will step aside to be replaced by Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, his partner in the unlikely coalition of opposites that ended former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's record 12-year rule 12 months ago.

Lapid, a former journalist who heads the largest party in the coalition, will serve as interim prime minister until new elections can be held.

"We are standing before you today in a moment that is not easy, but with the understanding we made the right decision for Israel," Bennett said in a televised statement as he stood alongside Lapid.

A vote will be held in Parliament next week, after which Lapid will take over the premiership, according to Bennett's spokesperson.

"I think the government did very good work over the past year. It's a shame the country has to be dragged into elections," said Defence Minister Benny



Yair Lapid is likely to take charge next week

## EXPLAINED A political lifeline to Netanyahu?

OPINION POLLS have forecast that Netanyahu's hardline Likud will once again emerge as the largest single party. But it remains unclear whether he would be able to muster the required support of a majority of lawmakers to form a new government. The dissolution threatened to overshadow a visit scheduled next month by President Joe Biden.



SECTOR WATCH  
AVIATION

## 4 'wildlife strikes' daily in 2021; DGCA writes to AAI, pvt operators

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

NEARLY FOUR "wildlife strike" incidents occurred every day near Indian airports last year, double from a little over two daily incidents in 2016, even as aircraft movement numbers for 2021 remained below the 2016 total, according to data sourced from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Airports Authority of India (AAI).

A "wildlife strike" means an aircraft either suffered a bird hit or was disrupted by an animal on the runway during take-off or landing. One landing or take-off is calculated as one aircraft movement.

Following two bird hit incidents on Sunday, which forced an IndiGo plane and a Spicejet aircraft to turn back to their airports of origin, India's aviation safety regulator has written to all airport operators, asking them to work on managing the threat of wildlife strikes to aircraft.

"We are all aware that during the monsoon season, wildlife (birds and animals) activity increases in and around airports. The presence of wildlife in the airport vicinity poses a serious threat to aircraft operational safety," the DGCA noted in its letter to the AAI and private airport operators on Monday.

According to official data, there were 1,453 suspected and confirmed wildlife strike incidents in 2021, up from 839 in 2016. In comparison, the number of aircraft movements was 20.47 lakh in 2021, down from

22.89 lakh in 2016.

The top five airports which reported most wildlife strike incidents in 2021 were Delhi (231), Mumbai (140), Ahmedabad (71), Kolkata (70) and Kochi (56).

"All airports are requested to review their wildlife hazard management plan for any gap and ensure strict implementation of strategies for wildlife hazard management within and also outside the airfield," the DGCA said in its letter.

On Sunday, an IndiGo A320neo aircraft's left engine got damaged after suffering a bird hit when it was at an altitude of 1,600 feet after take-off from the Guwahati airport. The pilots declared an emergency and returned to the airport.

A Delhi-bound Spicejet-operated Boeing 737-800 plane also had to make an emergency landing in Patna, minutes after take-off from there, after one of its engines suffered a bird hit.

The DGCA has asked airports to ensure that within the airport premises, grass is trimmed and insecticide is sprayed, in addition to conducting frequent runway inspection for bird activities and deploying bird chasers and bird-scaring devices. It has also asked airports to ensure regular garbage disposal in the operational area and to avoid water concentration and open drains. Airport operators have been asked to convene meetings of the Airport Environment Management Committee to discuss and review implementation of the measures to reduce bird hazard.

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

## BIHAR, KERALA, PUNJAB, RAJASTHAN, BENGAL HIGHLY STRESSED

## 5 states need to take steps to stabilise debt levels: RBI

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

BIHAR, KERALA, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal are the five highly stressed states after taking into account the warning signs flashing from all the indicators, a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study has said.

"We can identify a core subset of highly stressed states from among the 10 states identified by the necessary condition i.e., the debt/GSDP ratio. The highly stressed states are Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal," said the RBI study on state finances released last week.

It said Punjab is expected to remain in the worst position as its debt-GSDP ratio is projected to exceed 45 per cent in 2026-27, with further deterioration in its fiscal position. Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal are projected to exceed the debt-GSDP ratio of 35 per cent by 2026-27. These states will need to undertake significant cor-

EXPLAINED  
Limited room

COMMITTED EXPENDITURE, which inter alia includes interest payments, pensions and administrative expenses, accounts for a significant portion (over 35 per cent) of the total revenue expenditure in states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, leaving limited fiscal space for undertaking developmental expenditure.

rective steps to stabilise their debt levels. "Based on the debt-GSDP ratio in 2020-21, Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana turn out to be the

states with the highest debt burden," the study said. These 10 states account for around half of the total expenditure by all state governments in India, it said.

Among the 10 states, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Punjab exceeded both debt and fiscal deficit targets for 2020-21 set by the 15th Finance Commission (FC-XV). Kerala, Jharkhand and West Bengal exceeded the debt target, while Madhya Pradesh overshoot the fiscal deficit target. Haryana and Uttar Pradesh were exceptions as they met both criteria. Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal are projected to surpass the FC-XV targets for debt and fiscal deficit in 2022-23 (BE), it said.

It said the own tax revenue of some of these 10 states, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala, has been declining over time, making them fiscally more vulnerable. "For most of these states, non-tax revenue has remained volatile, dropping significantly in recent years. The decline

in non-tax revenue is under general services, interest receipts and economic services," the study said.

The share of revenue expenditure in total expenditure of these states varies in the range of 80-90 per cent. "Some states like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala spend around 90 per cent in revenue accounts. This results in poor expenditure quality, as reflected in their high revenue spending to capital outlay ratios," it said. Committed expenditure, which inter alia includes interest payments, pensions and administrative expenses, accounts for a significant portion (over 35 per cent) of the total revenue expenditure in states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, leaving limited fiscal space for undertaking developmental expenditure, it said. "Consequently, the share of developmental expenditure in these states is considerably lower than the other states."

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

## Trained youth for industry: India Inc leaders back Agnipath

Amid protests against the Agnipath defence recruitment scheme, India Inc on Monday rallied behind it, saying the scheme has a large potential to provide disciplined and trained workforce to the industry

Source: PTI, Twitter



"Agnipath .... will also make available a very disciplined & trained youth for industry, including Tata Group"

N CHANDRASEKARAN  
CHAIRMAN,  
TATA SONS



"The Mahindra Group welcomes the opportunity to recruit such trained, capable young people"

ANAND MAHINDRA  
CHAIRMAN,  
MAHINDRA GROUP



"Delighted with Agnipath scheme. Agniveers in armed forces will ensure right blend between youth & experience"

SANJIV MEHTA  
PRESIDENT,  
FICCI



"The RPG group too welcomes the opportunity to employ the Agniveers"

HARSH GOENKA  
CHAIRMAN,  
RPG  
ENTERPRISES



"Agniveers will have advantage in recruitment in industrial job market"

KIRAN  
MAZUMDAR-SHAW  
CHAIRPERSON,  
BIOCON



"No better place than our Armed Forces for training our youth"

SAJJAN JINDAL  
CHAIRMAN &  
MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
JSW GROUP

## ‘Vaccines: TRIPS waiver to help’

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said intellectual property rights (TRIPS) waiver for five years agreed in the recently concluded WTO meet will help developing countries manufacture patented Covid vaccines to deal with the pandemic.

Goyal said that India already has a number of Covid vaccines and can help other developing countries to make vaccines.

PIYUSH GOYAL  
Commerce Minister

File

"We have sufficient types of vaccines... So for the current strains of COVID-19, we do not need this TRIPS waiver. We have supported it more for the other developing countries to manufacture vaccines," he said.

Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) last week agreed to grant a temporary patent waiver for manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines for five years. PTI

## Cos ask govt to defer plastic straw ban deadline

New Delhi: Makers of small packaged fruit juices and dairy products like Parle Agro, Dabur and Mother Dairy are resorting to imported paper straws despite higher costs to continue selling their products as the deadline for implementing the ban on plastic straws from July 1 draws closer.

Manufacturers want the Centre to extend the implementation date of the ban till proper infrastructure is developed.

"There is no infrastructure at present in India to be able to produce the quantum of straws required for the industry," Parle Agro CEO Schauna Chauhan said. "We would urge the government to extend the implementation date of the ban till proper infrastructure for producing paper straws locally is developed."

Shahrukh Khan, executive director-operations, Dabur, said. PTI

## FINMIN'S MONTHLY ECONOMIC REVIEW

## ‘Slowing growth likely but low stagflation risk’

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

INDIA IS expected to witness slowing growth and faces an upside risk to the fiscal deficit owing to the recent excise duty cuts on fuel, but it has low risk of stagflation owing to prudent stabilisation policies, said the Department of Economic Affairs on Monday in its Monthly Economic Review for May 2022.

Maintaining growth momentum, restraining inflation, keeping the fiscal deficit within Budget and containing the current account deficit while maintaining a fair value of the Indian currency is the challenge for policymaking this financial year, the Finance Ministry report said.

"Going forward, global growth is expected to witness head-

winds with rising commodity prices, supply chain bottlenecks and faster than the projected withdrawal of monetary accommodation. Various international agencies have projected a slowing of global economic growth. India's economy is also expected to witness slowing growth, though still higher than the other emerging market economies."

FinMin, PSB heads meet

Meanwhile, as per PTI, the Finance Ministry held a meeting Monday with heads of public sector banks (PSBs) to review their annual performance and progress on schemes. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman could not attend due to some other engagement, but Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad chaired the meet. Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## BRIEFLY

## RIL, 2 others fined

New Delhi: Sebi levied fines of ₹30 lakh on RIL (Reliance Industries) and two individuals, Savithri Parekh and K Sethuraman, for not making prompt clarification to bourses on Jio-Facebook deal, which was disclosed via newspapers. The fine need to be paid jointly and severally by them within 45 days, according to a Sebi order.

## Vedanta, Sterlite

New Delhi: Vedanta put on sale its copper smelter plant in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, which was shut in 2018 after 13 people died in a police firing on protestors agitating against alleged pollution by the unit. Vedanta sought bids by July 4 for the unit with 400,000 tonnes a year output capacity. PTI

## Sebicirculars

Mumbai: Sebi said untaxed demat accounts of stock brokers need to be appropriately tagged by June-end. Credit of securities will not be allowed in any demat account left untaxed from July 1, but credits on account of corporate actions will be allowed, it said. It set up an advisory panel on hybrid securities, for recommendations to boost growth of such instruments. ENS

## EPFO base

New Delhi: EPFO added 17.08 lakh net new subscribers in April, 34% over 12.7 lakh enrolled a year ago. PTI

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Tender Enquiry No.	Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001422/22-23	Transitioning to Microsoft Q365	10.10 Crs/ 17,15,000	21.06.2022	12.07.2022:1630 Hrs 12.07.2022:1630 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website [www.tatapower-dcl.com](http://www.tatapower-dcl.com) → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents

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**सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर (छत्तीसगढ़)**  
(सैनिक स्कूल सोसायटी, रक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा संचालित)  
दूरभाष: 7747032999, E-mail: sainikschoollambikapur@rediffmail.com

**निविदा सूचना**

सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर, मेगडुक्कल, जिला- सरगुजा (छत्तीसगढ़) में निम्नलिखित सामग्री की आपूर्ति/सेवाओं के लिए पंजीकृत फर्मों या अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से निविदाएं निर्धारित प्रारूप पर आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्रमांक	विविध	प्रतिदिन राशि (रु.मात्र)	अनुमानित वार्षिक खर्ची
1	ताजी सब्जियां (Vegetables) की आपूर्ति	₹ 48,000.00	₹ 16 लाख
2	ताजे फलों (Fruits) की आपूर्ति	₹ 33,000.00	₹ 11 लाख
3	चिनि (Chicken) की आपूर्ति	₹ 21,000.00	₹ 07 लाख
4	दूध की जंघे (Dung) की आपूर्ति	₹ 12,000.00	₹ 04 लाख
5	दवाई (Medicine) की आपूर्ति होना	₹ 12,000.00	₹ 04 लाख
6	रेल व राप बेल्ट (Road & Bakery items) खपना	₹ 15,000.00	₹ 05 लाख
7	खिलौने (Toys) की सेवा	₹ 50,000.00	₹ 10 लाख

**GeM NAC ID : GEM/GARPTS/20062022/FOIM48516NIM**

निविदा फार्म अहस्तांतरणीय होंगे। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 21 जून 2022 से 12 जुलाई 2022 के मध्य सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर की वेबसाइट व केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक खरीद पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है। निविदा प्रपत्र केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक खरीद पोर्टल (CPP Portal) <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> एवं सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर की वेबसाइट [www.sainikschoollambikapur.org.in](http://www.sainikschoollambikapur.org.in) से भी डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। पूर्ण रूप से भरे हुए निर्धारित निविदा फार्म दिनांक 12 जुलाई 2022 सुबह 11.00 बजे या उससे पहले हाथों-हाथ या डाक के माध्यम से सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर में जमा किया जा सकता है। निविदा पेट्री सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर, मेगडुक्कल में दिनांक 12 जुलाई 2022 सुबह 11.30 बजे खोली जाएगी। डाक विभाग द्वारा किसी भी प्रकार की देरी के लिए सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर प्रशासन जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा। प्राचार्य, सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर के पास किसी भी निविदा को किसी भी स्तर पर स्थगित/रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

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**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-9**  
**COMMAND TANK NO. 4, SEC-20, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075**

**Press N.I.T. No. 23 (2022-23)/EE (T) M-9**

S. N.	Name of work	Amount put to Tender	EMD (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date / time receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Shifting of water line existing service at 13.50 meter road along SPG complex wall sector - 08 Dwarka under CT-1 Under Bijwasan AEE(M)-36 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_224454_1)	Rs. 56,66,632/-	Rs. 1,13,400/-	16.06.2022	29.06.2022 upto 3:00 PM
2.	Demolition and Re-construction of water and sewer store near Palam Flyover under EE(M)-37 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_224454_2)	Rs. 49,30,438/-	Rs. 98,700/-	16.06.2022	29.06.2022 upto 3:00 PM
3.	Improvement of sewerage system by P.L. 300mm dia sewer line in Braham puri area in Railway line side and 400 mm dia to Braham puri Centre road to Kallesh puri road connecting main sewer in Dabri ward in Dwarka Assembly Constituency under AEE(M)-33 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_224454_2)	Rs. 72,51,467/-	Rs. 1,45,100/-	16.06.2022	29.06.2022 upto 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on DJB Web Site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY PRO (WATER)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 197 (2022-23)

**STOP CORONA**  
Sd/- (Satish Kumar)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TM-9)

**"Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"**

## To recover ₹148-cr bad loans, banks to auction Great Indian Tamasha Co assets

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

IDBI BANK has put on sale properties of Great Indian Tamasha Company Ltd, which is the corporate guarantor of Great Indian Nautanki Company, to recover defaulted loans, or non-performing assets (NPAs), worth over Rs 148 crore taken from IDBI Bank, HDFC Bank and Bank of Baroda.

The immovable properties, which will be sold through an e-auction next month, are located in Kamataka's Kodagu district, according to a public notice issued by IDBI Bank. Great Indian Nautanki Company owes IDBI Bank Rs 86.48 crore, HDFC Bank Rs 6.26 crore and Bank of Baroda Rs 49.23 crore. "The dues of IDBI Bank outstanding as of May 1, 2022, stand at Rs 92.69 crore plus interest thereon with effect from May 2, 2022," the notice said.

The guarantors and directors of the company were Anumod Sharma, Anu Appaiah, Sanjay Choudhry, Viraf Sarkari, SG Investments, Great Indian Tamasha Company and Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt Ltd, the notice said.

"IDBI Bank invites bids/offers in sealed covers for sale of the property of Great Indian Tamasha Company (corporate guarantor of

## The immovable properties, to be sold via e-auction next month, are in Karnataka's Kodagu district

Great Indian Nautanki Company) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act," the lender said.

IDBI took possession of the property on May 20, 2022. The e-auction will take place on July 27, 2022, and the last date of submission of bids is July 22. The sale of the secured assets for which the reserve price has been fixed at Rs 11.53 crore will be on "as is where is basis", "as is what is basis", "whatever there is basis" and "no recourse basis" on behalf of the secured creditors.

Great Indian Nautanki Company was set up in September 2007 with a registered office in Delhi. Great Indian Tamasha Company, set up in January 2008, is classified as a non-government company. Anumod Sharma and Sanjay Choudhry are directors of both the companies.

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

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**E-mail- [ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com](mailto:ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com)**  
**Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 10 / 2022-23**

- The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE firm eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge works as detailed in the table below :
- Nature of work** : Road work
- No. of work** : 01 no.
- Tender cost** : Rs. 10,00,00
- Class of Contractor** : Super Class Contractor
- Available of bid document in the website** : From 10.00 AM of 22.06.2026 to 5.00 PM of 20.07.2022
- Pre-Bid meeting** : Dt. 29.06.2022 at 11.30 AM
- Date of opening of Bid** : Dt. 21.07.2022 at 11.30 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-  
**Chief Engineer**  
**World Bank Project, Odisha**  
OIPR-34003/11/0017/2223

**Reliance**  
Industrial Infrastructure Limited

Regd. Office: NKM International House, 5th Floor, 178 Backbay Reclamation, Behind LIC Yogakshema Building, Babubhai Chinal Road, Mumbai - 400 020  
Phone: +91-22-4477 9053 • Fax: +91-22-4477 9052 • E-mail: [investor\\_relations@ril.in](mailto:investor_relations@ril.in)  
CIN: L60300MH1988PLC049019

**NOTICE**

(for the attention of Equity Shareholders of the Company)

**Subj.: Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority**

This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended ("the Rules").

The Rules, amongst other matters, contain provisions for transfer of all shares, in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed for seven consecutive years or more, in the name of the Investor Education and Protection Fund ("IEPF") Authority.

Adhering to the various requirements set out in the Rules, the Company has, so far, transferred to IEPF Authority, on respective due dates, all shares in respect of which dividend(s) for the financial year 2013-14 or before had remained unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven consecutive years or more. The Company has, vide its letter dated June 16, 2022, communicated individually, the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority during the financial year 2022-23 for taking appropriate action.

The Company has uploaded full details of such shareholders and shares due for transfer to IEPF Authority on its website at [www.ril.in](http://www.ril.in). Shareholders are requested to refer to the web-link [https://www.ril.in/transfer\\_suspend\\_accountptf.html](https://www.ril.in/transfer_suspend_accountptf.html) to verify the details of uncashed dividends and the shares liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority.

Shareholders may note that both the unclaimed dividend and the shares transferred to IEPF Authority including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back by them from IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules.

The concerned shareholders, holding shares in physical form and whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority, may note that the Company would be issuing new share certificate(s) in lieu of the original share certificate(s) held by them for the purpose of dematerialisation and transfer of shares to IEPF Authority as per the Rules and upon such issue, the original certificate(s) which stands registered in their name will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable. The shareholders may further note that the details uploaded by the Company on its website shall be deemed to be adequate notice in respect of issue of new certificate(s) by the Company for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPF Authority pursuant to the Rules.

In case the Company does not receive any communication (claiming the unclaimed / uncashed dividend) from the concerned shareholders on or before October 16, 2022, the Company shall with a view to complying requirements set out in the Rules, dematerialise and transfer the shares to IEPF Authority by way of corporate action as per procedure stipulated in the Rules.

In case the shareholders have any queries on the subject matter and the Rules, they may contact Shri S. P. Venugopal, Vice President, KFin Technologies Limited, Company's Share Transfer Agent at Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032; Tel: +91-40-6716 1708; Fax: +91-40-6716 1680; Toll Free No.: 1800-309-8998 (From 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on all working days); Email: [rilnkm@kfintech.com](mailto:rilnkm@kfintech.com); Website: [www.kfintech.com](http://www.kfintech.com).

For Reliance Industrial Infrastructure Limited  
Sd/-  
**Shailesh Dholakia**  
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place : Mumbai  
Date : June 20, 2022

[www.ril.in](http://www.ril.in)



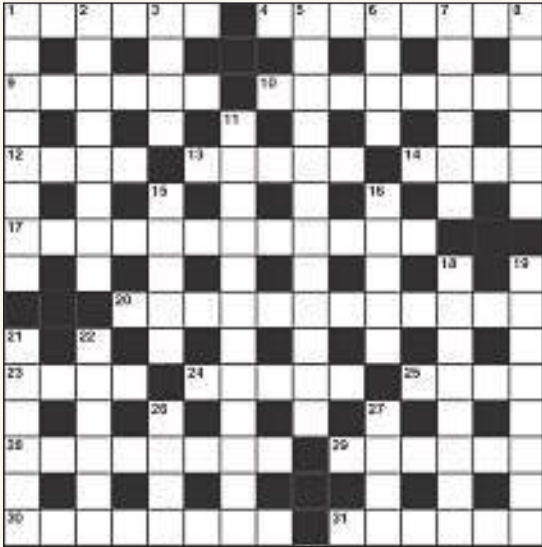








## CROSSWORD 4773



### ACROSS

1 How two auxiliary verbs act (6)  
4 Confiscates sea chest in shipwreck (8)  
9 Is able maybe to get down to rock bottom (6)  
10 Reg and Maria joined in wedlock (8)  
12 Give out the wrong time (4)  
13 Lives wildly producing social problems (5)  
14 Vehicle to move before take-off (4)  
17 An overdrawn account (12)  
20 He has a small life interest (12)  
23 Stops for refreshment in Nova Scotia (4)  
24 A girl worker coming back about one (5)  
25 Visitors to Sicily should see it before coming back (4)  
28 Private hint (8)  
29 It conceals the seamy side of our habits (6)  
30 Extensively used troops (8)  
31 Immediate credit provided (6)

### DOWN

1 Couple hired to form a band (8)  
2 All being well it should be empty (8)  
3 No good thinking too much of oneself (4)  
5 Embarrassed lady describing pagan Rome? (7,5)  
6 Drove in another direction (4)  
7 Fruit with the top off is still fruit (6)  
8 Observe attack and think it right (3,3)  
11 In a way I serve to tell practically nothing (4,2,6)  
15 He represents a male following (5)  
16 Pass on to a punctuation mark (5)  
18 Bitter criticism - I'd bear it somehow (8)  
19 Settled honestly (8)  
21 Letter bound to have shown sympathy (6)  
22 Conforming part of the body (6)  
26 Short of ammunition (4)  
27 It's heard to good effect if raised on greeting (2-2)

**Solutions Crossword 4772:** Across: 1 Quill, 4 Diesout, 8 Act, 9 Curiosity, 10 Emeriti, 11 Islet, 13 Spooks, 15 Season, 18 Media, 19 Synonym, 21 March hare, 23 Gas, 24 Secedes, 25 Sites. Down: 1 Quakers, 2 In the mood, 3 Licht, 4 Darwin, 5 Emotive, 6 Obi, 7 Tryst, 12 Last night, 14 Reached, 16 Nemesis, 17 Oscars, 18 Mumps, 20 Needs, 22 Roc.

## 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 are lots of people who mistake their \_\_\_\_ for their memory. - Josh Billings (11)

MRAAO



DETINT



LICHI



IOVGMIN

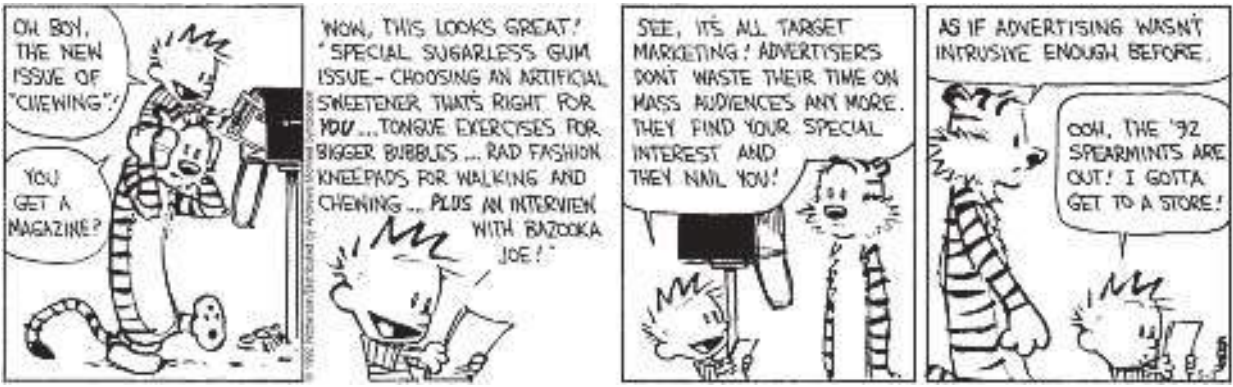


**SOLUTION:** AROMA, CHIT, TINTED, MOVING. Answer: There are lots of people who mistake their aroma for their memory. - Josh Billings.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## SUDOKU 4872

**Difficulty Level 5s**  
**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 4871



**CIPET: CSTS, Dehradun**  
Dehradun-248140 (Uttarakhand)  
Ph. : 0135-2695075, E-Mail : dehradun@cipet.gov.in

CIPET/Dehradun/Purchase/Tender/2022-23/Adv/L/01 Date: 21.06.2022  
**Tender for Supply & Installation of Uniformity of Emission Rate Apparatus for Emitting pipes as per IS 13488**

Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) a premier National Institution invites Tenders for Supply & Installation of Uniformity of Emission Rate Apparatus for Emitting pipes as per IS 13488. Interested parties may download the tender document from CIPET website www.cipet.gov.in and send their Bid (Technical & Financial) in the sealed cover on or before 04.07.2022 by 05.00 PM.

Deputy Director & In-charge reserves right to accept or reject Anyone/All Tenders without assigning any reason there of.

Deputy Director and In-charge  
☎ 0135-2695075 / 7457001355 🌐 www.cipet.gov.in

**DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-10**  
**TENDERING DIVISION (M)-10**  
**ROOM NO. 103, 1st FLOOR, ENGINEERS BHAWAN,**  
**NEAR MOOL CHAND CROSSING, ANDREWS GANJ, NEW DELHI-110049**  
Mail:- eetm10.djb@gmail.com, Mob. - 9650291341

S. No.	Name of Work	Reserve price	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e-procurement Solution
1	Improvement of sewerage system in L-Block of Lajpat Nagar-II under EE (M)-41 (AC-41 Jangpura)	2831030/-	2022_DJB_224491_1 17.06.2022	17.02.22 upto 2:00 PM
2	Improvement of sewerage system by providing new Sewerage line from (Rampul to Shiv Maudir Marg) in Lajpat Nagar under EE (M)-41 (AC-41 Jangpura)	3072542/-	2022_DJB_224491_1 17.06.2022	17.02.22 upto 2:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at [govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in](http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 195 (2022-23)  
Sd/- (B.N. Gupta)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TJM-10)  
**STOP CORONAVIRUS "WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"**

## Office of The Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Latehar E-procurement Short Tender Notice(SBD)

Tender Reference No- DWSD/LTR/SVS/CLTR-17/21-22 (5 <sup>th</sup> Call)					Dt- 20.06.2022		
SI No	Particular	Detail of Work					
	Name of Work	Detailed Survey Designing and Drawing Construction of 14597 nos FHTC in Different Block of Latehar Comprising of Suitable R.C.C. Frame, Structure ESR, Distribution Lines, Source (as Required) & 05 Year Oreation & Maintenance all Complete Job "on Turn Key Basis" under D. W & S Division Latehar For The Year 2021-22 under (JJM)					
	Group No	No of Panchayat	No Of FHTC	Estimated Cost (In Lakh)	Earnest Money (In Lakh)	Cost Of BOQ (In Rs)	Time of Completion
1	BRD/SVS/CLTR/07(B)(i)	4	2625	893.02	8.94	10000.00	09 month
	HRJ/SVS/CLTR/01(A)(i)	3	2443	942.37	9.43	10000.00	09 month
	CHN/SVS/CLTR/03(B)(ii)	4	2518	896.74	8.97	10000.00	09 month
	BAL/SVS/CLTR/04(B)(ii)	5	2738	904.42	9.04	10000.00	09 month
	MAH/SVS/CLTR/08(A)(i)	3	2059	688.43	6.89	10000.00	09 month
	MAH/SVS/CLTR/08(A)(ii)	2	2214	686.31	6.87	10000.00	09 month
2	Date of Tender Uploading in Website	24.06.2022 at 05.00 P.M					
3	Date of Starting Submission of Bid	24.06.2022 at 05.00 P.M					
4	Last Date of Submission of Bid	01.07.2022 upto 05.00 P.M					
5	Last Date Submission Cost of BOQ and EMD (Hard Copy)	02.07.2022 upto 05.00 P.M 1. Superintending Engineer D W & S Circle Medininagar. 2. Regional Chief Engineer D W & S Dept Jharkhand Ranchi. 3. Executive Engineer D W & S Div Latehar.					
6	Date of Opening Tender	03.07.2022 at 04.00 P.M					
7	Name & Address of Tender Opening Officer	Executive Engineer , D. W & S Division Latehar					
8	Name & Address of Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, D. W & S Division Latehar					
9	Contact No of Procurment Office	9430725642, 6201242103					
10	Contact No of Procurment cell	0651-2480342					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Estimated Cost &amp; EMD Cost May Be Changed.</li><li>• Further Details can be seen on website <a href="http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>.</li></ul>							
PR 271942 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 22-23 (D)				Executive Engineer D. W & S Division Latehar			

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER



ASI/EXE ISHWAR SINGH SHEP SALAL  
21-06-1995

### A TRIBUTE TO BRAVE HEART 21th June

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with the terrorists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noblest deed.

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system  
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. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	822210560	Sacubitril 24mg + Valsartan 26 mg	133600 Nos.	12.07.2022

Note:-1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details.. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.  
Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines Dated: 17.06.2022, 1497/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**CIPET: CSTS, Dehradun**  
Dehradun-248140 (Uttarakhand)  
Ph. : 0135-2695075, E-Mail : dehradun@cipet.gov.in

CIPET/Dehradun/Purchase/Tender/2022-23/Adv/L/02 Date: 21.06.2022  
**Tender for Supply & Installation of Uniformity of Emission Rate Apparatus for Online Emitters as per IS 13487**

Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) a premier National Institution invites Tenders for Supply & Installation of Uniformity of Emission Rate Apparatus for Online Emitters as per IS 13487. Interested parties may download the tender document from CIPET website www.cipet.gov.in and send their Bid (Technical & Financial) in the sealed cover on or before 04.07.2022 by 05.00 PM.

Deputy Director & In-charge reserves right to accept or reject Anyone/All Tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Deputy Director and In-charge  
☎ 0135-2695075 / 7457001355 🌐 www.cipet.gov.in

### "IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore consider that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

SR. 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 ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED, ROHTAK, A UNIT OF HDOCF LIMITED	HIRING OF MILK ROUTE VEHICLE	17.06.2022 24.06.2022	75000/- EACH	<a href="http://www.vitaindia.org.in">www.vitaindia.org.in</a>	vitarohtak@gmail.com

10453/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

## GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, PAKUR.

**Very Urgent E-Procurement Notice (3<sup>RD</sup> CALL)**  
**E-Tender Notice Reference no- 15/DWSD/PKR/2022-23 Dated : 20.06.2022**

1	Name of the Department	Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
2	Date of publication of Tender on Web site	20.06.2022/ 04.30 P.M
3	Date of Pre-bid Meeting	24.06.2022 at 12.30 PM in the Office of Engineer-in-Chief, D. W. & S Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi
4	Last date /Time for receipt of Bid	28.06.2022/ 05.00 PM
5	Last date /Time for receipt of E.M. Cost & B.O.Q. Cost	29.06.2022/02.00 PM (1) Office of the Executive Engineer, DW&S Division, Pakur . (2) Office of the Superintending Engineer, DW&S Dumka Circle, Dumka (3) Office of the Zonal Chief Engineer, DWSD, Dumka Zone, Dumka
6	Date of Opening of Tender	29.06.2022/ 05:00 P.M
7	Name & address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Pakur, Jharkhand.
8	Name & address of Opening Officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Division, Pakur.
9	Contact no. of Procurement office	9264195682
10	Helpline no. of e-procurement Cell	0651-2480345
11	Construction of Solar Based Mini Water Supply Scheme (SVS) in Amrapara Block, comprising of suitable R.C.C./Framed structure ESR, Distribution Lines, Source (as required) , FHTC & 5 years Operation and Maintenance all complete job in the Pakur District "On Turnkey Basis" Under DW&S Division, Pakur for the year 2022-23.	

Sl. No	Group No	Block	No of Panchayat	No of Village	No of Scheme	Estimated Cost (In Lac.)	Earnest money (In Lac.)	Cost of BOQ (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	SVS/CLUSTER-2	Amrapara	02	20	68	906.52886	9.07	10000.00	9 Months

- Estimated Cost & EMD Cost may vary.
- Further details can be seen on website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

**SAVE WATER FOR COMING GENERATIONS**  
PR271980 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 22-23\*D

Executive Engineer  
DW&S Division, Pakur

## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Discussions should be lively, not to say animated in the extreme. Also, for some reason which is not entirely clear, work develops an emotional dimension. It's almost as if colleagues function as a sort of surrogate family, with all that this implies.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

I know that many of you have been through an emotional mangle, but I hope that you see now that it was all worth it. You are not one to bear grudges, in spite of your stubborn reputation, so I hope that all sorry episodes and upsets will soon be forgotten.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Some astrologers will be forecasting personal tiffs this week, and I'd agree that these are very likely. However, I want to take your horoscope one stage further and suggest that you bide your time, bite your tongue and maintain a discreet silence.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

A number of revelations should have crept up on you over the past few weeks, and you may have a clearer realisation of who you are and where you're going. However, your new understanding is instinctive and therefore extremely difficult to put into words.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Do you now realise that you must stand up and be counted for who you are, not for the person others want you to be? Take a spot of astrological advice and be bold, creative and colourful. Why not take more pleasure in all that life has to offer?

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

When you stop thinking you know all the answers, you will begin to learn. Mercury, the planet of the mind, is now occupying a very strong position in your solar chart, urging you to think again. It will also raise emotional questions, especially in matters relating to your security.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Travel plans and communications are to the fore, but it won't be the end of the world if a few plans have to be delayed. In two weeks, and again in four weeks' time, you'll be able to bring your intentions to fruition, so don't expect the earth to move this week.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Somehow, your best efforts may begin to come adrift. You may hold things together by realising that you and you alone are responsible, and also by checking up on all financial angles and implications. But can you really afford it? That is the question.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

There's still a great deal of optimism around, but you must take care of first things first. This means dealing with money, making essential purchases, arranging vital investments or taking steps to raise your earnings. Take a look around yourself, there's someone who deserves to benefit from your generosity.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Symbolically speaking, the Moon is under your control. In plain language this means that family members and people you live with, must be at your beck and call. Play your cards right and you'll get anything you want out of almost anybody but, if you're waiting for a partner to do the right thing, then you might have a long wait.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

There will be fiddly loose ends to be tied up, mainly at work, but also in certain private affairs. It's time to consider other people, and a self-centred attitude may cost you support and sympathy. Romantic liaisons require an old-fashioned and self-controlled approach.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Hopefully you haven't been too off-hand with people in authority, such as employers. Verve and enthusiasm are required if you are to make the most of your very considerable advantages. Above all, make sure that every gain you've made is here to stay.

## नगर परिषद कार्यालय, उमरगा

ता.उमरगा जि.उस्मानाबाद

जा.क्र./नपड./४७९/२०२२

दिनांक : १४.०६.२०२२

### ई-निविदा सुचना (१३) ते (१६)/२०२२-२०२३

मुख्याधिकारी, नगरपरिषद उमरगा जि. उस्मानाबाद यांनी शासनाच्या विविध योजनां अंतर्गत उमरगा शहरात विविध कामांसाठी ई-निविदा मागवित आहेत. सदर कामांच्या ई-निविदा,ई-निविदा सुचना क्र. (१३),(१४), (१५) व (१६)/ २०२२ -२०२३ दिनांक १४.०६.२०२२ रोजी १४.३० वा पासून [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) संकेतस्थळावर प्रसिद्ध करण्यात आल्या आहेत.

मुख्याधिकारी, उमरगा न.प.

**Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**

**GURU BHARGHINI THERMAL PLANT, LEHRA MOHABAT**  
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.  
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PH2010SC033313. Website: [www.pseb.in](http://www.pseb.in)  
Phone: 0164-2763477 e-mail: [scb@pseb.com](mailto:scb@pseb.com)  
GSTIN: 03AACF73120Q1ZC

(Contact No. 96461-17659)  
Tender Enquiry No. 1399/O&M/PC-2311 Dated: 16.06.2022  
Chief Engineer/ O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Heating Elements (APH Baskets) for 2x250 MW Stage-II Units. Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 16.06.2022 17.00 hrs. onwards.  
NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

GHTP-28/22

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead Under Footover Bridge, In front of CNG Petrol Pump, Jasola, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi dated 02.06.2022. In this regard a DD No. 36A dated 02.06.2022 has been lodged in P.S. Sarita Vihar, Delhi.

The description of the dead body is given as under  
**Name:** Unkonwn, **S/o:**Unkonwn, **R/o-**Unkonwn, **Age:** 45 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing-**White Baniyan and Grey Pant.

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

SHO  
P.S. Sarita Vihar, Delhi  
DP/214/SE/2022 Ph. : 011-26825553, 26825554, 8750870921

**BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)  
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560 002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342  
E-mail: [director\\_bmcri@yahoo.co.in](mailto:director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in)

No: BMCRI/Sup(2)/02/2022-23 Dated: 20-06-2022

**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

e-Tenders are invited for the "Rate fixation for the Purchase of Computer, Laptop, Printer, Printer Cartridge, Scanner and Other Items" for BMCRI and its attached Hospitals.

Tender details, EMD details and other related details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the e-Procurement mode only. Website: <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Interested tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal, details of which can be viewed in the said website. 1) Commencement date for uploading of tenders: 20-06-2022. 2) Pre Bid Meeting: 27-06-2022 at 11.30 AM. 3) Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: 05-07-2022 before 4.30 PM. 4) Date of Opening of Tenders: 07-07-2022 at 11.30 AM. For further details contact Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore.

Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPRI/CP/999/Adverto/2022-23

**COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE**

Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene



BRIEFLY

India at full strength for CWG hockey

New Delhi: India on Monday named a full-strength 18-member senior men's hockey squad for the Commonwealth Games with Manpreet Singh returning as captain and dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh as his deputy. Hockey India (HI) had initially decided to send a second-string team to the CWG due to the short turnaround time between the Birmingham event and the Hangzhou Asian Games, which is a qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

**Team:** PR Sreejesh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak **DEFENDERS:** Varun Kumar, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh (VC), Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Jarmjanpreet Singh. Manpreet Singh (C), Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsheer Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Nilakanta Sharma;Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek.

India win two bronze in Asian cycling meet

New Delhi: India win two bronze on Day 3 of Asian cycling meet India enjoyed a successful outing at the Asian Track Cycling Championship with two bronze medals here on Monday. Ronaldo Singh bagged the country's first-ever international medal in the 1km time trial event. After three days, India has 20 medals in the kitty. World junior champion and Asian record holder Ronaldo pedalled the cycle with a speed of 58.254 km/hr and clocked 1:01.798s to come in the leaderboard. He won the bronze medal in the 1km time trial event of men's senior category. This was his and India's first-ever medal in this event.

Archer Deepika set for India comeback

Paris: Sidelined after the Tokyo Olympics debacle, star Indian archer Deepika Kumari is all set to make a India comeback in the upcoming Stage 3 of the World Cup beginning here on Tuesday. Exactly a year after she won an individual gold here in the same tournament last year, the 28-year-old world number three will look to redeem herself after failing to win a medal at the Tokyo Games. That the Olympics is slated in two years at the same venue will be an added motivation for Deepika .

Bengaluru FC signs Das for next season

Bengaluru: Bengaluru FC announced the signing of right-back Prabir Das from ATK Mohun Bagan on a three-year-deal set to run until the end of the 2024-25 season. Das, a product of the Pailan Arrows Youth Academy, brings with him the experience of having played for a number of clubs, and has won the Federation Cup and Indian Super League. "I am very happy at having signed for Bengaluru FC because this is a football club that I have admired for a while now."

— Agencies

Female, Male and ‘Open’

After swimming's international body (FINA) barred the participation of transgenders in the women's category, athletics and football are set to do the same. **Shashank Nair** on how FINA are thinking of introducing an 'Open' category to include trans-women.

THE INTERNATIONAL Swimming (FINA) voted against allowing transgender athletes to participate in female competitions – the exception being that the transgender athlete must have completed their transition before the age of 12.

The policy was voted upon by 274 members with 196 casting their votes in favour of it. The ruling only applies to elite competitions run by FINA. Athletics and FIFA were reported by BBC and British media, as two other major sporting bodies set to follow swimming's cue.

FINA President Husain Al-Musallam announced that a Working Group was being set up to create an 'open category' in some FINA competitions. On the 'open category' Musallam said, "The creation of an open category will mean that everybody has the opportunity to compete at an elite level." He then added, "This has not been done before, so FINA will need to lead the way."

Track and Field's IAAF boss Seb Coe later told BBC: "We see an international federation asserting its primacy in setting rules, regulations and policies that are in the best interest of its sport.

This is as it should be. We have always believed that biology trumps gender and we will continue to review our regulations in line with this. We will follow the science."

The move was also widely criticized by gender activists, on grounds of exclusion.

Why have these changes been made?

Transgender athletes in sports, particularly transgender women participating in women's competitions, are at the heart of this change. A transgender woman who has gone through male puberty and then later on transitioned into a female, has been shown in case studies to retain testosterone levels that lead to higher structural advantages in sport over cisgender (A person whose sense of identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex) women.

Ross Tucker, a sports scientist explained on his podcast, the Real Science of Sport that the effects of testosterone result in the development of a body post puberty differently for men and women. He said that according to at least 13 case studies, men who later transitioned to becoming women do not have the effects of testosterone completely removed because they transitioned to become a woman.

"In a number of physiological systems that are relevant to performance – muscle mass, muscle strength, body performance, body fat, heart and lung size – testosterone creates things that are never fully undone," said PHD Tucker on the Real Science of Sport podcast. He then added, "The difference between men and women for power, strength and muscle mass can be 30–40%. Testosterone suppression for a year can take away 5–10%. The result is quite a large retained advantage – and if you've retained biological advantage, then you've retained performance advantage."

What is the stance of the IOC and other major sport bodies?

It is the importance given to testosterone and the timing of when it affects a human body, that has divided world bodies to the extent that the International Olympic Committee and the International Swimming Federation have almost opposite policies on transgender athletes.

For example, World Athletics has said



After hormone therapy, Lia Thomas beat Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Emma Weyant.

THE TRANS QUESTION IN OTHER SPORTS

While FINA adopted their constitution to bar transgender athletes from participating in women's competitions, other sports saw athletes in both team and individual sport compete at the highest level and grapple with the tricky issue.

FOOTBALL

Canadian athlete Quinn won the gold medal in football when their team beat Sweden in the final of the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Quinn became the first ever transgender athlete to win a medal at the Olympics in the process.

WEIGHTLIFTING

In the women's +87kg weightlifting category, Laurel Hubbard created

history in becoming one of the first openly transgender athletes to take part in the Olympics. While she failed to register a lift, at 43-years-old, this probably would have been the last time that she participated in high level weightlifting – something that she insinuated when she said that age was catching up with her. Hubbard transitioned to a female aged 35.

SKATEBOARDING

In this new Olympic discipline, Allana Smith stood up and stood out. From Forth Worth, Texas, Smith came last at their event, the women's street but participating was the real prize for the 20-year-old. "I wanted to walk out of this knowing I UNAPOLOGETICALLY

was myself and was genuinely smiling," Smith wrote on Instagram

RUGBY

In October 2021, World Rugby became the first international sports governing body to institute a ban on transgender women competing in global competitions like the Olympics and the women's Rugby World Cup. The decision was deliberated for nine months at the end of which, World Rugby said that in a collision sport with multiple injuries, "safety and fairness cannot presently be assured for women competing against trans women in contact rugby."

— EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

that once transgender women reduce testosterone for 12 months, they should be allowed to compete in competition. USA Swimming dictates that trans athletes must undergo three years of hormone replacement therapy before they can be allowed to compete.

The IOC's trans-inclusion framework essentially gave the right to the leading bodies of sport to decide how they would incorporate their transgender athletes. It also said that sport bodies shouldn't automatically assume that trans women athletes were inherently more advantaged than cisgender women athletes nor that transgender

women shouldn't have to reduce their testosterone levels to compete. FINA called upon their medical, legal and athlete counsels to speak. Each counsel had a couple of delegates who spoke on why FINA came to the decision. And then the member organisations voted for this historic measure.

Why is Lia Thomas important here?

One could say Lia Thomas was the reason the world body of swimming took this measure. Thomas earlier competed in the male category in swimming for Penn State University and was part of their team for

three years. In 2019, she started undergoing hormone replacement therapy as per NCAA and Ivy League rules.

In 2022, after two years and six months of the therapy, she took part in the 500-yard NCAA Swimming Championship and came first, beating Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Emma Weyant. In March, Lia Thomas told *Sports Illustrated*: "The very simple answer is that I'm not a man. I'm a woman, so I belong on the women's team. Trans people deserve that same respect every other athlete gets."

Reka Gyorgy, who competed for Hungary in the 2016 Rio Olympics, complained about

missing out on her final race to the NCAA. According to the Guardian, she said that Thomas essentially took her spot and that it hurt her, her team and other women in the pool. Thomas said that she was looking to participate at the 2024 Paris Olympics and judging by her times, could probably have won medals for the USA. It is important to note, that before she transitioned to become a woman, Liz Thomas was an NCAA swimming athlete already.

Why are the words 'competitive fairness' so important in this decision of FINA?

The advantages of testosterone on Liz Thomas' body before she transitioned into becoming a woman had provided her with the ideal setup to be an elite athlete. This was despite the rules of NCAA with regards to hormone replacement therapy and a three-year gap. This is why competitive fairness is a term that was used at the Extraordinary Congress. It was the main reason why transgender women were barred from elite competitions unless their transition happened before the age of 12. The age of 12 however is not scientifically determinant and a random number because puberty doesn't happen to the human body at a set age. Transition also requires three stages – social, medical involving hormones and surgical.

"Which of these three do they mean? Should the patient have undergone surgery by that time, which is almost impossible," said Dr. Alireza Hamidian Jahromi, co-director of the Gender Affirmation Surgery Center in Philadelphia.

The issue of certification

"All athletes must certify their chromosomal sex with their Member Federation in order to be eligible for FINA competitions," read the latest ruling. Add to that the conundrum of how this certification will take place ("Member Federations must confirm their athletes' certifications of chromosomal sex when registering their athletes to compete in FINA competitions") and suddenly everyone has to prove their gender through their own federations and the chromosomal test on the lines of a doping test.

What is the 'other' category and what does it entail?

The second part of the FINA ruling was to, in the next six months, come up with an 'open category'. This would be the category that transgender athletes would be a part of. While scientifically there are many pros to this idea, including trans athletes being able to participate among each other – there are problems.

There is the problem of numbers. There simply aren't enough transgender elite athletes around. A Liz Thomas might essentially go through her entire life without ever competing in the Olympics because there aren't enough elite transgender women swimmers in the world. The ruling fails on this account.

It also fails on the issue of privacy where an athlete can decide their gender status without pressure. Tucker spoke about the flip side in a BBC. "There is still a lot of stigma attached to being trans and I'm not sure that trying to force or create a platform through sport would help overcome that. If anything, there might be certain barriers that are created," he said.

Pandit: High priest of Ranji coaching, messiah of underdogs

ABHISHEK PUROHIT  
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

"THERE SHOULD be some fear in the player, otherwise he will not do what he is supposed to do. And he knows that if he does not act according to the plan, he will have to face Sir's wrath," veteran Madhya Pradesh pacer Ishwar Pandey says.

Planning and discipline - that, essentially, is coach Chandrakant Pandit's philosophy. The former India wicketkeeper-batsman has guided another side not used to making summit clashes – Madhya Pradesh in this case – to their first Ranji Trophy final in 23 years. Having won back-to-back titles with then-unknowns Vidarbha three years ago, Pandit is now up against his 'home' team Mumbai, whom he coached to their last title in 2015-16.

Pandit is famed for his hard-taskmaster style, and painstakingly-prepared plans that brook little interference from either captain or bowler. During a Ranji semi-final against Karnataka, he had taken away the phones of the Vidarbha players, worried that they might keep checking them late into the night and lose focus. There are tales of him not being averse to slapping the odd player who broke a law he'd laid down. It is this aspect of his coaching that gets played up the most, but there is doubtless a method behind the remote control, and it has worked for years now.

"Both go hand in hand, the planning and

discipline," says former India and Mumbai all-rounder Abhishek Nayar, who played under Pandit's coaching. "All his plans require a certain amount of skill and discipline. He tries to incorporate certain life skills that will help players on the field. Ranji Trophy is a format in which each person can play a role. He understands and assigns roles to players very early in the season. But to fulfil those roles, be it playing a certain number of balls, or playing in a certain style, his ideology of discipline comes into play.

"It also goes hand in hand with the analytical work on what the opponents have done in the past and what they do now," Nayar adds. "He (Pandit) needs freedom to pick the kind of players he wants and then he gets the results that are desired by the association."

Both Vidarbha Cricket Association and now the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association have given Pandit the leeway to run a tight ship, and have reaped benefits.

"Chandu developed the entire strategy and planned the practice sessions," former India opener Wasim Jaffer, who was part of the victorious Vidarbha side, had told this correspondent once. "He gave everyone confidence. Kisiko pyaar se samjhaana, kisiko daantke samjhaana [Convince some with love, some with scolding].

"That is the role of the coach. It is nothing new for him, he has been doing it for so many years. And Vidarbha needed somebody like that," Jaffer had said. "Today's youngsters need



Planning and discipline - that, essentially, is coach Pandit's philosophy.

someone to pull them out of their comfort zone and he did that to a great extent, without a doubt."

Tough act to follow

It is a tight rope some other domestic coaches have tried to walk, unsuccessfully. Push too hard, and one can lose the respect of the dressing room. Nayar does not see that happening with Pandit. "Because he takes responsibility for his actions and does not blame the player when things go wrong," Nayar says.

"If you follow him blindly and fail, most likely he will take responsibility. That gives a player security. And when you keep playing finals, you obviously grow as a player."

Pandey, who took 11 wickets at an average of 20 until he got injured before the knockouts, was one who benefited from following Pandit's instructions. Into his 12th year of first-class cricket, Pandey says he enjoyed the "very different experience" from what he's had till then in his career.

"He is excellent at reading players. He'll as-

sess the strong and weak points of an opposition batsman and then make us bowl accordingly. So it becomes easier for us, and we don't have to try too hard to make things happen," Pandey says.

Of course, there is to be no swaying on the field from the path set by Pandit, unless he himself sends in a word asking for a change in tactics.

"The planning is done in front of everyone and the team follows it, ki bhai ye karna hai aur kaam khatam [we have to do this, and nothing else]. It is not like the bowler will do what is in his mind and the captain will be thinking about something else," Pandey explains. "Like if you have to keep a fielder at a certain position, you have to. It may take some time to get the result, but the process has to be gone through. If it doesn't work, he'll send in a message with another plan."

The downside to this micromanagement approach is that those who are used to thinking and expressing their thoughts might find it hard to fit in. And those who become used to being fed plans may never start thinking on their feet. "There are many players who also operate at their best under instructions from others," says former Madhya Pradesh captain Devendra Bundela, who was the side's batting coach before Pandit took over.

"He (Pandit) has his own way of thinking, but his overall understanding of the game is remarkable," Bundela adds. "There may be some who don't like his working style but then,

he also gives you the results."

Says Nayar: "A player who wants to grow will grow, and a player who doesn't want to will not. If everything is good about someone, he is not trying to make an impact, just trying to survive.

"Chandu sir is a very brave person, he takes the onus on himself to control all the controllables. And the results he has given over the years just prove that there are a lot more pros than cons to his style of coaching."

Unique style

The last time MP played the final, in 1998-99, Pandit was their captain. A young Bundela, who would go on to become the third-highest run-getter in Ranji Trophy history, was part of that side, and remembers the backing he got from his skipper.

"I remember when I was young, Chandu bhai supported me a lot, ki jaao aur bindaas khelo [just go out and play freely]. His presence has made a lot of difference to this team; in the past couple of years, their self-belief and confidence has increased," Bundela adds.

Pandit has himself acknowledged that his methods might not work at international level, but Nayar calls him the Ranji Trophy "king". "No one comes close to him. He has figured out how to win championships," Nayar says. "It is one thing to win a championship with a strong team, it is another to win with a team that has never won before. He is undoubtedly the best first-class coach in India."



# Daruvala’s chance to impress F1 teams

23-year-old Indian racer will test drive for Formula 1 team McLaren for two days this week

MIHIR VASAVDA  
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

FOR A man who’s about to realise his dream, a part of it at least, Jehan Daruvala appears remarkably calm. He doesn’t seem over-eager and is careful not to over-promise. Only occasionally, the 23-year-old Indian racer gives an impression that he’s buzzing.

“It’ll be tempting to go flat out. But the main goal is to learn,” Daruvala says. After a slight pause, he adds: “(But) at the end of the day, I am a racing driver so I want to drive as fast as I can...”

Daruvala is talking about his maiden ride in a Formula 1 car after it was announced that he will test drive for F1 giants McLaren on Tuesday and Wednesday at the fabled Silverstone circuit in England. It’s a small but significant step in Daruvala’s pursuit of becoming only the third Indian to race in F1 and the first since Narain Karthikeyan a decade ago.

The test is ‘nothing related’ to him getting a drive in F1 next year, Daruvala clarifies. “There are not many seats opening up in F1. But I want to tick all the boxes before hopefully, I get a seat,” he says.

Over the two days, McLaren will evaluate Daruvala’s driving skills and test his potential. It’s not linked, at the moment, to a long-term deal, something the racer from Mumbai repeatedly underlines. Rather, this’ll be for him a, to borrow the title of the Netflix show, drive to survive.

Before the opening race in Bahrain, Daruvala – a Red Bull Junior team member who drives for Prema Racing in Formula 2, a feeder competition for F1 – had called this a make-or-break season for him with regards to his F1 ambitions. This is his third season in F2 and it’s widely held that if a driver is unable to secure a seat in F1 after such a long period, chances for the future diminish considerably.

With five podium finishes in the six races of the season so far, a third place in the championship race and first among the Red Bull junior drivers, Daruvala says he’s had a ‘pretty decent’ season so far. But it’s not yet opened the doors of an F1 team. In this context, his drive with McLaren comes at a crucial time.

McLaren, he says, were ‘looking at young drivers’. This is because the British team is among the few that hasn’t yet named its youth drivers who’ll race in at least two practice sessions this year, in accordance with new F1 rules.

**A step up**

Daruvala and his father Khurshed spoke to Red Bull’s head of driver development programme, Marko Helmut, about the opportu-



Jehan Daruvala is aiming to become only the third Indian to race in F1. *Express*

**EXPLAINED**

## E. An evaluation and a step closer

WHEN DRIVERS test F1 cars, it’s usually for the car’s development; to make it better. In Jehan Daruvala’s case, it’ll be his evaluation more than the car’s. The test drive will not automatically lead to a seat in F1 for Daruvala. However, it’s an important step in that direction. After driving in F2 for the last three years, Daruvala has a chance to showcase his potential and if he can handle the speed of F1, he could secure another drive with McLaren or even woo other teams.

nity and an agreement was reached. “So this test, together with my F2 results, is the next step in my career,” Daruvala, who does not disclose the financials involved, citing a Non-Disclosure Agreement, says.

He will drive McLaren’s MCL35M car, which they used last year. It was considered to be one of the quickest cars of the season, with McLaren routinely emerging as the third-fastest team.

Daruvala has spent the last couple of days on the simulator but knows nothing can prepare him for the moment he’ll step into the cockpit.

Compared to F2 drives, F1 cars weigh more, churn out almost double the horsepower, and zip around the track much faster. Daruvala doesn’t sound bothered a lot about these factors but singles out the biggest step-up – the g-force. “We go through a lot of Gs. That’s the main thing, that’s the biggest step-up from F2,” he says.

With F1 cars travelling at great speeds, both on straights and corners, F1 drivers have to deal with much higher lateral g-force as they move forward, backward and side-to-

side. Daruvala says he’s been working for the last two weeks to strengthen his neck muscles to deal with this.

“In terms of fitness, I have never struggled. I wanted to make sure when I get into an F1 car, I don’t struggle there as well. So, I have been training my neck a lot more than I do,” he says. “I have a neck harness, which you wrap around and (perform strengthening exercises). I’ve been doing that for the past few weeks and now I’m fully ready for the F1 test.”

This might not be his last chance to sit in an F1 car but Daruvala knows the importance of this drive. Most seats for the 2023 season have already been filled with Alpha Tauri, also owned by Red Bull, being one of the few teams that’s yet to finalise its roster.

Daruvala says he’ll discuss with Helmut the option of taking up the role of a reserve driver in case a permanent seat doesn’t work out so that it keeps the F1 door open for him for 2024. Before that, he’ll have to show he can handle an F1 car.

“This is a dream come true,” he says. “(Now) I want to make an impression so that if I do get an opportunity in F1, I’ll be ready.”

# Verstappen holds off Sainz to strengthen grip on drivers’ C’ship

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MONTREAL, JUNE 20

MAX VERSTAPPEN maintained his hold on the Formula One championship fight by holding off a late challenge from Carlos Sainz Jr. to earn his sixth win of the season in a fairly easy drive in the Canadian Grand Prix.

Verstappen won from the pole at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve to extend his lead in the standings to 46 points over Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez, who retired early with a gearbox issue. “It’s still a very long way to go and I know the gap of course is quite big, but I also know that can switch around very quickly,” Verstappen said of his points lead. He noted he trailed Charles Leclerc by 46 points following the third race of the season.

The Dutchman had no trouble clearing Fernando Alonso, who earned his first front-row start in a decade then joked he’d attack Verstappen in the first turn to steal the victory. But there was no challenge and by the time Sainz cleared Alonso for second on Lap 2, Verstappen had already built a lead of 2.4 seconds. Sainz was able to close the gap over the final 10 laps and pressured the reigning F1 champion but faded on the last lap and finished .993 seconds behind in his Ferrari.

“It was good racing, it is always more enjoyable to be able to really push rather than just save your tires,” said Verstappen, who added Sainz didn’t have “a go in terms overtaking, but it was super close.”

Sainz said second was the best he could get on Sunday. “When I gave it all, I was risking everything,” Sainz said. “I can tell you I was pushing. I left everything out there. For the first time this season I can say I was fastest man on track, which gives me confidence and some hope for the next races.”

Mercedes had a tremendous rebound from its season-long struggles, which included a terrible Friday practice, as seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton scored his first podium since the season-opening race in March. George Russell was fourth as Hamilton beat his new teammate for just the second time in nine races this season. “It feels great to be amongst the battle and at the end there I was keeping up with these guys. It does give me and the team a lot of hope,” Hamilton said. “The potential is truly there if we can get the setup right and I think that’s been the most difficult thing this year.”

Hamilton received a rousing ovation after his finish and said he had no problems with his back, which has been plaguing him all season because of how the new Mercedes



Max Verstappen won his sixth race of the season. *Reuters*

bounces all over the track. “It’s good, I’m back to being young,” said the 37-year-old.

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said the team had raised the ride height on its cars to make them more drivable and eliminate the “porpoising” effect that has bogged down Hamilton and Russell all season. The bouncing has caused back pain and headaches for its drivers. “The (wind) tunnel has told us that the lower the car, the faster you go, the more ground effect it will have,” Wolff said. “But in effect, you can’t drive the car there so you need to lift it, and lift it, and lift it, and then on paper you are losing half a second or so in downforce. “We raised it already (Saturday) but the more you raise, the more performance you lose. So it’s always a compromise.”

Verstappen, meanwhile, has now won six of the first nine races in his title defense season. It was Verstappen’s first win in Montreal, which F1 said hosted a record 338,000 spectators over the three-day weekend as the series returned to Canada after a two-year pause during the pandemic. The Sunday crowd was treated to clear, sunny skies after two days of rain that upended qualifying and created the slick track that allowed Alonso – and other drivers, including Hamilton – to earn their top starting spots this year.

Leclerc rallied from a 10-place grid penalty for changing the engine in his Ferrari to finish fifth from 19th. Estaban Ocon of Alpine finished sixth and teammate Alonso, who said he’d be pleased with a fifth-place finish, was seventh but penalized five-seconds after the race for weaving. That dropped Alonso to ninth, while Valtteri Bottas of Alfa Romeo moved to seventh. Bottas was followed by rookie teammate Zhou Guanyu, who was moved to eighth after the Alonso penalty and finished in the points for the second time this season.

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