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## ALL INDIA GS MAIN TEST SERIES

**UPSC**  
TOTAL TESTS - 13  
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**26 JUNE 2022**

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TOTAL TESTS - 13  
Online / Offline  
starts from  
**26 JUNE 2022**

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• **POLITICAL SCIENCE & IR** • **GEOGRAPHY**  
• **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**  
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### Key Features:

(1) Exam oriented test and focus on contemporary issues. (2) Time bound scientific evaluation by experts with necessary remarks. (3) Bilingual Model answers and personalized one-to-one discussion on performance. (4) Extra support and study material would be provided wherever it is required. (5) Segmented as well as Full Tests to develop understanding of the changed exam pattern of UPSC and UP-PCS. (6) Both Offline and Online mode for student's convenience. (7) Personal mentorship by subject expert.

## UP-PCS MAIN EXAM CRASH COURSE

**HINDI MEDIUM**  
Online/Offline  
starts from  
**1 JULY | 11:30 AM**

**ENGLISH MEDIUM**  
Online/Offline  
starts from  
**18 JULY | 2:30 PM**

### Key Features:

(1) Programme has been designed for Aspirants who would appear for UP-PCS Main exam in 2022. (2) In this programme, all those sections of the syllabus will be covered, which are majorly current affairs based. (3) The Programme is instructed through a series of intensive classes which facilitates quick revision and improves the student's accuracy of solving questions. (4) The programme is designed to build confidence in writing answers through continuous practice and evaluation. (5) Topic wise brief study material will also be made available during the programme.

FOR OFFLINE COURSES, CALL RESPECTIVE CENTRE

FOR ONLINE COURSES, CALL 9205274741 / 42

Delhi (Mukherjee Nagar) : Ansal Building, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Ph: 9289580074/75 • Delhi (Laxmi Nagar) : Lalita Park, Near Gurudwara, Laxmi Nagar Ph: 9205212500/9205962002 • Greater Noida : Veera Tower, Alpha 1 Commercial Belt, Greater Noida Ph: 9205336037/38 • Prayagraj : SP Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj Ph: 0532-2260189/8853467068 • Lucknow (Aliganj) : A-12, Sector-J, Aliganj, Lucknow Ph: 0522-4025825/9506256789 • Lucknow (Gomti Nagar) : Jeewan Plaza, Viram Khand-5, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow Ph: 7234000501/ 7234000502 • Lucknow (Alambagh) : Opposite Phoenix Mall Gate No. 3, L.D.A Colony, Alambagh Lucknow Ph: 7518373333/7518573333 • Kanpur : 113/154 Swaroop Nagar, Kanpur Ph: 7887003962/7897003962 • Gorakhpur : Narayan Tower, Gandhi Gali, Golghar, Gorakhpur, Ph: 0551-2200385/7080847474





# NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS



## VISIT- INDIANOIL

Dr SSV Ramakumar (Dir. R&D) welcomed Rameswar Teli, MoS Petroleum & Natural Gas and Labour & Employment, on his maiden visit to IOCL R&D. Teli took keen interest in various advanced research initiatives at IOCL R&D.



## ENGAGEMENT- EIL

EIL has been engaged as Project Management Consultant by NLC. EIL's rich experience in Mega Project Execution in Energy sector amalgamated with NLCIL's zeal shall ensure that this landmark project will be successful.



## MEETING - PSB

PSB organized two Town Hall meetings at Amritsar & Chandigarh. Staff from Punjab, Himachal, Haryana & Chandigarh attended the function. SK Saha, MD & CEO, PSB, P Mongia, Field GM presided over the meetings.



## YOGA DAY - DFCCIL

The 8th International Day of Yoga was observed at the DFCCIL CO & Field Units with RK Jain (MD), Directors, officials & family members participating in a rejuvenating session of Yoga.



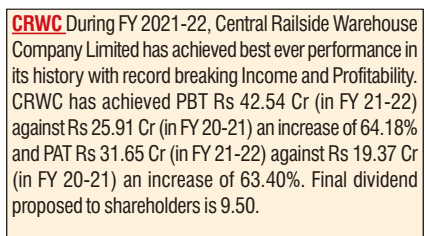
## CLEANLINESS DRIVE- MCD

Public representatives of Delhi actively participated in cleanliness drive, cleans roads/streets in their respective areas. Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been carrying out special cleanliness drive in all its zones.



## INAUGURATION- RITES

RITES inaugurated its first office in Guwahati, Assam. At the inauguration, ED (Buildings & Airports), RITES, P Chowdhry addressed the gathering & assured RITES' continuous excellent infrastructure & consultancy services.



## CRWC During FY 2021-22, Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited has achieved best ever performance in its history with record breaking Income and Profitability.

CRWC has achieved PBT Rs 42.54 Cr (in FY 21-22) against Rs 25.91 Cr (in FY 20-21) an increase of 64.18% and PAT Rs 31.65 Cr (in FY 21-22) against Rs 19.37 Cr (in FY 20-21) an increase of 63.40%. Final dividend proposed to shareholders is 9.50.

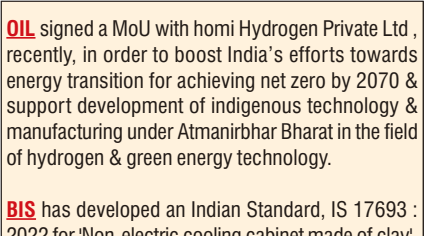
**GAIL** plans to enter into distributed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) production with the vision to cater the demand from off-grid locations and transport sector. GAIL has placed order for two small-scale liquefaction skids capable of producing LNG on a pilot basis. Liquefaction will be achieved through proprietary technology-based mobile liquefaction skids. These plants will help in distribution of natural gas through liquefaction in new CGD areas, liquefaction of gas at isolated fields and will support setting-up of LNG fueling stations and in bunkering.

**TPDDL** supplying electricity to a populace of 7 million in North and Northwest Delhi, in association with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA) will be organising a 'Special Lok Adalat' for amicable resolution and on-the-spot settlement of Direct Threats and Disconnection Cases. The session will be held at District Electricity Office Ishwar Colony Bawana, opposite Aditi Girls College, Delhi on Sunday, 26 June, 2022 from 10AM to 4PM, strictly in adherence with the Covid-19 safety guidelines.



## PLANTATION DRIVE - EdCIL

EdCIL had organised plantation activity at Nithari Govt. School & Corporate Office, Noida. M. Kumar, CMD EdCIL, began planting of saplings & addressed the school children on the importance & significance of plantation drive.



**OIL** signed a MoU with homi Hydrogen Private Ltd., recently, in order to boost India's efforts towards energy transition for achieving net zero by 2070 & support development of indigenous technology & manufacturing under Atmanirbhar Bharat in the field of hydrogen & green energy technology.

**BIS** has developed an Indian Standard, IS 17693 : 2022 for 'Non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay'. Mansukh Bhai Prajapati from Gujarat is the grassroot innovator behind the refrigerator made using clay, popularly called 'Mitticool Refrigerator'. In this era, where the world is dominated by technology and advancement, there are people in our country who still bank on traditional cooling.

## VIETNAM AIRLINES has officially launched non-stop flights connecting Vietnam & India since June 15, 2022.

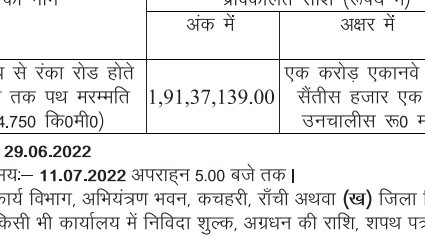
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam Bui Thanh Son attended and performed the opening ceremony of this flight. The new route of Vietnam Airlines will make an important contribution to strengthening trade, cultural and social connections between Vietnam and India.

## MP Power Generating Company Ltd. Jabalpur

Shree Singaji Thermal Power Project of MP Power Generating Company has created a new record of generating power for 200 days continuously. This unit is generating electricity continuously since Nov. 19, 2021. The unit, which became operational on Feb. 1, 2014, achieved 71.8 per cent Plant Load Factor & 5.7 per cent Auxiliary Consumption (PAF) during 200 days of continuous power generation, while the unit's specific oil consumption stood at 0.2 ml per unit.

## PERFORMANCE- NR

A Ganga, General Manager Northern Railway informed that despite the various constraints and challenges faced due to Covid-19, Northern Railway has successfully captured new areas of freight business and increased its earnings.



**75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

No. : 23AC/393/E Auction/2022  
Dated : 24.06.2022  
1561/2022

## NORTHERN RAILWAY (E-Auction Notice)

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS (<https://ireps.gov.in>) for allotment of contracts of parking sites/lots for a period of three (03) years on "As is where is basis" at following railway stations/locations:

E-Catalogue No.	Parking- 11-2022
Railway Stations/ Location	1. Faridabad (FDB), 2. Delhi Sarai Rohilla (DEE), 3. Panipat (PNP), 4. Sonipat (SNP), 5. Ghaziabad (GZB) 6. Khatauli (KAT), 7. Sarojini Nagar (SOJ), 8. Delhi cantt (DEC), 9. Meerut City (MTC), 10. Sampla (SPZ), 11. Delhi Shahdara (KM5/9-15 between DSA-DLI line)
Date & Time for e-auction	Start: 11.07.2022 at 11:00 hrs Close: 11.07.2022 at 15:20 hrs
Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen	<a href="https://ireps.gov.in">https://ireps.gov.in</a>

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee
- Current Account in State Bank of India
- Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account
- Lien Marking of Funds
- Updation of Turnover Details
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query

Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055  
Email:pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084



SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## APPOINTMENTS

**NFL Hira Nand** has taken over as Director (Finance) of NFL. Prior to this, Nand was Executive Director (F&A) in the company. Nand is also on the board of NFL's JV Ramagundam Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (RFCL). A Cost and Management Accountant professional with degrees of M.Com, LL.B., Nand has a rich professional experience of more than 30 yrs in Accounts and Financial Management. He started his career with NFL in 1986 & gained rich experience in various aspects of Financial Management in the Company. He has also worked with ONGC Petro additions Ltd. (OPaL), KRIBHCO & Model Economic Township Ltd. in various capacities.

**SAIL Anil Kumar Tulsiani** has taken charge as Director (Finance) of SAIL on 20th June, 2022. A Cost & Management Accountant (CMA) & MBA (Finance), Tulsiani joined SAIL in 1988 in the company's Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) as Junior Manager (Finance). Rising through the ranks, Tulsiani became the ED, (F&A) in SAIL. He carries an experience of almost 34 yrs in various areas of Finance & Accounting in different Plants/Units of SAIL viz., Raw Materials Division (RMD), Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), Central Marketing Organization (CMO) and Corporate Office (CO).

**NSIC P. Udayakumar**, Director (Planning & Marketing), NSIC assumes as additional charge of CMD NSIC with effect from 20-06-2022. He is a Mechanical engineer from College of Engg, Guindy with post graduation from IIM Bangalore with 12 yrs of Board experience. He is an expert in MSME domain. He was part of many initiatives of ministry of MSME & NSIC's growth story over 12 yrs. He is also Investment Committee member of PE growth fund namely SRI Fund, the Fund of Fund of Ministry of MSME. He will also be Chairman of NSIC Venture capital fund Ltd. He writes on MSME development issues.

## SPECIAL SPEECH

**NHPC AK Singh**, CMD, NHPC delivered a Special Speech in the ET Energy Leadership Summit 2022 held at New Delhi recently. The event was inaugurated by RK Singh, MoP, New & Renewable Energy. Bhagwanth Khuba, MoS for New & Renewable Energy & André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, Brazilian Ambassador to India & several distinguished guests from the Energy sector also graced the occasion. CMD, NHPC spoke about the critical need for hydropower for grid stability to balance the planned large scale capacity addition of solar & wind power which is intermittent in nature.

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERMAMPUR  
(E-Mail:- [serwbrp2004@yahoo.com](mailto:serwbrp2004@yahoo.com) Tel/Fax:-0680-2404287)

No. e-tender//	2523 / RWC/BAM// Dated. 24.6.2022	E-Mail/E-despatch
1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender/19-2022-23/BPR		
The partial modification of bridge work vide above identification has been made as follows.		
1	Date of availability of tender : 30.06.2022 to 14.07.2022 upto 3.00 PM instead of 24.06.2022 to 08.07.2022	
2	Last Date & Time of seeking tender : 12.07.2022 at 2.00 PM instead of 06.07.2022 at 2.00 PM clarification	
3	Date of opening of Technical Bid. : 15.07.2022 at 11.00 AM instead of 11.07.2022 at 11.00 AM	
4	Date of opening of Financial Bid. : Will be intimated later on.	

All other contents will remain unchanged.

Sd/-  
Chief Construction Engineer  
R.W.Circle, Bermampur  
OIPR 2507/11/10034/2223

**JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.  
Ph No.:- +91-651-2225878; e-mail id:- [pdf.juidco@gmail.com](mailto:pdf.juidco@gmail.com)  
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

NIT No. : - JUIDCO/NIT/RWWSS/JUWSP/2022/480  
Tender ID: 2022\_JUADB\_58591\_1  
PR No.: 269890

**Corrigendum 1**

All bidders are hereby announced that Corrigendum 3 is released for tender having NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/RWWSS/JUWSP/2022/480 and Tender ID.: 2022\_JUADB\_58591\_1 for "Construction and five years of Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Intake works in Ranchi.". The bidders are advised to consider the same before submission of their bids against the tender.

Note: Corrigendum 1 can be referred from the e-tender site of Govt. of Jharkhand i.e., (<http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>)

Sd/-  
Project Director (Technical)  
JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

PR 272378 Urban Development and Housing(22-23).D

Department of Town Planning & Urban Local Bodies  
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh  
Itanagar

File No. DTP/MP-111/2021-22  
Dated Itanagar the 24<sup>th</sup> June' 2022

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**Request for Proposals (RFP) for Consultancy Services Urban Mapping and Geo data base generation for Lemmi, Tato & Basar district headquarters of Arunachal Pradesh.**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar proposes to undertake Urban Mapping and Geo database generation for Lemmi, Tato & Basar district headquarters of Arunachal Pradesh, under the provisions of Arunachal Pradesh Urban & Country Planning Act, 2007 (Act. No. 3 of 2008).

Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverables from Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies/ISO certified Organizations and consulting firms/ consortium that have requisite experience and infrastructure.

The interested consultants/consortiums can download/purchase the RFP/application forms online from the E-Tendering website: <https://arunachaltenders.gov.in>. The completed application, as per instructions in the RFP document, should be submitted latest by 15th July 2022 upto 1500 hours. For further details may contact Shri Siyang Rebe, Assistant Town Planner at +91 8837484019.

The Department reserves the sole right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-  
Mitali Namchoom, IAS  
Secretary to the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh  
Department of Town Planning and Urban Local Bodies  
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar  
DIPR/ARN/0882-84

New Delhi

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

141 FIELD REGIMENT (KARGIL)  
31 Aug 99 - 23 Jun 22

On the occasion of Martyrdom of Gnr (Gnr) Shelke Suraj Pratap of 141 Field Regiment (KARGIL) on 23 Jun 2022, the Commanding Officer, all ranks, their families and the Buzurgs of the Paltan express their deep condolence to the family of martyr who made the supreme sacrifice for the Nation while on guard duties during op SNOW LEOPARD in Eastern Ladakh. His valour & heroism continues to inspire all of us.

GNR (GNR) SHELKE SURAJ PRATAP CO & All Ranks 141 Field Regiment (KARGIL)

Regd. Office:- PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001  
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
(Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No.: 259/SSD-140/CeII-1 Dated: 24.06.2022

SE/Substation Design/TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for design, manufacture, testing, supply and delivery of 2200 nos. 150 watt LED type flood lighting fixture complete with required accessories for installation at various grid substations. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 28.03.2022 (11.00 AM onwards). Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> C-244-22

**CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Regional Office, 75 Arera Hills, Bhopal - 462011 (M.P.)  
Warehousing for Everyone

क्रमांक: कै.स.नि./से.का.-नोयाल/2022-23/ Expressions of Interest दिनांक: 20.06.2022

CWC, Regional Office, Bhopal invites Expression of Interest from interested and eligible parties who are willing and interested in utilizing the warehouse(s) space/open space of CWC through setting up Cold Storage/Controlled Atmosphere & Temperature/Pack-Houses/Food processing/Packaging units/MMLP/Retrofitting/keeping Industrial Goods/ Foodgrains etc. or any other model as required by the party, on dedicated or general basis. Details for the same may be seen in the EOI document, which can be downloaded from CWC Website [www.cewacor.nic.in](http://www.cewacor.nic.in). Last date for submission of EOI is revised as 22.07.2022. For further details please contact CWC Regional Office, 75 Arera Hills, Bhopal - 462011 (M.P.), Email: [bhopal.business@cewacor.nic.in](mailto:bhopal.business@cewacor.nic.in) or visit our website [www.cewacor.nic.in](http://www.cewacor.nic.in).

**Dudhsagar Dairy**  
India's Largest Co-operative Dairy  
Mehsana District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd  
Post Box No.1, Highway, Mehsana-384002 Phone: 02702-253201, Fax: 253422  
Website: <http://www.dudhsagardairy.coop/indians/>

Off-line Tender Notice

Tender ID	Work Description	Last Date
64	Supply and installation of new security PUF cabin and PUF shade at Dudhmansagar Dairy, Manesar.	02/07/2022

Dudhsagar Dairy, Mehnsana invites tender (in hard copy) for above Works/Materials/Services. Tender can be downloaded from <http://www.dudhsagardairy.coop/tenders/> from 25/06/2022. Last date of tender submission is mentioned as above. For details refer tender document. We regularly publish tender on above website.  
Date: 25/06/2022 I/C Managing Director

**IISER** भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहमपुर  
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Berhampur  
Established by the Ministry of Education, Government of India

e-Tender Notice  
IISER Berhampur invites e-Tenders for the below-mentioned goods/services:

NIT / Date	Detail of Goods/ Services	Last Date of Submission
IISERBpr/S&P/2022-23/11 dt. 25/05/2022	Gas Chromatograph with quadrupole mass Spectrometer	June 28, 2022 (15:00 Hrs)
IISERBpr/S&P/IGTE/2022 -23/15 dt. 10/06/2022	Impedence Analyzer	June 30, 2022 (15:00 Hrs)
IISERBpr/S&P/IGTE/2022 -23/16 dt. 16/06/2022	Quadrupole Inductively coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer	July 04, 2022 (15:00 Hrs)
IISERBpr/S&P/IGTE/2022 -23/19 dt. 16/06/2022	Cryogenics set up with accessories for existing modular Fluorescence set up	July 05, 2022 (15:00 Hrs)
IISERBpr/S&P/2022-23/21 dt. 23/06/2022	Microscope Platforms for Live cell imaging	July 14, 2022 (15:00 Hrs)

For participation, please visit the website i.e. <https://www.tenderwizard.com/IISERBPR>. Complete details of specification of goods and services, and tender documents are available on the Institute website i.e. <http://www.iiserbpr.ac.in/tender.php> and <https://eprocure.gov.in>. Any corrigendum etc will be notified on the above websites only.

क्रय एवं भण्डार अधिकारी / Stores and Purchase Officer

## NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

Chief Engineer/TMC, Northern Railway, Headquarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites 01 No. tenders through E-Procurement system for supply of the following items:

Sr. No.	E-Tender No.	Description of Item	Qty.	Due date Time
01	TM225035	RAIL DRILLING MACHINE	01 Item	19.07.2022 at 14:30 hours

Note: 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement tenders are available on website "www.ireps.gov.in". The firms, who desire to participate against E-Tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would be required to have a class-III digital certificate from certifying agencies authorized under IT Act 2000, by Govt. of India. Manual offers against E-Tenders will not be accepted.

**75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**  
Tender Notice No. 219-S/1/TMC/21/2022-23  
Date : 23.06.2022  
1553/2022

Serving Customers With A Smile

**Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre**  
(An autonomous Body of Planning Department, Govt. of Maharashtra)  
VNIT Campus, S.A. Road, Nagpur-440 010.  
Tele : 0712-2220086 / 2238576  
email: [admn-mrsac@mrsac.gov.in](mailto:admn-mrsac@mrsac.gov.in), Website [www.mrsac.gov.in](http://www.mrsac.gov.in)

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
(Extension of last date of submission)

All the prospective bidders may please note that, the last date for submission of document for Expression of Interest (EOI) published under reference No. MRSAC/VENDOR-EMP-GIS/03/2022-23 on 6.6.2022, has been extended till 5.00 p.m. of 1st July, 2022.

Director  
MRSAC, Nagpur

## NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	S.N, 07-A, B & C-2022-23-W-V
1	Name of work with its location A) Rag picking and muck removal work in section of SSE/P.Way/FDB under ADEN/TKD. B) Rag picking and removal of muck malba between NDLS-JNC, Ring Railways and GAL Lines in the section of SSE/P.Way/HNZM under ADEN/HNZM. Similar nature of work: Any civil work other than track work. C) Construction and Extension of Foot Over Bridge 6.10m wide for two-wheeler movement at Inderpuri Halt under Sr.DEN/V/DLI. Similar nature of work: Fabrication, supply, assembly, erection and launching/regirding of girders, through girders, plate girders, FOBs etc. in running track.
2	Approx. Cost of work A Rs. 39,99,984.64 B Rs. 1,49,99,347.73 C Rs. 2,60,65,621.56
3	Earnest Money Deposit (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) A Rs. 80,000.00 B Rs. 2,25,000.00 C Rs. 2,80,300.00
4	Completion period of Work A 6 Months B 6 Months C 8 Months
5	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs. on 19.07.2022. Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 19.07.2022
6	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No.: 128-WZ80/OET/2021-22W-V/NIT-07-A, B & C-2022-23-W-V Date: 24.06.2022 1558/2022

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GETS PETITION TO DISQUALIFY 16 REBELS, 2 MLAs WARN HIM NOT TO

## Battle for Maharashtra reaches Raj Bhavan and House: Uddhav, Shinde stake claim to 'real' Sena

Pawar meets Uddhav who calls meet today; BJP's Darekar writes to Governor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JUNE 24

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Uddhav Thackeray, battling to save the ruling MVA and regain control of the Shiv Sena, and rebel leader Eknath Shinde, who now has the support of majority MLAs of the party, took their battle to the state legislature secretariat in Vidhan Bhavan and the Raj Bhavan Friday, each claiming his faction was the "real" Shiv Sena.

In the evening, NCP chief Sharad Pawar held a lengthy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED

**The Bommai reminder**

THE DEMONSTRATION of strength will ultimately have to be on the floor of the House. This was made clear by the SC in its 1994 ruling in the SR Bommai case. It ruled that the majority should be tested on the floor of the House, not Raj Bhavan.



NCP's Sharad Pawar and Praful Patel arrive at CM Uddhav Thackeray's residence in Mumbai, Friday. Express REPORTS, P7

Uddhav: Will never sit with BJP, it went after my family

VALLABH OZARKAR  
MUMBAI, JUNE 24

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Uddhav Thackeray shot down suggestions Friday of any rapprochement with the BJP, saying there was no chance of him sitting "shoulder-to-shoulder" with those who had made "personal attacks" on him and his family.

Addressing Shiv Sena district presidents via videolink in an attempt to consolidate his hold over the party machinery,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



2002 GUJARAT RIOTS

## SC dismisses Zakia plea: No larger plot, process abused to keep the pot boiling

3-judge bench upholds SIT clean chit to then CM Modi and others



Zakia Jafri appeal devoid of merits: SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

AGREEING WITH the findings of the Special Investigation Team appointed by it that there was no "larger conspiracy" behind the 2002 Gujarat riots, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the appeal filed by Zakia Jafri challenging the SIT's clean chit to Narendra Modi, who was then the state's chief minister, and others in cases related to the riots.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar said "the SIT has not found any conspiracy, linking separate and disparate acts of arson and looting or outrageous claims made in sting operations or individual utterances/publications of purported hate speech, to any singular

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MORE REPORTS  
PAGE 8

WHAT COURT SAID

■ Proceedings pursued for 16 years; all those involved in such abuse of process need to be in the dock

ON SIT

■ No fault in SIT approach; final report backed by firm logic, exposing analytical mind and dealing with all aspects objectively

ON ZAKIA

■ (Arguments) border on undermining integrity, sincerity of SIT; question wisdom of this court

ON PANDYA, BHATT, SREEKUMAR

■ Coalesced effort by the disgruntled officials along with others to sensationalise, politicise

■ SIT said Sreekumar, Pandya and Bhatt not present in meeting. Sreekumar is a disgruntled officer

ON STATE

■ Would be beyond comprehension to bear suspicion of conspiracy

In Bangladesh, bridge of dreams opens today



The Padma Multipurpose Road-Rail Bridge. Monojit Majumdar

MONOJIT MAJUMDAR  
MAWA (BANGLADESH), JUNE 24

ALL ALONG the six-lane expressway from Dhaka to Mawa, signs with pictures of Sheikh Hasina congratulate her and the people of Bangladesh on "amader swapner Padda Setu" — the Bridge of Our Dreams Across the Padma.

The signs are sponsored by local leaders of the ruling Awami League and compete with each other to lavish praise and gratitude on the leader — and they invariably refer to the "dream".

Twenty-one years after the Prime Minister, in the last days of her previous tenure, laid the foundation stone in Mawa, a decade after the World Bank cancelled its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## 26/11 planner Sajid Mir is in Pak custody, years after it claimed he died

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
CHENNAI, NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

SAJID MIR, a senior Lashkar-e-Toiba operative and the alleged mastermind of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, who was once presumed dead, is in the custody of authorities in Pakistan. Sources familiar with the matter said Delhi was made aware of Mir's arrest a couple of months ago.



Mir is on the FBI's list of most-wanted terrorists

But in the absence of a formal public announcement of the arrest by Pakistan or of details of his production in a court of law, Indian authorities, the sources said, have not yet been able to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## India takes up delay in student visas with US, UK, Canada, other countries

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

WITH MANY Indian students complaining of delays in the visa process, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday called the ambassadors/deputy chiefs of missions of eight countries, including the US, UK, Canada, Australia and Germany, and asked them to "streamline" and "fast-track" the process.

"Senior MEA officials dealing with Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, New Zealand, Poland, UK & USA had constructive discussions with corresponding heads of missions/senior diplomats of these countries about streamlining student visas to Indian nationals," the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi, tweeted. "They agreed to remain engaged on further easing & fast-tracking the process, since the flow of students has been mutually beneficial," he said.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the MEA officials — joint secretaries dealing with these countries — "strongly raised the issue of student visas" with the ambassadors and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## With Asia gold, daily wager's son puts Karnataka wrestling hub in spotlight



Ningappa Genannavar with his parents

MIHIR VASAVDA  
MUMBAI, JUNE 24

"THERE'S A wrestler in every house here in Mudhol. But that's not the case with Ninga — he doesn't have a house."

In these two sentences, Arun Kumakale, a local wrestling coach, captures the history of the wrestling-mad town in North Karnataka, and the journey of its newest sensation and his prodigy,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE WORLD



### U.S. SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS ROE VS. WADE, ELIMINATES RIGHT TO ABORTION

PAGE 12

ECONOMY



### PARAMESWARAN IYER TO BE NEW NITI AAYOG CEO

PAGE 13

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(FULL REPORT ON INDIANEXPRESS.COM)



FOR PEOPLE TO CHECK OUT MURALS

# Pragati Maidan tunnel to be shut on Sunday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

FOLLOWING PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's suggestions, the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has decided to close the newly inaugurated Pragati Maidan tunnel for vehicles every Sunday and keep it open for pedestrians to enjoy the artwork inside, said officials. For this week alone, officials said, the tunnel will be closed for both traffic and pedestrians.

The 1.3km-long tunnel, constructed at a cost of Rs 920 crore, was thrown open to commuters last week.

After inaugurating the stretch, the PM suggested that the tunnel be closed for four to five hours every Sunday and directed officials to organise a pedestrian visit for the public and school children. "My eyes were drawn to the mesmerising beauty of the artwork. I walked for 10-15 minutes and enjoyed the murals which depict the culture, festivals and six seasons of India," said the PM. "The tunnel should not only be treated as a stretch for the commute but also as an education centre and art gallery," he said.



The 1.3km-long tunnel has murals that change every 250 metres. For this week alone, officials said, the tunnel will be closed for both traffic and pedestrians. *Abhinav Saha*

Starting from Purana Qila near the Sports Club of India to Ring Road near Pragati power station, the country's widest and first-of-its-kind tunnel has murals that change every 250 metres.

"The tunnel was constructed to ease traffic as well as an alternative road to the Bhairon Marg. So, our plan is to keep it closed for vehicular movement every Sunday from 8 am to 8 pm for pedestrians to enjoy the artwork," said LC Goyal, ITPO director.

Goyal said traffic volume remains low on Sundays as it is a holiday. "This week, however, it will be closed for both pedestrians and commuters as we will

first take stock of the situation, monitor signages and if the lights are working, and will make arrangements for pedestrians like parking, road crossing, and ensure seating and water facility," he said.

Officials said, "To avoid pedestrian traffic on the main stretch and guarantee safety, the ITPO may outsource management of the public visit to an agency."

"Since the tunnel will be closed, all five underpasses on Mathura Road will remain open for commuters to avoid any hassle, and they can also take the traditional route on Mathura Road in Bhairon Marg to reach their destination," said officials.

**World Music Day**  
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E-Tender No.: IRCON/CO/2053/ Kolkata/PF -TENDER/04 Dt. 25/6/2022

E-tender for and on behalf of South East Railway is invited from Bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Construction of New Island Platform No. 4 I S and construction/Extension of Platform Shelter over Platform No. 2 I 3 including construction of Longitudinal -cross drains, provision of Shelter at PF no 4/5, two Nos. Subway Dispersals on PF 4/5, two Nos. Bio-digesters and all various passenger amenities etc at Shalimar Station of South Eastern Railway in West Bengal."

Estimated Cost of the Work Rs.21,33,00,839/-

Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 18/7/2022 upto 15.00 Hrs

For further details and updates, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>, Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. CGM(Works-I), Ircon International Ltd., New Delhi

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Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), 'A' Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways invites applications from the eligible candidates for appointment on **Immediate Absorption** basis for the following posts in DFCCIL as per details given below.

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For detailed advertisement including Selection Process, eligibility criteria, etc. please see official website- [www.dfccil.com](http://www.dfccil.com)

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Online applications are invited from eligible Scheduled Caste candidates only for Non-Residential Free Coaching programme for UPSC Civil Services Exams 2022-2023. For detailed information on eligibility, syllabus, application schedule and instructions on Entrance Test etc., interested candidates may visit the University website <https://cuo.ac.in> Sd/ Registrar

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**Advertisement No. 03/2022**

Children's University, Gandhinagar invites 'Online Applications' for the post of Registrar. Eligible candidates shall be required to apply online on or before 15/07/2022 till 5.00 P.M. at <https://recruitment.cugujarat.ac.in/> The online application can be made from 25/06/2022 to 15/07/2022. The Details about required Educational Qualifications, Experience and General Instructions etc. are available on the website of Children's University, Gandhinagar.

Gandhinagar Registrar (I/c)  
Date: 24/06/2022 Children's University

**ललित नारायण मिथिला विश्वविद्यालय**  
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महामहिम राज्यपाल के कार्यालय की अधिसूचना Memo No. BU (Regulation)-39/2017-243/GS(1) दिनांक 02.03.2022 द्वारा चार वर्षीय इंटीग्रेटेड बी.एड. के लिये संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा 2022 (CET-Int-B.Ed.-2022) का आयोजन एवं इसमें सफल अभ्यर्थियों की काउंसलिंग का दायित्व ललित नारायण मिथिला विश्वविद्यालय, दरभंगा को सौंपा गया है।

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**Land Ports Authority of India**  
(A statutory body under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

**Extension of last date for receiving Applications**  
**Group – 'A', 'B', 'C' posts**

Reference vacancy circular No. 13012/3/2020 (rectt.)/(3511273)/3625-39 dt. 11 May, 2022 published in Newspapers and Employment Newspaper regarding filling up various posts of Group – 'A', 'B', 'C' at its Headquarter in New Delhi and ICPs at Attari (Punjab), Agartala (Tripura), Petrapole (W.B), Raxaul (Bihar), Jogbani (Bihar), Moreh (Manipur) and Dawki (Meghalaya) on deputation (Foreign Service).

2. Complete information of posts, eligibility criteria, application format and other details are available on the website at <http://mha.nic.in/vacancies>, <http://lpai.gov.in>, [www.ncs.gov.in](http://www.ncs.gov.in).

3. **Last date for receiving of applications has been extended from 24.06.2022 to 08.07.2022.** Incomplete and applications received after last date shall not be considered.

4. **Address for sending applications:**  
Under Secretary  
Land Ports Authority of India  
First Floor Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi - 110511  
Tel.No.: 011-24340712, E-mail: [usga-admn@lpai.gov.in](mailto:usga-admn@lpai.gov.in)

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(f)	MTS (Safaiwala)	05
(g)	MTS (Chowkidar)	02

2. Application format and other details are available on [www.HQSCrecruitment.com](http://www.HQSCrecruitment.com) online application are invited from eligible candidates between 20 Jun 2022 to 19 Jul 2022.

3. The selection board has full right to reject application which will be incomplete for requisite documents.

4. The right to shortlist candidates for the test lies with the Selection Board after benchmarking based on percentage in 10/12th class.

davp 10607/11/0004/2223

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**Admission Notification**

Ref: Approval of Vice Chancellor dated: 15-06-2022

The last date for submission of applications to the I Semester of Five Year B.A., LL.B. (Honors Degree) Course in the University Law College, Bangalore University, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bengaluru for the academic year 2022-23 is **15.07.2022**. The candidates who have passed II P.U.C. / (10+2) or equivalent with not less than 45% (in the case of SC/ST 40%, OBC-42% and having income less than Rs. 8 lakhs per annum, Karnataka students only) of the total marks are eligible to apply. Maximum age for admission to General candidates is 20 years and in case of SC/ST/OBC and Foreign Nationals, it is 22 years as on last date for submission of application.

Application shall be filled-up in **online mode only** by visiting the University official website, [www.bangaloreuniversity.ac.in](http://www.bangaloreuniversity.ac.in) or [www.ulc.bangalore.com](http://www.ulc.bangalore.com). Application submitted online should be downloaded and submitted along with necessary documents to the **Principal, University Law College, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru-560056** on or before **20-07-2022**. The application fee of **Rs.850/-** (GM & Others) and **Rs.550/-** (for SC/ST/Cat-I) shall be paid online only. Candidates can apply for seats both under regular and payment quota. For more details visit University website or **contact: 080-22961172/1174**. Sd/-, REGISTRAR

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**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagee(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagee/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

**Last Date of submission of online bid : 26.07.2022 by 11.00A.M to 04.00 P.M., E-Auction to be held on 28.07.2022 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.**

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagees	Give Short Description of the immovable Property with known encumbrance, if any	Total Dues(as per Demand Notice)	Date & Time of E-auction.	Reserve Price (EMD) Bid increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive /Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	<b>Bank of Baroda, Siwan Branch, Siwan</b> <b>Borrower: Mr. Bhagelu Singh, S/o Late Manshi Singh (Prop. of Patel Cement Stores) At Barhani Bazar, Barharia, P.O.- Barhani, P.S. Siwan, Dist- Siwan-841227</b>	All that Part and Parcel of the Immovable property vide Sale Deed No.-I-18508 dated-30.10.2002 belonging to <b>Mr. Bhagelu Singh S/o Late Manshi Singh</b> situated at Mauza-Barhani at Barhani Bazar appertaining to Tauzi No.-1031, Thana No.-338, Khata No.-89, Plot/Survey No.-1017, Thana-Siwan (M).	<b>Rs. 61,21,225.00/-</b> as on (03.03.2022) plus Interest & Other Charges	<b>28/07/22 &amp; 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM</b> (with unlimited extension of 5 mins till sale is concluded	<b>Rs. 97,02,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 9,70,200/-</b> <b>Rs. 20,000/-</b>	Symbolic	From 15/07/22 to 25/07/22 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and <https://ibapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer.

**Place : Siwan**  
**Date : 24.06.2022**

**Authorised Officer**  
**Bank Of Baroda**







# 7 GOVT & POLITICS

## Attack on Rahul's Wayanad office triggers protests

SFI workers taken into custody; Kerala CM orders suspension of DSP, seeks report within a week

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JUNE 24

THE MP office of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Wayanad was vandalised allegedly by activists of the SFI, the students' wing of the ruling CPI(M).

The attack sparked protests across Kerala, with Congress workers taking to streets in all districts, clashing with police and damaging CPI(M) campaign boards.

More than 100 SFI workers had marched to Rahul's office at Kalpetta, capital of Wayanad district, demanding that the Congress MP should intervene to allay the anxiety of people in his



A videograb of the vandalised office

constituency in the wake of a recent Supreme Court directive that made it mandatory for every pro-

ected forest tract and wildlife sanctuary to have an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of one kilometre from its boundaries.

If such a buffer zone is implemented, a large tract of Wayanad district would fall within that zone.

When the march reached Gandhi's office, a group of SFI activists allegedly stormed into it, assaulted office staff and damaged the office furniture. Police were present, but reportedly did not prevent the march before the protesters vandalised the office.

Later, police took a few SFI workers into custody.

CPI(M) distanced itself from the incident with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan condemning the attack. "I strongly condemn

the attack on Rahul Gandhi's office. In our country, everyone has the right to air their opinion and protest democratically. However, that should not result in excess. It is a wrong tendency. Strict action will be taken against the culprits," he said in a statement.

Vijayan also ordered police to probe the incident and suspend the Kalpetta Deputy Superintendent of Police. The CM also directed the Home Secretary to submit a report within a week.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury also denounced the attack. "Strongly denounce and condemn what happened in Wayanad, Kerala today. Kerala state CM has already con-

demned it. Police has initiated measures against those responsible," he tweeted.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan of the Congress, however, said the SFI men vandalised Rahul's office in connivance with Vijayan.

The Congress central leadership has conveyed its unhappiness and concern to Yechury.

AICC general secretary in charge of organisation K C Venugopal said the "Kerala CPI(M) has become so vile in pleasing the vicious BJP that where the BJP is misusing the ED against him, CPI (M) in Kerala unleashes violence on his office. Their nasty deal has been revealed."

## MAHARASHTRA POLITICAL CRISIS

# Depts under NCP, Cong ministers rush to release funds; BJP complains

**ENS & PTI**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 24

EVEN AS the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government is currently facing a survival crisis due to a rebellion by Shiv Sena Minister Eknath Shinde, the state departments — mostly controlled by allies NCP and Congress — have issued government orders for the release of funds worth thousands of crores in the last four days for development works.

This has prompted Leader of Opposition in the state Legislative Council, Pravin Darekar, to write to Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari. The BJP has sought the Governor's intervention to curb the "rush of GRs (government resolutions)" seen over the past few days, which it termed as "suspicious".

Between June 20 and 23, the departments have issued 182 GRs, while on June 17, 107 such GRs were passed. These orders can be found on the government's official website.

Although Shinde's rebellion became public on June 21 morning, his growing discomfort had been sensed by the Sena's allies NCP and Congress. Since the ruling partners had sensed what was coming, the departments controlled by these parties went on a spree to issue the GRs, sources said.

The water supply and sanitation department, headed by Sena's Gulabrao Patil, issued over 84 GRs on June 17. Most of the orders were pertaining to sanction of funds, administrative approvals and for salaries of staff working on various water supply schemes. Patil was among the last Sena legislators who joined the rebel camp headed by Shinde by reaching in Guwahati. **FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)**

## Prohibitory orders enforced in Thane rural till June 30

**Mumbai:** The Thane Rural police on Friday issued prohibitory orders applicable till June 30, banning the assembly of more than five persons, to ensure the law and order situation does not deteriorate keeping in mind the political situation across the state. The areas under prohibitory orders are where rebel Shiv Sena MLA Eknath Shinde is said to wield influence. Making pronouncements inciting violence and storing weapons are also prohibited. **ENS**

**SAGAR RAJPUT**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 24

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Friday attached assets worth Rs 78.38 crore of Jalna Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana (SSK) Limited, linked former Shiv Sena MLA Arjun Khotkar, under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), in a matter related to the illegal sale of the cooperative sugar mill in



Eknath Shinde's old house in Satara district's Dare. Pavan Khengre

## No school or hospital but Shinde's village in Satara has 2 helipads

**AJAY JADHAV**  
SATARA, JUNE 24

HAVING STAKED his claim to be the "real" Shiv Sena, rebel leader Eknath Shinde might have incurred the wrath of the Uddhav Thackeray camp of the Sena, but his moves have got ringing support from the residents of his native village Dare in Satara district, who hope fervently that he is going to take over as the chief minister.

Dare, which has only about 30 houses, is situated on the banks of the Koyna river in a remote and backward belt, about 70 km from the hill town Mahabaleshwar. The village is skirted by the forest reserve on one side and Koyna on the other. Most of its houses are locked as their inhabitants are migrant labourers who work in Mumbai and Pune in the absence of any regular source of income in the village.

For the past few years, Shinde has started paying attention to Dare, which his father had left to shift to Thane when he was a child. "He (Shinde) and his family never missed the annual religious fair of the village earlier, but it was only for the past few years that he really started taking interest in the village," said Laxman Shinde, the Dare sarpanch.

Dare falls in the Wai-Mahabaleshwar Assembly segment of the Satara Lok Sabha constituency, both of which are currently represented by the Shara Pawar-led NCP. "The area has been an NCP stronghold and Shinde has never tried to influence the village to follow his party... although he has initiated

some development works. We villagers stand by whatever decision he takes but we have been praying that he becomes the CM one day," the sarpanch said.

Significantly, there is neither a school nor a hospital in Dare. The villagers have to travel 50 km by road or 10 km to Tapola — situated on the other side of the Koyna river — to access any educational or health facilities.

Dare, however, has seen two helipads come up, as Shinde always arrives by a chopper. "The first helipad was developed by the minister alongside Koyna river. The second helipad is also ready on a hill, a few metre away from his house and would soon be in use," said Ashok Shinde, Shinde's cousin, who supervises the development work in the minister's private property there.

According to the affidavit that Shinde, a four-time MLA from Thane's Kopri-Pachpakhad, filed with the Election Commission (EC) before the 2019 Assembly polls, he bought 12.45 acre of agricultural land in Dare in December 2018 for Rs 21.21 lakh. His son and Sena MP Shrikant Shinde bought 22.68 acre at Rs 26.51 lakh in November 2017 in the village.

The family is building a palatial farmhouse on their land that will see Dera's first concrete road linking it to the village road. "We are here all the time, our sahib (Shinde) visits the farmhouse once in a month," said a labourer. Shinde's longest stay in his farmhouse was for eight days last year, when he had tested positive for Covid-19 and came to the village to recover.

## ED attaches properties worth Rs 78.38 cr of co-op sugar mill linked to Sena leader

the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) case.

The ED said the Jalna SSK is currently held in the name of Arjun Sugar Industries Private Limited, which was incorporated by Khotkar and his associates to purchase the SSK.

According to sources, the central agency initiated investigation under PMLA based upon an FIR registered by the Economic Offence Wing of the Mumbai Police on August 26, 2019.

The FIR stated that Jalna SSK was fraudulently sold by then officials and directors of MSCB at throw away prices to their relatives or private persons without following due procedure under the SARFAESI Act. The probe revealed that Jalna SSK was established in 1984-85 on around 235 acre, including 100 acre received from the Maharashtra government without any monetary consideration. **FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)**

## PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

# Murmu files nomination, reaches out to Opp parties

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

RULING COALITION NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu, who is in a comfortable position to win the July 18 election to succeed Ram Nath Kovind in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, filed her nomination papers on Friday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top BJP leaders.

With arithmetic in the Presidential electoral college favouring her, Murmu spoke to Opposition leaders, including Congress President Sonia Gandhi, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and NCP chief Sharad Pawar, seeking support to her candidature. According to the sources, none of them made a commitment to Murmu but wished her all the best for the election.

Former Jharkhand Governor Murmu filed her nomination papers in the presence of Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP president J P Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, chief ministers of all BJP-ruled states, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio as well as two ministers of the Biju Janata Dal government. Members of other BJP allies, including Anupriya Patel of Apna Dal, Rajiv Ranjan Singh of Janata Dal (U), YSRC's Vijay Sai Reddy, and AIADMK's



Droupadi Murmu files nomination papers in the presence of PM Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah, and other leaders, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Thambidurai and O Panneerselvam were also present.

The nomination papers were submitted with secretary general of the Rajya Sabha P C Modi, who is acting as the Returning Officer as per the notification by the Election Commission of India. Murmu will be contesting the election against former finance minister Yashwant Sinha, whose name was proposed by a grouping of the Opposition.

Prime Minister Modi was the first proposer in the Murmu's nomination papers. Four sets of nomination papers were filed by Murmu.

## Z category security for Yashwant Sinha

**New Delhi:** The Centre has extended Z category cover of armed CRPF commandos to the Opposition's presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha, officials said on Friday.

The armed personnel, about 8-10 working in shifts, will escort Sinha whenever he moves across the country, they said. A higher Z-plus cover of CRPF commandos has been accorded to the NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu.

Sinha is expected to file his nomination on June 27. **PTI**

# Tapan Deka is new head of IB; R&AW chief gets 1-yr extension

**DEEPTIMANTI WARY**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

TAPAN DEKA, special director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB), was on Friday appointed the new IB chief. He will replace incumbent Arvind Kumar, whose tenure comes to an end on June 30. The central government has also given a one-year extension to chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) Samant Goel, whose tenure was also set to come to an end at the end of this month.

On Thursday, the government had appointed former Punjab police chief Dinkar Gupta as the new head of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), and had also named special director in IB, Swagat Das, as special secretary in the Union Home Ministry.

The new IB chief, Deka, will have a fixed tenure of two years. He has superseded his senior special director, A Sema Rajan, a 1987 batch IPS officer of the Bihar cadre, in the appointment. Deka is a 1988 batch IPS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre.

Deka has been handling the operations division of the IB, and has decades of experience in counter-terrorism. He was the joint director of operations when the Indian Mujahideen terror group was at the peak of its activities in the country. Under Deka, the IB tracked down Indian Mujahideen operatives over the years, and the group had been practically incapacitated since the 2012 arrest of its leader Yasin Bhatkai from Nepal and the 2014 arrest of operative Tehsin Akhtar. Deka was also handling op-

erations during the 2015-16 Pathankot air base attack and the 2019 Pulwama attack.

He follows in the footsteps of former IB chiefs such as Ajit Doval and Nehchal Sandhu who had been handling operations before heading the agency.

Recently, Deka has been particularly focused on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, where civilians have been increasingly targeted in the past several months.

R&AW chief Goel's tenure extension indicates that he continues to enjoy the trust of the government. Sources said that under Goel, the agency has been generating quality intelligence on cross-border infiltration from Pakistan, resulting in effective operations by security forces against militants in Kashmir.

# Norms to protect rights of kids working on OTT platforms

**ESHA ROY**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

THE NATIONAL Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Friday published draft guidelines to regulate child protection within the entertainment industry. While the "Guidelines to Regulate Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry" were issued by the Commission in 2011, the draft increases the scope of the guidelines to cover social media and OTT platforms for the first time.

The commission has further included stringent penal provisions for violating the guidelines, including imprisonment, and has mandated that child artists need to be registered with District Magistrates. "Children are now being fea-

tured in videos across social media and in content on OTT platforms which had not been covered by the existing guidelines and this increasing influence and scope of the internet needed to be covered. Parents need to be held accountable," said NCPCR Chairperson Priyank Kannongo.

Provisions under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Child Labour Amendment Act, 2016, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, etc., have been included in the guidelines.

"In the absence of any monitoring mechanism, the children in the industry are at grave risk of exploitation because they lack the legal right to the earnings they generate, or safe working conditions and adequate protections via

## DRAFT GUIDELINES: THE PRODUCER MUST...

■ Seek permission of District Magistrate where the activity is to be performed

■ Run a disclaimer saying measures taken to ensure there has been no abuse, neglect or exploitation of children during shooting

■ Ensure at least one parent or legal guardian (a nurse in case of an infant)

is present during shoot

■ Ensure the child's education under the RTE Act

■ Allow participation in one shift per day, with a break after every three hours

■ Deposit at least 20% income in a fixed deposit account in a nationalised bank in name of the child

labour laws, etc. Participating in an adult-oriented industry, children are often exposed to unsuitable, anxiety inducing, and at times, dangerous operational hazards and situations... Apart from

the industry-specific risks, the children are also susceptible to a plethora of other crimes against children," says the draft.

The scope of the new guidelines will cover TV programmes

including but not limited to reality shows, serials, news and informative media, movies, content on OTT platforms, content on social media, performing arts, advertising and any other kind of involvement of children in commercial entertainment activities.

Any producer of any audio-visual media production or any commercial event involving the participation of a child will now need to obtain the permission of the District Magistrate where the activity is to be performed. Producers will also have to run a disclaimer saying measures were taken to ensure there has been no abuse, neglect or exploitation of children during the entire process of the shooting.

At least one parent or legal guardian or a known person has to be present during a shoot, and for infants a registered nurse

needs to be present along with the parent or legal guardian.

"A minor, especially below the age of six years, shall not be exposed to harmful lighting, irritating or contaminated cosmetics," says the draft.

The producer also needs to ensure the child's education under the RTE to ensure no discontinuity from school or lessons as well as adequate and nutritious food, water to the children during the process of production and medical facilities.

A child shall only participate in one shift per day, with a break after every three hours.

At least 20 per cent of the income earned by the child shall be directly deposited in a fixed deposit account in a nationalised bank in the name of the child, which may be credited to the child on attaining majority.

## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## CHANGE & CHURN

JAIRAM RAMESH, the newly appointed AICC general secretary in-charge of the Congress's communication department, is said to be planning to bring in many new faces as spokespersons. Many of the fresh faces would be domain experts and charismatic young faces. And efforts are said to be on to ensure gender balance as well. The first signs of change with continuity came on Friday when the party elevated Vineet Punia, who was a secretary in the department, as AICC secretary in-charge of internal communication. Ramesh has also brought in Amitabh Dubey, the son of Suman Dubey, as in-charge of research and monitoring in the department. Amitabh, who was president of the Delhi chapter of the Shashi Tharoor-headed All India Professionals' Congress, is a close friend of Rahul Gandhi. Ramesh has also brought in a youngster, Vaibhav Walia, who was heading the social media wing of the Youth Congress, as a secretary in the department attached to him. Clearly, the winds of change is blowing in the communication department.

## WELLNESS CENTRE

BEFORE DEMITTING office, one of President Ram Nath Kovind's last commitments has been the inauguration of an upgraded Ayush wellness centre on the President's Estate. Set up in 2015, the centre has been catering to the medical needs of the President, officials of his Secretariat and its residents. It offers treatment facilities in the Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathic treatment. President Kovind on Friday also released a book documenting the setting up of the centre, in which he wrote how it benefited a large number of people, especially during the pandemic.

## RIGHT TO SAFE WATER

DURING THE ongoing 50th regular session of the Human Rights Council, the Permanent Mission of India, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, and other International Organisations in Geneva co-organised a side event on 'Realising gender equality in the realisation of the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation' on June 24. The side event received "cross-regional support" from the Permanent Missions of several countries, including Germany, Spain, Bolivia, Mexico, Gabon, Namibia, the Gambia, Republic of Korea, Fiji, and the UAE. On the occasion, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, Indira Mani Pandey, said that the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are "some of the most crucial of the economic, social and cultural rights".

## RAJASTHAN 'HORSE-TRADING' CASE

# ACB serves court notice on Shekhawat

**HAMZA KHAN**  
JAIPUR, JUNE 24

THE RAJASTHAN Anti-Corruption Bureau has served a court notice to Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in connection with the alleged horse-trading during the attempt to topple the Ashok Gehlot government in mid-2020.

"The court notice was issued to the Union Minister last week, on June 16, following a revision petition filed by the ACB," an official said. He added: "Since the ACB had filed a revision petition regarding seeking his voice samples, the court has issued a notice to the minister to file his reply. This notice was served by the ACB."

The next hearing in the case is on July 14.

BJP state chief Satish Poonia questioned the notice and its timing. He said "the court notice cannot be justified" and termed it "vendetta politics".

Poonia said the notice is the Congress government's attempt at "threatening" Shekhawat.



Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Congress Chief Whip and Minister Mahesh Joshi said: "It is the court's order. The Union Minister has to take the next step. I believe that as a law-abiding person, he will come forward. Like he has said on several occasions, he has no aversion but that the voice sample is not being sought from him. So he has to decide if he wants to give voice samples or not. The ACB and the courts will do their job..." As for the timing coinciding with Rahul Gandhi's questioning by the ED in the National Herald case, Joshi said: "This means BJP believes that this should have happened earlier. Despite the case going on for two years, they are saying we have chosen this time. We have not. It is BJP's guilt speaking..." **FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)**



# 8 EXPRESS NETWORK

## BRIEFLY

### JAMMU & KASHMIR

#### Administration sacks 9 govt employees

**Srinagar:** J&K administration on Friday ordered the premature retirement of nine government employees from various government departments under Article 226(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Regulations. In July 2021, the J&K administration asked all administrative secretaries to identify "non-performing employees" who have completed 22 years of service or above the age of 48 years in their respective departments and place such cases before the review committee. **ENS**

### ODISHA

#### Actor found dead, police suspect suicide

**Bhubaneswar:** Veteran Odia film and theatre actor Raimohan Parida was found hanging in his residence in Prachi Vihar area of Bhubaneswar on Friday, police said. He was 58. Parida is survived by his wife and two daughters. His family members found him hanging from the ceiling of his room in the morning. Prima facie, it seems to be a suicide case but further investigation is underway, a police officer said, adding the body will be sent for post-mortem examination. **PTI**

### JHARKHAND

#### HC seeks report from state govt over violence

**Ranchi:** The High Court of Jharkhand on Friday directed the state government to furnish a report on the investigation done into the violence which gripped Ranchi on June 10 leading to the death of two persons and injury to several others. The court also wanted to know from the government how many rounds of bullets were fired by the police on that day to control the situation as protests by a group of people against controversial comments on the Prophet turned violent. **PTI**

### HIMACHAL PRADESH

#### Man shoots self after killing wife's friend

**Shimla:** A man allegedly shot himself dead after killing his wife's male friend at a hotel in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district on Friday, a police officer said. SP (Kullu) Gurdev Sharma said that two women from Delhi, one of whom is married, were staying at a hotel in Manali. They called their friend Sunny to the room on Thursday night. The husband reached the hotel the next morning and upon seeing his wife with Sunny, he shot him dead, he said. According to the woman, her husband died by suicide by shooting himself, the SP said. **PTI**

## SC UPHOLDS CLEAN CHIT TO MODI

# 'Satyamev Jayate': BJP hails rejection of Zakia plea

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDHINAGAR, NEW DELHI, PATNA, JUNE 24

THE BJP hailed the Supreme Court's Friday verdict that upheld the Special Investigation Team's (SIT's) clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi (then Gujarat's Chief Minister) and 63 others in the Gujarat riots of 2002, and dismissed a plea by slain Congress leader Ehsan Jafri's wife Zakia alleging a larger conspiracy.

An official press release of Gujarat BJP quoting state party president C R Paatil said, "One more attempt to link Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the 2002 riots with mala fide political intentions has failed."

"Notwithstanding the fact that the entire legal process went on for 20 years and the Supreme Court giving a clean chit to Narendrabhai Modi in 2012, the petition was filed to keep the subject alive. In the process, the entire country has seen to what extent Congress can go for power. We hope this will be the permanent end to the case," the release added.

At a press conference, general secretary of Gujarat BJP Rajni Patel said, "Anti-Gujarat people, anti-India people and those against Narendrabhai Modi continuously did such activities so that he (Modi) is pushed to the margins and Gujarat's progress is hindered. They did not spare any opportunity...but, truth always triumphs."

Speaking to reporters in Patna, senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said: "The verdict proves how a besmirching campaign had been launched against Narendra Modi, who defied odds

and served as Gujarat CM for 12 years and has been country's PM for eight years. Congress not only lost in court of law in its nefarious bid to malign Modi but was also rejected by the people in 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections".

Union minister Anurag Thakur said, "Satyamev Jayate (Truth alone triumphs)! Supreme Court of India gives a clean chit and has dismissed the plea filed by Zakia Jafri challenging the SC-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) report on post-Godhra violence in Gujarat. The Supreme Court says the petition is without merit."

"Satyamev Jayate" was how another Union minister Smriti Irani put it while party spokesperson Sambit Patra also tweeted the same expression.

BJP secretary Y Satya Kumar claimed that Congress' last attempt to malign Modi has fallen flat and justice prevailed as he cited the apex court's observation that Jafri's appeal was devoid of merits and deserved to be dismissed.

Bringing the curtains down on the bid to reopen the probe, a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar said the material collected during the investigation does not "give rise to strong or grave suspicion regarding hatching of larger criminal conspiracy at the highest level" for causing mass violence against Muslims.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, termed Zakia Jafri's plea devoid of merit. It spoke of "the devious stratagem to keep the pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior design" and noted that all those involved in "such abuse of process need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law".

## Zakia Jafri's long legal battle

**FEB 28, 2002:** During the post-Godhra riots, a mob attacks residents of Gulberg Society in Meghaninagar locality of Ahmedabad, killing 69 people, including Ehsan Jafri, the husband of appellant Zakia Jafri

**MAR 6, 2002:** Gujarat government appoints a commission to probe the Godhra incident and post-Godhra riots

**OCT 9, 2003:** The NHRC files a writ petition before the Supreme Court seeking a fair probe. SC appoints advocate Harish Salve as Amicus Curiae.

**JUN 8, 2006:** Zakia Jafri files complaint against Narendra Modi and others, alleging a larger conspiracy behind the riots

**MAR 26, 2008:** SC appoints a special investigation team (SIT), headed by former CBI director R K Raghavan

**MAY 6, 2010:** SC directs that the trial court shall not pronounce a final judgment till further orders by it

**FEB 8, 2012:** SIT files closure report giving a clean



Ehsan Jafri (bottom, right) was killed by a mob in Gulberg Society (top). His wife, Zakia Jafri (bottom, left), waged a long legal battle. *File*

chit to Modi and 63 others

**APR 15, 2013:** Zakia files a petition in a local court seeking rejection of the SIT report

**DEC 26, 2013:** That petition is rejected by the Metropolitan Magistrate

**OCT 5, 2017:** The HC also rejects Zakia's plea against

the SIT decision.

**SEP 12, 2018:** Zakia moves SC challenging the Gujarat HC's order

**OCT 26, 2021:** SC begins hearing Zakia's plea on regular basis

**JUN 24, 2022:** SC dismisses Zakia's plea and upholds SIT clean chit *PTI*

## Zakia son: 'Disappointed... will decide on future course after coming from Mecca'

**KAMAAL SAIYED**  
SURAT, JUNE 24

TANVEER JAFRI, the son of the Gulberg society massacre survivor Zakia Jafri, expressed disappointment Friday with the Supreme Court verdict that upheld the clean chit to the then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in the 2002 riots.

A bench presided over by Justice A M Khanwilkar upheld the decision of the Ahmedabad Metropolitan Magistrate to accept the closure report of the Special Investigation Team — which was appointed by the top court — rejecting the protest petition filed by Zakia.

Tanveer, who is in Mecca for the Hajj pilgrimage, told *The Indian Express*: "I am disappointed with the top court's order... I also had a talk with her (his mother) about the order and she said she had full faith in the Almighty..." Tanveer, who resides in Surat, said he was handling the legal battle as his 82-year old mother had a hearing problem and could not stand or walk for extended periods. Zakia was at a relative's place "outside Gujarat", he added.

"I was praying at Haram-sharif (near Kabatululla), when my friend called and informed me about the order... I will need time to go through it," said Tanveer, adding that he said he would decide on a course of action after returning.

Zakia's husband Ahsan Jafri, a Congress MP, was among the 69 people killed in the massacre on February 28, 2002.

The SIT had submitted a closure report in 2012 giving a clean chit to then CM Narendra Modi after a preliminary investigation into the complaint filed by Zakia against Modi and 63 others including bureaucrats and policemen. It said there was no prosecutable evidence against them.

The Metropolitan Magistrate's court, where the complaint had been filed, endorsed the clean chit.

Zakia filed a petition before the Gujarat HC against the SIT report. The HC in 2017 dismissed the plea. She then moved the Supreme Court.

## 'NO PROBABILITY OF REFORMATION'

# Rape-murder of minor: SC upholds death penalty

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

SUPREME COURT on Friday upheld the death sentence awarded to a man convicted of raping and murdering a seven-year-old mentally and physically challenged girl in Rajasthan in 2013, saying "there appears no probability of his reformation and rehabilitation".

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar said, "The crime had been of extreme depravity, which shocks the conscience, particularly looking to the target (a seven-year-old mentally and physically challenged girl) and then, looking to the manner of committing murder, where the hapless victim's head was literally smashed..."

"This is apart from the facts that the innocent victim was kidnapped on a stolen motorcycle by misusing the trust gained by offer of confectionery items and also, apart from the fact that she was brutally and inhumanly raped."

The court said the convict, Manoj Pratap Singh, "has a family

## TUNA EXPORT SCAM

# Lakshadweep MP, his nephew under CBI scanner

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

LAKSHADWEEP MP Mohammed Faizal has come under the CBI scanner in connection with alleged irregularities in the export of tuna fish to Sri Lanka. The central agency is also investigating Faizal's nephew Abdul Razzak and a Colombo-based company identified as SRT General Merchants Importer and Exporter.

A CBI team of about 25 officials and the Lakshadweep administration's vigilance officials have been engaged in conducting a 'joint surprise check' exercise on different departments of the Lakshadweep administration. These departments include the Lakshadweep Co-operative Marketing Federation (LCMF), the Fisheries Department, the Public Works Department, the Khadi Board and the Cooperative Society and Animal Husbandry Department.

According to the CBI, some public servants of the LCMF, in collusion with some public representatives and government servants, caused loss to the LCMF in the matter of the export of tuna fish to SRT General Merchants without following the requisite tender process and other formalities.



Lakshadweep lawmaker Mohammed Faizal

The CBI alleged that the LCMF procured a large amount of tuna fish from local fishermen using MP Faizal's influence. The tuna fish procured in this manner was exported by the LCMF to SRT General Merchants, but the company did not make payments, the CBI said. According CBI sources, Faizal's nephew Razzak is an office bearer of SRT.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Faizal said: "I don't know, really (about the CBI probe)... The fish was sold to SRT as the buyers had offered very good price... The (co-operative marketing) federation identified a buyer in Lanka and he offered very good rates. But the buyer backed out later due to some intervention by Thoothukudi middlemen. As a result, 250MT fish was left with the federation to dispose of. Then, there was a local auction and Thoothukudi middlemen bought it. There is no corruption in it. Let them enquire it, the truth will come out."

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

## HYDERPORA ENCOUNTER

# SC to hear plea of man for exhumation of son's body

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

THE SUPREME COURT will on June 27 hear a plea by a man seeking directions to exhume the body of his son who was killed in an encounter with police in Hyderabad in November 2021.

The plea by Mohammad Latif Magrey challenges the June 3 order of a division bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Appearing for Magrey, senior advocate Anand Grover told a va-

cation bench of justices CT Ravi Kumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia that a single judge bench of the HC had allowed exhuming the remains of Amir Magrey but this was stayed by the division bench. The counsel submitted that the family wanted to perform the last rites of the deceased.

Four people killed in the encounter on November 15, 2021, were buried quickly by police in Handwara. Families of three of them contested police claims that they were either militants or had militant links.

## No pressure

# from G-7 to stop buying oil from Russia: Foreign Secy

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

AHEAD OF Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Germany for the G-7 summit starting June 26, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Friday said there was no pressure from the G-7 countries on stopping buying of oil from Russia as India's "consideration is very well understood".

Responding to a question at a briefing, Kwatra said, "Whatever the trading arrangements that India puts in place with regard to the purchase of crude oil all over the world are determined purely from the consideration of energy security of India and there is no other consideration. I think that consideration is very well understood. I would even say appreciated across the countries. I do not see any point of assuming any pressure on that issue. India has continued its oil trade and purchases from wherever we need to do it."

Kwatra said it is purely determined, governed and motivated by India's energy security considerations, noting that it is one of the key aspects in terms of the country's national economic interests.

When asked about the issue of food security due to the Ukraine crisis, Kwatra said India has taken a very "proactive" stance to ensure food security of the vulnerable countries. Ukraine is a major producer of wheat and the halt in its exports of the staple food has triggered its shortage.

"I think the Russia-Ukraine situation has generated a certain amount of food security crisis all over the world and as a responsible nation, India has taken a very and proactive stance to ensure that the food security of the vulnerable countries are addressed in a manner that their needs are addressed," Kwatra said.

# Rajasthan clears mining of pink sandstone for Ayodhya temple

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAIPUR, JUNE 24

THE CONGRESS government in Rajasthan has issued environmental clearances to 37 Letter of Intent holders for restarting mining in Bharatpur district's Banshi Paharpur region, whose pink sandstone will be used to construct the Ayodhya Ram Temple, a state official said Friday.

The Centre had earlier granted in-principle approval for the diversion of 398 hectares of forest land in Bharatpur for mining.

Additional Chief Secretary (Mines) Subodh Agarwal said in a statement Friday that the legal mining of pink and red stone has already begun this month in three mines in the region. Agarwal said the state's Environment Impact Assessment Committee had issued clearance to 37 Letter of Intent holders, paving for legal mining of sandstone in Banshi Paharpur after nearly 26 years.

The official said Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was serious about the "sensitive" issue of supplying stones for the Ram Temple, and added that he had made "tireless

efforts" to take Banshi Paharpur, Sukhasila and Kot areas out of the region under Bandh Baretha Wildlife Sanctuary.

Legal mining in the area had stopped from December 1996 after a Supreme Court order prohibiting non-forestry activities without diversion.

*The Indian Express* had reported that the Rajasthan Mining Department had decided to apply for denotifying 5.56-sq km in Banshi Paharpur on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change portal as a matter of "highest priority" in October 2020.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
PUNE, JUNE 24

THE INDIGENOUSLY developed shipborne weapon system, Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM), was successfully flight tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha on Friday.

The VL-SRSAM system has been designed to strike at the high-speed airborne targets at the range of 40km to 50km and at an altitude of around 15km.

Defence Minister Rajnath



Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile being flight tested, off the coast of Chandipur on Friday. *PTI*

Singh congratulated DRDO and the Indian Navy on the success of the mission. "Congratulations to DRDO, Indian Navy & the industry for the successful flight test of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha. This success will further enhance the defence capability of Indian Naval Ships against the aerial threats," he tweeted.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar and DRDO Chairman Dr G Satheesh Reddy complimented the teams involved in the successful flight test.

DRDO officials have said its design is based on Astra missile which is a Beyond Visual Range

Air-to-Air missile. Two key features of the VL-SRSAM are cruciform wings and thrust vectoring.

The key DRDO facilities that contributed to the development of the system are Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI), both from Hyderabad, and Research & Development Establishment (Engineers) based in Pune. VL-SRSAM is a canisterised system, which means it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments. In the canister, the inside environment is controlled, thus making its transport and storage easier and improving the shelf life of weapons.





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## Study finds potential in using non-humanoid robots for teaching children with autism

ROBOTICS HAS been used as teaching aids for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), but these interventions have often been expensive humanoid. A research paper examines whether non-humanoid robots can act as teaching aids, and whether they can reduce the workload of human special educators. Experiments by researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism (ASHA), Bengaluru, indicated that non-humanoid toy robots indeed may have significant potential in aiding special educators in autism education.

The paper was presented at IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation in Xi'an, China in 2021. It has now won the IISc's Murthy Govindaraju 'Women in Computer Science' Research Endowment Award for one of its lead authors, Nabanita Paul.

ASD is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain; people with ASD may behave, communicate, interact, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. In the paper, the interventions focused on ASD children's communication and gross motor skills. The paper details three studies: a toy robot called Cozmo assists special edu-

cators in verbal lessons on school premises; a mini drone Tello helps special educators in exercise lessons, again on school premises; and Cozmo, special educators and ASD children connect remotely for verbal lessons. The 'Talk With Cozmo' sessions (20 children) included storytelling followed by questions related to the story; 'Exercise With Tello' (55 children) included rudimentary lessons such as raising arms and squatting; and 'Learn With Cozmo Online' (7 children) included various aspects including spelling three-letter words and phonetic learning.

The researchers measured and compared learning outcomes with these interventions and without them. "All three studies showed improvement in learning outcomes and reduction in prompts from the Ses (special educators), denoting reduced workload," the paper said.

"Our results show that children spent more time on lessons in online intervention with Cozmo, suggesting that using robots should also be considered when designing online interventions. Furthermore, the roles of Cozmo were analysed, and we found children showed increased spontaneous interaction when Cozmo acts as a co-instructor," it said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE



The robot Cozmo assists special educators in verbal lessons. ICRA 2021 via Nabanita Paul



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

### EVERYDAY LAW & POLICY

## ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES: WHY KERALA FARMERS ARE PROTESTING AN SC ORDER

FARMERS IN parts of Kerala have been protesting against the Supreme Court's recent order to establish 1-km Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) around all protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. Farmers fear losing their livelihood, and their protests have found support from the state government, opposition parties and the Catholic Church. This week, the Centre said it would hold discussions with the Kerala government and file an affidavit in the Supreme Court.

### Purpose of ESZs

As per the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-16) of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, land within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or ESZs. Areas beyond 10 km can also be notified as ESZs, if they hold larger ecologically important "sensitive corridors". According to guidelines issued on February 9, 2011, ESZs are created as "shock absorbers" for protected areas, to minimise the negative impact on the "fragile ecosystems" by human activities taking place nearby. At the same time, the guidelines state that the ESZs are not meant to hamper the

daily activities of people living in the vicinity. The activities prohibited include commercial mining, saw mills, commercial use of wood etc; permitted activities include on-going agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, and organic farming.

### Judgment & protests

On June 3, ruling on a PIL that sought to protect forest land, the Supreme Court referring to the 2011 guidelines and directed all states to have a mandatory 1-km ESZ from the demarcated boundaries of every protected forest land, national park and wildlife sanctuary. *Live Law* reported. If the existing ESZ goes beyond 1 km or if any statutory instrument prescribes a higher limit, the extended boundary shall prevail, the court said.

This led to protests across high ranges of Kerala, with farmer groups and political parties demanding that human settlements be exempt from the ruling. Kerala Independent Farmers' Association (KIFA) has claimed that the ruling would severely impact the livelihoods of farmers. The ruling LDF and the opposition UDF have called for strikes in Idukki and Wayanad districts to oppose the judgment.

RAGHU MALHOTRA

### MIHIR MISHRA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

FOR MUCH of June, several cities across the country have witnessed petrol pumps rationing supplies or shutting due to non-availability of fuel, leading to concerns about shortages and triggering panic buying among some consumers.

The situation peaked around the middle of the month, and the government intervened by asking pumps to stay open and directing oil marketing companies (OMCs) to ensure the availability of fuel. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas also assured there was enough fuel in the country.

The situation has eased since then, and the fuel availability situation is likely to start returning to normal next month.

### Why is there a shortage of fuel?

As global crude prices increased and the value of the rupee fell simultaneously, OMCs such as state-owned IOCL, HPCL, and BPCL, and private companies Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy and Reliance Industries, started to report losses on retail sales.

As the losses mounted, downstream oil companies tried to reduce supply to petrol pump vendors, which resulted in fuel shortage at pumps in multiple states. In a statement issued on June 15, the government acknowledged the problem — and said that shortages had been noticed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka.

The government blamed the scarcity of fuel on the surge in demand — the increase being as high as 50% in the first half of June 2022 over the corresponding period last year. It also said that the states that were seeing shortages were those in which large quantities were supplied by retail outlets belonging to private marketing companies, and where the distances from supply locations — terminals and depots — are larger.

The Centre, however, assured that the production of petrol and diesel in the country "is more than sufficient" to take care of any demand surge.

There are about 81,700 retail fuel stations in the country, some 7,200 of which are owned by private companies. Some dealers said the situation at IOCL retail pumps was better than in those owned by other companies — a situation linked primarily to the downstream retail major accessing cheaper crude. Others, however, claimed that the situation at IOCL pumps was as bad as the others.

According to industry sources, on Friday,



According to industry sources, on Friday, over 409 petrol pumps were closed due to fuel shortage, which included 225 pumps of HPCL, 132 of IOCL, and 52 of BPCL. Express

over 409 petrol pumps were closed due to fuel shortage, which included 225 pumps of HPCL, 132 of IOCL, and 52 of BPCL. To put things in perspective, IOCL has the largest network of petrol pumps in the country at 34,000 plus; the other two OMCs have around 20,000 pumps each.

### Why is the problem more acute in areas where larger numbers of retail outlets are owned by private oil marketing companies?

While prices of petrol and diesel are de-controlled — meaning, theoretically, that their rates are decided by the market — there is an invisible hand of the government in the way rates move. The price of petrol in the past three months in Delhi is a case in point — it rose 3.54 per cent in April, fell 8.24 per cent in May on account of the cut in excise duty, and has remained unchanged in June.

Rise in crude prices and the depreciating rupee during the period have led to losses to OMCs. Industry estimates suggest that at current levels, oil companies are losing Rs 25 per litre on diesel and Rs 10 on petrol, when sold through retail outlets. Many private OMCs therefore stopped sales through their retail outlets, leading to shortage.

Some public sector oil companies also reduced supply to dealers to cut their losses by discontinuing the fuel on credit offered to pump owners, thus impacting their fuel lift. However, Indian Oil has continued with the

credit system.

Industry players blame the current situation on the freeze in oil prices. "It is due to the repeated intervention of the Petroleum Ministry in the working of OMCs and the freeze on the petroleum price for more than 150 days due to elections that has resulted in under recoveries," Hemant Sirohi, a member of the Empowering Petroleum Dealers Foundation and the owner of a petrol pump in Meerut, said.

### When will the situation ease?

The solution lies in raising retail petrol and diesel prices to ensure oil companies do not lose money, but that may not happen soon. High fuel prices could have a cascading impact on inflation. Oil companies have raised jet fuel prices and rates for bulk purchasers, but that may not offset all their losses.

Industry experts say invoking the Universal Service Obligation (USO) may also not be enough. "Simply invoking USO will not help in availability of the product at retail outlets, since private companies have increased prices at their outlets. It will be interesting to see how BPCL/ HPCL proceed during the weekly holidays, since in the past supplies without advance payments were not released leading to a dry-out situation across states," a dealer said. The situation may start to ease from next month, as the monsoon reduces fuel requirement for sec-

tors like agriculture.

BPCL shut half the crude processing capacity at 240,000 barrels per day (bpd) at its refinery in Mumbai from June 10 for routine maintenance. This, however, is unlikely to impact fuel availability significantly, as these maintenance runs are planned and any shortages are made up by other refiners.

An email sent to the Petroleum Ministry, and queries sent to IOCL, HPCL, and BPCL did not get a response until press time.

### How much crude is India buying from Russia?

The Petroleum Ministry said last month that "energy purchases from Russia remain minuscule in comparison to India's total consumption". While Iraq remained the top supplier to India in May, Russia rose to second place, pushing Saudi Arabia down to third that month.

India has taken advantage of discounted prices offered by Moscow to ramp up crude imports from Russia at a time of surging global energy prices. Russian imports have jumped by over 50 times since April, and now make up 10 per cent of all crude bought overseas, a PTI report said on Thursday, quoting a senior government official. Prior to the Ukraine war, Russian oil was just 0.2 per cent of India's oil imports.

As much as 40 per cent of the Russian oil has been bought by private Indian refiners Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy.

### EXPLAINED BOOKS SATURDAY SUMMARY

## Prescription for post-Covid world: resilience

### UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

"THE COVID-19 pandemic has worked like an X-ray machine, revealing the hidden challenges under the surface of many societies," Markus K Brunnermeier says in the introduction to his book. Indeed, the pandemic has hit every country — the adverse health impact was just the starting point; the virus ended up disrupting every aspect of society, and the global economic order.

Complex supply chains built and refined over decades had to be abruptly shut down or broken to prevent or slow the infection's spread. Jobs and livelihoods were lost, inequalities of all kinds widened, governments were pushed to pile on millions of dollars of debt to extend relief, and central banks had to resort to every possible way to stimulate the economy even as health systems collapsed and



RESILIENT SOCIETY: ECONOMICS AFTER COVID BY MARKUS K BRUNNERMEIER HarperBusiness 428 pages; ₹699

countries and societies turned more insular and protectionist.

The Covid-19 shock pushed back most countries by several years, possibly decades. And just as it appeared that the world was starting to break free from the seemingly unending cycles of lockdowns, Russia invaded Ukraine, unleashing consequences that reverberated around the world — from costlier fuel

prices to scarcity of food items to dramatically heightened geopolitical tensions.

Within just a couple of years, the world economy has swung from trying to avoid a prolonged deflation to desperately fighting inflation. The post-Cold War consensus around globalisation, already under strain from the time of the global financial crisis of 2008-09, has now developed into a militant desire to reduce dependence on other countries.

Was the world prepared to survive these shocks in 2020? Is it prepared in 2022? More importantly, will it be prepared in the future? If so, how?

In *The Resilient Society*, Princeton University economist Brunnermeier details the global economic fallout of the Covid disruption. Many of the book's key insights are distilled from a Princeton webinar series called Markus Academy, which featured influential economists, including more than a dozen Nobel laureates.

In the end, for the author, the touchstone for any society, economy, or indeed the world is "resilience", or the ability to rebound. It is resilience that sets the reed apart from the robust oak, which has the ability to resist. "I bend but do not break" — that is the essence of resilience.

After explaining the concept and how societies could be redesigned to become resilient in part 1 of the book, Brunnermeier uses Covid to explain the core elements of resilience management in part 2. In parts 3 and 4, he looks at macroeconomic and global challenges that countries face.

The book was released last year, but the Ukraine crisis shows, even though the world has moved to the next shock, Brunnermeier was spot on in underscoring the need to be resilient. The main lesson for societies is to give up the "just in time" production approach that accords primacy to efficiency, and instead move towards a "just in case" approach that allows for safety buffers.

## Hunt for Alzheimer's breakthrough continues, drug fails in clinical trials

### SAURABH KAPOOR

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

AN EXPERIMENTAL Alzheimer's drug aimed at slowing or preventing cognitive decline in people at risk of developing the disease early has failed in clinical trials, landing a blow to efforts aimed at finding a trailblazing treatment to the disease.

### What is Alzheimer's disease?

Alzheimer's is a degenerative brain disorder that slowly robs people of their memory and thinking abilities. Worldwide, it is the most common form of dementia or loss of cognitive functioning, contributing 60%-70% cases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Progressive and irreversible, it usually begins with mild memory loss, and as symptoms grow severe, patients lose the ability to perform even simple tasks.

"Pathology of the disease is deposition of an abnormal protein called beta-amyloid in

the brain... The disease starts much before the symptoms show up. The symptoms may come at a certain age, but the pathology changes almost a decade earlier," said Dr Manjari Tripathi, professor of neurology at AIIMS, New Delhi.

### What was the latest trial that failed?

The decade-long effort used crenezumab, a drug designed to block beta-amyloid, and involved people with a specific genetic mutation that leads to the early onset of Alzheimer's at an age around their mid-40s. The trial was backed by drugmaker Roche, the US National Institute on Aging and Arizona-based nonprofit Banner Alzheimer's Foundation. It targeted the less-prevalent autosomal-dominant Alzheimer's disease (ADAD).

In 2019, Roche had stopped crenezumab phase 3 trials for sporadic Alzheimer's, which accounts for over 90% cases, after results fell short of expectations.

Roche announced last week that the results for its latest trial too were disappointing

and did not show "significant clinical benefits". ADAD and sporadic AD, according to researchers, have similar neuropathological and clinical features.

### Why is the failure seen as a major setback?

A drug to prevent and treat Alzheimer's has been elusive for years. According to the WHO, dementia is currently the seventh leading cause of death among all diseases and one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people.

In 2020, there were 121 unique therapies being tested in 136 trials to find a cure for AD, according to research published in the journal of the Alzheimer's Association (of the US). This drug development pipeline, scooped from a review of the US FDA's clinical trials registry, looks impressive — until juxtaposed with another statistic.

Prior to this, a similar review of the AD drugs pipeline by researchers had looked at 244 compounds in 413 clinical trials between 2002 and 2012, and found a staggering 99.6%

failure rate — against 81% for cancer. By the time a drug pipeline review was published in 2020, no drug had made it past the finish line.

In 2021, however, the USFDA approved Biogen's beta-amyloid targeting drug aduhelm, making it the first new Alzheimer's drug to receive approval in the US in almost 20 years. But the fast-track approval was followed by a fierce debate among scientists over its trial data.

While that controversy continues to rage, crenezumab's failure has called into question the very approach of relying too much on neutralising beta-amyloid to fight the disease, the approach of most Alzheimer's studies.

"You cannot say that just hitting beta-amyloid is going to take care of everything... You cannot hit such a complex disease with just one stone," Dr Tripathi said.

The latest drug pipeline review published in May this year says there were 143 agents in 172 clinical trials for AD as on January 25, 2022.

### What else does the search involve?

Another approach targets, instead of the toxic beta-amyloid plaque, the tau protein that misfolds and deposits in brain cells in the form of twisted fibres called neurofibrillary tangles. But drugs targeting these proteins individually — the 'one drug, one target' model — have not achieved a breakthrough yet.

Some scientists are also focusing on a drug strategy that targets multiple enzymes and pathways that contribute to the progress of the disease.

Another approach is aimed at modifiable lifestyle factors to slow cognitive decline. This is the basis of the World-Wide FINGERS study, which expanded out of encouraging results of the two-year FINGERS (Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability) randomised clinical trial. The study showed a 40% improvement in memory function, and 25% in overall cognition in the 1,260 participants aged 60-77 years.

Dr Tripathi said: "Genetics and aging are non-modifiable, irreversible factors in Alzheimer's. Genetics is a loaded gun, the trig-

ger for which are the modifiable factors. The strongest modifiable factors linked to the disease are hypertension, diabetes, smoking, alcohol consumption, and sedentary lifestyle."

### What is the India scenario?

In India, only 1 in 10 people with dementia receive any diagnosis, treatment or care for the disease, according to the World Alzheimer's Report, 2021. Lack of awareness is a major problem. "Most of our population accepts it as normal aging, which is incorrect. Only when it reaches an unmanageable stage — like when patients start wetting their clothes and are not aware of it, is when medical help is sought. Unfortunately, most patients come to us very late," Dr Tripathi said.

An increasing prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, and obesity is expected to drive up the incidence of dementia in India in the coming decades. According to the Global Burden of Disease study in *The Lancet* this year, India could see a 197% jump in dementia, including Alzheimer's, from 3.84 million cases in 2019 to 11.44 million cases by 2050.



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022

# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

*The Indian* **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## LET THERE BE DATA

New consumer expenditure survey is long overdue. Government should move to doing surveys on a more regular basis

THE NARENDRA MODI government is set to launch a new household consumer expenditure survey (CES) from July. The exercise is welcome — in fact, long overdue. The CES, covering some 1.2 lakh rural and 84,000 urban households, is supposed to be conducted every five years. The last two such nationwide sample surveys were carried out in 2011-12 and 2017-18. Unfortunately, the results of the 2017-18 survey were not released on grounds of unexplained “data quality issues”. Effectively, it means there is no official data after 2011-12 for estimating poverty lines and ratios, based on consumption spending below a certain level and the percentage of households falling within that deprivation threshold. Many would rightly argue that high growth rates and government welfare programmes have little meaning, especially in a country like India, if these do not result in reducing poverty. Without data, it’s difficult to gauge whether this is happening at all, leave alone at an accelerated pace.

The current data vacuum is in contrast to 2011-2, when there was a surfeit of information from the decennial Census and the Rural Development Ministry’s Socio Economic and Caste Census. The latter data was, in fact, key to the identification of beneficiaries under the Modi government’s own successful schemes — be it rural housing and toilets or providing free LPG and electricity connections. Data-driven policy-making is vital to other areas as well: For instance, is consumption of foods rich in proteins (milk, pulses, eggs and meat) and micro-nutrients (fruits and vegetables) growing at the same rate as in the previous decade? Only the CES can give satisfactory answers to this question, which also matters for making future demand projections, crop planning and dietary diversification interventions. With Covid’s shadow falling behind, the next one-and-a-half years or so should hopefully yield a wealth of information from both the CES and the Census to guide policymakers and researchers, currently reliant on private data providers such as the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) and NielsenIQ.

While the CES’s launch is timely, the government should move to doing surveys on a more regular basis. The existing quinquennial framework and waiting for “normal” years makes no sense. Such years have become increasingly rare in India, where the recent period has seen disruptions owing to demonetisation, GST, Covid and the Ukraine war-induced commodity price shock. Since government decision-making has to be dynamic and responsive to changing ground situations, the data has to keep flowing. If a CMIE can survey over 2,36,000 households thrice every year, there is no reason why the National Statistical Office cannot do a CES, which is based on a more comprehensive questionnaire, at least annually, even with a smaller sample size.

## NO SILVER BULLET

Bipartisan support for gun control legislation is a historic moment in US politics. But the issue remains a divisive one

THE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT in the US Senate for the passage of the most significant gun control legislation in three decades is historic by any measure. As many as 15 Republican senators voted to override the filibuster and pass the law in the 100-member Senate. The bill is likely to sail through Congress, where the Democrats currently have a majority. Just a month after 19 students and two teachers were killed in a shooting in Uvalde, Texas, the law provides for stricter background and mental health checks and encourages states to prevent people considered as threats from possessing firearms. Given how polarising an issue the right to bear arms is in the US, the law represents a win for the Biden Administration. Yet, on the same day as the deadlock was overcome in the Senate, a verdict by the US Supreme Court and political responses to the law show that the issue is far from being laid to rest.

By a majority of 6-3, the Supreme Court struck down New York’s “proper cause” requirement. Proper cause rules limit who can carry a gun in public spaces — in essence, to obtain a licence, one must demonstrate an actual need of a gun for self-defence. Versions of “proper cause”, in fact, are part of gun laws in many countries, including India. The court’s decision was split along political lines, with liberal judges forming the minority, dissenting opinion and conservatives upholding the absolute right to bear arms. On the other hand, the bill passed by the Senate is being called out as weak by many Democrats for failing to ban assault rifles and other military-grade weapons. That many on the right are still wary of being seen as “anti-Second Amendment” is illustrated by the fact that of the 15 Republicans that voted for the law, only three are up for re-election in November.

One of Joe Biden’s assets, when he was a presidential candidate, was his record of having built bipartisan consensus in his long years as a senior legislator. The passage of the gun control law will certainly strengthen that reputation. Yet, the debate around the unqualified right to bear arms has once again underlined the divides in the US political system, including in the judiciary. Over three-fourths of all homicides in the US are a result of gun violence. The public outcry after Uvalde may have forced some concessions and compromise from the Republicans. But whether this is a political success that can be built on will likely be guided by the results of the mid-term elections, more than the compelling imperative of public safety.

## THE NEW WORKPLACE

Co-working manifesto places the interest of workers at the heart of the enterprise, provides them a space they are in control of

THE WEST BENGAL Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) has introduced Happy Works, a co-working space in Kolkata’s growing commercial hub, New Town. At affordable rates of Rs 30 for 90 minutes and Rs 20 for each additional hour thereafter, these seven-days-a-week 9am-to-8pm work-pod clusters are witnessing a surge in the number of working mothers, young entrepreneurs and freelance workers looking to nurture a professional space distinct from the blurriness of working from home, steep-on-the-pocket office rentals or the HR-controlled regimes of traditional workspaces.

While co-working spaces in urban metropolises are no novelty, these are mostly private sector initiatives looking to break the ennui of standard office experiences. They often come at a restrictive cost, limiting the experience to those who can afford it rather than those who may be in need of it. HIDCO’s venture indicates both a welcome change in the state government’s attitude to commerce and an acknowledgement that, in the post-Covid era, the future of work includes flexibility, especially when the workers are juggling many roles.

The co-working manifesto is built on the premise of sustainability. It places the interest of the worker at the heart of the enterprise — an idea increasingly lost on corporations chasing profits. In unshackling workers from their many roles — primary caregiver, family breadwinner or young entrepreneur-in-need-of-a-breakthrough — it provides them with a space they are in control of. In much the same way as a city allows people a chance to reimagine their identities without the cloying intimacy of familiar spaces, these co-working spaces let users choose their degrees of interaction with other occupants while working at their own pace. The result can be greater productivity, unlikely collaborations and a spontaneous sense of community. Democratising these spaces through affordable pricing is, therefore, a pragmatic step towards a happy, healthy and more inclusive workforce.



SANJAY PATIL

WITH EACH PASSING day, Shiv Sena leader and cabinet minister Eknath Shinde’s rebellion, with a large number of MLAs from Maharashtra’s ruling party, seems to be growing in magnitude. What seemed like an internal skirmish at first has now become high-voltage political drama, pointing towards a deep-rooted crisis in the state government led by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), and more significantly in the internal working of the Shiv Sena.

The crisis is neither a complete surprise nor a recent phenomenon in the Shiv Sena. It is an outcome of some of the key challenges that the party has been facing over the last decade in general and during its tenure as part of the MVA in particular. I want to look at three such key challenges here: The fizzling out of the “idea of Sena”, BJP’s aggressive attempts to reclaim power in the state, and the disagreements between the alliance partners in the MVA.

When Uddhav Thackeray took over the reins of the Shiv Sena during the 1990s, he brought about a substantial transformation in the party’s working. Despite being Bal Thackeray’s son and heir, Uddhav’s style of leadership is distinctly different from his late father’s. A large part of the success the Shiv Sena got as a movement and party in the initial years stemmed from Bal Thackeray’s charismatic leadership, his aggressive stance and his emphasis on actionism. Uddhav’s ways were more systematic and moderate and, unlike Bal Thackeray, he did not manage to project himself as a mass leader.

The very idea of the Sena, which relied heavily on violence, street politics and espousal of aggressive nativism and Hindutva through the party’s grassroots network of shakhas began fizzling out with Uddhav stepping in. Old Shiv Sainiks, who were trained to do things on the ground rather than think and deliberate, struggled to find relevance in the Sena’s changing avatar. The conflict between the old and new Sena that stems from this confrontation of ideas, ideologies and leadership traits only grew with time. It became a key reason for the likes of Shinde to publicly express their discontent with the party they once identified with.



RAJESH RAJAMANI

FILMMAKER DUO PUSHKAR-GAYATHRI’S Tamil web series *Suzhal: The Vortex* was released recently on Prime Video. The problem with this small-town crime thriller is that all its ideas, characterisation, plot points and drama seem like the bullet points on a series pitch PPT. They are not fleshed out enough to make for an engaging series. Yet, I found myself binge-watching the show to witness how it unravels. This made me wonder about how web series are constructed and designed for consumption.

*Suzhal: The Vortex* has good actors, but it never really extracts great performances from them. It is set in an interesting mountain terrain, but it hardly exploits the location to add drama to its narrative. The nine-day-long Mayana Kollai, the local temple festival, offers interesting visual imagery, but its use as a metaphor gets repetitive after a point. Dramatic points are continuously thrown at us but the characters behave the same way as before and after, as if they have absolutely no stake in the story.

Yet, the series kept me hooked for its entire running time. Even when I was sure that it was lacking heavily in several departments, I couldn’t help wanting to know what happened next. After a few episodes, to escape the tediousness of the narrative, I decided to run the series at 2X or 3X speed just to find out who has done it in this whodunit.

Unlike feature films that attempt to tell a story within 90-150 minutes, each season of a web series is forced to keep you engaged for



# Old Sena vs new Sena

At the root of Eknath Shinde’s rebellion lies the weakening of the idea of Shiv Sena

The induction of Aaditya Thackeray and the young elite men and women who entered with him ruffled some old feathers and underlined the sentiment that the Sena was changing. Sena’s internal demography has changed substantially since then as English-speaking, affluent people gain prominence in day-to-day decision-making, as opposed to the ordinary Sainiks working at the shakha level in Mumbai and elsewhere. This has two ramifications. One, senior leaders find their position weakened within the organisation and two, at the grassroots, with the decreasing autonomy and power to shakhas, local networks of brokerage and patronage are affected, causing distress among party workers. Even as Aaditya attempted to put governance first while tackling fundamental issues of health, education and environment, his failure to convey his ideas at the grassroots seems to have led to a further disconnect between the old and new Sena.

The Sena’s decision to become a part of the MVA government in 2019, parting ways with saffron partner BJP, created further resentment among its senior leaders. Even with Uddhav Thackeray at the helm as chief minister, there has been growing anger among Sena leaders as they allege that the NCP and the Congress got a larger share of the pie. There was a feeling that power-sharing was unfair, with the NCP getting to keep some of the prominent portfolios such as Home and Finance. Eknath Shinde, in particular, faced a big blow after Uddhav Thackeray decided to take up the chief ministerial role while retaining his post as Sena Pramukh, thus closing all doors for Shinde’s further elevation within the party and government.

Uddhav’s elevation as CM also made him even more inaccessible for Sena leaders and grassroots Shiv Sainiks, mainly because he was engaged in handling the catastrophic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic for a substantial period of his tenure. The disconnect has been particularly felt by leaders from rural and mofussil areas of Maharashtra who now claim that they were supported by Shinde as they could not reach the Thackerays when they needed them most. Shinde seems to have systematically tapped into this anxiety and

strengthened his own support base by combining street politics and optics. His espousal of late Anand Dighe, a popular Sena leader from Thane and the recent release of *Dharmaveer*, a film that glorifies the life and politics of Dighe, seem like conscious attempts to create this narrative of old vs new Sena. His rebellion seems to be an attempt to challenge the dominance of the Thackeray brand and appropriate the symbols of Shiv Sena, with the BJP’s strong support.

In the last two years, the BJP has made conscious attempts to tap into the insecurities of Sena leaders and aid its aggressive attempts to reclaim power in Maharashtra. Like in many other parts of the country, its alleged use of central agencies to further this agenda seems to play a key role even in the case of the recent Sena rebellion. Among those who have joined the rebel camp are Pratap Sarnaik, who was recently under the ED scanner in connection with a money laundering case and Yamini Jadhav, the wife of Yashwant Jadhav, former Sena corporator and four-time chairman of the Standing Committee of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, who was summoned by the ED earlier this year in a Foreign Exchange Management Act violation case. Even as most MLAs claim that they want the Sena to go with the BJP because of the Hindutva factor, the security that comes along with such a deal seems to be a key determinant in their decision to join the Shinde fold.

Very soon, we will know whether Shinde’s rebellion is powerful enough to topple the government and snatch power from the Uddhav-led Sena. For now, it is crucial to see whether the Sena can revive its very idea and ideology and garner support from its grassroots Sainiks to keep itself relevant in the state’s political canvas. The scenes outside Matoshree when Uddhav Thackeray moved his base there from his official residence on Wednesday, sent a clear message: Whether the government stays in power or not, the idea of the Sena is too strong to be uprooted overnight.

*The writer is a researcher at the University of Mumbai. His doctoral work looks at the journey of Shiv Sena between 1985 and 2022*

# NOTES FROM A BINGE-WATCHER

As ‘Suzhal’ shows, web series are designed more to hook viewers, less to tell stories

8-10 episodes that cumulatively last for 6-8 hours or even more. And OTT platforms are clear that they want their audience to binge-watch, for they fear that the viewer who logs out after an episode or two might not return to the series again. So the only way to make sure the viewer watches an entire season is to make it binge-worthy.

This is unlike how series were consumed a decade or so earlier on television. Most series then released one episode per week. The episodes would leave you at a cliffhanger moment but only to make sure you return to watch the next week as well. This weekly viewing format didn’t allow for binge-watching unless the whole of an already finished series was made available online. Binge-watching was usually the resort of those who were in some form of pain. When they were grieving the loss of a loved one or nursing a broken heart or when they had to insulate themselves from any other devastating event, binge-watching served as a potent distraction. But today, binge-watching has become the norm.

However, the average viewer can’t watch anything for eight hours without feeling very fatigued. The job of a web series then becomes about fighting this mental and physical fatigue of the audience and keeping them hooked rather than fully engaged. So it is not surprising that in 2017, Netflix chairman and CEO Reed Hastings declared that the streamer’s biggest competitor was, in fact, sleep. “You get a show or a movie you’re really dying to watch,

and you end up staying up late at night, so we actually compete with sleep,” Hastings said. “And we’re winning.”

This is what *Suzhal: The Vortex* succeeds in. Even though you are never truly engaged with its narrative, it compensates by adding several twists and turns to keep you curious. By deliberately misleading you and changing the narrative goal post, it keeps you hooked, even if some of these come across as contrived.

This seems to be the very nature of how web series are formulated today. A disproportionate amount of effort is put into keeping the viewer hooked, rather than being invested in good storytelling. As a result, even when viewers feel cheated and exhausted, they crave for more. It’s almost as if watching a series is an unhealthy addiction that can only offer a momentary high and not a fulfilling experience.

This is in contrast to how the feature film format is able to make the audience feel, think or even reflect on various issues, apart from entertaining them. Feature films have, of course, had a much longer history and have taken plenty of time to evolve to their current form. And it is quite possible that web series, too, might break away from their current addictive techniques and move on to better storytelling methods. Until then, however, watching a series will resemble a heavy drinking session that can be fun while it lasts but is sure to give a bad hangover the next morning.

*The writer is a Chennai-based filmmaker*

## JUNE 25, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### VIDHAN SABHA ELECTS

THE BHAJAN LAL Government established its majority on the floor of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha when the Congress-I nominees, Tara Singh and Ved Pal, were elected Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively, on the first day of its session. The Government won in the double trial of strength by 48 votes to 40. The Pro-tem Speaker, Ishwar Singh, a Congress-I member who conducted the Speaker’s election, did not cast his vote. A similar neutrality was observed by Tara Singh who had occupied the Speaker’s chair when the election of deputy speaker was held.

### ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

A TEXTILE MILL worker, Digambar Ramachandra Kumthekar, 23, tried to shoot the Chief Minister, Babasaheb Bhosale, at Dadar in the heart of Bombay but did not succeed in his bid as his country-made pistol failed to go off. The police security staff immediately overpowered him and seized his weapon which was hidden in a polythene bag. Briefing newsmen at the Mantralaya, Shrikant Jichkar, Minister of State for Home said the accused had been on strike but had resumed work on May 3. The worker has told the police that he has no links with any union.

### THE ISRAELI INVASION

ISRAELI TANK COLUMNS overran a major Syrian strong-point on the Beirut-Damascus highway in Lebanon’s central mountains and cut off Syrian garrisons dug in east of the beleaguered Lebanese capital, Lebanese state television reported. Israeli fighter-bombers teamed with naval gunboats in a day-long bombardment of Palestinian guerrilla fortifications on west Beirut’s sea-front boulevard near the just-evacuated American and British embassies and around the paralysed Beirut airport. The police said at least 17 persons were killed and 39 wounded.



New Delhi





# THE IDEAS PAGE

## Powering our future

To weather the new electric era that could be dotted with territorial wars and national security concerns, India would do well to preempt shortages. We need to be more self-reliant, build in-house energy sources



OPENING ARGUMENT  
BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY

THE COLD REALITY of modern life is that more than love, crude oil makes the world go round. Crude is the raw natural resource extracted from the earth, subsequently refined into widely used products like petroleum, jet fuel and heating oils. The price of crude impacts the cost of essential goods like food and clothing — since every good that we access daily has been transported long distances.

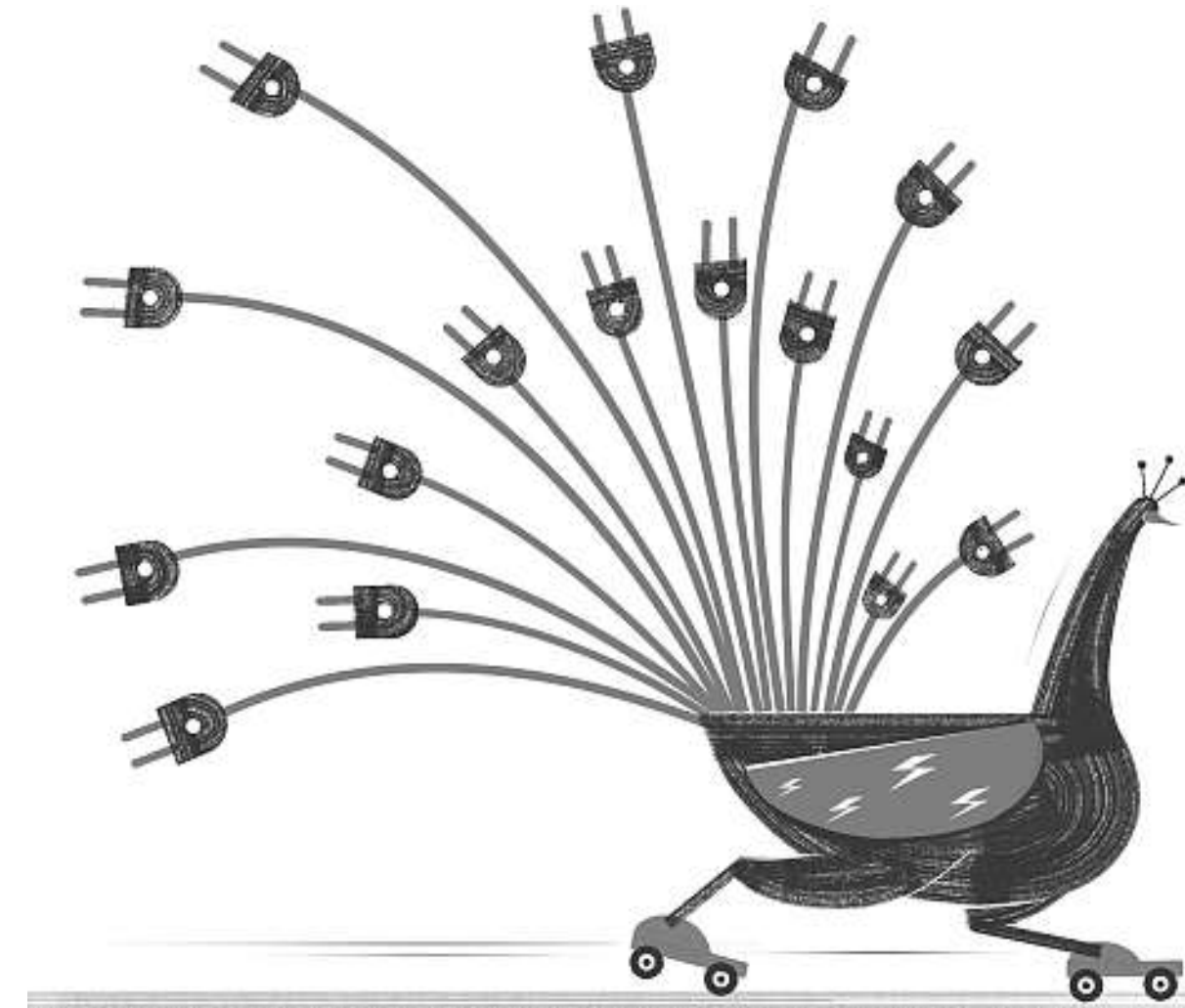
A significant fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been the rising cost of petroleum. Russia is the world's largest exporter of oil products to global markets, and the second largest exporter of crude oil behind Saudi Arabia. About 60 per cent of Russia's oil exports go to Europe and another 20 per cent to China.

In response to the invasion, Western countries, including the United States and Europe, have imposed an array of sanctions against Russia. Europe and the United States have seen the price of oil steadily rise after they reduced their purchases from Russia. Today, gasoline costs a historic high of almost \$5 a gallon in the US, up almost 50 per cent since last year. President Joe Biden has been forced to consider a gas tax holiday in light of the rising discontent amongst the American public, even though taxes constitute about a third of the price of gas.

India on the other hand has chosen a different route. We are the third-largest importer and consumer of oil in the world and have increased our purchase of Russian oil to cope with rising oil prices elsewhere. This week the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times* both reported on India emerging as a major buyer of Russian oil. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, India has increased imports of Russian crude more than 25-fold since the start of the invasion on February 24, 2022. As of June 1, 2022, India is importing an average of a million barrels a day. We are also refining crude oil or turning it into products like jet fuel and diesel and selling it to Europe and other nations. Importing Russian crude also helps us curb inflation that has been made worse by rising fuel prices. Procuring discounted Russian oil is an effort by the government to bring down prices and halt the decline in the value of the Indian rupee which has now crossed Rs 78 to the dollar — up from an average of Rs 73.93 last year.

India's behaviour is governed by our best interest, which is the most important element of any astute foreign and economic policy. We have historically imported oil and crude from Iran, Iraq and Russia, countries that have been precariously placed either due to war and/or sanctions.

For now, Russia has been able to take the sting out of the sanctions by selling crude, oil and coal at reasonable prices in greater volumes to newer bulk buyers like India, to combat Europe trying to wean it-



C R Sasikumar

self off Russian crude. In May, China's imports of Russian oil rose 28 per cent. While Europe's Russian crude purchases fell by 5,54,000 barrels a day, Asia's consumption rose by 5,03,000 barrels. Hence Russia has not suffered a significant loss in terms of crude oil sales.

At present, the European Union has imposed a partial embargo on the purchase and import of Russian oil. However, the West plans to introduce more comprehensive sanctions. The sanctions announced include a ban on seaborne import of Russian crude oil by December 5, 2022, and a ban on petroleum product imports as of February 5, 2023. The European Union has also announced a ban against insuring ships carrying Russian oil, to commence this December. Countries like India, China and Turkey that are increasing their oil purchases from Russia have six months to find a work-around to the insurance ban by using non-European insurance companies. As the *Wall Street Journal* reports, European companies own most of the ships carrying Russian oil to India. These insurance sanctions will impact the companies that own these ships as well. It remains to be seen what impact all of this will have on both the global economy in general and the Russian economy in particular.

While we await the full impact of the sanctions on Russian crude, one must consider the changed global realpolitik. China has risen as a superpower, while the two Cold War powerhouses, Russia and the United States, have been dramatically altered. Some might say they are in decline.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, India has increased imports of Russian crude more than 25-fold since the start of the invasion on February 24, 2022. As of June 1, 2022, India is importing an average of a million barrels a day. We are also refining crude oil or turning it into products like jet fuel and diesel and selling it to Europe and other nations. Importing Russian crude also helps us curb inflation that has been made worse by rising fuel prices.

The United States faces deep social divisions within the country and may be entering a recession. While Russia has been able to absorb the impact of these sanctions for now, it is unclear how it will weather the full force of the response package planned by the West.

However, this ability to buy cheap Russian crude may only be a temporary solution to our long-term fuel needs. Apart from geopolitical changes in the world indicating the rise of China, there is a major change: Electric vehicles and electric batteries substituting for non-renewable resources like petroleum and diesel.

As I have written in a previous column ('Driving a new world order', IE, October 31, 2021), there is a concentration of battery factories/suppliers in China and South Korea. We may have been able to buy cheaper crude from Russia and tide through this "crude storm". India cannot afford to be dependent on an unhindered supply of electric batteries from China, given geopolitical considerations and border disputes between the two nations. To weather the new electric era that will no doubt be dotted with territorial wars and national security concerns, India would do well to preempt shortages in the arena — by putting in place factories which will build the electric batteries that will power our futures. What the invasion of Ukraine has taught us is that we need to be more self-reliant and have in-house energy sources.

The writer is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Constantly increasing fuel prices have a direct effect on the cost of essentials. The current global crisis may be part of the problem, but the major reason is the pitiful state of our foreign exchange reserves and the rife unemployment caused by a callous handling of the Nepalese economy." — THE KATHMANDU POST

## New rules for a new game

We need a structured gaming law that allows players to enjoy the thrills of online gaming responsibly, safely, transparently



SAMEER BARDE

ONLINE GAMING HAS swiftly emerged as the most engaging form of entertainment in India owing to younger demographics, increased internet penetration, and affordable smartphones. Evolving technologies resulting in immersive experiences have led more people to adopt this new form of entertainment instead of the passive ones.

The popularity of online gaming including e-sports, online casual games and real money gaming can be gauged readily with the industry growing at a rate of about 35 per cent in 2019-20, outpacing OTT, television, and social media platforms. Propelled by the mobile-first phenomenon and around 420 million gamers already active, online gaming is disrupting conventional forms of entertainment.

Like any social change and most new technologies, the industry has been functioning under the weight of societal ramifications and perceptual ambiguity — online real money gaming is often confused with gambling. Whilst games of skill (fantasy chess, bridge, rummy, and poker) are legal and protected under the Constitution, games of chance (roulette, teen patti, and dice) are essentially about gambling and hence deemed illegal.

As per the Indian Constitution, gambling is classified under the State List. States have the power to regulate or prohibit such activity. Failing to distinguish between online skill-based gaming and gambling, some states have either placed restrictions or buried the sunrise sector under regulatory ambivalence.

This is unfortunate given that "games of skill" are legitimate business activities protected under Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian Constitution as per the rulings of the Supreme Court and several High Courts till date. These rulings have also emphasised a clear distinction between "games of skill" and "games of chance".

Last year, the Tamil Nadu government amended the Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws, 1930 banning online games. The ordinance banned all forms of online gaming and stated that "games of mere skill if played for wager, bet, money or other stakes" cannot be allowed in the state. The Madras High Court, however, struck down the law in August 2021 observing that a complete ban was unconstitutional. The Court also acknowledged that a game involving substantial skill would not amount to gambling. It also protected online gaming and the nuances surrounding it, thus, clearing the ambiguity between gaming and gambling as well as the legal status of online skill games in India.

The government recently constituted a four-member committee to examine issues related to online gaming and make recommendations for the promulgation of an or-

dinance to regulate the sector. Constituted against the backdrop of reports on unfortunate instances of people indulging in irresponsible gaming, the committee will examine the ways to identify the online games which are addictive and suggest whether these games really involve skills or mere tricks. It will also study the algorithms of online games to ascertain whether they can be tweaked to the benefit of online gaming companies.

This initiative is certainly a welcome one and demonstrates the government's progressive intent to protect the interests of the players. However, to really protect players, the regulatory muddle needs a comprehensive review. The way forward is to formulate a structured gaming law that allows players to enjoy the thrills of online gaming responsibly, safely, transparently and securely.

For the players, the industry and government, the need of the hour is to acknowledge the significance of responsible gaming and develop a regulatory framework defined by progressive policies to monitor and mitigate the possibility of irresponsible gaming. Attempts to solve the potential issues with bans will only result in players migrating from legitimate online skill-based operators to fly-by-night operators and lead to uncontrolled illegal activities, inadvertently compounding the problem the government is seeking to address.

Regulation and responsible gaming will provide players with a secure and trustworthy environment. Combining responsible gaming elements with effective policies and recommendation services would aid in defining a strategy centred on ensuring player protection and increasing stakeholders' awareness and education. While keeping responsible gaming and self-regulation at its core, EGF has already designed and implemented our own code of conduct that requires operators to have features like KYC, SSL, level encryption, risk-flagging mechanisms, daily and monthly restrictions, self-exclusion, and so on, to provide a secure user with an experience that cultivates healthy gaming habits and encourages appropriate gaming behaviour.

Globally, gaming is a well-regulated industry, and many countries, including the UK, US, and EU, have regulations in place to ensure that players enjoy this form of entertainment responsibly. Studying these global best practices would help in creating a gaming law that protects players, encourages responsible gaming, and assists legitimate operators while weeding out those who break the law.

The online gaming industry is committed to providing expertise and cooperation to the government in developing an effective regulatory framework for the sector. In view of this, a dialogue between the government and the industry is urgently needed to discuss the ground realities such as how the industry operates, available safety measures, and how it can be enhanced to develop a standard system that will establish a regulated industry while encouraging responsible gaming.

The writer is CEO, E-Gaming Federation



BHUPENDER YADAV

IN JULY, THE armed forces will begin the all-important task of recruiting India's Agniveers, who have been envisaged as the backbone of our combat units. We, however, live in times where the nature of combat has transformed beyond recognition. The nation faces threats not just from land, water and the sky but also from cybertech, the internet of military things and artificial intelligence. There is, therefore, a need for a better equipped and more prepared military.

To that end, one of the purposes of the Agnipath Yojana is to lower the median age of our personnel. The need for it was felt after the 1962 war with China. Decades later, the Kargil Review Committee also highlighted the same. The issue, however, remained unaddressed until a reform-oriented and reform-committed government assumed office.

In the Indian Army today, only 19 per cent of the personnel are below 25 years of age and a whopping 19 per cent are in the age group of 36-40. Since both China and Pakistan have mountainous terrain, units with a lower age profile will perform better in such areas.

The scheme aims to enrol Agniveers, between the ages of 17.5 years and 23 years, for four years. After the completion of these four years, 25 per cent of them will be retained or re-enlisted in the regular cadre while the remaining 75 per cent will be demobilised with an exit package of nearly Rs 12 lakh.

It is agonising to notice that the

## Don't cry for Agniveers

They will be helped to start next phase of their lives. They won't be left in lurch

Opposition wants to spread misinformation about a scheme aimed at increasing India's defence preparedness. In the backdrop of this concerted effort to oppose for the sake of opposing, it is important to clear the air.

On June 14, when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced the scheme, he added that a lot of announcements with regards to the Agnipath Yojana would follow in the days ahead. But the Opposition fuelled protests.

Meanwhile, the Centre and many BJP-ruled states have announced schemes that will address the concerns of our youth aspiring to join the forces. The government will also help the disbanded Agniveers to start the next phase with bank loans, which will be extended to them on priority. A proposal to reserve 10 per cent of the job vacancies in the Union Ministry of Defence for Agniveers meeting the eligibility criterion has also been approved. This reservation will be implemented in the Indian Coast Guard, defence civilian posts and all 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings. This is in addition to the existing reservation for ex-servicemen. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also announced schemes to ensure that the Agniveers get opportunities to remain in the nation's service beyond the four years they serve under the Agnipath Scheme. It has announced a 10 per cent reservation as well as an upper age limit relaxation for Agniveers for recruitment in the Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPFs) and Assam Rifles. The upper age limit for the CAPFs —

Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and the National Security Guard (NSG), Special Protection Group (SPG) — will be 26 years. The first batch of Agniveers will avail relaxation of five years beyond the upper age limit of 23 — in other words, this limit would be 28 years for them. This has been done to factor in the two years lost by the youth when recruitments were stopped due to the Covid pandemic.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has announced six service avenues for a smooth transition of the Agniveers in various roles of the Merchant Navy after their stint in the Indian Navy.

The concerns being raised over young men being left jobless and education-less are also unfounded because the National Institute of Open Schooling has announced it will institute a special programme in consultation with defence authorities to enable Agniveers to further their education and obtain a Class XII pass certificate. Customised courses will be developed for this purpose. The Ministry of Education has decided to launch a three-year skill-based bachelor's degree programme for serving defence personnel that will recognise the training they have received during stint time in the armed forces. Several states, including Assam, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, have announced preferential recruitment of Agniveers in their police forces.

An increasing number of corporate houses have expressed willingness to hire decommissioned Agniveers believing in the fact that the discipline and skills they gain in the four years will make them eminently employable.

The Agnipath Yojana will help us nurture disciplined and dedicated youth with the potential to serve the paramilitary forces, security establishments, private sector organisations or other civilian establishments with distinction. Many among them will, of course, go on to serve the country's defence forces beyond their four years as Agniveers. The scheme will help in the skill enhancement of many of the youth in rural areas. After their four-year stint in the Army, the Agniveers would have a world of opportunities awaiting them.

Those serving in the defence forces are the real heroes of Maa Bharti. Leaving them in the lurch is out of the question. The Narendra Modi government remains committed to fulfilling its reform agenda for all sectors including defence. As the PM said, reforms may appear unpleasant temporarily but they are beneficial over time. The path of reforms takes us towards new targets. It is time to dispel myths and clear rumours and welcome the new dawn in the country's defence forces.

Yadav is Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change; and Labour & Employment. He is the co-author of The Rise of the BJP

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TENNIS'S CHARM

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Spoonfeeding the game' (IE, June 24). The charm of tennis lies in the players rising to the occasion when the situation demands it, relying as much on their mental agility as they do on their physical prowess to outwit their opponents. Permitting the coaches to offer advice to the players in between games/sets, will not only take away the tempo of the match, but also shift the focus from the players to the coaches

Vipul Pande, Nainita

### END OF AN ERA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The Melttdown' (IE, June 24). As more and more MLAs turn their backs on Uddhav, the Thackeray era appears to be coming to an end. While grudges and grievances against the chief minister may be one part of the story being peddled by the deserted lot, it is the BJP, a master in the game of toppling ruling regimes, which is behind the confidence the rebels are enjoying right now. How the revolt against Uddhav eventually plays out will affect the political landscape of the nation in the not-so-distant future.

Kamna Chhabra, Gurgaon

### INTERNAL CONFLICT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The meltdown' (IE, June 24). The meltdown in Maharashtra politics nowadays is not only threatening to shake the stability of the coalition government but is also

posing a potential danger for a massive vertical implosion in the Sena cadres. It is the result of the pent up frustration of the Sena party lawmakers and the subaltern cadres who felt grossly neglected owing to the inaccessibility of their impervious leader Uddhav Thackeray — the Chief Minister. In their assessment, the coalition government served the interests of the allies, that is, Congress and the NCP, only to the utter disregard and detriment of the interests of the Sena party workers. The allies exploited the coalition to shine their own political fortunes only at the cost of the Sena's glowing prospects.

Ravi Mathur, Noida

### TIME FOR REFORM

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Afghanistan: aid trickles into area devastated by quake, officials say rescue almost complete' (IE, June 24). Afghanistan is already in the throes of perpetual suffering and the recent earthquake is salt in the wound. India, being a major player in the region, has more responsibility to extend support in terms of material resources like food and medical aid. Other major powers ought to come forward too. However, the stumbling block is the spate of terrorists attacks, which shall deter any aid workers from visiting the country. This unfortunate earthquake is an eye opener for the Taliban run government that according undue priority to religion in governance alone cannot be the way forward.

Deepak Singhla, Noida



TOPOF THE  
WORLD

Britain's Prince Charles. File

RWANDA  
Prince Charles  
voices sorrow  
over slavery

BRITAIN'S PRINCE Charles expressed deep sorrow over slavery in a speech to Commonwealth leaders in Rwanda Friday and acknowledged the roots of the organisation lay in a painful period of history. "I want to acknowledge that the roots of our contemporary association run deep into the most painful period of our history," Charles told leaders at the opening ceremony of a two-day summit in Kigali. "I cannot describe the depths of my personal sorrow at the suffering of so many as I continue to deepen my own understanding of slavery's enduring impact."

REUTERS

AFGHANISTAN  
Afghan man in  
Gitmo freed  
after 15 years

An Afghan prisoner who held in US custody for nearly 15 years has finally been released from the Guantanamo Bay detention center, Afghanistan's Taliban government and an international human rights group said on Friday. Asadullah Haroon Gul's release was announced by Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's deputy culture and information minister, who wrote on Twitter that Gul was one of the last two Afghan prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay. Mujahid shared no further details. In pictures shared by Mujahid, Gul was seen smiling and being greeted by Suhail Shaheen, a senior Taliban official who is based in Doha, Qatar. **AP**

## US top court overrules Roe v. Wade, ends abortion right

About half of states are now expected to ban or restrict access to abortion

## AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, JUNE 24

THE US Supreme Court on Friday ended constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years in a decision by its conservative majority to overturn Roe v. Wade. Friday's outcome is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states.

The decision, unthinkable just a few years ago, was the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court that has been fortified by three appointees of former President Donald Trump.

The ruling came more than a month after the stunning leak of a draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito indicating the court was

prepared to take this momentous step.

Joining Alito were Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, the latter three being Trump appointees.

Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — the diminished liberal wing of the court — were in dissent.

"With sorrow—for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection—we dissent," they wrote.

## The case

The case, Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization, No. 19-1392, concerned a law enacted in 2018 by the Republican-



It puts the court at odds with a majority of Americans who favored preserving Roe, according to opinion polls. **AP**

dominated Mississippi Legislature that banned abortions if "the probable gestational age of the unborn human" was determined to be over 15 weeks.

Mississippi's sole abortion clinic sued.

Lower courts ruled for the clinic, saying the law was plainly unconstitutional under Roe,

## EXPLAINED

Biden's policy,  
politics on test

THE WHITE HOUSE had been preparing for this moment since a draft of the decision leaked in May. Now that it is out, the ruling will test both Biden's politics and his policy. And Democrats will also hope to use the outrage to rally voters in the midterm elections.

A sad day for the court  
and the country: Biden

## REUTERS

WASHINGTON, JUNE 24

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Friday criticized the US Supreme Court ruling overturning the landmark Roe v. Wade decision on abortion, saying the health and life of American women are now at risk.

"It's a sad day for the court and for the country," Biden said in a White House address after the ruling, which he said was taking the country back 150 years.

Biden promised to go on fighting for reproductive rights but said no executive order can guarantee a woman's right to choose.

He urged voters to send law-



US President Joe Biden

makers to Congress who will work to codify abortion rights as the law of the land.

"This fall, Roe is on the ballot. Personal freedoms are on the ballot," Biden said, referring to the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision making abortion legal nationally.

President Biden made a point of calling for any protests to remain peaceful.

"No intimidation. Violence is never acceptable," President Biden added.

## HIRSKE TOWN 'FULLY OCCUPIED' BY MOSCOW

Ukraine troops to leave city in  
Luhansk as Russians advance

## REUTERS

KYIV, JUNE 24

UKRAINE SIGNALLED on Friday its troops were withdrawing from the city of Sievierodonetsk, the scene of weeks of intense bombardments and street fighting, in a move that would be a significant setback in its struggle to defeat Russian forces.

Provincial governor Serhiy Gaidai said troops in the city in the Luhansk region had already received the order to move to new positions, but he did not indicate whether they had already done so or where exactly they were going.

"Remaining in positions smashed to pieces over many months just for the sake of staying there does not make sense," Gaidai said on Ukrainian television. The troops will "have to be withdrawn", he said.

The announcement came as Ukraine said Russian forces had "fully occupied" the Hirske town, south of the strategically important city of Lysychansk in eastern Luhansk region as of Friday, and Moscow claimed it had encircled about 2,000 Ukrainian troops in the area.

The loss of Hirske and several other settlements around it leaves Lysychansk, the last major Ukrainian-controlled city in Luhansk, in danger of being enveloped from three sides by advancing Russian forces.

"Unfortunately, as of today... the entire Hirske district is occupied," Hirske's municipal head Oleksiy Babchenko said in a television broadcast.



Fall of Sievierodonetsk would leave only Lysychansk remaining in Ukrainian hands. **Reuters**

nicipal head Oleksiy Babchenko said in a television broadcast.

"There are some insignificant, local battles going on at the outskirts, but the enemy has entered. "There is a red flag flying over the municipal administration (in Hirske)," a spokesperson for the regional administration told Reuters by telephone.

Some of the heaviest fighting of the war has taken place in Sievierodonetsk, where street-by-street combat has raged for a month with Russia painstakingly taking more ground.

The battle is key for Russia to establish control over the last remaining Ukrainian-held sliver of Luhansk province, which along with Donetsk makes up the Donbas region, Ukraine's industrial heartland.

If it goes ahead, the withdrawal from Sievierodonetsk

would mark the biggest reversal for Ukraine since the loss of the southern port of Mariupol in May.

Ukrainian forces had held out for weeks in Sievierodonetsk, trying to wear down Russian troops through attrition and buy time for the arrival of heavy weapons supplies.

"Our forces had to withdraw and conduct a tactical retreat because there was essentially nothing left there to defend. There was no city left there and, secondly, we could not allow them to be encircled," said Oleksander Musiyenko, a Kyiv-based military analyst.

Ukraine on Friday again pressed for more arms, with its top general, Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, telling his US counterpart in a phone call that Kyiv needed "fire parity" with Moscow to stabilise the situation in Luhansk.



## BREACH AT SPAIN-MOROCCO FENCE

Five persons were killed as scores of migrants breached a high fence between Spain's Melilla enclave and Morocco, the first such incident since the two countries mended their relations last month. **AP**

UK: Tories lose two bypolls, party  
chief quits, Boris under pressureALISTAIR SMOUT,  
ELIZABETH PIPER &  
ANDREW MACASKILL  
LONDON/KIGALI, JUNE 24

BORIS JOHNSON'S Conservatives lost two parliamentary seats on Friday, a crushing blow to the governing party that prompted the resignation of its chairman and intensified doubts about the future of Britain's prime minister.

In Rwanda for a meeting of Commonwealth nations, Johnson was defiant, pledging to listen to voters' concerns and do more to tackle a cost-of-living crisis after what he described as "tough" results in the two so-

Boris Johnson at the meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Rwanda. **Reuters**

more we've got to do."

Following the losses in Tiverton and Honiton in south-west England, and Wakefield in the north, Conservative Party Chairman Oliver Dowden resigned in a carefully worded letter that hinted he might believe Johnson should take responsibility. "We cannot carry on with business as usual," he said. "Somebody must take responsibility..." added Dowden, a long-time ally of Johnson.

Johnson responded by saying he understood Dowden's disappointment but "this government was elected with an historic mandate just..." and he would continue to work to that end. **REUTERS**

called by-elections.

"I think as a government I've got to listen to what people are saying," Johnson told broadcasters in Kigali after the results. "We've got to recognise there is

Poliovirus found  
in UK after 4  
decades, Pak  
under scrutinySAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, JUNE 24

PAKISTAN'S VACCINATION programme has come under suspicion after the detection of poliovirus in sewage samples in London for the first time in four decades, according to a media report on Friday.

The UK Health Security Agency has noted that the virus detected on Thursday was probably imported from some country, and has asked parents to ensure their children were fully immunised.

Health authorities in Islamabad claim the "vaccine-derived virus" found in the UK exists in 22 countries and the type found locally was the wild poliovirus.

Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme National Coordinator Dr Shahzad Baig told the *Dawn* newspaper it was too early to say the virus had travelled from Pakistan, as UK authorities were yet to announce the results of genome sequencing. **PTI**

Shireen Abu  
Akleh killed by  
Israeli shots: UN

*London:* Information reviewed by the UN human rights office suggests Israeli security forces fired the shots that killed Palestinian-American reporter Shireen Abu Akleh in May, a spokesperson said on Friday. "It is deeply disturbing that Israeli authorities have not conducted a criminal investigation," Ravina Shamdasani told a briefing in Geneva.

Israeli said on Friday called on the Palestinian authorities to share access to the bullet that killed her. The PA has refused to do so, saying it doesn't trust Israel. **REUTERS**

**Purvanchal Vitaran Limited**

**Nagar, P.O.- BLW Varanasi- 221004 E- Short Term**

**Tender Notice E-Short Term** tender are invited for the following materials. The tender will be accepted up to at 15.00 hrs. Please visit our website **www.etender.up.nic.in** for details/ download and for any other corrections/ amendments/ modifications/ extensions till the date of submission of bids. **Sl. No. 1. Tender**

**Specification No. EAV-37/ 2022-23 Name of Material** 11 KV TVM (Type-C), 33 KV TVM (Type-A), 33 KV TVM (Type-C) **Qty. (Nos.)** 1000, 05, 35 **Earnest Money (Rs.)** 32,000.00 **Tender Fee (Rs.)** 3,000.00+GST@ 18% **Last date & Time for online submission of tender document** 12.07.2022 15.00 Hrs. **Last date & Time for opening of tender part-1** 13.07.2022 15.00 Hrs. **Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I) "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation"** पत्रांक: 1910/ पू.वि.वि.नि.लि. (चा.)/सा.प्र.-1/विज्ञापन दिनांक: 24.06.2022

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT,**  
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH, BADSHAHBAGH, LUCKNOW-226007  
No. 301 / Seven-3/Poultry/Chicks E-Tender/2022-23 Dated:- 23-06-2022

## NOTICE FOR INVITATION OF E-TENDER

Online Tenders are invited through e-procurement system for supply & approval of rates of Approximately 6.50 lac Dual Purpose Low Input technology Straight Run Day Old Commercial Poultry Chicks for the districts of Uttar Pradesh during year 2022-23, from reputed and experienced Poultry Breeding/Research/Parent farms who have minimum 03 years experience having capacity to produce minimum 01 lac chicks per months, shall be eligible to participate in e-tendering in Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. Details regarding e-tender and tender form would be available on the departmental website <http://animalhusb.upsdc.gov.in> and U.P. Govt. e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> within the stipulated period. The cost of Tender Documents (Non-transferable), Earnest Money Deposit are given in the table as below:-

Subject of E-Tender/ Category	Earnest Money Deposit against E-Tender (Rs.)	Cost of E-Tender Document (Rs.) (Non-Refundable)
Supply & approval of rates of Approximately 6.50 lac Dual Purpose Low Input technology Straight Run Day Old Commercial Poultry Chicks. (Nos. of chicks to be supplied, may be in lesser side/higher side)	Rs.176500/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy six thousand Five Hundred only) As per schedule of requirement section III(B) of tender documents, for estimated value of the goods upto Rs. 1.00 Lakh (One Lakh) Rs. 1500.00 and for each additional Rs. 1.00 lakh and part thereof Rs.1000.00 as Bid security	Rs. 25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five thousand only)+GST Rs. 4500/- will be deposited Under RCM through Challan, enclosed with Cost Bank draft of E-Tender Document

According to above table description, the cost of tender form Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five thousand only) (Non-Refundable) +GST Extra. (Amount of GST Rs. 4500/- will be deposited Under RCM through Challan, enclosed with Cost of Bank draft of E-Tender Document) in shape of demand draft of any nationalized/scheduled bank in favour of Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow and amount of Earnest money in shape of Fix Deposit Receipt (FDR) Rs.176500/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy six thousand Five Hundred Only) of any nationalized/scheduled banks pledged in favour of Director, Administration and Development, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow, should compulsorily be deposited in the office of Directorate of Animal Husbandry U.P. Badshahbagh Lucknow on or before the date and time scheduled for submission of e-tender. Online E-bid should be submitted through U.P. Govt. e-tender website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

## The Scheduled Date and Time for E-tender:-

- Availability of Online Tender Forms: Date 30-06-2022 from 04.00 PM
- Start date of Online Tender Forms Submission: Date 30-06-2022 from 06.00 PM
- Pre bid meeting: Date 15-07-2022 at 04.00 PM
- Last Date/Time for online submission of tender form: Date 21-07-2022 up to 06.00 PM
- Opening of Online Tender Forms (Technical bids): Date 22-07-2022 at 03.00 PM

Director,  
(Administration and Development)  
Animal Husbandry, U.P.,  
Lucknow

UPID NO.177503 DATE-24.06.2022  
[www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in)

## US's WORST BUILDING DISASTER

## How one button could have 'saved more lives'

PATRICIA MAZZEI  
& MIKE BAKER  
SURFSIDE (FLORIDA), JUNE 24

THE THUNDEROUS bang that jolted Jonah Handler and his mother in the middle of the night last June was followed by silence. Jonah, 15, and his mother, Stacie Fang, went out to their terrace and looked up, thinking the ominous sound had come from the roof of the 13-story Champlain Towers South condominium in Surfside, Florida. But standing on the 10th floor, they could not see anything wrong, so they settled back down for the night.

All was quiet. No alarm blared. No evacuation order came. But the condo tower was on the precipice of collapse.

One year since the catastrophe at Champlain Towers, with the cause of the collapse still under federal investigation, new documents, interviews and deposition records have shed fresh light on a critical seven-minute period between the roaring initial failure of

At a memorial for the victims. **NYT**

a pool deck and the eventual cascading collapse of a portion of the building, leaving 98 people dead in one of the deadliest structural failures in US history.

The security guard in the lobby of Champlain Towers hurriedly dialed 911 to report the initial failure. An alarm may have sounded at that point in a limited part of the building, though it was clearly inaudible to many of those who still slept.

The building also had a sophisticated audio warning system designed to broadcast an alert into the bedrooms of every unit. But it was never triggered. "If I had known about it, I would have pressed it," the security guard, Shamoka Furman, said in an interview.

The performance of the building's automated fire alarm system remains one of the many questions still unanswered. With

seven minutes elapsing between the time of the pool deck failure and the catastrophic fall, could some of the residents who slept through the initial boom have been able to move out?

In the lobby of Champlain Towers, with its gleaming floors, recessed lighting and potted plants, a security desk contained the controls to a network of speakers that had been installed in every bedroom in 2017 to ensure that residents could be roused if an evacuation were needed. "All call" commands could be issued through a microphone at the lobby control panel.

"You press one button, it would power up every speaker throughout the building," Matthew Haiman, who led the company that installed the system at Champlain Towers, said in a deposition. "You grab the microphone, you say: 'Hey, guys, there's an emergency, get the heck out of the building.'"

Had the system been used properly, he added, "then it probably would have saved more lives to be honest with you." **NYT**



## ANY DATA STORED PREVIOUSLY TO BE PURGED POST SEPTEMBER 30

## To avoid 'disruption', RBI extends card tokenisation deadline by 3 mths

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JUNE 24

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Friday extended the timeline for tokenisation of debit and credit cards by 3 months till September 30, 2022 "to avoid disruption and inconvenience to cardholders".

After September 30, no entity in the card transaction or payment chain, other than the card issuers and card networks, should store the CoF (Card-on-File data or storage of actual card data) and any such data stored previously will be purged, it said. The central bank had earlier fixed the due date for card tokenisation on June 30, 2022. "On a review of the issues involved

and after detailed discussions with all stakeholders, it is observed that considerable progress has been made in terms of token creation. Transaction processing based on these tokens has also commenced, though it is yet to gain traction across all categories of merchants," the RBI said in a circular to payment system providers. "Further, an alternate system in respect of transactions where cardholders decide to enter the card details manually at the time of undertaking the transaction (commonly referred to as 'guest checkout transactions') has not been implemented by the industry stakeholders, so far," the RBI said.

Under this framework, cardholders can create "tokens" (a

**EXPLAINED**  
**How will it work**

CARDHOLDERS CAN create "tokens" (a unique alternate code) in lieu of card details. These tokens can then be stored by the merchants for processing transactions in future.

unique alternate code) in lieu of card details. These tokens can then be stored by the merchants for processing transactions in future. Currently, many entities, including merchants, involved in an

online card transaction chain store card data like card number and expiry date — Card-on-File (CoF) — citing cardholder convenience and comfort for undertaking transactions in future. While this practice does render convenience, availability of card details with multiple entities increases the risk of card data being stolen or misused, the RBI said. "There have been instances where such data stored by merchants have been compromised. Given the fact that many jurisdictions do not mandate Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) for authenticating card transactions, stolen data in the hands of fraudsters may result in unauthorised transactions and resultant monetary loss to cardholders," the RBI said.

ers," the RBI said.

The RBI had earlier mandated December 31, 2021 as the deadline, which was subsequently extended to June 30, 2022.

As of now, about 19.5 crore tokens have been created. Opting for CoF (creating tokens) is voluntary for the cardholders. According to the RBI, the industry stakeholders have highlighted some issues related to implementation of the framework in respect of guest checkout transactions. Also, the number of transactions processed using tokens is yet to gain traction across all categories of merchants. These issues are being dealt with in consultation with the stakeholders, the RBI said. *Full report on* [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## TO REPLACE AMITABH KANT, WHO WILL LEAVE AFTER 6-YEAR STINT

## Iyer set to be NITI CEO

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

AFTER A six-year-long stint, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant is set to leave the government policy think tank at the end of June. He will be replaced by former Secretary of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Parameswaran Iyer, who spearheaded the government's Swachh Bharat Mission.

Iyer's initial tenure will be for two years, according to a notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.

A 1980-batch retired IAS officer (Kerala cadre), Kant took over as the NITI Aayog CEO in 2016 — he last got an extension, by a year, in June 2021. During his time at the organisation, Kant drove the policy push in areas related to industrial development, technology and investment. He is seen as having played a key



Parameswaran Iyer File

role in the government's flagship 'Make in India' scheme and was also behind the Aspirational Districts Programme, which was targeted at improving the socio-economic outcomes in some of the most backward districts.

He was also the chairman of Empowered Group-3, one of the 11 groups set up by the Centre to tackle the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The group worked with the private sector, NGOs, and international organisations for pandemic management activities, including the manage-

ment of international aid.

Earlier, in his capacity as the Secretary of the erstwhile Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Kant pushed the Ease of Doing Business initiative, which led to the emergence of state-specific rankings.

Iyer, 63, meanwhile, took voluntary retirement from the IAS in 2009, after 17 years in service. In 2016, he returned to helm the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation as Secretary. He spearheaded the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a campaign to eradicate open defecation by constructing over 90 million toilets in rural India. He resigned from the post in July 2020, and later went on to work with the World Bank in the US.

Iyer earlier worked as Senior Rural Water Sanitation Specialist at the United Nations. He also worked with the erstwhile Mayawati government in Uttar Pradesh in the field of education.

## 'Gold, FCA fall pulls forex reserves down by \$5.87 bn'

The country's forex reserves declined by \$5.87 billion to \$590.58 billion in the week ended on June 17, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data



Fall in FCA and gold reserves was the primary reason for the fall in reserves. Expressed in dollar terms, the FCA includes effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units

Source: RBI/PTI

## INTERVIEW WITH CEO, NITI AAYOG

## 'Need to accelerate reform pace in energy transition'

STIPULATING THAT energy transition will be a key driver of India's growth in the coming years, NITI Aayog CEO AMITABH KANT said the country should make a strong push for green hydrogen and accelerate the pace of reforms in the energy sector. Kant, who will leave the government think tank at the end of June, after having led the organisation for over six years, also told SOUMYARENDRA BARIK in an interview that the government should first assess the success of current production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes before launching the initiative for other sectors. Edited excerpts:

## How do you view your six-year long stint heading NITI Aayog?

I've had a very satisfying tenure here. I have had a great amount of job content, which you cannot get anywhere else because NITI Aayog cuts across many sectors. I got the opportunity to execute the aspirational districts programme that covers 112 districts



Amitabh Kant

File

and transform the lives of about 80 per cent of India's population, which is enormous across a whole range of areas, from education to health to nutrition. I could also work on ease of doing business, decriminalisation — we were able to make India move up 79 positions in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business rankings. We started making states compete with each other, which led to competition in education, health,

water and many other areas. We broadened the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism.

Then I was able to drive the electric mobility movement that was very cutting edge, which had a number of new players, it's picked up a lot of pace, of late. We recently did a tender for 5,500 electric buses, where the price of an electric bus was cheaper than the combustion engine bus. I have driven the PLI schemes across 14

sectors, asset monetisation pipeline, circular economy, improving learning and health outcomes etc. I got a rare opportunity to work for this government and real support from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It's been a very enriching and a very rewarding experience.

## What are some areas for which you would have liked to make a further push?

I think one area which we really need to push is green hydrogen. Whatever you do, energy transition will be at the heart of India's growth story. We need to accelerate the pace of reforms, we need to accelerate energy transition. Both these are very dear to my heart.

## Would you recommend PLI schemes for other sectors as well?

I think we should first wait and see the response to the existing ongoing schemes, how successful

they are. The PLI scheme is about bringing in scale to manufacturing in the country, making India an integral part of the global value chain, and enhancing investments and outputs because for the \$27 billion that you are putting in, you need a product output of worth \$540 billion. So, we should wait for some more time and see how the current 14 PLI schemes perform.

## We have seen Centre-state relations going through friction. How do you view that trend?

We should work in partnership with the states, we are very strong believers of that — it's about partnership, cooperation and creating competition. The recent Chief Secretaries' conference in Dharamshala emphasised all these aspects.

## What's next for you?

I will take a break for some time and then take a call. But I will work in my areas of interest.

## 5G: All spectrum may not get sold; govt stares at shortfall

May mop up ₹80,000 cr-1 lakh cr against ₹4-lakh-cr target

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) is expecting to mop up between Rs 80,000 crore to Rs 1 lakh crore from the upcoming 5G auction, a senior government official has said. All the spectrum up for auction, worth around Rs 4 lakh crore, may not be sold, including in the premium 700 MHz spectrum band, the official said.

The auction, to be held on July 26, will be held for spectrum in the frequencies of 600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1,800 MHz, 2,100 MHz, 2,300 MHz, 3,300 MHz and 26 GHz bands. "While we have put up all the spectrum for auction, we do not expect telcos to bid for all of it. We are expecting to receive bids worth Rs 80,000 crore to Rs 1 lakh crore. For example, the 700 MHz band may not have as much demand," the official said. The government's estimates



AUCTION ON JULY 26

The 5G auction will be held on July 26

are in line with predictions made by analysts.

A report by IIFL Securities said that the auction may see bids worth Rs 71,000 crore. "While supply is abundant, the government has not cut TRAI's proposed reserve prices despite telcos' assertion that these were still high. We see telcos bidding only for 4 of the 10 bands and spectrum should be sold at the base price. We estimate spectrum outlay of Rs 37,500 crore, Rs 25,000 crore and Rs 8,500

crore for Jio, Bharti and Vi," said IIFL in its report.

The government has kept the reserve price of 5G airwaves unchanged, according to the Notice Inviting Application (NIA) issued by the DoT.

Telecom operators had asked for a reduction of around 90 per cent in the reserve price of airwaves from the 2018 levels. But the Cabinet's final approval includes a price reduction of around 35-40 per cent, in line with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (Trai) recommendations.

Specifically, the regulatory body had suggested that the base price for prime 5G band of 3,300-3,670 MHz be kept at Rs 317 crore per MHz — 35 per cent lower than the base price of Rs 492 crore per MHz announced in 2018. Similarly, for the 700 MHz, the price recommended by Trai comes out to Rs 3,297 crore, which is almost 40 per cent lower than prices recommended in 2018.

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

IN WHAT is among the biggest charitable donations by an Indian corporate family, Gautam Adani and his family have pledged to donate Rs 60,000 crore that will be utilised in healthcare, education, and skill development, his logistics-to-energy conglomerate said in a statement. The donation will be managed by the Adani Foundation.

"To utilize the potential of India's demographic advantage, there is an ever-growing need to focus on the areas of healthcare, education, and skill development," the statement said. "The Adani Foundation has

## The donation, Adani group said, will help "enhance the competence and competitiveness of our future workforce"

gained rich experience in working with communities focused on integrated development efforts across all these areas ... addressing these challenges can significantly enhance the competence and competitiveness of our future workforce," it added. With this commitment, Adani will join the list of Indian corporate houses that undertake

large charitable donations. As per the 2021 EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century, Jamsetji Tata — with an estimated current value of donation of \$102.4 billion — is the top philanthropist in the last century. Other Indian corporate houses to make big donations include Wipro founder chairman Azim Premji's foundation, which had donated \$22 billion as of 2021.

As per the statement by Adani, Premji said: "Gautam Adani and his family's commitment towards philanthropy should set an example that we can all try to live Mahatma Gandhi's principle of Trusteeship of Wealth at the peak of our business success and need not wait for our sunset years."

## Patra: Inflation likely to breach tolerance level for 3 straight qtrs

MICHAEL DEBABRATA PATRA  
Deputy Governor, RBI

PTI

the rupee against the US dollar. "The outlook on inflation is tethered to the war in Ukraine but will we sit on our hands and do nothing in fatalistic acquiescence? No way ... the fact that inflation remains elevated and broadening indicates there is some demand in the economy that is able to afford these high prices, perhaps due to revenge spending in the pandemic-stressed response ..." he said, speaking at an event organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. *Full report on* [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Toyota, Suzuki to join hands for new SUV production

New Delhi: Japanese auto majors Toyota and Suzuki on Friday said they will deepen their collaboration in the fields of development and production in India.

Under the initiative, the two companies will start production of a new SUV developed by Suzuki at Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) from August this year, they said in a joint statement. Suzuki's Indian arm, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd and TKM will market the new model in India as Suzuki and Toyota models, respectively, it added.

Toyota president Akio Toyoda said, "We are pleased to announce the new SUV with Suzuki, a company that has a long history of local involvement in the Indian business." He said the auto industry today faces various challenges such as electrification and carbon neutrality. Similarly, Suzuki president Toshihiro Suzuki said, production of the new SUV at TKM is a project that can contribute to the growth of India through providing eco-friendly mobility. PTI

## BRIEFLY

## Dish TV MD

Mumbai: Dish TV said in a filing its shareholders rejected reappointment of Jawahar Goel as MD. **ENS**

## Zomato, Blinkit

New Delhi: Zomato will buy Blink Commerce, which runs Blinkit, for a total purchase consideration of ₹4,447.48 crore in a share swap deal. **PTI**

## PMGKAY data

New Delhi: The Expenditure Department said it is not advisable to continue Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beyond its present extension (till September) on "food security and fiscal grounds".

## MSME loans

Mumbai: Loan portfolio outstanding of MSMEs rose to ₹22.7 lakh crore, 36% above pre-Covid March 2020 level and 18% over March 2021, CRIF High Mark said. **ENS**

## KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No.: T No.40 & 41/2022-23/SE/Q. JUM-CWS to Kunnathoor, Poruvazhy, Sooranad North Panchayats in Kunnathoor Taluk and Thazhava, Thodiyoor, Kula-sekharapuram Panchayats in Karunagappally Taluk - Construction of OHSR Supplying and laying transmission Main, Providing FHTCs and distribution network in Neduvathoor Panchayath. EMD: ₹5,00,000, ₹2,00,000 each. Tender fee: ₹5,000 + ₹2,700, ₹10,000 + ₹1,800, 18% GST-it will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his returns. Last date for submitting tender: 18-07-2022, 02:00 pm. Ph: 0474 2745293. Website: [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in), [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)  
KWA-JB-GL-6412-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kollam.

## KWA-JB-GL-6412-2022-23

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## Losing Track

SHERDIL: THE PILIBHIT SAGA

★★★

**Director:** Srijit Mukherji  
**Cast:** Pankaj Tripathi, Neeraj Kabi, Sayani Gupta

BASED ON a true story, *Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga* features an idealistic village ‘sarpanch’ who hits upon a bizarre plan to save his village from utter destitution. It involves him going into the dense jungle in search of a mighty predator armed with nothing but his disarming conviction that there will, in fact, be such an encounter, and that it will be lethal.

There is a patent sincerity of purpose to this Srijit Mukherji film, which borrows its central idea from real life: when humans are so desperate that they are at the point of throwing away their lives, and callous government officials will do nothing to help, what is the way forward? But it doesn't help that saying something so important is so stretched in a two-hour film, which is essentially not even a two-hander but a near solo act.

The foolhardy Gangaram (Tripathi) bids inconsolable wife Lajo (Gupta), two children and an old mother a final farewell before taking off to the forest. Soon, he bumps into a poacher (Kabi), sporting long dreadlocks, who goes by the name of Jim Ahmed, channelling Corbett, who else. And they go roaming in the gloaming, coming face to face with the striped four-legged majestic beast, the lord of the jungle. Will Gangaram's plan succeed?

Only someone like Pankaj Tripathi could have pulled off this role, with an earnestness which doesn't feel practised. His Gangaram is the soul of the film, which relies far too much on its lead character. Everyone else looks as if they are playing a part. Done well, this could have been a strong satire, but it turns into a listless saga, which lifts only a little by its lovely music, scored by Shantanu Moitra. The songs, one sung by KK, whom we sadly lost recently, deserved a better film.

SG

SHALINI LANGER

“BEFORE ELVIS,” said John Lennon, “there was nothing.” This flashy, frenetic, typically flamboyant film by Luhrmann gives you a good glimpse of why. When the wondrous Butler takes to the stage as one of the greatest rock ‘n’ roll stars of all time, you can't turn away — either your ears or your eyes — as the man intended.

Elvis has your fill, and he wants you to have his — from that moody, sultry voice to those hooded, shaded eyes and those perfectly kissable lips. And that's before we get to the parts which drove girls into ecstasy at his concerts. Butler breathes the life, intensity and passion needed to pull that whole lotta shakin' goin on.

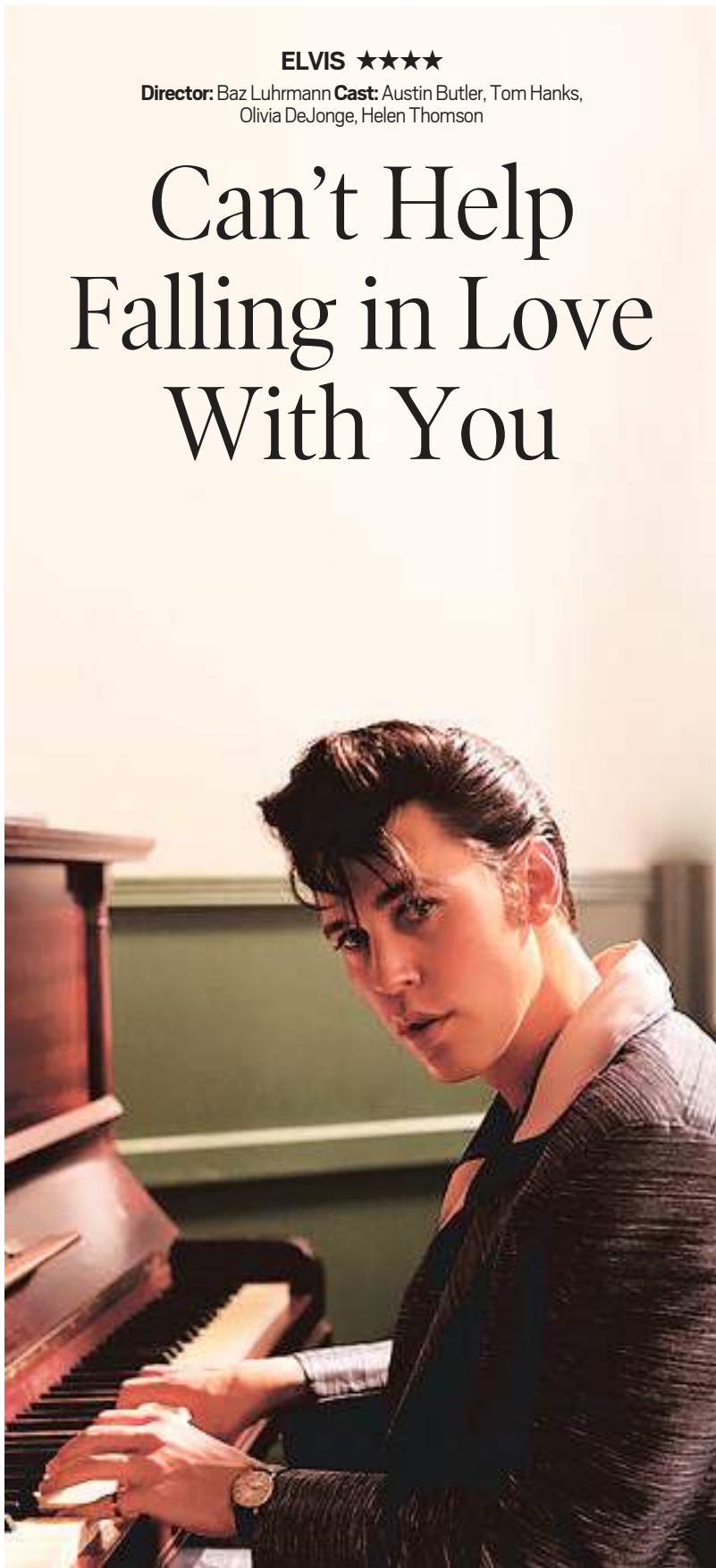
However, music is just a part of what Luhrmann is interested in here. He also has his eyes trained on Colonel Tom Parker, Elvis's much-discredited manager accused by some of piling him with pills and working him to death. The film is unfortunately told from Parker's point of view and Hanks, like Hanks, is the centre of the universe he inhabits. His Parker not just lurks like a shadow on Elvis the singer's story, he also lies like a wet rag on Elvis the film's best parts. In his prosthetics, paunch, accent and an exaggerated walking stick, Hanks is neither interesting enough to watch nor un-interesting enough to ignore.

Parker isn't the only distraction keeping Luhrmann unnecessarily occupied. There is also his own filming style, which, with its gimmicks, lighting and gaudiness, seems unsure of its own star's unmistakable luminescence.

The consequence is you don't really come away knowing more about Elvis than you knew going in, with the film touching upon all the Wikipedia generics. His church background and Black gospel music influence? Check. His deep attachment to his mother? Check. Graceland? Check. His tryst with immorality charges? Check. His time in the military? Check. The changing politics of the times? Check. The tragic love story with Priscilla? Check. The pills? Check. The end? Check.

There is at least some stillness in the film before Elvis hits his big time, with the film's warmest, most un-staged moments being when Elvis is on Beale Street in Memphis, the sensuous filming of ‘Negro’ music, the reference to the unique blend of religious-cum-sexual arousal of music that he drew on, and a suggestion of how one entwined with the other.

It's in this part that the film also allows Elvis or Butler his strongest relationship, that with his mother Gladys (Thomson), a deeply religious woman who saw long and deep into the future as things changed like a hurricane around them, and worried about it. Thomson and Blake portray the transition



ELVIS ★★★★★

**Director:** Baz Luhrmann **Cast:** Austin Butler, Tom Hanks, Olivia DeJonge, Helen Thomson

## Can't Help Falling in Love With You

from mama's boy to the adult who must leave home rather well.

But once Elvis has hit his stride, whether touring the South or more problematically the North, has come to the notice of the vice squad seeking to draw the lines of morality or of segregation between the Whites and Blacks, the film slips more and more away from Elvis the person to Elvis the persona. And more and more, Elvis the persona as brought to you by Luhrmann, via Parker's eyes.

Priscilla is just a cipher, Lisa Marie a girl seen in passing, Elvis's dad a black-and-white bad figure, Parker a buffoon who should not have fooled anybody, with *Elvis*, the film, hoping you get the message by repeatedly strumming up *We're caught in a trap... Suspicious Minds*. Elvis himself leaves the building, so to speak, spared of the bingeing and fattening that marked his latter years.

However, still, every time Elvis is up there doing his thing, working an audience, and Butler channelling into him, the film refuses to die. Luhrmann may have chosen to portray an airbrushed, digestible artiste

who grieved over Martin Luther King and Robert F Kennedy, and not the other Elvis who fantasised about Communist conspiracies and went to President Richard Nixon with his Beatles fears, but it is an Elvis who is a true product of his times.

Times where a booming economy and receding World War shadows allowed a certain sexual liberation, times where America was confronted with tensions of other kinds, and times where Elvis represented the forbidden fruit one could take a bite of — one that suggested both racial and gender fluidity, within largely acceptable limits.

At one place, trying to justify his taming by the ever-calculating Parker for family TV, Elvis complains to his mother: “It was either I play or I get cancelled.”

Could “Elvis the Pelvis”, the one of “the grunt and the groin”, make it to a family TV show today? How many textbooks, on both sides of the aisle, would rush to erase him?

The irony is, Elvis wasn't a rebel in the traditional sense of the world, only in his music. He hoped only to return home. And in what's the saddest bit in the film, all the girls and the flings apart, he promises Priscilla, as she is leaving him: “When you're 40, and I'm 50, we will be together again.”

He died at 42. Yes, you will be a little lonesome tonight.

# One Step Forward, One Back

JUG JUGG JEEYO

★★★

**Director:** Raj Mehta  
**Cast:** Anil Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Kiara Advani, Manish Paul, Prajakta Koli, Tisca Chopra

SHUBHRA GUPTA

LOVERS LOOKING at each other through rose-tinted glasses turning into loveless partners is still quite a novel idea in mainstream Bollywood. When school sweethearts Kuldeep aka Kukoo Saini (Dhawan) and Naina Sharma (Advani) find themselves snarling more than smiling, *Jug Jugg Jeeyo* feels like a set-up for a modern-day dive into post-marriage shenanigans.

The film goes further, when the much-married senior Sainis, Bhim (Anil Kapoor) and Geeta (Neetu Kapoor), find themselves on the brink. For a Hindi film to even entertain the idea that Papaji, the provider, and Mummyji, the place-holder, can think of a happy-never-after is radical, and it feels like stepping into a brave new space.

But we've reckoned without the deep desire for conservatism at the heart of this Raj Mehta movie from the Dharma banner, which takes one step forward, and one step back, keeping all those wild ideas in check, and turning everything into a joke that lands with a thunk. Please don't take us seriously, even when we are toying with these serious ideas, because all we want is to make you laugh: that's the guiding principle of the film, as it goes about diluting its big ideas.

You wonder what it would have turned into if it had stayed a little more with Kukoo and Naina, in their cold apartment in Toronto,



with her in power-suits climbing the corporate ladder, and him trying to hack some kind of living in a low-paying job, both doing a good job of being nasty to each other. But *Jug Jugg Jeeyo* is in a tearing hurry to return to its roots in Patiala, where the marriage of ‘chhoti behen’ Ginny (Koli) is under way, and everyone needs to be on their best behaviour till it is safely over.

Then it is all the same old. Falling back on the familiar Big Fat Punjabi Wedding with opulent sets, wedding clothes, *naach-gaana*, *shor-sharaaba*, every time the film threatens to get real and spiky. Which it does, in one or two quite impressive sequences: in one, Kukoo and Naina go at each other, and the slanging-match has weight; in another cheesy-but-felt set-piece, Naina and Geeta share their innermost feelings, creating a sorority.

But the loud, determinedly cheerful aes-

thetic of the film, very similar to Mehta's *Good Newwz*, sweeps these uncomfortable granular emotions under the carpet, giving them just enough time to peek out from under. The background music and melodrama does the rest. And it goes right back to trotting out one familiar dictum after another: ‘shaadi’ is ‘barbaadi’, wives become boring after marriage, long-time relationships are equal part compromise and more compromise, *haww* divorce, ‘*chhee*’ ‘*chhee*’. A quick tap on the wrist is handed out to an independent woman (Chopra) for daring to like her own company the most. You wish the ladies were given more to do. You wish Neetu Kapoor's Geeta had been made a little braver: we are left in no doubt that her break from home and hearth is temporary. New entrant Koli leaves a mark, and I'm waiting for Advani in a breakout role of her own.

The film, like Mehta's previous one, which stuck faithfully to its far-out premise, works best when it is totally committed to being randy and bawdy. Manish Paul's local stud Gurpreet, wearer of coordinated sets, owner of a gym, keeper of beer in the locker and money in the drawer, talking up ‘*tharak*’ (lust), is a hoot. The famous Patiala peg-and-ledge finds an entry in a father-son confessional between Kapoor and Dhawan, the latter being surprisingly effective as a low-grade moocher. This is Anil Kapoor's show all the way, as he zig-zags between being loving-dad-and-husband to a timorous-man-about-town.

*Baaki tay*, it's your Bollywood family drama, and all needs to end well. Why so serious? ‘*Giddha shiddha paa, mauj manao*’.

# Weak Connection

THE BLACK PHONE

★★★

**Director:** Scott Derrickson  
**Cast:** Ethan Hawke, Mason Thames, Madeleine McGraw, Jeremy Davies

NOTHING AMOUNTS to much in *The Black Phone*. Not a beautiful sibling relationship with so much promise at the start. Not the cloud that hangs over them on account of an abusive, alcoholic father. Not the special powers held by the sister. Not the cruel intentions of the man who abducts young boys. Not the black balloons that seem to be there just to draw attention to writer Joe Hill's association to father Stephen King, and the red balloons in the latter's *IT*. Not even the phone from which the film derives its title.

A strangely arranged film by director Scott Derrickson, *The Black Phone* is almost

graphic in the violence that children unleash on each other, while being timid about the danger posed by the scary clown figure who has been killing them. No, there is no message there either.

The year is 1978. The place is North Denver. Texas Chain Massacre Nightmare is playing in cinemas, and kids are getting into deadly scraps unnoticed by parents or school authorities. Such are the times that a girl's belting by her father (Davies) doesn't even get social workers to their doorstep.

Here, in a small neighbourhood, five boys of approximately the same teen age have gone missing. Despite the community being obviously close-knit, no one has seen anything, nor is anyone bothered enough to keep their children under supervision as a precaution. Police have nothing to go by, till Gwen (an outstanding McGraw) reveals a dream about a black van and balloons — and admits



to the police that her dreams often are true. Police take her seriously enough to question her twice, but not seriously enough to even search for black vans.

Gwen, who has inherited “the gift” from her mother, is very close to her brother Finney (Thames), who has eyes only for one

other person besides her — a girl at school, who, too, means nothing, ultimately.

It's when Finney also goes missing, that things start getting intense.

Or, so one thinks. Because all you get is a big, boring, strangely structured room where Finney is locked by the man identified as

Grabber (Hawke). So pointless is the room that you almost pity Grabber's pretensions of being a mythical serial killer. Part of the scares lie in who is at the other end when that phone, with no connection, rings.

There are so many subplots left hanging loose throughout that you wonder what all got cut out at the editing table. And you wonder at the filmmaker who thought it made sense to leave out the one actor with the most arresting presence in the film, Gwen, for the most part. And to focus instead on Hawke's Grabber, whose efforts to be scary with all those twisted hand movements are almost painfully embarrassing.

In that brief prelude where it's the brother and sister against the world, two spare beings who have to tip-toe around their house to not provoke their father, two children amazingly resilient and bright in the face of this darkness, a girl sobbing and screaming unabashedly when faced with her father's belt, and later watching TV quietly resting her head on her brother's shoulder, you feel more scared about their lives, than when the dead come crawling out. SL

STREAMING WATCH LIST



QUEEN

NETFLIX

After being absent for decades, a renowned Parisian tailor and drag queen returns to his hometown in Poland to make amends with his estranged daughter after he receives a letter from his granddaughter saying that her mother is in need of a kidney transplant and he is the only one who can help. This Polish drama is directed by Lukasz Kosmicki and it is Netflix's latest addition to queer-themed content.



A JOURNAL FOR JORDAN

NETFLIX

This drama, directed by Denzel Washington, is based on the true story of First Sergeant Charles Monroe King (Michael B Jordan), a soldier deployed in Iraq. Away from home, King keeps a journal of love and advice for his infant son. Back at home, senior *New York Times* editor Dana Canedy (Chanté Adams) revisits the story of her unlikely, life-altering relationship with King, and his enduring devotion to their child.

THE AFRICAN QUEEN

MUBI

*The African Queen* (1951), a screen adaptation of CS Forester's 1935 novel of the same name, features two acting stalwarts, Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn, in lead roles. The film, directed by John Huston, fetched Bogart his only Academy Award. Set in East Africa at the outbreak of World War I, it follows the setbacks that a Canadian riverboat captain (Bogart) and psalm-singing British missionary (Hepburn) encounter.



THE GIRL FROM PLAINVILLE

LIONSGATE PLAY

The series is based on the true story of Michelle Carter facing trial for the death of her boyfriend and being convicted for involuntary manslaughter. It explores her relationship with Conrad Roy III and the events leading up to his death. The eight-part series, which shone a light on Munchausen syndrome by proxy (MSBP), features Elle Fanning and Chloë Sevigny.

DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS

DISNEY+ HOTSTAR

With this movie, the Marvel Cinematic Universe unlocks the multiverse and pushes its boundaries further. Dr Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) casts a forbidden spell that opens a portal to the multiverse. This starts off the journey into the unknown. Directed by Sam Raimi, the film features Elizabeth Olsen, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Benedict Wong and Rachel McAdams.



COMPILED BY ALAKA SAHANI











# Mumbai feel weight of two tons

Centuries by Dubey and Shubham put Madhya Pradesh just seven runs away from lead and possibly from a Ranji Trophy title

ABHISHEK PUROHIT  
BENGALURU, JUNE 24

YASH DUBEY and Shubham Sharma had sailed through much of the morning session on the third day of the Ranji Trophy final in Bengaluru. Both were in the late 70s but Madhya Pradesh were yet to go past 200 and Mumbai's 374 was a considerable distance away yet. Mumbai had failed to create chances with the morning sun beating down for the first time in the game. However, the off-spinner Tanush Kotian was starting to create a bit of pressure with his angle from round the stumps. Two leg-before shouts off successive balls were turned down against Shubham, who responded with a charge for a lofted straight four in the same over. A couple of overs later, Dubey survived a close lbw shout as well from Kotian, and Mumbai's frustration came out in a volley of words. Dubey replied with a cover drive for two and a whipped four over midwicket.

That was a crucial feature of the mammoth 222-run second-wicket stand between Shubham and Dubey. The pair, who came together at 47 for 1 on the second afternoon, crushed Mumbai's fight gradually in a nearly six-hour long partnership that stretched for 73.1 overs. On the rare occasion Mumbai managed to build some pressure, Shubham or Dubey would instantly release it with a boundary or two, and go back to their largely risk-free accumulation.

It was a remarkable display in concentration for such a long period from the MP duo in the biggest match of their lives. No matter how many words Sarfaraz Khan or Hardik Tamore or the other Mumbai players threw at them, they never came even close to throwing their wicket away. Given how much banter Mumbai are capable of, especially when things are going against them, it was a marathon exercise in self-denial amid provocation. Under the sun, the wicket played the best it has in the three days so far. And when there is next to nothing happening off the wicket, this Mumbai attack does not have the teeth to force things to happen. At the start of the day, Tushar Deshpande tried bowling fuller, against his natural shorter length, and in the absence of swing, was taken for a few fours by a positive Shubham.

Shaw spread the field out somewhat for a short while, and having set some early momentum, MP had no problems in monitoring along. Another aspect of the stand was the running between the wickets.

They would go for a single at the smallest of opportunities, keeping the fielders busy. It also meant that Mumbai weren't able to string any meaningful sequence of dot balls.

Dubey had looked compact right from the moment he leaned forward to defend the first ball of the MP innings from Dhawal Kulkarni on the second day. Early on, he

gave the impression that he was intent on batting long and showed unflappable temperament across an innings that lasted 336 deliveries. He has a peculiar way of getting behind the line wherein he appears to be late on the ball often but at the last instant, covers it pretty solidly. Throughout his innings, he kept stretching forward outside the line of off or going right back to defend, and also left deliveries without getting enticed. For someone who was made to open only in the third game of this season for the first time since his debut in 2018-19, Dubey seemed a natural fit for the role.

Shubham, meanwhile, went at a quicker rate and played more strokes, like he had on day two. His straight and cover driving was decisive and powerful. He got to his fourth hundred of the season – to go with a 92 against Gujarat as well – crunching a drive so hard off Deshpande that it burst through extra cover's hands and well all the way for four. When the second new ball was taken, he took some chances and went after full deliveries, thick-edging a couple over the cordon for fours. When Mohit Avasthi, the only one of the Mumbai seamers who wasn't completely disappointing, straightened a couple of deliveries outside off, Shubham was given caught behind off the second appeal for 116 off 215. MP were just over a 100 runs away by then.

Out came another in-form batsman Rajat Patidar to chants of 'RCB, RCB' from the couple hundred fans at the Chinnaswamy, and proceeded to bash whatever he pleased out of sight. He stood and whipped length balls in the air past midwicket, he punched rising deliveries off the back foot past extra cover, and he straight-drove with authority. His fifty arrived in just 44 balls as a deflated Mumbai had nothing left in the tank. There followed a reprieve as he was caught off a Shams Mulani no-ball, and switched to the other extreme thereafter, going as many as 26 deliveries without scoring a single run.

Dubey's stay finally ended after 111.5 overs of blunting Mumbai, as he was caught behind off Mulani for 133 off 336. Overall, Mulani couldn't find much turn or bounce, and while Kotian did get some lift, he was forced to bowl into the batsman with a leg-side field for a large part of his spell, and was given only 18 overs compared to Mulani's 40.

The conditions may have differed across the first two days and the third, but it is fair to say that MP's four-man attack thoroughly outbowled Mumbai's five-bowler unit. MP scored 245 for 2 on the third day in 82 overs, and are a mere seven runs away from taking what should likely be a decisive first-innings lead for their maiden title since the state's formation.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Mumbai 374 (Sarfaraz Khan 134, Yashasvi Jaiswal 78; Gaurav Yadav 4/106) vs Madhya Pradesh 368/3 (Yash Dubey 133, Shubham Sharma 116; Mohit Avasthi 1/53)

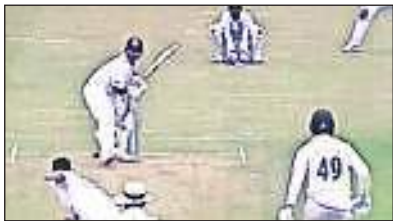
## Against the Indians, Pant mixes caution with aggression to send a reminder of his batting talent

SANDIPG  
JUNE 24

TO HIS lengthening reel of mind-spinning strokes, those that inhabit a space between the glorious and ridiculous, Rishabh Pant added another in the warm-up game between Indians and Leicestershire. Umesh Yadav had just about veered a full ball onto Pant's leg-stump. Pant was already on bended knees, premeditating a sweep, or perhaps a scoop. But instead, he flicked the ball for a six over deep square leg from a sweeping posture, his back-knee on the ground and front knee bent, the body swaying a fraction towards his left, leaving both Yadav and the audience agape.

These are the strokes that embellish the legend of Pant. Instantly flickers and flashes through your mind the reverse-lapped four over the slip cordon off James Anderson, or the reverse-swept four off Jofra Archer over the gully, or his trademark pulls, wherein his body is arching so much backwards that he looks as imbalanced as a child who is learning to balance his cycle, or the charge down the track to tearaways, or the paddle-sweeps. In mood, he could hit any ball through any part of the ground with any stroke he likes.

These, though, are the same strokes that dis-embellish him too, in that he is hastily judged on the outrageousness of these strokes. As if every stroke he unleashes is of this unreal nature. As if he's all about just unfurling unusual shots and fetching the ball to unusual corners of the ground, as if he is just about blind daring and



Rishabh Pant scored 76 (87 balls) during the four match on Friday.

derring-do. But such a perception is gloriously understating the genius of Pant's batting, and deflecting away from his real qualities. Often the part is misconstrued as the whole.

For, he is much more than an adrenaline-fuelled see-ball-hit-ball destroyer of a cricket ball. There are deeper layers and different shades to his batting. Dissect any of his top Test knocks, a distinctly obvious pattern emerges. He bides his time, shrewdly gauges the pitch, bowlers and the mood of the match, before processes his plans, where to hit, when to hit and how to hit. For instance, during his hundred against England in Ahmedabad, he soaked 82 balls to reach his half-century but needed just 33 more to reach his century. One can't be scoring hundreds in Australia, England and South Africa relying solely on attacking guts.

The 87-ball 76 against Indians was forged in a characteristically Pant fashion. He began carefully, much like orthodox batsmen do, respecting conditions and playing the ball to its



Yash Dubey (L) celebrates his century during the third day of the Ranji Trophy final against Mumbai. PTI

## Dubey, an old-school batsman with compact technique and calm head

ABHISHEK PUROHIT  
BENGALURU, JUNE 24

IN 28 first-class innings since his debut in 2018-19, 23-year-old Yash Dubey had never opened until midway into this Ranji Trophy season. Right before he was promoted to open by coach Chandrakant Pandit in a crucial game against Kerala, Dubey had, in fact, stroked an unbeaten 85 off 92 balls against Meghalaya down at No 7.

But Pandit saw something in his compact technique and calm temperament, and Dubey delivered instantly, scoring a massive 289 off 591 balls against Kerala and forming a third-wicket partnership of 277 with Rajat Patidar, who made 142. He couldn't do much in the quarters and semis but has squeezed Mumbai almost out of the final with 133 off 336 deliveries, spending 111.5 overs in the middle after fielding for 127.4 overs.

Despite the Mumbai fielders chirping constantly, Dubey hardly played a false stroke in his knock, retaining his concentration throughout and making Mumbai earn his wicket. "He has always had that patience, and that is his strength. He had scored heavily in Under-19 cricket too. The ability was evident even then, which is why we had promoted him to the senior team then," says Devendra Bundela, the former MP captain.

"We gave him some confidence early on that you have the ability and you will do well in the Ranji Trophy. He has the ability to bat

He has always had that patience, and that is his strength. He had scored heavily in Under-19 cricket too. The ability was evident even then, which is why we had promoted him to the senior team then."

DEVENDRA BUNDELA  
FORMER MP CAPTAIN, ON YASH DUBEY

at any position. And someone who really wants to play will play at any position."

Dubey is a rare young batsman who actually wants to bat long, Bundela feels. "He thinks in the old-school fashion. He really desires to be successful in four-day cricket. First and foremost, it is very important that you feel that way. He is the sort of batsman who you will have to get out, he will not throw away his wicket. Chandu bhai has guided him well. And I have also been talking to him before every match from his U-19 days."

He was highly rated in state cricket circles, but Dubey had only one first-class hundred going into the season, before the promotion to open worked wonders. "See that is the beauty of Chandu bhai's thinking," says former MP coach Mukesh Sahni, whose son Parth made his first-class debut in the Ranji final.

"He has obviously seen something in Dubey's temperament that convinced him he had it in him to open the innings. Dubey learnt his cricket in Bhopal but moved to play for the

neighbouring Hoshangabad division as he was not getting enough chances for Bhopal division. He has been making runs at every level since then with that compact technique."

Dubey's partner during the marathon second-wicket partnership of 222 against Mumbai was former MP captain Shubham Sharma, who is in the form of his life. The 28-year old made his debut back in 2013, but has scored four of his seven first-class centuries this season. Hailing from Indore, Shubham plays for the Indore Sports Club at the ITI Maidan in the city, where his mother is a school teacher.

"The atmosphere is very upbeat today at our club. Everyone is so proud of what Shubham has done. It is a massive achievement for him and our club," says the club owner Raju Chouhan. "(Former MP cricketer) Rishi Yengde had brought him to me when he was only 14. So he has been playing for the club from a very young age."

Ahead of the final, Chouhan said that he had asked Shubham to treat it as just another game and not be overawed by the occasion. "I just told him to try and not take the pressure that this is a final, and keep doing what he had been doing in match after match this season," Chouhan said. "It is just that this match has been designated a final, but they have already beaten several big teams this season, such as Gujarat, Punjab and Bengal. If all goes well over the next two days, it will be recorded in history that Madhya Pradesh won the Ranji Trophy because of these centuries from Shubham and Yash."

## Brilliant Bairstow and unlikely hero Overton rescue England

REUTERS  
LEEDS, JUNE 25

ENGLAND CENTURION Johnny Bairstow and debutant Jamie Overton blazed a thrilling unbeaten seventh wicket stand of 209 in 223 balls to guide their teetering side to 264 for six at the close of the second day of the third test with New Zealand on Friday.

The imperious Bairstow has now blasted back-to-back centuries as he finished unbeaten on 130 from 126 balls, while number eight Overton showed his genuine all-round qualities with an equally eye-catching 89 not out from only 106 deliveries.

England trail the tourists' first innings score of 329 by 65 runs at Headingley, but will be delighted with their fightback after they slipped to 55 for six in their reply.

It is the highest seventh-wicket partnership for England against New Zealand and Overton's score is the most by an England player on debut batting at number eight or lower. The pair did it in some style too, with a mix of aggressive hitting and deft stroke-making as New Zealand were simply unable to slow the flow of runs.

The momentum in the test is now back with England but in the middle session of the day they were floundering. After Daryl Mitchell's third century of the series helped New Zealand to 329 just after lunch, seamer Trent Boult clean bowled England's opening three batsmen as the hosts' top order wilted.

### Horror show

England captain Ben Stokes said before

## BRIEFLY

### Archers assured of second medal

*Berlin:* Indian archers assured themselves of a second medal in the World Cup Stage 3 with the duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam reaching the compound mixed team final in Paris on Friday. A day after Deepika Kumari and Co. cruised into the final of recurve women's team event to confirm their first medal of the meet, the compound mixed pair of Verma and Jyothi followed suit, defeating Estonia's Robin Jaatma and Lisell Jaatma 156-151 in a lopsided semi-final. They will face fifth seed France in the compound mixed team final on Saturday.

### U-17 WC: India grouped with Brazil

*New Delhi:* Hosts India have been clubbed alongside football powerhouse Brazil, Morocco and the USA in a tough group for the U-17 FIFA Women's World Cup, the draw for which took place in Zurich on Friday. The country is slated to host the tournament from October 11 to 30. India, being the host nation, are an automatic selection and are placed in Group A. India will begin their campaign against the USA on October 11 (Tuesday) at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

### Senthivel remains in lead in Chennai Open

*Chennai:* Indian International Master Nitin Senthilvel's winning run was halted as he drew his eighth round game against top-seed Boris Savchenko on Friday but remained on top of the standings in 13th Chennai Open International Grandmaster Chess tournament 2022 with 7.5 points. Nitin, who held the Russian to a 68-move draw, is a full point ahead of his nearest rivals.

### Srihari, Aneesh continue to sparkle

*Singapore:* Srihari Nataraj and Aneesh Gowda continued to dazzle at the Singapore National Swimming Championships, grabbing gold medals in their respective events on the second day of the meet here on Friday. Srihari clocked 25.69 to bag the top honours in the 50m backstroke event. Aneesh won the gold in the 200m freestyle event with a time of 1:52.47 and the silver in the individual medley event, where he stopped the clock at 4:37.18.

### Manu Bhaker strikes double gold

*Bhopal:* Pistol ace Manu Bhaker shot a double gold, claiming both the women's and junior women's 10m air pistol titles at the 20th Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Shooting event. The 20-year-old shot 263.9 to outclass her opponents in the eight-women semi-final event. Arshdeep Kaur had a neck-and-neck fight with Manu and even followed her to the gold medal contest. However, Manu outshot Kaur 16-14 in a closely fought final contest.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

### The imperious Bairstow has now blasted back-to-back centuries as he finished unbeaten on 130 from 126 balls

the test that his side were in the "entertainment business", but their innings was initially a horror show as Boult (3-73) ripped through their top order.

Alex Lees (4) fell to an unplayable Boult thunderbolt. Ollie Pope made five before having his off stump flattened. Tim Southee got in on the act to have Joe Root (5) caught behind.

Stokes and Bairstow fought fire with fire, blazing away to briefly halt New Zealand's momentum but Stokes, who looked to recklessly attack every delivery, threw his wicket away, chipping a Neil Wagner delivery to Kane Williamson at mid-off having scored 18 from 13 balls.

In the same over Wagner then trapped Ben Foakes for a duck to leave England six wickets down after 11.5 overs – the quickest they had ever lost their first six wickets in a home test. But Overton and Bairstow, whose 136 in 92 balls at Trent Bridge in the second test won the game for England, took up the mantle and scored runs at pace as they grasped the initiative back.

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 329 (Mitchell 109, Blundell 55, Leach 5-100) vs England 264/6 (Bairstow 130\*, Overton 89\*, Boult 3/73, Wagner 2/53). England trail by 65 runs



# AFI includes Tejaswin for C’weath Games, ball in IOA’s court now

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

HIGH JUMPER Tejaswin Shankar's writ petition in the Delhi High Court has led to four more athletes being named by the national federation, though their participation depends on the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) agreeing to increase the allotted quota.

During a hearing on a plea by Shankar, a national record holder, challenging his exclusion from the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games (July 28 to August 8) squad, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) informed the court that its selection committee has added five more athletes, subject to IOA agreeing to increase the quota from the current 36.

Besides Shankar, the other four athletes are Asian Games gold medallist heptathlete Swapna Barman, marathon runners Srinu Bugatha and Anish Thapa, and Jilna MV for 4x100m relay event.

Jilna was originally named in the 37-member team announced on June 16 as a 4x100m relay runner but her name was later withdrawn to stick to the allotted quota of 36.

It remains to be seen what the IOA tells the High Court on July 4 regarding AFI's request for an increase in the quota of the athletics team. It could be a tricky situation for the IOA to increase the quota of athletics team with just little over a month to go for the CWG, as it must have already sorted out the number of Indian participants in each sport.

The deadline for the IOA to submit the Indian team to the CWG organisers is June 30. In this scenario, the IOA may have to make a last-minute request to the Birmingham CWG organisers to increase India's quota if the additional athletes are to be accommodated.

"Fingers crossed, we will have to wait and watch what the IOA tells the court in the next hearing," one official said.

The High Court on Friday expressed hope that the IOA would increase the athletics team quota in the Indian contingent for the Birmingham CWG. But at the same time, the court also made it clear that if the quota is not increased, it cannot direct the IOA to increase it.

Advocate Parth Goswami, who represented the AFI, said if the IOA agrees to increase the quota from the existing 36 athletes, the additional five would also be included in the contingent.

He said in case the quota is not increased, the list of previously selected 36



Besides Shankar four other athletes have been included in India's updated track and field squad for CWG. FILE

athletes will be final.

Shankar has sought to direct the AFI not to disqualify him from participating at the CWG 2022 based on non-attendance at the Interstate Senior Athletics Championships, and be allowed to compete for meeting the qualifying standard at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championships in the USA.

He had won gold in the NCAA Championships with an effort of 2.27m on June 10, which is the exact qualifying standard prescribed by the AFI.

Barman, Bugatha and Thapa have also crossed the CWG qualifying standards of the AFI. Barman did not take part in the National Inter-State Championships but had collected 5800 total points in the seven events while winning gold at the Federation Cup in April. The CWG qualifying standard is 5650 points.

Bugatha clocked 2:16:26 during the Dhaka Marathon in January while Thapa ran 2:16:41 while finishing second in New Delhi Marathon in March.

The AFI qualifying standard for CWG

It remains to be seen what the IOA tells the High Court on July 4 regarding AFI's request for increase in quota of the athletics team.

marathon event is 2:18:40. Nitender Singh Rawat, who won the New Delhi Marathon, was already named in the athletics team last week.

Jilna was part of the Kerala quartet that finished third in the women's 4x100m relay. She ran 11.90s to finish fourth in one of the semifinal heats in 100m dash and could not make it to the final.

Shankar's name was in the long list submitted by the AFI to the IOA a few months back. But Barman, Thapa and Jilna were not included in the long list.

The AFI had asked the state units to send names and details of their respective athletes to be included in the list, which is required for accreditation purposes.

## HC asks Batra to step down

Delhi HC orders Batra to stop functioning as IOA chief New Delhi, Jun 24 (PTI) Veteran sports administrator Narinder Batra was on Friday ordered to stop functioning as Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president by the Delhi High Court "in a contempt proceeding", a month after it asked him to relinquish the top job.

A vacation bench of Justice Dinesh Sharma passed the order on a contempt petition filed by Olympian and hockey World Cup winner Aslam Sher Khan.

"The court ordered that Mr. Narinder Batra should stop from functioning as IOA president with immediate effect," advocate Vanshdeep Dalmia, who appeared on behalf of Khan, told PTI.

"It was a contempt proceeding as Mr. Batra was continuing to attend meeting as IOA president despite an earlier order of this court.

"The court also said Mr. Anil Khanna, senior vice-president, will be the acting president of the IOA," he added. On May 25, Batra was removed as IOA chief after the Delhi High Court struck down the post of 'life member' in Hockey India, courtesy which he had contested and won the apex body elections back in 2017.

At that time also, the IOA had installed Khanna as its acting chief.

Batra had filed his nomination for the IOA president's post as a representative (life member) of Hockey India.

## GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI : TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION 5/9 UNDER HILL ROAD DELHI-110054

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### ATTENTION: VEHICLE OWNERS PLYING VEHICLES WITHOUT MANDATORY POLLUTION CONTROL

#### CERTIFICATE

The Transport Department, Govt. Of NCT of Delhi in its ongoing efforts to control pollution and improve Air Quality in Delhi requests all motor vehicle owners in Delhi in get valid Pollution under Control Certificate (PUCC) for their vehicles.

The department is going to issue challan of the vehicles whose PUC certificate has been expired. The challan will be issued under section 190 (2) of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 as per which failure to possess PUCC may lead to imprisonment up to 03 months or fine up to Rs. 10,000/- or with both. They will also be disqualified to hold their license for 03 months.

All Registered vehicle owners whose vehicle are more than 01-year-old from the date of registration (except electric/ battery driven vehicles) are here by directed to get their vehicle checked and obtain the PUC certificate to avoid fine.

The list of authorized pollution checking centres is available at the website of this department ([www.https://transport.delhi.gov.in](http://www.https://transport.delhi.gov.in)).

Sd/-  
**Dy. Commissioner (PCD)**  
**Transport Department**

DIP/Shabdarth/01310/22-23



# MOZAMBIQUE

## 47th Independence Day Anniversary



ADVERTORIAL

### MESSAGE



**H.E. MR. ERMINDO AUGUSTO FERREIRA**  
High Commissioner of the  
Republic of Mozambique to India

Dear Readers,

Today, we celebrate the Mozambique national holiday – Independence Day. It commemorates Mozambique's independence from Portugal on June 25, 1975.

India's support for Mozambique's development has become an important priority within the bilateral relationship. Throughout these years, we succeeded in building true friendship and mutual trust, which is exemplified in our unparalleled cooperation. Mozambique and India have signed several bilateral agreements and a Memoranda of Cooperation for collaborating in different areas. These agreements cover sectors like agriculture, rural development, scientific and technical research, protection of investments, avoidance of double taxation of each other's nationals, small and medium enterprises, mineral resources, oil and natural gas and defence cooperation, among others.

Mozambique is blessed with vast natural resources, which offer myriad opportunities to enterprises based in India. It is also a country with great tourist sites and welcomes Indian citizens to explore their beauty. The Indian community in Mozambique and Mozambican students studying in India, both on scholarships and through private means, have made possible vibrant people-to-people exchanges between the two nations.

Mozambique deeply cherishes its strategic partnership with India for the benefit of the people of our two friendly nations. It is my sincere hope that the strong ties of friendship between our countries will be further fortified in the years to come.

## Always a friend of India

Independence Day, also known in Portuguese as Dia da Independência Nacional, is a national holiday celebrated to commemorate Mozambique's independence from Portugal on June 25, 1975.

Nestled in the south-eastern region of Africa along the Indian Ocean coastline, Mozambique is famous for its beaches and warm climate, which makes it a top-notch tourist attraction. But beyond its sun-kissed landscape is a rich history that not many people know about. From its European colonialism to its revolution against Portugal, Mozambique is a country that has fought hard for order, peace, and independence.

### INDIA-MOZAMBIQUE BILATERAL RELATIONS

Trading links between Mozambique and the western states of India go back several centuries and pre-date the colonial era. These ancient people-to-people links have been built upon in modern times, to forge a strong bilateral relationship based on regular political contacts, ever-deepening economic engagement, and a well-integrated Indian community in Mozambique.

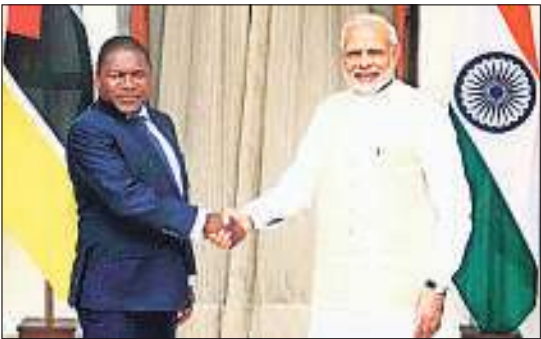
### POLITICAL RELATIONS

After 1947, independent India's support for the Mozambican freedom struggle established the basis for warm political ties between both countries. Diplomatic relations between India and Mozambique were established as soon as Mozambique became independent in 1975, and India was among the first countries to set up a diplomatic mission in Mozambique. On its part, Mozambique opened its mission in New Delhi in 2001.

Mozambique and India have signed a number of bilateral agreements and a Memoranda of Cooperation for structuring collaboration in different areas. These agreements cover sectors like agriculture, rural development, scientific and technical research, protection of investments, avoidance of double taxation of each other's nationals, small and medium enterprises, mineral resources, oil and natural gas and defence cooperation.

### DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

In recent years, India's support for Mozambique's development agenda has become an important priority within the bilateral relationship. Most of this assistance has been provided through concessional Lines of Credit (LOC) implemented through the EXIM Bank of India. Until 2010, India had carried out LOC-funded projects worth about \$140 million in Mozambique. During President Guebuza's visit to India in 2010, further LOC support of \$500 million was announced. Through these projects, India has supported Mozambique in diverse areas — provision of drinking water, improving power generation and distribution and agricultural productivity, rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure, creation of an Information Technology park, construction of an assembly plant for solar cells, rehabilitation of road networks, construction of housing units, railway equipment.



**PM Narendra Modi and the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi**

The number of Indian scholarships available for Mozambican students to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in India has increased in recent years. The Government of India also sponsors several short-term training courses for public functionaries of the Mozambique Government. These scholarships helped improve human resources within Mozambique and strengthened people-to-people links.

Some recent examples of Indian development and humanitarian assistance to Mozambique include the \$250-million LOC, which was re-offered to Mozambique in 2019 for different power projects in Maputo and adjoining areas and the LOC agreement was signed in August 2020. In September 2020, the High Commissioner handed over 13 essential medicines worth 22 million meticais to Mozambique to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. In March 2021, the Government of India donated 1,00,000 doses and supplied 3,84,000 doses of the Covishield vaccine to Mozambique under the COVAX programme.

### ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Indian companies have invested heavily in the energy resources of Mozambique and by some estimates, these investments amount to almost a quarter of India's total FDI in Africa. The most important investments have been in the natural gas and coal industries. In 2014, two Indian Public Sector Companies, ONGC Videsh Ltd and Oil India Ltd, completed the acquisition of a 20 per cent stake in Area 1 of the huge Rovuma gas block of Mozambique, at a cost of over \$5 billion. This was in addition to the 10 per cent already held by another PSU (BPCL) since 2008. India is the biggest investor in Rovuma Area-1 gas project.

In July 2014, the International Coal Ventures Private Ltd, a consortium of five Indian PSUs (SAIL, NMDC, RIL, CIL and NTPC) purchased a 65 per cent stake in the coal assets sold by Rio Tinto. Other Indian companies with a presence in the coal mining sector include JSPL, JSW, Coal India Ltd, Tata Steel, Essar, Midwest Africa and Sunflag Group, among others.

**From the Desk of**  
**Sunil Reddy Y S**, Hon. Consul of  
the Republic of Mozambique in  
Tamil Nadu & Telangana

### How do you see the business ties developing in the future between India and Mozambique?

India shares a strong bilateral relationship with many countries in the African continent and Mozambique is an important one among them. India's bilateral relations with Mozambique goes back to the early 1980s and have strengthened over the years. Over the last two decades, Indian enterprises have invested over US\$ 8 billion, mostly in the energy, mining and agriculture sectors of Mozambique.

Recent bilateral agreements between both countries ensure a long-term understanding to improve the production of pulses to meet India's demand. Data reveals that India is Africa's fourth-largest trading partner. Export from India to Mozambique includes petroleum, pharmaceutical products, rice, machinery, metal and plastics, transport equipment, paper, wood and fabrics.

### What investment opportunities exist for Indian investors in Mozambique?

Indian businesses have huge investment opportunities in sectors like agricultural infrastructure development, mining, energy and healthcare. The bilateral investment promotion and protection agreement signed between the two countries ensures the creation of favourable conditions for investment for business on both sides.

The countries have signed a dou-



ble taxation avoidance agreement to promote economic cooperation between the two countries.

Major imports from Mozambique to India are pulses, cashew, minerals ore, coal and scrap metals.

### What are the products that you export and how do you plan to increase your global presence?

We export raw materials and machinery for the food, beverage and mining industries. With growing demand and a pan-African presence, we are looking to establish a larger footprint across the continent.

### What are the future plans of your company?

Our group, which was established two decades ago, has a sizeable presence across Africa in various fields. We have a perfect understanding of the African market and culture and are open to exploring business opportunities across the continent.