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## ARRESTS HOURS AFTER AMIT SHAH QUESTIONS ROLE

# Day after SC flagged ‘design’ to keep 2002 ‘pot boiling’, Gujarat police arrest ex-DGP, Teesta

FIR against Sreekumar, Setalvad and Sanjiv Bhatt for ‘fabricating evidence’

**VAIBHAV JHA, YOGESH NAIK & JAYPRAKASH NAIDU**  
AHMEDABAD, MUMBAI, JUNE 25



Sreekumar

A DAY after the Supreme Court upheld the SIT’s clean chit in the 2002 riots to the then Gujarat government led by Chief Minister Narendra Modi, the Ahmedabad Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) arrested retired state DGP R B Sreekumar, whose role had been called into question by the Court, and

**SC ON SREEKUMAR**  
■ R B Sreekumar had no personal knowledge as he did not attend the meeting. He was a disgruntled officer

**SHAH ON TEESTA, SREEKUMAR**  
■ It has been clearly stated that a police officer, an NGO and some political elements... together spread falsehoods  
■ Many victims’ affidavits were signed by (Teesta Setalvad’s) NGO. The UPA government helped Setalvad’s NGO to a lot



Activist Teesta Setalvad in Mumbai on Saturday. *Express*

CONG CAUTIOUS, LEFT QUESTIONS [PAGE 8](#)

## Stain washed; parties, media, NGOs behind ecosystem of lies: Shah

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 25

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Saturday hailed the Supreme Court verdict upholding the SIT’s clean chit to then chief minister Narendra Modi in the 2002 riots, and slammed a “triad of political parties opposing the BJP, some journalists and some NGOs”. Suggesting they had created an “ecosystem” that influenced everyone, including courts, he said they should seek “forgiveness” of the BJP and Prime Minister.



Amit Shah during an interview to ANI

In an interview to ANI, Shah called the verdict “a matter of pride for every BJP worker”,



Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray leaves the Shiv Sena office after the national executive meeting. *Ganesh Shirsekhar*

## As Sena empowers Uddhav to act, 16 rebels get notices

**VALLABH OZARKAR**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 25

MOVING TO regain control of the Shiv Sena after majority MLAs of the party rallied behind rebel minister Eknath Shinde, Maharashtra Chief Minister and Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray chaired a meeting Saturday of the party national executive which authorised him to take all decisions related to the party. Six resolutions were passed including the decision not to allow anyone other than the Shiv Sena to use the name of Balasaheb Thackeray, and to take strict action against the rebel MLAs.

Also Saturday, disqualification notices were served on 16 rebel MLAs who the Sena claimed did not attend a party meeting convened by Uddhav earlier this week. The MLAs have

### SUNDAY STORY

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#### The Comeback Man

As MVA totters, one man standing firm is Devendra Fadnis

been given time until Monday to respond, failing which action would be initiated.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## BJP minister’s remarks proof that he, Pilot were together in rebellion: Gehlot



Ashok Gehlot; Sachin Pilot

**HAMZA KHAN**  
JAIPUR, JUNE 25

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot Saturday once again put his former deputy Sachin Pilot in the crosshairs, this time saying that Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat’s comment proves that the two were hand in glove during the 2020 rebellion against him.

Talking to journalists in Sikar, Gehlot, while talking about Shekhawat, said, “Ab aap jo Sachin Pilot ka naam le rahe ho, ki unhone chook kar di, toh aur proof ho gya, thappa laga diya aapne khud ne ki aap unke saath mile hue the (You are taking Sachin Pilot’s name that he missed out narrowly, so it’s further proof, you have stamped it yourself, that you were hand in glove with him).”

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## Punjab IAS officer’s son dead as Vigilance searches premises; family alleges killed

**SAURABH PARASHAR & NAVJEEVAN GOPAL**  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 25

THE SON of a Punjab IAS officer, Sanjay Popli, who is under arrest over corruption charges, died of gunshot injuries at his Chandigarh residence on Saturday afternoon even as a team was there to conduct searches in the case.

Kartik Popli, 26, was a law graduate and preparing for the judicial service examination. Popli’s family accused Vigilance Bureau officials of shooting him, alleging they were being harassed by agency officials.

Popli, who was brought by the Vigilance team for the search, told mediapersons at the Civil Hospital where he was taken for a medical check-up later that he



Popli’s family members after his death. *Kamleshwar Singh*

**DIFFERENT VERSIONS IN THE CASE** [PAGE 7](#)

was “eyewitness to the murder of my son”. Denying the claim, Chandigarh’s Senior Superintendent of Police Kuldeep Chahal said the

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### THE WORLD

**WORLD LEADERS CONDEMN US COURT RULING ON ABORTION**  
[PAGE 12](#)

## On ED radar: Those who protested Prophet remark, Agnipath scheme

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate has now turned its gaze on people who participated in two recent protests — against the Prophet remarks by now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, and the announcement of the Agnipath short-term recruitment



A protest against Agnipath scheme in Secunderabad. *File*

scheme for the armed forces.

The ED has sought documents and case papers from UP Police to examine if it can proceed against the accused under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). It is similarly examining the role of coaching centres in Bihar in fuelling protests against the Agnipath scheme.

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## New headache for cops: Cyber criminals buying personal data in bulk

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

“DEAR CUSTOMER, your account with xxxx has been suspended. Please complete your KYC (know your customer) with this link...”; “Dear user, Please update your KYC for your account with this link/number...”; “Dear customer, you have earned Rs 5000 worth reward points on your account xxx...”

These are just some of the bulk messages received on thousands of phones every day, sent by fraudsters waiting for people to click on the phishing links and

share personal information. But what has exacerbated the headache for law enforcement agencies of late is the proliferation of websites that sell names and numbers of people in bulk, senior Delhi Police officers told The Indian Express. Officers added that the scamsters have become proficient in creating lookalike websites of banks, telecom providers or brands to steal information and siphon money — anywhere between a few thousands to several lakhs — from vulnerable people.

In March, the Delhi Police’s Cyber Cell arrested 23 people for

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### EXPRESS NETWORK



**EYE ON TRIBAL VOTES IN OTHER STATES, BSP BACKS MURMU**

**MAN HIT BY BULLET DURING PROPHET REMARK STIR CLINGS ON TO LIFE** [PAGES 6, 7](#)

### THE CITY

**AAP MLAS GETTING EXTORTION CALLS: SANJAY SINGH** [PAGE 3](#)

## For Shinde, road to claim Sena symbol may not be easy

**ANISHA DUTTA**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

MAHARASHTRA MINISTER Eknath Shinde, who has the support of the majority MLAs of Shiv Sena and is threatening to topple the ruling MVA coalition, may not find it easy to stake claim to the “real” Sena.

While Shinde and the Sena rebels wade through legalities of the anti-defection law, another challenge remains: Of convincing the Election Commission who the real Shiv Sena is. Who will claim the party symbol? That’s the question as the crisis in the state deepens.

The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment)

Order, 1968 deals with the poll body’s power to recognise parties and allot symbols. When the question of a split in a political party arises outside the legislature, paragraph 15 of the Symbols Order, 1968, states: “When the Commission is satisfied... that there are rival sections or groups of a recognised political party, each of whom claims to be that party the Commission may, after taking into account all the available facts and circumstances of the case and hearing (their) representatives... and other persons

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**MORE REPORTS**  
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# After Moosewala’s murder, spotlight back on (Punjabi) gangs of Canada

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA**  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 25

THE RUFIANS. That’s the name of a gang in Abbotsford area of British Columbia, Canada, cobbled together by Punjabi-origin people. Kal Dosanjh, a veteran police officer with the Vancouver police, says the three-year-old gang is the first of its kind — all its members are international students.

With Goldy Brar, a gangster who travelled to Canada on a student visa in 2017, claiming responsibility for the killing of Punjabi rapper Sidhu Moosewala last month, Indo-Canadian gangs are once again under the scanner.

The connection between crime lords in Canada and Punjab first came under global scrutiny in June 2021 when Toronto police busted an international drug racket in Brampton. Most of the 28 men arrested in the case were of Indian origin. The Toronto Sun newspaper called it the biggest drug seizure in the history of the

local police — 1,000 kg of drugs worth \$61 million, 48 firearms, \$1 million in cash. “It’s the first time we have seen something at this level of sophistication,” Toronto Police chief James Ramer had said in a press conference.

A former Punjab DGP says drug smuggling from India to Canada has been going on for the last 10-15 years. “It’s a deadly cocktail. Afghanistan, Pakistan, India are part of the international drug route. Initially, smugglers here would use well-known courier companies to smuggle drugs. Then they started liquefying these for smuggling. Since



Kal Dosanjh, a veteran police officer in Vancouver, says students from Punjab are vulnerable to joining gangs

pharmaceutical controls in the region are relatively lax, they have also been sending precursor drugs to Canada.”

Kabaddi tournaments, a hit among the Punjabi diaspora, were also used as a drug conduit. Canada-based Ranjit Singh Aujla, alias Dara Muthada, who was wanted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the multi-crore Jagdish Bhola drug case, died of cardiac arrest at British Columbia on June 9. Ranjit was a former president of the British Columbia Kabaddi Federation.

On February 10 this year, Sarbjit Singh Sander, another co-accused in the case, was found

murdered in Langley, Canada. Sander would allegedly arrange couriers for transporting drugs.

Police officers in Canada are in no doubt that drugs are behind the rash of gangs and their internecine battles. Manny Mann, chief officer of Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU), British Columbia’s anti-gang task force, blames the gang wars on the fluid, ever-changing alliances and competition over drug lines.

Indo-Canadians continue to be part of the gangs dominating Vancouver, such as the Wolfpack, Red Scorpions, the United Nations, and the Brothers

Keepers. The Brothers Keepers, for instance, was founded by Gavinder Singh Grewal, who was killed in December 2017 at the age of 30; the Red Scorpions have as their affiliates the Bibo-Kang group (founded by brothers Sameet and Gary Kang); and the Dhak-Duhre coalition (founded by late Gurmit Dhak and Sandip Duhre) is known to have strong ties with the United Nations gang.

The website of the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia Governance puts the number of such “groups”, as it calls them, anywhere between

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FROM PAGE ONE

Gujarat arrests

Mumbai-based activist Teesta Setalvad, who supported the petitioner, Zakia Jafri.

The two were held on charges of criminal conspiracy, forgery and other Sections of the IPC on the basis of an FIR lodged in the DCB by Inspector Darshansinh Barad, which quotes extensively from the Supreme Court order. Also named in the nine-page FIR, filed on behalf of the Gujarat state, is former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, who also faced strictures in the Supreme Court order. Bhatt is already in jail in connection with another case.

While a DCB team detained Sreekumar after serving summons on his residence in Gandhinagar on Saturday afternoon, Setalvad was detained around the same time from her Mumbai residence.

The arrests came hours after Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in an interview to ANI, clarified the role of “a police officer” and Setalvad’s NGO, apart from media, in the case against role of the Modi government.

The FIR under which Sreekumar, Bhatt and Setalvad were arrested was registered under IPC Sections 468 (forgery), 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record), 194 (giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence), 211 (false charge of offence made with intent to injure), 218 (public servant framing incorrect record or writing with intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture), and 120 B (criminal conspiracy).

Chaitanya Mandlik, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime, Ahmedabad City Police, said: “On a tip-off provided by the DCB, a team of the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad arrested accused Teesta Setalvad and she is being brought to the Crime Branch office in Ahmedabad.”

The FIR states that the Supreme Court order “clearly establishes that Sanjiv Bhatt, R B Sreekumar, Teesta Setalvad and others had conspired to abuse the process of law by fabricating false evidence to make several persons to be convicted for an offence that is punishable with capital punishment, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 194 of the IPC. Furthermore it has been established in the course of the investigation done by the SIT that Sanjiv Bhatt, R B Sreekumar, Teesta and others had instituted false and malicious criminal proceedings against innocent people with the intention to cause injury, an act punishable under Section 211 of the IPC. Sanjiv Bhatt and R B Sreekumar who at the time of their acts of commission and omission were public servants... they had framed incorrect records with intent to cause injury to several persons, for which they are culpable under Section 218 of the IPC. Sanjiv Bhatt, R B Sreekumar, Teesta Setalvad and others had conspired and prepared false records and had dishonestly used those records as genuine ones with the intention of causing damage and injury to several persons, thereby having committed offence inter alia, punishable under Sections 468 and 471 of the IPC.”

The FIR states that the accused would be investigated for “finding out the behind-the-scenes criminal conspiracy and financial and other benefits, inducements for commission of various serious offences in collusion with other individuals, entities and organisations”.

Setalvad, 60, said the police team that picked her up assaulted her, but this was denied by officials. The Gujarat team came in two jeeps. Speaking to *The Sunday Express*, Setalvad said: “I was assaulted, there is no warrant and I am being taken. Hence I came to Santacruz police to lodge a complaint.”

Her husband Javed Anand said: “On Saturday morning, we got a call at the office from the CISF headquarters in Noida, asking us whose protection did Teesta have. She earlier had CISF security, which has been pulled out, and now she has Mumbai Police security. Later, two men from (Union minister and BJP leader) Narayan Rane’s security, who stays on the same road, came to ask if Teesta was at home. Later at 3.45 pm, a police posse came to detain her. The posse said they had a warrant and only showed us the FIR.”

Anand added: “We locked our door and said that we will speak when our lawyers are there... She tried to go into the bathroom and said she would not open till the lawyers came, and one male staffer and a female staffer assaulted her. They also threatened to book us for

obstructing police.” Anand added that being an asthmatic, Setalvad packed her medicines.

Mumbai Police spokesperson DCP Sanjay Latkar said, “A team from the Anti-Terrorism Squad of the Gujarat Police went to the residence of Setalvad... in connection with a case registered in the DCB Police Station in Ahmedabad.” He added that the Santacruz police were processing her application over what had happened.

As per the FIR, “Setalvad conjured, concocted, forged, fabricated facts and documents and/or evidence including fabrication of documents by persons who were protective witnesses of the complainant (Zakia)”. She was also accused of influencing and tutoring witnesses and making them sign pre-typed affidavits. Even Zakia Jafri was tutored by Setalvad, as is clear from her statement before the Nanavati Commission on August 22, 2003, the complaint says.

Regarding IPS officers Bhatt and Sreekumar, the FIR says they made several depositions before the Nanavati Commission of Inquiry that were against the Gujarat government.

The complaint says Bhatt, who was the Superintendent of Police (Security) at the time of the riots, forged documents mailed to the SIT and falsely claimed he attended a late-night meeting on February 27, 2002, called by Modi at his residence.

“Investigation conducted by the SIT conclusively established that Bhatt was not present in the said meeting, and he had made the above... claims nine years after the incident to falsely implicate various persons,” says the FIR.

About Sreekumar, the FIR says his nine affidavits before the Nanavati-Shah Commission were the source for much of the allegations in Jafri’s petition.

Sreekumar was Additional DGP of the Armed Unit at the time of the riots, but his statement before the SIT revealed that his information of the facts was acquired after he was posted as ADG (Intelligence) on April 9, 2002, the FIR says. “He did not make any allegation against the government in initial two affidavits, did so only in the third affidavit. He has done these acts and many others deliberately to falsely implicate certain persons in grave sections of law.”

On Friday, the Supreme Court, while rejecting riot survivor Zakia Jafri’s petition observed, “We find force in the argument of the respondent-State that the testimony of Mr Sanjiv Bhatt, Mr Haren Pandya and also of Mr R B Sreekumar was only to sensationalize and politicize the matters in issue, although, replete with falsehood.”

The portions quoted by the FIR from the SC verdict include: “At the end of the day, it appears to us that a coalesced effort of the disgruntled officials of the State of Gujarat along with others was to create sensation by making revelations which were false to their own knowledge. The falsity of their claims had been fully exposed by the SIT after a thorough investigation. Intriguingly, the present proceedings have been pursued for last 16 years... including with the audacity to question the integrity of every functionary involved in the process of exposing the devious stratagem adopted (to borrow the submission of learned counsel for the SIT), to keep the pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior design. As a matter of fact, all those involved in such abuse of process, need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law.”

**Shah interview**

adding: “The stain that was on the BJP has been washed away and a world leader like Modiji has shown himself an ideal example of how the Constitution has to be respected in a democracy.” The order was “very significant”, he said, “less politically but more because the court has exposed how our top-most leader was victimised”.

Attacking those who had levelled charges against the Modi government, Shah said: “Political parties opposed to the BJP, some journalists with a political ideology and some NGOs, together created such publicity about these allegations, and they had such a strong ecosystem that people started believing lies as the truth. It was a triad of NGOs, media and political parties nursing the media and NGOs... The ecosystem back then blew up lies so that everyone was under its influence, probably even the courts.”

He added: “Today, when the judgement has come, it has been clearly stated that a police officer, an NGO and some political elements... the three together spread falsehoods to sensationalise (the incident). The SIT too has presented before the court that the depositions were false. Today the court has made it clear that the government did its best to stop the riots, that the CM appealed repeatedly for peace, that the riots post-Godhra train burning incident were not well-planned but self-inflicted.”

Speaking about Zakia Jafri, who had petitioned the Supreme Court against the SIT’s clean chit to the Modi government, Shah said: “The SC has said that Zakia Jafri used to work at someone else’s insistence. Many victims’ affidavits were signed by the NGO. Everyone knew Teesta Setalvad’s NGO was doing it. The UPA government helped Setalvad’s NGO a lot, the whole of Lutyens Delhi knows it. This was done to target Modiji.”

Asked about the claims that the Modi-led Gujarat government had delayed calling in the Army to control the riots, Shah said: “There was no delay. The day the bandh (against the Godhra train burning) was called, we called for the Army. It takes some time for the Army to arrive. The record is clear on that and the Court has appreciated it.”

On the contrary, he said, there should have been no delay in calling the Army when the anti-Sikh riots broke out in Delhi in 1984, under a Congress government at the Centre. “The Army headquarters is in Delhi... When so many Sikhs were killed, nothing was done for three days. How many SITs were set up (then)? After our government came to power, an SIT was set up (into the 1984 riots). How many arrests were made?”

Shah said no questions should be raised about the Modi government’s role now. “It is not just me or Modiji or the BJP saying we (the Gujarat government) were wrongfully tagged... now the SC has also said it. Will you not abide by the Constitution? Will you not believe the SC? Is a political statement correct or an SC verdict, after consideration of all evidence?”

He said both the people and journalists must ponder this. “And if the opinion is in favour of the latter (the SC verdict), then questions must be raised on the responsibility of journalists who made these accusations. They must be asked what was the basis... Those who made allegations against Modiji, if they have a conscience, they must seek forgiveness of Modiji and the BJP.”

While asserting that the BJP government never interfered with the media’s reporting, “not then, not today”, the Union minister referred to the Tehelka sting operation, saying the Court dismissed it “because when the contextual footage came through, it was clear that the sting was politically motivated”.

The Union minister claimed that in contrast to the allegations raised against Modi, “no one” criticised the Godhra train burning. “The way 60 people were burnt to death, there was anger, and until the riots happened, no one criticised it (the train incident), except the BJP. The Congress did not make a single statement... the Parliament session was on.”

Shah also seemed to draw a parallel between the SIT’s questioning of Modi and the ongoing interrogation of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate. “Modiji was also interrogated, no one did dharmas. People did not come from all over the country to stand in solidarity with him. We cooperated with the law. I was also arrested, there was no demonstration.”

On Friday, the Supreme Court dismissed the plea filed by Jafri, the widow of former Congress MP Ahsan Jafri, who was among the 68 killed at Gulberg Society in Ahmedabad during the 2002 riots. Jafri had challenged the SIT’s closure report clearing the Modi government, saying the SC-appointed panel had ignored “evidence” that the then CM failed to contain the riots, and gave instructions at an alleged meeting to allow Hindus “to vent their anger” over the Godhra incident.

Notably, Shah was called as a defence witness in the Naroda Gam trial for accused Maya Kodnani, in September 2017. Kodnani had cited him as defence witness to give alibi that she was not present at Naroda Gam at the time of the violence there, as claimed by the SIT. Shah told the court that on the day concerned, he had seen Kodnani in the state Assembly in Gandhinagar at around 8.30 am and then at Soli Civil Hospital (in Ahmedabad) at around 11-11.15 am, and that he had no idea where Kodnani was in between.

**Notices to rebels**

Sources said if action is taken

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knows that it is your voice, you yourself conspired to topple the government. You are taking Sachin Pilot’s name that he missed out, so it’s further proof, you have stamped it yourself that you were hand in glove with him,” Gehlot said.

Earlier, reacting to Shekhawat’s comments, Pilot had said that now the public won’t commit the *chook* of choosing Shekhawat. He said the BJP had gone back on its promise on the ERCP issue and was now blaming the people.

**IAS officer’s son**

Vigilance team was on the premises of the Popli residence for investigations when they heard a gunshot and realised that Kartik had “shot himself with his licensed gun”. Chahal said they rushed him to hospital, where he was declared dead.

Vigilance Bureau Deputy Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar said at a press conference in the evening that they never entered the house but made their recoveries from a store in the yard, and had “left” by the time the incident happened.

Kumar said the family appeared to be in “panic” as it was “a massive recovery”. “We feel extremely pained at this incident. We came to know of it after we had already returned from there. The allegations being levelled by the accused’s family are baseless.”

Alleging that Bureau officials had been harassing her and her son for the past few days, Popli’s wife Sri said that on Saturday, the team that came to their home took Kartik to the first floor. “They started pressuring him... They did not allow me to go upstairs, despite my requests. I somehow managed to catch a glimpse from the staircase and saw that they had a gun aimed at my son... Moments later, I heard a gunshot. They killed my son,” she said.

The Vigilance Bureau had arrested Popli, a 2008-batch officer posted as Director, Pensions, Punjab, on June 20. He was to be produced in court Saturday, before which the Vigilance team searched his house.

The Bureau claimed to have seized over 12 kg of gold and silver from Popli’s house, apart from several mobile phones and cash, Saturday.

At the press conference in the evening, Vigilance Bureau DySP Kumar said: “The incident happened after the Vigilance Bureau’s team left after making recovery from a store in the yard. The Vigilance Bureau did not enter Popli’s house.”

Asked about the weapon with which Kartik allegedly shot himself, the officer said it was for the Chandigarh Police to investigate the same. Sources told *The Sunday Express* a 7.65 mm licensed pistol was used in the firing, registered in Popli’s name. A forensic team has taken possession of the gun and recovered an empty bullet shell from the spot.

Popli was arrested following a video left by a Karnal-based contractor, Sanjay Kumar, on the anti-corruption helpline, purportedly showing the officer demanding second instalment for a bribe to allot a tender pertaining to sewerage works. Popli was the CEO of the Punjab Sewerage Board before he was transferred as Director, Pensions, in May.

Sandeep Wats, posted as assistant secretary in the board, was also arrested. The anti-corruption helpline had been set up by the AAP government soon after coming to power.

Kumar accused the two of seeking a cut of 1% to clear tenders.

A day after Popli’s arrest, the Chandigarh Police registered a case against him under the Arms Act, after the Vigilance Bureau claimed to have found unaccounted live cartridges from his house during searches.

On Friday, Popli was booked in a third case, along with an unidentified woman, under

charges of extortion, false evidence and criminal conspiracy. The complainant is against Kumar, who said that fraud and rape charges had been pressed against him and two other contractors allegedly at the behest of Popli to pressure him not to go to the Vigilance Bureau.

As the Congress staged a protest at Popli’s residence, AAP called Kartik’s death “unfortunate” and said “the government would continue a zero tolerance approach against corruption”.

**Cyber crime**

sending such messages every day and “inducing” people to visit fake websites on the pretext of updating KYC — failing which they would “lose” their account in a large public sector bank.

Once a person would part with personal details online, money would soon disappear from their account.

A senior officer at the public sector bank, who did not wish to be named, said: “Last year, we had more than 500 complaints in November-December... The fraudsters kept sending bulk messages asking people to update their KYC or else they would lose their account. We also reported the matter to Delhi Police and the Ministry of Home Affairs. These people pose as bank officials and cheat customers of lakhs of rupees. We would never send such messages to our customers.”

KPS Malhotra, DCP (Cyber Cell), says: “The men would send bulk messages with links that lead to a fake page of a public sector bank’s app. The account holder fed personal information on the fake page and the accused took these details, logged into the original account and siphoned money from there.”

“It was a pan-India network; we had more than 100 complaints with us. Over 51 of these were in Delhi. The accused were arrested from different locations,” added the DCP.

Many FIRs often club hundreds of complaints — last year, for instance, the Cyber Cell in Dwarka registered eight cases of KYC fraud, with each clubbing more than 500 complainants.

In the case from March, police found many of the victims lost up to Rs 1 lakh. Such gangs, police said, operate from different cities across the country — posing jurisdictional challenges to investigators — and have several modules.

For instance, some men are tasked with creating the phishing links, sending bulk SMSes and creating bank accounts, while others work on procuring data of their targets.

Procuring data of the victims is key to the operation. An ACP-level officer said the accused bought it from websites where personal data of lakhs of people is sold in bulk for as little as Rs 600 and up to Rs 7,000.

*The Sunday Express* logged into some of these websites and found how easily one can buy data — names, phone numbers and even addresses. The data is differentiated into different categories for “marketing purposes”. Categories include ‘students seeking jobs’, ‘senior citizens’, ‘doctors in Delhi-NCR’ and ‘car owners in Delhi-NCR’, making it easier for fraudsters to zero in on their target.

A team led by ACP Raman Lamba found that the accused were procuring numbers from such websites.

“They mostly target senior citizens, retired officials and frequent shoppers. Data of these people are easily available on the websites,” said one officer.

*The Sunday Express* contacted one of the websites and asked them about the data being sold online. The company, which refused to be named, claimed one can share and sell details such as name, email IDs and phone numbers as these are categorised as “general data”. However, data such as credit card details and medical records cannot be shared online.

“There are no laws protecting the selling of general data. Many brands want their ‘target audience/customers’ and need such data. This data selling business was started to provide data for marketing purposes... The data is only shared for promotional activities... It is the user’s responsibility,” said the company’s spokesperson.

Asked how the websites gathered such data in the first place, the spokesperson said: “As there are a lot of companies who sell data, so they purchase data from each other whichever is required. However the original source of data is unknown. But as per my knowledge, some data like B2B companies data, doctors data, chemists data is collected from web directory sites where name, address and contact numbers are available openly. And other data may be sold by companies itself — for example I have opened an account (with a broker) for trading, and after a few days I start getting calls from different companies for trading purpose, so we can believe the data is obviously sold by the company itself, and when this data is used by these companies, it comes in open market for reselling by small medium sellers.”

In one specific case, the accused were arrested with more than Rs 2 crore. “They started the operation during the pandemic; in fact many gangs did. We received over 25 complaints with the same modus operandi. Most of the complainants were 45-plus. One of the complainants, a retired DU professor, was cheated of Rs 1.7-2 lakh. This was the largest amount.”

**Sena symbol**

as desire to be heard, decide that one such rival section or group or none of such rival sections or groups is that recognised political party and the decision of the Commission shall be binding on all such rival sections or groups.”

When a dispute arises, the EC first examines the support each faction enjoys, both within the organisation and legislature wing. Then it identifies the top committees and decision-making bodies and proceeds to know how many of its members or office-bearers back which faction. It also counts the number of law-makers and legislators.

This applies to disputes in recognised national and state parties. For splits in registered but unrecognised parties, the EC usually advises the warring factions to resolve differences internally or approach the court.

In Maharashtra, the rebel faction claims the support of 41 MLAs and will seek the use of the Sena’s symbol.

In the past, one of the most high-profile splits of a party before 1968 was that of the Communist Party of India in 1964. A breakaway group approached the ECI in December 1964, urging it to recognise them as CPI (Marxist). It provided a list of MPs and MLAs of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal. The ECI recognised the faction as CPI (M) after it found that the votes secured by the MPs and MLAs supporting the breakaway group added up to more than 4% in the three states.

More recently, the Samajwadi Party witnessed a bitter split in 2017 when Akhilesh Yadav wrested control from father Mulayam Singh Yadav. Mulayam approached the EC. The Akhilesh camp filed affidavits by various party office-bearers, MPs, MLAs and district presidents. Eventually, after hearing both sides, the poll body decided to award the cycle symbol to Akhilesh’s faction.

In the case of the AIADMK in 2017, the factions led by O Panneerselvam and VK Sasikala had started claim to the AIADMK’s ‘two leaves’ symbol. While Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami’s camp revolted against Sasikala to merge with

the OPS faction, it was the unified OPS-EPS group that won the symbol in November 2017.

**Gangs of Canada**

600 and over 900 in the past five years. It says, however, that “gangs, based strictly on ethnicity, are no longer the norm... What we’re seeing now are new gang alliances and new power blocks, in order to capture a monopoly on the illicit market”.

Gang wars often take a heavy toll on Indo-Canadians. Four Indo-Canadians, including a police officer, were killed in targeted killings in the first two weeks of May alone. Later, the CFSEU released photos of 11 men they said could be targeted and therefore were putting the public at risk. Seven of them were Indo-Canadians with roots in Punjab. Linda Annis, executive director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers, said British Columbia witnessed 123 gang-related shootings in 2021.

In his thesis on South Asian gangs in Canada, Manjit Pabla, a researcher, says nearly 200 South Asian men have died in gang violence in the last three decades “for the contradictory objectives of social exclusion and inclusion”. Many of them had roots in Punjab.

But what worries police officer Dosanjh, who is also the CEO of KidsPlay Foundation that works to keep youth away from crime, is the increasing vulnerability of international students from Punjab. “Often, need for an additional source of income drives them to give to students from India in 2021, almost double the number for 2020.

If caught while committing a crime, students are charged, convicted, sentenced and deported. “The rate of incarcerations is very high,” says Kal.

Death by overdosing on drugs is also becoming more frequent. A report last year in Pointer, a digital news platform, said a single funeral home in the Greater Toronto Area gets five dead bodies of Indian students every month. This has prompted the Indian mission in Canada to start a drive for mapping Indian students in the country.

Unlike Indian students, the Indo-Canadian gangsters are not driven to crime due to financial hardship. “They generally come from decent families, have the resources to succeed but they love the easy money, the bling, the control,” says Dosanjh.

Pabla calls it the lure of a “gold-collar” (as against white-collar or blue-collar) lifestyle.

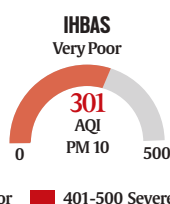
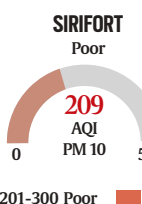
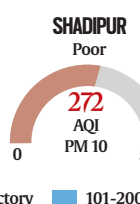
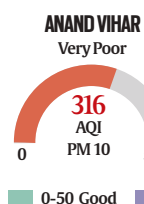
Shenan Charania, a reformed gangster, says he was bullied when he was young and gravitated towards a gang of bullies that could protect him.

Historically speaking, the Indo-Canadian gangs first shot to notoriety in the 1980s and 1990s with the birth of Punjabi Mafia led by gangsters like the Dosanjh brothers, Ron (Ranjit) and Jimmy (Jimsner), in the mid 1980s. The brothers used to allegedly source cocaine from the Colombian cartels.

The police trace the seeds of the present day gang wars to the deadly feud between the Dosanjh brothers and the brutal Bindy Johal. All three were shot dead, Jimmy and Ron, two months apart in 1994, allegedly by Johal, who was killed four years later. All three were in their twenties. The 2015 Deepa Mehta film, *Beeba Boys* (Good Boys), is loosely based on Bindy Johal and Indo-Canadian gangs in West Coast.

Even today, Johal, who was often seen on live TV feeds, continues to be a folk figure for gangsters who believe he stopped the emasculation of South Asian men.





**FORECAST: June 26**  
Partly cloudy sky

**MAX: 39**  
1.6° C above normal

**MIN: 26**  
2.2° C below normal



## NEW LOOK

At Moti Bagh, 500-metre stretches on both sides of the road have been revamped by the Delhi government with cycling and walking tracks, and benches. *Abhinav Saha*

## Amid crisis, only 18% of treated waste water being reused in city

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

WHILE THE reuse of treated waste water can lower the pressure on freshwater sources in the city, only a small fraction of the waste water that Delhi currently generates is reused.

As per Delhi Jal Board officials, the city reuses around 18% or 100 MGD (million gallons per day) of the 528 MGD of treated water generated at DJB's wastewater treatment plants. Treated water is supplied for horticulture purposes and washing buses, an official said.

Increasing the quantity of water reused would need a parallel network across the city to carry treated water to areas where it can be used, like agricultural land on the city's outskirts, the official said. The cost for a system of that

### EXPLAINED DJB's push

The DJB will soon supply treated water to farmhouses. "We've received consent from a few RWAs, we are working on providing a network to supply water. Farmhouses in Chattarpur, Kapashera, and Bakkarwala will be connected to the network and are likely to consume around 20 MGD of water," said a DJB official. Efforts are also on to release treated water into lakes, another official said.

sort is likely to be high, he said. Demand for treated water for horticultural purposes is high

particularly in the area under the New Delhi Municipal Council. The large gardens in NDMC area have decentralised STPs that supply water to them. The STPs have a combined capacity of 27 lakh litres per day, as per an official in NDMC's horticulture department. "Treated water currently being used is far below our original requirement of approximately 8 MGD for green areas. Of this, STPs supply around 0.5 MGD. We sometimes manage with tankers, but that does not suffice. The cost is high to bring the network from the DJB's STPs to these areas for reuse of treated water," the official added.

A DPCC report from May states that samples of treated water collected from 16 out of 26 waste water treatment units of DJB did not meet standards for disposal into water or land.

## L-G advises MCD to bring all properties under tax net

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

DELHI L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena has advised that all properties within the city limits – commercial as well as residential – be brought under the tax net so that the MCD's income increases and it is able to provide better services, said the civic body in a press statement.

Expressing concern over the fact that properties, commercial establishments as well as people in as much as 65% of the geographical area of Delhi did not pay any property tax, Saxena said it was an unfortunate, unfair, and unviable situation. These are mostly unauthorised colonies and village areas.

"Since the entire city, and not

just 35% residents of 11 lakh houses living in authorised or regularised colonies, were availing of amenities and services offered by the Municipal Corporation, it would only be fair and justified that all pay property tax at differential rates as per their respective self-assessed financial status. For this purpose, he instructed officials to simplify the forms for property tax registration and ensure its Aadhaar linkage," said the MCD.

The L-G had asked officials to take people and RWAs on board and address their concerns. "Such a partnership with the people, he said, will not only facilitate honest self-assessment on part of the assessee but also increase tax collection and... ensure better services..." said a senior official of the MCD.

## TAKES AIM AT AMIT SHAH

# AAP MLAs getting extortion calls from goons: Sanjay Singh

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

AAM AADMI Party MLAs are receiving "threats over calls and messages", said the party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh Saturday and hit out at the union government and Home Minister Amit Shah. The party in a statement also said law and order in Delhi has turned into a "joke" and claimed the situation is "dwindling".

Singh said: "Some elected legislators of the AAP have received threats over the phone from the mafia and extortion calls have been made to them, and they have also been threatened of dire consequences. This has not hap-



AAP MP Sanjay Singh

pened just once or twice; they have received 24 such calls from these goons. The threats have not only been directed at them but their families as well. Some legislators have been asked for Rs 5 lakh and some Rs 10 lakh by these extortionists."

Singh said that MLAs Sanjeev

Jha and Ajay Dutt have received such calls. Jha, the MLA from Burari, said he has been receiving audio recordings, phone calls and messages demanding "protection money". "Although on June 21, we filed a complaint with the Special Cell and we also received a copy of the FIR with cases registered under IPC sections 387 and 66C, we have not received any information saying that a detailed investigation into the matter has begun," he said.

Sanjay Singh said, "I would like to inform Amit Shah that if he dislikes the legislators of AAP so much and if he cannot handle the law and order situation in the national capital, he might as well line up all of our MLAs one after another and shoot them. If this

is the kind of lawlessness in Delhi, where three-time elected MLAs are receiving such threats, then imagine what would be the situation of residents of the city."

Delhi Police spokesperson Suman Nalwa said, "On the complaint of MLA Sanjeev Jha on extortion by a caller using an international number, an FIR under applicable sections of extortion and IT Act was registered on June 21 at Special Cell police station. On Saturday, a similar complaint was received from Ajay Dutt, Ambedkar Nagar MLA, who allegedly received extortion threat from the same international number. Another case under same sections was registered. Investigation is on to identify and trace the culprits."

## JNU AC approves vacation for faculty after 3-year gap

New Delhi: The Academic Council (AC) of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has approved vacation for its faculty in its recent meeting, which the university authorities said was happening after "three long years". The pandemic had disrupted the academic calendar.

"In a major step, JNU authorities notify vacations for its faculty after a gap of three long years. JNU academic council approved the much-needed vacations for its academic community who have been working tirelessly without any break," read a post on the official Facebook page of JNU.

A notification by Manoj Kumar Manuj, Deputy Registrar (Evaluation), said, "The Academic Council in its 160th meeting held on June 21... has approved the recommendation of the Committee on the Academic Calendar and other related issues to provide break/vacation for faculty members with effect from June 27 to July 8 without any extension of the current semesters."

"Deans/Chairpersons of Schools/Special Centres will ensure timely completion of teaching by arranging extra classes wherever necessary," he said.

Meanwhile, the JNU Teachers' Association raised concerns regarding leave applications of faculty, and the manner in which the newly constituted Leave Committee was functioning. **ENS**

**CANCELLATION OF TRAINS**  
In view of celebration of Eid festival in Bangladesh, the following train services are cancelled as under:  
**Cancellation:** (i) 13132/13131 New Jalpaiguri-Dhaka - New Jalpaiguri Mitaili express cancelled on 06-07-2022 to 14-07-2022.  
Inconvenience caused to the passengers is deeply regretted.  
General Manager (Operations)  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Website: [www.ircon.org](http://www.ircon.org) CIN: L45203DL1976GOI008171  
**e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)**  
e-Tender No: IRCON/B-1200026/WPO-SER/BNDM/LE-Tender/Pkg-Civil Dated: 26.06.2022  
e-Open Tender in Two packet system for and on behalf of IRCON International Limited is invited from eligible bidders for following work:  
**Name of work** - "Construction of Flooring, Embedded Track of PEB Sheds and other Service Buildings, Water Supply System, Drainage System, Road Works, Earth Work, Extension of RCC Box Bridge etc. in connection with Detachment Free Rake Examination Facilities at Exchange Yard of Bondamunda, South Eastern Railway (Odisha)" having estimated cost (incl all taxes) of Rs. 1703.79 Lakh  
**End Date & Time of e-Bid submission** 16.07.2022 at 15:00 Hrs.  
For further details, visit website: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.  
General Manager / Civil,  
IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD., 121/C, B, Ashok Nagar, Ranchi, Jharkhand - 834002

**Haj Committee of India**  
(Statutory Body Constituted under the Act of Parliament No. 35 of 2002) Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India.  
**RESIDENTIAL COACHING INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SERVICES**  
Haj House, 7-A, M.R.A. Marg (Palton Road), Mumbai - 400 001.  
Phone: 022-22107070, Email: [hajiascg@gmail.com](mailto:hajiascg@gmail.com)  
**Admission Notice for the Year 2022-23**  
The Haj Committee of India, Haj House, Mumbai, provides free Residential Coaching for the aspirants of the Civil Services Examination, conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). All the Indian Muslim Graduates are eligible to seek admission for the above Residential Coaching. The admission will be done on the basis of a written test followed by essay writing test and interview. The applications have already been called for through our detailed admission Notice uploaded on [www.hajcommittee.gov.in](http://www.hajcommittee.gov.in) and [www.hajcommittee.com](http://www.hajcommittee.com)  
As the portal is open at present, the interested candidates may fill-up their forms online through the above website till **30.06.2022**.  
Sd/-  
(Mohd Xaob Shekha)  
Chief Executive Officer

**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
MAIN BRANCH MADHUBANI  
Red Cross Building, Near Khadi Bhandar, Madhubani - 847211 - Bihar

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
**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 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 01.08.2022 for recovery of ₹ 14,72,571.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lac seventy two thousand five hundred seventy one Only) as on 13.06.2018 with further interest, cost, charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc, less deposit / recovery made thereafter, if any, due to the secured creditor from Borrower Smt. Amla Devi W/o Janardan Prasad Yadav & Co-borrower, Janardan Prasad Yadav S/o Rampriti Yadav.

Sl. No.	Description of the property	Reserve Price
1.	All that part and parcel of the land/building in the name of Smt. Amla Devi W/o Janardan Prasad Yadav vide Sale deed No- 3921 dated 13/05/2010 located at Mouza- Madhubani Saraipratapganj(Maharajganj), Out of Town Pargana- Hati, Thana- Madhubani, Thana No- 32, Registration sub-District- Madhubani, Distt- Madhubani, Bihar, Khata No- 12(old)/26(New), Khesra No- 63(old)/91(New), Area- 14 Dhur (3.052 Decimal).	₹ 19,32,000.00
	<b>Boundaries:- North</b> - Nirmala Devi, <b>South</b> - Asha Ram Thakur, <b>East</b> - Road, <b>West</b> - Shri Narayan Thakur.	₹ 1,93,200.00
		₹ 10,000.00

**e-Auction Terms And Condition**  
1. Date of e-auction: 01.08.2022, Time: 180 Minutes from 12:00 Noon to 03:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.  
2. Website/podal for e-auction - <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.  
3. The General Terms & Conditions are available on - <https://sbi.co.in/hveb/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>.  
**This publication is also a 30 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.**  
**NB:** 30 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice, this E-auction Sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service.

Date : 21.06.2022  
Place : Madhubani

Authorised Officer  
State Bank of India, Madhubani

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRIES**  
**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI**  
UDYOG SADAN, PLOT NO. 419, F.I.E., PATPARGANJ INDUSTRIAL AREA, DELHI-110092  
**ADMISSION NOTICE**  
**First Year / Second year (under Lateral Entry System) of Three Years Diploma in Handloom and Textile Technology (DHTT) Course 2022-23 Session**  
Applications on prescribed format are invited only from bonafide residents of National Capital Territory of Delhi (no application from any other State will be considered) for admission to the aforementioned course commencing from 26th September/ 12th September, 2022 at Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT), Jodhpur.  
**Eligibility:**  
(i) **Educational Qualification:** (a) To be eligible for admission to first year of Diploma Course in Handlooms & Textile Technology, the candidate should have passed 10th standard/ SSC examination. Obtained at least 35% marks in the qualifying examination with English as a subject of study.  
(b) **Direct Second year admissin (under Lateral Entry System)** of Diploma in Handloom & Textile Technology (DHTT) - the candidate should have passed 10+2 examination with Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, OR Should have passed 10+2 examination in vocational stream of any textile discipline"; OR 10th Pass + 2 Years of ITI, shall be eligible for admission to Second Year Diploma Course"  
**Note:** 1. "The candidate will undergo bridge courses for Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, offered by IIHT Jodhpur, as per guidelines.  
2. In case of the Board having system of grading in 10th / 12th Examination, the candidate must endorse the proof of details of marks with their application form to enable the selection committee to prepare merit list which is prepared on the basis of marks secured.  
(ii) **Age Limit:** The age limit for admission to first year of Diploma Course in Handlooms & Textile Technology for all the categories except SC/ST should be between 15-23 years and for SC/ST candidates it should be between 15-25 years as on 01-July of 2022.  
(iii) **Seats:** Total Number of Seats for admission to 1st year of DHTT from Delhi State are 9 (nine). Admission to 1st Year Directly under LE System- 06 (Six) seats" (Including one seat for EWS candidate vacant from first year)  
"Note As per the guidelines, maximum of 10% of approved intake plus the unfilled vacancies from the previous year/first year can be filled under LE system and it is subject to approval of the competent authority.  
(iv) **Reservation:** The Reservation Policy for SC/ST/OBC as per existing policy of Govt. of NCT of Delhi will be followed. In addition minimum 20% of the total seats allotted to the States are reserved for candidates belonging to Weavers community. Shortfall, if any, will be met out from the candidates other than Weavers community. 1 Seats have been reserved for Economically Weaker Section (EWS).  
(v) **Last Date for submission of Application Forms:** 15th July, 2022 up to 6.00 pm for 1st year and 25th July, 2022 upto 6.00 pm for Second Year under Lateral Entry System.  
**Application form and other details** regarding total no. of seats, State reservation, availability and submission of application forms, documents to be attached, stipend etc. are available on the Department's website (<http://industries.delhi.gov.in>) or can be obtained from the Office of Commissioner of Industries, Udyog Sadan, 419, 4th Floor, Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi-110092 on all working days between 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. up to 15th July, 2022 up to 6.00 pm for 1st year and 25th July, 2022 upto 6.00 pm for Second Year under Lateral Entry System and the duly filled in form should be submitted at the above office address.  
**Note:** Forms sent directly to IIHT, Jodhpur will not be considered for admission process.  
Sd/-  
(HARPAL SINGH)  
SECTION OFFICER (H / H)  
DIP/Shabdarth/0146/22-23

**National Public Health Entomology [NPHE] Programme**  
**A Two-year Post-Graduate Course**  
**M.Sc. Public Health Entomology**  
**(Affiliated to Pondicherry University)**  
**Admissions for 2022-24 Batch**  
Offered by  
The following Five ICMR Institutes:  
1. ICMR-VCRC, Puducherry, 2. ICMR-NIRTH, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, 3. ICMR-RMRCNE, Dibrugarh, Assam, 4. ICMR-RMRCGKP, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh & 5. ICMR-RMRIMS, Patna, Bihar.  
**Last date for submission of applications**  
Open General [Category-I]: 18th July, 2022  
In-service [Category – II] : 22nd July, 2022  
**All candidates selected under Category I & IIA are eligible for Scholarship.**  
For application and other details, please visit :  
<https://vcrc.icmr.org.in> Director



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the women we must know.  
Follow their stories on  
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# India@75: Need farmer-friendly policies to boost agriculture



**Dr. C.D. Mayee**  
A renowned agricultural scientist & currently President, South Asia Biotechnology Centre, New Delhi

AGRICULTURE sector of India is vital for national economy as half of the population still is engaged in crop agriculture and allied fields. Contrary to popular perception, India's agriculture is a grand success story. With 11% of total global agriculture, India ranks second in the world in agriculture production as the leading producer of several commodities including food grains, cotton, cane, horticultural crops, dairy, poultry, aquaculture and spices. Agriculture production in 2019 was valued at USD 459 billion and the country's global trade in agriculture produce fetches more revenue than the services or even manufacturing. Agricultural GDP rose from USD 101 billion in 2001 to USD 459 billion in recent years showing remarkable growth and that too with substantial reduction in the workforce in agriculture. As the economy grew, the workforce engaged in this sector sharply declined from 60% in 2000 to 41% now. Still the current agricultural production has been ever increasing touching new heights; food grains 303 MT horticulture 334 MT, cotton 37 million bales of 170 kg each, milk 188 MT, fish, 13 MT, poultry 04 MT and 103 billion egg production, have been all records. In fact, except vegetable oils, India is not only self-sufficient but now planning for surplus management of agricultural produce. The real test of resilience of Indian agriculture is seen during the Covid -19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns for nearly two years when all other sectors experienced setback, agriculture is the only sector that showed buoyancy registering a growth of more than 3% in GDP.

**FOOD SECURITY ALARMS**  
India's population is likely to touch 1.7 billion by 2020. Thus, the growing population poses a challenge to food and nutritional securities when there is pressure on land due to urbanization, improved standard of living, changed food habits etc., generating great demand for diversified agricultural commodities. These challenges are further exacerbated by declining soil health, low nutrient content, occurrence of new biotic stresses and frequent droughts and floods due to climate change. In recent years the unprecedented change in the climatic conditions has posed a serious threat to crop, animal and fish productivity. Climate change will impact the lives of the people in India mainly due to erratic rainfall and raised ambient temperatures. The latest example of fall in the expected wheat output by nearly 8 MMT due to terminal heat in March during grain filling stage in North India this year has set alarm bells in the corridors of power and the first panic reaction was immediate ban on wheat export. India's performance on key malnutrition indicators is also not satisfactory. To meet these challenges, it is estimated that the country must prepare for increasing land productivity by 4 times, water productivity by 3 times and labour output by 6 times. All this has to be achieved with low carbon emission technology, no ecological footprints but simultaneously doubling the farmers income, rather making the farming remunerative to farmers which has emerged as a major challenge of current production system. Today's paradox is that on one hand the country is planning for management of surplus production, but on the other the farmers are driven to poverty as they are unable to get sufficient returns of their produce.

**OPTIONS TO SALVAGE THE SITUATION**  
Globally agriculture sciences are experiencing series of innovations and development of technologies that could mitigate the effects of climate change, better the yields, reduce the effects of salinity, drought, flooding and biotic stresses etc. For example, the science of genomics has seen exploratory changes where many crops are improved through genomics-



assisted breeding, transgenics, and now through the CRISPER-Cas 9 technology. Bt cotton, the first transgenic crop has brought the Indian cotton production at the top level in the world. However, our policies were a hindrance to promote the technology further as in the last 20 years we have neither allowed the commercialization of such products nor permitted free research in the area. The genome editing technology is the latest addition to the tool box of crop, animal improvement. The technology is being used to overcome myriads of intractable problems and could be a game changer in mitigating the production challenges. In India, several rules and guidelines and policies notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 have been in place. However, the implemen-

tation of those were politically stymied the growth of genetically engineered crops. Recent developments by Government to ease the certain provisions of EPA Rules 1989 for genome -editing products have been welcomed by scientific community as they feel that it will pave way to create crop cultivars tolerant to climate change, drought, salinity and other biotic stresses. Besides the seed technologies, refining integrated crop management systems like resource conservation, innovations in irrigation application, sustainable intensification, prevention of postharvest losses, new crop protection techniques and modern communication tools including social media, ICT for updating the farmers in rural areas are important for mitigating the challenges of fu-



ture agriculture. Use of drones in managing the exodus of locust in India during the rainy season 2020 have induced the planners to permit the use of drones in agriculture for crop protection, survey and nutrient management. A related development is mechanization for precision of farm operations and labour saving. Micro-irrigation, sensor technologies have potential to use optimum inputs of nutrients and water. Saving the harvested produce itself is addition to food availability and hence harvesting technologies of fruits and vegetables, storage, logistic and financing infrastructure should become priorities in India.

**EXPORT PUSH NEEDED**  
India has done remarkable job in enhancing the agricultural production in nearly all the key areas. However, the current challenges of doubling the farmer's income are still illusive. Of many excellent suggestions the one of enhancing export of agriculture produce is bound to benefit farmers. There is global opportunity of USD 284 billion of textile and another USD 443 billion of clothing that's knocking of our door. When it comes to textiles and clothing, India's export of USD 40 billion lags far behind China's USD299 billion. India is now behind Bangladesh and Vietnam in textiles exports. This is the story of textile alone, consider all agri export what are all the opportunities exists for export. There is an urgent need to increase volume and value of agri-export facilitated under the newly launched Agri Export Policy (AEP) 2018 targeting the doubling of agri-export to US\$ 60 billion by 2022. In 2021-22, India garnered additional US\$ 8.4 billion from agri-export to achieve export worth US\$ 41.8 billion. Can India spearhead export to US\$ 60 billion by 2022-23, an arduous, but possible target for Indian policy makers, farmers, processors and exporters. Accomplishing the set target of USD120 by 2030 would be

a testimony of India's will and capability to transform farm sector and harness true export potential of agriculture, and contribute significantly to the goals of doubling farmers income and Atmanirbhar agriculture.

**RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY ISSUES**  
Research and development in India after independence has helped risen the per capita production and has gone a long way easing the pressure on meeting the food and nutritional requirement. The impressive contributions made by agricultural scientists in the past has been acknowledged time and again. Unfortunately, the system is under stress with lack of clarity on focus and financial resources. Our past experience should be enough for us to keep faith in our R&D systems. The internal rate of return on investment in agricultural research is estimated to more than 42%, which is much higher than any other sector. The gap in financial commitments made in the beginning of the plan and now annually is widening and hence restricting for taking the research programmes to logical conclusions. The Government of India need to make farmers-friendly policy and legal changes to ease the farming business. If the impending challenges before increasing productivity and profitability are to be mitigated, then suitable marketing reforms, policies of input management, risk management, extension service changes need to be properly placed. The agriculture policies must accelerate all-round development and economic viability in comprehensive terms. India @75 has done remarkably well in enhancing production in nearly all key area of agriculture to keep hunger at bay. Not only as a food secure nation but a reliable partner in agri-commodity export, India has earned a status in world agriculture. Current challenges, however, calls for comprehensive review of policies and R&D investments for meeting the expectations of farmers so that by India @100 we are the most proud nation.



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Since independence, India has stood tall as an agricultural economy. Ushering prosperity for farmers and the agriculture industry. At Chambal, we are immensely proud to be a part of this glorious saga. On the momentous occasion of 75 glorious years of Indian independence, we pay an ode to our farmer community and all the minds that made this journey wonderful.





# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

25 SFI activists arrested over attack on Rahul's Wayanad office

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JUNE 25

THE KERALA Police on Saturday arrested 25 activists of the SFI, the students' wing of the ruling CPI(M), in connection with the vandalism of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's MP office in Wayanad on Friday.

On Friday, more than 100 SFI workers marched to Rahul's office in Kalpetta, headquarters of Wayanad district, demanding that he intervene to allay the anxiety of people in his constituency in the wake of a recent Supreme Court directive that made it mandatory for every protected forest tract and wildlife sanctuary to have an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of one kilometre from its boundaries.

The attack on Rahul's office sparked widespread protests from the Congress in all districts in Kerala, with party workers blocking highways, clashing with police and CPI(M) workers, and destroying CPI(M) campaign material. On Saturday, too, the Congress took to the streets in many places, clashed with police.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan of the Congress alleged that the CPI(M) had joined hands with the BJP to target Rahul. "Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wants to please Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Sangh Parivar. Modi wants to chase away Rahul Gandhi from Wayanad and this task has been taken over by Vijayan. The attack was staged with the connivance of the CPI(M)," he said.

Hours after the Opposition alleged that Kerala Health Minister Veena George's personal staff member was involved in the attack, the government issued an order removing K R Avishith as office attendant to the minister. Avishith, an SFI leader from Wayanad, was allegedly involved in the office attack on Friday.

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

**RSS works with scientific vision in country's interest: Yogi**

**Lucknow:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said the RSS has a scientific thought process and it is with this "vision that it is working in the country's interest".

He also hailed the 'Vikram Samvat' calendar, claiming it is backed by science.

Addressing the inaugural function of the fifth national convention of Vigyan Bharti here, Adityanath said, "The Indian 'dri-shiti' (vision) believes that a new knowledge is science. The Vigyan Bharti has the patronage of the RSS. The vision and thought process of RSS is scientific and it is with this vision that it is working in the interest of the nation."

He said RSS's founder, K B Hegdewar, was a scientist; former RSS chief M S Golwalkar was also a scientist; and many other RSS chiefs, too, had a scientific point of view. "The Indian 'dri-shiti' says nothing can be destroyed but it can change form. This is the scientific point of view," Adityanath said. **PTI**

**‘Yashwant Sinha is powerful name (for President poll) with rich experience... (exposes) whatever is wrong with BJP’**

CONGRESS CHIEF Sonia Gandhi Thursday made spokesperson **ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI** a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, along with a few other names. In an interview with **MANOJ CG**, Singhvi spoke on a range of issues. Excerpts:

**How do you see your elevation as a CWC member?**

It is a matter of great honour. I see this apex decision-making body as representing firstly, geographical diversity, secondly, community diversity, and thirdly, a kind of a brains trust or an in-house think tank. The third element needs to be reinforced and reinvigorated.

**On the Presidential election, there is a sense Opposition**

**POLITICAL CRISIS IN MAHARASHTRA**

## Looking to attract Sena cadre, rebels soften stand on Uddhav, target Pawar

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 25

IN A bid to not antagonise the party cadre and continuing with their claim that they are still a part of Shiv Sena, rebels led by Eknath Shinde on Saturday appeared to softened their stance against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and instead directed their attack against ally NCP.

This comes amid the Shinde group also starting to mobilise supporters across state to show its mass base.

While MLA Deepak Kesarkar, a part of the rebel group, alleged that NCP was out to finish Shiv Sena, the faction evoked the late Balasaheb Thackeray to gain

greater foothold and acceptance within Sainiks by naming itself 'Shiv Sena Balasaheb'.

Speaking to the media, Kesarkar said, "We are Balasaheb's Shiv Sainiks. Therefore, we will not speak against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The NCP is out to finish Shiv Sena. How could any Sena MLA tolerate such a thing? They came to power because of Shiv Sena and now is plotting to finish our party."

Maintaining that while Sena was the biggest political party in Maha Vikas Aghadi, yet, "there was discrimination against its elected members when it came to allocation of funds", he claimed.

"The NCP was generously allocating funds to its own party

members. Concerns voiced by Sena ministers went unheeded."

Kesarkar added, "From the very beginning, we have been telling Uddhav Thackeray that Shiv Sena should have an alliance with BJP Prime Minister Narendra Modi has special affection for Matoshree and Balasaheb."

"During the BJP-led government, whenever we had any problems, we would inform Uddhavji. He would take up our issues with then chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. Unfortunately, these things are not happening in the Maha Vikas Aghadi regime."

Asserting that rebels were still in Shiv Sena, Kesarkar said that those camping in Guwahati had neither left the party nor

Balasaheb Thackeray's ideology. "We are not taking away the original party's title. We have just decided to address our group by the name 'Shiv Sena Balasaheb'," he added.

"We have a two-thirds majority of 55 MLAs. The Shiv Sena is left with just 16-17 MLAs. We are entitled to be recognised as a separate group. So, there is no question of merger with any party," he further said.

Rebel MLA Tanaji Sawant added, "The NCP was deliberately promoting its own candidates in Sena's constituencies by allocating more funds."

Minister and rebel Gulabrao Patil claimed that of the total state budget of Rs 5.48 lakh crore, NCP got 57 per cent of the

funds, Congress 26 per cent and Sena only 16 per cent.

Meanwhile, as Sainiks attacked the office of rebel Tanaji Sawant and warned that all rebels would be treated similarly, the Shinde camp indicated it would also take to streets to counter the protests if necessary.

At Thane, MP Shrikant Shinde, son of Eknath Shinde, addressed supporters at a street corner meeting. "We have received strict instructions from Eknath Shinde not to protest or attack anybody. But if Sainiks don't behave, we will be forced to give a befitting reply."

At the meeting, huge posters of Bal Thackeray and Thane's fiery leader, late Anand Dighe, were seen.



Shiv Sena workers ransack the office of rebel MLA Tanaji Sawant, in Pune Saturday. Pavan Khengre

## Violence reported amid protests across Maharashtra against rebels

**JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 25

AT LEAST 10 incidents of violence by Shiv Sena workers against rebel MLAs have been reported across Maharashtra till 8 pm on Saturday. This comes amid the Mumbai Police extending its June 4 order of banning unlawful assembly of five or more persons in the city till July 10.

While incidents of violence took place in Pune, Navi Mumbai, Parbhani, Osmanabad, Satara,

Thane, Nagpur city, Nanded, Palghar and Kolhapur, a senior state police officer said that except for the cases of violence in Pune and Thane, the rest were "minor" incidents. Local police have lodged FIRs in connection to all the 10 incidents.

In Pune, Sena workers attacked the office of rebel MLA Tanaji Sawant at Katraj on Saturday. Sawant runs the Bhairavnath Sugar Work Limited Company, which has a registered office at Katraj in Pune. Vishal Dhanawde, a Sena corporator

from Pune, and other party workers ransacked the Katraj office.

At Thane's Ulhasnagar, at least five Shiv Sena supporters were detained on Saturday for allegedly pelting stones at the office of Shrikant Shinde, the Lok Sabha MP from Kalyan and the son of rebel leader Eknath Shinde.

The incident took place at Shrikant's Gol Maidan office. A video that has gone viral on social media showed some people throwing stones at the office, damaging a board and raising pro-Uddhav Thackeray slogans.

## JD(U) thanks Nitish for caste census, BJP also claims credit

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, JUNE 25

IN AN effort to outwit ally BJP and take the credit for the caste census to be conducted in Bihar, Janata Dal (United) leaders and workers across the state took out an "Aabhar Yatra" in all districts on Saturday to thank Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for taking the lead in giving the go-ahead to caste census.

Reacting sharply, the state BJP said the saffron party also played a "crucial role" in the decision "as a senior NDA alliance partner".



Samastipur district JD(U) president Ashwamegh Devi led the 'Aabhar Yatra' in Samastipur. Express

The JD(U) took out rallies in all 38 district headquarters of the state with banners and posters to thank Nitish. The one-day yatra is being seen as a deft move

by JD(U) to take credit for holding the caste census — the process has to be completed by February 2023.

JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj

Kumar told The Sunday Express that the rally is a way to thank Nitish Kumar for taking the "lead in ensuring that Bihar has its own caste census". "Right from leading an all-party delegation to calling an all-party meet, Nitish Kumar played a key role. The State Cabinet gave the nod to it within 24 hours of unanimous decision of all Bihar parties to have a caste census conducted in the state," Neeraj Kumar said.

"People need to know this, and JD(U) workers felt a sense of obligation towards our leader, Nitish Kumar," he added.

BJP spokesperson and national general secretary of the

party's OBC Morcha, Nikhil Anand, said: "The counting of castes in Bihar is a collective decision of the state cabinet, and the BJP played a crucial role in it. It is not the individual decision of anyone or any party.... UPA allies were responsible for sabotaging the 2011 caste census, for which they must apologise. We never opposed caste census in toto but we are concerned about the modalities.

Asked why BJP as the senior NDA ally was not part of this Aabhar yatra, Neeraj Kumar said, "It was JD(U)'s programme. Besides, there was no such proposal from the BJP."

## G7 summit: Talks on key issues on Modi's Germany itinerary

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

AHEAD OF his departure to Germany for the G7 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said he will exchange views with the leaders of the grouping and its partner countries on issues such as energy, food security, counter-terrorism, environment and democracy.

Modi is visiting Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27 for the summit of the G7, a grouping of the world's seven richest nations.

"In an effort to strengthen international collaboration on important global issues impacting humanity, Germany has also invited other democracies such as Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit," Modi said in a statement ahead of his visit.

"During the sessions of the Summit, I will be exchanging views with the G7 countries, G7 partner countries and guest international organisations on topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy," he added.

Modi said he was looking forward to meeting leaders of some of the participating G7 and guest countries on the sidelines of the summit.

The Prime Minister said he was also looking forward to meeting Chancellor Scholz again



PM Narendra Modi will be at Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27

after the "productive" India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) last month.

"While in Germany, I also look forward to meeting members of the Indian diaspora from across Europe who are contributing immensely to their local economies as also enriching our relations with European countries," the Prime Minister said.

From Germany, Modi will go to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on June 28 to pay his condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former president of the Gulf nation.

"On my way back to India, I will make a brief stopover in Abu Dhabi, UAE, for a meeting with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, on June 28 to convey my personal condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi," Modi said. Zayed Al Nahyan passed away on May 13.

## Mehbooba urges youth to shun militancy in J&K

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 25

FORMER J&K chief minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday urged the youth to shun violence lest become "cannon fodder" for the security forces' anti-militancy operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There is news of killings everyday, this signifies that there is an increase in local recruitment of militants. I would like to appeal to those young men and their parents to save their lives," Mufti said. Claiming that killing militants is an "incentive" for the security forces, she said, "They get rewards for killing these young men and with the turbulent times that Kashmir faces, we will

need our youth in the future. Do not pick up weapons. *Ye kaam theek nahin hai aur isko aapko chhok dena chahiye* (this is not right and you should shun this)."

Speaking about the continuing strike by Kashmiri Pandit employees working in the Valley under the Prime Minister's package, Mufti said, "Kashmiri Pandits are an asset to our society... We must take care of them. Whenever something happens, the BJP uses it to defame us. It is being portrayed that the (Amarnath) yatra is under threat, when we have been welcoming pilgrims every year as our guests..."

She emphasised that while the Central government is "taking away our land, jobs and resources, do not let them take away our courage".

## Speak to anti-govt NGOs, Goa CM tells industry

**Paraji:** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday urged the state's industrialists to sit across the table and talk to "anti-government NGOs" that, he said, are opposed to infrastructure projects.

Speaking at the 114th AGM of Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sawant said the government spends a lot of time and money on litigation, which comes in the way of infrastructure projects. "If we want to be developed, we need to sit across the table with such NGOs," Sawant said.

"You can take the initiative and talk to them. If we talk to them, they say the government is criticising us. Somebody needs to talk to them.... What are their problems? We don't want to cause environmental destruction. We are ready to talk. That's why I say that someone needs to start talking to these anti-establishment NGOs."

He said: "We want to do a lot of things. But who opposes them? It's the anti-industry NGOs, the anti-government NGOs..." **ENS**

## BSP backs Murmu in Presidential poll; Mayawati slams Opposition

**LALMANI VERMA**  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 25

IN A setback for the Opposition ahead of the presidential elections, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Saturday announced that it would back the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate and former Jharkhand governor Droupadi Murmu who might become the first Adivasi person to occupy the post. The party took the decision with an eye on tribal votes in not only Uttar Pradesh but also states such as Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh where it is trying to gain a foothold.

BSP president Mayawati's announcement boosts Murmu's already significant chances of winning against the Opposition's consensus candidate and former



BSP chief Mayawati

Union minister Yashwant Sinha. Mayawati hit out at Opposition parties for not inviting the BSP to the meetings on June 15 and June 21 at which the names of probable candidates were discussed before all the parties agreed to field Sinha. "As the Opposition's anti-BSP and casteist attitude is continuing, now the BSP is free to take a decision in any matter," she said.

The BSP chief also said the decision to support Murmu was taken not to favour the NDA. "Keeping in mind the party and its

movement, the decision has been taken to make a hardworking and qualified woman from a tribal community the President of the country," she added.

The BSP has 10 MPs in Lok Sabha and will have one Rajya Sabha MP on July 18 when the presidential polls will be held. The BSP has one elected MLA in the UP Vidhan Sabha. The party had six MLAs in Rajasthan but all of them joined the Congress in 2019.

In Uttar Pradesh, voters from Scheduled Tribe communities make up a significant portion of the electorate in Assembly segments such as Odra, Duddhi, and Robertsganj.

A BSP functionary said the party would not gain anything by staying with the Opposition in the presidential elections given that these parties had ignored it and their past associations.



New Delhi









## Blood trail leads Goa police to murder accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, JUNE 25

A 300-METRE trail of blood led Margao police to the man accused of killing a fellow labourer from Jharkhand.

On Saturday morning, a man was found dead in the rear of a pick-up truck parked outside a hotel in Margao; he had suffered multiple, grievous stab wounds on abdomen and chest. While police were initially in a blind spot over identity of the deceased and how he wound up dead inside the vehicle, the puzzle was pieced together with a trail of blood, a dog squad, and CCTV footage.

In a matter of hours, Prashant Barnam, 26, who allegedly killed Amit Kirketti, aged about 35, was arrested. A blood trail that stretched from the truck to the spot where the two men had an altercation the previous night was partially wiped out by the pouring rain in Margao's Khareband area. Superintendent of Police, South Goa, Abhishek Dhanias said a police team traced the blood trail backwards. The dog squad of the forensic team helped build back the trail.

Police found the victim's belongings about 300 metres from the truck and identified him. Investigation led police to Barna, also from Jharkhand, who allegedly stabbed Kirketti multiple times after an altercation.

After being stabbed, a blood-soaked Kirketti had walked the distance to escape, and got in the parked pick-up truck to hide from Barna, police suspect. He succumbed to injuries inside the vehicle.

## Private college principal with JD(U) links held in BPSC leak case

**Patna:** The principal of a private college in Bihar, affiliation of which expired a few years ago but continues to serve as a centre for many examinations, has turned out to be a key accused in the Bihar Public Service Commission question paper leak. The principal, Shakti Kumar, was found to have close links with the chief of the JD(U) parliamentary board, Upendra Kushwaha.

According to the Economic Offences Unit of Bihar police, Shakti Kumar, who was present as a superintendent at the exam centre, had scanned the question paper and shared it with a person called Kapil Dev on WhatsApp, said the EOU. **PTI**

## FORMER DGP, ACTIVIST ARRESTED: A DAY AFTER APEX COURT UPHELD CLEAN CHIT TO MODI

# RB Sreekumar, a decorated cop on the wrong side of Modi government

LEENA MISRA  
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 25

A DECORATED police officer, RB Sreekumar challenged the Narendra Modi government's claims of peace in Gujarat in the aftermath of the 2002 riots, spoke of the alleged collusion between government agencies and rioters, and was shunted out and denied promotion while in service.

The Ahmedabad Detection of Crime Branch on Saturday arrested the 75-year-old former Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) from his home in Gandhinagar on charges such as forgery and criminal conspiracy. This came a day after the Supreme Court called into question his role in the petition against Modi in the riots. The court made the observation while upholding the clean chit Prime Minister Modi, then the chief minister of Gujarat, had received from a SIT in connection with the riots.

A 1971-batch IPS officer with roots in Kerala, Modi appointed Sreekumar the Additional DGP (Intelligence) in April 2002. By then the state had been engulfed in communal riots following the burning of the Sabarmati Express train in Godhra on February 27. His first confrontation with the state government was when a report he presented to then Chief Election Commissioner J M Lyngdoh said 154 of Gujarat's 182 constituencies had been affected by the riots and over one lakh people had been disenfranchised



Former Gujarat DGP RB Sreekumar. File

because of displacement. This countered the government's claims that the environment was peaceful enough for Assembly elections.

Sreekumar was transferred out of CID (Intelligence) soon after he sent a report to the National Commission for Minorities in September 2002, pointing out "communal overtones" in Modi's speech during a yatra. He was posted as ADGP (Police Reforms) and remained in the post till his retirement in 2007. While in service, Sreekumar filed four of his nine affidavits before the Justice (retired) G T Nanavati and Justice

(retired) Akshay Mehta Commission that had been set up by Gujarat government to probe Godhra incident. In the affidavits, he claimed to have exposed "the alleged collusion of government agencies with rioters".

But the Nanavati-Mehta Commission chose to discard the evidence by Sreekumar, and fellow IPS officers Rahul Sharma and Sanjiv Bhatt, terming them as either "baseless", "false", or "not reliable". Sharma took voluntary retirement from the police service and now practises law in Gujarat High Court while Bhatt was dismissed from service and is now in jail in connection with a 1996 narcotics case.

### Fight for promotion

Following the submission of his affidavits and cross-examination before the Nanavati-Mehta Commission in 2004, Sreekumar was superseded in 2005 and missed out on a chance to become DGP while in service.

His petition to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) challenging the government's decision annexed a "secret diary" he maintained of alleged "illegal orders" given to him when he was the state intelligence chief. In 2005, the Gujarat government issued a departmental charge sheet to Sreekumar for "maintaining a private diary and making it official, taping conversation of a meeting with government official and leaking intelligence reports to the media among others". The Supreme Court stayed the charge sheet in 2015. On the day of his re-

tirement, February 28, 2007, the CAT ruled in favour of the police officer's promotion but the state government challenged it before the High Court and then the Supreme Court. In 2008, the top court dismissed the government's plea and Sreekumar was granted promotion to DGP rank with retrospective effect.

### Beginning of a long career

Sreekumar did not last even a full year in any of his initial district postings in Gujarat, the longest stint being as Superintendent of Police (SP) of Mehsana district where he spent more than a year.

In 1979, he went on deputation to the CISF and from 1980-'84 served as commandant of the CISF unit that supervised the security of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram. He returned to Gujarat to be posted as SP of Kheda and Kutch districts in the span of a year and after that was stationed as the Director of Security of the erstwhile Gujarat Electricity Board, which is now known as Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd.

His longest stint was in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) outside Gujarat, where he served in various capacities from 1987 to 1999. He was posted as deputy director at the IB headquarters in New Delhi till 1992, when he also got the police medal for meritorious service.

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

## Cong cautious, Left slams action

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE CONGRESS Saturday reacted cautiously to the arrest of retired Gujarat DGP R B Sreekumar and Mumbai-based activist Teesta Setalvad by the Gujarat police, expressing hope and trust that due process of law will be followed.

The Left parties, on the other hand, questioned their arrest.

"We have heard of the arrest. It appears to be in relation to alleged offences of forgery and fabrication arising out of events that took place between the years immediately following 2002, even though the FIR appears to be dated June 25, 2022. We hope proper and full due process of law will be followed," senior Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi told *The Indian Express*.

"Furthermore, it stands to reason that the Congress as a political party cannot comment on the merits of a case with which it has no connection," he added.

The CPI(M) strongly condemned arrest of Setalvad, calling her an "indefatigable defender of human rights". It said her arrest was on "dubious grounds citing the recent judgment of the Supreme Court" and demanded her release and withdrawal of what it called "false charges" against her. "Stop persecution and prosecution of relentless champions of civil liberties and human rights. Withdraw false charges and release," CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said in a Twitter post.

His CPI counterpart D Raja pointed out that Setalvad had been relentlessly struggling to get justice for the riot victims.

# Fresh FIR based on quotes from SC order, annexures

SOHINI GHOSH  
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 25

THE FRESH FIR lodged against retired DGP RB Sreekumar, former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt and activist Teesta Setalvad is based on extensive quotes from the SC verdict and its annexures, and mentions the period of "occurrence of the offence" between January 1, 2002, and June 25, 2022.

The burning of Sabarmati Express in which 59 persons, mostly kar sevaks returning from Ayodhya, died took place on February 27, 2002.

The FIR relies on the apex court's observation that "all those involved in such abuse of process, need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with the law", and also cites verbatim several SIT submissions that were made before the Supreme Court on the accused in this case — Sreekumar, Bhatt and Setalvad.

The SC verdict, which included comments of amicus curiae in the case Raju Ramachandran by way of annexures to the judgment, notes that the annexures are "to be regarded as part of the judgment". The annexures are basically an examination by Ramachandran of the inquiry report submitted by the SIT before the SC and his recommendations made in 2011.

For Sanjiv Bhatt's role, the FIR notes that Bhatt, the then DIG had sent a letter dated December 30, 2011, to the secretary of Nanavati-Mehta Commission of Inquiry, which is a copy of fax message dated 28.02.2002, which he claimed to have sent to two different authorities under his signature.

This is also part of the annexures in the SC verdict, where it was stated, "Shri Sanjiv Bhatt, DIG (under suspension) has sent a letter dated 30.12.2011 to the Secretary, Hon'ble Justice Nanavati & Justice Mehta Commission of Inquiry enclosing herewith an Annexure 'D', which is a copy of fax message No. D-2 /2-COM I/ALERT /174/ 2002, dated 28.02.2002, which he claimed to have sent to different authorities under his signature...Subsequently, on 04.01.2012, Shri Sanjiv Bhatt forwarded to Chairman, SIT, a copy of his letter No. SRB/COI/120104/01 dated 04.01.2012 addressed to Secretary, Justice Nanavati Commission of Inquiry enclosing therewith a

copy of fax message No.D-2/2-COM/ALERT /100/2002, dated 27.02.2002, claiming to have sent the same under his signature."

The FIR also places reliance on SIT observations included in SC's verdict, wherein the SIT had scrutinised material forwarded by Gujarat government. The SIT had concluded from the material, "From the study of emails, it appears that certain vested interests including Shri Sanjiv Bhatt, different NGOs and some political leaders were trying to use Hon'ble Supreme Court/SIT as a forum for settling their scores." This, finds a verbatim mention in the FIR.

With respect to RB Sreekumar's role, the FIR takes from SIT's submission that said, "Further, he did not make any allegation against the state government in his initial two affidavits filed before the Commission, but started making allegations from third affidavit dated 9.4.2005."

For Teesta Setalvad, the FIR again quotes from the SIT submission before the SC. The SIT had submitted, "Appellant — Zakia Ahsan Jafri in her cross-examination in Gulberg Society case being CR No. 67/2002 as PW-337 had conceded that she knew Ms Teesta Setalvad for some time and also about having met Mr R B Sreekumar after the incident. She has stated that Mr R B Sreekumar had come to Gulberg Society on 28.2.2002 and upon completion of four years, she had met him. She had also stated that Mr R B Sreekumar was presently working with Ms Teesta Setalvad. She had also admitted in her cross-examination that she had given statement on 22.8.2003 before the Nanavati-Shah Commission and after giving that statement, she had no occasion to read copy of that statement. This was suggestive of the fact that she was tutored by Ms Teesta Setalvad, but she never disclosed about that...she had throughout followed the instructions of Ms Teesta Setalvad...In the final supplementary report filed by the SIT in Gulberg Society case being CR No. 67/2002, it has been clearly noted that 19 witnesses insisted to take on record their prepared signed statement(s), which according to them, were prepared by Ms Teesta Setalvad and Advocate M M Tirmizi and did not show willingness to give their own statement."

## Private college principal with JD(U) links held in BPSC leak case

**Patna:** The principal of a private college in Bihar, affiliation of which expired a few years ago but continues to serve as a centre for many examinations, has turned out to be a key accused in the Bihar Public Service Commission question paper leak. The principal, Shakti Kumar, was found to have close links with the chief of the JD(U) parliamentary board, Upendra Kushwaha.

According to the Economic Offences Unit of Bihar police, Shakti Kumar, who was present as a superintendent at the exam centre, had scanned the question paper and shared it with a person called Kapil Dev on WhatsApp, said the EOU. **PTI**

# Fought for 2002 riot victims, Teesta facing many cases

SOHINI GHOSH & SADAF MODAK  
AHMEDABAD, MUMBAI, JUNE 25

TEESTA SETALVAD, a journalist and activist based out of Mumbai and a Padma Shri, is a founding trustee and secretary of the NGO Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) established in 2002 in the aftermath of the Gujarat riots, with one area of work being providing legal assistance to victims of the riots.

She was among the first activists to take up the cases of riot victims in Gujarat in 2002, finally leading the Supreme Court to set up a special investigation team to probe the post-Godhra riots, six years

later, under former CBI director R K Raghavan. Setalvad has also faced several allegations over the years.

Setalvad first took on then CM Narendra Modi head on when in March 2007, in a special criminal application before the Gujarat HC, she named herself as a co-petitioner of Zakia Jafri, who had sought an FIR against Modi and 61 other politicians, bureaucrats and police officers for their alleged role in the 2002 riots. She also sought a CBI inquiry against Modi.

The petition and Setalvad's locus standi in the case were rejected, but she moved the apex court, which asked the SIT to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations. However, her falling out with



Teesta Setalvad File

Raees Khan, formerly a CJP member and a field worker on behalf of the CJP at Ahmedabad, saw him getting

back with allegations of tutoring witnesses.

In 2018, another FIR was lodged at the Ahmedabad DCB police station against Setalvad and her husband Javed Anand based upon a complaint by Raees accusing them of misappropriation of grants released for Sabrang NGO in 2014 instead for personal use. A petition moved by Setalvad and Anand to quash the same remains pending before the Gujarat HC.

In an FIR in 2014 by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch, some victims of the Gulberg Society accused Setalvad, Anand and Jafri's son Tanveer of criminal breach of trust, cheating, criminal conspiracy etc, wherein it was alleged that foreign donations received for

establishment of a museum at Gulberg Society were used for other purposes, including Setalvad's personal use. Bank accounts of the NGO trusts in two banks -- IDBI and Union Bank -- were frozen to this effect.

Setalvad took up several Gujarat riot cases, including of the Gulberg Society victims, Naroda Patiya and Naroda Gam victims, Sardarpura, Dipda Darwaja victims, Ode victims and the Best Bakery case in Vadodra.

Setalvad is the granddaughter of M C Setalvad, India's first Attorney General. Her great grandfather Chimanlal Harilal Setalvad was one of the three Indian members in the Hunter Commission that investigated the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre.

## AMBULANCE ABANDONS COUPLE WITH DEAD BABY

# NHRC notice to district magistrate, health dept

GARGI VERMA  
RAIPUR, JUNE 25

THE NATIONAL Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a news report on the unavailability of

ambulance to a couple with a dead child in Chhattisgarh's Sukma. The commission has now served a notice to the district magistrate and the state health department.

On June 20, Kankerlanka residents Karma and Gangi were

left stranded 18 km from their village with their newborn. Their son, born premature at the Kankerlanka sub health center, was first referred to Dornapal and then to Sukma. However, on their way to Sukma, the child died. After that, the couple were

dropped off at Dornapal health center by the ambulance around 9 pm.

Citing details from *The Indian Express* report dated June 22, the NHRC said its raises "a serious human rights violation issue related to Right to Life with Dignity".

## कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर

क्रमांक :- 285 दिनांक :- 23.06.2022  
**ई-बिड सूचना संख्या:- जोन विद्युत-प्रथम/04/2022-23**  
जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से विद्युत कार्यों हेतु सेवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट प्रक्रिया से विद्युत कार्यों हेतु ऑन लाईन बिड आमंत्रित की गई है। इन कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, बिड बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तिनांक, बिड शर्तें आदि का सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट <http://www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, [www.jodhpurjda.org](http://www.jodhpurjda.org), [www.sppp.raj.nic.in](http://www.sppp.raj.nic.in) पर देखा जा सकता है। **INIB CODE : J O D 2 2 2 3 A 0 0 4 4 , Tender ID/UBN No.: JOD2223WSOB00073, JOD2223WSOB00074**  
राज.संवाद/सी/3995/2022-23 **अधिशायी अभियन्ता (जोन विद्युत-I)**

## कार्यालय, नगर पालिका निगम, कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

**निविदा संशोधन सूचना**  
**क्र./निर्माण/2022/7810 दिनांक-24/06/2022**  
नगर पालिक निगम कोरबा द्वारा ई निविदा क्र. 101848,101849, 101850, 101863, 101865,101866, 101867, 101868, 101873, 101988 के माध्यम से नगर पालिक निगम कोरबा द्वारा आर.सी.सी. नाला निर्माण हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की गई है, जिनके निविदा शर्तों के कटिंका क्र. 13 में संशोधन करके "निविदा में भाग लेने वाले निविदाकारों को विगत 3 वर्षों में समान प्रकृति के कार्य (आर.सी.सी. नाला का कार्य) का निविदा लागत राशि का 60 प्रतिशत का एकल कार्यदिवस (Single Work Order) अर्थात पूर्ण कार्य का अनुभव प्रमाण पत्र जमा किया जाना आवश्यक है। तब संबंध में समक्ष अधिकारी कार्यालय अभियन्ता या उससे वरिष्ठ अधिकारी का अनुभव प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य होगा" पढ़ा एवं समझा जावे। साथ ही निविदा डालने की ऑफिस तिथि को दिनांक 27/06/2022 को बढा कर दिनांक 29/06/2022 किया जाता है।  
शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।  
हस्ता/-  
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
नगर पालिक निगम कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)  
39833

## MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AURANGABAD

**Executive Engineer (Building Section)**  
Tel.No. 0240-2333536-40, Fax. No. 0240-2331213  
Municipal Corporation Aurangabad, Executive Engineer (Building)  
Head Office : Town Hall pin 431001  
E-Tender Call AMC (For Help) : Cell No. 9764999592

Sr.No.	Work Name	Last Date of Tender Submission
1.	Providing and erecting of equestrian statue of 16 ft. height in Bronze metal with pedestal of Mahatma Basveshwar Maharaj and Development of surrounding area at Shri Swami Vivekanand garden, T.V.Center Majnu Hill, Aurangabad. (Amount put to Tender Rs. 1,13,35,618/-)	19/07/2022
Note : 1. For the above started work is available on website <a href="http://www.mahatenders.gov.in">www.mahatenders.gov.in</a>		
sd/- <b>Executive Engineer</b> (Building Section) Municipal Corporation Aurangabad		

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JODHPUR**  
Tel. 0291-2651700 E-mail: [rj\\_cejod@nic.in](mailto:rj_cejod@nic.in)  
No. CE(P)/PHED/Ju /22-23/ Date:  
**Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No. 09/2022-23)**  
Bid for Execution of works related to "Piped water supply scheme Tinwari Mathaniya-Osian-Baori-Bhopalgah. Distt. jodhpur for providing FHCT in 130 MH and 641 Hrs of constituency Asian and Bhopalgah including Operation & maintenance for 10 years (upto VTC) after 1 year defect liability period" under Jai Jeevan Mission (JJM) of estimated cost Rs. 230.58 Cr. is invited from interested bidder up to 25/07/2022 at 14:00 hrs. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state.  
USN No: PHE2223WLOB03472  
NIB Code: PHE2223A1668  
Sd/-  
(Neeraj Mathur)  
Chief Engineer Project  
PHED Jodhpur  
DIPR/C/8585/2022

## कार्यालय अधिशायी अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि खण्ड राजगढ़ (चूरु)

क्रमांक:- 342- 52 दिनांक:- 16.06.2022  
**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या: 03/2022-23**  
राजस्थान के राजपाल महोदय की ओर से तहसील राजगढ़ जिला चूरु में निर्माण कार्यों के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी के सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत सेवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत सेवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के सेवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। आर.पी डब्ल्यू.ए 100 की शर्त लागू होगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट <http://dipr.rajjasthan.gov.in/tenders.asp> एवं विभागिय वेबसाईट <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> व <http://www.pwd.rajjasthan.gov.in> तथा <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।  
NIB No. PWD2223A0769

W.No.	UBN No.
I	PWD2223WSOB0753

हस्ता/-  
(राजेश्वर शीपा)  
अधिशायी अभियन्ता,  
सा.नि.वि खण्ड राजगढ़ (चूरु)  
DIPR/C/8623/2022

## OFFICE OF THE URBAN IMPROVEMENT TRUST, UDAIPUR (RAJ.)

No. :-F- 14( )Engg/EE-IV/2022-23/120-122 Date: 24-06-2022  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
UIT, Udaipur invites Expression of Interest from the organisations of repute to develop Bungee Jumping and Sky Cycling at Rajiv Gandhi Smriti Udhyan, Rani Road, near Fatehsagar Lake, Udaipur on PPP mode.  
Interested firms/organizations may submit the expression of interest to undersigned on or before 25th July, 2022.  
The firm must include in their EOI proposal as per detailed below:  
**Interested Firms/Organizations may submit E-Tender Bids as per following scheduled dates :-**  
1. **Date of start of submission of Tech. & Financial Bids through E-Tender** - 27-06-2022 at 10:00 AM  
2. **Last date of submission of Tech. & Financial Bids through E-Tender** - 25-07-2022 Upto 06:00 PM  
3. **Last date of Submission of Online Payment (EMD, Tender & Processing Fee)** - 25-07-2022 Upto 06:00 PM  
4. **Pre-Bid meeting will be held on (Meeting Hall, UIT, Udaipur)** - 11-07-2022 at 12:30 PM  
5. **Opening of Technical Bid** - 27-07-2022 at 11:00 AM  
All other details may be seen on website of UIT, Udaipur : [www.uitudaipur.org](http://www.uitudaipur.org), [www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in)  
(Nirmal Suthar)  
**Executive Engineer**  
Urban Improvement Trust, Udaipur  
UBN : ITU2223WSOB00263


**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT**  
**Irrigation Circle, Hill Colony, Nalgonda District**  
Tender is invited by Irrigation Circle, Hill Colony Nalgonda District vide Notice No. 105E/ICHC/2022-23 Dated: 24.06.2022 (3rd call) for work "Repairs to Spillway slope and bucket portion of Nagarjuna Sagar masonry dam including repairs to spillway approach road after floods of 2022 at Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, Nalgonda dist., Telangana: for an ECVR Rs. 16.54,99,407/-, is available from 25.06.2022 to 02.07.2022 at 3.00 PM and last date for receipt of bid is 02.07.2022 at 5.00 PM for further details see in e-procurement website.  
Sd/- K. Dharmu, 24.06.2022  
Superintending Engineer,  
Irrigation Circle, Hill colony  
R.O. NO.: 3744-PP/CL/ADVT/1/23-23 Date: 25.06.2022

## कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियन्ता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, नारायणपुर

Tel.No.-07781-252934 E-mail ID-[eenar-phe-cg@nic.in](mailto:eenar-phe-cg@nic.in)  
**(जल जीवन मिशन)**  
**ऑनलाईन निविदा संशोधन सूचना**  
जि क्रमांक-90025, 90888  
इस कार्यालय द्वारा नीचे दर्शित कॉलम अनुसार निम्नलिखित ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निविदा के तिथियों में संशोधन किया जाता है। विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-  

स. क्र.	निविदा सिस्टम क्रमांक	डाऊनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
1	System No.-96268, 96277,96337, 96399,98735	01.07.2022

उक्त निविदा की शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।  
हस्ता/-  
कार्यपालन अभियन्ता  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, नारायणपुर

					<b>DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF N.C.</b> <b>OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (WATER)</b> <b>THROUGH DY. SE (PROJECT) WATER</b> ROOM NO. 511, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, JHANDRAWALAN, E-mail:- ee1.djb@gmail.com, Telephone No. 011-23681009				
<b>SNIT No. 6 (2022-23) (Re-Invited)</b>									
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Work</b>			<b>Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender (Rs.)</b>	<b>Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)</b>	<b>Tender processing Fee Non Refunable</b>			
1.	Construction of recharge pit at various locations in Malviya Nagar (AC-43), New Delhi.			Rs. 3402028/-	Rs. 68100/-	Rs. 500/-			
Further details in this regard can be seen at <a href="https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a> . ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Adv. No. J.S.V. 209 (2022-23)									
<b>"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK , FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING"</b>									

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY. e-Tender Notice**  
Tender No: 31-34/2022-23/KWA/PHC/D2/TVM. (1) **JJM**- Cherkal Gramma panchayath - Marayapuram Part-A Zone.2 - Providing pipe line Extension and Functional house hold tap connections. (2) **JJM** - Cherkal Gramma panchayath - Marayapuram Part-B Zone.1-Providing pipe line Extension and Functional house hold tap connections (3) **JJM**- Cherkal Gramma panchayath - Vathankara Part-A Zone.1 - Providing pipe line Extension and Functional house hold tap connections. (4) **JJM** - Cherkal Gramma panchayath - Vathankara Part-B Zone.1- Providing pipe line Extension and Functional house hold tap connections. EMD: Rs. Rs.2,00,000/- Each. Tender fee : Rs. Rs.10000/Each Last Date for submitting Tender : 20-07-2022 03:00pm  
Phone : 0471-2322303  
Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in)  
[www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)  
Superintending Engineer  
PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram  
**KWA-JB-GL-6-414-2022-23**

## UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone.: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR20019SC025866 Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)  
RO No. 364 Date: 24.06.2022  
**Very short e-Tender Notice**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Test) Vidyut Bhawan, Dakpathar, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:  
NIB No. 06/EE(Test)/DKP/2022-23 for "Restoration of control cable, power cable and excitation panel of Unit No-4 at Khodri Power House."  
Estimated cost: Rs. 32.84 lakh only + GST Extra.  
Date of availability of bid document on website : 25-06-2022 from 13:00 Hrs.  
Last date for submission of bids on website : 02-07-2022 upto 18:00 Hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>  
E.E (Test), Dakpathar



## 9 SUNDAY STORY

## THE SUNDAY PROFILE

## A Maharashtra rerun, and the Comeback Man

As MVA govt totters, one man standing firmer than ever is BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis. SHUBHANGI KHAPRE on how the former CM prepared the ground



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

AT 51, Devendra Fadnavis is younger than the number of years Sharad Pawar has spent in electoral politics. Last week, the BJP leader achieved the near impossible in Maharashtra by out-smarting the grand old man of state politics and stealing power from right under his nose.

Pawar, as reported by this paper, didn't mince his words asking how both his NCP's Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil and Shiv Sena Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had no whiff of the brewing rebellion. However, if Uddhav clearly lost the plot when it comes to the Sena, the script couldn't have gone better for one man, Devendra Fadnavis.

The surprise CM of 2014, the surprise loser of 2019, the BJP leader seems now just a few last steps back at the podium.

Fadnavis would also justifiably see the developments as sweet revenge after the power play following the 2019 hung results that had spectacularly boomeranged on him — in a night of skullduggery executed to perfection by Pawar. After the BJP, with 105 MLAs, lost ally Sena and power to its alliance with the Congress and NCP, neither of whom got more than half its seats, the knives had been out for Fadnavis.

Few expected him to bounce back. Certainly given detractors, who saw Fadnavis as the usurper placed from above.

Insiders talk of Fadnavis's bitterness at the Sena's move. After the formation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, he reportedly said at a party function in private: *"Chot dil mein lagi hai"* (It is my heart that has been struck). It is not so much about losing the CM post, but the manner in which the Sena betrayed us that has left us wounded. I am not sure if it can be forgiven so easily."

That sting can be felt in the

ongoing clinical slicing away of almost all the Sena MLAs from Uddhav, in an operation that has the BJP's fingerprints if not active hand. BJP leaders have been in the forefront ushering the rebels, while party-ruled states have sheltered them.

As for Fadnavis, having learnt his lesson from last time, he has kept in the background, not speaking much but leaving no doubt about who is doing the talking.

State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil says Fadnavis keeps his cards close to his chest. "I have worked with him closely. Only he can devise strategies and take up the biggest challenge with ease."

One of those came right after the 2019 reversal of fortunes when the central leadership dealt him a snub by promoting two leaders he had sidelined. Vinod Tawde and Chandrashakhar Bawankule, sitting ministers who had been denied Assembly tickets in 2019, apparently at Fadnavis's behest, were accommodated as national general secretary and MLC, respectively.

He also earned Delhi's censure for the acquisition of the in-demand Remdesivir for distribution during the pandemic, in the BJP's personal capacity, though rules allowed only the state government to do so.

But Fadnavis has been preparing the ground to make the long climb back. For the past two-and-a-half years, he has been roaming the state, apparently doing a full tour thrice, earning the grass-roots stripes lacking in his resume, pushing through even after Covid took over, waiting to strike.

He also kept his doors open. While leaders such as Praveen Darekar, Prasad Lad, Abhimanyu Pawar and Atul Bhatkalkar are seen as close to him, he did not encourage a coterie. Though, not everyone agrees about this. A BJP office-bearer accuses Fadnavis of "promoting outsiders". "This has upset lot of people." According to this BJP leader, Fadnavis's style is clearly reminiscent of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's, who is said to like him: "One-man show."

But the tours ensured that Fadnavis kept the BJP organisation ticking, even while he remained in the news with his constant, aggressive attacks on the MVA government in the Assembly as the Leader of Opposition. In the phone-tapping case in which senior police officer Rashmi Shukla is an accused, Fadnavis claims to have been the whistle-blower. He was also instrumental in charges that former home minister Anil Deshmukh and NCP minister Nawab Malik are facing.

On the side, the tempo was raised on hot-button Hindutva issues, to put the Sena on the defensive over its new-found "moderate" partners. The Hanuman Chalisa bullet, seen as fired by the BJP from the shoulders of the MNS, was one such example. The Sena took the bait, defending itself as the real proponent of Hindutva and, as it turns out, giving a handle to the rebels to beat it with.

The Hindutva issue also put the spotlight on the glaring disparities within the MVA coalition. The cases against MVA leaders by Central agencies, meanwhile, kept up the pressure. At least three Sena rebel MLAs are facing cases.

Lad, a BJP vice-president, talks of Fadnavis's emergence as a leader in his own right in the Opposition. "He leads from the front, takes up challenges, delivers results."

A senior Congress leader requesting anonymity also acknowledges this, if grudgingly. "Fadnavis is a good administrator... But when it comes to politics, his aggression is not done. You can't be in constant war mode."

Congress chief spokesperson Atul Londe also talks of a "change" in Fadnavis since 2014. "He has moulded himself after Modi, brought a different culture to state politics," Londe says, claiming that the "cordial" nature of before is now gone.

A former NCP minister who claims

friendly ties with Fadnavis says he too was surprised by this new aggression, particularly on issues such as Hanuman Chalisa.

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi president Prakash Ambedkar warns Fadnavis against "the politics of vendetta scripted by the Centre being pursued by its state units across". "Fadnavis should know this is detrimental for a healthy democracy."

For now, the former CM is unlikely to be deterred by such niceties.

Even the face of the Sena rebellion, Eknath Shinde, may not be coincidental. Fadnavis is believed to have assiduously cultivated the old Sena hand. Their bonding goes back to 2014, and Fadnavis is said to have wanted Shinde to join the BJP.

The last of the aces were delivered in the recent Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council polls, when the BJP managed to secure the victory of all its candidates, securing votes from MLAs of the beleaguered, and explanation-less, MVA partners. The realpolitik even earned Fadnavis a nod of approval from Pawar, who acknowledged his "miracle" in "weaning away Independents, smaller parties".

Questioned about how he adjusted to the role of Opposition after being the CM, Fadnavis is fond of saying: "I always saw my real identity as that of a BJP *karyakarta*. If one follows that, all one does is carry out whatever assignment comes one's way."

BJP general secretary Shrikant Bharatiya has no doubt about that — or what is to follow. "When it comes to dedication and hard work, nobody can beat Fadnavis. It is this single-minded mission which draws workers across regions towards him. Irrespective of his post, one constant factor was this hard work," he says, adding: "The party *karyakartas* who are walking in and out of the party headquarters in Mumbai have voiced their sentiment — Yes, Fadnavis is set to return as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra."



## IRAM SIDDIQUE

"PEHLE desh ka batwara huwa, ab gali aur mohallon ka batwara ho raha hai. Isse hoga kuch nahin, bas nafrat aur badhegi (First the country was Partitioned, now lanes and localities are being divided. Nothing will be achieved by this, only a rise in hatred)," says Zakir Ali.

Two months after communal clashes engulfed Khargone, it is a changed city — in ways more than one. At six localities, walls or barricades now separate areas dominated by different communities. Among those who find their lives altered is Zakir, a tailor, who lives in one such locality, Baniyawadi.

While for some, the walls mean "safety", for others, it means a longer distance to access basic necessities. Others question why the government resorted to this measure rather than just stationing police to keep the peace. At least one resident has moved court.

The barricades and walls stand alongside homes, shops and vehicles, burnt or vandalised during the April 10 violence, and still to be removed or repaired. Even the stones pelted by both sides are still lying on some rooftops. After the violence that left one dead and three wounded, police registered 62 FIRs in which around 150 people have been arrested and over 200 booked.

District Collector Purshottam Kumar says the walls and barricades are a temporary measure, and would be removed in a few months. "Tension has eased, but there is still mistrust, with small incidents flaring up and getting a communal colour," Kumar justifies.

According to officials, the local municipal corporation received several written complaints of rash driving or acts of arson during the night. After this, a team of officials, including the Superintendent of Police and Collector, visited these areas, and were urged by residents to raise these walls. Initially, barricades came up in 11 locations, but with tension easing, they have been removed in five.

The district administration also made at least 5,500 people across Khargone sign bonds for "good behaviour" and stationed police in 22 locations identified as sensitive.

## ‘First the country was Partitioned’...

Signs of April Ram Navami violence lie across Khargone, including the walls and barricades that now separate some of its Hindu, Muslim areas. What means 'safety' for some is an everyday price for the others



A local market which often saw clashes flare up has been shifted.

One of the RCC walls separates the Hindu-dominated Zamidar Mohalla from the rest of the Muslim-majority Khaskhas-wadi area crisscrossed by narrow bylanes.

Rupali Bhavsare welcomes the wall. "That night, rioters entered Zamidar mohalla from Khaskhaswadi. There was no one to help us. Police told us to fend for ourselves as they were busy in worse-affected areas. The wall helps us sleep better at night," she says, adding that they had thrown red chili powder to ward away rioters.

Bhavsare's husband Deepak says the violence shocked him as his work with the district veterinary department often takes him to Khaskhaswadi. "They all know me. But in the clashes, even my house was not spared."

Sarla Bhavsare says that since the wall came up, women and children "walk around freely". "Miscreants from Khaskhaswadi



(Top) The 12-ft wall that has come up in Khaskhaswadi area; and a barricade between Miyaman Mohalla, Baniyawadi. Iram Siddique

would earlier come here and play cards, pass derogatory comments," she says.

Then there is Akbar Baghwan, whose family is the only Muslim one to find itself on the Zamidar mohalla side. His house is located right along the wall, which cuts off direct access for him to a road where he parks his tempo that he uses to transport vegetables. Now he has to take a motorcycle to reach that spot from home.

"When the wall was being built, I told the administration this. Also, that my father was paralysed and can't be carried on a bike to and from home. And that, if they had to build the wall, to leave my house on the Khaskhaswadi side, but no one heard," says Akbar. He claims he even called the Chief Minister's helpline. "I got a message saying my complaint had been resolved, but nothing changed."

Another resident, Saleem Khan, has moved the Madhya Pradesh High Court against the wall obstructing a common passageway. The matter is yet to come up for hearing.

The Bhatwadi mohalla near the Sarafa market is 1.5 km away. Here, a barricade now blocks the narrow bylane that connected the area to Muslim-dominated Tadvli side.

Just next to the barricade are gutted shops

of Rajesh Puri and Kailash Pandit. Puri, who says he lost goods worth Rs 25 lakh in the riots, welcomes the barricade for giving "a sense of security". With help from the district administration and aid from the community, he says, he has rented a shop now.

On the other side of the barricade lives Salma Bi, 55, who says that for the family, everything is a trek now, from catching an auto to getting a gas cylinder.

"Some people came from outside, did what they had to do and left. But why do we have to suffer the consequences? What is the administration trying to do by putting us behind these barricades?" a neighbour requesting anonymity asks.

Another neighbour, Afzal Khan, says: "If security was an issue, they could have set up a small *chowki*, deployed two policemen. Even we would have been relieved, our children safe. What good is this barricade?"

About 500 metres away, a barricade blocks another by-lane, separating Muslim dominated Miyaman mohalla from Baniyawadi. It has upturned the lives of Shivkanya Gurjar and her husband Rakesh Gurjar, who run a small snacks manufacturing unit in Miyaman mohalla and live in Baniyawadi.

"We would make at least six trips between the house and the unit during the day. But now these trips are impossible. We have been living with our Muslim neighbours peacefully for years. On the day of the clash, some people did use the lane to enter Baniyawadi, but my Muslim neighbours stood guard," says Shivkanya.

Her opposition to the barricade doesn't go down well with the others, she admits. "They ask why I'm against the barricade. But why should I not talk against it? We are the ones who are suffering," says Shivkanya.

Zakir Ali is one of her neighbours. The 38-year-old says his family has been living here for over three generations. He now struggles to reach the garbage van or collect milk as vehicles can't get past the barricade.

Akeela Bi says she has to trek down to the road to get gas cylinders, and then find someone who can carry them to their home.

In Anand Nagar, where Hindu households were targeted in the violence, 60-year-old Kali Bai and her family themselves constructed a wall near their home to block the passage to Muslim-dominated Kareem Nagar. "We were advised to do so (by an official)," Kali says.

A district official says they are taking other measures too to guard against a repeat of the April violence. Recently, permission was sought by organisers of the Ram Navami rally that sparked off the April 10 clashes, to "complete the procession", as the violence had cut it short. "They were okay with even five people being allowed to assemble, but the rally was denied. They understood the sensitivity and cooperated," the official says.

A proposal has been moved to set up two more police stations and create more posts in Khargone, which has a single police station serving a population of roughly 2.5 lakh, apart from stationing an SAF battalion in the city for emergency use.

On the cases lodged following the violence, Khargone SP Dharam Vir Singh says investigations are on.

"In two cases, after we named the accused, people came forward to file affidavits stating they had wrongly identified them. This is a positive sign that people are coming forward themselves," Singh says.

## TAKE 5

### A CINEMA STRIKE

V ANIL KUMAR  
PRESIDENT, TELUGU FILM INDUSTRY  
EMPLOYEES FEDERATION



An organisation of 24 unions of film workers, it says they get Rs 500-1,000 for 8 hrs of work

## ‘4 yrs since wages hiked... despite Covid, price rise’

## SREENIVAS JANYALA

OVER 20,000 workers of the Telugu film industry called an indefinite strike last week, demanding a rise in wages. After the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce agreed to set up a coordination committee, they returned to work.

## 1 How many members does the Telugu Film Industry Employees Federation have?

It is an umbrella organisation of 24 unions of film workers such as light boys, makeup artists, dance performers, drivers.

## 2 Why the wage protest?

The Chamber had earlier said wages would be revised by 10% every year. However, these remain the same despite many workers losing jobs during the pandemic and prices going up.

## 3 What do you earn?

Workers make Rs 500 for an eight-hour shift to Rs 1,000, depending on the specialisation. However, they often end up working for 12-14 hours.

## 4 What are your demands?

Apart from a wage hike by at least 36%, we want treatment facility, pensions. Poor workers are seeking houses of the kind Telangana gives to the socially and economically backward.

## 5 What is the response of the film chamber?

The Chamber has delayed taking any decision for six months. They call us for discussions and come up with excuses.



Across  
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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The burgeoning pension bill is indeed a problem, but there is no evidence that alternative models were examined. The argument that the Agnipath model has been tried and tested in Israel is puerile. Israel has a small population, practically no unemployment and mandatory military service. Why was Agnipath not introduced as a pilot and tested before making it a universal and only mode of recruitment to the services?

DURING WORLD Wars I and II, an iconic poster came up all over the United States. It read: "I Want You — For U.S. Army". The figure with the top hat was fondly called Uncle Sam. The government of India could attempt a similar poster to publicise its new scheme to recruit soldiers to the defence forces. It may, however, need to add a line, in small print, "for becoming a tailor, washerman or barber".

The scheme, called Agnipath, is simple, in fact, too simple. Forty-six thousand soldiers will be recruited every year to the three defence forces. They will be trained for *six months* and deployed for *42 months*. At the end of 48 months, one-fourth will be retained to serve another 11-13 years and the rest (about 34,500) will be discharged with a severance payment of Rs 11,67,000. There will be no guarantee of a job, no pension, no gratuity and no medical or other benefits.

ACT FIRST,  
THINK LATER

The negatives of the scheme were glaring and obvious. It is a fair assumption that the idea was imposed from 'the very top'. That is the way this government has functioned since 2014. Past examples include demonetization, the Rafale deal, the amendments to the land acquisition law (the LARR Act) and the three farm laws.

Penny wise, security foolish

Predictably, there were protests, mostly by young men who had trained and prepared for regular recruitment to the defence forces, that had been deferred more than once due to the pandemic. Many of them would have crossed the age of 21 fixed under Agnipath. The day after protests broke out, the government began announcing piecemeal changes, and shamelessly called the changes "pre-planned". Nothing in the changes addressed the fundamental objections to Agnipath:

**Firstly**, the timing. The security situation on the entire border is extremely precarious and there is no end to incursions (by China) and infiltration (by Pakistan). One should fix the roof when the sun is shining, not when the rain is pouring.

**Secondly**, the Agniveer will be poorly trained and cannot be deployed on the frontlines. Admiral Arun Prakash has pointed out that the normal recruit is trained for five-six years. Besides, the Navy and Air Force are increasingly technology-driven and no sailor or airman can be trained in six months. Lt Gen P R Shankar, who retired as Director General of Artillery, in an article replete with data, has argued that when the Agnipath scheme is fully rolled out, India would have an Army with soldiers incapable of handling the Brahmos, Pinalaka or Vajra weapon system or being a gunner or a 2iC. He named it the Kindergarten Army!

**Thirdly**, several distinguished de-

fence officers have pointed out that a fighting soldier must take pride in his unit, not be risk-averse and be capable of exhibiting leadership in a crisis situation. No human resource textbook teaches that such qualities can be imbibed in six months of training. Training of a police constable takes longer.

**Fourthly**, there is a tradition and ethos in the defence forces, especially in the Army. A soldier must be ready to die for his country *and* his comrades. The regimental system may be archaic but it made the Indian Army among the best fighting forces in the world. During the four-year tour of duty, the Agniveers know that at the end of the tenure, 75 per cent of them will be unhappy ex-soldiers (without the status of ex-Servicemen) and financially insecure. Will there be camaraderie or rivalry among such soldiers during the four years? How can you expect such soldiers to make the supreme sacrifice, if necessary.

**Fifthly**, imagine the consequences of sacrificing quality, efficiency and effectiveness for the sake of the economy. The burgeoning pension bill is indeed a problem, but there is no evidence that alternative models were examined. The argument that the Agnipath model has been tried and tested in Israel is puerile. Israel has a small population, practically no unemployment and mandatory military service for the youth. Why was Agnipath not introduced as a pilot and tested before making it a universal and only mode

of recruitment to the three services? Now, Vice Chief of the Army, General Raju, has said Agnipath is a 'pilot' scheme that will be tweaked after 4-5 years!

A CONTRACTUAL  
FORCE?

The so-called changes and concessions offered by the government do not answer the fundamental question: whether ill-trained, poorly motivated and largely contractual defence forces will not seriously impair the security of the country. A 10 per cent reservation in CAPFs, defence establishments and CPSUs for discharged Agniveers is no answer. According to the DG, Resettlement (quoted by *The Indian Express*, June 21, 2022), as against the present reservation of 10-14.5 per cent in Group C posts and of 20-24.5 per cent in Group D posts for ex-Servicemen, the actual percentage employed was 1.29 (or less) in Group C posts and 2.66 (or less) in Group D posts.

If modifications in the recruitment to the defence forces were required, the way to make changes was to publish a status paper, list the issues, seek alternative solutions, discuss the matter in the Parliamentary Standing Committee, hold a debate in Parliament and frame a law or a scheme. The ill-conceived Agnipath scheme must be rolled back and the government must go back to the drawing boards.

Fifth  
COLUMN

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A disgraceful  
saga

ALMOST MORE squalid than the squalid shenanigans in Maharashtra last week is the casual manner in which we have accepted this new normal. It no longer surprises us that our elected representatives betray the people's mandate by switching sides midstream. It no longer surprises us that when a plot forms to bring down a government, those elected by some of the poorest people in India should luxuriate for several days in five-star hotels and travel in private jets. Why are we no longer shocked by the amorality that has come to characterise our political culture? Why does the Election Commission not ask some questions?

It is vital that questions start being asked. Or there is not the smallest hope that in this 'new India', the worst habits and practices of that old India will end. And it must. We badly need a political culture that is not defined by cynicism, corruption, and chicanery. It is no small thing for the government of one of our most important states to be brought down before it has completed its term. But after we saw what happened in Madhya Pradesh and Goa, our sensibilities have got numbed.

The news channels covered last week's events as if we were witnessing a cricket match, not a political crisis. Breathless reporters followed the main characters around, sticking microphones in their faces and demanding to know the score. 'The numbers? What are the numbers?' Then, exactly like a cricket team would pose after winning a match, Eknath Shinde and his gang of rebels posed for a group photo at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Guwahati. They travelled there on chartered flights from a luxury resort in Surat in the dead of the night. When they were spotted at Surat airport and TV reporters tried to fling the 'numbers, numbers' questions at the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, they were shoosed away by Gujarat policemen. Why the secrecy? Why the need to be confined to hotel rooms? Why the need for the BJP to deny involvement in the whole murky scheme, when its fingerprints are so clearly visible?

The mastermind of the whole sordid saga is Maharashtra's former Chief Minister, who has been trying to bring down Uddhav Thackeray's government from the day it was formed. It is hard to say for certain why the Shiv Sena chose not to stick with the BJP after contesting the 2019 Assembly elections as a coalition. But rumour has it that there was an understanding that the Chief Minister after this second electoral victory would be from the Shiv Sena. Devendra Fadnavis was so desperate not to lose his job that he tried to hang on by persuading Ajit Pawar to be sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister with himself as Chief Minister in a very irregular, pre-dawn ceremony. Uncle Sharad was not having any of this, so Fadnavis was CM for just three days.

Undeterred by this failed attempt to grab power, Fadnavis has continued with his mission to get his job back. When two sadhus were killed by villagers in Palghar, the incident was used to accuse Uddhav Thackeray of not speaking out loudly enough for Hindutva. It is the Hindutva card that has remained in play. It has been used by Shiv Sena rebels as a reason to rebel. Ostensibly with the pious aim to keep Balasaheb Thackeray's 'legacy' alive by partnering with a political party that has shining Hindutva credentials, instead of battered secular ones. It sounds like no more than a last-minute excuse for breaking a political party and bringing down a government.

Personally, I am no fan of the Shiv Sena. Its political ideology has no appeal for me, and its resort to violence at the smallest provocation appals me. But as someone who lives in Mumbai, I am forced to concede that Uddhav ran a reasonably competent government. His handling of the pandemic has earned him praise across the country and Mumbai has come back to life and commerce with remarkable speed. It has also been something of an interesting political lesson to observe how the Shiv Sena's rougher edges have softened because of its alliance with two secular political parties.

It is hard, before the deadline of this column, to predict what will happen now. What can be said and what needs to be said is that we must start demanding an end to a political culture that damages not just governments but India.

It is disheartening to watch the worst habits of the Congress party, especially of Indira Gandhi, being embraced by the BJP, especially when the Prime Minister loses no chance to remind us that we live in a 'new India' in which the motto is 'reform, perform, transform'. The words rhyme neatly but they remain meaningless as long as the BJP continues to keep alive a political culture that was despicable even in the 'old India'.

Frankly what puzzles me is why the BJP is so keen to grab power in states where it fails to win elections. Why does it not concentrate instead on reforming, performing, and transforming in states that it already rules, so that it will be easier to win elections in states that have given some other political formation a mandate to govern? If BJP chief ministers could show that they are much better at governance than others, voters in other states would willingly choose them.

The caste and politics of  
Sena's rise and its crisis

Dalitality

SURAJYENGDE

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THE POLITICAL situation in Maharashtra is in a state of flux. One of the seniormost Shiv Sena leaders and Thane strongman, Eknath Shinde, has defied the party leadership, exposing the vulnerabilities of Uddhav Thackeray's leadership. If Shinde is a Sainik in the old mould of aggressive, street politics, the rebel camp accuses Thackeray of being a weak administrator, inaccessible to his party legislators except through go-betweens, unable to stand up to allies NCP and Congress, biased towards his son Aaditya, and defensive over the party's core stand of Hindutva.

How then does one understand this situation?

The Shiv Sena has always been an issue-based, reactionary congregation. It adopts issues and works on them till these are used up and moves on to the next. The first instalment of its politics was about the rights of Marathis against Gujaratis and then South Indians. It moved towards Hindu nationalism gradually, thus sustaining its relevance.

The Hindutva brand that Uddhav espouses now is, in a sense, that of his grandfather Keshav Thackeray. Hindutva for the Thackeray patriarch meant self-rule and a strike against Brahmin priesthood. Keshav was known for his staunch anti-Brahmin, lower-caste politics, partly owing to the subordination of his caste group in the *varna* hierarchy, as a group that worked as scribes or pen smiths and accountants. Uddhav has late been calling out the Brahmin in the room, by hinting at the damage caused by the RSS's Brahminism.

Keshav's participation in the Satya Shodak movement with roots in the rural base of the Shudras and Dalits also helped Bal Thackeray at the start by giving him a ready base. The core constituency of the Sena was at the time the poor, migrant, working-class population of western Maharashtra in Mumbai. After the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement, it started making inroads among others.

While caste-less politics helped the Sena, it has also been pushed into a cor-

ner on the matter. One of its most powerful OBC leaders, Chhagan Bhujbal, left the party over its stand on the Mandal agitation for OBC quota.

The Shiv Sena is also known for its organisational capacity. Its network runs from *gullies* to the heart of the city. However, this does not translate into an ability to govern the state as a mature party. Girish Kuber, the editor of *Loksatta*, rightly commented in his column for *The Indian Express* that the Sena is more a loose, unorganised social body instead of a responsible, statutory political party.

The cadres do not see themselves as capable of self-governance; this is after being in power twice. More than social action, they are trained in street-level instant justice, building them popularity at the ground level. However, as the leaders go up, they find politics must move beyond.

Then, part of the reason the Shiv Sena was able to spread beyond the Mumbai region was the hope it offered, even if accidentally, to Marathas insecure about the rise of a Dalit rights movement. The fire-brand Dalit Panthers is believed to have inspired, in part, the aggressive tactics of the Sena. Even the symbolism of Dalit Panthers was tapped into by the Sena, by choosing tiger as its symbol, against the leaping panther of the Dalit outfit.

If the above have been both a boon and a bane, another drawback has been the gradual transformation of the Sena into the kind of party (read the Congress) that once Bal Thackeray bitterly criticised. While he himself rose to the status of a demi-god, somewhat in the mould of the Gandhis, the reins of the party have moved on to first his son and grandson.

The rest of the Sena leadership too resembles other parties — most of them are Brahmins, alongside Marathas, with some backward caste names. Though the party has a base in the backward castes of the non-Mumbai region, its leaders are mostly of dominant castes from Mumbai.

The difference is more pronounced since Uddhav allowed Aaditya a freer hand as he himself battled several ailments. An important piece of the puzzle is Uddhav's wife Rashmi. She remains an invisible hand in Thackeray politics.

So will Uddhav's Hindutva inherited from Keshav survive the onslaught of Modi's Hindutva drawn from Savarkar?

Yengde, the author of Caste Matters, curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column

She  
SAID

SHALINI LANGER

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WITHOUT us getting into how old I am, why is it that I feel 100 already? One reason of course is the mirror, a cruel, cruel friend. The second is what I have been telling myself, ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi penned an ode to his mother's century and all of Motherhood.

And ever since I watched a streaming show where a mother of two small children runs away with an old boyfriend — as part of a pact they made when in college — for a few days of "seizing her life back". In a desperate cry for help, she says that she loves those tiny, adorable beings, but that she never realised that having them meant that "she had to just hand her life over". And, she is only this side of 40.

If that didn't have me thinking of motherhood and all that it comes endowed with, almost always by other people, came the US Supreme Court judgment telling women they had virtually no right to decide whether they wanted to bear a child or not.

So, in the off chance of my two adorables penning a blog on their old mother, and on the off chance that anyone would be interested enough to read the same, I am putting forth some pointers to what motherhood looks like from this side.

You kids may have heard me say this already, but I want to repeat: no, no one "loves" staying awake nights minding a crying child, managing their tantrums, or separating two squabbling siblings as one is striving to compose a thought at work. We do it because, well, who else will. And, because, you know, it is you.

Most nights, I have dozed off patting you impatiently, too tired to sing lullabies, forget reading a bedtime story. And yes, after a day of handling reality, getting excited about a fairy tale you have read out enthusiastically the first two or three times can be tough, even if it breaks one's heart having tiny hands pry one's eyes open, or just watching one's young ones finally fall asleep.

Your friends are always welcome, but I wish more of them would keep the music low, the drinking slower, and rinse their glasses. Modi's description suggests a much simpler life. Since I can't aspire for that, this is where you can make a start.

Next, forget all those smiling, immaculate mothers on TV. The species does not exist. There is nothing a mother wants or needs more, than some time to herself. To

How about a blog of the  
mother as, first, a person



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

let her hair down and put her feet up, before getting both fixed by an expert beautician on call.

Cooking elaborate meals, keeping the house *and* the kitchen *and* the closets clean, letting dirty clothes pass, and smile — it's all very well. We all try hard to be supermoms, before realising we've been had: no one makes a movie about them.

The moral is that should you kids write that blog, do go ahead and recount all that I did for you — I can always jog your memory — but hopefully also remember me for the things I did only for myself. As a person with not just needs, but also wants. Like sneaking out alone and enjoying it, un-guiltily, locking the door to watch non-family (politely put) TV, discovering 'Me Time' as a thing, and picking Maggi over a full-course dinner. One unhealthy meal never killed anyone and Maggi, not a hot *phulka* lovingly raised to a perfect moon, is every mother's secret joy at the end or

the beginning of any tough day — and let no one tell you otherwise.

Let it above all be a story that I wrote for myself, not one by a head of state or any apex court.

Should I be around at 100, and up to a celebration, or even a blog, dress me up in something sunny, lead me into the park, put on some music, and let's all say cheers, raise some toasts and dig into some un-wholesome delights. Do not let my false teeth come in the way, respect my well-aged nostrils and soon-to-shrivel tongue. Don't cradle them in a bowl of water or bow before them, but just help me to my feet.

I even have a bhajan planned for when I meet the Maker: "*All the hot girls put your hands up 'n' say, Om Shanti Om*". Allow me to reminisce a bit, about the girl who loved the Khan. And her family — of course.

National Editor Shalini Langer curates the 'She Said' column

On the  
LOOSE

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ON THAT first day of the year, when the world vows to undertake determined self-improvement, my humble resolutions for 2022 were to figure out what a podcast is, and to understand what "metaverse", a term so liberally bandied about these days, actually means.

In a fit of enthusiasm, I also promised myself that I'll read up on cryptocurrencies. It's late June and I have half-heartedly listened to some podcasts (a fancy word for online talk. It's perfectly alright to go through life without listening to one). But my knowledge of complex topics like blockchains and bitcoins remains abysmal.

There is always a bewildering amount of technological advancement to catch up on. I suspect many people know the buzz-

The digital avatar's new clothes

words but lack any genuine understanding like me.

My interest in what I would normally deem deadly boring was piqued by an announcement by luxury fashion brands Balenciaga and Prada, when they said they will be selling digital designs for peoples' avatars on Instagram and Facebook Messenger.

Apparently, there are people willing to spend real money to dress up their fake selves to appear super trendy in their online lives.

You could be lounging in Uniqlo tracks at home, but if you buy digital fashion, your friends on social media will see you wearing Balenciaga Fall 22 collection's three-piece jeans and distressed trench coats.

The idea of buying clothes that don't exist sounds crazy initially; but if people can spend millions on digital assets in art, unperturbed that their purchases don't

have a tangible form — content merely with digital bragging rights — the rise of virtual clothes shouldn't be surprising.

Aspects of new tech provoke sneering ridicule because us obsolete, middle-aged relics are inclined to ask a reasonable question: who cares what brands a cartoonish-looking avatar on a computer screen is wearing?

Our generation was brought up on down-to-earth wisdom, taught to always mind the gap between projection and reality — in other words, lies — but the virtual realm calmly accepts human frailties and the restless impulse we constantly suppress to escape our lives.

As our actual world seemingly hurtles towards destruction, war and displacement, the urge to flee to a safe online refuge only increases.

For a lot of humanity, reality is frustratingly tragic, so an imaginary avatar, over

which you can exert full control, must be hard to resist.

Voila! Now, even if you are short, fat and furry in person, there is the option to be a sexy blonde character, donning shimmering gold on Instagram.

Is that a lie? Not if we stop thinking of digital lives being rooted in an illusory dystopia. Technology has proven reality need not be the singular version we're familiar with.

The idea that we contain multitudes is not new. Gabriel Garcia Marquez had noted in the early 20th century that all human beings have three lives — public, private and secret — and they are all crucial to the human experience.

Life is hard and long, but not too long to explore other, myriad, sides of the self. We should take our cues from 15-year-olds, who don't make hierarchical distinctions between their online and physical

lives to unapologetically tap into the boundless possibilities the virtual world offers. How do we know the world is real? Philosophers have been contemplating since Plato's time. *The Matrix* forced us to consider whether we're being manipulated in a simulation.

Perhaps, it's more important that humanity has readily embraced the idea that the real is whatever we want it to be. Head on over to British influencer Daniella Lofus's handle on Instagram @thisoutfitdoesnotexist, where imagination disregards the limitations of clothing.

In one image, darts fly out of her bustier and in another, liquid fire pours out of a leopard skin skirt. It's wildly escapist, a rich mix of sartorial performance and self-expression.

This is new, uninhabited design territory, maybe, a conceptual leap too far — but that doesn't make it any less real.



# 11ECONOMY

AMID CONCERNS OVER CARDS BY NON-BANK PPI ISSUERS TO EXTEND SHORT-TERM LOANS

## RBI eyes BNPL norms, to rope in fintechs

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, JUNE 25

AFTER SLAPPING curbs on non-bank buy now pay later (BNPL) companies, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to come out with guidelines for the BNPL segment which was using pre-paid instruments (PPIs) to extend short-term, interest-free loans to customers for online purchases.

“This novel method shall be examined, and issuance of appropriate guidelines on payments involving BNPL shall be explored,” the central bank said in its Payments Vision 2025 document. The RBI had last week communicated to non-bank PPI issuers — or BNPL companies — to stop issuing cards where the funds are loaded through a credit line from NBFCs, sending jitters in the segment.

According to banking observers, the Reserve Bank is not happy with fintech companies using PPIs as a credit instrument, circumventing the regulatory

EXPLAINED

### How does a BNPL company operate?

A CUSTOMER who holds a BNPL card or account can make a purchase at a participating retailer and opt for the ‘Buy now, pay later’ option. After the purchase, the customer can repay the BNPL firm in a series of interest-free EMIs – unlike credit cards which carry a high interest rate of 42 per cent — spread over 3 months or as a lumpsum amount. If it remains unpaid, interest will be charged.

The BNPL company will pay the merchant immediately. However, for a purchase of Rs 500, instead of settling the full Rs 500, they would pay something like Rs 470 or Rs 450 and pocket the difference. The merchant agrees to give a discount to the BNPL firm.

oversight. The banking regulator is in discussion with fintech players to find a way out and bring the segment under a regulatory framework so that PPIs are used as a payment instrument and not as a credit avenue.

While BNPL services have developed into a new payment

mode alongside the existing payment modes like cards, UPI and net banking, it has remained outside the direct RBI regulation. This channel, facilitated by a few payment aggregators, leverages the existing nodal account (escrow account after authorisation) to route payments between

a BNPL customer and a merchant. “We welcome RBI’s move on barring wallet and PPIs top up from the credit lines. This will bring more transparency in the fintech lending space. We believe the main purpose of a PPI licence is to act as a payment instrument and not as a credit instrument,” said Nipun Jain, CEO, Rapipay Fintech Ltd.

The latest regulation is probably coming from recent developments wherein newer business models of credit-based payment products were built by companies using PPI as a vehicle, analysts said. The RBI has raised concerns on funding of these PPI instruments through a credit line from an NBFC, Kotak Securities said in a report.

The RBI’s working group on digital lending had recently proposed restricting balance sheet lending by digital lending apps (DLAs) only to regulated entities of the central bank or entities registered under any other law for specifically undertaking lending business, enacting a sep-

arate legislation to prevent illegal digital lending activities and treating BNPL as part of balance sheet lending, and prohibition on unregulated entities from offering first loss default guarantee (FLDG).

Another major factor that worries the RBI could be the high delinquency levels in the BNPL segment. In the case of 60 days past due (DPD) credit, delinquencies in the BNPL segment are 18.9 per cent whereas non-BNPL show 10.1 per cent delinquencies, according to TransUnion Cibil data.

BNPL is India’s fastest-growing online payment method with a significant impact on banks, large merchants and card schemes. Due to its hassle-free on-boarding experience, extension of credit facility, low-cost structure for the customer and facilitating easy repayments, BNPL is growing popular among young income earners.

Some of the popular BNPL companies are LazyPay, Simpl, ZestMoney, Amazon Pay Later,

Ola Money Postpaid, Paytm Postpaid, Flexmoney, Slice, UNI and EPayLater.

“Regulatory clarity for big tech and fintechs as well as BNPL will really help entities plan long term and invest even more in fintech in India,” said Avinash Godkhindi, MD and CEO, Zaggile.

The RBI ban on credit lines from NBFCs is likely to hit fintech companies in the BNPL segment. BNPL companies are active on Zomato, Swiggy and other e-commerce sites.

For customers around the globe, e-commerce payment preferences continue to shift away from cash and credit cards towards digital wallets and BNPL. In its report ‘Digital Payments in India: A US\$10 Trillion Opportunity’, BCG said the digital payment market In India will be \$10 trillion in the next five years (by 2026), with non-cash contributions comprising 65 per cent of all payments and two out of three transactions will be digital in the next five years.

## Goyal: Keen on second PLI scheme for textiles sector



PIYUSH GOYAL

Commerce Minister PTI file

**BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK**  
COIMBATORE, JUNE 25

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to roll out a second production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the labour-intensive textiles and garment sector following good response to the first such programme, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

Speaking at an event in Coimbatore, Goyal said: “We are keen to support the apparel manufacturing sector... Talks are going on between the ministry of textiles, the DPIIT and NITI Aayog. We will be shortly devising a scheme after consulting the industry. We will then put up a proposal for Cabinet approval.”

The government has already selected 61 companies, including Shabi Exports, Arvind Mills, Gokaldas Exports and Monte Carlo, under its first PLI scheme for man-made fibre and technical textiles products. **FE**

## To recoup payment for GST dues, nod for compensation cess levy till Mar ’26

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

AHEAD OF the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting on June 28-29, the Finance Ministry has notified the extension of the levy and collection of compensation cess under the indirect regime till March 2026.

This extension of cess levy is in line with an earlier approval accorded by the GST Council last year for repayment of loans meant to compensate states for the five-year period since July 2017 rollout and is not for any extension of compensation to states beyond June 2022.

The Finance Ministry has notified the Goods and Services Tax (Period of Levy and Collection of Cess) Rules, 2022, according to which the period for “levy and collection of cess under sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 shall be upto the 31st March, 2026”.

The GST Council had in September 2021 decided to continue compensation cess levy only for repayment of borrowed amounts beyond June 2022. “That (compensation to states) ends with five years. The five-year (period) ends in July 2022. Beyond July 2022, the cess that we are collecting, as agreed in the 43rd Council meeting, was for the purpose of repaying the loan. That commences in July 2022, and goes on till March 2026 - only and only for paying the loan given to states since last year,” Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said while briefing media after the 45th GST Council meeting last September.

Under GST, as per the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, states were guaranteed compensation at the compounded rate of 14 per cent from the base year 2015-16 for losses arising due to implementation of the taxation regime for five years since its rollout. The compensation regime will end this month. “This is just to enable repayment of loan and pending compensation dues pertaining to the period of five years. This extension is to pay the remaining compensation pertaining to that five year period, which includes the loan,” a senior Finance Ministry official said.

States have been demanding an extension of the compensation regime under GST and are expected to again raise the demand in the upcoming meeting.

As per the compensation-related calculations prepared for the Council meeting next week, Rs 89,783 crore has been released to states in this fiscal with the compensation cess fund now having negative balance of Rs 59,801 crore. As per data on rev-

NOTIFICATION BY  
FINANCE MINISTRY

■ The Finance Ministry has notified the Goods and Services Tax (Period of Levy and Collection of Cess) Rules, 2022

enue growth collated for the Council meeting, the all-India average shortfall between the protected revenue and the post settlement gross State GST (SGST) revenue was 27.2 per cent in 2021-22 as against 37.9 per cent in 2020-21.

In 2021-22, only five of the 31 states/UTs — Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim — registered a revenue growth higher than the protected revenue rate for states under GST. Puducherry, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have recorded the highest revenue gap between the protected revenue and post-settlement gross state GST revenue in FY22.

In May, the Centre had cleared the entire GST compensation payable till date by releasing Rs 86,912 crore to states. Of this, Rs 25,000 crore was released from the GST compensation fund and the balance Rs 61,912 crore was released by the Centre from its own resources pending collection of cess.

The states’ protected revenue grew at a slower rate than the guaranteed 14 per cent compounded growth in recent years and Covid-19 further increased the gap between protected revenue and the actual revenue receipt including reduction in cess collection. In order to meet the resource gap of the states due to short release of compensation, the Centre borrowed and released Rs 1.1 lakh crore in FY21 and Rs 1.59 lakh crore in FY22 as back-to-back loans to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection.

Of the total compensation released in May, Rs 17,973 crore was towards April and May dues, Rs 21,322 crore towards February-March dues and Rs 47,617 crore was the balance of compensation payable up to January 2022. The Centre has repaid Rs 7,500 crore as interest cost for the borrowing in 2021-22 and around Rs 14,000 crore is estimated to be paid this fiscal. From the next financial year, the repayment of principal amount is expected to start and it will continue till March 2026.

## Nilekani: Capital return of over ₹24,100 cr in FY22 by Infosys

New Delhi: IT services firm Infosys gave capital return of over Rs 24,100 crore (about \$3.1 billion) in FY22 with a total dividend of Rs 31 per share along with share buyback of over Rs 11,000 crore, company’s co-founder and chairman Nandan Nilekani said Saturday.

Speaking at the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the

company, Nilekani announced that the 2021-22 fiscal has been a year of exceptional growth — 19.7 per cent in constant currency — bringing in \$16.3 billion, which is the fastest growth that Infosys has recorded in 11 years.

He said that the company’s board has recommended a final dividend of Rs 16 per share which along with the interim

dividend of Rs 15 per share leads to a total dividend of Rs 31 per share in FY2022.

“With this, the company has announced a total dividend of approx. Rs 13,000 crore for FY22. Along with the share buyback of over Rs 11,000 crore completed in September, the total capital return in FY22 is over Rs 24,100 crore,” Nilekani said. **PTI**

## Bharat NCAP rollout in April 2023

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE UPCOMING Bharat New Car Assessment Program (NCAP), which proposes a mechanism of awarding ‘Star Ratings’ to automobiles based upon their performance in crash tests, will be introduced on April 1, 2023, an official statement said Saturday.

Bharat NCAP is applicable on type approved motor vehicles of category M1 (motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising eight seats, in addition to driver’s seat) with gross vehicle weight less than 3.5 tonnes, manufactured or imported in the country, according to the statement. The standard is aligned with global benchmarks and it is beyond minimum regulatory requirements, it added.

The Bharat NCAP rating will provide consumers an indication of the level of protection offered to occupants by evaluating the vehicle in the areas of — adult occupant protection, child occupant protection and safety assist technologies, it further said.

The testing of vehicles for this programme will be carried out at testing agencies, with the necessary infrastructure, it added.

In a series of tweets on Friday, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said Bharat NCAP will serve as a consumer-centric platform, allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their star-ratings, while promoting a healthy competition among OEMs in the country to manufacture safer vehicles. **WITHPTI**

### BRIEFLY

#### Flying schools

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said it has stopped operations of two flying training schools in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat due to serious safety concerns. In one case, operations were stopped till such time the runway is suitable for flying operations, while in another it was observed that three aircraft had dysfunctional fuel gauge indicators. The DGCA did not mention the names of the flying schools.

#### FEL default

New Delhi: Debt-ridden Future Enterprises Ltd (FEL) has defaulted on interest payment of Rs 4.10 crore for its non-convertible debentures. The due date for payment was June 24, 2022, FEL said in a regulatory filing. **PTI**

#### Applestaffunion

San Francisco: Apple Inc accepts the outcome of a vote by Maryland store workers to become its first US employees to join a union and is ready to bargain with them, a source told Reuters on Friday. **REUTERS**

## ‘Organised food services to raise market share, grow to \$37 bn by 2025’

Organised food services is likely to grow to \$37 billion by 2025, capturing 46% share of India’s food services market, up from 40% at present, a Kotak Institutional Equities report said. Within this sector, the quick service restaurant (QSR) segment is key, led by brands like Domino’s, KFC, etc.



QSR SEGMENT IN INDIA IS MAINLY DISTRIBUTED ACROSS SUB-SEGMENTS SUCH AS



**Jubilant Foodworks**, which operates Domino’s Pizza and Dunkin’ Donuts franchisees, is the market leader in the pizza segment, and has forayed into new segments like sandwiches and burger with Popeye’s

**Penetration level:** Compared to the global setup, QSR chains in burger and chicken segments are underpenetrated, while Domino’s Pizza, at 1,314 stores, has the second most stores in India after US

**Margin dilution:** The report also highlighted that prima facie, delivery orders through online food delivery platforms such as Swiggy and Zomato are margin dilutive as compared to dine-in

orders because of 18-20% commissions for order and delivery. This additional cost is partly offset by higher online prices and restaurant handling/packaging charges

#### NUMBER OF QSR STORES IN MAJOR ECONOMIES WITH GLOBAL RANK

COUNTRY	MCDONALD’S (Rank)	DOMINO’S (Rank)	PIZZA HUT (Rank)	BURGER KING (Rank)	KFC (Rank)
United States	13,683 (1)	6,355 (1)	6,536 (1)	7,138 (1)	4,062 (2)
China	3,383 (2)	300 (11)	2,355 (2)	1,200 (2)	7,900 (1)
Japan	2,909 (3)	706 (5)	444 (7)	90 (15)	1,581 (3)
France	1,485 (4)	423 (10)	133 (13)	371 (10)	276 (11)
India	464 (13)	1,314 (2)	540 (4)	270 (13)	550 (9)

Note: List is not exhaustive; Source: Kotak Institutional Equities

#### PRICE COMPARISON ACROSS MAJOR QSR CHAINS

	MCDONALD’S	BURGER KING	DOMINO’S	KFC	SUBWAY	PIZZA HUT
Cheapest veg	McAloo Tikki Burger	Crispy Veg	Pizza Mania Tomato/Onion	Veg Zinger Burger	Chhota Sub	Margherita
Price (₹)	47	55	59	125	85	129
Cheapest non-veg	Masala Egg Burger	King Egg	Pizza Mania Chicken Sausage	Classic Chicken Zinger	Chhota Sub	Chicken Sausage
Price (₹)	50	60	95	139	85	199
Popular/mid-range veg	McVeggie	Veg Whopper Jr Lite	Margherita (Regular)	Veg Rice Bowl Meal	Chatpata Chana Sub	Veggie Feast
Price (₹)	104	109	99	160	176	199
Popular/mid-range non-veg	McSpicy Chicken	Chicken Whopper Jr Lite	Pepper BBQ Chicken (Regular)	H&C Rice Bowl Meal	Chicken Tikka Sub	Chicken and Corn
Price (₹)	164	109	185	185	219	269
Veg Combo	McAloo Tikki Meal	Crispy Veg Combo	WFH Veg Combo	Veg Zinger Meal	Veg Sub with Cookie	My Box Veg
Price (₹)	180	184	199	215	210	199
Non-veg Combo	McChicken Meal	King Egg Combo	WFH Non-veg Combo	Classic Zinger Meal	Non-veg sub with Cookie	My Box Non-veg
Price (₹)	252	188	199	229	262	259

Source: Kotak Institutional Equities

In the chicken segment, KFC — operated by Devyani International and Sapphire Foods — is the market leader but remained a weak challenger in the burger segment. Pizza Hut, also operated by these franchisee owners, is a distant second in the pizza segment

AFTER US SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS 1973 RULING THAT RECOGNISED WOMAN’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO AN ABORTION

## Disney, other US cos offer abortion travel benefit after Roe decision

**DAVID SHEPARDSON & DAWN CHMIELEWSKI**  
NEW YORK, JUNE 25

US COMPANIES including Walt Disney Co and Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc said on Friday they will cover employees’ expenses if they have to travel for abortion services after the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade.

The US Supreme Court on Friday overturned the landmark 1973 ruling that recognized a woman’s constitutional right to

an abortion, handing a victory to Republicans and religious conservatives who want to limit or ban and, in some states criminalize, the procedure.

Many states are expected to further restrict or ban abortions following the ruling, making it difficult for female employees to terminate pregnancies unless they travel to states where the procedure is allowed.

For example, in Oklahoma a bill due to take effect in August bans abortion except in medical emergencies and penalizes providers who violate the law

#### FOR ‘ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE’

WALT DISNEY Co said it remains committed to providing comprehensive access to quality healthcare, and will cover the cost of employees who need to travel to another location to access care, including for an abortion



Reuters file

with up to \$100,000 in fines and 10 years in prison. States offering abortion protections include

New York and Maryland.

Disney told employees on Friday that it remains commit-

ted to providing comprehensive access to quality healthcare, including for abortions, said a spokesperson. Disney’s benefits will cover the cost of employees who need to travel to another location to access care, including to obtain an abortion.

Facebook owner Meta will reimburse travel expenses for employees seeking out-of-state reproductive care, but the company was also “assessing how best to do so given the legal complexities involved,” according to a spokesperson. But Meta also moved to limit internal discus-

sion of the ruling. Moderators on its forum Workplace removed posts mentioning abortion, citing a “respectful communications” policy barring employee discussions of political topics, according to a LinkedIn post by a Meta employee in Seattle. Moderators also took down links to Facebook posts by outgoing chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg that condemned the ruling, the employee wrote.

The Meta spokesperson declined to comment on internal policy when asked about the reports of limiting internal discus-

sion. Policies supporting abortions varied among companies.

Dick’s Sporting Goods CEO Lauren Hobart said on LinkedIn that the company would pay up to \$4,000 in travel for employees or their family members and a support person if abortion was not available nearby.

Companies that offer reimbursements for abortion-related travel could be vulnerable to lawsuits by anti-abortion groups and Republican-led states, and even potential criminal penalties. **REUTERS**



## TOP OF THE WORLD



US regulators will soon take a call on booster shot update. **AP**

### USA Pfizer: Tweaked Covid shots boost Omicron protection

PFIZER ANNOUNCED Saturday that tweaking its Covid-19 vaccine to better target the omicron variant is safe and works — just days before regulators debate whether to offer Americans updated booster shots this fall. The vaccines currently used in the US still offer strong protection against severe Covid-19 disease and death — especially if people have gotten a booster dose. But those vaccines target the original coronavirus strain and their effectiveness against any infection dropped markedly when the super-contagious Omicron mutant emerged. **AP**

### AFGHANISTAN Pakistan joins Afghan quake relief effort

**Islamabad:** A Pakistani military cargo plane carrying relief goods for Afghanistan's earthquake-affected people landed at the Khost airport Saturday, officials said, as tents, food and medical supplies rolled into the mountainous region. Thousands were left homeless or injured by this week's powerful earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, which state media said killed 1,150 people. Among the dead from Wednesday's magnitude 6 quake are 121 children and that figure is expected to climb, said the U N children's agency representative in Afghanistan. **AP**

### BURKINA FASO Military gives civilians 2 weeks to evacuate ahead of ops

**Ouagadougou:** Burkina Faso's army has given civilians two weeks to evacuate vast areas in its northern and southeastern regions ahead of military operations against Islamist insurgents, it said on Friday. The army this week ordered civilians to leave two large "military interest zones" to protect them, but did not specify or where they should go. **REUTERS**

## OUTCRY AFTER U.S. COURT OVERTURNS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ABORTION

# UN, leaders of close American allies join global condemnation of abortion ruling

REUTERS  
JUNE 25

SEVERAL WORLD leaders, including from close American allies Britain, Canada and France, have criticised the US Supreme Court ruling that overturned the constitutional right to abortion in the country.

The decided to overturn the 50-year-old Roe v Wade judgement that guaranteed access to abortion across the country means that all questions of legality and access to abortion will now go to America's individual states, some of whom immediately put abortion bans into place.

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned the court ruling in a post on Twitter.

"Abortion is a fundamental right for all women. We must protect it. I would like to express my solidarity with all those women whose freedoms have today been compromised by the US Supreme Court," he said.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said: "The news coming out of the United States is horrific. My heart goes out to the millions of American women who are now set to lose their legal right to an abortion... No government, politician, or man should tell a woman what she can and cannot do with her body."

The Prime Minister of the UK, one of the US's closest allies, also expressed his disagreement with the decision.

"I think it's a big step backwards... I've always believed in a woman's right to choose and I stick to that view and that is why the UK has the laws that it does," he said.

The UN human rights chief has termed the US Supreme



**Abortion is a fundamental right for all women. We must protect it. I would like to express my solidarity with all those women whose freedoms have today been compromised by the US Supreme Court"**

EMMANUEL MACRON  
FRENCH PRESIDENT

Court ruling a "huge blow" to women's human rights and gender equality as UN agencies warned that restricting access to abortion does not prevent people from seeking it but simply makes it "more deadly."

"This decision strips such autonomy from millions of women in the US, in particular those with low incomes and those belonging to racial and ethnic minorities, to the detriment of their fundamental rights," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said.

The World Health Organisation tweeted that every year over 25 million unsafe abortions take place and up to 37,000 women die. It warned that evidence shows that restricting access to abortion does not reduce the number of abortions that occur. Restrictions are, however, more likely to drive women and girls towards unsafe procedures.



At a protest against the Supreme Court decision, in New York City on Friday. *Reuters*

## Dems hope to harness outrage, sadness over top court decision

STEVE PEOPLES & MIKE CATALINI  
YARDLEY (PENNSYLVANIA),  
JUNE 25

THE SHOCK quickly turned to sadness for Victoria Lowe.

The 37-year-old lawyer, working outside a cafe in suburban Bucks County, Pennsylvania, said she couldn't believe the Supreme Court stripped away the constitutional right to abortion that women have had her entire life. She started to cry.

In the immediate aftermath of one of the Supreme Court's most consequential rulings, it was too soon to know how deeply the political landscape

had shifted. But in this politically competitive corner of one of the most important swing states in the US, embattled Democrats hope to harness the emotion from women like Lowe to reset what has been an otherwise brutal election year environment.

For much of the year, the threat to abortion rights has seemed somewhat theoretical. But the Supreme Court's decision ensures that abortion will be a central issue in US politics for the foreseeable future.

That's especially true as restrictions begin to take effect. Pregnant women considering abortions already had been dealing with a near-complete ban in Oklahoma and a prohibition after

roughly six weeks in Texas. Clinics in at least eight other states — Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin and West Virginia — stopped performing abortions after Friday's decision.

At the same time, Democrats raised the prospect of a silver lining.

"Democrats have a real opportunity right now to harness this anger, to harness the sadness," Democratic strategist Mo Ellefthee said. "We are setting the foundation to ensure that Democrats stay in the White House, so that the next time, there's an opening on the bench, on the federal bench anywhere, that we've got a Democratic president making that appointment." **AP**

## 2 dead after man opens fire at Oslo gay bar

REUTERS  
OSLO, JUNE 25

TERRIFIED REVELLERS at a gay bar in Oslo hid in a basement and desperately called loved ones as a gunman went on the rampage, killing two people and injuring 21 on the day the city was due to celebrate its annual Pride parade.

Authorities said the suspect, a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen of Iranian origin, was believed to be a radicalised Islamist with a history of mental illness who had been known to intelligence services since 2015.

The attack took place in the early hours of Saturday, with victims shot inside and outside the



People at the crime scene in central Oslo, Saturday. *AP*

London Pub, a longstanding hub of Oslo's LGBTQ scene, as well as in the surrounding streets and at

one other bar in the centre of the Norwegian capital. The deceased were two men in their 50s and

## Pakistan Army chief Bajwa meets Musharraf in Dubai

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, JUNE 25

PAKISTAN ARMY chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa recently visited the ailing former president and army chief Gen (retd) Pervez Musharraf in Dubai, the media reported on Saturday.

Gen Bajwa, accompanied by top physicians of the Pakistan Army, spent some time with Gen Musharraf and his family at their apartment in Dubai while the army doctors examined the 78-year-old former military ruler, The Express Tribune newspaper

quoted a source, who was also present during the meeting, as saying. The former military ruler was in 2018 in the UAE diagnosed with the life-threatening health condition called Amyloidosis.

According to the sources close to the former military ruler's family, "Gen Musharraf and his family greeted the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) with great delight".

However, there was no official word on the COAS visit to Dubai from the military's media wing. The family of Musharraf, who has been living in self-exile in Dubai since 2016, has yet not

made up their mind to fly him back to Pakistan. Earlier this week, the family ruled out the possibility citing lack of proper treatment in Pakistan.

"An uninterrupted supply and administration of experimental drug Daratumumab needed alongside associated treatment of Amyloidosis are currently not available in Pakistan," the family wrote on Musharraf's Twitter handle on June 21.

On June 14, The Express Tribune reported that the exiled general had expressed a desire to spend the rest of his life in Pakistan. **PTI**

## 'Lahore court gave 15-yr jail term to LeT's Sajid Mir over terror financing'

M ZULQERNAIN  
LAHORE, JUNE 25

SAJID MIR, a senior Lashkar-e-Taiba operative and the alleged mastermind of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, who was once presumed dead, has been jailed for over 15 years in a terror-financing case, a lawyer associated with the case said.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Pakistan's Punjab Police, which often issues convictions of the suspects in such cases to the media, did not notify Mir's conviction.

"An anti-terrorism court in Lahore early this month had handed down 15 and a half years jail term to Sajid Majeed Mir, an activist of banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), in a terror-financing case," a

senior lawyer associated with terror financing cases of LeT and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) leaders told PTI on Friday. The lawyer further said Mir has been in the Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore since his arrest in April. He said the court also imposed a fine of over Rs 4 lakh on the convict. Pakistani authorities had in the past claimed he had died, but Western countries remained unconvinced. **PTI**

## Bangladesh marks opening of bridge over mighty Padma

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday celebrated the opening of the country's longest bridge, which took eight years to build amid setbacks involving political conflict and corruption allegations.

The 6.51-kilometre bridge spanning the Padma River cost an estimated \$3.6 billion and was paid for with domestic funds af-

ter the World Bank and other global lending agencies declined to finance the project following a graft scandal involving a Canadian construction company.

"The bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh. It encapsulates our passion, creativity, courage, endurance and perseverance," Hasina said at a ceremony in Mawa, about 31 kilometers southwest of Dhaka. **AP**

## Sievierodonetsk falls to Russia after one of war's bloodiest fights

TOM BALMFORTH & MARKO DJURICA  
KYIV/POKROVSK, JUNE 25

RUSSIAN FORCES have fully occupied Sievierodonetsk, the mayor of the eastern Ukrainian city said on Saturday, confirming Kyiv's biggest battlefield setback for more than a month, after weeks of some of the war's bloodiest fighting.

Ukraine called its retreat from the city a "tactical withdrawal" to fight from higher ground in Lysychansk on the opposite bank of the Siverskyi Donets river. Pro-Russian separatists said Moscow's forces were now attacking Lysychansk.

The fall of Sievierodonetsk — once home to more than 100,000 people, now a wasteland — was Russia's biggest victory since capturing the port of Mariupol last month. It transforms the battlefield in the east after weeks in which Moscow's huge advantage in firepower had yielded only slow gains.

Russia will now be hoping to press on and seize more ground on the opposite bank, while Ukraine will hope that the price Moscow paid to capture the ruins of the small city will leave Russia's forces vulnerable to a



People clean up debris after shelling in Kharkiv. *Reuters*

counterattack in coming weeks.

"The city is now under the full occupation of Russia. They are trying to establish their own order, as far as I know they have appointed some kind of commandant," Mayor Oleksandr Stryuk said on national television.

Kyrylo Budanov, Ukraine's military intelligence chief, told Reuters that Ukraine was carrying out "a tactical regrouping" by pulling its forces out of Sievierodonetsk to higher ground across the river.

"Russia is using the tactic... it used in Mariupol: wiping the city from the face of the earth," he said. "Given the conditions, holding defence in the ruins and open fields is no longer possible. So the Ukrainian forces are leaving for higher ground to continue the defence operations." **REUTERS**

# 'We have nothing:' Afghan quake survivors despair

CHRISTINA GOLDBAUM & SAFIULLAH PADSHAH  
GEYAN, JUNE 25

AS DAWN broke over his village on Friday morning, Abdul Qadir dug through the rubble of his family home desperate to find a small sack of flour buried somewhere beneath the piles of wood and dust.

Like many in this desolate stretch of eastern Afghanistan, the small bag was the only food his family had before a devastating earthquake decimated half of the village last week. For nearly a year since the Taliban seized power and an economic crisis engulfed the country, villagers could no longer afford the firewood he once collected and sold for a few dollars a day. The price of food in



Abdul Qadir and his brother at their destroyed home, in Geyan, Afghanistan. *NYT*

the local bazaar doubled. He racked up 500,000 Afghanis — over \$5,000 — in debt from shopkeepers until they refused to lend

to him anymore.

Then on Wednesday, the mountains around him erupted in a violent rumble that brought

the walls of his home crashing down and killed six members of his family. Looking at the remains of his home, he was at a loss.

"This house was the one comfort we still had," Mr. Qadir, 27, said. "We have no way to get a loan, no way to get money, no way to rebuild. Nothing."

The earthquake this past week wreaked havoc on this remote, mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing around 1,000 people and destroying the homes of thousands more. It was a devastating blow for a place that has seen unrelenting hardship for decades, and had been desperately hoping for any sort of respite after the war ended and the Taliban seized control of the country.

The people of Geyan District

saw little benefit from the American era in Afghanistan. This is among the poorest places in the country, and people survive hand-to-mouth with the little money they earn collecting firewood and harvesting pine nuts each fall. Then, as now, the government was distant, and families have had to rely on each other when times get hard.

The advent of Taliban rule has not changed that here. Though government officials are scrambling to bring aid stores to the area after the quake, it will have little lasting effect on the worsening desperation of daily life, or the suffering from widespread death.

During the 20-year-long war between the Taliban insurgency and the previous Western backed government, residents were

caught in gruelling fighting that tore through villages across this swath of Afghanistan. Shelling from Pakistan — targeting Pakistani militants who have sought refuge along Afghanistan's eastern border — has rained down from the sky, killing civilians and destroying homes. Nature itself has wrought its own violence with frequent floods, hail storms and deadly earthquakes woven into the fabric of life here.

Today around half the country's 39 million people are facing life-threatening levels of food insecurity, according to the World Food Program.

For many in these remote villages, the destruction seemed to offer a heartbreaking reminder that the violence and hardship was far from over despite the end of the two decade-long war. **NYT**



# THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

# eye



## POINT OF VIEW

### Let the Children Be

Shelja Sen on the purpose of being a child and why it's important for a parent to be mindful in clearing their path

## SPOTLIGHT

### Memories on a Plate

Indian-origin chef Meherwan Irani on Chai Pani winning America's outstanding restaurant award and the flavours that made him



## Eat Shoots & Leaves

The idea of a zero-waste diet may be an answer to climate change but it has been *de rigueur* in Indian homes for generations

Rinku Ghosh

**W**HEN CHEF Radhika Khandelwal stirs her pot of memories, she stops at the moment when she sat with her grandmother under the winter sun shelling peas. "We'd snack on some and keep the pods away because these couldn't be wasted. She blanched them and cooked a finger-licking dish. Just like the leftover carrot tops and leaves, which she squished into a lush chutney," she says. Today, the no-food-waste mantra she inherited is the pivot of her restaurant, Fig and Maple in New Delhi, where she serves pumpkin seed to skin barley risotto made with pearl barley and pumpkin, flesh to seed and skin. Her rich sauce, made from tender leaves of the tamarind plant, wraps her baked fish with *umami* flavours. To work up your appetite, try out her vegetable peel chips and scoop up the pea pod pesto.

The root-to-shoot eating and zero-waste diet may be a talking point at climate change conferences. Restaurants across US, UK and Europe may have repurposed unloved edibles as hot salsa, relishes, toppings, finger foods and even have dried fungus lamps for decor, but Indians have been following this for centuries as a lived reality. But yes, the sustainability debate is critical to the planet's future. Think-tank Capgemini Research Institute's latest report, "Reflect. Rethink. Reconsider. Why food waste is everybody's problem" reveals how 2.5 billion tonnes of food are wasted each year. With 60 per cent consumers now feeling guilty about this dump, imagine how preserving just half of that could save 811 million malnourished people. But leave the cause aside and you would find the root-to-shoot philosophy informing every aspect of our lives, be it for their medicinal and nutritional value, for scarcity of resources or simply for a ritualised remembrance of tradition. Indians have for long known to make the everyday exotic.

As Delhi-based food historian Pushpesh Pant explains, "We were foragers before we became a river civilisation. We learnt to subsist on whatever was available, consuming leaves, stalks, skins, shoots and roots of the forest produce. The tradition of sun-drying, pickling, chutneys, sauces and relishes evolved to prolong the shelf life of seasonal food. From the hills to the coastline, food traditions involved the simple art of making a paste, tempering or preserving it. Something as basic as the potato would be ash-baked, dusted, stone-ground and made into a paste, the skin giving off a sour taste. If lucky, people would stir it in mustard oil tempered with whole cumin or coriander seeds. Frying came much later. Even discarded parts of meats would be put together with some local vegetables, like the cartilage of chicken cooked in southern parts of the country. The complexity in food came courtesy of what I would call the riches of poverty."

Women, who ate last in line because of social custom and were often left with food scraps, ensured that their morsels were tasty enough. "They glamorised food preparation with a deft combination of chewy fibres to mimic meats, used seeds for crunch and once the onion became a staple, elevated the flavour profile," adds Pant.

Khandelwal, 34, believes that native food cultures aren't about mindful eating or a deliberate attempt to cut down food waste. "It is as simple as, if it's edible, it's food. The recipes revolving around these ingredients that we now classify as 'waste' are essentially about making nourishing elements palatable, so that essential nutrients do not end up in the bin."

Most chefs agree that the eastern and coastal parts of the country had for centuries even gentrified the hunter-gatherer food,



RADHIKA KHADELWAL



THOMAS ZACHARIAS

preparing delicacies with flower, fruit, peels and even the coarse stem of a banana tree. The banana leaves were universally used for steaming and making food parcels. Food researcher and development consultant Pritha Sen, who is using pop-ups to familiarise an urban audience with sustainable menu options, says affluence and progress have always been measured in terms of acquired knowledge and culture. "That's why we have moved away from the food that is in our DNA and dismissed it as a poor man's sustenance. Yet, nourished by rivers, streams, ponds and lakes, Bengal had, at one time, over 500 kinds of leafy greens. Every backyard would have a scaffold where they would grow vines, gourds and saags, incorporating even leaf tendrils in daily meals. Before we took to potatoes, we cooked yam, using them in curries or as paste and pickles, digging them out of the soil as delicately as we do mushrooms today. The peels, roots and stalks have birthed the chorchori, vegetables stir-fried in mustard oil, aromatic spices and simmered over time. The chechki, a semi-dry version with chillies and *panch phoran* (Bengal's whole-spice blend) is all inclusive, even accommodating fish heads, skins and their innards for increased flavour and crunch," she says.

At her food pop-ups at five-star hotels, Gurugram-based Sen has served pumpkin and ash gourd belly fritters, using parts that are normally thrown away, bottle gourd fritters, batter-frying its stalk and *parwal* seed curry. She has been inspired by how the ridge gourd skin is scraped and ground to make a rich chutney in Uttar Pradesh. Sen has even spiced up the chana dal with duck and chicken skins, making it a complete meal in itself.

The root-to-shoot tradition exists in a much more robust manner in the Northeast, predominantly in Assam, which is closer to Thai cultural traditions. So, cooking interventions are minimal. "Bamboo shoots are fermented, dried or used in curries across the Northeast. But no Assamese food is complete without *khar*, which works like cooking soda and is obtained by filtering water through the ash of the burnt stem, core and skin of an indigenous banana variety called *bhimkol*. The residue is alkaline and balances out acidic



SAYANTAN SARKAR



SNEHALATA SAIKIA



SNEHALATA SAIKIA

## ROOT OF THE MATTER

(Clockwise from top)

Pritha Sen's *lauki* stem fritters; one of Snehalata Saikia's main course for her pop-up, which includes pork with anishi, squash with cream, chicken cooked with banana blossom, masur dal with brahmi herb and marigold petals fritters; Thomas Zacharias in Nagaland's Dimapur market; his *cascara* brew; *moringa* dumplings at New Delhi's Fig & Maple; Saikia's raw banana and black sesame chutney; (bottom, left) Radhika Khandelwal



THOMAS ZACHARIAS

food, tenderises meats and stalks of vegetables and enhances the flavours of a fish head cooked in mustard oil," says Delhi-based home chef Snehalata Saikia, who hosts "Table for Six" pop-ups at her CR Park residence, offering guests an opportunity to sample food of the Northeast. Living alongside the Brahmaputra, the Ahoms have always preferred water-based vegetables, which they eat whole, mostly boiled, smoked, roasted, baked, fermented but rarely curried.

"Stir-fried cooking in the region developed over the last century with colonisation. Otherwise, food has always been very localised and consumed in its entirety. We make a curry with the leaves of the jute plant and a monsoon delicacy with its slightly bitter shoots. Yam is central to Northeast cuisine. During Bihu in Assam, they say if you do not have yam paste with roasted sesame, potato, boiled rice and urad dal, you would be born a pig in your next birth. So, even a tuber is ritualised as a superfood. Wild elephant foot yam is baked in Meghalaya. Nagas make a dal with mashed yam in a watery gravy while Mizos flavour their rice congee with wild orange peels and aromatic leaves that smell like black pepper. The Manipuri salad *singiu* is the perfect example of root-to-shoot eating as it tosses up shredded cabbage, raw papaya, lotus stem, garlic leaves, coriander leaves and stalks, onions, lime and roasted whole chillies. Once I made a sweetmeat like peethee using a whole beetroot and an elephant apple sauce. We talk of spa cuisine, farm-to-fork, sugar and fat substitutes and these have been around for centuries," says Saikia.

We may like to be righteous about zero-waste and sustainability but if we want our

bio-diverse tradition to continue into modernity, then it needs to be adapted to modern sensibilities. As Mumbai-based chef Thomas Zacharias, who is championing regional food through his storytelling platform, *thelocavore.in*, says, "We are missing out on nutrients and fibre by discarding skins and peels. Chefs need to look at reviving traditions as an opportunity rather than a challenge to make them look exotic. There's always scope for interesting textures and flavours." The 36-year-old's stir-fried jackfruit seeds can make for a perfect bar snack. He has even made a refreshing drink with *cascara*, sun-dried remnants of the Arabica coffee pulp, usually discarded after the coffee production process. "Just simmer a cup of *cascara* with three cups of water, add two tablespoons of jagery, reduce on medium heat for 15 minutes, strain and refrigerate. Then make a drink with tonic water, ice, lime and maybe even gin. About 40 lakh tonnes of cashew fruit are produced in the country every year but 98 per cent gets wasted. While cashew nuts are wanted by the world, the cashew apple is perfectly edible, can be fermented to make vinegar and even added to curries," he says. He is popularising the *shatavarim* or *Asparagus racemosus*, preserving them in aromatic wild honey to make a murabba. While working at the Bombay

Canteen restaurant until a year ago, he had brought about changes in the menu with his "manicured" food like the pumpkin-flower pakoda. He learnt to use the cauliflower stem and leaf, both known to make a dense broth.

Khandelwal uses *moringa* leaves to make dumplings at her restaurant. "Taro root or colocasia, its stems and leaves have been used in curries while UP's patode could give a typical roulade a run for its money. Root-to-shoot eating in everyday life could be as simple as swapping basil with *moringa* leaves or carrot greens in your pesto. Instead of slathering a jam on your toast, go for a homemade marmalade prepared with leftover peels of orange," she says. At her outlet, she serves rat tail radish chutney, pea pod and noodles salad and pineapple tepache, the last a fermented mix of pineapple skins, jagery, water, cinnamon and green chillies muddled in a jar, skimmed and then served chilled or in a cocktail. Even the mango seed and skin are used up as cocktail bitters at her bar!

No matter how innovative the chef is, the dish has to sell. And here lies the catch. Much of these efforts are self-funded and not scalable yet. While Pant advises a "root-to-shoot" syllabus in hospitality courses to mainstream zero-waste cooking, Sen wishes hotels were more aggressive about promotions. She recalls the time when she presented *chhaal* chorchori (fish skin, *bhetki* head and whole vegetables) as a surprise knowing that the hotel wouldn't approve it because of its extreme unfamiliarity. "The guests were 80 per cent Punjabi and the dish flew," says Sen.

Zacharias advocates a multifaceted approach. "Make the farmer an equal stakeholder, provide a guaranteed outlet through storytelling — maybe through farm tourism — build a collective movement. *Locavore* is already linking the farmer cooperatives to restaurants in Mumbai, encouraging the latter to include some wild foods in their menu. We are also tying up with food aggregators to include some of these outlets. In the end, make food accessible, fun and exciting, given short attention spans and 10-minute food deliveries," he says. But till the beanstalk looks "cool" enough, sustainability will seem like a life lesson, not an aspiration.

Eastern and coastal parts of the country have, for centuries, gentrified hunter-gatherer food and prepared delicacies with flowers, fruits, peels and stems



## DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

## Missing In Action

The birds that have disappeared leave us unsettled, but those which have stuck it out offer some solace

THE SIXTH-BIG extinction event is already upon us — and it is largely due to our activities. Well, I checked my notes and, to my horror, discovered that several “little extinctions” had already occurred in my little neck of the woods, and here I’m only talking about birds.

Heading the list, of course, are house sparrows. Not long ago, a “relict” population still used to hop around in the garden, but I haven’t seen them for a while now. They seem to have been replaced by tiny, squeaking spice finches, aka scaly-breasted munias. Every October, a gentleman redstart would report at the garden gate and greet me gravely, bobbing his head and shivering his tail before flying down to the lawn to check out what delicacy was on offer. He’s been absent for many years and may have passed on, but obviously didn’t let on about his secret garden. White wagtails that used to saunter about on the big common lawn like a convention of prosperous landlords no longer do so, and the genteel hoopoe clad in salmon-and-zebra stripes is also missing in action. Also absent is the diminutive grey-headed canary flycatcher that used to sit on the cemetery wall and dive down after insects.

While families of jungle babblers are thankfully still around, their larger cousins, the large grey babblers, have vanished and the common babbler, whose call is like a football referee’s whistle (and drove my dogs nuts), has gone too. Rose-ringed parakeets still shriek and clown about the place, livening things up, but their lovely cousins, the plum-headed parakeets with their questioning *too-too* whistles have vanished as well.

Many years ago, a pair of white-eared bulbuls, so lovely with their sunshine bottoms, nested in the garden hedge once but never after that. I believe they prefer drier habitats than well-watered gardens in Delhi. From about a month preceding the monsoon, I keep an ear out for the ringing, joyous call of the swashbuckling Jacobin cuckoo, earlier called the pied-twisted-cuckoo. It is supposed to signal the onset of the rains, but has been MIA. (They have been reported from other parts of Delhi though.)



WATCH ME IF YOU CAN  
A hoopoe

Rarities like the magnificent crested-serpent eagle would make a stopover in the Nicholson Cemetery next door every October or November *en route* to wherever it was spending the coming winter. No longer. The jaunty families of grey partridge (francolin) that sauntered about or stood on tiptoe yelling *pateela! pateela! pateela!* (or, Kapil-Dev, Kapil-Dev, Kapil-Dev!) have either been eaten or have migrated to the Qudisia Gardens across the road.

When we first settled here, I spent hours sitting on the cooler in my balcony watching the birds in the Nicholson Cemetery and made a list of over 60 species; I now wonder if there would even be half that number now.

On the Ridge nearby, where I walked for around 30 years (until the macaque dictatorship took over completely), there have been birds that are AWOL, too. The scummy (at the time) serpentine pond used to attract that wonder of wonders, the paradise flycatcher, both in full breeding attire in March, and then again post-breeding casualties (minus coat-tails) in July. The common (really not so common) kingfisher with its sapphire head and back and fire-orange breast used to fish in the pond — a sign that the water was clean; now gone, of course.

These absences give you a feeling of dread, as though they are forebodings of worse to come. So, I guess it’s better to appreciate the birds that have stuck it out and seem to have done well for themselves: The barbets (especially brown-headed) seem to be prospering and I know there is a family of shikras hunting in the cemetery along with clans of spotted owlets.

A few days ago, a baby hornbill perched in my balcony and visited again this morning. Sunbirds and bulbuls (both the red-whiskered and red-vented) abound. A bunch of monocle-wearing white-eyes inspected the bougainvillea thoroughly quite recently, and this April, the ringing *kil-lil-kil-lil* call of the white-throated kingfisher rang through the cemetery indicating that, perhaps, somewhere there the birds were nesting. The koels are going demented and unashamedly wake you up at 3 am, as do the peacocks strutting around these days, trailing their bejewelled cloaks behind them. A pair of hysterical red-wattled lapwings has nested on the terrace: one stood guard at the edge of the terrace every morning, cocking its head for potential danger from every direction.

Salim Ali always stressed on the importance of keeping field notes and I am glad I’ve done so. Otherwise, these birds would have slipped out of my sieve-like memory unnoticed and unmarked. The looming question for many of them remains, of course, why have they vanished?

# Childhood is not a training ground for adulthood

As the philosopher Alexander Herzen said, a child’s purpose is to be a child



IMAGINE

BY SHELJA SEN

DURING THE pandemic, one of the things that troubled me was that I could not hear children’s voices. My children have grown, our centre was closed, as was the park in front of our house — I was surrounded by too much adulthood. It was as if I was living in a post-Pied Piper world of silent dreariness. Now that the world has opened up again, the constant hum of giggles, squeals, chattering have come back to add music to our life. As I walk through the noisy park, I am no more in a tearing rush to clock in my steps. I pause, I loiter on the grass with a silly grin and watch little ones giggling, squealing, chattering, pushing, jumping, and I feel our world is back on its axis again.

I wonder if the so-called Great Pause, among other things, also made us reflect on how we see children, what they bring to our world and how we can honour their voices. So, I went about asking children I met some questions — what do you think adults do not understand about children? What is it that you would want them to know? I have tried to give shape to their answers, some in their words, some translated into mine and some echoes of what I have been hearing from them for years.

### Our life is not just a preparation for adulthood

“Children are like products on a factory assembly line, being prepared for the market,” said a 16-year-old as he explained to me how from the time they are little, children’s life is about preparation — from preschool to school to college to job market. The threat of the looming future with the metaphorical chiding of “pull up your socks” at every step. “Isn’t it a tragedy that what adults miss most about their childhood is what they rob us of? Why is everything we do, what we eat, what marks we get weighed in terms of the benefit it would have in future?” His remark reminded me of philosopher Alexander Herzen’s remark, “Because children grow up, we think the child’s purpose is to grow up. But a child’s purpose is to be a child.”

### We are also figuring out life as we go

These words were by a 13-year-old as she explained to me her experiences during the pandemic. She had witnessed a lot of violent fights between her parents at home. She had learnt to pick up the warning signs and would quickly get her little sister and lock the door of the bedroom. From singing songs, dancing, drawing and reading together, she had found small and big ways to



SUVAJIT DEY

keep herself and her sister safe. I remember another 10-year-old sharing with me, “When my father starts shouting at me in rage, I take myself away from the situation by closing my eyes and repeating *Kali mantra* so that I am watching without watching.” These responses go against the popular idea that children are like clay, waiting to be moulded. Their actions of survival reminded me, once again, how significant it is that we acknowledge that children are not passive recipients of hardships, and they are trying to “figure out” life in so many creative and innovative ways.

### THERE WILL BE TIME ENOUGH TO BE A GROWN-UP

The threat of the looming future should not haunt the child at every step

### Work with us and not against us

A 14-year-old was referred to me for so-called “anger management”, commented, “It is as if all the adults are in constant battle with me, picking on smallest mistakes I make. Why don’t they see I am also hurting!” When children do not fall into the socially prescribed narrative of “good kids”, we try to fix them by criticising, blaming, and shaming them. They resist it by withdrawing or fighting back. We react immediately by censoring their “bad behaviour” and get locked in a battle where there are no winners. The only way out of this deadlock is if we take a

...

The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voices; the way we talk about them becomes their life stories

...

position of compassionate curiosity, “What hurt is the anger protecting? What does it say about what is precious to this child?”

### Our stories matter

The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voices; the way we talk about them becomes their life stories. We make sense of our world through stories; they give meaning to our experiences. They not only describe us, but they end up shaping us too, as through these stories, we start building our identities. Language is the thread that creates these identities. If you go back to your own childhood, what words were used to describe you? Think about a person who saw in you what others ended up missing. It could be somebody whose eyes lit up every time you entered the room and who always found wonderful things to say about you. How much of who you are is shaped by what that person believed about you? How would you want your children to remember you one day?

### We will get there

“Every child wants to do well. Nobody wants to mess up their lives. We will get there one day, whatever that ‘there’ is.” These words by a 15-year-old made me think of our compulsion to see childhood as a training ground for adulthood. Have you seen or played the game of bowling? The player grips the weighted ball and puts all the force into flinging it down the alley to knock down the standing pins. Now there is another game popular in Canada, called curling, where a stone is set to motion on ice, but the most critical part of the sport is that as the stone gains speed, the sweepers in the team, in a very Zen-like way, clear the pathway, removing friction, for it to gain momentum. I see the contrast in these two sports as an elegant metaphor for parenting/teaching/working alongside children. In the former approach, there is an immense force applied to push the child, in the belief that this is the only way they will move forward. In contrast, the latter is all about the mindful and skilful clearing of their pathway and having the faith that they will get there. Wherever their preferred “there” is.

\*Acknowledgement to narrative therapist, John Winslade

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Benita Fernando

IT’S a truth universally acknowledged that every romance reality show is in want of a villain. In *Indian Matchmaking* — the Netflix show that premiered in 2020 featuring matchmaker Sima Taparia on a mission to find singletons their happily-ever-afters — it came in the form of Aparna Shewakramani. The 34-year-old lawyer from Houston, Texas, US, was portrayed as a picky woman whose first dates didn’t transform into relationships, with Taparia often laying the blame squarely on her attitude and expectations. Shewakramani was the show’s breakout star but also its shrew.

In a new book, Shewakramani puts forth her side of the story and the manner in which she was vilified. *She’s Unlikeable and Other Lies that Bring Women Down* (Harper Collins, Rs399) is a defence of women who are not afraid to speak their minds and state their expectations. It’s also a story of survivorship. Shewakramani, who relocated to New York after the show and started a luxury travel company, speaks about the need for responsible TV viewership and the desire for finding a soulmate. Edited excerpts:

**It’s common to assume that parts of reality shows, if not all, are staged. Your account is interesting because your role wasn’t staged as much as edited to suit a narrative. Since *Indian Matchmaking*, you have reached out to people who were in similar positions, such as Jessica Batten from (the reality show) *Love is Blind*. How has your view on reality shows and the so-called villains in these romance reality shows changed?**

In the book, I discuss how shows are edited from the extensive raw footage taken. It is my hope that people move forward in con-

# Not a Love Story

The breakout star from *Indian Matchmaking*, Aparna Shewakramani’s new book tells a personal story about how being independent and outspoken is not viewed as marriage material



RAHUL JHANGIANI

suming media more responsibly. We should, of course, enjoy it for entertainment purposes but we should by no means take it as absolute truth. I am more careful myself as a viewer and understand that no “character” on a reality show is as good or as bad as their edit might suggest.

Going by your account, there was a huge

HER OWN PERSON  
Aparna Shewakramani

**disconnect between what you thought *Indian Matchmaking* would be and how it finally turned out. Could you elaborate on it?**

While I did not fully comprehend the finished product of what this show would actually look like, I have no regrets about living out a small part of my love journey on international TV. So many people ask me if I would

participate in Season 2 or any other show and I’d say...maybe. Women from around the world shared that they were empowered by my story and I believe it’s one that’s worth continuing to share.

**The online hate you received for your role was quite alarming, especially when a viewer stalked you or a person sent you a picture of himself with a gun. Did you expect this backlash and how did you manage it?**

While I didn’t expect it, *Indian Matchmaking* and its aftermath made me even more resolved to live life on my own terms and to not bend to the whims of arbitrary societal milestones. I realised with all the cyberbullying and even the death threats that there will always be people who don’t like you and don’t approve of your lifestyle and your decisions. And that’s not your issue. You just always have to live a life that is aligned with your values and beliefs each day.

**You have remained friends with some of the men you met on the show and they formed a WhatsApp group called ‘Aparna’s Guys’. Do you think that if it wasn’t for the show, it may have clicked with one of them?**

I sincerely believe that you can meet your life partner anywhere — from a wedding to the grocery store even! The method in which I met these men was not the issue. We simply weren’t a good match. So no, I don’t think there would be anything more than friendship with these guys no matter the circumstances in which I met them.

**As a financially independent, ambitious, well-travelled lawyer and now entrepreneur, do you ever feel that there are options apart from marriage for you?**

I am very grateful to be surrounded by a community of family and friends that believes the same core principle as me — ultimately, a partnership can enhance your life but it is not necessary for happiness. I continue to seek a partner who will cheerlead me as I cheerlead him in all aspects of our life.



JUNE 26, 2022

# Just His Cup of Tea

Indian-origin chef Meherwan Irani on Chai Pani winning America's outstanding restaurant award, the flavours that made him and serving dishes bursting with memories

Rinku Ghosh

LIKE MANY chasing their dream of the good life, a young man from Ahmednagar, just outside Pune, came to the US to pursue a degree in MBA. He was as hungry for the American dream as he was for his bhelpuri. Of course, Meherwan Irani didn't know back then that the humble puffed rice chaat would make that dream come true. As his Chai Pani restaurant in Asheville, North Carolina, was declared America's "Outstanding Restaurant" in the 2022 James Beard Awards last week, nobody knows that life had tossed him about just as vigorously as the masala in his bhel.

"I was in the automotive industry, selling luxury cars but following the economic melt-down of 2009, the good life just dissipated. At 39, I moved from San Francisco to Asheville but even during the lows, I never gave up on my love for bhel. Thanks to my wife Molly, I took a leap of faith, getting into the business of selling Indian food to a 99 per cent White population and just three Indian families back then," says Irani, who arrived in the US at 19.

Of course, he understood multiculturalism, courtesy his family — his mother is a north Indian Hindu who married a Parsi. "My mother is an excellent cook and she always kept our food light and bright, with all the colours of the season. When we stayed for a short stint in London, she incorporated elements of Western cuisine, blending just enough so as to appreciate the best of both cultures. And she made the most lip-smacking bhelpuri, elevating it with an elegant twist of tamarind sauce. That's the flavour that stands me in good stead," says the 52-year-old.

Deliciousness was Irani's winning formula as he debuted as a chef with Chai Pani. The name came easy as it resonates across India to define shared bonhomie over the national beverage. "Street food, particularly the chaat, is about including the complex spectrum of Indian flavours. It is at once democratic, inclusive and affordable. I was confident what had worked with a billion people would work anywhere," says Irani.

Of course, he had the support of the two women in his life for his venture. Irani's mother Amrit, who moved base briefly to the US in 2009, coached a diverse but novice American staff, knowing trained Indians would repeat curryhouse styles that she wanted to avoid. She advised him that simple, home-style, comfort food gets repeat customers because it is an easy memory to keep. And that food was about seasoning and not hotness. From her farmhouse in Ahmednagar, the 71-year-old says, "Meherwan would always hang around the kitchen. He was quick to pick up tricks and tips and would roll out a menu for a friends' night-out here. That's how he understood the need for in-between food. But what has worked for him is his love for people, he can just draw them in."

Meanwhile, as an American, Molly



MOLLY MILROY

understood the clientele at Asheville, who were confined but open-minded. That's why the Beard honour, considered to be as sacred as the Michelin, means much to Irani as it acknowledges both the maker and his institution unlike the latter which confers the star on the restaurant rather than its chef.

Irani keeps his dishes affordable, mostly under \$14. He has recreated a reassuringly working-class Bombay canteen look at Chai Pani with truck-art motifs, kitschy colour pops, and food served in stainless-steel *thalis*.

Of course, he has deployed some smart marketing skills too, calling his version of keema pao "Sloppy Jai," a clever burger-like take on "Sloppy Joe". Chai Pani's bestsellers happen to be simple and no-nonsense — bhelpuri, sev dahi puri, corn bhel, green mango chaat, kale pakodas and, of course, the uttapam. The julienned okra fries, their signature dish, is tossed with salt and seasoning and served with a lime wedge, enough to draw in vegans and vegetarians.

"Munch into our pakodas, there's a momentary sting of the spices and then there is an explosion of flavours. Their fullness surprises people. The crunch is unique because I whisk chickpea flour (*besan*) in warm water and let it rise naturally," says Irani, who adds a lot of home-grown spices, Kashmiri ones too, to his food, rubbing them in deep. And he keeps going back to his roots every year to compulsively replicate the taste of nostalgia. "For vada pao, it's MG Road in Pune, for samosas, it is still Ahmednagar. I swear by bhelpuris from Kalyani and pani puris from Elco Market, Mumbai," he adds.

What helped Chai Pani steam ahead is its engagement with the community. It has "Give Back" Fridays, where proceeds of the day's sales are ploughed back into community development. Twice a year, Irani organises an all-expenses paid trip to India for his team so that they learn not just about food first-hand but can volunteer for the NGO Dharavi Diary. He also teaches them where he and his food come from. "India is a country of extremes and paradoxes. You'll have street vendors lined up next to each other, selling the same thing. But each survives with that one *jugaad* (little innovation) with whatever resources they have to court their loyalists. The flavours in Indian food have evolved from these people," says Irani, who is charting out a new spice route.



MOLLY MILROY



TIM ROBINSON

SARAH HOSKI

## HOME RUN

(Clockwise from top) Meherwan Irani; kale pakodas, okra fries, sev potato dahi puri; restaurant interior; various chaats

Shubhra Gupta

AMONG THE sizeable Indian contingent at the 75th Cannes Film Festival last month was Pa Ranjith, whom I met in a very Cannes setting: on the upper deck of a swish yacht, where the poster of his upcoming film *Vettuvam* was being showcased.

It was a moment. For Ranjith Pandurangan, 39, who has made a name for himself as a filmmaker with a distinct vision and voice. And for whom the personal and the political have always been deeply meshed, inflected by his own experiences of being Dalit. Each of his films, from his 2012 debut *Attakathi*, to his double bill with Rajinikanth *Kabali* (2016) and *Kaala* (2018), and his last outing, the rousing boxing drama *Sarpatta Parambarai* (2021) has brought caste politics to the forefront, which is still a rarity in Indian cinema.

His singular focus on marginalised characters and stories makes him one of the most interesting voices in Indian cinema today, and a pioneer in the upsurge of the Dalit cultural movement in Tamil Nadu. "Ranjith has created a new grammar which encapsulates an absolute cutting edge of pop culture. My job is to create a platform. And, as they say, pass the mic," says producer and close associate Aditi Anand, as she whisks him away to the waiting crowd after we finish. In this interview, the filmmaker speaks of his journey, his response to the staggering inequalities of caste, and how he makes movies to connect people. Excerpts:

### When did you first become aware of caste?

These questions harassed me since my childhood. Going to school, walking through the fields, I kept wondering who I am? Why am I an outcast? Why am I being forced to live outside my village? Why can't I be free? I didn't get an answer.

When I was an adolescent, I understood how caste works in India. In villages, cities, everywhere. When I went to college and read about Babasaheb Ambedkar, my life changed completely. It was an eye-opener. I hear his voice every time I am troubled.

### How did you discover cinema?

I studied painting in arts college (Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai), and I thought that was my medium. There was a cultural programme in my college and a film

## ‘My life is resistance’

Tamil filmmaker Pa Ranjith, who unveiled the poster of his upcoming movie at the 75th Cannes Film Festival, talks about spotlighting caste inequalities and creating his brand of cinema as counterculture



ADITI ANAND

festival was part of it. For the first time, I attended a festival like that. That time, I was not good at English, I could read subtitles, but could not understand them. It was then that I watched *Children of Heaven*, and I literally cried. I watched *Cinema Paradiso*, *Run Lola Run*, *Life Is Beautiful*, *Battleship Potemkin* and *The Battle of Algiers* back-to-back for three days. Then I knew I wanted to be a director, because I wanted to tell my story, in my own way, of who I am.

**Do you think cinema can address the wrongs of the past? Can those wrongs be righted?**

See, when I look around, I ask what is my participation in any political process. Where is Dalit participation? Caste is so strong in Tamil

### CASTE, A SPELL

Pa Ranjit in Cannes, France, last month

Nadu. You ask yourself, what is my role? Only when we can have participation, we can have power. Cinema is so influential it can change perspectives. It can become the point of discussion. If cinema can make people believe that snakes can drink milk (*laughs*), then they can also believe when we speak about 'the annihilation of caste', in Babasaheb's words.

**What are the main challenges when it comes to creating your kind of cinema?**

Class is easier to show rather than caste. Class is not an uncomfortable thing. So, I said, we have to make those stories that will make people uncomfortable.

I don't want to make arthouse movies which only small groups of people see. Anyone can make movies on subaltern lives

and get an award. I just want to reach ordinary people who believe in caste and birth. My movies are not very artistic. I make commercial films as counterculture, to flip things around. You say I don't have a culture; I say I do. Here is my culture.

### Are your films making a difference?

When *Kabali* released, it made Rs 300 crore in India. It became such a big hit. People criticised me, 'how did you use that big man (Rajinikanth) like that?' Rajini sir responded by working with me again, in *Kaala*. In that film, I flipped it again, Rama is the villain, and Ravana is the hero (*laughs*). People said I was talking about caste in this way for the first time. It was like a bomb.

### Can one Pa Ranjith change the world?

I want to connect with all audiences, not only Dalits. I make movies to connect people, and to engage with people. If you don't understand politics or don't have knowledge, and you see an underdog do something big in a film, it becomes relatable.

### Does it have to do with the big star in your film?

With stars, without stars, doesn't matter. My movies say, I want to speak with you. When I get angry, I cannot speak, and I'm an angry man.

### But where does anger get you?

I convert my anger into my movies. That's why I don't openly show my emotions. You can see I'm very polite. But inside, I'm very angry.

### In today's India, with so many people being pushed to the margins, and so much polarisation, how do you position yourself?

I'm a human. Our fight is not economic, as Babasaheb said, it's not about wealth. Our fight is about trying to be treated equally. That's it. A human is human. Very simple, man! You can apply gender, religion, anything, to this. I'm against hierarchies in caste, gender, everything.

We have to fight, unite under one umbrella.

### Are you optimistic?

I don't want to wait for opportunities. I want to make opportunities. I don't want to live in the past. I don't want to wait for the future. I live in the present. I just want to resist. My life is resistance.

## Left in the Lurch

A new documentary on a section of Kashmir nobody talks about — its transgender community

Tanushree Ghosh

CALLED KHWAJA SARA (in Persian), they enjoyed a certain respect during the Mughal rule in Kashmir, between 1586 and 1751. The Mughals employed *hijras* in the women's quarters, because their several wives used to seek sex outside marriage with male servants, etc. The Sikh and Dogra rulers were indifferent, inviting them only to sing/perform. The British ensured total ostracisation with the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 to eliminate indigenous tribes and eunuchs.

Cut to the present. A unique practice has given them some social standing, but no social security. Poet-historian Zareef Ahmad Zareef's voice tells us, in a documentary, that the *hijras* turned *manzimyors*, or matchmakers, besides singing and dancing at weddings; they would even convey sweet nothings between lovers. Surbhi Dewan and S Akmal Hanan's expository feature-length *Trans Kashmir* was the documentary centrepiece at the recent Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival and will screen at India Habitat Centre, Delhi, on July 2.

Come daytime, after a night of wedding gala, the older generation of transwomen would don men's clothing to blend in the crowd — unlike in India or Pakistan. Shabnum, in the film, distinguishes between *aqwe*, who are natural, like them, and *chubarge*, who opt for surgery, which the community seniors consider un-Islamic. The young, of course, differ. Some cross-dress openly, go for surgery, think of marriage. Kashmir's transgenders neither beg at traffic signals nor have customs such as *badayi*, of blessing a newborn and getting money in return. The matchmaking profession is now waning among the new generation. The film strings together anecdotes of resistance and struggle let on by Reshma, a tailor, popular singer and *tumbaknaer* (percussion) artiste; Babloo and Shabnum, both wedding performers and matchmakers; matchmaker Nissar; all between the ages of 40 and 60; as well as Simran, 18, a bridal make-up and *mehndi* artist. Babloo is lucky enough to stay with his family. Reshma, like many, had to leave home. She has been spat on, on the street — as well as requested for a selfie video — by passers-by. Her 2020 music video *Hay hay wesjye* has more than 4 million views on YouTube.

"When I went to meet Babloo, someone in the neighbourhood laughed and said, you're making a film on that



## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

(Clockwise from top) A film still; directors Dewan and Hanan

one? You can't take these people seriously," says Srinagar-based Hanan, 52, who's been making social-issue films for 25 years and was Dewan's classmate at Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, from 2007-10.

"When you think of Kashmir, you don't think of the transgender or the LGBTQIA+ community, they aren't spoken of. Akmal had been reading their stories in the local newspapers, community leaders (also in the film) were coming out to talk to the media, there was a PIL case, the movement was growing. This was a challenging project for me, from language, culture to the gender spectrum," says Delhi-based Dewan, 37, whose previous projects came from a personal space — a short docu *Daughter of Nepal* (2018), and Pakistani American filmmaker Mara Ahmed's Partition documentary *A Thin Wall* (2015), which Dewan co-produced and did a bit role in.

A 2016 draft policy mandated medical boards determine a person's gender to issue transgender certificates. Aijaz Ahmad Bund, who runs the non-profit Sonzal (rain-bow in Kashmiri) Welfare Trust for LGBTQIA+ community and male survivors of sexual abuse, filed a PIL in the Srinagar High Court in 2017, for the "social, economic and political inclusion, rehabilitation of the *hijra* community, and recognition as a marginalised and vulnerable section of society," says Bund in the film, whose book *Hijras of Kashmir: A Marginalized Form of Personhood* (2018) is the first ethnographic study of Kashmir's trans community.

The 2019 abrogation, political and COVID-19 lockdowns left them isolated, broke, homeless, jobless, with medical ailments and no where withal. Doctors refuse to "even touch", let alone treat them in hospitals, "the medical fraternity in Kashmir is the most insensitive, it prescribes shock therapy to LGBTQIA+ people," says Bund. Bullying, violence — verbal (derogatory calls: *lanzch*, meaning impotent), mental/emotional, physical, even sexual — first begins at home, then at school. "The new law (Transgender Persons [Protection of Rights] Act, 2019) has not affected their lives. They still have to undergo medical tests for transgender certificates to prove their identity, and get access to social schemes (monthly pension of Rs 1,000), only one of the five in our film has received it. The PIL case lingers," says Dewan.

Hanan adds, "Old age is a big problem, as they live (and die) on their own, not in traditional *hijra gharanas*, which you see across South Asia." And while they are marginalised from Kashmir's mainstream movement, the majority of them "just want a roof on their heads, education (separate schools), and jobs, and the film is an extension of their struggle for social justice," says Dewan.



Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, AKEANSH CHOUDHARY S/o Kanchan Kumar Choudhary, R/o CS/603, PWO Housing Society, Sector-43, Gurgaon, Haryana declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as AKEANSH in my 10th, 12th & Bachelors of Engineering (B.E) Educational Certificates & Marksheets. The actual name of mine is AKEANSH CHOUDHARY, which may be amended accordingly

**I,Vishnu** Kumar Agarwal S/o Phool Chand Agarwal R/o-497,Kamla-Nagar Meerut,UP-250002,have changed my name to Vishnu Agarwal.

**I,Viney** Kumar Gupta,S/O Rajinder Prasad Gupta,R/O K-4/13,3rd Floor,K-4 Block,Model Town-II,Delhi-110009,Have Changed my Name to Vinay Kumar Gupta.

**I,Shanta** Baren W/o,Late Biren Barua R/O-H.No.CV-82, Bhagwati Vihar,Uttam-Nagar,D.K.K.Moham Garden, N.Delhi-110059,have changed my-name to Sadhya Barua.

**I,Radhika** W/o.Prithi Singh R/O,H.No.426/5, Sambhav Colony, Mandi-Village Hills,Delhi-110047 have change my name from Radhika to Radha for allPurposes, Vide-Affidavit No.IN-DL4892726563417U, Dated:24/June/2022 at Delhi.

**I,Puneet** S/o-Om Parkash Mangla,R/O Flat.No.102,First-Floor,Plot.No.3461/31, Near-Chirag Hospital, Rajendra-Park, Gurugram,(Haryana), have changed my name to Puneet Mangla,for all purposes.

**I,Punam** Chand,D/o Lok Ram,R/O R-2/37, Gurdin, Floor,Sector-11,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Poonam Chand,for all Purposes.

**I,Surinder** Singh,S/o Charan Singh,R/O WZ-III-B/18 Vishnu Garden Tilak-Nagar,Delhi,have changed my name to Surinder Singh.

**I,Pankaj** Tiwari, R/o. Flat. No.403, Tower-C1,The Residences-Uniworld Resorts, Sector-33,Gurgaon(Haryana),have changed my minor Daughter name,from Vidushi to Vidushi Tiwari,

**I,Neelam** Kumari W/o-Anil Kumar R/o:House-No.9, Village, Nilothi,Nangloi, New Delhi-41 Have Changed My Name to Neelam,for allPurposes.

**I,Nagarajan** Ramaswamy S/o Mr S.Ramaswamy R/o G-3, SLVB, Saastha Flats, Balaji Nagar, Nanganallur, Chennai, have change my minor son's name from ADITYA UMA NAGARAJAN to ADITYA NAGARAJAN IYER.

**I,NEELAM** BERIWAL,W/O BHUVAN BERIWAL,R/O ED-BLOCK,79-C, MADHUBAN CHOWK,PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034,have changed my name to NEELAM KANSAL.

**I,Madhur** S/o.Prithi Singh R/o,H.No.426/5, Sambhav Colony, Mandi-Village Hills,Delhi-110047 have change my name from Madhur to Madhur Chauhan for allPurposes, Vide-Affidavit No.IN-DL48928664419174U, Dated:24/June/2022 at Delhi.

**I,MEHAK** THAKRAL,W/O SHIVANK ANAND,R/O 39/13 1ST FLOOR, EAST PATEL NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110008,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEHAK ANAND.

**I,Krishna** Pal,S/o Ayodhya Prasad,R/O R-229, Gali No.2,Gautam Puri,Delhi-110053,Have Changed My Name To Krishan Pal,For All Purposes.

**I,Keerti** D/o.Prithi Singh R/o,H.No.426/5, Sambhav Colony, Mandi-Village Hills,Delhi-110047 have change my name from Keerti to Kirti for allPurposes, Vide-Affidavit No.IN-DL48928234985654U, Dated:24/June/2022 at Delhi.

**I,Kanta** Rani W/o Vishnu Agarwal,R/o Flat.No.154,5th Floor,The Farmers CGHS Ltd.,Plot.No.8,Sector-13,Rohini Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Kanta Agarwal.

**I,KUMUD** SHARMA,W/O SUNIL KUMAR,R/o Nimbus-1801, Paramount Symphony,Crossing Republik,Ghaziabad,UP-201016,have changed my name to KUMUD VISHWAKARMA.

**I,Jasmeet** Singh,S/O-Harpal Singh,R/O-799,Shri.Nagar-Hapur-Uttar-245101,Declare That Jasmeet Singh Longianiy And Jasmeet Singh Is The Name Of same-Person And In Future I Will Be Known As Jasmeet Singh.

**I,AJAY JAIN** S/O BRIJ MOHAN JAIN, R/O 8289/5, MULTANI DHANDA, PAHAR GANJ, NEW DELHI-110055, have changed my name to AJAY KUMAR JAIN, permanently

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**Our Property Document Alotment Letter Possession Letter Lost Around Our House If Found Contact E 323 GF FF East Of Kailash New Delhi 110065 M: 9810012368**

**I,Rajesh** Sharma,Proprietor of Salaria Builders,at Omaxe City Centre,C-4,2nd Floor,Sector-49,Sohna-Road-Gurgaon declare that signed cheques.No.098174 to 098182(9-Cheques) of Current A/c.No.077310200001618 of IDBI Bank Ltd. Bhiwadi,have been misplaced/lost, we have not issued to anyone.Finder Please-Contact at above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
MY CLIENT RAGPAL KAPOOR, WIFE SH. BALINDER SING, H.NO. K-281 GALI NO-4, KHADKA (COLONY) SWARPOK NAGAR DELHI-110042 SEVERE ALL RELATION AND DEBAR HER SON SUKHVINDER SINGH AND HIS WIFE PARAMJEET KAUR SEVERE DAUGHTER NAME, JAPREET KAUR, HARPREET KAUR, RAJNIT KAUR AND HER DAUGHTERS NAME RAJINDER KAUR, KARAMEET KAUR, HARJIT KAUR, FROM ENTIRE MOVABLE-IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES DUE TO HOSTILE BEHAVIOUR, MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ANY ACTS/DEEDS.

**I,Saurabh** Gupta S/o Shri Krishna Prasad R/o 310, Sector-A, Pocket-C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 had lost Original Builder Buyer Agreement of Flat No.1067, 10th Floor, Block-Avalon, Mahagun Mascot, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201016 which was executed by Mahagun India Pvt.Ltd.16223, Pages-385 to 470 at Sr.No.1578 on 22.02.2019 in my favour at the Office of Sub-Registrar First, Ghaziabad. If found contact Saurabh at 9873887983.

**I,Ananya,** D/o Dr. Vijay Singh Costa, R/o-DA-A-4, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Ananya Costa for all future purposes.

**I,VIKAS KUMAR GIRISH KUMAR SINGHAL,S/O-GIRISH KUMAR SINGHAL,R/O.HNO.152,SARAY NASRULLAH KHURJA,BULANDSHAHR,UTTAR PRADESH-203313.CHANGED MY NAME TO VIKAS KUMAR SINGHAL.**

**I,KIRANJIT KAUR W/O-HARBANS SINGH R/O E-1/10,PART-2,MODEL TOWN,DELHI-110009.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KIRAN KAUR.**

**I,DEEPA VIKAS KUMAR SINGHAL,W/O VIKAS KUMAR SINGHAL, HNO.152,SARAY NASRULLAH KHURJA,BULANDSHAHR,UTTAR PRADESH-203313.CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPA DIXIT.**

**I,hitherto** known as Avtar Singh S/o Sh. Ram Ditta Mal residing at 45F,Block-L12,Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Avtar Singh Mongia.

**I,DEEPA VIKAS KUMAR SINGHAL,W/O VIKAS KUMAR SINGHAL, HNO.152,SARAY NASRULLAH KHURJA,BULANDSHAHR,UTTAR PRADESH-203313.CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPA DIXIT.**

**I, Rishabh, S/o -Ajay Kumar Singh,R/o H.No.549, Ashoka Enclave-2, Sector-37, Faridabad,Haryana-121003,have changed my name to Rishabh Singh for all purposes.**

MATRIMONIAL

**I,Keerti** D/o.Prithi Singh R/o,H.No.426/5, Sambhav Colony, Mandi-Village Hills,Delhi-110047 have change my name from Keerti to Kirti for allPurposes, Vide-Affidavit No.IN-DL48928234985654U, Dated:24/June/2022 at Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Flat No 236C, Pocket-E, LIG Flat, GTB Enclave, Mand Nagri, Delhi-110093. I, Mr. Shyam Lal Singh S/o Late Sh. Ramphal Singh have lost the DDA Documents 1.Demand Letter 2. Possession cum allotment Letter for 236C, Pocket-E,LIG Flats, GTB Enclave, Nand Nagri, Delhi -110093.I have also FIR in Police Station Vide LR No.523229/2022

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The public at large is hereby informed that my client Smt. Kavita Kumar Daughter of Late Smt. Sudarshan Arora is legal heirs of the property bearing No. C-6/24/2, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi-110016 was owned by Late Smt. Sudarshan Arora wife of Late Sh.0m Prakash Arora. After her death there is dispute amongst the legal heirs regarding their share in the property. Any person dealing with the above said property without the consent of all legal heirs would be liable for all risk and the consequences arising therefrom. Any such sale/transfer of interest would be illegal and not binding upon remaining legal heirs.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that Mrs. Gita Arora (hereinafter referred to as the said purchaser), is purchasing the Entire Third Floor with all above referred rights for the property along with 1/4th proportionate share in the said parking area, with all other common facilities of the above-said building along with the first floor of undivided, indivisible, impartable land rights under the said property, i.e. built on Plot No. 1-124-125, Block-I, admeasuring 220 sq. ft., Village Basa (Dargah), Kirti Nagar, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as 'said property') from Mrs. Timsy Madaan, who is its absolute owner vide Sale Deed dated 19-02-2021 registered at Sub-Registrar Office No. 2030. Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, lease, gift, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice, with all documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or purchaser.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
BE IT KNOWN TO all that my client Sh. Sunit Gupta S/o Sh. Vishnu Datt and his wife Smt. Uma Gupta R/O D-229, Raj Nagar-2, F-Block, Near Noida, Ram Public School, Palam Colony, South West Delhi-110077 have severed all their relations with their son Sh. Vishnu Gupta and daughter-in-law Smt. Nancy Gupta (D/O Sh. Surennder Singh) and all surplus and had have downed and debarred them from their movable and immovable properties. If any person deal with their names and their share in their own risk and any and their clients shall not be responsible in any manner.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to general public at large that my client **Aditya Rajput S/o Late Yashwant Singh and Nanda Rani O.Late Aditya Rajput R/o 2/37, Nirmanik Colony, Delhi** have severed their all relations and disowned their son **Prashant Kumar Rajput** and his wife **Minakshi Thakur** from all their movable and immovable properties due to their misconduct and bad activities. My client and their other family members shall not be responsible for any wrongful and illegal act in future. Any person deal with them shall be self responsible.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that Mrs. Gita Arora (hereinafter referred to as the said purchaser), is purchasing the Entire Third Floor with all above referred rights for the property along with 1/4th proportionate share in the said parking area, with all other common facilities of the above-said building along with the first floor of undivided, indivisible, impartable land rights under the said property, i.e. built on Plot No. 1-124-125, Block-I, admeasuring 220 sq. ft., Village Basa (Dargah), Kirti Nagar, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as 'said property') from Mrs. Timsy Madaan, who is its absolute owner vide Sale Deed dated 19-02-2021 registered at Sub-Registrar Office No. 2030. Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, lease, gift, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice, with all documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or purchaser.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
MY CLIENT RAGPAL KAPOOR, WIFE SH. BALINDER SING, H.NO. K-281 GALI NO-4, KHADKA (COLONY) SWARPOK NAGAR DELHI-110042 SEVERE ALL RELATION AND DEBAR HER SON SUKHVINDER SINGH AND HIS WIFE PARAMJEET KAUR SEVERE DAUGHTER NAME, JAPREET KAUR, HARPREET KAUR, RAJNIT KAUR AND HER DAUGHTERS NAME RAJINDER KAUR, KARAMEET KAUR, HARJIT KAUR, FROM ENTIRE MOVABLE-IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES DUE TO HOSTILE BEHAVIOUR, MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ANY ACTS/DEEDS.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Sale and Mortgage of Residential Entire Ground Floor Without Roof Rights of Built on Plot Bearing No. J-15, Area Measuring 300 Sq Yds., Situated in the layout plan of Reserve Bank Staff Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., now known as Reserve Bank Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi (Herein after referred as the 'said property').

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the public at large that my client Mrs. Anjali Gulati W/o Mr. Navoon Gulati R/o C-7, Railway Colony, Basant Road, Paharganj, Delhi-110055, her lost the Flat Buyer Agreement dated 15.09.2011 pertaining to Flat No. 11/171 on 17th Floor, Tower-11, PLAM OLYMPIA, Built on Plot No. CH-02, Sector-16C, Greater Noida, in the name of Mrs. Anjali Gulati, and hence this notice is issued to public at large that if anyone finds the same, kindly contact the undersigned.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT I, SANJAY NAGPAL, S/O LATE SH. NARAIN DASS NAGPAL (N.D. NAGPAL) IS THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF MIO FLAT NO 44B/F B BLOCK/PCKET-A/1 VIKASPUR DELHI AND I LOST/MISPLACED ORIGINAL PAPERS LIKE ORIGINAL DOA POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR ELECTRICITY AND WATER IN RESPECT OF ABOVE SAID FLAT & HAVE BEEN REQUESTED VIDE LR NO.531801/2022 DATED 05/06/2022 WITH POLICE STATION, CRIME BRANCH, DELHI, IF ANY BODY FIND THE SAID DOCUMENTS, INFORM ME AT THE ABOVE SAID ADDRESS OR PH. NO: 868846034. IF ANY OTHER CLAIMANT HAS ANY RIGHT IN THE AFORESAID PROPERTY, HE/SHE SHOULD FILE MR & GIVE INTIMATION TO DYABEST, DIRECTOR, M.I.D.S. DOA, VIKAS SADAN, INA, NEW DELHI WITH IN 15 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THIS NOTICE.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the public at large that my client Mrs. Anjali Gulati W/o Mr. Navoon Gulati R/o C-7, Railway Colony, Basant Road, Paharganj, Delhi-110055, her lost the Flat Buyer Agreement dated 15.09.2011 pertaining to Flat No. 11/171 on 17th Floor, Tower-11, PLAM OLYMPIA, Built on Plot No. CH-02, Sector-16C, Greater Noida, in the name of Mrs. Anjali Gulati, and hence this notice is issued to public at large that if anyone finds the same, kindly contact the undersigned.

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**"IMPORTANT"**  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the public that Lease Deed executed by New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (Noida) in favour of Mr. Dalip Khanna S/o Sh. Amar Nath Khanna in respect of property No. E-48, Sector 9, Noida registered at Sub Registrar, Noida on 28-12-1985 vide musanna No. 5687 and registration No. 5686 is missing. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone based on the said missing document. If anyone has already dealt with any kind of transaction, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which any claim, if any, shall be considered as waived.

**कार्यालय अपीयरता अभियन्ता दरिद्रगण विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, गुरास**

**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**  
निविदा सं० 61/2022-23-विद्युत नगरीय वितरण खण्ड हाथरस के क्षेत्र में पूर्ण जमा योजना में नवीन लाइनों निष्पादन करने सम्बन्धी कार्य। (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 10000.00) निविदा सं० 62/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के क्षेत्र में दीवार आगुद/ओभी-रुफ्टन से क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 63/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र पुरी पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 64/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 65/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र सिन्दनवाड़ एवं अल्लुखुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन के वार्जर के स्थान पर नवीन बटरी व चार्जर स्थापित करने का कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 66/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 67/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड चतुर्थ सादाबाद के अर्धेन उपखण्ड प्रथम सादाबाद के क्षेत्र में दीवार आगुद/ओभी-रुफ्टन से क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य। (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 68/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 69/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 70/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 71/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 72/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 73/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 74/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 75/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 76/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 77/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 78/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 79/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 80/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 81/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 82/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी 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अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 87/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 88/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 89/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 90/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 91/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 92/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 93/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 94/2022-23-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अर्धेन 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र नगीपुर एवं पूर्वदिनपुर पर वीसीपी पैनलों पर क्षतिग्रस्त पोल/लाइन की मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने सम्बन्धी कार्य (क्षेत्रीय राशि रु० 20000.00) निविदा सं० 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# Harmanpreet leads India to series-sealing win over Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DAMBULLA (SRI LANKA), JUNE 25

SKIPPER HARMANPREET Kaur contributed with both bat and ball to steer the Indian women's cricket team to a series sealing five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second T20 here on Saturday. Vice captain Smriti Mandhana's (39 off 34 balls) experience complemented by the exuberance of both Shefali Verma (17 off 10 balls) and Sabbhineni Meghana (17 off 10 balls) helped India chase down the 126-run target in 19.1 overs.

India stuttered in what should have been a comfortable run chase before Harmanpreet took India home with an unbeaten 31 of 32 balls. Sri Lanka squandered a fine start to post a below par 125 for seven. The third and final T20 will be played here on Monday.

It was a day to remember for Mandhana who became the second fastest Indian woman to reach 2,000 runs T20 runs. Mandhana reached the feat in her 84th innings, becoming the third Indian woman after the legendary Mithali Raj (70 innings) and current skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (88 innings) to cross the mark. Opting to bat first and with the series on line, it was the duo of captain Chamari Athapaththu (43 off 41 balls) and Vishmi Gunaratne (45 off 50 balls) provided an ideal start for the Lankans by taking the Indian bowlers to the cleaners.

The duo also put up Sri Lanka's best opening stand (87) in T20s to leave the Indians frantically rummaging for breakthroughs.

However, as both Athapaththu and Gunaratne departed, it was a sorry state of affairs for Sri Lanka as they lost a slew of wickets, only managing an underwhelming total. Deepthi Sharma (2/34 in 4 overs) was certainly the best bowler on view while the likes of Radha Yadav and Pooja Vastrakar also helped India claw back with the ball.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Sri Lanka 125/7 in 20 overs (Vishmi Gunaratne 45; Deepthi Sharma 2/34, Harmanpreet Kaur 1/12) lost to India 127/5 in 19.1 overs (Smriti Mandharan 39, Inoka Ranaweera 2/18) by 5 wickets.



Harmanpreet Kaur scored 31 runs. BCCI

**SPORTLINE:** Hima Das won the country's first track gold at a global meet. But in the last two years, a back injury, a hamstring tear, and a bout of COVID-19 derailed the former world junior champions' progress. Fresh off a 100m gold at the Inter-State Meet, she speaks to **Andrew Amsan** about her overnight stardom, her physical battles, and the road ahead.

# 'Thought would die from Covid... kept door open so that no one would have to break it'

**Chennai holds a special place in your heart, doesn't it?**

Yes. Even while I was a junior athlete my first senior competition was the open nationals in Chennai in 2017. I won gold in the 200m recording my personal best timing back then. That is how I got selected for the India camp for the first time and my journey began. Chennai is my lucky charm.

**It has been a tough few years but the smile on your face seems to have finally returned...**

I had been feeling low for quite some time due to my injuries. After the back injury, missing the Olympics qualification by a whisker due to a hamstring tear, going through COVID. Despite the grade 2 hamstring tear, I decided to run once during the Olympic trials. It was a mistake that aggravated my injury. Those were testing times for me. I didn't go home but decided to go to Guwahati and work with a physio. For the next six months, I was confined to my room, working on my injury recovery.

**You haven't spoken much about your battle with COVID-19...**

Just days after joining the camp after my recovery, I contracted COVID. It was so bad that I honestly thought I was going to die. On the fourth or fifth day, I woke up gasping for air in the middle of the night. I opened all the windows and unlatched the door so that no one would have to break the door to enter if I die. It's something very emotional, not many know about it.

On the second day, my taste, smell and appetite had returned, miraculously for a couple of hours. It was like magic. The next day it went away again and took another two months for normalcy to return. I had lost a lot of weight and my muscles lost strength. When I resumed practice, I wasn't able to run properly, I had breathing issues. My lungs were affected. The doctors also asked me not to exert myself.

**After your recovery from COVID, you attended camps in Turkey and Thiruvananthapuram. How did it go?**

Two months later, I showed signs of improvement on the track. After training in Thiruvananthapuram, I flew to Turkey with



Hima Das targets a 400 metres return at next year's Asian Games. Andrew Amsan

the team. I had a great time training there, the weather was ideal. This time the coach gave me additional responsibility - I was asked to lead the relay team members. We worked a lot on our coordination and baton exchange.

**How did you handle the overnight stardom after your U-20 Worlds medal in Finland?**

I didn't expect it nor was I prepared to handle it. I think that medal changed Indian athletics and brought a lot of attention to the sport. There are drawbacks of being popular, now I can't go anywhere I feel like. When I was in Chennai in 2017 I roamed around the streets freely. I like shopping but it's not easy now because people recognise me at stores. So I just sit in my room and shop online. In Guwahati, I sometimes sneak out for meals and chai but they always refuse to take

money. I have to literally force them. I receive a lot of love from supporters wherever I go, I just want to request people to come to the stadium and cheer for me and the other athletes. I want people to fill the stadiums like they do at cricket matches. After all, athletics is the mother of all sports.

**How did you handle the disappointment of missing out on the Tokyo Olympics?**

My team and the Athletics Federation of India kept me motivated. The federation treats all athletes with a lot of care. Sachin (Tendulkar) sir told me, 'that there will be ups and downs in life but a true athlete keeps fighting'. Whenever I felt a little low, I went on short trips with family, close friends and my coach to someplace quiet.

**What is the difference between the 18-year-old you and now?**

There have been a lot of changes but I still have the heart of an 18-year-old. Responsibilities have increased. Earlier I would eat whatever I got but now I follow a strict diet. I have become more disciplined: having meals on time, sleeping early, etc.

**How has your life transformed since the Jr. Worlds medal? Thanks to your sporting achievements you have access to better facilities like stays at good hotels.**

It doesn't matter where I stay, I can even rest on a pavement, not kidding. In the past, I have travelled to national meets sleeping on the floor next to the toilets on trains. Two days, sometimes three. I have had to travel from Assam to Gujarat for meets without reservation. I haven't changed much, even now when I go to a big store, I hope I get a good offer or discount (laughs). Sports has given me everything so I have to respect it. Now I can't go and rest anywhere I like, or my body will ask me questions. I need to stay at a decent place with a good atmosphere.

**A good part of your teenage life has been spent training in camps. Do you miss your friends or the lifestyle they live?**

I am actually a very reserved person. I don't like to be in a loud environment or amid a lot of hustle and bustle. I like to stay in my room, analyse my game, watch movies on my phone and listen to music. I like cooking as well.

**How was it switching to sprints from 400m?**

The injury gave me a lot of time and I have gradually eased into sprints. And I was a sprinter earlier. When I left football for athletics, I started off with 100m, 200m, and long jump. It is not frustrating to switch to sprints, the main motive is to do what is best for my back injury. Back injuries don't heal

so quickly, my L4 and L5 regions have nig-gles. I can't put too much load, even at the gym I am very careful.

**Will we see you back in 400m?**

Let's see, if I can get fit by the next Asian Games that would be great. It's (400m) not over yet and will never be. 400m is a tough but a good event for Indians. If we push a little we can win medals at Asian Games. I still have a year, so I will gradually try and hopefully, my back doesn't trouble me.

**Post your failure to qualify for the Olympics a lot of people said harsh things to you. Did that affect you?**

Those who want to say things are most welcome to but I am just focused on my work. I know what I do. I have a nice joint family where I grew up, but for the last six years, I have stayed away for training. It's not for some kind of enjoyment. I would welcome those people to come and watch me train, they will leave with tears in their eyes. The training is so intense that throwing up isn't uncommon and sometimes there's a little blood in it too. It's not a big deal for athletes but for those who don't know the drill, it will change your outlook.

**What has sports given to your family?**

I wanted to clarify this. A lot of what is shown by the media about my family isn't true. Some have said that we were so poor that we couldn't afford three meals, but that's not true at all. My uncle retired from a govt job, my aunt was a head teacher. My father runs a nice farm and we have some land. All this before I came into sports. People should come and see for themselves before they write stuff about my family. If they say Hima was poor, I will agree but if they say my family was poor I won't. Let me participate in the Olympics once, then I will take you to my hometown, show you around, and tell you my whole story.

## BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: None

NORTH	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ 06	♠ AJ32	1H			
♥ Q10954	♥ AKJ32	Pass	3H	Pass	3S
♦ AQ42	♦ 76	Pass	4D	dbl	Pass
♣ 97	♣ AQ	Pass	4H	Pass	Pass

South's raise to 3H promises at least four hearts and ten or eleven support points. South was keen on a slam and made a cue bid of 3S to see if North could cooperate. Which he did by bidding 4D. East's double suggested that any diamond finesse would be offside. North's refusal to redouble implied that he did not have the king of diamonds. He went back to 4H and South had to give up on a slam. West's lead is the eight of diamonds. How should South play?

The West Hand: S-K985H-76 D-B3C-K10632  
The East Hand: S-1074H-8D-KJ1095C-J854  
South is faced with a wealth of possible finesses. He has finesses in all suits but trumps. Which diamond would you play from dummy?

Ans: This finesse isn't working so why bother? Queen: A finesse is a finesse. Maybe East was kidding with his double. Small: If East has just three diamonds, I can let him have this one and then I can play the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond in my hand, which will set up my queen.

If you take the view that East has the king of diamonds, you will go up with the ace. There are two huge reasons to think East has the king. He doubled 4D, which is a big hint and West led the eight, a high spot card suggesting he does not have a high card in diamonds.

After winning the first trick, you can draw trump and lead the queen of spades. If it wins you can later take the club finesse and if the spade finesse loses, you now have two spade winners which you can use to discard dummy's little club. What is the trap on this hand?

If South finesses in diamonds, East will win and return a club. Now South is faced with a possible club loser and a possible spade loser. By winning the ace of diamonds and later setting up a spade winner, South guaranteed taking eleven tricks. Finessing in diamonds runs the risk that South will take just ten tricks.

TIP: If you are in the middle of a slam auction and someone doubles a cue bid, you do not have to bid. You can pass the bid back to your partner to see what he wants to do. Your pass has the advantage of giving your partnership extra bidding room.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH	EAST
♠ KQ104	♠ A97
♥ A105	♥ 873
♦ J102	♦ 53
♣ Q64	♣ KJ1053

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1C		
Pass	1S	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass

South opens 1C and rebids 1NT. North raises to game and West is on lead. His choice is the nine of diamonds. What do you think West has in diamonds?

## SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2379

**QUICK CLUES ACROSS**

- Polaris bear (4)
- Not in a busy way (4)
- Biblical tower (5)
- Entertainer (9)
- Young ladies (5)
- Clairvoyant (7)
- Arachnids (7)
- Pulls with effort (4)
- The scarcity of food (6)
- A female deer (3)
- 2016 Summer Olympics host (3)
- Purchasing (6)
- Horse's gait (4)
- Become opaque (7)
- Baltic state (7)
- Mendacity (5)
- Accepting; recognising or agreeing (9)
- Stairs (5)
- Agile (4)
- Saw (4)

**DOWN**

- Disliked (9)
- Penitent (5)
- Government by the people (9)
- Threads (5)
- Deceived or misled (8)
- Tavern employee (9)
- Tilts over (5)
- Ancient invaders (5)
- Make worldwide (9)
- Publican (9)
- Alienated (9)
- Condenses written work (8)
- Distinctive culture (5)
- Leers (5)
- Irish poet (5)
- Cacophonous (5)

and a note ? (3)

- Page puts on a little weight in spring (6)
- In America, the heartless teacher used to be behind the iron curtain (4)
- Gives voice and breaks the tension (7)
- Thrash the French rock group (7)
- Cat flap close at hand (5)
- Many cheer the reformation of Satan (4-5)
- Dispose of money finally after taking up additional note (5)
- Nice request rejected - give notes ! (4)
- Biblical town subject to inflation (4)

**DOWN**

- Which fish might shake the roost? (4-5)
- A first performance backed when serviced by a city's underground (5)
- Film in which Dracula comes to fear sun setting (9)
- On which a watch is kept close at hand (5)
- Only if it's furnished (8)
- Ancient writers made their points with then (9)
- Earnestly ask for some simple advice (5)
- Sniff at a game without hesitation ! (5)
- Plant against, for example, Beatie composition (9)

**Solutions to 2378**

**QUICK CLUES Across:** 1. Archaic, 5. Dulesdem, 9. Anna, 10. Operation, 11. Upi, 12. Total, 13. Munaf, 14. Elcid, 16. Impartial, 19. Bedraggle, 20. Yemen, 22. Thigh, 24. India, 26. Nag, 27. Hobgoblin, 29. Paisa, 30. Sherbet, 31. Moneyed. **Down:** 1. Asarule, 2. Convinced, 3. Allat, 4. Chortling, 5. Dwell, 6. Kea, 7. Deign, 8. Mindful, 13. Many, 15. Death, 17. Pseudonym, 18. Immensity, 19. Botches, 21. Niggard, 23. Imbue, 24. Inlet, 25. Aspen, 28. Ony, 31. Cryptic. **Across:** 1. Sidearm, 5. Panache, 9. Doggo, 10. Newsflash, 11. CIA, 12. Dimes, 13. Cream, 14. Rains, 16. Nitpicker, 19. Trenchant, 20. Peter, 22. ICBM, 24. Acute, 26. ESP, 27. Mandoline, 29. Naisid, 30. Red gums, 31. Doughty. **Down:** 1. Side-car, 2. Dogmatist, 3. Aloud, 4. Monomania, 5. Powsy, 6. Nef, 7. Crane, 8. Exhumer, 13. Chip, 15. Sucks, 17. Titled deed, 18. Kittenish, 19. Trimmer, 21. Rapidly, 23. Boned, 24. Amiss, 25. Bantu, 28. OAU

## If it's your Birthday

**Sunday June 26**  
You may feel all the good things lie in the past. If so, you're mistaken. There is plenty of good fortune still to come, as you'll be finding out over the coming few weeks.

**Monday June 27**  
You're a big enough person to take other people's demands on board and make the most of everything that is going your way. You'll be thinking the unthinkable.

**Tuesday June 28**  
Your emotional ties are about to go through a decisive phase with results which will turn out to be totally positive. Don't imagine, though, that a partner should always take first place.

**Wednesday June 29**  
You'll be ready to make the most of your many gifts and talents, but you have to be prepared to strip away dead wood, if only to make space for the next year's worth of offers and invitations.

**Thursday June 30**  
Before you go right over the top, ensure that you are not being influenced by others in the wrong way. You should be true to your deeper nature and do only what you know to be right and proper.

**Friday July 1**  
You will be able to implement changes and improvements in almost whatever area of life you wish, and that's sufficient reason to lay your plans with care.

**Saturday July 2**  
It looks as if past good deeds finally bring benefits. If you take a major decision now, then you might just reap the rewards soon.

## YOUR WEEK AHEAD

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Money matters must take first place. All you can do is try to see that you make all decisions in line with practical choices. Do yourself a favour and let others take the risks. Children, though, rely on your constructive help, so please do your best to be positive. The more you believe life can be better, the better it becomes.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Venus, your vivacious planetary ruler, is moving from one intense position to another, and you're not alone in feeling sensitive. The planets are so arranged that just about everyone this week will be ruled by their emotions, including close friends and partners as well as colleagues at work.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
Now that both Mercury and Venus are once again travelling through determined, intense, passionate and lively regions of the zodiac, you have no excuse for prevaricating, refusing to take decisions and evading your responsibilities. At work, please prepare for unexpected but productive over-time.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
It's certainly a fine time to take certain intimate matters, especially romance, more seriously than usual, especially as there seems to be a confrontation looming on the horizon. Problems may arise from an unwillingness to take partners into your confidence, so confess your feelings.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Any friction is likely to centre on your home or family life, but there's no reason why this shouldn't have a positive outcome. After all, it's good to clear the air. You may well be pushed into making much-needed improvements at work, mainly in relationships with colleagues.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
With any luck, you will escape the troubling disputes now being aroused by energetic Mars' passionate relationship with powerful Pluto, in which case you must rely on your common sense to patch up quarrels between friends. Professional plans will come together nicely once you know you have family support.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Play the peacemaker and stay aloof from any squabbling that's going on. You're probably aware that it's much better to get on with your own life as quietly and efficiently as possible, rather than it is to rise to provocation. Ambitious and competitive Librans are in with an excellent chance of a prize.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)**  
As Mars, your ruling planet, encounters Neptune, planet of strange surprises, your energy level may first pick up - then start to slide. At this stage, it's therefore not in your interest to take on too many responsibilities. Indulge a favourite fantasy, and make the most of a long-term dream.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)**  
Beneath the surface, romantic passions are seething. There are few things guaranteed to reinforce affairs of the heart more than a healthy dose of mystery or intrigue. The law of the universe states that all your good deeds will be repaid in the future. Don't judge others, but do your best to help a partner recover their confidence.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
Mars, the planet which rules your energy-levels is still behaving strangely, forming a curious relationship with dark, deep Pluto, an impulsive combination that is bound to bring about domestic explosions unless you take it on yourself to act with great reserve, dignity and wisdom. Take the lead at work, and propose overdue changes.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
This is not the best time to count on all your hopes working out according to plan. On the other hand, if you are amenable to last-minute changes, you will find there is much of value in chance experiences. Also, pay attention to your dreams, as they may be trying to tell you something.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
The positive side of current developments will shortly be revealed in other people's willingness to bring old conflicts to an end and to share the responsibility for domestic upheavals. When everyone agrees to get on much better, all aspects of your life will improve dramatically. That's a certainty.

## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

\_\_\_ is an \_\_\_, which exists off itself. It is its own value. - Thornton Wilder (4,...6)

**RVEEE**

--	--	--	--	--	--

**DWLOR**

--	--	--	--	--	--

**RUNWAY**

--	--	--	--	--	--

**VAPING**

--	--	--	--	--	--

SOLUTION: RVEE is an energy, DWLOR is an energy, RUNWAY is an energy, VAPING is an energy. Answer: Love is an energy, which exists off itself. It is its own value. - Thornton Wilder

## SUDOKU 4877

**Difficulty Level 3s Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

			1	6				2
							7	
9	2		7				8	
						4	6	
	5	4	6	2	1	3	9	
	3	6						
	9				6		2	5
	8							
7					4	5		

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4876

9	7	3	1	5	4	8	6	2
1	4	2	3	6	8	9	7	5
8	6	5	9	7	2	1	4	3
7	5	8	6	2	1	3	9	4
4	3	1	5	8	9	6	2	7
6	2	9	7	4	3	5	1	8
2	1	6	4	3	5	7	8	9
5	8	7	2	9	6	4	3	1
3	9	4	8	1	7	2	5	6



BRIEFLY



World Cup: Abhishek, Jyothi bag compound mixed team gold

*Paris:* India won its maiden World Cup gold in compound mixed team archery event after the duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam outclassed their experienced French opponents at the Stage 3 edition here on Saturday. Riding on a spectacular start, the Indians withered late resistance from the French pair of Jean Bouch and 48-year-old Olympic medallist Sophie Dodemont to seal the contest 152-149, a first-ever World Cup gold for India in the compound mixed team event. The gold also opened the account of Indian archers, who have assured a second medal in the women's recurve team event where the trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Simranjeet Kaur will fight for the yellow metal on Sunday.

U- 23 football: India lose to USA

*Dambulla:* The Indian women's football team suffered a 1-4 defeat against the USA in its last match of the three-Nation U-23 tournament at Helsingborg in Sweden on Saturday .India created a flurry of chances and took the lead in the eighth minute through Pyari Xaxa, but the Americans picked up steam as the match progressed and drew level in the first half before scoring three more after the breather. Xaxa found the back of the net as she pulled the trigger from long range after being fed by Manisha Kalyan.

Diamond League test for Neeraj

*Stockholm:* A strong field awaits Olympic javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra in the prestigious Diamond League Meet in Stockholm on June 30, which will be his biggest event ahead of the World Championships in Eugene, USA, next month. The 24-year-old Chopra will come into the Swedish capital with confidence after clinching his first win of the season at the Kuortane Games in Finland on June 18, beating reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada for the second time this month.

Hardik happy to lead India against Ireland

*Malahide:* He struck gold in his debut season as captain in the IPL, and Hardik Pandya admits that responsibility brings out the best in him on a cricket field. Hardik, who led the Gujarat Titans to the IPL title in the side's and his debut season earlier this year, has been named as captain of the Indian team for the two-match T20 International series against Ireland. And the dashing all-rounder said he believes in taking ownership on the field. "Earlier also, I liked taking up responsibility and now also it is the same but it is a bit more responsibility now. I always believed that I did better when I took responsibility," Hardik said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MP have one hand on Trophy

Patidar slams an imperious ton to knock the stuffing out of Mumbai and strengthens MP's control in Ranji final

ABHISHEK PUROHIT  
BENGALURU, JUNE 25

MUMBAI MAY have had a tiny window of opportunity when they reduced Madhya Pradesh to 430 for 6 – a lead of 56 for MP – on the fourth morning of the Ranji Trophy final at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. But Rajat Patidar's brilliance and No 8 Saransh Jain's pluck ensured MP stretched their first innings to 536 and kept Mumbai in the field for a gruelling 177.2 overs.

Hardik Tamore, opening in the place of the injured Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Prithvi Shaw began the Mumbai second innings with a stand of 63 in 10.3 overs but MP began to bowl wide and Mumbai's push ran out of steam with the exit of the openers. Heading into the final day, Mumbai were still behind by 49 and MP's grip on their maiden Ranji title (since the state's re-organization) appeared ironclad.

The Chinnaswamy pitch showed some signs of wear and tear early on the fourth day. Mohit Avasthi got a length delivery to take off for a surprised MP captain Aditya Shrivastava to edge to first slip off the keeper's gloves. Shams Mulani got one to stay low and another one to kick from around the same spot just outside off stump. Mulani would extend his lead at the top of the season's wicket-takers list to 42 scalps with a five-for in a punishing spell of 63.2 overs.

Tushar Deshpande also had his tail up early on, generating speeds of 140kph and finding his radar for once to uproot Akshat Raghuvanshi's off stump. He would slip in a fuller one with the third new ball through the gap between Patidar's bat and pad later, but the in-form batsman from Indore had MP in sight of 500 by then.

Shouts of 'RCB, RCB' would ring out from the stand next to the MP dressing room as the crowd of a few hundred cheered Patidar's boundaries and his hundred, which came off 163 balls. Patidar did walk into a position of strength with the MP score on 269 for 2 but what stood out was the disdain with which he took the Mumbai bowling apart. Resuming on 67, he whipped his first ball of the day from Avasthi for four past a diving short midwicket.

Barring one occasion where he got a bit of a top-edge and the ball sailed wide of deep square leg, his pulls were absolutely dismissive. As were his punches off the back foot. It was a tired attack of which only Deshpande had some pace, but Patidar's dominance was of the sort that stays in the memory for a while. His backfoot play was strong against the spinners too, with powerful cuts as well as late dabs past slip.

After Patidar departed, Jain kept the Mumbai fielders waiting for some more time, knocking the ball around and growing in con-



Shouts of 'RCB, RCB' rang out from the stands whenever Rajat Patidar found the boundary.

PTI

In the only final MP have made previously, in 1998-99, they took a 75-run first-innings lead against Karnataka at this very venue.

fidence to make 57 off 97, his maiden first-class fifty. There were a couple of rain interruptions in the afternoon that took some more time out of the game, despite play being extended until 6pm, and light allowing action until just a few minutes before that deadline. The MP innings ended with Jain holing out to long-on and giving Mulani his sixth five-for in ten innings this season. It did come with a steep learning curve as the left-arm spinner had to toil for long periods on the third day, which proved to be the best one for batting in this game.

"It took me a long time, yes, 63 overs. But it was important for me to hold one end up as

much as I could," a visibly tired Mulani said after stumps. "This wicket is difficult to bowl on, but you have to do the job for the team anyhow. At the end of the day, it is a personal milestone, yeah, but the team needs to win, that is more important.

"The third day was a very big learning phase for me because the wicket was not doing anything. But I had to keep bowling, I had to be there all the time. I got the results on the fourth day but I would have loved to get this result on the third day. But you watch and learn."

Mulani maintained that despite trailing MP, Mumbai are still not completely out of the match. "Good first session tomorrow and we are in the game," Mulani said.

"If we get 50-60 overs to bowl them out, it is the fifth day, the pitch will turn, some might stay low, so we do have a chance. This game is not over yet." Mumbai did come out with plenty of intent as Tamore and Shaw bashed a few fours and sixes but on 25, Tamore edged a

sweep onto his stumps off Kumar Kartikeya. MP began bowling wide outside off thereafter – they even conceded three wides. It worked as Shaw stretched for a wide one and slapped it to cover to depart for his second score of the match in the 40s.

In the only final MP have made previously, in 1998-99, they took a 75-run first-innings lead against Karnataka at this very venue. Set a target of 247, they were 108 for 3 before collapsing to 150 all out late on the final afternoon and surrendering their grasp on the title.

Chandrakant Pandit was the MP captain then; as their coach now, he appears to have made sure there is very little possibility of a repeat 23 years later.

**Brief scores: Mumbai 374 & 113 for 2 (Prithvi Shaw 44, Armaan Jaffer batting 30, Suved Pankar batting 9) trail Madhya Pradesh 536 (Yash Dubey 133, Rajat Patidar 122, Shubham Sharma 116, Saransh Jain 57; Shams Mulani 5/173, Tushar Deshpande 3/116) by 49 runs.**

Tour game: Kohli gets into groove with a watchful fifty

SANDIP G  
JUNE 25

VIRAT KOHLI and Jasprit Bumrah averted each other's gaze. Kohli turned towards the square-leg umpire and practised a forward defensive; Bumrah strode back to the top of his run-up. As if nothing had happened.

Seconds ago, Kohli had upper-punched than upper cut. Bumrah for a six over the point boundary. The ball was on the shorter side of the back-of-length band, just outside the off-stump. Kohli arched back, opened up his left-shoulder and punched him aerially.

Imagine if it were to happen in a competitive game, the footage would have acquired the value of pure gold.

The snatches from the rickety live streaming would still have gone viral. And those few thousands assembled to watch the game, well mostly Kohli and Bumrah, the shining beacons of this Team India, could brag about the day Kohli upper-cut Bumrah in a red-ball game. It might take long for this event to recur any time soon in red ball – the probabil-

ity of this not recurring is likelier.

Later, post tea, Bumrah snared Kohli, a ball after he was punched behind point for a four in emphatic fashion. But their duel, titanic and eventful as it might sound, was not a potent, unputdownable stuff. It was humdrum, with Kohli blunting most balls with a brisk back-foot stride, or shouldering arms on length, and Bumrah testing his former captain's patience rather than stroke-play.

There was no raging intensity. Even after the six – an upper-cut six no less – Bumrah's response was un-hostile. He did not unleash the bouncer or the yorker, the classical responses of an insulted fast bowler. He diligently probed the fifth-stump channel, ping-pong the ball back-of-length.

Maybe, he knows the futility of trying to bounce Kohli out. Pace or bounce, short or short-of-length, seldom rattle him. His intact reflexes and judgment bestow him the time to decide the right response, keep the right shape and process the right stroke.

It's fuller lengths that trouble him. In this game, it was not Bumrah or Roman Walker that tormented him the most, that beat him



Virat Kohli hit five fours and a six in his 98-ball 67.

BCCI

most often, but Abidine Sakande, of Burkina Faso-descent, more medium fast than fast medium. In plain-sight, he seems nothing more than a trundler, prone to lavishing bats-

men with full-tosses and short-balls. But then, when he hit the full lengths, he extracted movement both ways, and beat Kohli's outside edge several times in the first innings. He finally induced an edge, lulling Kohli into a drive, only for the umpire's misjudgement that it was a bump ball. He barely bowled in the second innings to Kohli, but trouble came from one from Kohli's own stable, Navdeep Saini, the reserve bowler.

Saini, his Test prospects bleak, was the most incisive bowler. He seamlessly alternated his lengths – he took out a defiant KS Bharat with a short ball, a scratchy Hanuma Vihari with a good-length ball and troubled Kohli with full balls.

Kohli, assertive from the start, looked to dismiss him through covers, only that the ball would move devilishly late into him, brushing his inside edge. Twice in successive balls, the ball eluded the stumps by the margin of a coat of paint. On another occasion, it held the line, as the ball just whistled past the outside edge of Kohli.

But Saini apart, he dealt all bowlers with a sense of authority that portends an immi-

England strike late to seize control of Headingley Test

REUTERS  
LEEDS, JUNE 25

ENGLAND'S BOWLERS struck three times in quick succession late on day three to take control of the final Test against New Zealand at Headingley on Saturday and stay on course for a 3-0 series sweep.

The tourists were on 168-5 and led England by 137 runs when rain brought a premature halt to the day's play.

New Zealand got off to a promising start in their second innings thanks to a fluent half-century from Tom Latham (76) but lost their way after the opener was dismissed by debutant Jamie Overton (1-34) off the first ball after tea. Devon Conway (11) was soon to follow, succumbing to Joe Root's part-time off-spin before England landed the big scalp of opposition skipper Kane Williamson, who perished for 48 after edging behind to Matthew Potts (2-20).

Jack Leach (1-26) also got in on the act after Henry Nicholls (7) chipped one straight back to him as New Zealand collapsed from 125-1 to 161-5.

Earlier, Jonny Bairstow smashed a magnificent 162 while Overton fell three runs short of a century as England were dismissed for 360 in their first innings for a 31-run lead.

Resuming on their overnight total of 264-6, Bairstow and Overton continued to play positively early in the morning session before the latter edged paceman Trent Boult to Daryl Mitchell at first slip to miss out on his landmark. Bairstow and Overton came together with England at 55-6 and their brilliant rescue act resulted in a 241-run partnership for the seventh wicket to keep the hosts afloat. Overton struck 13 fours and two sixes in his 136-ball knock.

His dismissal brought Stuart Broad to the wicket and he struck a 36-ball 42, targeting fellow pace bowler Boult in the 60th over by smashing him for two fours and a massive six and punishing Neil Wagner in the next over. However, Broad was then bowled by Tim Southee before Bairstow, who hit 136 in 92 balls at Trent Bridge in the second test to win the match, fell looking to raise the scoring rate as Michael Bracewell had him caught at long-off by Boult.

Bairstow later took the gloves after regular wicket-keeper Ben Foakes was unable to take the field due to stiffness in his back. England said Foakes will be assessed overnight.

**Brief scores: New Zealand 329 & 168 for 5 (Tom Latham 76, Kane Williamson 48; Matthew Potts 2/20) vs England 360 (Jonny Bairstow 162, Jamie Overton 97; Trent Boult 4/104)**

ness end to his century-drought. The signs in warm-up games are not so much definitive as they are indicative. Nonetheless, Kohli seemed settling into the groove during his 67, sprinkled with five fours and a six, just as Vihari looked utterly lost, confused in judging lengths, uncertain in committing to either foot, and often ending up playing from the crease.

Unlike in the first innings, wherein he perished playing an expansive drive, he bade time and survived testy spells. But still, he came nowhere close to locating his best form, and so unsure of the off-stump that it was inevitable that he nicked one to the keeper.

He was agast with himself. So was Cheteshwar Pujara, who, after an untroubled 22, stepped out to left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore, was beaten in the flight and stumped. How he would have wished for a second hit, like Shreyas Iyer, who batted twice on Sunday for 62 runs. So did Ravindra Jadeja, but the only passage of play one would remember from the day, or the match so far, would be the Kohli-Bumrah duel, even if not edge-of-the-seat stuff, a blockbuster.

I don't think lack of points will affect our mindsets on the day: Murray

NAMIT KUMAR  
JUNE 25

AFTER A controversial build-up, claims and counter-claims, Wimbledon is set to begin on Monday. The familiar sights of the perfectly-manicured lawns, players wearing pristine whites and spectators in their jackets and ties, sundresses and jumpsuits, Panama hats and sunglasses may give an impression that it is business as usual at SW19.

In truth, however, the year's third Grand Slam will get underway in circumstances that are stranger than ever in recent history. The men's world No. 1, Daniil Medvedev, will be missing from the main draw after the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) banned Russian and Belarusian players following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

And he isn't the only one. World No. 8 Andrey Rublev and three of the women's top 20 – Aryna Sabalenka, Daria Kasatkina, and Victoria Azarenka – won't be there as well. The move did not go down well with most of the players or the sport's regulatory bodies, who reacted by stripping the tournament of ranking points.

The decision split the tennis world. Many, like four-time major champion Naomi Osaka,

suggesting it reduces the tournament, steeped deep in tradition, to a mere exhibition event. Not everyone agrees with Osaka's deduction, however. And no other high-profile player has been as vocal on this as two-time champion Andy Murray, who had compared the prestige of the tournament to the FIFA World Cup or the Golf Masters.

In an email interview with *The Indian Express*, Murray doubled down on his claim. "I've spoken a lot about this already. I don't think it (lack of points) will affect our mindsets on the day – we will all still be playing to win Wimbledon," he said. "I think it's huge for both fans and players. It's such an iconic venue and feels very special walking out onto court there. Most tennis players grew up watching Wimbledon, so it's their dream to play on the grass one day."

Murray talked about Wimbledon's charm, an element that many argue has been at a premium at some of the world's biggest sporting events. Wimbledon takes place this year at a time when many sports find themselves at a crossroads: in golf, a Saudi-back league is paying players millions to prize them away from the PGA and European Tours; franchise T20 league has raked in a record-breaking broadcasting deal while the number of competitive Test-playing coun-



tries can be counted on one hand; and, in normal circumstances, it would have been fighting for eyeballs with the football World Cup, which will instead be held in Qatar in the winter this year under a cloud of controversies, corruption, and bribery.

Wimbledon, in that sense, is one of the outliers in world sport. It is untouched by corporate or state-owned money and its myriad of traditions – sponsor logo-free courts, all-

**Wimbledon is such a unique tournament - despite being a huge event, you still feel like you are playing at a club... People know what to expect here, and I think with all the uncertainty in the world at the moment, people like that."**

ANDY MURRAY  
FORMER WORLD NO. 1

white dress code, 'The Queue' in which people camp for hours on end for a ticket, and many others – remain intact. Murray believed it is the history and heritage of the event, and the assurances that these traditions provide that have kept its brand so strong.

"Wimbledon is such a unique tournament – despite being a huge event, you still feel like you are playing at a club... People know what to expect here, and I think with all the uncertainty in the world at the moment, people like that," he says.

There is concern among fans about tennis as a product, though. There are calls to scrap best-of-five matches to compete for the falling attention spans of a newer generation,

to make tournament schedules leaner, matches shorter, and the sport more spectator-friendly.

While he does not think the format needs changing, Murray said the game has to evolve with its audience: "It's always important to listen to the fans and try to understand what they want. Tennis is competing for attention, not just from other sports but from the entertainment industry, things like Netflix, esports, so we need to make sure we stay relevant."

Murray himself comes into Wimbledon in good nick. The Scot reached the top 50 of the rankings for the first time in four years following a final in Stuttgart, where he beat Stefanos Tsitsipas and Nick Kyrgios. The result has raised his stock as a dark horse in the main draw. While he is nursing an abdominal injury, which he said is not very serious, a deep run at SW19 will be his first at a Major since 2017.

After a few injury-plagued seasons, the 35-year-old underwent a hip replacement in 2019 which was believed to sideline him from the game. The Scot rallied to come back and compete on tour but has been unable to reproduce the highs of his career. True to form, however, his expectations from himself remain high, and he still comes into a Grand Slam with the belief that he can win.

"I think as a professional athlete, you've always got to back yourself to go all the way. Having belief in yourself is a crucial part of winning and I've been pleased with how I've been playing this year. Getting through to the final in Stuttgart was great and I'm hoping I can do well at Wimbledon this year too," he says.

His perspective has changed after the injury though. The three-time Major winner has been dedicating more time to his business interests outside tennis. This includes the Cromlix hotel in Scotland, a place that Murray says has always been special to him and his family, which he has turned into a five-star destination. He also runs his own tennis apparel line, AMC, and his own sports management agency, 77, with which he is "mainly involved in mentoring up and coming athletes."

"My main priority remains tennis though and I'm really enjoying being able to focus on that for now," he clarifies. Following Wimbledon, the Scot plans to travel to the United States for the hard court swing ahead of the US Open, during which time he is going to do his best to take a break. "Rest is something I've realised is really important as I've got older, so I may even fit in a holiday with the family at some point as well."

